

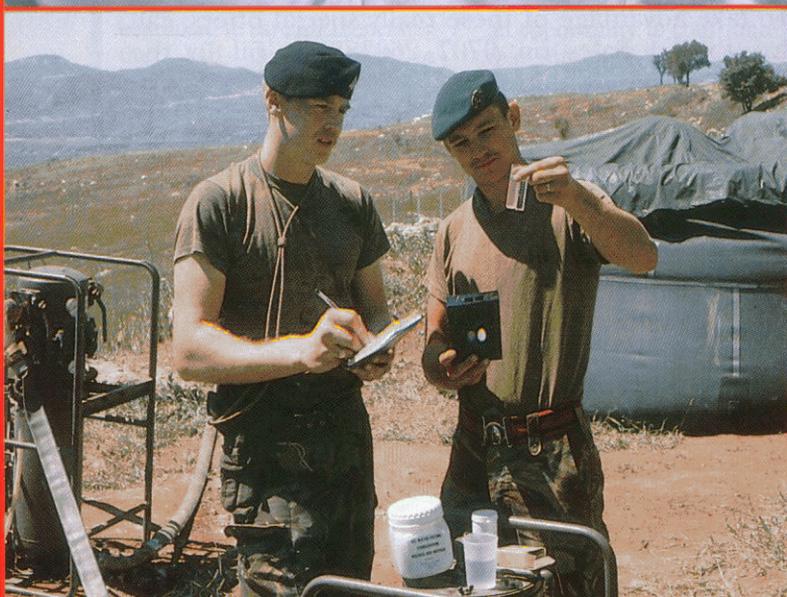
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Regimental System is here to stay

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Army Horse Trials - Pages 52-53

FRONT COVER - Main picture: 1 RRW standard bearers at the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Imjin River. From left are Pte Jason Groves, LCpl Andrew Clarke and LCpl Paul Green. See centre pages. Lower picture: LCpl Doc Thompson (left) of the RAMC field hygiene section carries out water quality control tests with LCpl Mark Ridgeway, 59 Ind Cdo Sqn, RE at an Allied water point in northern Iraq. See Pages 14-17. (Picture: Mike Perring).

"WHATEVER happens under Options for Change, what is known as The Regimental System will remain."

The words were those of the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, when he visited the offices of SOLDIER (a unit for which his department is responsible).

Sir David said the system under which all soldiers joined and stayed with a cap badge throughout their service would continue.

In parts of the Army that cap badge is linked with a function in corps such as the Royal Engineers and Royal Signals and Royal Regiment of Artillery.

In the Infantry and Royal Armoured Corps where there are particular named regiments "the actual names may change, as they have done in the past, but the system of joining a named regiment will remain along with all of the things that go with the regimental system."

A corps or a regiment was not something soldiers joined simply for their function but for all that went with it, comradeship in peace and war and such things as the regimental associations that continued to care for them after they had the returned to civilian life.

The implementation of Options would depend on when the Government had decided

'The Regimental System is one of the things we have held dear and I think it makes our Army unique'



Gen Sir David Ramsbotham

on the future size and shape and role of the Army.

"When that size and shape has been agreed it will be up to the individual arms' directors (Director Royal Artillery, Director Royal Armoured Corps, Director of Infantry etc) to bring to the Army Board their recommendations as to how this should be achieved, including recommendations as to what named regiments there should be in the future. That will be based on discussions with the regiments so they have an opportunity to contribute to that future."

The suggestions of the arms directors would then be considered by the Executive Committee of the Army Board

(chaired by the Chief of the General Staff, with the Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, Master General of the Ordnance and Assistant Chief of the General Staff as military members plus the 2nd Permanent Under Secretary) and then to ministers.

Sir David: "The ministers will make the announcement but only after the regiments have had their say in the process."

Action on Options for Change had been delayed because of the Gulf War, the lessons of which were being taken into account.

Putting the whole question of Options in perspective, the Adjutant General pointed out that the Army had been evolving since the days of Cromwell and would continue to do so.

The celebrated Cardwell Reforms of 1881, in which the then Secretary of War consolidated the linked battalion system and gave regiments names instead of numbers, were far greater, he said.

Reductions and changes were associated with change in demands on the Army such as the withdrawal from Empire and the reductions of 1957, 1962 and 1965.

"The Regimental System, however, is one of the things we have held dear and I personally think it makes our Army unique," said Gen Ramsbotham.

"But that is not to say that every current named regiment will remain for ever, any more

● *Continued on Page 5*

SOLDIER

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Under new management

● From Page 3

than they have done so in the past."

The Adjutant General covered many facets of the Army of the future.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S CORPS

The principal task of the new Corps would be personnel management in its widest sense, he said. "We are aiming to improve the way in which we manage individuals' careers in the Army and, indeed, afterwards."

To do this, new equipment was needed and would be provided by the new computer system UNICOM. It would be held by every unit enabling it to feed in personal details and records of all personnel. The Adjutant General's Information System at Worthy Down would be the retrieval centre.

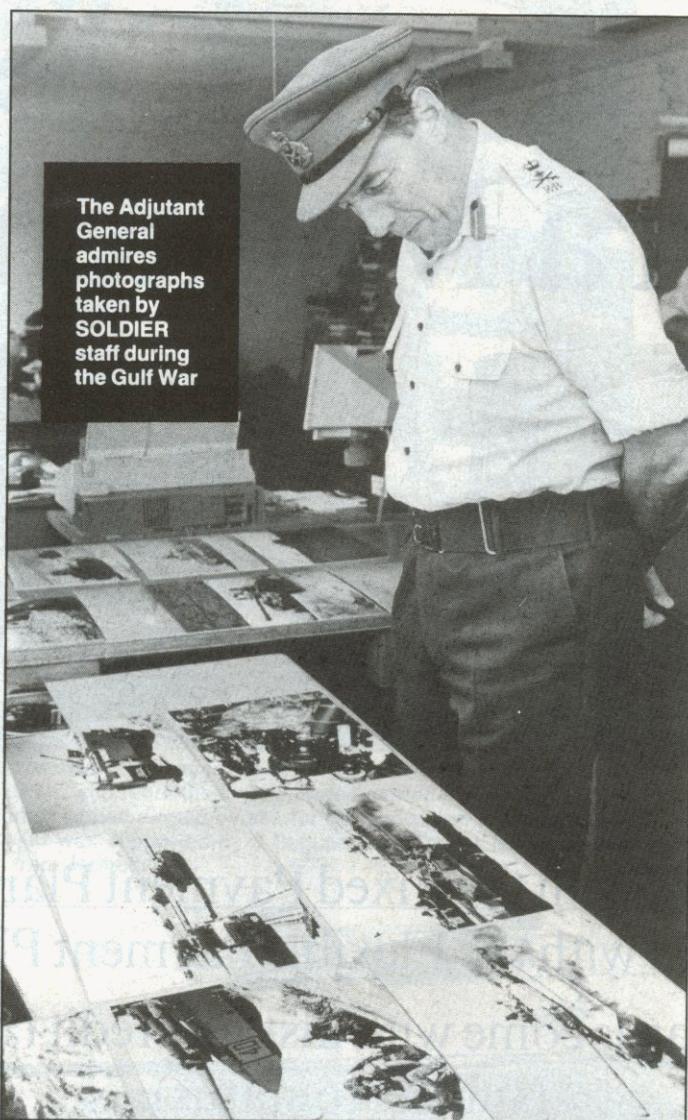
"We will be able to cut out an enormous number of time-consuming and manpower-intensive reports and returns which have bedevilled us for years. The role of the AG's Corps is to manage the Army's manpower. Since January an implementation team has been collecting evidence to prepare a paper for consideration by the Army Board in August. After it has been considered at the relevant levels of staff in the Army the Corps will come into being on April 1, 1992."

On that day the Royal Army Pay Corps and WRAC personnel who are not joining other corps will re-badge into the new corps, where they will be joined by the staff clerks of the RAOC.

During the next two years other elements, such as all-arms clerks from regiments, will either be absorbed or stay in regiments and corps, having had their future prospects explained to them.

The relationship of other troops in the personnel management area such as the Army Legal Corps, the RMP, and the RAEC would be decided, either as full or associate members of the AG's Corps, but they would not lose their cap badges.

There was nothing new about an Adjutant General's Corps. There had been one during the Peninsular War and it had done the same job that was now proposed. It was hoped the new Corps would use some of the old insignia such as the button of Wellington's day.



The Adjutant General admires photographs taken by SOLDIER staff during the Gulf War

WOMEN

Though the WRAC would disappear as a corps in April next year "the future for women in the Army is probably more advantageous than ever. They are going to be able to compete in those parts of the Army where it is appropriate for them to serve, with greater opportunities to get on in their chosen trades and professions as equals with men."

HOUSING

"I've always been conditioned by the example of my first platoon sergeant after I joined the Rifle Brigade in 1958. When he left the Army he was able to buy a house with his gratuity. Ever since the gratuity, or its equivalent, has been unable to buy a house, I think we have faced trouble.

"I believe the Army can cope with mobility providing people know they've got some hope of owning a roof over their heads at the end of their service."

The Director General of

Personal Services and his team working on the problem were not confining their approach to official sources but looking for commercial help from banks, housing associations and other organisations.

RESETTLEMENT

One of the things the new management structure of the Army was devoting time to was resettlement, because men had plenty of life in them for a second career after 22 years as a soldier.

"We have got to make sure that every military qualification gained during a career can be understood by civilians – as per the National Council of Vocational Qualifications – so that everyone, be he a hi-tech expert, driver, clerk, gunner or rifleman, can have his expertise translated into something a prospective employer could appreciate.

"We intend to see that in a second career a man gets credit for what he has done in his first."

LENGTH OF SERVICE

"I like to think we are looking at longer-term service. One used to join for life, now people do so more for a job. We will need people to stay long enough to master the technology of what is going to be a smaller but hi-tech Army."

It had to be seen in the light of a United Kingdom-based Army as opposed to an Imperial or BAOR-based force.

New attitudes were required. It was unlikely the Britain would ever again find herself going it alone in the Falklands sense. We were almost certainly going to find the Army providing national representation in a multi-national force, such as Operation Granby.

"The word inter-operability becomes essential in terms of equipment and procedures.

"Granby taught us a lot of respect for other nations' armies, especially the US Army.

"We particularly respected the American battle doctrine and their battle-winning equipment. Having said that, their admiration and appreciation of many things British, not least the quality of our soldiers, was similar."

YOUNG SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS

"I think my message to them is that tomorrow's Army is going to be theirs and not mine... not the Army I joined. That doesn't matter – they can rest assured that the motivation behind what the Army Board is doing is to make certain we can create the conditions where their Army thrives, and take note that the sense of priorities of those who are to serve in it is different from ours."

General Ramsbotham, a big, cheerful man, devoted to his own regiment, the Royal Green Jackets, of which he is representative Colonel Commandant, admits that some old habits die hard.

It has been noted that he always wears a very old regimental lanyard whenever he appears in combat dress.

He confessed: "When I was a subaltern, whenever General Stopford, our Colonel Commandant, inspected us (he had commanded a corps in Burma during the war) he always asked whether there was a whistle on the end of it. I've been wary of leaving it off ever since."

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EOD unit in Gulf

A SHADOW RAOC Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit has been given substance and is now working in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

It is 421 EOD Company, which is made up of about 30 ammunition technical officers and ammunition technicians from Germany and the UK normally employed in ammunition depots, with 11 Ordnance Battalion (EOD) or at the headquarters of the Directorate of Land Service Ammunition at Didcot, Berks.

It was formed to replace that part of 221 EOD Coy which deployed on Op Granby from BAOR.

The technicians, who also serve as bomb disposal operators in Northern Ireland, are engaged in the identification, recovery and disposal of explosives and ammunition.

Also in the Gulf is 51 Ord Coy, which also includes ATOs and ATs in its complement and is fully employed recovering stocks of British ammunition sent out for Granby.



A soldier from Paderborn-based 52 Ordnance Company inspects MLRS ammunition from the Gulf arriving at a railhead near Hameln. A train with more than 30 carriages carried the unused MLRS pods from Emden and Hamburg where they had arrived by sea for transportation to ammunition depots around BAOR. The 52 Ord team was supported by 8 Regiment, RCT from Munster, 607 MCTG from Sennelager and REME from Hameln

Automatic tank 'mine' ordered

Looking more like a rocket launcher than a mine, this newly-developed off-route anti-tank mine is due to enter service with the British Army in the mid-1990s.

Known as ARGES (automatic rocket guardian with electronic sensor), the system has been designed by a tri-national consortium, including UK firm



Hunting Engineering who have provided components and technology from the LAW80 light anti-tank weapon programme. It will be effective to a range of 100 metres in any weather conditions and is designed to block roadways and destroy main battle tanks.

ARGES has been fitted with a combination of sensors so that it can discriminate between targets and to ensure a high kill probability.



Air Vice-Marshal Sandy Hunter (left) with WO Don Carr (second left), Maj Tony Todd (right) and members of the RCL Antwerp crew at Akrotiri

Cyprus mercy voyage

CYPRUS-based soldiers from the Royal Corps of Transport sailed for Iskenderun in Turkey loaded with stores for British Forces in Turkey and Iraq, and relief aid donated by the Cyprus Government for distribution to Kurdish refugees.

The crew of RCL Antwerp (WO Don Carr) were wished *bon voyage* at Akrotiri by Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice-Marshal Sandy Hunter. Also present was Maj Tony Todd, acting CO of the Joint Transport and

Movements Unit (Cyprus).

The Antwerp's cargo included 16 tons of long-life milk donated by the people of Cyprus.

Relief for the Kurds has also been dispatched by air from Cyprus.

"To Arms!"

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Coldstream in Minster

THE Coldstream Guards broke with tradition when they held their annual memorial service in York Minster last month. The service has always taken place in London.

The move took the ceremony closer to an area in which many of the regiment's soldiers, families and old comrades live, and acknowledged the Minster's contribution in re-hanging the old Regimental Colours of the 2nd Battalion, laid up in 1951.

Hameln visit

GEN Sir John Stibbon, the Master General of Ordnance, paid a flying visit to 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment in Hameln and took control of an M3 amphibious rig prototype on the River Weser.

He was accompanied by Maj Gen Jeremy MacKenzie, GOC 4 Armoured Division.

Gen Stibbon is a former commanding officer of the regiment.



Picture: Mike Weston

Celebrating the re-opening of Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot are (from left) Col Mary Callis, matron; Lt Col Eric Gruber von Arni, deputy matron; Mrs Sandra Ferrier, mayoress of Rushmoor; Col Ian Creamer, commanding officer; WO1 (RSM) Paul Cussell; and Lt Col Terry Reeves, administration officer. The hospital suspended its service to the local community seven months ago when 400 of its staff were deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of British troops committed to Op Granby

Honours for gallant and meritorious service in Northern Ireland

GM awarded

CBE

Brig J W Parker, late LI; Brig C D M Ritchie, late RS; Col M Stratton, late Para.

OBE

Lt Col W P Conn, Para; Lt Col D V Erskine Crum, SG; Lt Col H M Fletcher, Para; Lt Col C F Hicks, Para; Lt Col J G Kerr, Int Corps; Lt Col I M D L Weston, RHD/G.

MBE

Maj C Baker, Int Corps; Maj M J Brack, RCT; WO1 (now Lt) C Davey, R Signals; Maj R J Edmonson-Jones, R Anglian; Capt G P H Gillion, Int Corps; Capt M Middlemiss, IG; WO2 A Middleton, R Signals; Maj F G Moss, Staffords; WO2 D Moyles, Int Corps; Maj S J Tetlow, REME.

GM

Capt K Mollison, RAOC.

MM

Acting LCpl K R Gray, SG.

QGM

Sgt T J McDade, Para; WO2 S A Turner, RAOC; SSgt S G Whitfield, Kings Own Border.

BEM

SSgt K J Bailey, R Signals; Cpl R W Barlow, RAOC; LSgt J Belshaw, SG; SSgt S Fryer, WRAC; Acting WO2 B Higgins, QO Hldrs; SSgt B J Hitchings, QO Hldrs; Sgt B R Hutcheson, Scots DG; SSgt K J Lorimer, RA; Cpl (now acting Sgt) V E McNaught, R

Signals; SSgt G S Pearce, Int Corps; SSgt J P Radford, AAC; SSgt I P Roberts, REME.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

Capt N J Bennett, RAMC; Cpl N J Bishop, Para; WO2 R G Bishop, Para; Maj M Braithwaite-Exley, QO Hldrs; Sgt A Bunyan, SG; Maj G N A R Butler, Staffords; Maj H G Carruthers, Para; Maj M D Chambers, R Anglian; Lt I P Channon, Para; SSgt (acting WO2) I Christie, Para; Maj R Cole, QO Hldrs; Maj T A Coles, BW; Lt Col R P Cousens, LI; LCpl S J Crumley, RMP; Sgt J L Davidson, RAOC; Cpl P Davies, RMP; Maj A J B Edwards, R Hamps; Maj P R Farrar, Para; LCpl D Freestone, Para; Cpl S W Fry, RE; Maj M P Gandell, Para; Maj P E C Gascoigne, SG; Capt R C Guthrie, RE; Pte M T Hallahan, Para; Cpl N Hartshorne, LI; Maj S M Haskins, RMP; Maj R C Lloyd-Williams, LI; WO2 A J Loftus, Int Corps; WO2 J W Lymm, Int Corps; Maj J H Marment, RA; Lt Col S H R H Monro, QO Hldrs; Lt (acting Capt) P T Myring, RAOC; Maj S W Norman, WFR; Maj K A Oliver, LI; Pte N A Pisano, Para; Lt Col N G Quarrelle, RA; WO2 K Riley, Para; Sgt P Scott, Para; WO2 C C Sherlock, AAC; Maj S F Sherry, RE; Sgt L Simm, Int Corps; Sgt P Stanworth, Para; Capt A M Stratta, Para; SSgt A Sutherland, QO Hldrs; Capt A P Taylor, RE; SSgt R A Taylor, Para; Maj E P Tracy, PWO; Capt J A Wade, RHF; Lt Col M C Wardley, Int Corps; Sgt M E Wojnicz, RA; Cpl J E Yourston, Para.

In addition, two MBEs, two

BEMs and three Mentions in Despatches have been awarded to members of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO THE TANK MUSEUM'S GULF WAR EXHIBITION



Six family tickets to the Tank Museum, Bovington, Dorset, are the prizes in a competition running in SOLDIER until July 8. All you have to do is answer four questions.

Question One appeared in the May 27 issue, Question Two is below and a further two will be published in the next two editions.

To enter, complete the entry form appearing in the July 8 edition and send it to us. The first six correct entries drawn will win a ticket for two adults and two children to the museum's Gulf War Exhibition on Sunday, July 28, 1991.

QUESTION TWO: In 1945 Gen Montgomery was talking about a Universal Tank. It finally evolved into one of the best British tanks of all time and saw service from Korea to the Gulf. What is it?

Don't send your answer in yet. Make a note of it, together with the answer to Question One, watch for the questions in our issues dated June 24 and July 8 and complete the entry form accompanying Question Four. The six winners will be drawn from the correct entries received by the first post on Monday, July 15 and the prizes will be posted to the winners.

The correct answers and winners' names will be published later in SOLDIER. No correspondence can be entered into.



 * Lt Col **David Willey**, RADC(V),
 * acting CO of 223 (Durham) Fd Amb,
 * RAMC(V), presented an attestation
 * scroll to son Pte **David Willey** (left)
 * when he enlisted. Is this the largest
 * rank difference for a father and son
 * serving together?

Rock on

Making sure that the world knows about the new-look Gibraltar Regiment are Capts **Frank Galliano**, Gibraltar Regiment, and **Leo Callow**, R Irish, both public information officers who know the value of pretty faces – provided here by MoD civil servants **Mandy Hope** and **Trish Culling**.

Gunners' mate

Sgt **Brian Morgan** of the Royal Horse Artillery was allowed into an exclusive club when a 21-gun salute was fired in Hong Kong to mark the Queen's 65th birthday.

He was invited to join the naval party firing 3-pounder saluting guns on the Bull's Nose at HMS Tamar – a tradition usually reserved for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

They even had to give Brian some last minute instruction on the technical gun drills

Sailors show Brian the ropes

and point out some of the finer points of naval foot drill.

Brian is the only serving other rank from the Royal Regiment of Artillery stationed in Hong Kong. He is leaving soon to join 3 RHA on promotion to staff sergeant.



Essex Yeomen twin up

The Essex Yeomanry from Chelmsford returned to Backnarg in Germany as part of their town twinning exchange visits. Pictured on a German 109 gun of the 2nd Tank Artillery Battalion in Munsingen are OC Maj **Ken Lloyd**, Capt **Jonathan Crowther** and men and women of 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V).

Caroline's badges fill a big gap

Staring at a blank wall is not the most inspiring of pastimes, but the blank wall of the Light Division Depot swimming pool now gives inspiration to soldiers young and old after **Caroline Dear** got fed up with looking at it from her office.

Caroline, who teaches swimming at Winchester, is also a dab hand at ceramics so she decided to add a little bit of decoration. The badges of The Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets seemed most appropriate, though with a size of 6ft across it was anything but a small project.

The RGJ badge was the greater challenge because it was so much more complicated, but after 275kg worth of clay and several months of work, she had cracked it. It had to be divided into smaller segments to fit into the kiln. Now, assembled, you can't see the joins.

Making the crown of the



RGJ badge took a month alone, and because of its density, drying the clay also took a month. But with the badges finally on the wall, Caroline is now casting about for new inspiration.

Right: Caroline with the model plaque. Above: SSgt Dave Bowden, APTC and badges

PEOPLE

Frank goes home

WO2 **Frank Martin** is uniquely qualified for his present posting as chief clerk of the Commonwealth Liaison Mission in Seoul. He is the only Korean serving in the British Army.

He was born in Seoul in 1958 and left the country permanently at the age of 14 after his mother married Sgt David Martin – who

was doing the same job in the late 1960s that Frank has now!

Frank had been in the Army 15 years before he was successful in his application for a posting back to his home town. His wife, **Hae-young**, is also Korean. This is the first time he has lived in the land of his birth for nearly 20 years.



Merthyr lads are a princely lot!

Coming out on top in a gruelling 48-hour endurance competition at Sennybridge paid dividends for 14 members of 9 (Merthyr) Platoon, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales. They won the competition to select the battalion's senior platoon for 1991 earning the coveted title "Prince of Wales Platoon", the honour of wearing a red dragon badge on their sleeve for the next year and a trip to Highgrove House to meet their Colonel-in-Chief, the Prince of Wales.

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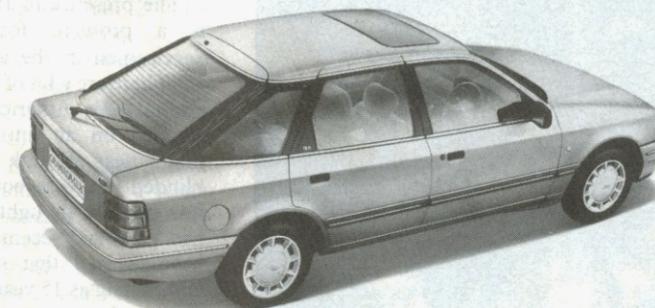
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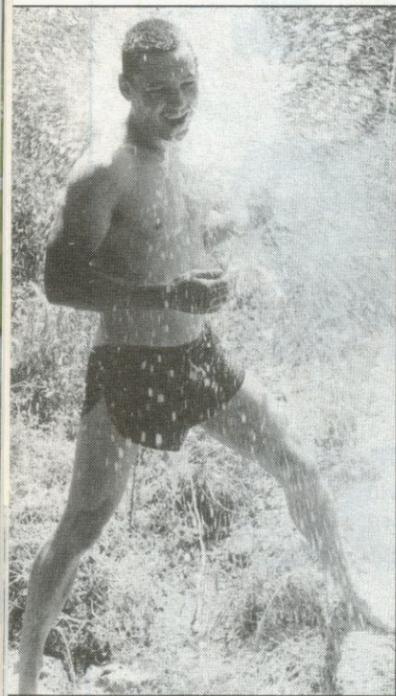


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It's hot work for sappers from Norway



LCpl Mark Ridgeway of 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE takes a cooling shower

FRESH from service in Norway, the sappers of 59 Independent Commando Squadron, RE have cast aside their skis and removed the snow-chains from their vehicles to deploy on Operation Haven with 3 Commando Brigade.

The men now serving with Royal Marines units in Turkey and Iraq are having to endure daytime temperatures of up to 120 degrees.

Elements of the unit, which includes attached personnel from 49 EOD Squadron, RE and a resources section from 22 Engineer Regiment, were among the first to be deployed on the ground. Some prepared the ground and provided sanitation and ablution facilities at the Base Maintenance Area in Silopi, Turkey.

"One of my field troops was flown straight to the first refugee camp at Zakho, where they carried out various engineering tasks for the camp," said the OC, Maj Bob Hendicott.

"When the first Kurdish refugees arrived, my men handed over the site to the Kurds after first showing them how to set up the camp."

When the Brigade pushed into Iraq to establish further safe havens for the Kurds, the squadron provided recce teams for the companies as they moved forward.

One was detailed specifically to look for water, while another investigated route maintenance problems on MSR Warrior – the main route from Zakho to Al Amadiya.

At Sarsenk airfield, a team was tasked to deal with two problems – what work would be required to reactivate the airfield and what possible EOD problems the area held.

The airfield had been used as a dumping ground for Allied aircraft which were returning to their bases in Turkey during the Gulf War.

"We had expected a considerable EOD problem there, but it was not as bad as we



Sappers of 1 Troop, 59 Independent Commando Sqn RE in Iraq. These men secured a water source providing enough water to supply 3 Commando

feared," said Maj Hendicott. "The EOD section is working to clear areas deemed operationally essential. There is unexploded ordnance lying around, including both land service ammunition abandoned by the Iraqis as they withdrew and aerially-delivered munitions which are being dealt with as appropriate."

The presence of Iraqi mines is a problem for all the Servicemen in the area.

"There are a lot of minefields around. An American soldier stepped on an anti-personnel mine near Dahuk and was blinded and lost both legs. It was initially thought that they had been laid recently, but we have learned that some were laid as long as 15 years ago," he explained.

Later investigation established that the mine that maimed the US soldier was laid in 1979.

Arrival of most of the squadron's earth-moving equipment has been delayed, so the adaptable sappers have reactivated Iraqi plant that lay abandoned on the airfield

including two heavy bulldozers and a motorised scraper.

Biggest success story of the sapper operation is down to 1 Troop who had been sent out to establish a waterpoint that would provide 3 Commando Brigade with 42,000 litres of water – 20 litres per man – daily.

SSgt Phil Leigh and his men found an artesian well that produces more than 200,000 litres every 24 hours.

As a result, they are now providing water to the US Army's 325th Airborne Division as well.

● Maj Nick Bodian 3 RTR became something of a television personality during the early days of Op Haven.

A lone soldier in a light blue environment, Maj Bodian – currently SO2 G3 Tactics with the Tactics and Trials Flight at RAF Odiham – was sent to Turkey with 240 Operational Conversion Unit RAF, the advance party of the Chinook helicopter detachment at Diyarbakir.

As the unit's liaison and public relations officer, he arrived 48 hours before the rest



Three Army Catering Corps chefs produced fresh bread rolls at the base maintenance area in Silopi, Turkey. Left to right are Pte Peter McLaughlin, Sgt Alex Testo and Cpl George Bradley

of his team, and fell straight into the arms of the media.

"As a result I was quoted extensively on television and radio all over the world. It seems everyone has seen me –

except myself."

Maj Bodian has also taken on another job. He is co-ordinating some of the movements of international relief organisations.



OP HAVEN

Brigade mucks in to do the job

WITH the bulk of its manpower and equipment still at sea, life could have proved difficult for the advance parties of the Commando Logistic Regiment, but all concerned set to work with gusto in support of 3 Commando Brigade's operations in Turkey and Iraq.

The regiment provides a logistic task group containing elements of workshops, supply, medical and transport.

Its ordnance squadron is responsible for combat supplies and accompanied the advance party of the brigade when it deployed on Op Haven. With the bulk of its manpower stationed with the Base Maintenance Area at Silopi, a small detachment remained at the airhead in Diyarbakir.

Their job involved forwarding everything further down the line. This was achieved with the help of Chinook and Black Hawk helicopters belonging to the Royal Air Force and United States Army. They also made use of Turkish transport.

That help meant the squadron could release its own limited logistic assets to transport commando units into the mountains so they could get on with their job.

At Diyarbakir, a joint movements cell was established by Commando Forces and 29 Transport and Movement Regiment, RCT to co-ordinate the onward movement of all freight, vehicles and personnel.

"A great variety of equip-

● Turn to Page 17



High temperatures in Iraq make life thirsty work for three members of 45 Commando filling water bowsers at the brigade water point. From left are Cpl Jimmy Marr, Sgt Ian Clarke and LCpl Andy Cross

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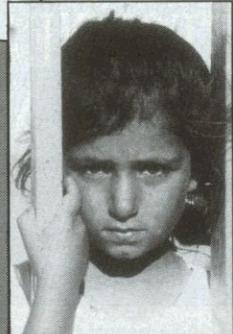
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OP HAVEN

LAD REME personnel work on a Gazelle helicopter of 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron. From left to right are Sgt Graham Green, LCpl John Davis and Sgt Mark Parrott

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring

The job gets done

● From Page 15

ment has arrived at the airhead including 18 105mm light guns and many tons of ammunition brought in by C130 Hercules aircraft," said the OC, Maj Chris Owen.

"The squadron is virtually all RAOC personnel who have passed the commando course."

At Silopi, during the early stages of the deployment, the drivers forming the advance party of Transport Squadron were faced with a near impossible task. With only a handful of vehicles – the remainder were still on board ship – they were presented with a never-ending list of transportation requirements.

Their trucks drove up tortuous and dangerous tracks high into the mountains where Kurdish refugees were loaded and ferried down to the waiting camps.

When the push came to extend the perimeters of the safe havens, hundreds of troops had to be moved into Iraq. The squadron's ageing 4-tonners were employed as "wheeled helicopters" and loaded with Dutch marines.

One driver was said to be "terribly impressed" to find two heavily-armed Apache helicopters riding shotgun for

his truck. They hovered protectively overhead for the duration of his move forward.

The OC, Maj Mark Baker, RCT said: "Our role here is vastly different to that performed in the snows of Norway, but the whole operation has provided invaluable training and experience for all the drivers."

The massive tented Base Maintenance Area at Silopi has been established on a flatland of ripening corn between town and border. The landowner has been compensated for the loss of his crop.

The large indigenous tortoise population must have been driven to distraction by the non-stop clatter of British and American helicopters using the BMA as a staging post between the airhead at Diyarbakir and forward troops in Iraq.

Air power was boosted by the arrival of 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron.

A column of CHOSC (Commando helicopter operations support cell) vehicles still in their distinctive desert camouflage paint moved forward while overhead flew flights of Lynx Mk 7 and Gazelle helicopters.

The squadron brought with it a heavy REME presence, for



Fresh water, fit to drink. SSgt Nick Hyde, Maj Ivor Murrant and WO2 George Millard of 524 Specialist Team RE from Chilwell, Notts supplied water from a well head to the Kurdish refugee camp Zakho in Iraq

the aircraft have to be kept flying whatever the conditions. The REME light aid detachment is commanded by Capt Adrian Went and his ASM, WO1 John Emery.

Providing lighting and power supply for the squadron is another REME section dubbed the "Middle East Electricity Board". Halogen lamps mounted on extendable masts are a useful aid to providing a night repair capacity for the helicopters.

"Believe it or not, the lighting system is based on a

large portable heater," explained WO2 (AQMS) Steve Whittaker.

● Servicemen deployed on Operation Haven now have uniformed support from Naafi whose RAOC – Expeditionary Force Institutes have set up shop at a number of locations around Turkey.

The 11-man team has established tented and mobile services for the troops. They are commanded by Capt Richard Burton who is normally Naafi's district manager at Munster.

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Lt Col Sandy Blackett (foreground) prepares to go out on patrol with his Argylls. With him (from the left) are Cpl Sammy Donnelly, Pte Tassy Smith, WO1(RSM) Charlie MacFarlane, SSgt(SS1) Rick Eyre, Cpl Lyall Davidson, LCpl Isla Carmichael and LCpl John Kinlock. Before leaving base they donned helmets

Celtic rattachement

A SENIOR British Army officer sees as a peace dividend the similar background and upbringing shared by Scottish soldiers and the people of Northern Ireland because, he says, it ensures a special rapport between them.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) have just completed a five-month tour as the Belfast Roulement Battalion (BRB).

Immediate previous incumbents of the roulement posting were The Gordon Highlanders, who replaced the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons), also from the Scottish Division.

Though it was the first visit to the Province for many of the young soldiers and subalterns of the Argylls, the battalion has completed seven tours there since 1972 in addition to four short emergency tours.

The battalion was last there in 1986. The BRB tour was precipitated by the Gulf War.

Originally The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) was earmarked as the BRB, but on deployment with 7th Armoured Brigade to Saudi Arabia was replaced by the Argylls.

The Jocks would have been preparing for an exercise in Canada but for their hasty reorganisation to fit into the Staffords' slot.

Meanwhile the rear party left in Minden, Germany, were kept busy on security duties. Some were helping train soldiers in driving and infantry skills for Op Granby, and 25 were able to go on the Snow Queen Exercise to learn to ski.

The CO, Lt Col Sandy Blackett, a veteran of five Northern Ireland tours includ-



ing the first, said: "The Argylls in common with all Scottish regiments, have a special rapport with the local population.

"The background from which most of the soldiers come

is similar in outlook and culture to that of the people in Northern Ireland.

"The Royal Ulster Constabulary, the Ulster Defence Regiment and I would say the local population realises this.

"I think one of the strengths of Belfast over the past year has been the fact that we have had three Scottish battalions serving here in succession.

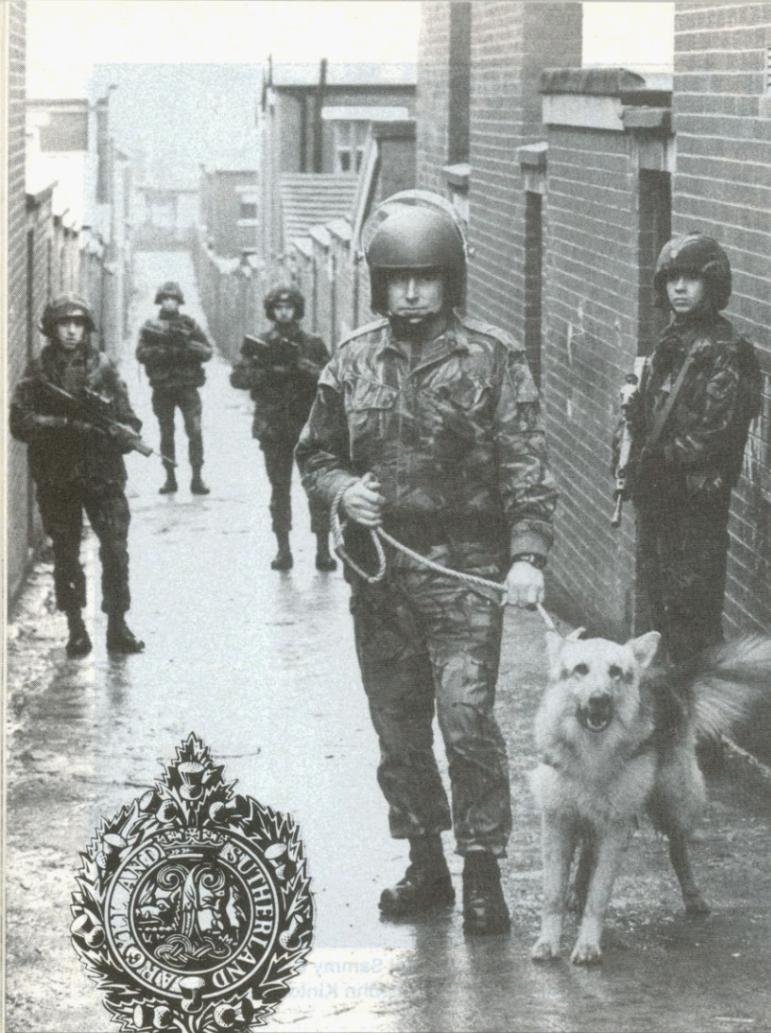
"The continuity of accent, the attitude and rapport with the civilian population has established a base on which we have continued to build."

"The Argylls fitted in very well from the beginning and it prompted one of the local SDLP councillors to say at a council meeting that he was impressed by the way in which the Army was behaving in West Belfast.

"This is as much a tribute to us as the Gordons, the QO HLDRS, and the UDR, and for me one of the highest

● The Argylls have just completed a five-month tour as Belfast Roulement Battalion, having "stood in" for 1 Staffords during the Gulf War. Writer **Jennifer Griffiths** and photographer **Mike Perring** visited them before they left the city.

● Turn to next page



Above: Sgt Jim Motherwell (foreground) pauses for breath while fellow musicians from the Argylls' Pipes and Drums play a melody on the chanter. From left to right are Pte Gordon Rowan, LCpl Neil Maccallum, LCpl Andrew Warren, Pipe Maj Donald Campbell and Pte Jim Waugh
 Right: The Argylls have no trouble in recruiting and are proud of their family tradition, personified here by the Sims brothers, (from left) Ptes Tony (21), Paul (18) and Gordon (23).
 Below: Equipment needing repair is returned to stores to be packaged for return to the mainland. Pte Frank Paterson (left) and Sgt Stanley Galloway weigh the boxes



Above: WO2 Alec Brown, A and SH's Master Tailor, repairs a storm damaged regimental flag. LCpl Drew McGowan (right) replaces the bow of a tam-o'-shanter while CSgt Willie Gordon provides musical entertainment
 Above left: A foot patrol at work in Belfast
 Left: A search team with equipment. From left are team leader Cpl Alexander Laird, Pte Paul Callander, Pte Neil McColgan, Pte Liam Robertson, Pte Iain Maccoll and Pte John Laird. Their targets are hidden explosives and weapons but they take great care to leave houses as they find them



● **From Page 19**
 accolades I could expect.”
 Col Blackett said another encouraging development was the way in which the RUC had broadened its expertise over the past 15 years.

“The upshot is that they are now very much in command of operations in West Belfast and we are very much in a supportive role, and that works very well.

“Another major change has been as a result of the Government's commitment to improve housing in Belfast. That has significantly improved in 15 years.

“More money has been ploughed in and it has removed many of the sources of irritation for the middle-of-the-road, normal, decent person who makes up the vast majority of the people in Belfast.”

Like many of his peers, Col Blackett enjoys going out on patrol with his men.

He has not escaped verbal abuse, but a stone aimed at him missed.

He attends patrol briefings and de-briefings. “That means I can have an input into what should be happening on the ground.

“I also get an idea where things might be going wrong or

could be improved. It helps you get a feel for the problems soldiers face on the ground.”

The colonel's views are echoed by Capt Richard McCrow, Operations Officer at Fort Whiterock. He said: “As a result of new housing and increased prosperity the relationship between the local people and the British Army has improved quite considerably.

“Children now talk to us much more than they ever used to, and more adults are more relaxed about talking to soldiers.

“Although it is a long time over which to judge, improvements have definitely been made.

“There is not nearly so much stone-throwing and bottling, and the general attitude, with exceptions, has improved.”

● **WITH** their five-month tour at an end, the Argylls can look back on a series of successful operations.

The battalion found a significant amount of weapons, ammunition and explosives, and collected evidence which may lead to arrests and eventual prosecutions.

“Nearly all members of the battalion have done exceptionally well and have risen to

the challenges and demands of the tour with enthusiasm and determination,” said commanding officer Lt Col Sandy Blackett.

“I think most of us have enjoyed it and certainly appreciate the sense of purpose of operations in Northern Ireland.

“The rear party too has been successful and those of us in Belfast were conscious of the

contribution which the other half of the battalion made.”

Col Blackett revealed that post-tour leave would be taking his Jocks as far afield as the Far East and Acapulco. With travel firms offering discounts to soldiers who were deployed on Op Granby, as a result of which the Argylls found themselves in Northern Ireland, sun beds at bases in Belfast had been used rather more than usual!

Argylls in Belfast



Pte Fiona Hill (centre) was one of three WRAC attached chefs serving with the Argylls in West Belfast, replacing men who were serving in the Gulf. She is pictured with Cpl Bill Cahill (left) and Cpl Kevin Hudson. If you dine with the regiment on a Friday, there is no doubt about its Scottish origins – haggis is inevitably on the menu and is always popular. WO2 Jeff Blackmore, master chef, said: "Every last piece always goes"



Providing support to the Argylls in Belfast were CSgt Ian Young (foreground) and Cpl Simeon Prowse of the REME



Capt Ponsonby is pictured in the joint RUC-Army Operations Room with Cpl Smudger Smith, who assists him, and Constables John Bennett and Curly Carleton

Norman banked on the Argylls

SCOTTISH bank manager Norman Ponsonby was so determined to become a soldier he quit a promising career to join the Argylls.

He had been a keen member of the regiment's 3rd Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers and wanted to take up the chance of a short service voluntary commission with the Regular Army.

"My request for a year's leave of absence was not granted, so I resigned from the Bank of Scotland," he said.

He joined the battalion in 1989 and after serving for six months in Minden, Germany, moved to Northern Ireland with the Gordon Highlanders, as second-in-command of the company based at Girdwood.

That involved working close-

ly with the Royal Ulster Constabulary and because of that experience he was subsequently appointed liaison officer between the Army and the RUC.

Capt Ponsonby, who is 36 and single, would like to have continued a military career, but realises he took up the option too late.

He returns to civilian life in

October and hopes to complete a physiotherapy course.

Of his liaison job he said: "There are different working practices between the RUC and ourselves and I iron out any minor problems, such as a different emphasis in operating."

"I very much enjoy my work, which is different, busy and interesting."

The battle goes on

D-Day hero takes up case of injured Grenadiers

THE CASES of three young Grenadier Guardsmen who lost their legs in an explosion on a Canadian training area have been taken up by D-Day commander Col Terence Otway, writes Anne Armstrong.

The 77-year-old veteran led the 9th Parachute Battalion which captured the German battery at Merville on June 6, 1944.

He met the Grenadiers while visiting the tri-Service rehabilitation centre at Headley Court, Epsom and has now taken up the cudgels on their behalf to win them compensation for their horrendous injuries.

Col Otway, who has campaigned on behalf of other Service welfare issues, has now raised several matters which he hopes may force a new look at the conclusions of the Board of Inquiry into the incident, which happened at Suffield in Canada on July 7, 1989.

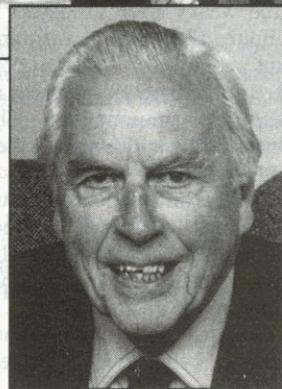
As a result of that inquiry, the Ministry of Defence was advised that the injured Guardsmen could not sue, even though Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act of 1947 has been repealed, because they could not prove negligence.

This has left Gdsm Adrian Hicks (23), Sean Povey (21) and LCpl John Ray (24) with no compensation from the MoD.

The explosion occurred while the three soldiers were digging a trench on a designated training area during a training exercise with the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

All three were ordered to dig the trench in a precise location which subsequently proved not to have been cleared. The 76mm shell which caused their injuries was buried nine or ten inches below ground.

It is understood the MoD case is that the soldiers were fully briefed on their task (a



Col Terence Otway

Pictured last year with former Grenadier Guardsman Mr Marmaduke Hussey, Chairman of the BBC, are (from left) Gdsm Adrian Hicks, Sean Povey and LCpl John Ray

claim the soldiers dispute) and therefore the MoD was not negligent.

Gdsm Hicks, who has left the Army, is to receive a War Disablement Pension after nearly two years, and State benefits. Gdsm Povey and LCpl Ray are still in the Army and undergoing medical treatment.

A fun run organised by the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards at Munster raised £24,000 to help the young victims. They have recently returned from holidays paid for by well-wishers and have received much help and support from their regiment.

But the three Guardsmen cannot live forever on charity and generosity. At some point Povey and Ray will have to leave the Service and seek new jobs and housing suitable for their disabilities.

If they had been civilians, their compensation could well have run into hundreds of

thousands of pounds and their futures would be more secure.

Channel Tunnel worker Martin Ryan (40), whose legs were crushed in an accident in July 1989, was awarded £370,173 by the High Court.

Civilians, including civil servants, are eligible for compensation under Industrial Injuries legislation (the MoD pays National Insurance contributions).

The criterion for an industrial accident is that it must be related to employment. The civilian is also entitled to an interview at no cost with a member of the Accident Legal Advice Service.

There is no requirement for the civilian to prove negligence, and he or she has the right of appeal.

Service personnel, who may only apply to the MoD for a redress of grievance, may, following the repeal of Section 10, sue the MoD, but must prove negligence. And that can prove extremely difficult.

However, the Grenadier Guards Association continues to provide legal advice for the three.

At the Adjutant General's Conference I asked the Secretary of State for Defence about the position of the crippled Grenadiers and was assured

that the matter had his attention.

Former Defence Secretary George Younger, a vice-president of the Ex-Service Mental Welfare Association (Combat Stress), discussed with me the difficulties facing the three and has every sympathy with their case. Ironically, he was in Canada on an official visit at the time of the accident.

Mr Younger announced the repeal of Section 10 in the House of Commons on December 8, 1986.

Mr Younger was one of 205 Members of Parliament at the last count to have signed an Early Day Motion raised by John Browne, the Member for Winchester.

LCpl Ray's MP, Jonathan Sayeed (Bristol East), has raised his case in Parliament, and Lord Swinfen has promised to bring the matter up in the Lords.

As a result of these and other cases, Personnel Services (Army) has instigated a working party to look into the rehabilitation-resettlement package for medically-discharged Service personnel.

The Royal British Legion has appointed a specialist rehabilitation officer to look after ex-Service cases.

Celebration of heroes

A GLITTERING occasion is the only phrase for it when Colours are presented. Bayonets and swords flash, the light catches the musicians' instruments, and the waving centre piece in green, blue or saffron commands such attention it is little wonder spectators rarely glimpse the diamonds on display.

Yet there are always some to be seen, perhaps quicksilver on a hollow cheek or glittering in the corners of eyes which have seen great and often terrible things.

For the Old Comrades in their bowlers and pin stripes, blazers or "best suits", names embroidered on the silks recall memories, often painful ones at that. A good deal of hearty nose-blowing accompanies such occasions.

When regiments were amalgamated a lot of hard thinking went on as to which Battle Honours would be borne on the Colours.

With nine Regular battalions as antecedents, the Light Infantry literally had hundreds to choose from (as did all of the so-called "big" regiments), not to mention those won by TA and "hostilities only" units.

So "North-West Europe 1940, 44-45" covers a multitude of actions forgotten by all but those who were involved. Take the two Victoria Cross holders invited to attend at Tidworth, 76-year-old Richard Annand and 79-year-old George Eardley.

In May 1940 2nd Lt Annand won the first Army VC of the war on the banks of the River Dyle when his platoon of 2 DLI fought all day against enemy trying to fight their way over a broken bridge.

He used grenades when ammunition ran out, carried on after being hit and bandaged, and after withdrawing his platoon, on orders, went back to the position and brought



Young soldiers rehearse the placing of the kneelers which the Colour bearers will use on the great occasion

back his wounded batman in a wheelbarrow.

Always known in his home county of Durham as "Captain" Annand, his final rank, he dedicated himself to working for the disabled. With his hearing severely impaired he showed great patience in the case of at least one young reporter who interviewed him just after the war.

The cost of fighting in "North-West Europe 44-45" may be guessed from the VC citation description of George Eardley as "Private (Acting Sergeant)".

In October 1944 at Overloon, Holland, he led a platoon of the 4th KSLI against well-sited enemy paratroopers amply provided with automatic weapons.

Three times the British advance was held up. Three times, sometimes sprinting, sometimes crawling, he disposed of machine-gun crews, including an officer, with his Sten or grenades.

Whoever decided the 30-year-old private from Congleton, Cheshire, had leadership qualities was a good judge of men.

But who knows what any soldier has in him until the unexpected occurs such as the appearance of six Panther tanks in the middle of a dug-in company of 5 DCLI on its first day in action in Normandy three weeks after D-Day.

Four 17-pounder anti-tank guns coming up in support were immediately destroyed, as were two six-pounders. The commanding officer was killed loading another.

Carriers and vehicles went up in flames and one Panther deliberately crushed a casualty on a stretcher after machine-gunning the bearers.

Despite the chaos, four teams carrying PIATs (Projector Infantry Anti-Tank, a primitive spring-loaded projectile launcher) stalked the enemy tanks. Three rounds were fired into the rear of one which limped away.

Two were destroyed, one overturned trying to escape and, hit by a six-pounder, a fifth burst into flames. The sixth may have escaped but at a cost of 20 killed and wounded the DCLI had seen them all off.

It is doubtful if any British soldier still serving has had such a baptism of fire but there is no reason to believe that the men who march with the SA 80 behind the Colours of 1, 2, and 3 LI differ greatly from those who have gone before. They come from the same counties, follow the same traditions. They are well trained and equipped.

They still have a long way to go, however, to live up to Capt Annand, vintage 1914. At 76 he was looking forward to attending the dance planned as part of the Colours celebration. Those Germans didn't stand a chance, did they?



The Light Infantry makes sure everything is ready for the Big Day.

Above and right: The Colour parties march to Tidworth tattoo ground for a rehearsal including the ceremonial farewell to the Old Colours. As the Queen's Colour can be carried uncased only before Royalty it was represented alongside the Regimental Colour by a plain sheet commonly known as "The Blanket".

Left: The stand which will hold the six Colours involved is the same one which was constructed specially for the presentation made by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to the 2nd, 3rd and 5th (Volunteer) Battalions, The Light Infantry in May 1971



ADJUST YOUR SHUTTERS!

LORD TENNYSON hardly had Light Infantry in mind when he wrote "Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying" but he got it about right.

The rafters of the grandstand were certainly set to ring to the massed bands gathered at Tidworth tattoo ground for the presentation of Colours to the three Regular battalions of the regiment.

And the whisper had gone out to amateur photographers to adjust their shutter speeds.

For the bands of the LI are apt to appear at a pace which blurs their legs in pictures.

In theory the Light Infantry marches at 140 paces to the minute (compared with the normal 120 of most troops) but according to Maj Ron Berry, the Regimental Secretary and a

former bandmaster, this is usually 144 because "it is easier to count when you are looking at a watch - 12 paces in five seconds".

And they can do more. In Hong Kong in 1963 the CO of 1 DLI told Bandmaster Berry to give the "Heavies" 20 minutes start on a four-mile march back to HMS Tamar.

"At the head of two battalions of Gurkhas and 3 RGJ (staging at Hong Kong on their way to Borneo) we were doing 160 when we caught up with their last file entering Tamar."

The Light Infantry was meant to travel fast and light. In the 18th century Light companies were added to Line regiments for the purpose of skirmishing and quick manoeuvre.

Considered an elite corps, like the Grenadier companies of the day, they were composed of the "most agile and intelligent" men of a regiment.

(Would it be too much to say today's Recce platoon represents the Light, Fire Support the Grenadier companies?)

They were frequently grouped together for operations until eventually light infantry regiments were formed, being promoted to a great extent by Gen Sir John Moore (who had commanded the 51st Foot, later the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry).

The prestige of the Light Infantry reached a peak in Victorian times when, for example, in 1858 the Queen was "pleased to direct the 32nd Regiment be clothed, equipped and trained as a Light Infantry

Regiment" to honour its soldiers for their defence of Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny. Hence The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

It was at its greatest strength in the First World War when (according to the Army List) the regiments which later amalgamated to form the LI of today put a total of 107 battalions into the field: Somerset LI 16; DCLI 15; KOYLI 26; King's Shropshire LI 13 and DLI 37.

Two "Light Divisions" were formed for Kitchener's Army, the 14th and the 20th (which included battalions of Rifle regiments), but the term *light* was illusory. Infantry of whatever description carried around 70lb into action.

Many fewer battalions of light infantry were raised for

the return march from 1939-45 but at least one brigade took the field, the 151st (6th, 8th and 9th DLI) which saw heavy fighting with "Fifty Div" until, the pitcher having been taken to the well once too often, the latter was reduced to a cadre at the end of 1944.

In the reduction of the Army after 1945 the Somersets and DCLI were merged in 1959 to become the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry.

Together with the KOYLI, Shropshires and Durhams, they amalgamated in July 1968 to form The Light Infantry of four battalions (the 4th disappearing within a year). There are now three Regular and three TA battalions, light by name but on operations as, say, in Ulster, still lugging more than 70lb of equipment.



1 RRW on public duties in Korea

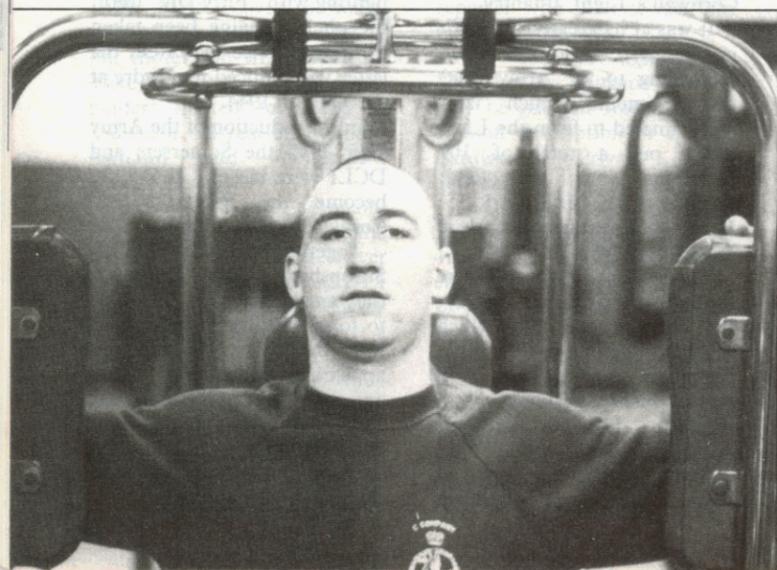
Above right: Flag-folding the American way. From left are Pte Martin Williams, Pte Julian Scale and Pte Jason Groves



Right centre: The public face of the United Nations alliance in Korea. Pte Tony Trinca on duty at the Combined Headquarters in Seoul



Below: LCpl Andrew Clarke takes advantage of the superb gym facilities at the US Army's Youngsan Camp in the heart of Seoul and (below right) takes part in parade rehearsals with American and Korean colleagues



The Band of The Royal Regiment of Wales on parade with the United States 8th Army Band

Impeccable 1 RRW joins Honour Guard where . . .

The Cold War never ended

Words: Robert Higson

BARRIERS between East and West may have crumbled in other parts of the world, but the Cold War is still alive and well on the Korean peninsula nearly four decades after the armistice which ended three years of savage fighting.

During the fight to preserve South Korea from Communist dictatorship in the early 1950s 1,109 British Servicemen died and 2,674 were wounded.

Ever since the resident British infantry battalion was withdrawn in 1957 – four years after the military armistice – the Army has maintained a connection with Korea through the United Nations Honour

Guard based in the massive Youngsan US military camp in the heart of Seoul.

For ten weeks at a time detachments of between 30 and 40 soldiers from Hong Kong join this unique multi-national unit. Because of the nature of the Hong Kong garrison they are usually Gurkhas, but once a year, when such events as the anniversary of the Imjin River battle occur, it is the turn of the British battalion.

Thirty-seven men, drawn mainly from C Company, the 1st Battalion, The Royal

Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot), have been getting their first taste of Korean style public duties. A regular part of the job involves guarding the house and office of the American Commander-in-Chief: much of the rest is to do with ceremonial – the public face of the UN alliance in Korea.

When the Honour Guard parades, as it does for visiting dignitaries, national days, and command handovers, it is led by its commander, a captain in the US infantry. Behind him marches the US platoon and then the UN platoon of eight British soldiers with four from

both the Philippines and Thailand. They are followed by Korean platoons representing the three armed services.

Everyone swings their arms at a different level. But some things have to be done together, so a few new drill movements must be learnt: seven movements to fix bayonets, for example, instead of three. An American drill sergeant usually goes to Hong Kong to give instruction before departure.

Something else that has to be taught is the American way of flag folding. Every day the British contingent is responsi-

● Turn to next page



Left: Men from C Company, 1 RRW (in white) on parade with the Honour Guard. Also in the Guard were soldiers from Thailand and the Philippines

Right: The Gloucestershire Regimental Association standard is carried to the memorial at Gloucester Hill for the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Imjin River battle. Attached to the standard is the blue Solma-ri streamer

Below: Panmunjon, where the Cold War goes on. The soldiers marching in the background are North Koreans



Cold War

● From Page 27

ble for raising and lowering the UN flag outside the combined headquarters while parties of Americans and Koreans deal with their own national colours.

The ceremony of lowering involves the American style of snappy triangular folding that takes a bit of practice.

Honour Guard parades, combined with a flurry of events surrounding the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Imjin River, provided the sort of emphasis on turn-out and drill that most had not experienced since basic training.

But the parade square was less daunting than the prospect, for a battalion whose main sports are rugby and boxing, of taking on the Americans at volleyball – a regular fixture for units on Honour Guard duty.

Occasionally the Honour Guard parades at Panmunjon, the jointly controlled area in the middle of the demilitarized zone between North and South where Cold War rhetoric has continued unabated for the past 40 years.

Normally the Guard is only present for meetings of the full Military Armistice Commission whose membership follows the pattern established at the original talks in 1953. These are at present in abeyance due to the umbrage taken by the North at the appointment of a Southern general to lead the UN side.

But when the North decides



to generate a little political capital by handing over the remains of 11 Allied Servicemen it claims to have, then the UN Honour Guard will be on hand at Panmunjon for the reception.

Honour Guard duty provides an unusually high profile for men from the Hong Kong garrison. As Lt James Swift, the RRW commander of the UN Platoon, explained: "We are all little ambassadors for our country and the Armed Forces."

"The Americans are for ever trying to knock their own contingent and look for faults because we are supposed to be 'Better than the Best', which is the motto of the Honour Guard."

"We represent British soldiers as well as the Guard, so discipline has to be impeccable."



Gen Farrar-Hockley at the Gloster Memorial with the only two serving members of the regiment who were able to get to Korea for the occasion. On the left is WO2 Tim Godden, formerly chief clerk of 1 Glosters in Catterick but now chief clerk for HQ Support Troops in Hong Kong, and on the right is WO1 Jim Keveren, who was RQMS at Catterick before being posted as Depot RSM of Hong Kong Military Service Corps

Veterans gather to honour Gloster fallen

THE commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Imjin River, one of the most stirring actions of the Korean War, brought a host of dignitaries to the Gloucestershire Regiment Memorial near the site of the 1st Battalion's last stand.

Among them was Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, the adjutant of 1 Glosters at the time of the battle, who went on to end his service career as C-in-C Allied Forces Northern Europe.

He led a party of veterans, many of whom had been taken prisoner with him after the battalion had been cut off by overwhelming numbers of Chinese troops.

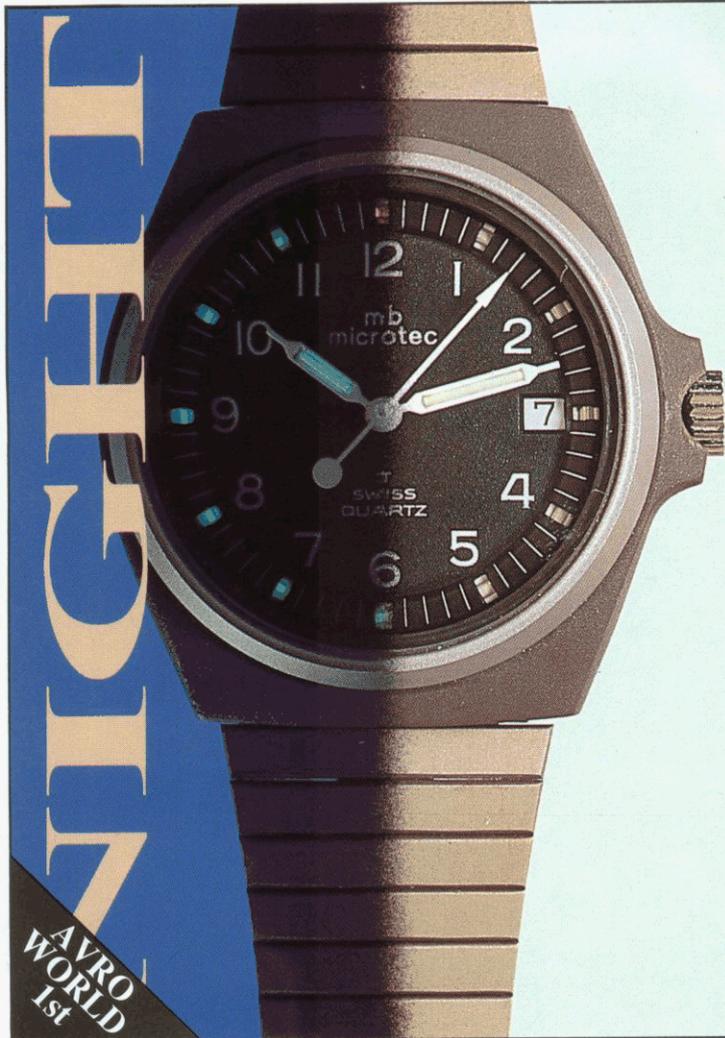
The Glosters, on the right flank of 29 Infantry Brigade, withstood a massive Chinese onslaught for three days, thus providing vital time for the regrouping of forces to defend the Korean capital, Seoul.

At the end of the fighting, the battalion could muster only 67 men – 59 had died and 526,

including 180 wounded, were taken prisoner.

The action, which produced two VCs, caught the imagination of the world. President Harry Truman awarded the Glosters a Unit Presidential Citation and presented a streamer inscribed "Solma-ri" – the name of the valley they defended so valiantly.

The streamer, on loan from the present 1st Battalion, was carried on a Regimental Association standard at the 40th anniversary service.



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Where's Cherry now?

Older readers of this magazine will remember, perhaps with nostalgia and affection, the long-expired tradition of back-page pin-ups, modestly-clad by today's standards.

The first, Cherry Richards, of Doncaster, Yorkshire, was featured in the August 18, 1945 edition, when she was 20. Now the Imperial War Museum is hoping to trace her in connection with a Forces Sweethearts exhibition planned for next year.

The exhibition will focus on the special nature of relationships between the sexes in wartime, from 1914 to the recent Gulf conflict.

It will cover not only the glamorous side – the saucy pin-ups on mess walls, aircraft fuselages and in publications such as this – but also the personal side, the poignant stories of love and separation.

The museum wants to hear from any ex-Servicemen and women, or any still serving, who have kept mementoes, letters and souvenirs from wartime romances, particularly items with an interesting, sad or happy story behind them.

News of SOLDIER pin-up Cherry would also be welcomed. The person to contact is the Exhibitions Officer, Penny Ritchie Calder, at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE11 4UX (tel: 071 416 5323).

Sangar of hope

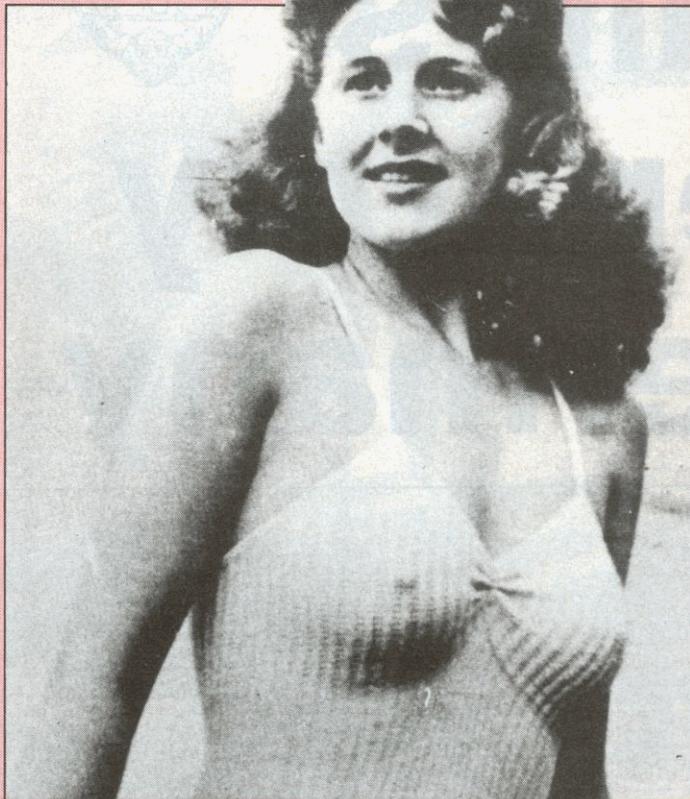
The walls of Londonderry have seen many things in their time so an "environmentally friendly" sangar was probably inevitable.

Standing at the corner of Masonic Security Forces base is what in the old days would have been called a watchtower (which is just what it is) remarkable for being faced with stone so that it blends with the locality.

The workmanship is admirable and the effect is sympathetic rather than menacing.

Inside the base, where

SOLDIER to Soldier



Cherry Richards, SOLDIER's first back-page pin-up in August, 1945



successive occupants used to paint and adapt existing unit signs, the Royal Hampshires rationalised artistic licence during their long residency, restricting each platoon to one mural.

The modernist influence is evident in the latest exhibition – viz Mr Combe's 4 Platoon as the "Mutant Ninja Turtles".

● Read about the smile on the face of the Tigers in the next issue.

First for Marlborough

Marlborough College's Combined Cadet Force has received the first standard in its 131-year history.

One of the oldest school cadet forces in the country, the Marlborough CCF started in 1860, becoming affiliated ten years later to the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment.

The county regiment was absorbed into The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, and the new 4ft by 3ft banner was presented to the CCF by Brig Bill Mackereth, Colonel of the DERR.

Hero in silver

Old soldiers from the 4th Battalion, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (4 RWK) have commissioned a solid silver statuette of the Kentish hero LCpl John Harman VC.

It was presented to the regiment's natural successors, the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, at a ceremony on the anniversary of his death at the Battle of Kohima.

LCpl Harman single-handedly destroyed several Japanese machinegun posts at the Battle of Kohima in 1944 before being killed in action.

Song of Trust

Prime Minister John Major has lent his enthusiastic support to a Midlands-based group of singers who have made a record for sale in aid of the Gulf Trust.

The song, "We want to let you know", was written by Carol Webb and Trisha Benton, whose husband serves with the Territorial Army, and recorded under the group name "Family and Friends".

Mr Major, one of a number of top people who were sent discs, signed two copies and returned them "with warm good wishes".

Produced by Granville Brown, the record is available from Birmingham-based Eye to Eye Records (tel: 021 554 3314).

War cameramen celebrate 50 years

Many of the 85 surviving official cameramen from the Second World War got together for a pint in a London pub last month.

They were celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Army Film and Photographic Unit – set up, according to reunion organiser Stuart Clark, after strong

criticism of the British failure to match the Germans in producing battle film and photographs for propaganda purposes.

Four Fleet Street photographers had been sent to France four weeks after the war started and the Royal Corps of Signals produced pictures under the auspices of the Army

Film Unit. But full-scale camera coverage did not start until the Army Film and Photographic Unit was formed in November 1941, continuing until its disbandment in 1946.

Former AFPU members, some of whom are now dispersed to Canada, USA and Australia, keep in touch through a regular newsletter.

The Continental Territorial Army has been up and running for seven years. Now it awaits Options for Change. Report by **Jennifer Griffiths**, pictures by **Mike Weston**



Britain's other army in Germany

THE future of Britain's Continental Territorial Army has assumed a keen edge in Germany in the light of changes in Eastern Europe.

The force was formed to exploit the untapped resource of ex-soldiers who had settled in Germany and were anxious to maintain links with the British Army.

It got off the ground in 1985, and although the original phased plan was for an eventual force of 2,000, financial restraints have limited it to its current manpower of 300 shared among six different units.

Expansion plans for the next three years, due to be implemented from April 1990, have been shelved pending the outcome of the Options for Change report on Army manning levels.

Continental TA units are platoon or troop size, attached to Regular units so they can tap into established infrastructures.

The first to form up was 213 (BAOR) Transport Squadron RCT(V) and 335 (BAOR) Ambulance Train Staff RAMC(V) at Monchengladbach.

They were followed by BAOR Defence Animal Support Unit RAVC(V) in Sennelager, 410 (BAOR) Plant Troop RE(V) in Osnabrück, and 171 (BAOR) Vehicle Platoon RAOC(V) in Recklinghausen.

Berlin has 408 (Berlin) Field Troop RE(V).

Maj Dale Hemming-Taylor, the Continental TA's staff officer, said its manpower was of a very high calibre because so many were ex-Regulars. "Their enthusiasm is overwhelming."

The training commitment for soldiers is 27 days a year, of which 15 are in camp. Apart from normal military training



Cpl Roger Cookson in the bosun's chair and Lt James Barrie of 213 (BAOR) Tpt Sqn RCT(V) enjoy an inter-section competition with German reservists which involved transporting equipment across a stretch of water

and trades, the Continental TA offers sports and adventurous training and participation in military competitions.

This often involves contact and co-operation with Reserve Forces of other Nato countries.

Maj Hemming-Taylor said: "The Continental TA is hard work, especially after an exhaustive training weekend

which culminates in a long drive home late on a Sunday afternoon before getting ready for a normal working week the next morning.

"But there is an enormous amount of fun and camaraderie often lacking in everyday civilian life for the expatriate."

He said the majority of recruits spoke German and had

either married German girls or had German girlfriends. Others had simply decided to settle and work in Germany.

"The concept of the Continental TA is purely and simply putting Reserves forward as opposed to having to transport them from the UK.

When we do eventually expand it will be units we would wish



Getting their drill right are men of 171 (BAOR) Vehicle Platoon RAOC(V) in Recklinghausen



Maj Dale Hemming-Taylor, Continental TA staff officer



Capt Pat Mutrie, OC of 335 (BAOR) Ambulance Train Staff RAMC(V) looks happy enough to be stretchered off by (from left) Sgt Martin Courtney, Cpl Ken McKinney, LCpl Teri Crow, Pte Elaine Milne, Cpl Dave Kimber, Cpl George McKenzie and Capt Sally Littlewood

to use early in transition to war."

He said there were enough fluent German speakers for a Continental TA pool of 20 interpreters to be formed. He is hoping the idea will be taken up to provide liaison officers for various units.

Women soldiers are making an important contribution to

the Continental TA. The largest representation is in 213 (BAOR) Tpt Sqn RCT(V) where 20 work as clerks and drivers. About 15 per cent of the force is female.

Most are former Regular members of the Women's Royal Army Corps. Typical is Pte Judith Williams who, in her first year, qualified for her

JCB, motor cycle and HGV2 licences.

The reason she joined up is one often given by other WRAC members - "to be with like-minded people and to do a worthwhile and satisfying job".

As well as sharing driving and clerical jobs, they also undertake identical military training to that of men.

During training at Arsbeck, they spent a day qualifying on personal weapons, firing not only the 9mm sub machine gun but also rifles, an experience none had had in the Regular Army.

Weapon skills are just one of several requirements for entitlement to the annual bounty. Other qualifications include first aid, map reading, a three-mile run and NBC training.

Although pay is an incentive, none of the WRAC thought that money was a prime consideration for joining up. The consensus of opinion was that the main attraction was that it allowed them to maintain their links with the Army and the UK.

Many look forward to annual camp or trade courses, often held in the UK.

LCpl Teri Crow (42) has a different reason for joining the Continental TA - it has given her a whole new career after she felt many doors were closed to her when she reached 40.

She said: "The children were off my hands and I was past the age where I wanted to go to a wives' club. I found I had too

● Turn to next page

Size will depend on Regular levels

● From Page 33

much time on my hands."

She was accepted by 335 (BAOR) Ambulance Train Staff RAMC(V), despite her age, because she is an ex-Regular.

She added: "I told them when I joined up I didn't mind what I did as long as they kept me busy. Now I feel I am needed."

When SOLDIER visited 213 (BAOR) Tpt Sqn RCT(V) members were enjoying an inter-section competition with German reservists. Tasks included crossing a stretch of water with prescribed equipment, first aid, crossing a "minefield", and using a crane to move a bucket of water.

The squadron, which is fully recruited, is responsible for the unloading of depots, using heavy goods vehicles in its war role.

Another unit, 410 (BAOR) Plant Tp RE(V), formed three years ago, has 35 soldiers, mostly from Osnabrück, with more being documented. All are ex-soldiers because of the difficulty in training civilians in their trades.

In their war role they would form anti-tank ditching teams and conduct route maintenance. As well as plant training they do infantry and combat engineer training, bridging, field defences and the usual military skills. They use a range of heavy equipment which they maintain themselves.

Troop Commander, Capt Bob McCance, explained: "We only have one plant operator's fitter on the establishment but several of the lads are fitters in civilian life and we can call on them.

"They all work together and there is no problem with servicing. They take a lot of pride in the care of their machines. I see everyone who applies to join. It does not matter if he does not have a trade because if he is ex-military I can train him up within three years to be a plant operator."

Another thriving unit is BAOR DASU RAVC(V) with 36 members commanded by Lt Barry Gibson and trained and administered by QMSI WO2 Dougal Douglas. The soldiers are from various walks of life as

well as ex-Servicemen and members of the Mixed Services Organisation who handle dogs as their full-time employment.

The unit's role is to provide section commanders trained to take over certain RAVC responsibilities and assist in handling military dogs wherever they are required in BAOR, and to train and integrate reservists on transition to war.

All soldiers have to complete a 14-day dog handler's course, learning care, maintenance and continuation training of Army protection dogs. When this is completed they receive further training on the employment of specialist dogs for explosive and drugs searches. They also learn basic veterinary treatments.

As their role requires them to work with other units, they exercise frequently so that their skills can be put to good use.

Best recruited of ten sections in Ambulance Train Squadron RAMC(V) is 335 (BAOR) Ambulance Train Staff RAMC(V).

In peacetime, an ambulance train is manned by six officers and 34 other ranks; in war, six officers and 48 other ranks, including RAMC, QARANC, ACC, REME and RCT.

Average passenger capacity is 294 stretcher casualties and 276 sitting casualties, who would arrive at railheads on 12 stretcher-converted white buses operated by Ambulance Coach Squadrons RCT(V).

Those needing most urgent treatment are loaded on middle berths at a convenient height. Less serious patients travel on berths above and below them. Both despatching and receiving hospitals provide a liaison officer at the railhead as well as loading teams.

The earliest recorded use of an ambulance train was in 1855 in the Crimean War. After Gettysburg in the American Civil War in 1864, 15,000 wounded were moved by rail. It was during the South African War, 1899-1902, that the first specially-built train was used.

In the First World War more than five million sick and wounded were carried by rail, and in the Second World War ambulance trains operated in all the major theatres.

Lt Col David Myles, OC, said: "Ambulance trains re-



main a very important way of moving a large number of casualties in comfort, warmth and light while receiving medical care."

Plans were in the pipeline to update the ambulance trains

and he was confident they had an important future.

The war role of 171 (BAOR) Veh P1 RAOC(V) would be to assist in the turnover of vehicles in forward vehicle depots.

Among its soldiers is



Above: Catherine Spong, a member of the Officer Training Corps, finds herself very much in the centre of things with 408 (Berlin) Field Troop RE(V). Below: Sgt Bob Dawson (left), a veterinary assistant, examines a canine patient with help from LBr Andrew Ruddock (centre) and Pte Bernadette Wainman. Above left: Sgt Mike Swallow (left) and LCpl Terence Lendor of 171 (BAOR) Vehicle Platoon RAOC(V). Centre left: Men of 410 (BAOR) Plant Troop RE(V) take a break. All are ex-Regulars and in war would form anti-tank ditching teams and maintain roads. Below left: Accident "victim" LCpl Frankie Mumford is tended by (from left) Cpl Eddie Russell, Dvr Gary Wood, 2nd Lt Paul Neilson and Pte Judith Williams of 213 (BAOR) Tpt Sqn RCT(V) during a first aid competition.



Trinidad-born LCpl Terence Lendor, who previously served in the RCT. He married a Bielefeld girl and decided to settle in Germany, where he works as a car transporter driver. He said he had found

again in the Continental TA the comradeship he missed on leaving the Regular Army.

Pte Keith Mitchell joined the platoon three months after finishing a three-year stint in the Royal Pioneer Corps. He

has a German wife and works for the British Army as a civilian fork lift truck driver.

Of the Continental TA he said: "There is a very good atmosphere with the right combination of serious soldier-

ing and leisure. You work hard and play hard."

Sgt Mike Swallow, who served in REME for 11 years, left the Regular Army in the 1970s. He felt there were few job opportunities for him in the UK so decided to settle in Germany with his German wife.

Mike, a garage proprietor, said he had no regrets. He was one of the original intake into the platoon which he described as "a good professional crowd".

Serving with 408 (Berlin) Fd Tp RE(V) is Cpl Bob Lyons, a civilian employed by the Regular Army to service engineer equipment.

He said: "I decided to settle in Berlin, but I wanted to maintain a link with the Army. Originally I was an assault pioneer with a lot to offer. I felt it was going to waste and now I am doing something really useful with the Continental TA."

Spr Mallyveen Nelson-Homiah, from The Gambia in West Africa, served with the Royal Air Force in Berlin.

He said: "I left the Services and moved to Britain. But I couldn't take to the UK way of life and missed Berlin."

He returned and is now happily working as a civilian supply clerk at RAF Gatow and enjoying serving with the squadron.

Centre of attraction at 408's drill night was Catherine Spong, a member of the Officer Training Corps. She is a student of water pollution and was on an exchange visit to Berlin, so called to see the squadron at work.

Two ex-Regular soldiers have set their sights on joining the squadron.

Keith Brown, ex-14th/20th King's Hussars, left the Continental TA to try life in Majorca, but returned to Berlin after documentation problems. "I am very keen to re-join," he said.

Stephen Barron, who served with the Light Infantry, said he was missing Army life and was determined to join the Continental TA.

There is no doubt that the Reserve Army will have an important part to play in the future role of BAOR and that the Continental TA concept is accepted as sound and advantageous.

The eventual size of the Continental TA is uncertain and will depend on the Regular Force levels that remain in Germany.

In the meantime, existing Continental TA units continue to go from strength to strength.

New law on Child Support

THE CHILD Support Bill which becomes law later this year will have its effect on Service families.

The Department of Social Security says that around half of all parents concerned in broken marriages do not pay anything to support the child or children involved.

A grandmother wrote to me recently saying that she had received nothing for five years for the upkeep of a child from a broken Army marriage.

During the Gulf crisis many divorced and separated wives became concerned at what might happen if their husband or ex-husband was killed.

The new Child Support Agency will be tasked to trace absent and defaulting parents and assess and enforce collection of arrears and contributions.

This will also apply to Service personnel overseas regardless of the country in which they are serving.

There are various ways in which payments can be made. The Forces already have a system, not widely known, to monitor maintenance payments laid down by the courts or Agency. The Army's branch is PS4(b) in Empress State Building, London, which investigates claims from wives, solicitors and interested parties.

If there is a problem over non-payment, Sections 150 and 151 of the Army Act can be invoked.

It seems the more a person earns the less they are likely to pay. I hear from an increasing number of officers' families with maintenance problems.

Widows' service

THE WAR Widows' Association of Great Britain will hold a service of thanksgiving for courage at All Hallows by the Tower, Byward Street, London, on Sunday August 11 to mark the 20th anniversary of its foundation. Widows from any conflicts who wish to attend should contact Mrs Hazel Murphy, 52 West Street, Gorseinon, Swansea SA4 2AF.

Help! I can't pay rent arrears

Dear Anne,

I have just received a bill for over £1,000 rent arrears for my married quarter. With a low-paid job I could not pay Community Charge and current market rate for the MQ, look after my two teenage children, and pay for electricity, food, etc.

The bill is enormous and I can see no way of paying it. Can you help? — **A wife.**

RENT arrears bills for over £1,000 are an enormous problem for estranged wives and couples alike, as this example (above) illustrates from the many letters I receive on the subject.

Their plight in trying to pay the current market rent for the married quarter once they are no longer in the Services or are estranged becomes acute once the 93 days' grace is over.

Families hardest hit are those where the estranged wife has a low-paid job and falls just outside the threshold for Family Credit

or a rebate on the Community Charge.

The distress caused could be avoided if a financial assessment could be made in plenty of time to allow Housing Benefit to be granted. This can be paid even if you are getting no other Social Security benefits and it can be applied for 13 weeks before the change of tenancy.

Family Credit and Income Support can also be applied for and if you are eligible it will be paid very shortly after the change of occupancy.

The financial structure of the family changes at the 93 days point, when rent is normally increased to the current market rate. The District Secretary must be mindful of the public purse, and so demands the increased rent from the week after the 93 days have elapsed, or immediately for a couple.

Maintenance from the husband may or may not be in place, whether by

voluntary allotment, court order or under the Army Act. The one area which is usually the last to be paid is the rent for the married quarter.

By why is Housing Benefit not paid direct to the MoD?

Housing Benefit rules do allow it to be paid directly to a landlord — in your case MoD. You would not receive any money, but the family's bill would be less, the MoD would receive some rent and when eviction happens or on the final move the arrears would not be in the region of 100 per cent.

At Catterick, there is an enabling scheme where SSAFA works closely with families and where the Housing and Welfare Service look at the financial side of an irregular occupant.

Applicants can also disagree with a Council over its decision in connection with Housing Benefits. You can disagree with how they

PATRIOT MOVES INTO HOUSING

"WE HAVE the finance, now we are looking for the houses or land to build on and families to move into them," said Malcolm Lindo of the Royal British Legion Housing Association.

The recently-launched Patriot Business Expansion scheme has raised £10 million which means RBLHA can go ahead and offer homes for rent with the option to buy a share of the property at a later date.

This is a marvellous

opportunity for Service and ex-Service personnel who have been struck off housing lists or are on local authority lists with virtually no chance of a house — and for those who are irregular occupants or may be within two years of discharge.

The houses will be bought or developed by Patriot in the South of England.

RBLHA has recently drawn up a long-term plan which commits it to providing homes for

younger service people and, in particular, families.

To find out more about the availability of the homes write to The Housing Manager, RBL Housing, PO Box 32, St John's Road, Penn, High Wycombe, Bucks NP10 8SF.

● Patriot has now bought nine houses (eight two-bedroomed, one three-bedroomed) at Crown Hill, Plymouth. Interested parties should apply.



Lord Arran (left) tours St Andrew's School, British Forces HQ Rheindahlen, Germany and is pictured in the second year class with Mr Ian Mitchelson (centre) and head teacher Mr Charles McNulty

have worked out your entitlement, or with their reasons for not paying or reducing it. You can ask the council to look at your case again, and if you are still not satisfied, you can ask for the decision to be reviewed by a local review board.

Further information may be obtained from the leaflet "Housing Benefit: Help With Your Rent".

The benefit of appeal

FOR years I have been receiving letters and phone calls from wives dissatisfied with the treatment they have received in benefit offices.

With the introduction of the new Benefits Agency, the Department of Social Security hopes to improve its customer relations.

A leaflet (BA1 April 1991) says: "There may well be times when you feel that we have not got this right. If the problem concerns the amount of benefit which you are receiving, please do not hesitate to seek an explanation.

The leaflet includes a form which can be sent or handed in to the local office.

A pressing need for IT

RECENT exam results for children attending British Forces schools in North-West Europe have been very good but there is a glaring gap in the field of

Pension — by DD

IF you are posted overseas and wish to keep your State pension intact and retain the right to claim sickness and invalidity benefits, maternity allowance and additional retirement pension, consult the document NI225 January 1991.

It explains how to keep your Class 2 and Class 3 intact by paying voluntary contributions by direct debit. NP180 and NI42 are also helpful.

information technology and business studies.

Results at one secondary school with 1,500 pupils show that only eight pupils took the exam, with just two passes.

The problem seems to be that equipment is seriously underfunded, with only £84,000 allotted for IT in the MoD 1989-90 budget. With more than 20,000 pupils to cater for this was not enough.

A great deal of money is available for local education authorities but the MoD is not an LEA.

Hopes now rest on the Defence Support Agency launched by the Earl of Arran, the Armed Forces Minister, to be responsible for the educational needs of 24,000 pupils in 86 schools in North-West Europe.

Under the new system schools will be responsible

for managing their own budgets but it is questionable whether Service schools will be able to afford to replace many elderly machines.

I hope the new rules covering business gifts to educational establishments will be extended to Service schools. They allow firms to make gifts of the equipment they use — including used items replaced by more modern machines — and claim tax relief.

Tax guide for wives

AN Inland Revenue concession to allow Service personnel extra time to complete their tax returns does not extend to dependent spouses. So for the first time, wives must complete their own forms.

MQ rent rise won't solve this problem

AN INCREASE in rents for married quarters under illegal occupation is unlikely to solve many problems (an officer's three-bed roomed Type C Grade 1 MQ could be rated as high as £500 a month).

The rise will affect people at all levels and rents have been doubled, trebled or quadrupled.

There may be some logic in this as far as Whitehall is concerned but families are unlikely to be driven out any quicker if they have nowhere to go.

I can see only tremendous financial problems for all concerned. Families will have enormous debts added to their accommodation problems. The Government says there is only so much cash available but Service families seem to fall outside MoD responsibility at the end of a contract in which a soldier can complete 12 years and leave without

having earned enough to save for a house in the private sector.

Local authorities only act under the basic provisions laid down under the Homeless Persons Act.

An increasing number of Service families face the prospects of bed and breakfast accommodation at the end of their connection with the Forces.

Recent figures on home ownership which compares the state in the three Services show that in the Royal Navy it is 74 per cent, in the Royal Air Force 48 and in the Army 26.

The number of private soldiers buying their own homes is eight per cent compared with 66 per cent at the equivalent level in civilian life. At warrant officer level the comparisons are 52 and 92 per cent. Even lieutenant-colonels measure up below their civilian counterparts — 83 to 93 per cent.

Thanks . . . please

A READER complains:

"As a result of an article which appeared in *The Guardian* published in Croydon, Surrey I took two parcels to their address before the Land war in the Gulf, one for the female and the other to the men.

Up to now I have not received a reply from anybody out there.

I feel a bit peeved and annoyed for not getting a reply. My name and address was included in

the parcel and took some time to gather items they wanted out there. I wondered if you could find out what happens to the parcels and others other people have sent."

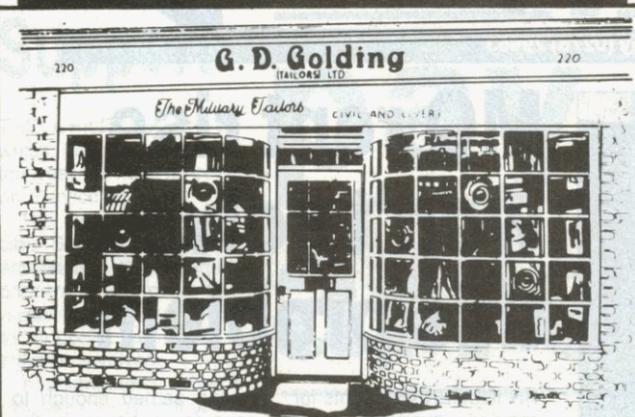
Anne Armstrong: This is not the only letter or phone call of its kind I have received. Now the war and leave is over letters of thanks would be much appreciated!

Anne  Armstrong

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Eighteen lost years of the 9/12th Lancers

MAY I comment on your article on the 9/12th Lancers (May 13) in which it is stated that both the 9th and 12th were raised in July 1715 at the time of the Stuart Revolt.

Both the 9th and 12th Lancers were raised in 1697 but were disbanded after the Treaty of Ryswick, also 1697, which ended the War of the League of Augsburg.

They were revived in 1715, both as Dragoons. The 12th became known as Prince of Wales's Light Dragoons in 1768, being converted to Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) in 1816.

The 9th became Light Dragoons in 1788, were converted to Lancers in 1820 and in 1830 they were numbered 9th when William IV made them Queen's Royal Lancers in honour of his consort, Queen Adelaide.

Incidentally, the 9th's soubriquet, Delhi Spearmen, arose not simply from their long service in India but rather from the way they dealt with mutinous sepoys at Delhi in 1857.

Perhaps one of your readers can explain how the 12th came to be nicknamed the Supple Twelfth - this one escapes me.

Regarding the 12th there is an alternative version to the hymns being a gift from Pope Pius VI.

Some would have it that the five hymns were played after Last Post as a penance for some troopers having sacked a convent during the Peninsular campaign.

Concerning battle honours, the 9th and 12th share Relief of Kimberly and Paardeberg from the second Boer War and they have virtually the same 1914-18 honours.

Let me take this opportunity of congratulating SOLDIER on the production of an excellent magazine. - **Graham Royle, Farnborough, Hants.**

● We have drawn the "missing" 18 years to the attention of the regiment, which is checking its own historical sources. - **Editor.**

BOOTS IN KOREA

Asked in Parliament last month whether he could make a statement on the boots supplied to British troops in Korea, the Secretary for War (Mr. John Strachey) said: "The Finnish pattern boots have not proved satisfactory for marching troops in all of the weather conditions encountered in Korea, mainly because the upper leathers have cracked and the stitching has broken. Neither the United States nor any other country fighting in Korea has provided a completely satisfactory boot for the alternating wet and dry cold of the climate. Complaints regarding the Finnish pattern boots were received in the War Office in February and in the same month, following inter-departmental consultations, the Ministry of Supply were asked to produce an improved type of boot for wet and dry cold. Meanwhile, orders had already been given for the production of a special boot which could be worn with heavy duffel socks for dry, cold weather, and sufficient numbers of both types of boot will be produced to equip the whole British force in Korea for next winter, if this should prove necessary."

● From SOLDIER, May 1951

Same old boots problem

PICKING up the May 1951 edition of SOLDIER recently, I saw an item about the production of special boots for the alternating wet and dry cold of Korea following criticisms of those provided.

It looked remarkably like more recent discussion on the same subject, particularly during and after Op Corporate and recently Op Granby.

Without, I hope, triggering a plethora of letters on a well-discussed subject, I am tempted to ask whether the British Army has ever been able to procure a boot suitable for the majority of combat or exercise conditions in which the long-suffering soldier has been called upon to operate. - **WO2 T F Short, 20 Sqn RCT, Regents Park Barracks, London.**



Cavalry Princess

The Princess of Wales meets some of the 2,000 serving and former soldiers who marched at the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades annual parade at the Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park, London. The Princess, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own), took the salute on the 67th anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial.

The parade was commanded by Maj Gen Stuart Watson of 13/18 H.

Here's one option for change

AS Options for Change looms ever closer, many regiments have already begun to lobby and scheme for survival.

However, this knee-jerk reaction means there will be individual winners and losers with recriminations for years to come.

What is required is a complete reorganisation of all regiments and corps in order to provide the British Army with an efficient framework for the foreseeable future.

The infantry arm should be organised into 13 large regim-

ents based on the 11 existing districts and areas, plus the Parachute and SAS regiments. Each would consist of a depot and training centre, Regular and Territorial battalions.

The armoured arm should be organised into five large regiments (Household Cavalry, Dragoon Guards, Hussars, Lancers and Tanks) in a similar

fashion to the infantry.

These new large regiments would assume all the traditions and honours of their predecessors and would be permanent. Their sub-units, however, would expand or contract as the economic, political and military demands of the day dictate.

The artillery, engineer, signal and aviation arms are already able to cope with expansion and contraction.

The support services should be streamlined into seven new functional corps - administration, transportation, medical, supply, maintenance, provost and intelligence.

Such a radical reorganisation would provide stability (and regimental cap-badges and traditions), while at the same time offer the flexibility required in a rapidly-changing world. - **R A Hamilton, Southport.**

The last to retire?

IN your People section of April 15 you showed a number of former National Servicemen. I presume from the unit those involved were all TA.

I wonder, though, how many National Servicemen are still serving.

I was called up in November 1957, converted to a Regular engagement in April 1959 and am due to retire in January

1996. Fortunately I serve in one of the few corps where retirement is allowed at the age of 60.

I am aware of a few officers who also converted to Regular commissions.

I wonder if I am to be the last NSM to retire. - **Maj D W Thomas, RAPC, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down, Andover.**

DIARY OF EVENTS

June 9: SSAFA's International Air Display, RAF Church Fenton, Tadcaster, North Yorks.

June 14-16: Rhine Army Summer Show, Sennelager, Germany.

July 6: Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot families' and open day, 11am.

July 10-27: The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box office tel: 071-373 8141).

July 28: Gulf War exhibition opens at Tank Museum, Bovington.

August 1-24: Edinburgh Tattoo.

Open until October 20: Battle for Crete 50th anniversary exhibition, National Army Museum, London.

● Organisers who wish to include public events in this diary should contact the Editor.

REUNIONS

● **Royal Regiment of Wales (24/41) Foot:** The Regimental Reunion Dinner will take place at the City Hall, Cardiff on Saturday, July 20, 1991 at 7pm, followed by the Dedication of the RRW Book of Remembrance and Memorial Plaque at Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff, on July 21 at 11.30 am. Details from RHQ RRW, The Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 0222 227611 ext 8215 or 8202).

● **Royal Signals Association, Aldershot Branch** annual meeting will be held in the Sergeants' Mess, 5 Airborne Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot on June 5 at 8pm. Call Jan Knight (0628 26468) or Douglas Crookes (0252 22418) if you cannot attend.

● **Outbreak of 1939-45 War Dinner:** A dinner is to be held in Wellington Barracks on Friday August 30, 1991 for those who were in the Coldstream Guards on September 3, 1939. Details from Maj (Retd) F P Horsfall, Chancellor's Court, Palace of Westminster, London SW1A 0PW (tel: 071-219 3213, daytime).

SEARCH LINE

● **Bristol graduates:** The University of Bristol is keen to maintain links with its graduates. Army personnel recruited from the university who have not completed an alumni record form are asked to contact the Alumni Office at Senate House, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TH (tel: 0272 303030).

Photos from the Gulf front line

THE work of two photographers during the Gulf War stood head and shoulders above the rest of the snappers - Mike Moore of *Today* and Isabel Ellsen of *The Independent*.

Ellsen worked outside of any official pool and, despite the difficulties this presented, managed through a combination of bluff and bravado to evade the authorities and shoot a consistently stunning series of monochrome pictures.

Moore had two distinct advantages over the rest. He was the only officially-accredited photographer serving with a front-line unit, apart from SOLDIER photographer Mike Weston. He also had backup from *Daily Mirror* photographer Ken Lennox, who processed his film and wired it from the forward transmission unit.

Now Mike Moore has produced *Desert War*, a photographic record of the two months he spent in the Gulf. As one who was there, I can vouch for its authenticity. The series of photographs in colour capture exactly the spirit and atmosphere of the troops' everyday life. From eating on plastic to scalp-shaving haircuts and the endless grind of

training for battle, it is all here.

Despite the short span of the actual ground war, Moore snapped a remarkable graphic series of shots illustrating the attacks and their aftermath. *Desert War* makes a perfect souvenir for the participants of Operation Desert Sabre and is highly recommended. - LM

Desert War by Mike Moore. Published in paperback by Penguin. Price £5.99.

Also received: **Landpower: The Coalition and Iraqi Armies** by Tim Ripley. One of a series of Desert Storm Specials. A profusely-illustrated, matter-of-fact account of the combatant forces and their equipment. Published in paperback by Osprey. Price £7.50.

Operation Desert Shield - The First 90 Days by Eric Micheletti and Yves Debay. Photographic record in colour of US Forces and its equipment plus small section on Arab armies by two veteran military photo-journalists. Useful guide for military modellers and uniform buffs. Published in paperback by Windrow and Green. Price £9.95.

H. Norman Schwarzkopf - Road to Triumph by Capt ME Morris. Described by the publishers as the true story of the man behind Operation Desert Storm. Published in paperback by Pan. Price £4.99.

Best of British military leadership

WHEN I was a gentleman cadet at The Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in January 1939 I was in No 1 Company and my instructor in military history was Capt Bernard Fergusson, later of Chindit fame.

He first aroused my interest in a subject which has since played a major part in my life.

Since 1947 the companies of the newly-constituted RMAS have been named after some of the great battles of the British Army and the instructors in military history are civilian academics.

Both these factors and the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the formation of the RMAS, dating from the creation of the RMA Woolwich in 1847, have played a major part in the conception of *Great Battles of the British Army as Commemorated in the Sandhurst Companies*.

The original idea emanated in 1983 from the late Brig Peter Young, a former head of the Department of War Studies at RMAS and a colleague of David Chandler, the current director, who had gathered a team to produce this imaginative book, acted as editor-in-



A dramatic picture from Mike Moore's *Desert War*. Sgt Tom Gorrian leads 5 Platoon, B Company, The Royal Scots into action against an Iraqi armoured personnel carrier buried to its turret in the sand

among others.

Each has written a vignette of a selected battle in about 3,000 words, complemented by maps, photographs and illustrations, mainly on subjects on which they have previously written or lectured.

This does produce an element of déjà vu and in at least one case perpetuates an earlier error. Michael Orr's

statement about the Battle of Dettingen that "there is no reference to the Cheshire Regiment's (22nd Regt) presence in contemporary orders of battle" will be disputed strongly by the regiment, whose historian has found contemporary records which show that a small detachment of the 22nd was present, thus justifying the oak leaves incorporated in its cap badge. This minor comment, however, should not detract from this most impressive

compilation, especially the resulting mixture of style and approach.

It is a unique and remarkably readable record of - as the Duke of Edinburgh puts it in his foreword - "examples of the best of British military leadership". - PSN.

Great Battles of the British Army as Commemorated in the Sandhurst Companies, Editor-in-Chief David Chandler. Published by Arms and Armour. Price £19.95.

A survivor's view of the death railway

IT WOULD be justifiable for anyone who has had several years taken out of his life as a prisoner of war to feel deep resentment for the indignities suffered, especially if the experience included forced labour on the Thailand-Burma railway built during the Second World War along the line of the River Kwai Noi, when death among the prisoners was a commonplace daily occurrence.

And yet in his book *Line of Lost Lives* John Cosford shows remarkably little animosity towards his Japanese hosts.

The impression the reader gains is one of sadness balanced with commendable humanity: "... all those young men who died in the fighting in Singapore and later on the railway. Remember them? Yes! They must never be forgotten! Nor the thousands of innocent women and children destroyed or maimed by those two atom bombs!"

John Cosford was a young junior NCO in the 1st Battalion, The Cambridgeshire Regiment whose freedom was cut short after the brief fighting in defence of Singapore, with the added hardship of being badly burnt in the battle.

It was to be a nightmare to last until the Japanese surrender in 1945, taking him to miserable life-threatening POW camps, and all the time subjected to the inhumane treatment that has been the subject of so many books and films.

An early taste of what was to come became apparent in the horrors of Singapore's Selarang Barracks, built to accommodate 850 men, into which 18,000 were crowded because they refused to sign "no escape" promises.

If conditions in Selarang Barracks were deplorable, the work camps on the railway were almost beyond endurance, and proved to be just that for the many who died; camps such as Ban Pong - "surely nowhere could be worse than this place".

A message from Cosford's book is how enforced hardships bring out the best and the worst in the sufferers. There were many comrades he clearly respected, such as the resourceful and generous Sgt "Snowy", who was not a survivor among the liberated.

But, in general, he does not praise the British officers and senior NCOs, one of whom awarded him seven days in the "No Good House" for refusing to work. "Whose prisoners were we anyway?" he asks.

The story is not entirely one of horror. Details of how life was made a little more bearable abound through the pages. Where else could it be found that "Nobbies", "Plus Twos", "Harvest Gold", and "Drum Majors" were camp-made cigarettes of dubious purity? It will surely be enlightening to the current anti-smoking lobbyists to learn that human lungs can survive such abominations.

Furthermore, spoilt dietary Cassandras will throw up their hands in horror, and maybe not just their hands, to read: "Some fertilizer had come to hand, and after a little experimentation it was mixed with rice, baked and made quite edible food."

When the war ended and it was time for the survivors to be made fit enough to return home, the true enormity of the atrocious treatment became evident. The author was fortunate in being alive to make an assessment.

"The sight of these human skeletons, descending from the trucks, was unforgettable, our animosity toward the Nips was revived. Could we ever forgive them for allowing such human misery and pain? ... We shall forget, and forgetting is perhaps the best way out of the nightmare ... " - BJ

Line of Lost Lives by J S Cosford. Published by Gryphon Books, Unit 7, Pury Hill, Alderton, Towcester, Northants NN12 7LS. Price, hardback, £9.95.

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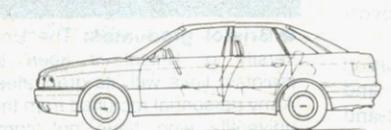
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IN BRIEF

Mons - The Retreat to Victory by John Terraine. Paperback re-issue of the author's 1960 publishing debut. In a new foreword, he makes the telling observation: "Except for politicians and journalists, I believe rather fewer people are now prepared to repeat in public print the old, silly myth that practically all First World War generals (the British variety especially) were more or less certifiable idiots." Published by Leo Cooper. Price £11.50.

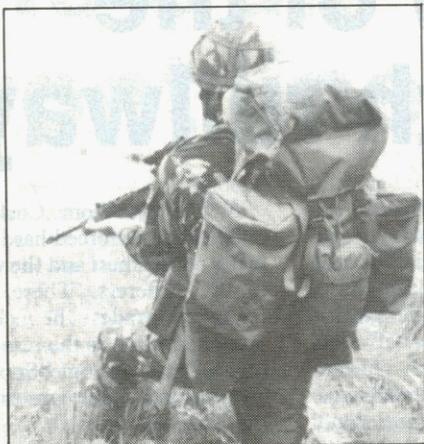
So This is War by J H Wallace. Second World War memoirs of a Desert Rat. Published by The Book Guild Ltd. Price £9.50.

Hitler's German Enemies by Louis L Snyder. Word portraits of 15 heroes, including Bonhoeffer and Rommel, most of whom died trying to alert their compatriots to the evils of the Nazi regime. Published by Robert Hale Ltd. Price £17.95.

The London Blitz - A Fireman's Tale by Cyril Demarne. Profusely-illustrated and vividly well-written wartime memoirs published to coincide with the unveiling by the Queen Mother of the Firemen's Memorial, sculpted by the author's son-in-law John Mills, near St Paul's Cathedral. Published by After the Battle. Price £14.95.

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More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the July 22 issue.

Competition No 511: Congratulations to Mr and Mrs R Stone, of Andover, Hants, who have won the £50 first prize. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs S Lunn, of Northampton, and Mr L R Newport, of Oxford.

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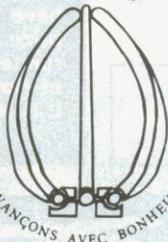
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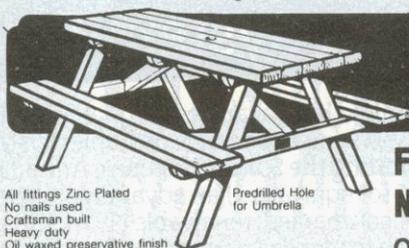
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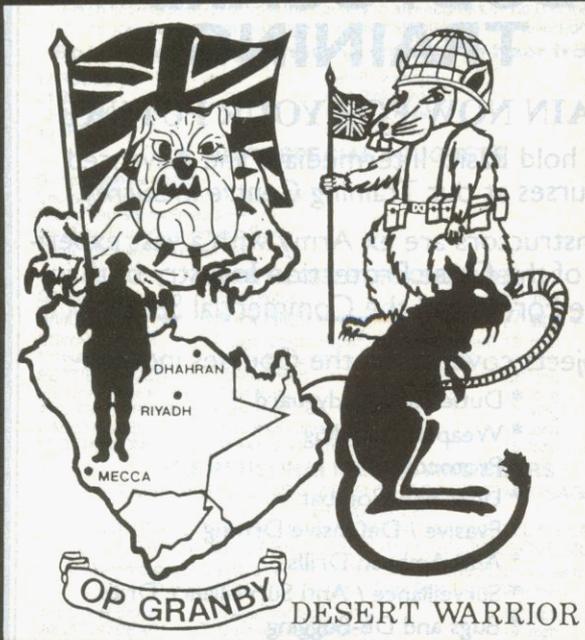
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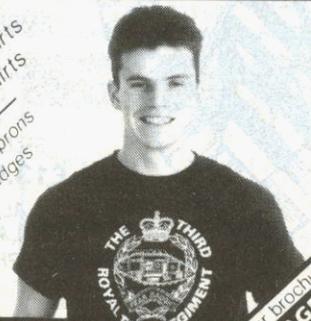


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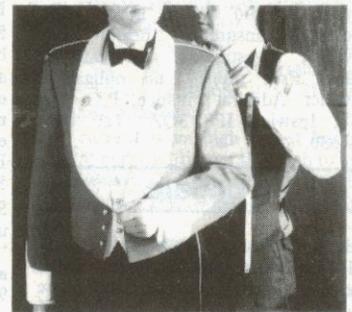
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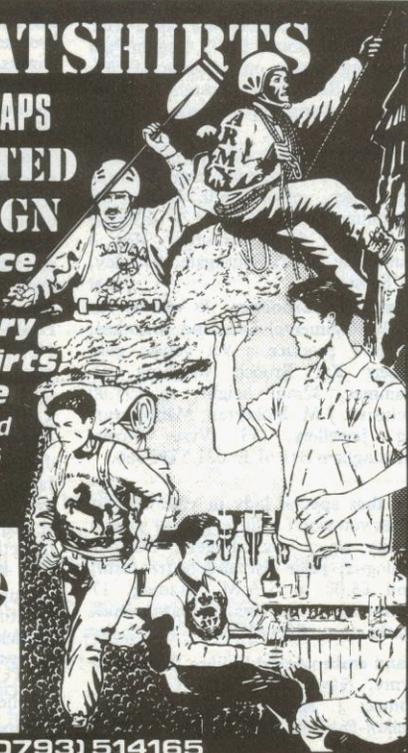
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Tidworth trials face the pinch

ECONOMIC recession hit the Army Horse Trials at Tidworth this year – badly.

The trials have been running since 1958, but this is their first year without an overall sponsor. In common with many larger meetings, Tidworth is feeling the pinch, writes Gordon Skilling.

It has swallowed up the emergency fund and the organisers are now desperately seeking a sponsor for next year.

This shadow loomed over the fields like the rain clouds on novices' day, though the intermediates enjoyed glorious weather.

First overall was Capt Sandy Sanderson of the Life Guards on Tom Thumb V, as befitting his position as Chief Instructor at the MoD Army School of Equitation. As best commissioned officer he won the Queen's Bay Challenge Cup.

An excellent time with no faults on the cross country plus only five faults in the show jumping would normally have seen young Gnr Mark Watson of The King's Troop, RHA, in the top three – but for a disaster in the dressage. The problem for Mark, who has competed against his Nottinghamshire police sergeant father in the Royal Tournament, was that he had been told to prepare for the wrong test.

"I was trying to learn Test B from my sergeant major two minutes before I went on, which was a bit off," he said, "and I was concentrating so much on where I was going that I wasn't concentrating on getting the horse right."

His mount, Norwich, not exactly the quietest of horses, was happier pulling a gun at Windsor a few days before, when Gnr Watson was in a winning Service team. An experienced rider with solid experience before joining the Army, he is used to receiving prizes from the Queen, but will shortly move over from riding to become a farrier.

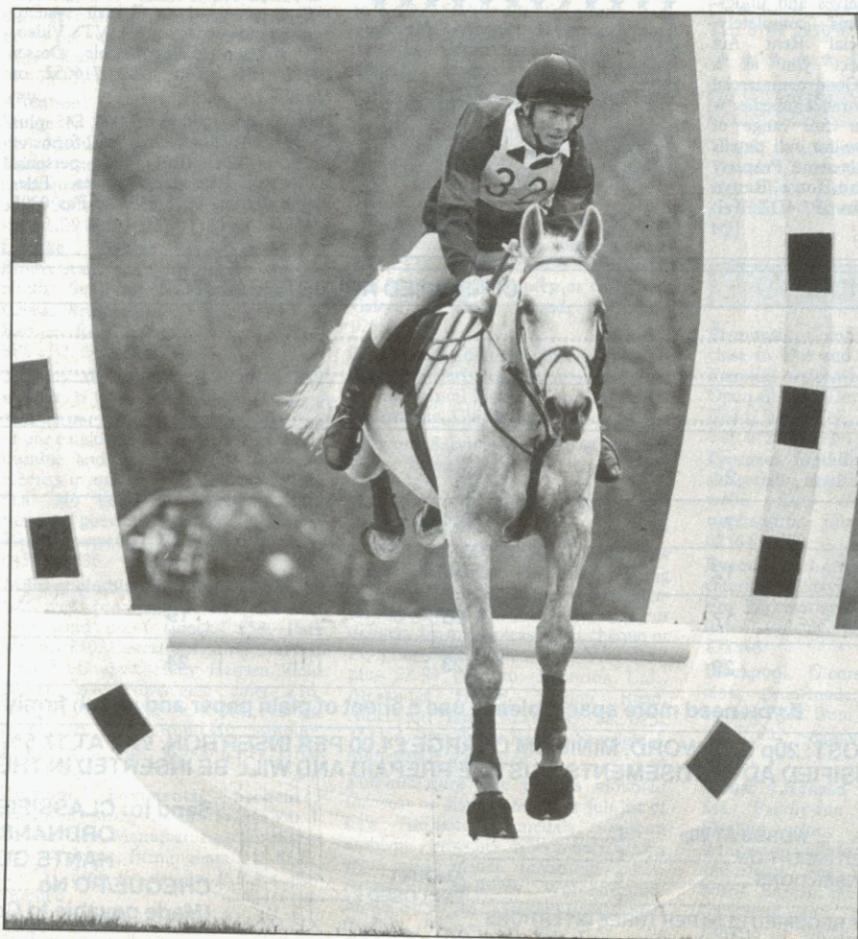


Gnr Mark Watson (King's Troop) on Norwich



Sgt Taff Irwin (King's Troop) takes a jump on Weymouth

Pictures:
Mike
Perring



LCoH Greg Wood (Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment) on Hobart



WO2 Terry Pendry (Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment) on Landlady

Training week pays off for Infantry crew

THE NAME of the retiring chairman of the Army Rowing Clubs Association, Col Alexander Lindsay, will live on on the Army's newest rowing boat, writes Lynn Pegler.

A Janousek racing pair, costing more than £4,500, was officially named the *Alexander Lindsay* by Lt Col Bob Stewart, CO of 1 Cheshire, when he cracked a bottle of bubbly over its bows.

The ceremony took place beside the River Dee in Chester during a training week with the Infantry rowing squad.

The week's training obviously paid off with members of the Infantry rowing squad crossing

the finishing line first in two major competitions.

At the Joint Services regatta in Peterborough, the team won the novice eights against strong competition even though crew member Lt Richard Forde-Johnston (QLR) only started rowing a few months ago and cox Lt David Buckley (Cheshire) had just three weeks' practice in the hot seat.

The team also rowed in the Shrewsbury regatta the day before and raced to victory in the novice coxed pairs. The successful crew were Lt Buckley, Lt Jonathan Ball (QLR) and Maj Tim Barrett (R Hamps).

Judo team in form

THE ARMY won the A and B team competitions at the Inter-Services judo championships at RAF West Drayton, with the Royal Air Force second and the Royal Navy third.

Individual medal-winners for the Army were:

Under 60kg – Sgt (SI) Morton, gold; Cfn Hill, silver. U-65kg – LBdr Airlie, silver.

U-71kg – Bdr Barnes, silver; Spr Edmondson, bronze. U-78kg – Pte Barrett, silver; LCpl O'Loughlin, bronze.

U-86kg – Cfn Morrison, gold; Sgt (SI) Chapman, bronze. U-95kg – Sgt Travis, gold; Sgt Pritlove, bronze. O-95kg – Gnr Mills, gold; Cfn Nicholls, silver. Open – Cfn Morrison, gold; Cfn Nicholls, bronze.

Riflemen on target

MORE than 100 shooters from all three Services and civilian clubs took part in the Army Target Rifle Club's three-day open meeting at Bisley.

In spite of the lack of Service shooting this year there is a full programme of target events and club competitions take place most weekends.

The Inter-Corps competition

was due to take place on June 5 and 6, followed by the Army target rifle championship on July 7.

The NRA target rifle events start at Bisley on July 18, preceded by Army team training from July 15 to 17. Interested shooters should contact the Army Rifle Association on Aldershot Mil 2795.

Chepstow take the title

THE ARMY Apprentice College Chepstow won the team trophy at the Army junior squash championships at Princess Marina College Arborfield.

The home side were second,

with Junior Leaders' Regiment, RAC third. JLCpl Jones of the Light Division Depot beat ACpl Hudson from Chepstow in the final of the individual event.

Late penalty puts paid to sapper Jubilee hopes

A PENALTY five minutes from time gave RAF St Athan a 4-0 victory over Royal Navy football champions RNEC Manadon – and deprived 1 and

3 Training Regiments RE of the Naafi Jubilee Cup.

The competition involves the three Service unit champions, with the overall winners being

the team to score the most goals. The sappers had looked odds on to win the cup and £500 cheque by scoring seven in their two games – three

against St Athan, four against RNEC.

But the airmen's late penalty gave them eight in the competition – and the trophy.

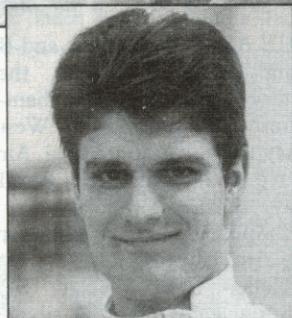
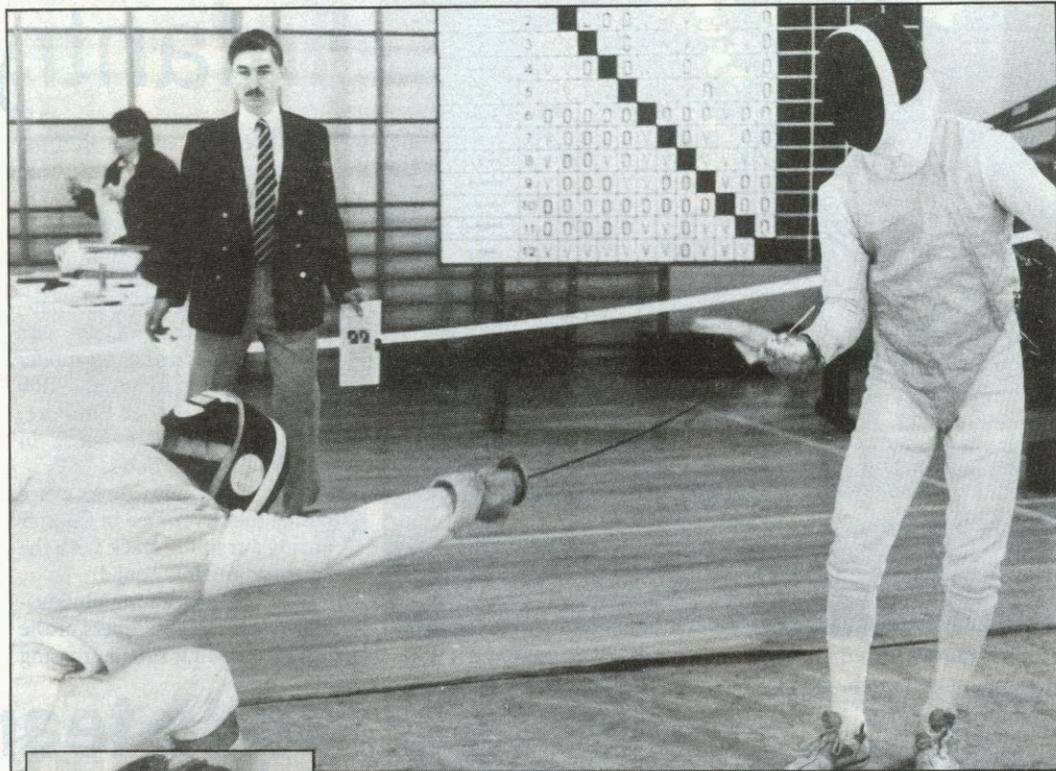
Richard bows out in style

LCPL Richard Asquith (CAD Kineton) brought his Service fencing career to a fitting close when he won the Master at Arms title at the Army championships staged at ASPT Aldershot, writes Jane Dawson.

Asquith, who left the Army a week later, reached the finals in all three weapon disciplines but got his biggest break when hot favourite Cpl James "Willy" Williams (JLRRE) was caught out by an early start to the men's sabre event.

In the absence of Williams, who has been selected to fence sabre for England, the competition was won after a barrage for first place by Cpl Halpin (Scots DG) with Lt Col Witek Nowosielski (150 (N) Tpt Regt RCT) second. Guest fencer Maj Nigel Carr (7 RA) looked in good form for the Inter-Services.

The senior men's foil was won by Lt Russ Webb (25 Engr Regt) who just scraped into the final but went on to win every



Maj Neil Southerwood (left) and Lt Russ Webb in action during the inter-unit six-man competition. Inset left: Spr Matt Kelly, junior Master at Arms, who will be in action at the Royal Tournament

fight. That earned him the foil prize and the trophy for the most improved fencer.

There were some promising performances in the inaugural women's epee event, Cpl June Massie (240 Sig Sqn) seeing off Cpl Sally Bowman (16 Bn RAOC).

In the men's epee Williams improved on his second place in the foil, winning the competition to push Cpl Shaun Morgan

(MPAGB) into second and SCpl Ian Margam (LG) into third.

Willy Williams has never won the epee event, so it was a good start to a year in which he has been selected to fence for England. His team manager will be Ian Margam.

The women's foil was won for the second year by Pte Sonia Greaken (17 Port Maritime Regt), with newcomer LCpl Emmerson taking home the Chairman's Cup for novices.

The Officers v Other Ranks match in the evening was won convincingly by the former.

Junior events were dominated by the Royal Engineers,

with Spr Matt Kelly (25 Engr Regt) winning all three weapon individual titles and the coveted Under 20s Master at Arms Trophy. He will represent the Army at the Royal Tournament competition.

For the 11th consecutive year the junior six-man team championships were won by the JLRRE team from Dover, a fitting retirement present for coach Les Whellan.

The senior team events were hotly contested, dark horses 27 Regt RCT taking the honours in the three-man event ahead of JLRRE permanent staff. Both teams will be at the Royal Tournament.

In the six-man competition, defending champions 25 Engr Regt were unexpectedly beaten by RSME.

Although entries were slightly down on previous years, newcomers included 8 Sig Regt, 27 Regt, RCT and the Army Staff College.

Anyone who wants to know more about the sport can contact the Army coach on Aldershot Mil 2168.

Chris is the pride of Hong Kong

CSM Chris Starbuck RAOC has been named Athlete of the Year by the Hong Kong AAA.

Chris (right), who is based at Blackdown Barracks, Kowloon, with Composite Ordnance Depot, set Colony records in the 10,000m and 3,000m steeplechase last year.

His achievements were recognised

by selection for Hong Kong teams which took part in international athletics meetings in Taiwan and Singapore.

Chris, who was born in Hong Kong, is aiming to lower his records this summer and mount a challenge on the 5,000m record before being posted back to Europe in the autumn.



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SOLDIER



Ready for the starting flag in the 1991 FIA series for historic sports and racing cars is the Sealink-British Army team. From the left are Maj Fred Boothby RMP, serving at the RMP Training Centre, Chichester; adviser Edward Jones of the March racing organisation; and Maj Bob Birrell RCT, from the Joint Services Air Trooping Centre, RAF Stanbridge. Missing are driver Lt Col Peter Campbell, 16/5th L, and Lt Col Peter Everingham RCT, who rebuilt the two 1964 Lotus Elans in the picture. He is serving in the Gulf. The car in the middle is a 1961 Lotus 20. Based at 29 Transport and Movements Regiment RCT near Cirencester, the Sealink Stena Line-sponsored team will compete in 14 races in Britain, Holland, Belgium, Germany and France.

Picture: Mike Weston