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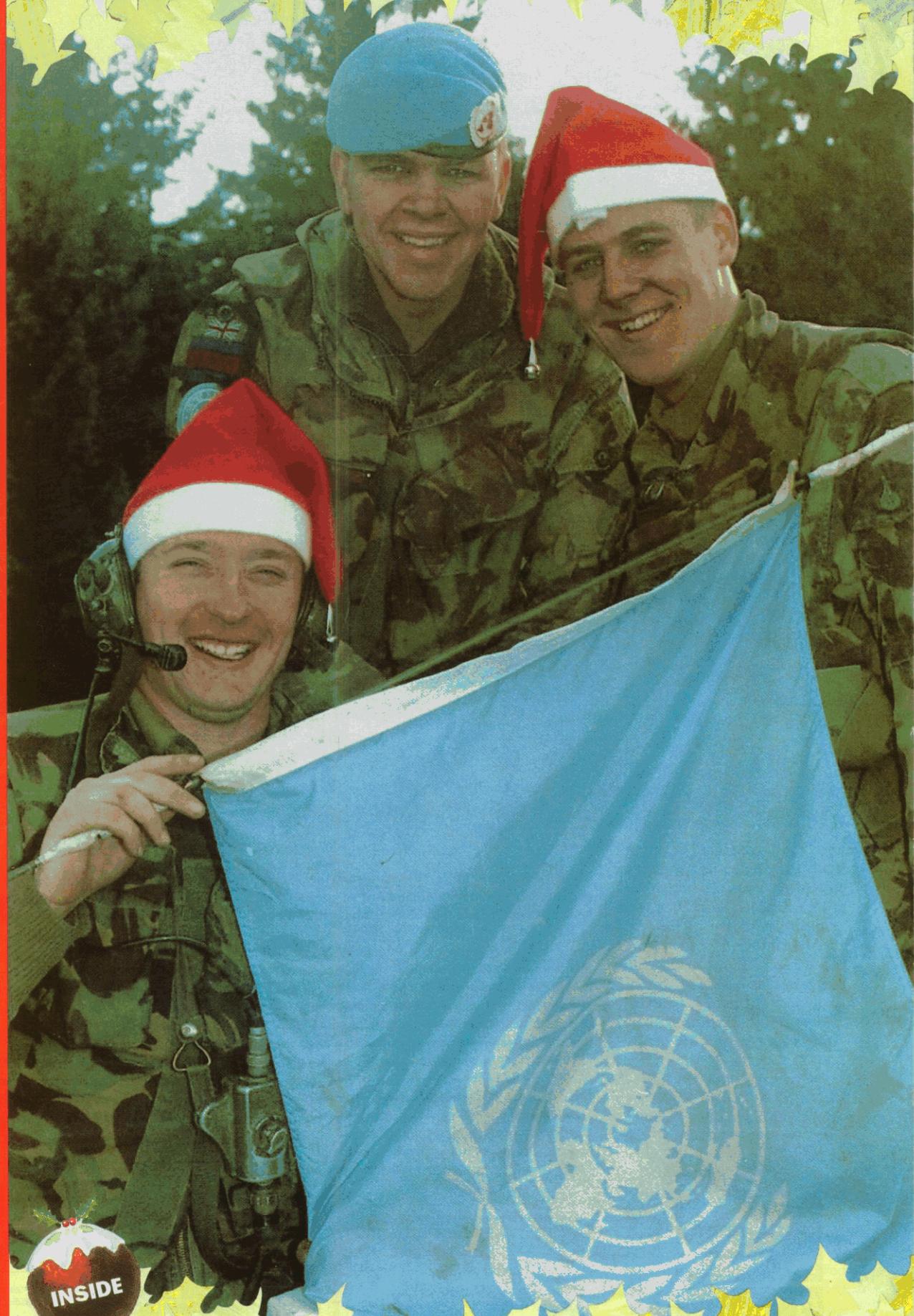
ARMED FORCES

MAGAZINE
OF THE
BRITISH
ARMY



50

Happy Christmas
to all our readers



• Operation Grapple 3 • AS90 first firing • Jocks in New Zealand

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December 13, 1993
Vol 49/25

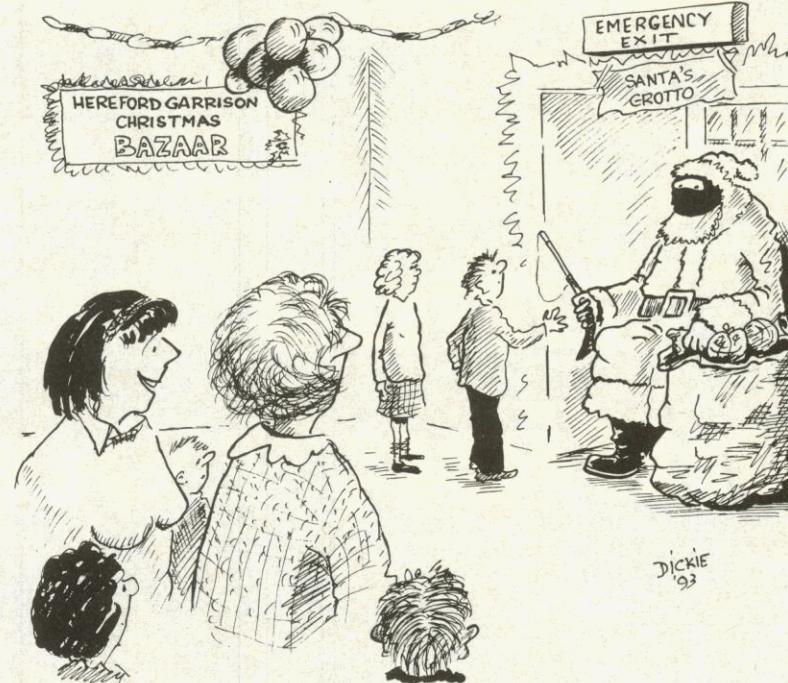
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"I see the SAS are providing Santa this year."

Readers and advertisers please note: Our next issue, published on December 16, will be dated January 10.

All-out convoy effort pays off

EVERY operationally available British Army vehicle joined a unique aid convoy which the Commander British Forces in Bosnia, Brig John Reith, organised after meeting Bosnian Croat leaders during a visit.

The new commander of the Bosnian Croat Army (HVO), Lt Gen Ante Roso, visited HMS *Invincible* in the Adriatic at Brig Reith's invitation, and was persuaded to attend a further meeting at Tomislavgrad with Lt Col John Wallace, commander of 4 General Support Regiment, RLC.

It was agreed that a 36-vehicle convoy from the Force Transport Squadron, 50 (Artillery Support) Squadron, would move 260 metric tons of UNHCR aid from Metkovic to Zenica.

With long experience of

high-level decisions being ignored at local commander level, it was also agreed that Royal Military Police would be accompanied by HVO military police to iron out local misunderstandings.

The 18 15-ton and 12 eight-ton trucks plus Land Rovers, a recovery vehicle and an ambulance first made the journey from Metkovic to Tomislavgrad, where Lt Col Wallace had had only 48 hours to plan the operation.

Escorted by Scimitars from B Squadron, The Light Dragoons under command of Maj Paddy Darling, the convoy left at 0630 on November 24 to negotiate Route Triangle.

Royal Engineers preceded them. As well as maintaining their Triangle highway through the snow of the Dinaric Alps,

they were ready to clear obstructions and repair damage caused by the latest Bosnian Croat offensive round Gornji Vakuf.

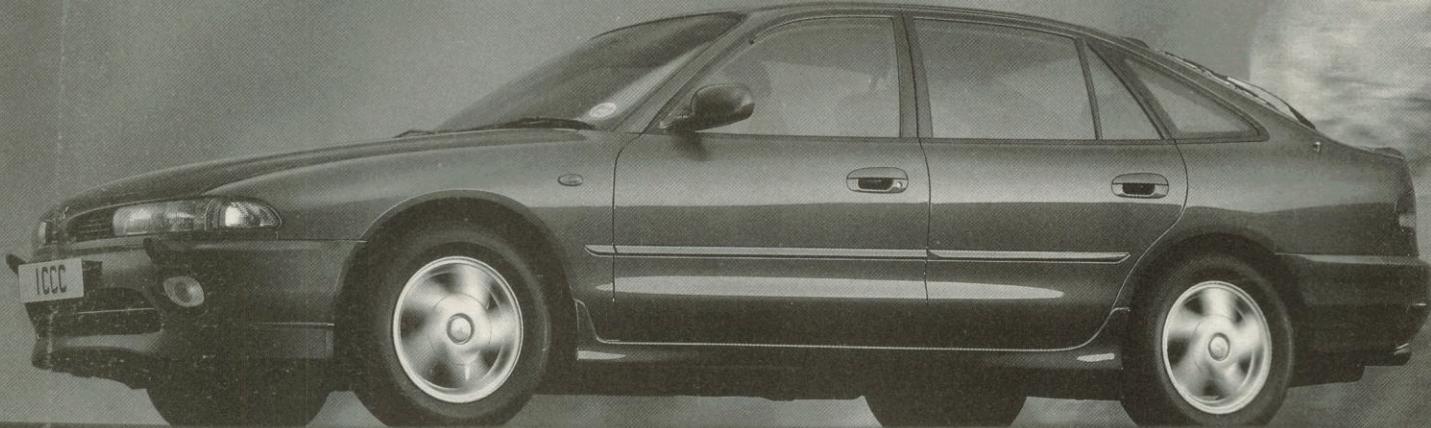
Warriors from the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards escorted the convoy through Gornji and the other flashpoint at Novi Travnik, south of the Coldstream battalion group at Vitez, where a Danish driver was killed and nearly 20 United Nations soldiers and workers wounded in an incident at the end of October.

Civil aid convoys were suspended after this incident, and the British convoy was one of five which tried to re-establish the free passage of UN vehicles. The other four attempting to traverse Serb-controlled areas were delayed by new conditions but managed to get through.

The British convoy, mainly carrying one-ton pallets of urgently needed flour, arrived in Vitez at 1630, where a third was unloaded while the remainder continued to UNHCR warehouses in Zenica, the first aid to arrive for a month.

FRONT COVER: Christmas greetings from Bosnia. Left to right are LSgt Derek Donagh, LCpl Ian Mainka and Gdsm Andrew Archer, all serving with the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards at Vitez. The photograph was taken by SSgt Ian Dunning, processed at Vitez, scanned with Kodak-Apple Macintosh equipment and sent via satellite to HQ UKLF at Wilton, where the image was enhanced, processed and dispatched to SOLDIER – by first-class mail!

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Welcome home, Yorkies!



There was no one happier than WO1 (RSM) Andy Adair, pictured receiving a hug from wife Angela as the 1 PWO Battalion Group returned to Germany from Bosnia

Book here for D-Day

AN office has been set up in Caen to deal with queries about accommodation for next year's D-Day commemorations, the Prime Minister announced on November 23.

Mr Major said he was aware that some hotel bookings made by veterans had been cancelled by French hoteliers. The enquiry office had been established after an approach by the UK Ministry of Defence.

The office address is: Comite Departmental du Tourism de Calvados, Place du Canada, 1400 Caen, France (tel: 010-33-31-86-53-30; fax: 010-33-31-79-39-41).

First aid

A PURPOSE-built medical reception station which will provide much improved medical facilities for soldiers and their families has been opened in Osnabrück. It is the first of its kind to be built in Germany.



Two RAMC medics were among a number of soldiers who received honours from the Queen at Buckingham Palace for their humanitarian efforts with the United Nations in Bosnia. Sgt Geoff Newitt (left) who rescued seriously-injured children caught in a mortar attack, and Maj Vanessa Lloyd-Davies, who escorted a hole-in-the-heart baby through "snipers alley" in Sarajevo, received the MBE

Grapple 2 battalion group returns to base

FLAGS OF welcome were draped from the main gate of the Osnabrück base of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire as the battalion arrived home after six months on duty with the United Nations in Bosnia.

First off the transport was the battalion's commanding officer, Lt Col Alastair Duncan, who shook hands and talked with many of the families who gave his men such a rousing welcome.

The 1 PWO Battalion Group, which included B Squadron, The Light Dragoons and soldiers from The Gordon Highlanders, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, spent its tour escorting United Nations aid convoys through central Bosnia.

Col Duncan said every

humanitarian aid convoy escorted by the group reached its destination.

He said: "It was odd being in a war and not a war. All my soldiers made an outstanding effort. Individuals put themselves at considerable risk to save life and the tangible evidence of this was shown at Guca Gora and Novi Bila where over 350 lives were saved by the action of my soldiers."

• **Interview – see Page 16.**

Vehicle armour assessed

THE feasibility of providing Kevlar or Makralon armour for soft-skinned vehicles operating in Bosnia is being investigated at HQ UKLF as an urgent operational requirement.

No official request has been received from British Forces in former Yugoslavia to change the type of body armour issued to soldiers deployed on Operation Grapple.

The lightweight combat body armour issued to all ranks is designed to give protection against shrapnel and is considered more appropriate than body armour consisting of ceramic plates as used in Northern Ireland.

There is a pool of 2,700 sets with these high-velocity plates in theatre, but British soldiers are not normally targets in the inter-communal fighting where the threat is more from mortars and low-velocity shrapnel, and the lighter version is preferred.

Neither of the previous battalion groups opted for the heavier plates, although local commanders may decide to issue them to those in higher risk tasks, such as UN Military Observers and the detachment at Sarajevo, which also has armoured Land Rovers.

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High profile day for Household Division

ALMOST every mounted trooper and guardsman in London District – more than 1,600 officers and men – were on duty for the state opening of Parliament by the Queen on November 18.

The occasion is traditionally one of the busiest of the year for the Household Division.

The Sovereign's Escort was

provided by 109 men and seven officers of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment in two divisions of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals.

Eight Life Guards escorted the crown and regalia to and from the palace and 34 dismounted troopers and two trumpeters lined the Grand

Staircase at the Lords. The 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards furnished the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, and were accompanied in the quadrangle by the regimental Band and battalion Corps of Drums.

The guard of honour at the House of Lords came from 1st Battalion, Scots Guards,

accompanied by their regimental Band and Drums.

The route was lined by soldiers of 1 Gren Gds, 1 SG, 1st Battalion, Irish Guards and 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

In addition, the Bands of the Coldstream, Welsh and Irish Guards were positioned along the processional route.

Soldier leads epic desert trek in China

AN EPIC British Army-led camel trek across almost 800 miles of inhospitable Chinese desert ended in unprecedented success and an understandable display of patriotism on November 21.

The 16-strong party – four Britons, an American, two Chinese, a motorised back-up team and camel handlers – took 59 days to conquer the Taklamakan (translation: "Once entered you never come out") Desert.

Among the stalwarts who gained a place in the history books by proving that wrong were team leader Maj Charles Blackmore RGJ, Capt Mark Kitto WG, former Para Rupert Brown and Carolyn Ellis, former QA captain, Army athlete and hockey player.

Before setting off from the remote desert town of Markit in September, Maj Blackmore had said: "The primary object is exploration. Nobody has ever crossed the Desert of Death by this route before."

The expedition was only possible at that time of year, he had explained, because the desert became a furnace in the summer and frozen wasteland in the winter.

Ultimately, "extremely tired, a bit thinner and with a few minor ailments such as leg

Princess visits abseiling signallers



The Princess Royal talks to members of a Royal Signals reconnaissance team before the soldiers abseiled from a Lynx helicopter. During her visit to 24 Airmobile Brigade's Headquarters and Signal Squadron (210 Signal Squadron) at Colchester, she saw the deployment by helicopter of a recce team and troops with Light Strike Vehicles clear a brigade location

strains and colds," he and the team reached Lopuchang in north west China to be feted by the residents of Xinjiang Province.

Feeling very proud of themselves, the soldiers and civilians came out of the desert waving the Union flag.

They had succeeded where Swedes, fellow-Britons and Japanese had failed.

"I think we went just at the right time," Maj Blackmore said. "If we had gone any later, I don't think we would have survived for this long."

He and his fellow team members were "hugely looking forward to coming home".

Before then, one of their immediate tasks was to sell their faithful camels.

Civilian changes? Tell the unions

IF YOU are at management level in the Army and are involved in decisions crucial to the future of civilian staff, you must talk to the unions as soon as possible – and keep them fully informed.

This is the gist of two new DCIs, being issued about now, reminding everyone of the legal requirement to consult the Trade Unions and other interested parties on proposals for change affecting civilians.

Consultation means giving the unions the opportunity to represent the views of their members on any of a number

of matters. These include restructuring exercises, manpower audits, management service studies and audits, use of consultants and setting up Defence agencies.

One DCI covers everything except new technology (see DCI Gen 82/93) and market testing, which is dealt with in detail specifically in the second new DCI.

In cases of doubt, Civilian Management (Industrial Relations and Conditions) 1 is available for advice at Northumberland House, London.



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Prince marks courage of blind Gurkha

GALLANT Gurkha Cpl Tilakman Pun has received a presentation kukri from the Prince of Wales in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the name of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

The Prince of Wales Kukri is awarded annually to an other rank of the regiment. Cpl Tilakman has demonstrated exceptional all-round ability since joining the Army in 1979, receiving outstanding passes in all the courses he attended.

These included the Senior NCOs cadre courses at the School of Infantry and a colloquial Germany course at the Defence School of Languages.

But he developed prolactinoma and, despite immediate and extended treatment, the disease led to total loss of sight.

The citation records how Cpl Tilakman suffered his increasing disability with dignity. Facing the total loss of vision with courage, he showed no resentment at his circumstances and impressed the staff of the many hospitals which tried to help him with his fortitude in adversity and the dignified and stoical acceptance of a tragic illness.

Now a St Dunstaner, he has been admitted to the home at Brighton which trains blind Service personnel. Eventually, he will return to Nepal with the Gurkha Welfare Trust to pass on his knowledge and experience to other blind ex-Gurkhas and their families.

Alanbrooke Band's last stand

TWO standing ovations marked the final performance by the Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Band before it re-badges to form the Army Air Corps Band in February.

The occasion, at Roberts



The Prince of Wales and Cpl Tilakman Pun at St James's Palace for the kukri presentation



Para medics have field day

Pte Mark Woodward gathers in his parachute before an audience of senior staff from civilian hospitals and medical companies. The medic, from Aldershot-based 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, was taking part in an open day designed to explain the role the Army plays in dealing with the many challenges of medical care in conflict. The guests, who were briefed by representatives of 1st (UK) Division, 5 Airborne Brigade and Special Forces, were flown in a Hercules aircraft to witness a parachute descent by medics

Barracks, Osnabrück, was the inaugural dinner night by the divisional artillery officers of the 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division. Messages from the Queen and the Master Gunner were received.

Middlesex stone on way home

A TWO-TON memorial to an almost forgotten First World War tragedy is on its way to Britain, courtesy of Hong Kong-based sappers of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Men of the Plant Section, 70 Support Squadron QGE recovered the Tyndarios Stone from The Peak on Hong Kong island where it was placed 70 years ago by the commanding officer of the 25th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment.

The stone commemorates soldiers of the battalion who died when their troopship, the *Tyndarios*, on passage to Hong Kong, struck a German mine off South Africa in 1917.

The monument will eventually be shipped to the United Kingdom, where the Middlesex Regiment Association is seeking a suitable home for it.

Cathedral retreat

THE magnificent interior of Liverpool Cathedral was the setting for a beating retreat ceremony by 5th/8th (Volunteer) Battalion, The King's Regiment – thought to be the first time this has taken place in the building. Guests at the cathedral and at a reception hosted by the battalion included Brig E C W Morrison, commander 42 (North West) Brigade.

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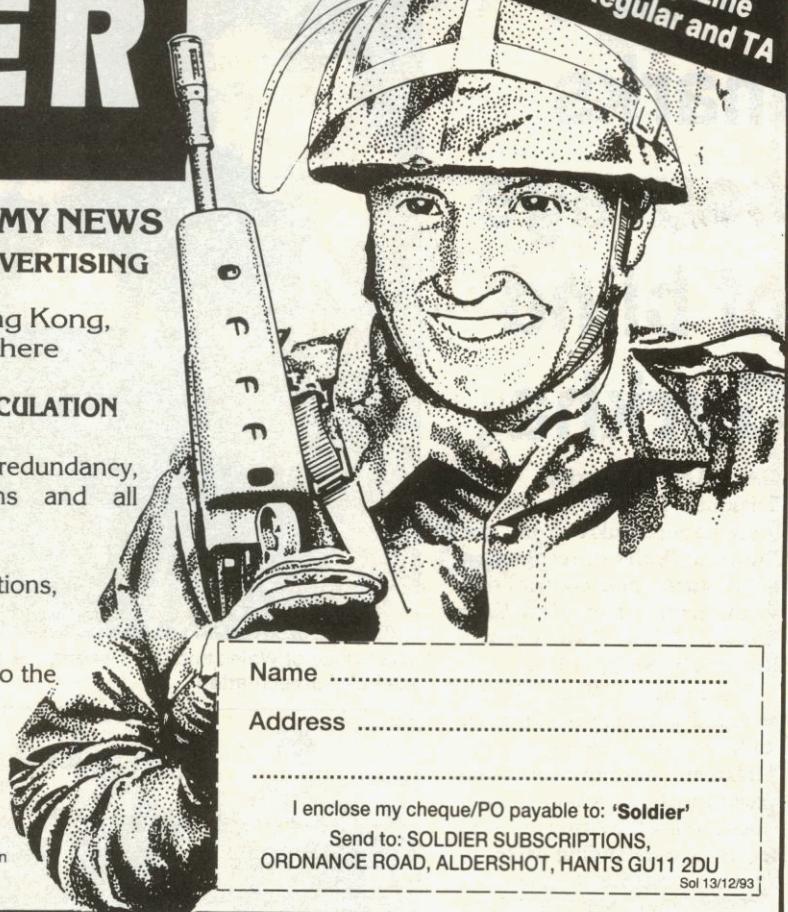
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RWF on way to Brawdy

RAF BRAWDY and Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright will be used to house infantry battalions until 1996, announced Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley.

A number of options had been considered to accommodate the two infantry battalions reprieved last February.

Mr Hanley also announced that the first barracks to be retained in the Army estate would be Sir John Moore Barracks at Shorncliffe, to which the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders had moved on its return from Germany.

Options are still being considered for a second new permanent barracks. As a temporary solution, Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Pirbright is to be kept open for the next two years. The Gurkhas, who were due to move from their present barracks to Pirbright by April 1995, will remain at Church Crookham for the time being.

The Army needs another barracks to cater for the early return next year of one of the battalions currently serving in Hong Kong. It had originally been planned to withdraw the

Northern medics in control



Three female combat medical technicians from 201 (Northern) General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers) remove a casualty from a slit trench during Exercise Walkover. A six-woman team from the hospital, led by Capt Jean Applegarth, not only won the Pegasus Cup for best female team, but took top overall honours by winning the Walkover Trophy. The arduous 18-hour Medical Services competition, which took place at Chester, involved every medical unit in the Territorial Army

battalion in 1996. The Army Apprentices College at Chepstow has been earmarked to provide additional accommodation in the long term.

In the meantime, RAF

Brawdy is to be taken over by the Army in 1994 and used until 1996 as temporary accommodation for The Royal Welch Fusiliers, currently based at Tidworth.

Canadians put RRF to trial by water



Members of 2 Section, 11 Platoon in an assault boat during Z Coy, 1 RRF's exchange exercise in Canada

MEMBERS of Z Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the regiment's Combined Bands have returned to Warminster after a two-week exchange exercise in Ontario, Canada.

Under Maj Mark Hiskett, Z Coy deployed to the Canadian Forces' base at Petawawa while the musicians were accommodated at Ottawa with the Band of the Governor General's Foot Guards.

Under the exchange, the Duke of Edinburgh's Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment joined 1 RRF as part of the Combined Arms Training Centre Battle Group at Warminster.

Exercise Fingal's Cave gave

the fusiliers a chance to train in dense vegetation, rugged rocky ground, swamps, lakes and rivers. Newly-acquired skills in watermanship, rappelling, mountaineering and naviga-

tion were tested during a march and shoot competition over 16 miles and a five-day live-firing exercise supported by 1 RCR's mortar platoon.

The Combined Bands took part in a parade in Ottawa, gave three concerts, played at Petawawa and performed at a dinner given by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Z Company also got in three days of adventurous training which included trekking, white water rafting and canoeing. One fusilier making an island stop in Algonquin National Park was chased back into the water by a black bear.

IN BRIEF

Airmobile HQ on move

THE headquarters of the Multi-national Division Central (Airmobile) has moved from Brunssum, Holland to the Rheindahlen military complex in Germany.

The 104-strong headquarters staff is provided by Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and will be supported by a German headquarters company. Dutch Maj Gen Pieter Huysmann commands the formation which includes Britain's 24 Airmobile Brigade.

• • •
Thirty-five soldiers from 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers took time out from an exercise on Ascension Island to clear and mark three historic paths to the island's main geographic feature, Green Mountain. Exercise Turtle Reef gives TA soldiers a unique opportunity to train in tropical conditions.

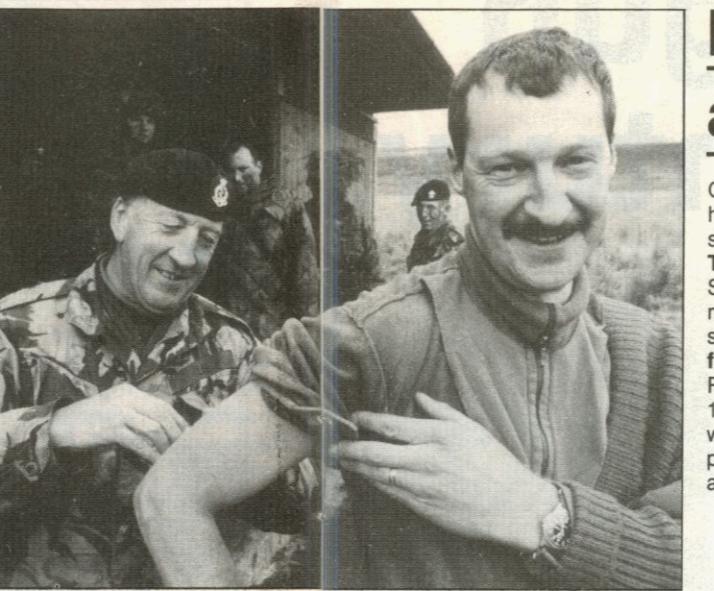
• • •
Medics from 208 (Merseyside) General Hospital RAMC (V) spent a weekend at Otterburn helping with the training area's conservation projects.

• • •
Seventeen recruits to the Royal Logistic Corps - Expeditionary Force Institutes, Naafi's voluntary uniformed branch, successfully completed their basic training at 3 Base Ammunition Depot at Bracht. The seven men and ten women were drawn from Naafi in Germany and the UK and can expect to take part in operations in Norway, Germany and Bosnia in the future.

• • •
Director Royal Armoured Corps Maj Gen Robert Hayman-Joyce took the salute at a combined RAC and Light Division passing out parade at ATR Winchester. The parade was flanked by two Scorpions provided by 1 RTR Recce Troop and, on the final march pass, Maj Mark Shelford and Lt Hugh Campbell-Smith, both RDG, gave a unique "flourish in quick time", carrying out sword drill dismounts.

Lung service medal!

As chief instructor sub aqua diving at the Cyprus Joint Services Adventurous Training Centre, Dhekelia, WO2 Danny McCuaig received his Long Service and Good Conduct medal in appropriate fashion: four metres underwater. Commander British Forces Cyprus, Maj Gen Alex Harley – seen congratulating Danny after the event – went for a trial dive at the centre with Danny and surprised him by pinning the medal (awarded for more than 16 years' outstanding service) to his diving suit.



Needles and grins

GIVING an injection of humour during his 31st consecutive annual camp is Sgt Terry Lake, medic with A Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry. His "victim" is the squadron's Sgt Simon Griffiths. Terry, who joined the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry in 1962 after National Service with the 9th Lancers, is a paramedic with the Wiltshire air ambulance in civilian life.

Panzer guests



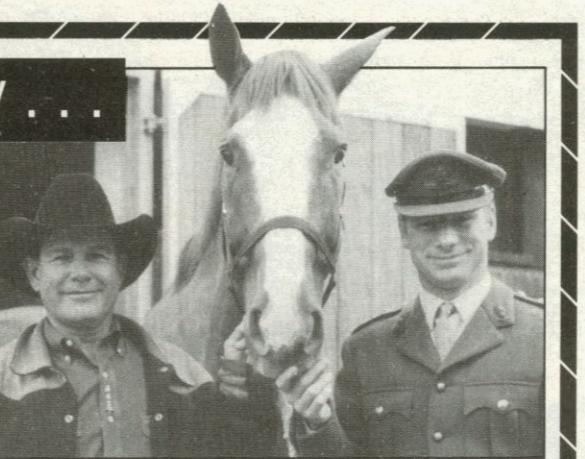
Junior Under Officer Piers Heelis, 2nd Lt Andy Bell and OCdt Paul Dart look over a Lynx recce vehicle during a visit to the 24th Panzer battalion, 1st Panzer Grenadier Brigade at Braunschweig near Hannover. All three are members of Bristol University OTC's RAC troop. Also in the party was OCdt Jamie Halford-MacLeod.

PEOPLE



"Neigh"-bournly guy . . .

When J C Trujillo, 1981 bucking bronco champion and world rodeo champion, was in England recently, he dropped in on the RHA's St John's Wood barracks to check out how the British Army looks after its horses. He was shown around by Capt George Shapland, who compared notes on the differing worlds of rodeo and ceremonial duty – not to mention the impressive size of steeds such as Eiger, who at 17.3 hands is a good deal taller than the quarter horses used to look after stock in the west.



Colourful trio

Three brothers – all colour sergeants – who, between them, have served more than half a century with the TA met up on their annual camps for the first time at Warcop, Westmorland. Donald Shand (left) has notched up a total of 14 years with 2/51 Highland, 2/52 Lowland and 1/51 Highland Volunteers; John 21 years with 7th Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment; and David (right) 18 years with 2/51 Highland Volun-

The annual Ascot Day at the Krefeld Rennbahn, jointly hosted by 16 Signal Regiment at one of the weekend race meetings, went smoothly, much to the relief of organiser 2nd Lt Trina

Reynolds. Using borrowed silks and jodhpurs, "jockeys" in the unconventional tenth race consisted of young officers and two officers' wives, adding to the fun of the Anglo German event, which the regiment fully intends to continue supporting after moving to Rheindahlen next year. Pictured left to right are CO Lt Col Neil Fisher, Lt Carole Ranking, Mrs Lorna Shaw, 2nd Lt Andy Greefield, Capt Mark Finneran, 2nd Lt Reynolds, Mrs Jo Felton and Dr Dieter Gobbers, Rennbahn president.

Trina "Ascot" winning ways!



Happy hour(s)

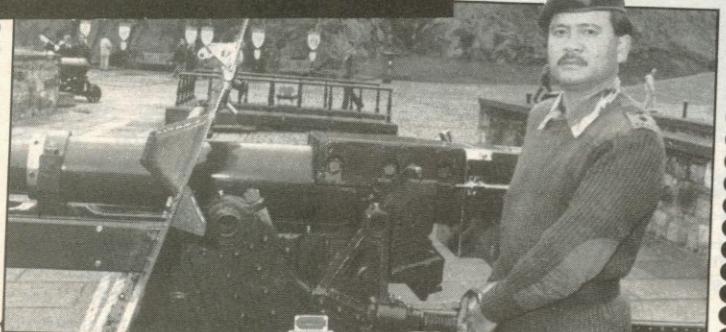
A well-earned celebratory drink for WO2 Lance Andrews (left) and fellow TA Air Corps Squadron pilot WO1 Norman Osment: they have just clocked up their 10,000th hour of flying together. Both started their aerial careers while serving as Regulars in 1966. On hand to crack open the bubbly at 666 Squadron's Netheravon base was CO Maj Graham Keating.



MOSCOW flight

Keeping an eagle eye on the official opening of 3 Flight Army Air Corps (Volunteers) was Moscow, official mascot of the RAF Turnhouse-based outfit, seen here with Capt David Fortune, one of 3 Flight's pilots. The flight, which has four Gazelle helicopters, originates from 1903 Air OP Flight RAF formed in January 1943 at Bury St Edmunds.

A shot for the album



Pictured with the famous One O'clock Gun on the battlements of Edinburgh Castle is Lt Dennis Cheung, whose usual habitat is the Joint Service Public Relations office in HMS Tamar, Hong Kong. A Government Information Officer, Dennis serves with The Royal Hong Kong Regiment and was in Scotland to complete an attachment to the Scottish Yeomanry.

Open for business

The new ACIO office in Bathgate, Scotland, which replaces its "rather dingy" predecessor, is now open on a main thoroughfare in the town. Hoping to maintain its record as one of the most successful recruiting offices in Scotland are (rear, left to right) Sgts Jim Stewart and Fraser Doyle, SSgt Phil Skene and WO1 Jim Gallagher, with Maj Gen Mike Scott, who opened the new office and later presented Sgt Doyle with the LS and GC Medal.

Colin's got bottle too . . .

Also in the bubbly stakes was Sgt Pit Colin Judge of 651 Squadron AAC Gütersloh, whose father Fred, a UKBC at JHQ Rheindahlen, was at hand with the "champers" when Colin touched down after completing 1,000 hours flying Gazelles.

World-beating gun for the next century

AS 90

THE BRITISH Army's new artillery weapon, the AS90 self-propelled field gun, has been put through its paces on Salisbury Plain by 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

The Tidworth-based gunner regiment, which provides artillery support to the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division, is the first operational regiment to convert to AS90.

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring

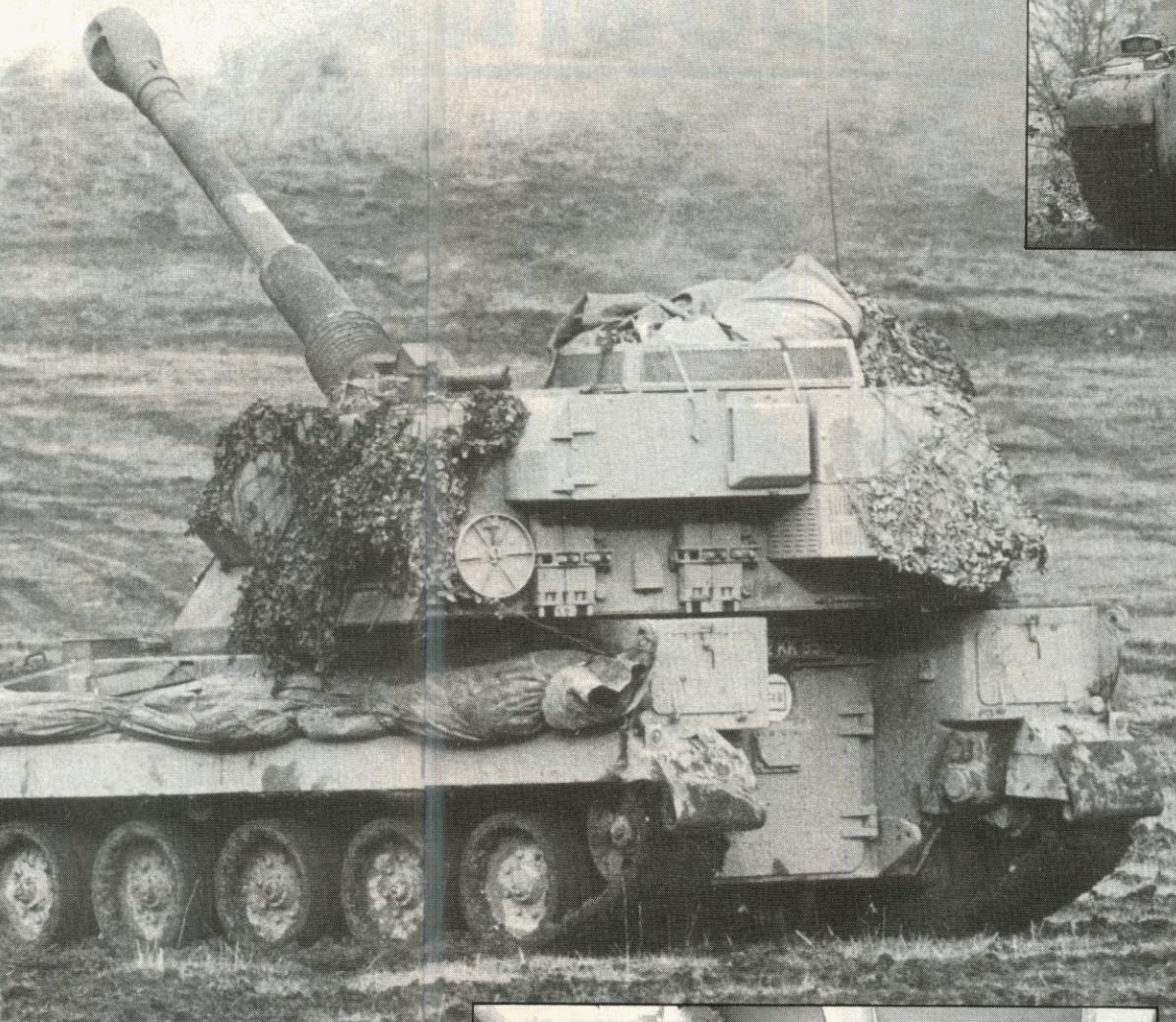
The Chestnut Troop, 1 RHA fielded eight guns for the weapon system's first full-scale, live-firing demonstration.

In terms of battlefield capability, the AS90 will give the British Army more flexibility in the use of indirect

fire through increased range and higher rates of fire, greater mobility and improved capacity for ammunition stowage.



Battle commanders of tomorrow? The subalterns from 1st Mechanised Brigade saw AS90 in action, and their verdict? "Well impressed!"



The powerful AS90 in action. Its gun can hurl a 155mm high explosive round more than 15 miles

The AS90's rates of fire (three rounds in ten seconds, six rounds per minute for three minutes) enable a regiment of

24 guns to crash three tons of high explosive on a target in ten seconds.

With its automatic gun-laying system coupled with electrically-driven elevation and traverse, the gun can come into action, fire three rounds and be away in 90 seconds.

AS90, capable of firing a 96lb shell more than 15 miles, will give the artillery greater range and hitting power compared with the gun it is designed to replace - the ageing 105mm Abbot, which fires a 35lb shell about ten miles.

"It has its own in-built navigation and orientation system which incorporates survey. As a result, the gun turns up on its platform and is ready to open fire in less than a minute," said Capt John Dawson.

"We are still working out standard operating procedures



Gnr Richard Denney prepares to load a 155mm high explosive shell

for the gun, which has been designed to be user-friendly. It's a great improvement on any of the others. Each of its five crew members has his own personal stowage bin."

The commanding officer of 1 RHA, Lt Col Andrew Ritchie, was full of praise for AS90.

"Combined with its mobility and protection, it is a gun for the next century. Seen in conjunction with the Warrior OP vehicle which can send back digitally-encrypted data, BATES - the battlefield artillery target engagement system and the use of DROPS to deliver ammunition, the



AS90 kicks up the dirt during a mobility demonstration on Salisbury Plain. It has an official top speed of 53 kmh



Inside AS90, Bdr Allan Reeve (No 2) and Sgt Mark Toy (commander of E Battery, 1 RHA)

system is a world-beater," he said.

Early next year, 1 RHA will put AS90 through the first in-service reliability demonstration, which will be followed by a troop trial.

Among the first non-gunners to become acquainted with the weapon system were a group of young officers from the 1st Mechanised Brigade who were being exposed to the many facets of the brigade and how it works.

Using AS90, they were able to develop their ability to call down indirect fire, an impor-

tant task for infantry platoon commanders and Royal Armoured Corps troop leaders who may have to call for support in battle to stabilise defensive positions or assist in their own assault.

This would be essential knowledge for a young commander if a forward observation officer or mortar fire controller were not available.

Four other regiments are to be equipped with four batteries of eight guns.

They are 3 RHA, 4th Regiment, 40th Regiment and 26th Regiment.

Satisfaction and sorrow as CO leaves Bosnia

IT WAS with mixed feelings of both satisfaction and sorrow that the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Prince Of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, Lt Col Alastair Duncan, left Bosnia-Herzegovina at the end of his six-month United Nations tour.

Satisfaction with a difficult job well done by his Yorkshire soldiers. Sorrow that the agony of the war-torn state goes on; that the UN task there is not yet finished.

"It is sad that the work that we have tried to do in assisting people to come to peace among themselves has not been entirely successful. It would have been very satisfying to have seen a peace plan take effect before we left," he said.

He is proud of the fact that

"However, we must not forget the lives which have been saved by the food aid that we have escorted, through our negotiations with the factional leaders and simply through our suppressing problems by our presence on the ground. If we had not been here things would have been worse."

The tall battalion commander, who has had two six-month emergency tours of duty in three years - the other was in west Belfast - left Bosnia

a tired man. But his enthusiasm for his task and his determination to carry it through no matter how difficult the circumstances never flagged.

"It has been very hard work," he admitted.

every single United Nations High Commission for Refugees' aid convoy his battalion was asked to escort got through safely. Not always without difficulty, though; delays of between six and 24 hours were common as the troops and aid workers painstakingly negotiated their way through three sets of front lines.

"There have been times of extreme frustration," he said, "particularly when fighting between Muslim and Croat communities prevented aid from getting to their own people. But in general the periods when we were not able to move aid have been short."

He is proud of the men of his



Lt Col Alastair Duncan

battalion. "We have been in a war situation in Bosnia but not at war, and that is very unusual for the British Army," he explained.

"It has been quite a strain living on the front lines for six months but it is a strain the soldiers have coped with magnificently."

"Despite the frustrations and difficulties they have got on with the job, with goodwill and an amazing sense of humour, as the British soldier always does. I have asked a good deal of them and they have done me proud."

"I am fully aware that it has been a strain also on the wives and families of the soldiers and

officers who have been left behind in Germany and in England," he continued.

"Their backing, and that of our rear party in Germany, has been tremendous. We are very much a family regiment and I include everybody in the team. We are also very grateful for the support of the people of Yorkshire."

Col Duncan leaves the battalion on promotion in February 1994 to take up a post on the directing staff at the Army Staff College at Camberley in Surrey. It is another juncture in his career which he will greet with mixed feelings.

"I will be very sorry to go," he said. "When you join a regiment in the infantry that is your life and it has been my life for 20 years. I lose my own regiment's cap-badge forever and I leave behind friends with whom I have worked for many years."

He takes with him from Bosnia one lesson very well learned.

"If there is one thing I have realised here, it is that material possessions are not important. What matters is family, friends, health and freedom, things that perhaps are often taken for granted," he said.



Light Dragoons armed with lunch boxes and blue helmets arrive in theatre at Split as part of the Grapple 3 deployment. They will support the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards group

Father Bernard's sold on Synthia

FATHER Bernard Massey is a smash hit with soldiers in Bosnia now that Synthia plays his hymns for him.

"I had nothing before Synthia joined us," explained Father Massey. "I just had to stand up, start singing and hope the others joined in. But now, at the touch of a button, Synthia can recall a tune from 'her' store of 400 hymns."

"I saw the synthesizer advertised and asked the company, McCrimmon Publishing of Southend-on-Sea, if they would give it to us for the troops in Bosnia. They have kindly offered it on permanent loan, so there are no bum notes now."

Synthia is linked to Father Massey's electronic keyboard and means there is no problem with keeping in tune or keeping time. She not only holds 400 hymns, ancient and modern, but can also play the national anthem and the wedding march. The latter has not yet been required.

Father Massey, the Force



Picture: L/Cpl Paul Brownbridge HQ UKLFP Info

Father Bernard Massey

Roman Catholic Chaplain, travels the length and breadth of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia wherever British troops are serving with the UN.

PWO takes its leave as Coldstream moves in

MISSING a turning is a nuisance when you are leading a convoy.

Missing the right-hand turn to the bridge in Gornji Vakuf leading to the British camp is not something you want to do twice - particularly under automatic cross-fire.

Such was the rude introduction to Gornji for three lorry-loads of newly-arriving Coldstream Guards when the lead Warrior overshot, taking a Land Rover and one Bedford with it.

After a tactical three-point turn the convoy retraced its steps, but again drove past the turning, all seven vehicles having to complete another

hurried manoeuvre before finally making it over the bridge.

Warring commanders do not like convoys driving through their front lines. Convoys get in the way and hold up their war.

There is sometimes good liaison between UN troops and local forces, as the Coldstream found when Croats phoned the company in Gornji to announce that they were going to shell a nearby hamlet. Only three shells landed in the British camp.

By the time they left Gornji, the men of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire were a bit blasé.

"Every single vehicle in our fleet has been hit a number of times and latterly we hardly bothered reporting the contacts," said Capt Adrian Price, Operations Officer. "Once we had 300 impacts in a day."

They had to cross the front line several times when they travelled to the Bugojno enclave to check on the conditions of Muslims there.

Frequently they were involved in the gruesome task of body exchanges.

During their six-month tour, the soldiers got to know the local people.

A six-year-old girl used to make flowers out of wire for the Yorkies until a sniper shot her

in the chest. "Everybody was really cut up about it," said Capt Price. "She was just being to us."

Fortunately, the soldiers' quick action in getting the girl medical attention paid off and when they left, she was making a good recovery.

Although much aid was escorted through by 1 PWO, it was frustrating to see combatants taking their cut from the warehouses. The warring armies see themselves as the fighting heroes who most need the supplies.

Arranging a cease-fire is an uphill struggle, particularly if you are a new boy. After taking over from 1 PWO's OC B

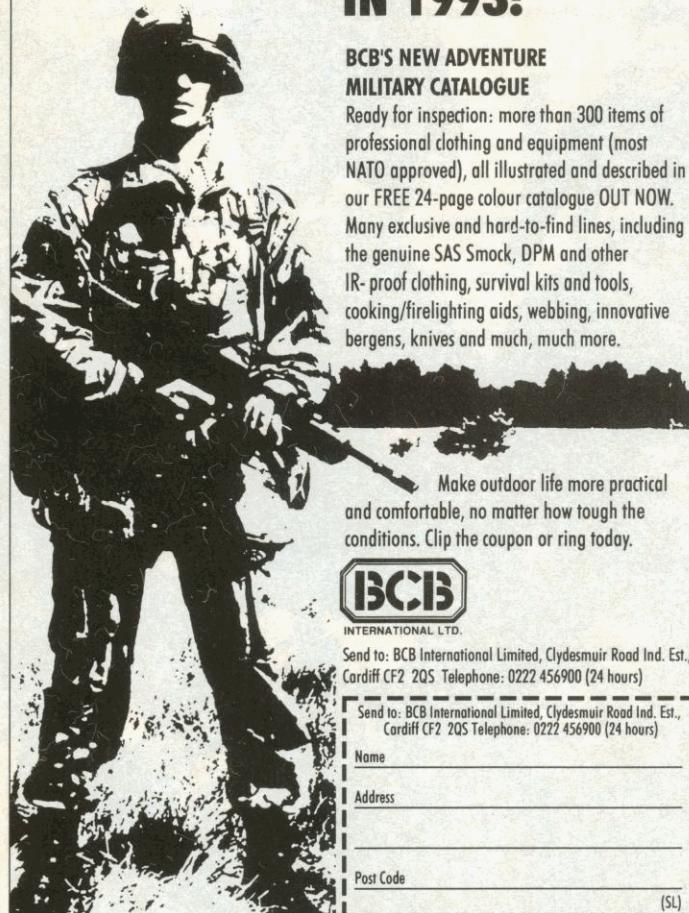
Company, Maj Graham Binns, Maj Andrew Johnson, OC No 1 Company, 1 Coldstream Guards, felt he was being given the run-around as he started to arrange a cease-fire to allow a hospital to be evacuated.

The Coldstream were determined to carry out their own act of remembrance for LCpl Wayne Edwards, the Royal Welch Fusilier, killed at the bridge junction in January while escorting an ambulance of wounded Croat and Muslim women.

The situation was too dangerous for a parade to be held on the site where he died, but for a moment in camp, time

● Turn to Page 27

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Climbers put to the test in Yorkshire

CLIMBERS, young and not so young, near novices and grizzled old pros, Regular, Territorial and civilian gathered recently to brush up their climbing skills.

The common bond between these disparate men and

women was that they were all members of the Army Mountaineering Association.

Organised by the UKLF School of Adventurous Training at Ripon, the event aimed to improve the technical skills of the climbers. Guest instruc-

tors Paul Craven and Hugh Banner were present throughout the weekend to advise, respectively, on current climbing techniques and equipment. The climbers were also able to find partners with similar abilities and intentions, tackling

climbs ranging from severe to extreme. Details of the association, which also caters for hillwalkers and mountaineers, from the Membership Secretary, c/o ASCB, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BG.

Bolivia exped rises to peak challenges

ADVENTUROUS training could be defined as follows, according to Lt Heather Moon, ATR Winchester: "To accustom all ranks to danger, hardship and challenge, calling for and developing fitness, self-reliance, physical and moral courage, initiative, powers of endurance and inter-dependence."

All those elements were tested to the full when she and other members of a tri-Service team took part in Exercise Bolivian Olae.

Led by Capt John Foster REME, the team consisted of seven Army, one Royal Navy and two RAF members.

The aim of the expedition was to undertake high altitude trekking and climbing in the volcanic mountains of Bolivia. The Andes range in that coun-

try offers a variety of climbs, from simple "high altitude" hillwalking to very deep snow.

This scope catered ideally for the differing mountain experience held by the ten team members, five of whom were complete novices.

Fitness was of paramount importance: all the team members (even the three PTIs involved) followed a strict fitness routine months before the departure date.

First week in Bolivia was spent acclimatising to altitude, starting at sea level in Santa Cruz and driving up to La Paz, at 3,636 metres the highest city in the world.

First peak - Chacaltaya - was climbed (at 5,350m above sea level) by all ten members of the expedition, followed by a much more challenging scaling of Murarata ("the bald one"), where only six of the team made it to the 5,869m peak and took three days to get off.

Sajama, the highest (6,520m above sea level) peak in Bolivia was a more technical mountain than either of the other two.

The weather stayed favourable and, under the guidance of mountain instructor Sgt Steve Scott (RAF), seven of the team made it to top camp, with tents precariously pitched



Soldiers and officers from the Queen's Royal Lancers who will be participating in Expedition Pacific Glory between January and March. Cpl Jones, LCpl Moulds, Capt Pell, 2nd Lt Blakey, Cpl Greenock (back row), with (front row) LCpls Ryan, Newman, Billingham and Godden, will climb Mt Popomanaseu on the island of Guadalcanal, 500km east of Papua New Guinea, and dive on Second World War wrecks surrounding the island

on a knife edge ridge with an 800ft drop to one side of them.

Despite having to tackle a 140ft ice wall, with cloud closing in and force five winds being followed by sleet and snow, reducing visibility to 5m, the summit was reached.

Following advice from Col Remmy Ramirez Villarroel, CO of the XXV Tocopilla Alpine Battalion, the expedition stayed away from the mountains for the next two weeks, travelling instead to

Lake Titicaca - the world's highest navigable lake.

Four days were spent there before the three-day Inca trail was tackled.

Peak four, the last mountain, was Huayna Potosi, where the team split in to two groups of five to maximise chances of reaching the summit. All ten reached the top: the culmination of weeks of training, and the highlight of the expedition to those who had not made it to the top of Sajama.



Cpl Peter Doughty, 3 Cheshire, has just returned from a memorable trip to the Italian Alps where he not only climbed one of Europe's highest peaks but also worked with the Italian Special Forces learning emergency avalanche procedures. He was one of only two TA soldiers who teamed up with 28 Regulars for the annual two-month long Exercise Monte Bianco

FUSILIERS CROSS CHILE WILDERNESS

ONE officer, a senior NCO and four soldiers from Warminster-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers successfully handled the elements in Chile's northern desert by completing an arduous 200km trek on foot.

Aim was to walk from the

Pacific coast across one of the world's driest deserts to San Pedro de Atacama, an isolated village in the Andean foothills near the Bolivian border.

Assisted by the Chilean Army, the group was backed up by a support group of three in a vehicle, accompanied by

an officer from the local divisional signals regiment.

The group took just over ten days to complete the trek, which tested not only stamina, navigation and teamwork to the full, but the logistics of re-supply hundreds of kilometres from the nearest town.

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Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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Bessbrook gunner's run will make Alex's Dai

CAPT Dai Haynes RA is planning to cover more than 100 miles in January for charity – by going round in circles.

Dai, who, as battery captain of 159 (Colenso) Battery RA, is on a six-month tour in Northern Ireland, proposed to

run for 20 hours around Bessbrook Mill.

"For obvious reasons, I will not be able to run outside the perimeter," says Capt Haynes. "But instead I am going to tackle the circuit inside, which is only 1,000m long."

Each circuit, he calculates, should take him approximately six minutes. He hopes to complete 200 laps – approximately 124 miles.

Chief beneficiary will be Alexandra Baily, a 14-year-old who lives in the RMA Sand-

hurst grounds and suffers from muscular dystrophy. She needs a much more advanced type of wheelchair.

Units wishing to support the run can obtain further information from Capt Gerry Crow on Armagh Mil 46283.

GOSH! Didn't they do swell?

OFFICERS from a course at the Staff College Camberley who raised £5,200 for the Wishing Well appeal at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in 1988 have seen the money being put to good use at first hand.

Army Staff Course 22 members Maj Simon Barry, Para, Lt Col Ian Foxley, R Signals, Lt Col Andrew Graham, A and SH, Lt Col Jim Baxter RA and former RA officer Peter Danby were present when the medical staff office in the hospital's new plastic surgery ward was named in recognition of the Camberley course's "outstanding efforts".

The fund-raising campaign was initiated after Freddie, the



Picture: Mike Weston

Delighted children and teacher Mrs Judy Hewins from Bordon County Infantry School with their purpose-built trim trail, paid for and constructed thanks to two brothers serving in REME and the RE. Sgt Tony Leibrick (back left), SEME Regt Bordon, helped raise money towards the cost by completing the John Tarrant 50-mile road race. His staff sergeant brother, Dave (next to him), together with personnel from 3 RSME Regt, Deepcut, then built the trail. With them are Spr Mat Keary and Cpl Pete Hout.

son of course member Nick Larkin, tragically suffered brain damage and became a patient at the hospital.

Money came from various sources, including a gruelling 78km sponsored mountain marathon across the Cheviot

hills in Northumberland by a 12-man team.

After visiting the office, which is in Great Ormond Street's soon-to-be-opened clinical building, Maj Barry said: "As we are all young parents with children, it is so nice to see the money we raised being put to such good use by helping to provide the best treatment in the world for those children who unfortunately do not enjoy full health."

that sponsorship and other fund-raising efforts would produce more than £9,000 for the appeal.



Sponsorship money raised by a team from HQ (Westminster Dragoons) Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry, who entered the Snowdon Challenge earlier in the year has been gathered in. The yeomen raised £1,140 for multiple sclerosis charity London East Friends of ARMS by carrying MS sufferer Jaqui Bellis shoulder-high to the summit in the fastest time of just over two hours.



Sixty wives from Caterham-based 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards undertook a nerve-racking mass abseil from the 160ft-high roof of St Thomas's Hospital in London. Most of those taking part were complete novices.

Aim of their temporary onset of madness was to contribute to the hospital's campaign to raise £5m for research into the causes of stillbirth, prematurity and miscarriage.

Capt Dennis Bradley, the battalion's transport and families officer, said it was hoped

Fifteen recruits from Lady-smith Platoon, ATR Glen-corse in Scotland, amassed more than £2,000 for Edinburgh Lothian district charity Artlink by walking 105 miles over the West Highland Way.

The charity helps the physically handicapped by paying transport and entrance costs for visits to events such as the theatre and the ballet.



Jillian Jones, whose husband Matthew is a member of the Gren Gds Corps of Drums, prepares to disappear over the edge of the hospital, watched closely by climbing and abseiling instructor Capt David Hardman. Most of the wives taking part were novices

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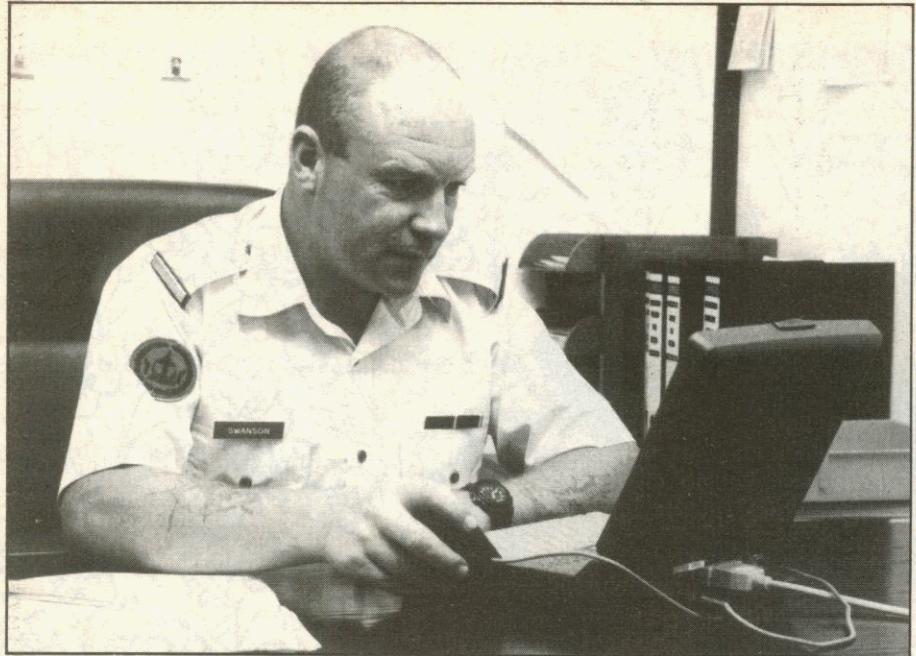
BUT THAT'S JUST THE HALF OF IT. When a serviceman leaves the forces, so does his family. And civvy street can at first seem a hostile and unwelcoming place. Fortunately, The Royal British Legion can offer a helping hand. We have training centres in the North and the South of the country where ex-servicemen and their wives can pick up valuable skills. Like information technology, accounting and business studies. In fact we're spending £4 million on a new training centre at Tidworth alone. Sometimes we can lend you more than a hand, we can lend you money. Last year our Business Advisory Service arranged over £900,000 in interest free loans. We're also just as busy after hours. We have social evenings and clubs where you can enjoy the laughs you had with your mates in the forces, out of the forces. If you'd like to know how we can help you, or would like to become a member of The Royal British Legion, send off the coupon below. Your small membership fee will go towards the cost of our higher profile activities, helping and caring for old and infirm war veterans. They never did things by halves. It's only right that we don't.

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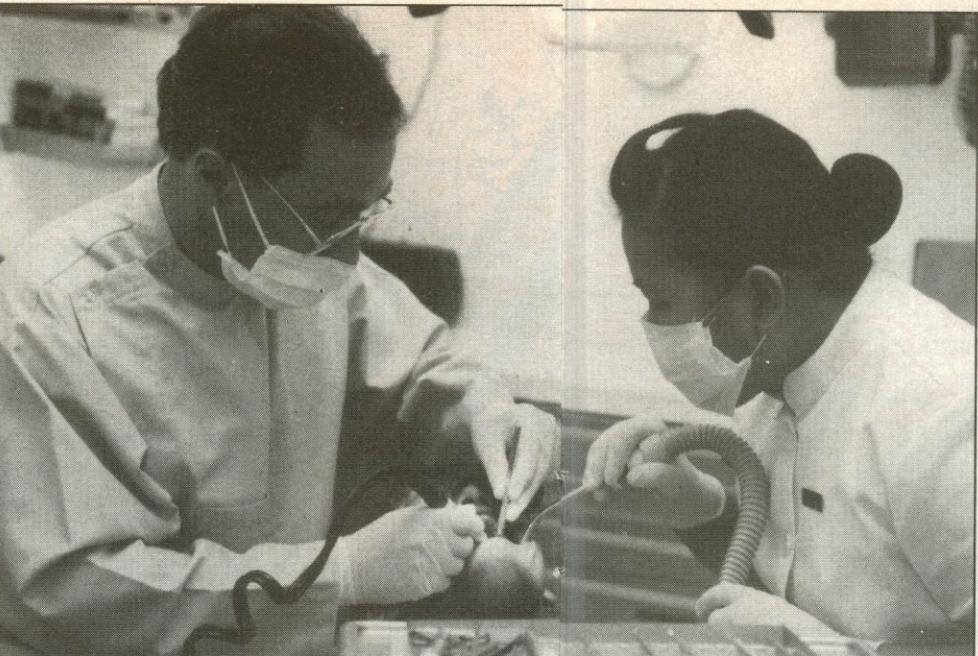


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WO1 Don Swanson AGC, the team staff assistant, with his best friend



Lt Col Ben Davies RADC at work in his surgery in Beraka Camp



WO2 Alan Young REME working on a Royal Brunei Air Force helicopter, with a Bruneian colleague

AMBASSADORS OF EXCELLENCE

The British in Brunei

NEWS OF a posting to Brunei usually sends people looking for an atlas. Open at a map of south-east Asia and you will find this small, oil-rich country on the northern coast of the island of Borneo.

Brunei's smallness and wealth are probably the best known facts about this country, but there is, of course, much more to it than that. For one thing, the country has had a long and close association with Britain, and links are still strong.

An Islamic monarchy, or sultanate, Brunei has preserved its independence and distinctive culture for more than 500 years. This is no mean achievement in such a turbulent region.

The ruler, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, is the 29th of his dynasty, making this monarchy one of the oldest in the world.

He attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the late 1960s.

British links go back to the 19th century at least, and for a while Brunei was a protectorate of the British crown.

That formal link ended in 1984, but the British Army still maintains, at Bruneian invitation, a Gurkha garrison in the west of the country at Seria, close to the centre of the country's oil industry.

A less well-known fact is that 57 British Servicemen work with and directly for the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). They are the loan service team, working and living with their

families, as an integral part of the RBAF, wearing its uniform and lending skills and expertise to their hosts.

Loan service means exactly what the name suggests; the Serviceman is loaned to the armed forces of another government. The Brunei team is controlled by DO(FEW) in MoD Main Building, London.

The current director is Brig Anthony Leask, who met most members of the team and their families on his recent visit to the state.

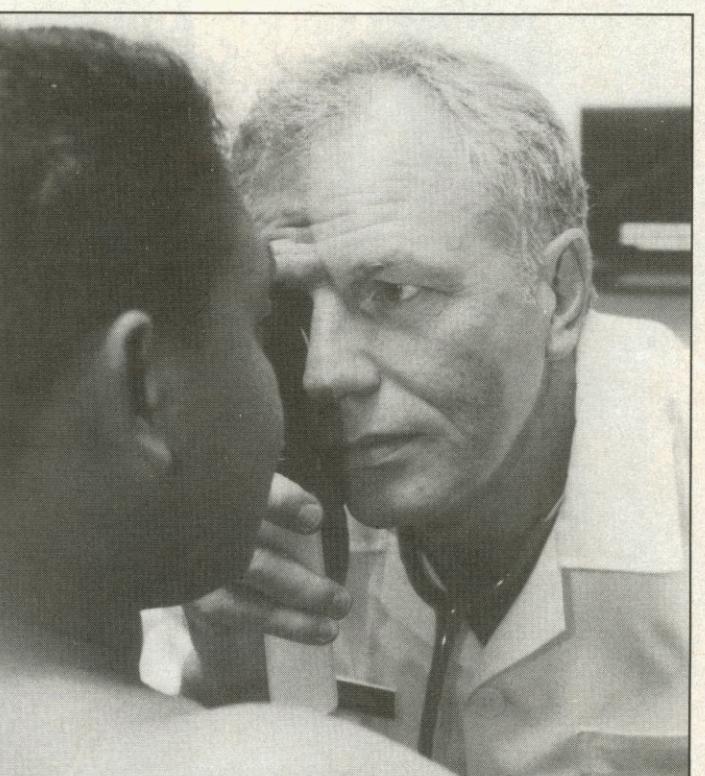
Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind visited Brunei in May to enhance bilateral relations and other VIP visitors this year have included the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Inge, and CBF Hong Kong, Maj Gen John Foley. The Chief of the Defence Staff and Lady Harding also visited in October, further evidence of the importance of the United Kingdom's special relationship with Brunei.

The current team reflects a wide range of skills. WO2 Bill Rugg, in another life a Gordon Highlander, is Pipe Major to the Brunei Army. He describes his role in Brunei as "a great opportunity and a real challenge. It's a career one-off".

Six months ago WO2 Alan Young REME was working on helicopters in Germany. Now, after volunteering for loan service, he is an artificer with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, maintaining their US-built Huey helicopters and helping to train the Bruneians who will eventually fill his shoes.

"They are a dynamic and professional organisation, but a young one. Our role is to use our skills, knowledge and experience to help them continue to develop as a modern defence force," he explained.

He sees the main role of the team as supporting the RBAF



Maj David Reynolds RAMC having eyeball contact with a Bruneian soldier on daily sick parade in Berakas Camp

in maintaining operational effectiveness.

"They are a dynamic and professional organisation, but a young one. Our role is to use our skills, knowledge and experience to help them continue to develop as a modern defence force," he explained.

An important point is that loan service posts are created

● Brunei's full name is Negara Brunei Darussalam, meaning "abode of peace". Although less than half the size of Wales it is a wealthy country, thanks to its natural gas and oil resources. These are mostly exploited offshore.

● Inland, the country is 70 per cent virgin jungle – one of the world's last remaining truly unspoilt tropical rain forests.

● The capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.

only at the express wish of the host government, which requests individuals to fulfil particular needs they have identified.

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"Like most people," he says, "I knew little about the country before coming here. I did know it would be a very different experience and it definitely is. It's also very rewarding. I have



real job satisfaction here."

In a country as small as Brunei it is inevitable that there will be shortages of expertise in some areas. One such area is medical and dental services. Despite this, the government is committed to providing its Servicemen and their families with a full range of health care facilities.

Consequently the loan service team includes 11 British doctors and dentists. They represent all three Services and provide this vital support to the RBAF at five bases around the country.

Chief Medical Officer is Lt Col Tom Symon RAMC and Chief Dental Officer, Lt Col Ben Davies RADC.

Other appointments work at pay, post, Rapier, ammunition, officer education, communications, combat engineering and logistics. Most are scattered in ones and twos throughout RBAF. Some posts are very isolated and require a fair amount of resilience.

WO1 Don Swanson, a former Light Infantryman, is the loan service staff assistant who looks after the team's administrative needs.

"Loan service is different," he says. "You have to be a bit more self-reliant than the average person and willing to adapt to local conditions."

Most members of the team have an interest in sports and outdoor activities, and Brunei offers plenty of scope for both.

Although they live as part of the local community, the team is also a close-knit one with a good social life. There are other compensations for being so far from home, as well.

For most families it is a precious chance to live in a truly exotic country and travel around a fascinating part of the world.

All loan service personnel are volunteers, and for most the opportunity only occurs once. Whatever the location, it is guaranteed to be quite different... and memorable.

Above all it contributes, in Brunei as elsewhere, to the maintenance of vital and beneficial links between friendly nations based on the sort of trust and mutual respect that working together generates.

SSAFA wishes you all a very Happy Christmas, especially those of you kept apart from your families and friends by duty. Always remember that SSAFA is never far away - whatever the problem, please call us if you need us.

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Gdsm Richard "Wal" Walton was already on duty at Gornji Vakuf as the first of No 2 Company's Warriors arrived

Loggy seaside base is no holiday camp

A CHALET by the Adriatic "Riviera" loses its appeal when it is actually an eight-man tent in a swamp.

This is the accommodation which drivers of 4 General Support Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, have in Omis

on the Adriatic coast. They have been based there since October.

A former camp site by the sea, it is pleasant enough in summer – apart from mosquitoes – but winter is a different matter. As the weather

grew worse, the drivers were anxiously waiting storm lashings and sand bags to weigh down the tents.

"It is fine when it is dry but we are on grass and it is difficult when it is wet," said Sgt Nick Kelly of 60 Artillery Support Squadron with a wry grin.

It was an understatement. The men can cope with the cold and wet, plus servicing their vehicles in the open, but the prospect of losing tents is not cheerful – they were told to expect 140km winds. The site also floods easily and the OC, Maj David Martin, is con-

cerned about conditions.

By January, however, UN-funded cabins should be in place to provide greater comfort.

Situated an hour's drive from the main depot at Split port, the drivers are better off than at the first transport-squadron location at Tomislavgrad, which is in artillery range and where temperature of minus 50C were recorded.

So extreme was the cold that radiators contracted, causing hoses to come adrift when engines were started. Some fuel tankers had to run for 30



Sgt Nick Kelly: "It is fine when it's dry..."

Yorkies on their way

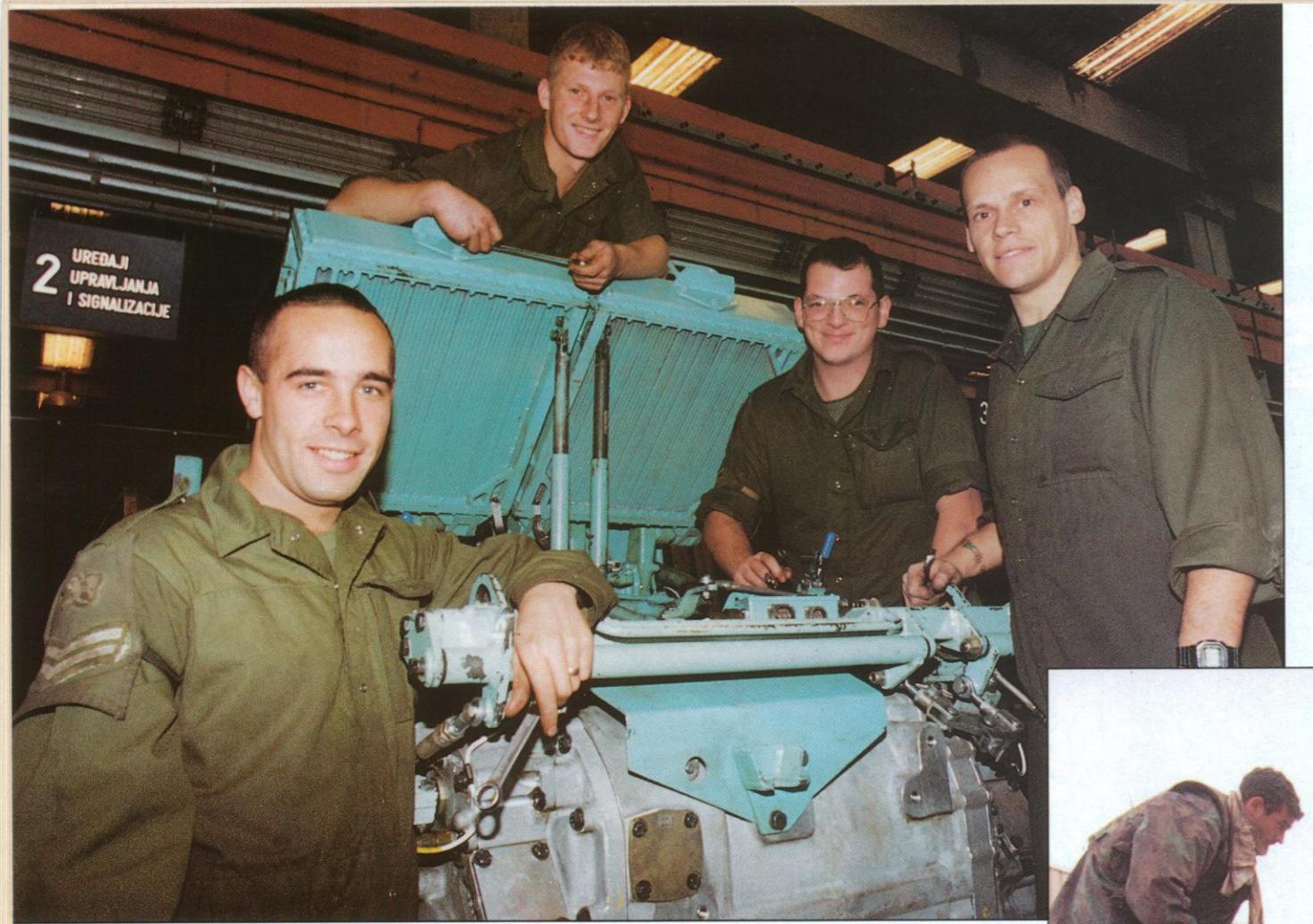
● From Page 17

stood still as Bugler Ian Scholten sounded his calls. Lt Col Peter Williams and Cpl Richard Morris laid their poignant wreaths.

They could have been at the Cenotaph in Whitehall but for a staccato rattle of Kalashnikovs and crump of a mortar from the interrupted battle for Gornji Vakuf.

● The Coldstream sustained their first casualty even before the official hand-over from 1 PWO when a Warrior driver received a graze wound from a Croatian gunman.

It was unofficially estimated that 1 PWO killed between 30 and 40 gunmen while returning fire during their tour of duty. Fourteen British soldiers were medically evacuated during the same period.



Cpl Shayne Dunt, Cmnr Gary Ellis, LCpl Al Penman and Cpl Paul Spinner at the Force Armoured Workshop, REME, in Split had changed 150 power packs by the end of their Op Grapple 2 tour

No holiday

• From Page 27

minutes before gears could be engaged.

The Force Transport Squadron transferred from there to Omis to be able to use either the mountain Route Triangle north, or the eastern route through Mostar. With the bridges north of Mostar now probably beyond economic repair during the six-month span of Grapple 3, Route Triangle forged by Royal Engi-

neers is the only option.

Such problems, however, seem minor as the drivers follow their Warrior escorts through fire-fights between Muslim and Croat in Gornji Vakuf, where the only operating main supply route is increasingly threatened.

Warrior provides excellent protection for a section of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards. Truckies only have their helmets, flak jackets and soft-skinned vehicles, plus a defiant T-shirt declaring "Real men don't wear Chobham!"

But on they go. Vehicles run this particular gauntlet six times a week. The scheduled resupply convoys leave Split on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and should get to Vitez by nightfall – in time to load up and leave early next morning.

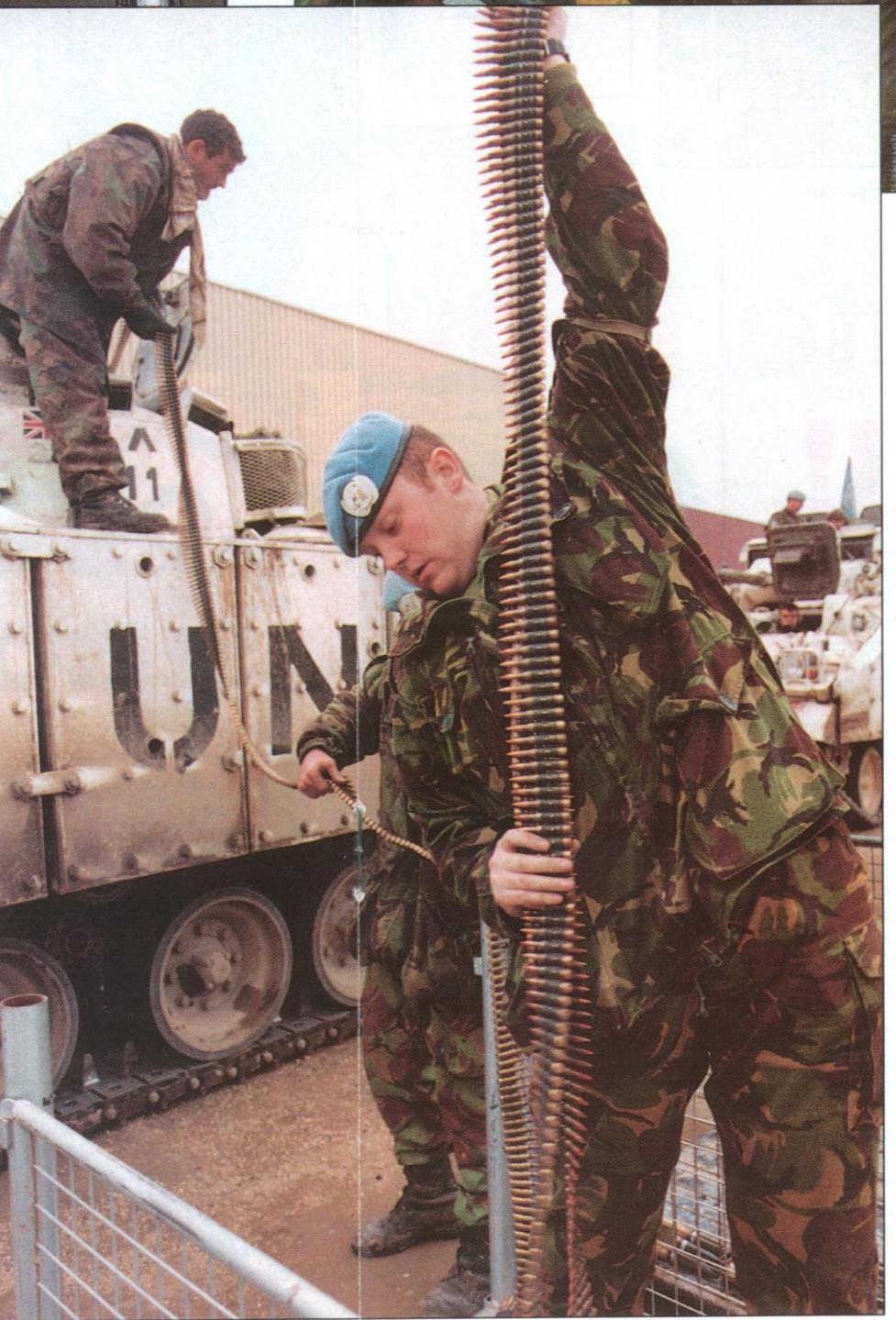
Twice a week ration convoys move north, and every two weeks convoys of eight-tonners change over troops on R and R. There are many other one-off tasks but the biggest business is fuel. More than one million litres were taken to the bulk fuel installations during their first month in theatre.

November turned out to be a difficult month for the truckies. Civilian aid convoys ground to a halt after a Danish driver was killed on the main supply route Diamond late in October.

Ten UN workers and eight Dutch soldiers were wounded in the crossfire near Novi Travnik, and three weeks later British military convoys also had to stop in the face of a concerted Bosnian Croat offensive, cutting off Vitez for several days.



Posties Pte David Stewart, LCpl Adie Graydon and Sgt "Berny" Breen were ready for the Christmas rush



A short break for the tank transporters of the Force Transport Squadron after moving Warriors and Scimitars from Split to Tomislavgrad, where the vehicles were "bombed up" before travelling to Gornji Vakuf and Vitez under their own steam



Above – Pte Jill Burchell, SQMS Dept of 60 Artillery Support Squadron in Omis, gets to know some of the children in a home for mentally handicapped people in Split. Despite few resources, the squadron has been painting and improving the home in time for a Christmas party which it is laying on for the patients

Left – As each group of 1 PWO arrived at Tomislavgrad on its way home, its ammunition was unloaded and transferred to 1 Coldm Gds



Lt Mark Graves, OC 13 Platoon, leads his section in after the 68km "Holy Grail" march and exercise. Sgt Alan Forsyth brings up a weary rear

Kiwi welcome blows hot and cold!

Words: Arthur Murray

AS THE Hercules aircraft took off from Hong Kong, the feeling of the 120 men of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, was one of relief to be exchanging the heat and humidity of the Territory for something more akin to the United Kingdom.

The New Zealanders with whom they were swapping locations for four weeks were welcome to Hong Kong.

A couple of days to settle in at the New Zealand Army's Burnham Military Camp near Christchurch and it was out into the field in the woods around Springs Junction. All expectations about the climate had been realised. If anything it was better than anticipated: clear blue skies and temperatures in the low twenties producing beautiful spring weather.

The final two days in the Springs Junction area consisted of an inter-company competition—Exercise Holy Grail—over the scenic St James's Walkway at Lewis Pass. The

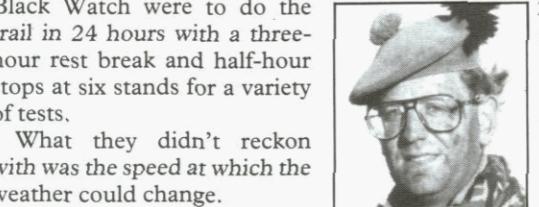
66km walkway is described in the tourist brochures as "a leisurely five-day tramp".

Not for the Jocks a leisurely five-day tramp, however: the Black Watch were to do the trail in 24 hours with a three-hour rest break and half-hour stops at six stands for a variety of tests.

What they didn't reckon with was the speed at which the weather could change.

The teams – four sections of seven men from each platoon – left at hourly intervals, half travelling north to south, half in the opposite direction.

The weather had taken a turn for the worse during the day and, as the first teams set out at 2000 hours, it was clearly going to deteriorate. By the time the final teams left five hours later at 0100, thunder and lightning ripped the skies and the trail was in danger of being washed away in the deluge.



OC Maj Mike Riddell-Webster

As radio messages came in

from the six checkpoints to the control centres at the northern and southern termini of the trail, it was obvious that the weather was taking its toll and the possibility of even one section completing the exercise in 24 hours was non-existent.

The first 24 hour came and went and still the rain fell in torrents. This was not Hong Kong rain – heavy but warm; this was the New Zealand variety – heavy, freezing and stamina-sapping.

One mild hypothermia case was wrapped in his sleeping bag for an extended rest, a couple of the men were reported to be suffering with foot and ankle injuries, but nothing yet for the OC Maj Mike Riddell-Webster, to get uptight about.

At the 36-hour mark, however, some teams were still only two-thirds of the way around



and there was concern for men with badly blistered feet. Still the rain fell relentlessly.

Eventually, over 36 hours after they had set out, the first section appeared, footsore and bedraggled. Most concern was for one soldier with severe trench foot who still had 10km to go and another team reportedly with a casualty and with whom contact had been lost.

Cruelly, the rain stopped as the teams arrived home, the last one more than 40 hours after setting out. When the scores were tallied, it emerged that 13 Platoon had won by a fair margin – just as they had won a navigating test in the forests around Springs Junction. But in this competition, there were no losers. That only three men subsequently

required hospital treatment was a testament to the fitness, stamina and endurance of the men of Delta Company.

Exhausted and with aching feet, all the Jocks looked forward to two well-earned days in Christchurch.

The two days – mercifully in balmy sunshine – were all too soon over and the men piled into their vehicles for the three-hour drive to Tekapo Military Camp for a week's live-firing on ranges vastly more extensive than anything Hong Kong could offer.

The ranges lay in a broad valley surrounded by snow-capped mountains, as if Dartmoor had been transported to the middle of the Scottish Highlands. But once again the New Zealand weather took a

hand. Dark clouds began rolling ominously in over the mountains and by nightfall the rain was falling like stair-rods, beating a diabolical tattoo on the flimsy roofs of the men's huts and sapping enthusiasm for the ranges next day.

As the sections formed up for transport to the ranges the next morning, snow began to fall in a bitterly cold wind.

Where were the complaints about the heat and humidity of Hong Kong now?

The weather did eventually relent and snow and rain gave way to clear skies and cold winds as section attacks built up through the next few days to platoon attacks and mortar drill with men of the New Zealand Army.



Above – Lt Tim Johnson tries to get a last ounce of effort out of his men

Left – A final burst from 2nd Lt James Houghton to bring his section in on Exercise Holy Grail



Above – Tracers ignite the ranges during a simulated fire fight and Delta Coy, supervised by Sgt Alan Forsyth (left), become firefighters

Left – Sometimes war means getting your feet wet

short when simulated fire fights turned into real-life fire-fighting as tracer rounds set alight the reedy grasses on the range.

Within minutes the blaze had spread along a 400m front and the fire engine on standby with the exercise had great difficulty negotiating the rugged terrain.

So it was Jocks to the rescue, with sandbags and shovels until the pumps got going. Soldiers they may be, firemen they are not. There were looks of bewilderment as the water dried up but a quick glance behind revealed that the hoses had been dragged through the fires and had been severed by the flames, leaving the amateur firefighters holding nothing but a nozzle and a few feet of hose.

Eventually the fires were extinguished, too late to continue the platoon attacks.

By the time the company advance-to-contact and attack were due to begin, the warm spring weather which had been promised finally arrived and Delta Company took to the ranges under clear blue skies.

Amid a barrage of pyrotechnics laid down by New Zealand sappers, the company attacked at dawn over a broad swathe of the Tekapo ranges.

Maj Riddell-Webster pronounced the exercise "a complete success" and was particularly pleased at the way in which his platoon commanders had performed.

The final stage of the Jocks' New Zealand trip was a week's adventurous training in Queenstown. Two-thirds of the company went to Queenstown initially, the remainder going to Dunedin.

As they rotated in groups of 40 between the two sites, there was plenty of opportunity for horse-trekking, wildwater rafting, jet skiing and jetboating and – by far the most popular – bungy jumping from the 70m high bridge at Skipper's Canyon.

Among the many social attractions laid on for the visitors were dinner with The Black Watch Society, staying with New Zealand Scots in Dunedin and – dear to every soldier's heart – a visit to Speight's Brewery.

FOR FAMILIES

The courage of

Anne Armstrong - by Gulf commander

AS THE words of generals rang out across a leafy corner of Surrey last month they were echoed by men and women of all ranks who know only too well the meaning of the phrase "combat stress".

The occasion was the opening of a superb, £300,000 extension to Tywhitt House, Leatherhead, one of three homes run by the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society.

The words were by way of tribute, partly to all those dedicated to the work and aims of the society (slogan: Combat Stress) - and specifically to the late Mrs Jacqueline Mayo, after whom the unit is named.

Mrs Mayo - Anne Armstrong of SOLDIER - was

among many other things a member and trustee of the society for the five years before her untimely death last May. She raised money and helped to provide material needs, from clothing to carpets, for its three homes.

She took a particular interest in the development of the Tywhitt House extension, which provides a further nine ground-floor bedrooms and other facilities for elderly and physically disabled ex-Service people at the short-stay treatment centre.

At the opening ceremony Gen Sir Charles Huxtable, the society's president, said it was Mrs Mayo's support and enthusiasm for the extension which had given the scheme its impetus.

"A few years ago she developed an interest in post-traumatic stress, initially because of cases which came to light after the Falklands War.

"This interest led her to Ex-Service Mental Welfare. She told me she really wanted to do all she could to help because she believed that here was an area which was not getting sufficient attention, and therefore there was a shortage of money and perhaps a lack of facilities and that she might be able to do something towards alleviating these problems."

He and their son, Capt Charles Mayo, Light Dragoons, felt humble that her memory was being honoured in the name of the Falklands War.

Col Mayo quoted from a letter he had received from Gen Sir Peter de la Billière shortly after Mrs Mayo's death in which the former Gulf commander expressed admiration for "the significant achievements she obtained for Servicemen and their families and

above all else her remarkable personal courage and leadership in pursuing the demanding goals she set for herself."

The letter went on: "But she also perhaps unwittingly made a more important contribution to the morale of all of us in the Army, whether private soldier or general. She stood up fearlessly and in public to the bureaucracy which is so prevalent in our peace-time Service, and challenged it

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Picture: Mike Weston

We'll shake on that! Col John Mayo (left), who had just opened the Tywhitt House unit dedicated to his late wife, with their son Capt Charles Mayo Light Dragoons (right) and Gen Sir Charles Huxtable, president of the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

without fear or deference to rank or position.

"I greatly admired her for this courageous stand. She said so much that needed saying and in doing so made those in authority including myself look at their consciences and review their decisions.

"In doing this, she created a unique safety-valve for all ranks and I find it difficult to see how her particular contribution will be replaced."

Major donors towards the cost of the extension, which was dedicated by the Ven Graham Roblin, former Deputy Chaplain General, were: the Army Benevolent Fund, the Bailey Thomas Trust, the Dulverton Trust, the Hedley Foundation, the Jurgens Trust, King George's Fund for Sailors, E D & F Man Ltd, the Ex-Prisoner of War Association, Queen Mary's Roehampton Trust, the RAF Benevolent Fund, the Royal British Legion, and Smith's Charity.

The society is the only organisation specialising in helping men and women of all ranks and ages who suffer from psychiatric disabilities and have served in the Armed Forces or Merchant Navy.

If the workings of the CSA are affecting you and you need help, talk to SSAFA.

You may also like to know that the National Council for One Parent Families has a free booklet called *Maintenance and The Child Support Agency*. You can obtain a copy by sending a self-addressed envelope with 34p in

Naafi replies on baby food prices

Dear Editor,
SINCE returning to Germany after having my baby in the UK in September I have noticed that Naafi here are pricing baby products twice as much as they are in England.

I wrote to the makers of SMA baby products and received a reply stating they did not set the prices. I then wrote to Naafi head office but did not receive a

reply, so am writing to you instead.

It gets quite expensive buying a big tin for DM16.25 every ten days or so. - Mrs M Finch, c/o 1 PWO, Belfast Barracks, Osnabrück.

Mrs Finch's letter was passed to Naafi who respond: The price of SMA baby food in Naafi has always been a sensitive

issue but I can assure you that Naafi's prices are not twice those of the UK and we are not taking advantage of mothers with young babies.

Customer demand from Naafi in Germany for SMA Gold baby food is not great, so Naafi is unable to enjoy the sort of discounted prices that a company such as Boots or a large high-street supermarket might

employ. Additionally, Naafi must pay carriage/freight charges and insurance on the transport of products to Germany and we must make a small profit too.

If you use the current rate of DM2.48 to the pound, then a cost of £2.99 and £5.50 works out at DM7.41 and DM13.64 respectively so Naafi's prices of DM8.50 and DM16.25 are not twice those of the UK. Add on our distribution costs and profit and you will see that our prices are not as expensive as you might think. It should also be remembered that the Army COLA rate takes into account the prices charged by Naafi.

Naafi does not claim to be the cheapest shop for every item we sell, but shopping tests do prove that the cost of shopping for a family at Naafi is cheaper overall - and don't forget that all the profits that Naafi make are returned to the Services.

Mutual Support for MS victims

AT LEAST 350 people in the Services are known by military hospitals to have multiple sclerosis. The true figure is likely to be higher.

MS is the most common neurological disorder, affecting one in 700 of the population. Because of the nature of attacks - or "episodes" - it is widely misunderstood. Episodes vary

from a slight tingle at the extremity of limbs to slight paraparesis and total blindness. It is not contagious, but it is, as yet, incurable.

Mutual Support, an organisation set up by and for Service personnel and their dependents, offers confidential and expert advice on MS, particularly to those newly diagnosed.

It has 50 members, half of them still serving, and is

Cari Roberts

→ COUNTERPOINT ←

THE CHILD Support Agency has come under the spotlight recently with questions being asked about the way in which maintenance payments are being handled.

It seems there are implications for the Service community.

If you are involved in the process and are not satisfied with the outcome, you have 28 days in which to appeal. In an interview for *Counterpoint*, SSAFA's Carol Terry pointed out that Service people are likely to be affected in that if they are away on duty during that 28-day period they would miss the deadline for appeal.

The flights will be between Bruggen and Stansted, weekly, and Bruggen and Edinburgh and Glasgow as special trips. You can make bookings through Bruggenair.

SSAFA and other agencies are making representation to the Child Support Agency to make some sort of provision for that possibility.

If the workings of the CSA are affecting you and you need help, talk to SSAFA.

You may also like to know that the National Council for One Parent Families has a free booklet called *Maintenance and The Child Support Agency*. You can obtain a copy by sending a self-addressed envelope with 34p in

stamps to the NCOPF, 255 Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2LX.

There's also a 'phone number for advice on being a lone parent, 071-267 1361.

RAF Bruggen starts operating Welfare Charter Flights from December 17. Concessionary flights will be available for all Service people, MoD civilians and their families.

The flights will be between Bruggen and Stansted, weekly, and Bruggen and Edinburgh and Glasgow as special trips. You can make bookings through Bruggenair.

In my last column we talked about problems with mandatory grants for students whose families had been serving overseas for several years. Another source of money is the Student Loans Company Ltd set up in 1989 to administer the Government's student loans scheme.

The company has just published its annual report and accounts and was congratulated by Further and Higher Education Minister Tim Boswell for what he called an "impressive performance".

He said the loan repayment terms mean that no graduate has to repay a penny until he or she is earning nearly £14,000 a year, and added that at the same time the Student Loan Company has secured a good return on taxpayers' money by vigorously pursuing those who default on their loans.

She also suggested a family password. The family decide on a password or phrase which they can use in emergencies. If, for example, you are prevented from picking your child up from a party at a friend's house and can only send someone else, you can give your stand-in the password to let the child know that this is a "stranger" on a legitimate errand.

As Alison says, there are only a few people from whom we need to protect our children and it would be a shame to make them afraid of everyone they don't know. So if you have a suggestion - or your school or playgroup has run a particularly successful project - let us know and we'll pass on your tip to other parents.

You can write to Cari Roberts at *Counterpoint*, BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o SOLDIER.

She suggested playing a "what if" game.

"What if someone you don't know asks you to go to a party at their house? What might you say to them?" This gives the children the chance to talk about possible situations and their feelings.

She also suggested a family password. The family decide on a password or phrase which they can use in emergencies. If, for example, you are prevented from picking your child up from a party at a friend's house and can only send someone else, you can give your stand-in the password to let the child know that this is a "stranger" on a legitimate errand.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

Dramatic moments for the TA

WHEN the BBC decided to produce a light entertainment drama featuring a fictional Territorial Army unit, they turned to a private company for the special effects.

The company, Perdix, is directed by Robert Partridge, a TA lieutenant who commands the Bath-based recce platoon of 6 LI. His platoon won a silver award in this year's Cambrian Patrol.

All Quiet on the Preston Front, to be shown in six one-hour episodes on BBC1 from the first week in January, depicts the private and military lives of a TA platoon from Roker Bridge, a fictitious Lancashire town.

Rob had to indoctrinate the cast in the ways of TA soldiers. "I don't think they realised how professional and realistic our training is," he said. "If it opened their eyes, I am sure it will impress the viewers."

The BBC were helped by 6 LI, 5/8 Kings (who provided the inspiration for scriptwriter Tim Firth) and the TA Volunteer Reserve Associations (TAVRAs).

One actor who had no problem with realism was David Macready. He once served with 131 Cdo Sqn RE(V) in London.

War graves work that never ends

ACCORDING to the latest annual report of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the remains



Lt Rob Partridge inspects actors after a night exercise designed to help them understand the TA

Tell us your D-Day story

CALLING all D-Day veterans ... what are your special memories of the great invasion?

SOLDIER invites recollections of June 6, 1944 to be considered for publication in a special anniversary feature next summer.

Contributions should be restricted to no more than 175 words, and should include your rank at the time and name of unit.

for the renovation of the cemeteries there. They were dismayed to find the Commonwealth cemeteries in Beirut and Sidon had been levelled and had assumed the role of informal football pitches. New headstones have been prepared and both cemeteries are being reconstructed.

The 74th annual report costs £2, including postage, and is available from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berks.

own cities, towns and counties, and reckons that if all this information was collated on computer a unique picture of troop movements in Britain would appear.

John intends to approach the National Army Museum with the idea of creating a focal point for lists such as his. He can be contacted at 52 Grove Street, Edinburgh EH3 8AZ (but asks that if you want a reply, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope).

Maria finds her soldier

MARIA Rogalski has found her Chocolate Soldier.

In November 1989 we told the story of Maria's long search for the British soldier who gave her a bar of chocolate on her twelfth birthday.

Now 60 and resident in Canada since 1950, Maria was a refugee in northern Germany on August 25, 1945, when she learned just enough English to ask an officer's young driver for a bar of chocolate.

He promised to return with the chocolate – and did so, despite the scepticism of little Maria's family and friends.

She never forgot his act of kindness and vowed to find him. And now she has.

The young soldier, former Royal Welch Fusilier Cornelius O'Sullivan, is now 67 years old, and the two were reunited, appropriately, in time to attend a Remembrance Day service near Con's home in Beddau, South Wales.

"Over the years I've told my children and grandchildren about my chocolate soldier until he became our family fairy tale. Now at last I've found him," said Maria.

Con commented: "I suppose she was the enemy in those days, but she was just a little girl and I couldn't see her unhappy."

High profile recognition

FOR ITS support to the Volunteer Reserve Forces in the south-west, Montpellier Public Relations Limited has received official recognition from the Ministry of Defence.

A citation, read out by Brig Bruce Jackman, chief executive of Reserve Forces Western Wessex, at a ceremony in Gloucester TA Centre, paid tribute to the Cheltenham-based consultancy which, in addition to having one third of its workforce in the Reserve Forces, has been very effective in maintaining a high media profile for the TA in the south-west.

TA major Guy Woodcock, who with fellow company director Mark Brazier received the certificate, commands an infantry company.

MOVING?

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This applies to individual subscribers and Army units

05

Scottish garrisons

EDINBURGH-based John Thomson knows a thing or two about regiments garrisoned in Scotland ... right the way back to the 17th century.

He has completed a comprehensive list of British Army regiments, corps, militia and volunteers – based in the barracks of Scotland over the past few hundred years.

He believes a number of others are compiling similar lists for their

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier – A P M J Naughten – To be Hd of BLS and DA Canada, Nov 15.

Colonels – J R Brown – To RAM Coll, Oct 25; A C Farmer – To HQ BCF Cyprus, Nov 15; J G Finlay – To HQ UKLF, Nov 15; M F C Radford – To MS PB17, Nov 18; P Lynch – To 1 (UK) Armd Div, Nov 3.

Lt Cols – R G A Blamire RS – To BMM Sang, Saudi Arabia, Nov 18; A J Griffin RACD – To be Sen Chap HQ EDist, Nov 17; R N Hine RTR – To HQ BFHK, Nov 15; I P G Stevens RTR – To 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, Nov 15; R I Webb-

Bowen LD – To LD, Nov 15; J D M von Merveldt RGJ – To HQ BAOR, Nov 15; L Henderson RAMC – To King Edward VII Hospital, BFFI, Oct 25.

RETIREMENTS

Brigadiers – A J McD Clark, late RA, Nov 17; R S Mountford, late RA, Nov 15.

Colonels – M G H Edwards, late RAPC, Nov 17; W H Leach, late RAMC, Nov 10.

Lt Cols – D A Cherry RAMC, Oct 31; J D McGroarty RAMC, Oct 31.

DIARY

DECEMBER

10-16: Annual London exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society, Lady Butler Galleries, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

1994

MAY

14-15: International Air Show, Middle Wallop.

28-30: Military Vehicle Trust D-Day 50th anniversary commemoration rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Details from Chris Pearce, 2 Locks Road, Locks Heath, Southampton SO3 6NT (tel: 0489 672582).

JUNE

11: Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, Colour trooped by 1 IG.

JULY

16-23: Nijmegen Marches, the Netherlands.

19-30: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (tickets available January 4 onwards from box office on 071-373 8141).

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

MILITARIA

Lord Hanson: Author of biography of the industrialist Lord Hanson seeks assistance of former members of RASC who have recollections of meeting Lord Hanson during Second World War. Write to Nicholas Kochan, 5 Harefield Road, London N8 8QY.

Military bands: Jerome Gatehouse, 67 Hoskins Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 5LA (tel: 0633 243286) is researching the history of military bands and would like to hear from military bandsmen, past and present.

651 Air Operations Squadron/Humber, Vauxhall drivers, Fayid, Egypt: Would any members of 651 Sqn, including ground crew, and particularly those who served at Fayid, Egypt (1950-52), please contact researcher Sara Stanton, PO Box 694, Burtonsville, MD, 20866, USA (tel/fax: 301 890 7213). She also wishes to contact drivers of Humber and Vauxhall staff cars at Fayid and Ismailia, 1950-52.

Peter Waller: Anyone who knows the whereabouts of former soldier Peter Waller, now aged about 56, who was stationed in Berlin-Spandau in 1958-59, is asked to write to BFG, P Info

SEARCHLINE

REUNIONS

17 (Corunna) Bty RA All Ranks reunion: Corunna celebratory weekend, Gütersloh, January 14-15. All past members encouraged to attend. Details from WO2 W M Taylor, 17 (Corunna) Bty, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113 (tel: Gütersloh Mil 333 (010 49 5241 106).

Poachers' Band: 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment Band final reunion takes place on February 18-20 at Celle. Bus laid on to Germany and back. Ex-members and wives welcome. Inquiries to Sgt J Milgate, Band HQ Coy, Trenchard Barracks, BFPO 23.

ACC Benevolence Trust (Association): Annual general meeting takes place on February 25, 1430 hours, at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot. All ex-corps members, retired and serving, welcome. Details from Bruce Dyson on 0252 340893.

Beachley Old Boys Association: Annual reunion weekend, February 26-27. Details from Hon Secretary, Beachley Old Boys Association, Army Apprentices College, Beachley, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7YG (tel: 0291 627212 ext 5331).

Glosters' tercentenary: The Gloucestershire Regiment is celebrating its tercentenary in Gloucestershire during the period March 19-26. Events include a reunion lunch, marches and service of thanksgiving. Details from

RHQ, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Custom House, Gloucester GL1 2HE (tel: 0452 522682).

Crewe Whitbread Combined Services reunion and ball: April 16 at Crewe in aid of Star and Garter Homes. Details from J G Davies, 6 Mavor Court, Flag Lane, Crewe CW1 3BL (tel: 0270 257092).

1 RWF (1942-45): 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers (1942-45) and 50th anniversary of Battle of Kohima reunion dinner, Town Hall, Welshpool, Mid Wales, May 28. Details from R E Jones MSM, 28 Mornington Crescent, Mackworth, Derby DE22 4BD (tel: 0332 32409).

50th Missile Club RA: Sixth annual reunion on May 21 at Peterborough. Details from Mr A J Todd, 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries and Galloway DG1 1TN (tel: 0387 62378 evenings).

2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers: Unveiling of commemorative stone at Asnelles, Normandy, and reunion lunch take place on June 5. Contact Islwyn Edmunds, 22 Nottage Mead, Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan CF36 3SA.

5 Kings/2 T Force Unit OCA: Annual reunion/AGM planned for Stoke on Trent in October 1994. Also trip to Fallingsholt, May 9-16. Details from R Walker, Hon Secretary, 15 Wedgwood Road, Barlaston Park, Stoke on Trent S12 9BB (please enclose sae).

hear from members of this regiment and corps serving in Egypt in the spring and summer of 1950 with a story to tell and would particularly like to trace anyone who knew Gnrs John Golby and Robert Smith or Dvr Frank Hensman. Please contact Helen Stroud, Convergence Productions, 10 The Chancery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY (tel: 071 721 7531).

Julie M Laverty (108 Schofield Street, Oldham OL8 1QJ) wishes to contact 24516537 Cpl Lesley Hilditch with whom she lost touch on going to work in South Africa in 1984. Thought to be serving in Aldershot area.

St Elphin's School, Norwich, old girls: A weekend reunion is planned for May 14-15 at the school to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Elphin's School, Darley Dale. Many past pupils of the boarding school have had connections with the Armed Forces.

CHRISTMAS GIFT PROBLEMS SOLVED

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The 1994 SOLDIER Calendar

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The 1994 Soldier Calendar is now available, and at only £6.80 for 12 full colour military prints is sure to be in demand.

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The **SOLDIER** Calendar
1994

On our uppers

I FELT I must write about the back-page photograph of recruits at the new ATR Glenkor (November 15). Is there a shortage of bootlaces long enough to fit, or have the defence cuts gone too far? — **F S Bennett, Basingstoke, Hants.**

● Mr D Wilson, of Leeds, wrote on the same subject. The design of current boots makes it appear that they are not fully laced; in fact they are. — **Editor**

Reeling them in

THANK YOU for printing my Searchline item trying to trace former RARQMS Eddy Docker.

Not only has Eddy been in touch; he has told me the whereabouts of many of my old mates and we are planning a huge reunion soon at Nuneaton. — **Jim Chambers, Washington, Co Durham.**

Music makers take note . . .

MAY I suggest through your columns that all those with influence try to ensure that military bands of the future try to make themselves different from others.

This could be achieved by playing appropriate music and adopting characteristics associated with their regiment, corps or division.

There is a danger that all

Grave reminder

BRIAN Jewell wrote (Letters, November 15) of the sitting corpse outside Tobruk in 1942 bearing the warning: "Don't let this happen to you".

I did not see this, but on a mountain pass in Italy I did see two graves with crosses, steel helmets and the words: "These men did not do their maintenance". — **Ted Carter (ex-1st Household Cavalry), Wantage, Oxon.**

staff bands will be alike, as happens to some degree in the other Services.

Military band enthusiasts in the UK are fortunate because of the current wide variety of styles which it is hoped will continue to exist.

The Army has flute-playing corps of drums, bugle platoons and pipe bands, plus the full military bands. Often these units combine on parade to unique effect.

County, country and other links give bands the opportunity to play music particularly associated with their unit.

Today some bands seek to establish an individual identity, others not.

Unfortunately each new "broom" (conductor) seems to sweep away the compositions or arrangements of his predecessor and bands generally are reluctant to play more than one regimental march at a concert.

Several interesting recordings of regimental music have been made and it is to be hoped that such music will continue to be heard in the studio, on parade and in concert. — **G V Skinner, Old Windsor, Berks.**

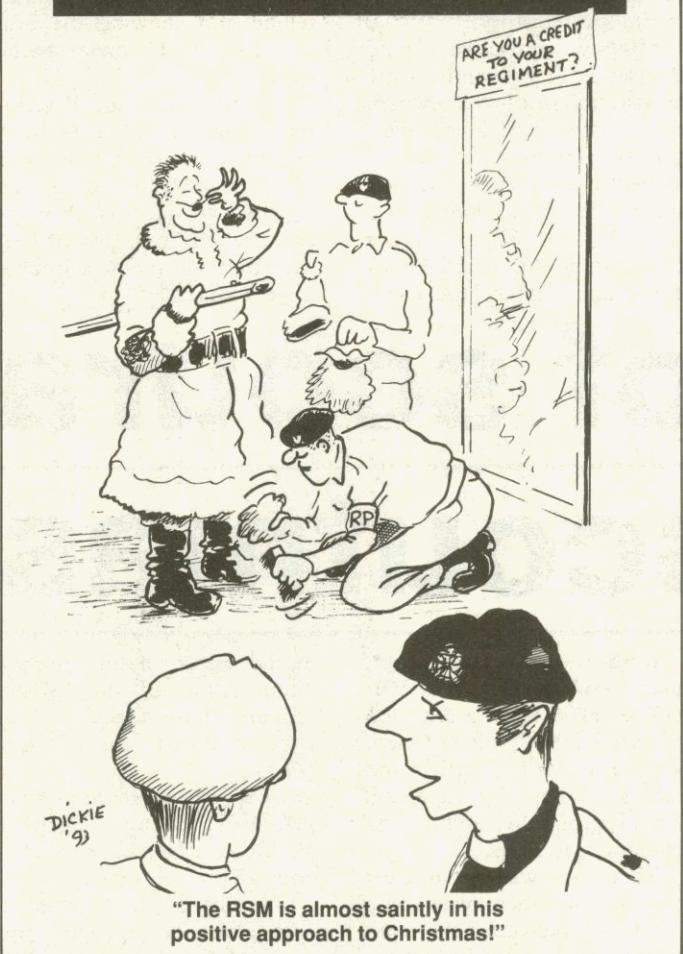
ROCK-ET FROM GIB

YOUR article on the parade of the Gibraltar Regiment and the Royal Artillery (November 15) referred to Maj Kevin Duhig as the only gunner posted on the Rock at that time.

As a gunner attached to the Gibraltar Regiment, I was serv-

ing there too. Furthermore, with effect from November 18, 1993 I am now the only serving gunner on the Rock. — **SSgt S J De'ath, HQ Coy (Thomson's Bty), The Gibraltar Regiment, Lathbury Barracks, BFPO 52.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Don't just fade away

FOR MANY years now **SOLDIER** has carried letters from ex-Suez soldiers, myself among them.

Here we are, 40 years on, still writing and hoping that the Government will recognise the service that so many soldiers, airmen, sailors, Servicewomen and nurses gave in Egypt in the early Fifties, some losing their lives in action in Ismailia and elsewhere.

Unless I have missed it I have seen no explanation from the Government why some form of medal is not issued for Suez.

I have heard it said that the issue of such a medal would upset the Egyptian Government, but I fail to see why, especially after 40 years.

Is there some other reason which there is "no need for us to know"? Obviously the Government hopes the clamour for a medal will die away, together with the ex-Suez troops who are making such noises.

To use a good old expression, there seems to be damn-all chance of the Government acting positively on this matter. I therefore support D J Barry's suggestion (September 6) that a private company be engaged to produce the medal, backed by the Royal British Legion.

To all surviving Canal Zone personnel: keep writing! — **Maj (Retd) J Jeans (ex-4 Coy RASC, Gebel Maryam, Canal North District 1952-53), Cremorne Point, New South Wales.**

Who'll back my story?

WHEN Britain entered the Second World War it was as a result of the German attack on Poland.

In 1945 I was a guard at Stalag VI in Munster, which contained about 2,000 Polish prisoners of war.

Our job was to guard the camp, enforce a 10pm curfew, search for German girls in the camp and to look for black market food.

No one believes me when I tell this story. Can anyone back me up? — **A J Jewell, Morden, Surrey.**

Experts' guide to Great War battlefields

GERMANY's plans to conquer France were laid in the 1890s with the Schlieffen Plan. Within 20 years Europe was embroiled in the "war to end all wars".

Trench warfare and its attendant horrors became the norm as the Allied and German armies faced each other along a line from the Channel to the Swiss border.

Millions died and still today,

75 years after it all ended, the names of the battlefields live on in European history.

Military graveyards with thousands of brilliantly white headstones, neatly maintained, cover vast areas. Old and dangerous munitions still surface in fields, and trench lines are still visible on some battle sites.

To ensure visitors get the proper story of the battlefields, Tonie and Valmai Holt have-

produced *Battlefields of the First World War - A Traveller's Guide* telling and showing the best way to tour 15 major battle sites.

In addition to the description of each battle - the how, when and where of it all - it is full of useful information such as where to start, which maps are needed, the distance of each tour and the time it takes to get round.

The Holts have been devising and leading tours of these battle zones for 20 years and can justifiably claim to be experts on the subject.

Their book is written in a clear and concise style and will greatly help the traveller touring battle sites. - JM

Battlefields of the First World War by Tonie and Valmai Holt. Pavilion, £14.99.

Tale of scouragers and scoutmasters

IT MUST be ten years since this reviewer heard there was a history of the Intelligence Corps in preparation. The intention, it was understood, was for the book to be published by the corps itself, but it is now released with the Brassey's imprint, which will bring it to the attention of a wider readership.

In *Forearmed*, Anthony Clayton begins by outlining how military intelligence had developed from times before the formation of the British Regular Army, when there were senior appointments of what were called "Scoutmasters" whose task it was to control intelligence gatherers, or "scouragers".

The Duke of Marlborough, during the War of Spanish Succession (1702-1713), recruited guides for tactical Intelligence as well as maintaining agents at the French Court.

At the time of the Franco-Prussian War the young Robert Baden-Powell "went to Germany as a tourist to be an uninvited observer at trials of a new machine-gun, though he found it necessary to pretend to be drunk when challenged by a Prussian soldier".

"He visited Tunisia to paint pictures of Bizerta, and the Dalmatian coast as a butterfly collector, sketches of wings representing fortifications."

It was not until the Second Boer War (1899-1902) that the first battlefield Intelligence Department came into existence.

It was soon after the start of that conflict that the War Office called upon a selection of academics, businessmen, journalists, writers, artists and others, chosen for expertise, linguistic or other abilities for operations in France.

An appendix lists more than 700 Field Security Sections and Reserve Detachments covering all theatres of war.

The book ends with a chronological account of counter-insurgency and military security since 1945, including an audacious recov-

ery of documents delivered in error to the Libyan Army barracks in Tripoli at the time of the Suez operation in 1956.

All good James Bond stuff, but in this case it was not a RN commander who put matters to right but an Intelligence Corps sergeant. - BJ

Forearmed: A History of the Intelligence Corps by Anthony Clayton. Brassey's (UK), hardback, £20.

BULL'S EYE VIEW OF 11 ARMD DIV

"THERE were a dozen ways of getting killed. Snipers killed or wounded... with impunity.

"Our infantry officers, their chosen prey, learned to conceal all distinguishing marks, to carry rifles like their men (instead of the usual pistols), not to carry tell-tale maps or field glasses, and to wear pips on their sleeves instead of conspicuously on their shoulders."

All good corps and regimental histories should have their elements of true-life adventure to add spice to the facts and figures. Anthony Clayton tells us of two corps sergeants, H J Saunders and L M Gilbert who, before the Rhine Crossing in March 1945, carried out an important reconnaissance disguised as German soldiers, spending several days in enemy territory gathering operational Intelligence.

It tells the story of the Division's part in three ferocious battles in Normandy codenamed Epsom, Goodwood and Bluecoat, of the "Great Swan" to Amiens, the libera-

tion of Antwerp, the provision of a right flank for Operation Market Garden in the attempt to reach the Airborne Forces at Arnhem, followed by the bleak midwinter in Holland.

By way of variety there was the supporting role for the Americans in the Ardennes. At last came the long slog into Germany across well-defended river barriers and horrendous experiences such as the relief of Belsen concentration camp.

Most Second World War histories refer briefly to that period between the crossing of the Rhine and the cessation of hostilities as if it was an easy chase over the Westphalian plain. This book shows it was nothing of the kind; it was a hard fight all the way with casualties every day.

This is not an official history of the 11th Armoured Division, but essentially an anthology of memories of those who



The art of battle

Two versions of George William Joy's depiction in oils of *The Death of General Gordon* at Khartoum on January 26, 1885 exist in Britain, one in the Leeds City Art Gallery, the other, slightly larger, at Gordon's School, Woking. Both are catalogued - with 940 others - in Peter Harrington's *British Artists and War: The Face of Battle in Paintings and Prints, 1700-1914*. This particular illustration comes from the Anne S K Brown Military Collection at Brown University, Rhode Island, of which the author is the curator.

His important new reference work contains 220 black-and-white illustrations and 16 pages in colour. It weighs in at a hefty 352 pages and is published by Greenhill Books, price £35.

the sharp end is that it has not been given an index or a glossary of abbreviations.

Whether any were actually in the country has never been revealed, but the possibility of their presence, however remote, added reality to the exercise.

Now Ms Schofield, a lecturer and writer on Russian military affairs, has produced the inside story of how the Blue Berets select and train their men.

Fine in itself. But the chances are that Ms Schofield's book has been overtaken by political events in Russia as the forces there have sustained large cuts. It is hard to imagine that an elite force like Spetsnaz would remain untouched.

Reportedly, the Russian army's role today is defensive rather than global, which again could signal big changes.

APOLOGISED to for being described in the Junior Minister's after-dinner speech as of the Royal American Marines, the visiting United States Marine Corps General was urbanity itself.

"Perfectly natural slip of the tongue," he said easily, "and anyhow it's more or less historically accurate. Our Marines were originally formed from deserters from your Marines."

- From *Tell it to the Marines*, edited by Michael McConvile and sponsored by the 1664 Club, a "ragbag" of anecdotes and cartoons by the famous and no-so-famous. Cross Publishing Ltd, Newport, Isle of Wight, hardback, £9.95.

Russian army should not be written off

EXPERTS who have written off the Russian army should think again, says Carey Schofield.

In *The Russian Elite - Inside Spetsnaz and the Airborne Forces* Ms Schofield, who has spent some years researching Russia's ace troops, says they are, despite a diminishing army, an extremely able and powerful world-class force

On one occasion, for the sake of a manoeuvre, it was supposed that the Spetsnaz (special forces) were already in place in the UK and ready to pounce on strategic targets in super-commando style.

However, these omissions should not deter anyone from buying this tribute to the 11th Armoured Division which sustained 10,000 casualties, including 2,000 killed, more than any other armoured division in the British Second Army.

It is an account that has the added benefit of being the work of an author who took part in and subjectively observed the entire campaign. - BJ

The Black Bull: From Normandy to the Baltic with the 11th Armoured Division by Patrick Delaforce, published by Alan Sutton, hardback £14.99. Special forces' edition in paperback available at £10 post free from Patrick Delaforce, 2 Hamilton Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 5DL.

Russians

• From Page 34

Traditionally the Blue Berets are Russia's finest, their skills and fitness reflecting the high level of their training.

Out of 960 hours in each training period, they devote 300 to tactical training, 86 each to PT and weapons, 70 to airborne training and 44 to

drill. Specialists get extra tuition.

Their standard weapons include the AKS-74 rifle, the AKSU-5.45 and PRS automatics, the RPG-7D and 18D, RPG anti-tank weapons and the BG-15 40mm grenade launcher.

One platoon in each brigade is trained to use PTUR anti-tank guided missiles.

All Spetsnaz study a foreign

Conscription not all bull

ASK ANY former National Serviceman what he did during his two-year stint and the chances are he will reply: "Not much, really." He would probably have difficulty recalling any exciting incidents at all.

But Adrian Walker, who served with the Intelligence Corps during the EOKA troubles in Cyprus, has found 23 former "part-timers" who got closely involved in at least one of six colonial wars between 1948 and 1960.

In *Six Campaigns* they relate their memories of Army life and how they coped with the bullets, bombs and brutality after just a few weeks initial training.

As Walker points out, a quarter of a million young men registered for National Service every year for 15 years. The country couldn't do without them at the time.

Among the 23 featured by

the author are journalist Neil Ascherson, who served with 42 Commando, Royal Marines, and MP and former Defence Secretary Tom King, who spent his time with the King's African Rifles.

Both gained commissions and both experienced fighting at the sharp end of terrorist activities - King against the Mau Mau in Kenya in 1952 and Ascherson in the Malayan campaign of 1951-52. Others have equally interesting memories of Cyprus, Aden, Korea and Suez.

Perhaps they prove that National Service wasn't all bull and boredom as many would claim, but opened up a new way of life - and death - for each and every one of them. - JM

Six Campaigns by Adrian Walker. Pen and Sword Books Ltd, £17.95.

Unchanging message

Another war, another age ... but the message is the same: "A Happy Christmas from the Balkans".

This 1917 Christmas sepia greeting from Salonika is reproduced in *Home for Christmas: Cards, Messages and Legends of the Great War* by Peter T Scott. A festive offering from Tom Donovan Publishing, the well illustrated hardback is priced at £12.99.

The card, incidentally, was designed by Lt Col George Denholm Armour, a well-known painter of equestrian portraits. During his service in Salonika he commanded No 42 Remount Squadron and later the Remount Depot. No 8 Survey Company RE printed the card.



Christmas card from the Balkans, 1917 vintage

language relevant to the target country of their brigade, says Ms Schofield.

Seemingly they didn't do too well learning the language of the Afghans, considering the Russian army's lack of success in that war. - JM

The Russian Elite - Inside Spetsnaz and the Airborne Forces by Carey Schofield. Greenhill Books, hardback, £16.95.

Good shot at a basic rifle manual

AS AN expert in the field, Pete Bloom is an ideal person to write on rifle marksmanship.

He has fired Service rifle for the Royal Marines in competition many times and has shot for the Great Britain team.

He has also spent many years coaching teams, the last four as the RM Corps Master Weapons Coach.

Practical Rifle Marksmanship, he says, is "not intended as a beginners' book of shooting" but is "all about basic marksmanship". Generally he achieves his aims and the book serves as a useful reminder to all rifle shots when the need is to get back to basics.

While the experienced shooter will find most of the facts of value, a raw novice who wishes to understand rather than slavishly follow the written word will have to work hard to gain real benefit.

There are some anomalies, generally by omission. Grouping should have more meat in it, for instance, and he makes no mention of the statistical requirement to fire at least 20 rounds for a group to be meaningful, preferring to stick with the manual at between four and ten rounds.

One is left with the feeling that Mr Bloom has more to say but was in too much of a hurry, some subjects being covered in depth to expert level, so quiet in its operations as to be practically unheard of outside military maritime circles.

All in all a very useful book, but of more value as an aide-memoire to the experienced shot who may wish to become involved in coaching. - JBW

Practical Rifle Marksmanship by Pete Bloom is published by P J Bloom (Publishers) and is available only from him at Kenton Hill Cottage, Kenton, Exeter EX6 8JD at £8.95 inc p and p.

Hero with price on his head



The Queen with Maj Kevin Callaghan at the RAOC's final parade

TO JOIN the Army with the aim of driving big trucks is not uncommon but, having achieved this ambition, to switch to the dangers of being an ammunition technician because of better chances of advancement is not every soldier's choice.

However, it was that of Kevin Callaghan and it was a decision that resulted in his becoming Britain's most decorated peacetime soldier, with medals that have included the George Medal and the Queen's Gallantry Medal - a unique double.

Three demanding tours in Northern Ireland, and one in the Falklands with the brief to "Go South and see what you can do", is surely enough for any explosives disposal operator and it provides more than enough material for a fascinating book.

Kevin Callaghan has indisputably earned his decorations but, in the best traditions of the courageous, he is still a modest man: "Whenever people say I am brave, I always remind them that it is the troops on the

ground, who patrol, who are brave.

"There is no way I could do their job ... when the bomb disposal operator - or 'Felix' - goes out on a job, at least he can see more or less what he is up against ..."

We are taken through numerous incidents in Northern Ireland: car bombs, "dock-yard confetti"-filled milk churns, nitrobenzene land mines packed into culverts, being set up as an IRA target by a shopkeeper, and knowing

that the men on either side of you in the pub loo are about to take you out.

These incidents all go to make up the day-to-day life of an Ammunition Technical Officer in Ulster. By comparison, disposing of piles of Argentine nasty things in the Falklands seems like a period of R and R.

The author tells us that he always tried to telephone his wife, Val, before going on a job, reassuring her with a white lie, but the incident with which

he ends the book needed a bigger lie and a "bloody black one" at that.

This was just hours before he was due to leave Northern Ireland for home and the IRA had targeted him with a good "come-on", a booby-trapped hijacked tanker which called for all his skill and courage to neutralise.

To say that the IRA did not like him would be an understatement and on a previous tour a bounty of £10,000 had been put on his head - he was costing the IRA a lot of money and fruitless effort!

This is a good and easy-to-read personal account of operations which most of us will live through only in fantasy. Unfortunately one chapter seems to be out of chronological order and the book could have done with more careful proof-reading - Kevin Callaghan's story deserves a better presentation. - BJ

A Price on My Head by Kevin Callaghan with Terry Gorry. Owl Books, 27 Queensway, Wigan, paperback, £8.95.

History of the Royal Norfolk Regiment 1951-69 by Maj F A Godfrey. Fourth volume of the quartet which started the story in 1685 and ends with the 4th Territorial Battalion's demise. Published on December 9 by The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association, price £19.95, and obtainable from the Regimental Secretary, Britannia Barracks, Norwich NR1 4HJ.

From Horses to Chieftains by Richard Napier. Well-written autobiography of an "original Desert Rat" of the 8th Hussars who joined the Army at the age of 14 and finally left in 1959 after 28 years' service. Woodfield, hardback, £12.95 or direct from publisher at Woodfield House, Arundel Road, Fontwell, West Sussex BN18 0SD (add £1.05 p and p).

If You Can't Take a Joke by David E Barrett. Former REME sergeant's special brand of dry humour and colour cartoons so crammed with detail you can go back time and again and still find something new to amuse. All in a slim, stocking-filler of a paperback. Owl Press (in association with d e b Illustrations), PO Box 315, Downton, Salisbury, Wilts SP5 3YE, £3.99.

Wilfred Owen: Poet and Soldier by Helen McPhail. Short paperback biography published by Gliddon Books with the Wilfred Owen Association. Available at £7.95 from Gliddon Books, The Reading Room, 79 The Street, Brooke, Norwich NR15 1JT.

With Wellington in the Pyrenees by Maj Gen F C Beatson. Reprint of 1914 account of the battle of July-August 1913. Tom Donovan Publishing Ltd, hardback, £19.95.

The Boer War by Eversley Belfield. Reissue of the Second World War gunner's 1975 study in the *Concise Campaigns* series. "The job of an army is to keep the peace," says the jacket blurb, "but if it succeeds in this aim for too long a period, it becomes an outdated and ineffective machine." Leo Cooper, hardback, £12.95.

A Plume of Dust by John Prendergast. Compelling account of retired brigadier's overland journeys to India with his wife, via Europe, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pentland Press, hardback, £14.95.

The Judgment of History with an introductory essay by Dr Ian F W Beckett. Tells the story of the battle of First World War memoirs between Lord French and Gen Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien. Tom Donovan Publishing, £24.95 (hardback), £12.95 (paperback).

SILENT, UNSUNG SOLDIER-SAILORS

THE TITLE of Reg Cooley's history of the Army's civilian navy is most apt.

For he admits in his introduction of *The Unknown Fleet* that the role of these tiny vessels was "dull, steady and reliable ..." adding that they showed "loyal service to the Army".

Hardly the most exciting start, but this is a history of a silent and unsung service, so quiet in its operations as to be practically unheard of outside military maritime circles.

It all began some hundreds of years ago and Mr Cooley, who joined the Army's navy as a boy of 14 and retired as a lieutenant colonel, starts at the beginning when small vessels supplied the Army with ammunition and stores.

In time, and after several name changes, the RASC took control and operated more than 1,000 vessels. When the

RASC became the RCT they carried on, but in a much reduced way.

Government cuts followed and in the late Eighties the slimmed-down RCT civilian fleet was reduced to 13 range-safety craft, two command and control launches, a 52ft launch called *Anglesey*, two harbour launches and a training vessel called *Yarmouth Navigator*. All these passed to naval control.

To cap it all the pride of the military fleet, the 1,400-ton ammunition carrier *HMAS St George*, was handed to the Royal Maritime Auxiliary Service. It was a bitter blow for the RCT's 18 Squadron and their civilian sailors.

Obviously, it is ruthlessly condensed - one page on the South African wars - but he manages to give us an easily-comprehended outline of the British Army's development and campaigns, from the Standing Army of Charles II to the units that fought in the Falklands and the Gulf War.

Their demise also marked the end of the RCT Fleet's links with Gosport. - JM

The Unknown Fleet by Reg Cooley. Alan Sutton Publishing, £14.99.

Mini-encyclopaedia of the British Army

AT FIRST glance *The Guinness History of the British Army* might appear to be yet another picture book on the subject.

This first impression would be a mistake. True, there are pictures galore (too many to count, since not listed), but these are merely complementary to a highly-informative and clearly-written text.

Sir John Fortescue spread himself over 13 fat volumes for his classic history; Dr John Pimlott, Deputy Head of War Studies at Sandhurst, covers the same ground, and more, in a single volume of 224 pages.

A most welcome appendix deploys all the present regiments and corps resulting from Options for Change, with the bonus of potted histories of their antecedents. A mini-encyclopaedia, at no more than the price of an ephemeral modern novel, this is remarkably good value for money. - JMB

The Guinness History of the British Army by John Pimlott. Guinness Publishing Ltd, hardback, £12.95 (paperback).

Cardwell reforms, mechanisation, Options for Change, and profiles of notable generals, from Marlborough to Sir Peter de la Billiere.

Interspersed are what the blurb describes as "quirkier" regimental traditions and customs. Why do the "Woofers" fly a scarlet coatee from their flagstaff on April 6 every year? What is the origin of the RTR's black beret? Why "Red Devils" for the Paras?

A most welcome appendix deploys all the present regiments and corps resulting from Options for Change, with the bonus of potted histories of their antecedents. A mini-encyclopaedia, at no more than the price of an ephemeral modern novel, this is remarkably good value for money. - JMB

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FIZZER FROM THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT

Royal Tournament 1993

Producer: Maj Michael Parker
Conductors: Lt Col J M Ware,
Capt T S Davis

THE 1993 Tournament was a fizzer from what I saw on TV and the evidence of this disc.

It was the turn of the Royal Marines' bands, five of them plus trumpeter and corps of drums, with the Royal Artillery as house band.

The former performed on the arena and the gunners accompanied the displays by Window Ladder and Cutlass, Mountain Rescue, Army Dogs, Royal Signals Motor Cycles, RN Field Guns, Mast Manning with that great horn-pipe scene, and the Musical Drive by the King's Troop RHA.

The guest band was that of the Russian Navy, who did

their own very fine display before accompanying the traditional Russian dances.

No composers are mentioned for any of the music, but I wouldn't mind betting Albert Elms had a hand in it. An impressive opening scene from *The Atlantic Suite* is dedicated for those in peril on the sea, and the finale is *The Battle of Trafalgar*, from the arrival of the fleet to the death of Nelson.

The 1993 recordings were in the studio, so clarity is excellent and you don't have to pay for long minutes of applause.

In particular the Russian tenor and bass folk singers are excellent, and all the music comes across well and, of course, properly balanced.

● From Bandleader and dealers, CD or double cassettes £12 inc.

A final fanfare from the 16/5 L

Into History

Band of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers
Conductor: Bandmaster G O Jones

RECORDED before amalgamation with the 17th/21st Lancers, the 16th/5th have now, sadly, passed into history. At a most emotional ceremony in July the Queen presented a Guidon to the new regiment, The Queen's Royal Lancers.

At the climactic moment came the command "The Regiments Will . . ." and you could hear gulps from 3,000 throats before the dreaded word "AMALGAMATE". And as they marched towards each other, no shame in old sodgers' tears.

So here is a memento of yet another fine regiment, and its

band, passing into history with a programme which includes all the slow and quick marches of the 16th and the 5th Lancers, and as a bonus, the new marches of the Queen's Royal Lancers, which I was privileged to write for them.

Mr Jones contributes a fanfare *Commander In Chief*, an overture *Sutherlands*, a march *Forward of the Line*, which commemorates their role in the Gulf, and another fanfare *Scarlet Lancers*.

The Battle of Aliwal, by Cy Payne, celebrates the regiment's greatest battle honour, and his march *The Allies*, Parry's *Jerusalem*, and *I Vow to Thee My Country* need no further justification for inclusion than their words and titles.

And to give the band its head

for the last time they play the overture to Handel's *Royal Fireworks Music*, some of the *Festival Music* of Gordon Jacob, and a movement from *Concerto for Two Trumpets* by Vivaldi.

And after the seven regimental marches the finale is a *Fantasia Prelude* on the tune *Crimond*.

Their new colleagues, the 17th, entered the valley of the shadow of death; may green pastures lie ahead for the Queen's Royal Lancers.

● From Bandleader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR, CD£12; cassette £7.60.

● A video of the Amalgamation Parade is available from HHQ, QRL, Grantham, Lincs NG31 7TJ, price £15.

The Owl Town Pipe and Drum Band

Band of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment
Conductor: Bandmaster V F Eckerman

UNLESS my German is rustier than I had thought, the Owl Town Band is German, 16 strong, and lookalike highlanders, kilts an' all.

Evidently the two have played together often, even touring Jersey, where this programme was put together.

Mr Eckerman and Capt Kevin Lamb have arranged much of the music for pipes with the military band, and this includes *Cullen Bay*, *Skye Boat Song* with *Highland Cradle Song*, *Amazing Grace*, *Scotland the Brave*, and of course that now well-known *Highland Cathedral*, actually written by a German.

There are three pipe and drum sets of marches, reels, jigs and strathspeys, and an attractive medley of tunes for folk-flute and guitar.

The tunes here are enticing – *Ass in the Graveyard*, *Hen and the Turkey*, *McArthur Road*, and *Steam Packet*; the flute with band later plays the famous *Cavatina* from the film *The Deer Hunter*.

On band alone we have a march the Russian composer Prokofiev wrote for the Olympic Games, *Spartakiade*, and finally all together they give us *The Owl Town March*.

The disc was recorded at Hildesheim University, and well worth your money if piping, fluting and banding are to your taste.

● From Music Masters, End House, Gurnells Road, Seer Green, Bucks HP9 2XJ, CD £12.

JAZZY STUFF FROM THE POACHERS

The Poachers Under Cover

Band of the 2nd Bn, The Royal Anglian Regiment
Conductor: Bandmaster C Shearer

TRUE TO Army custom through the ages the Royal Anglian poached its nickname from the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, a county probably unjustly famed in song for its light-fingered, fleet-of-foot pheasant phloggers.

In a remarkably uninformative sleeve, apart from Mr Shearer's extended CV, I have to guess about most of the music, which is unfamiliar to this old sodger. It is mostly, I

guess, from films and TV shows I wot not of.

Still, that is what bands have always done – kept up with the times. In my day we fought to be first with *Bitter Sweet* or the latest Ivor Novello.

The programme was recorded professionally by a German studio in Hannover (well it has two Ns on the sleeve), and the band is in good form in predominantly jazzy music.

Police Academy march is film music, I'm almost certain, but *Beauty and the Beast*, *Michael!*, *Quincy Jones Sounds*, and *Miami Sound Machine* I must leave to you.

I am, though, quite familiar with *The Flight of the Bumble Bee* on a not very buzzy clarinet, and what I take to be Ray Farr's updated version of Bach's *Toccata in D minor*, the latter with a jokey false start of the original on organ before jazz invades the organ loft.

A couple of standard pops and *The Lincolnshire Poacher* march round off a disc well worth the making.

● From Bandmaster, 2 R Anglian, BFPO 23, price for CD DM20 or £8.50; for cassette DM15 or £6.50. Add £1.50 for p and p in UK.

● Rodney Bashford's reviews of *Nulli Secundus* by the Band of the Coldstream Guards and the video of *The Farewell Concert* by the Drums, Pipes and Regimental Band of The Gordon Highlanders will appear in the next issue

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The pictures below, from our Frank Finch cartoon archives, differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 577, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by December 31. Do not include anything else in

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

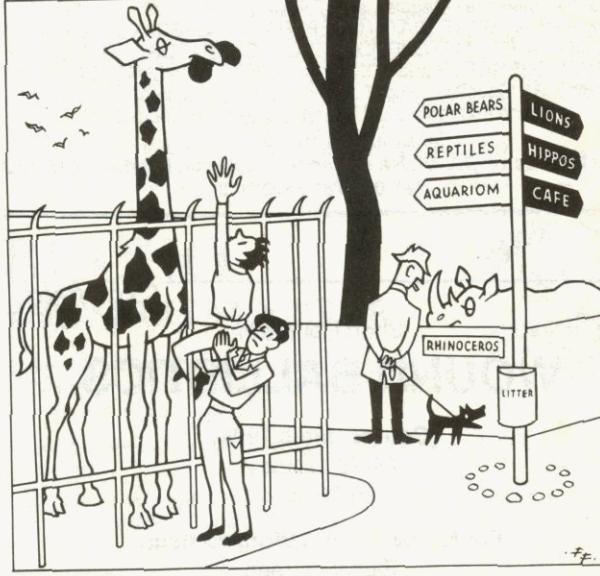
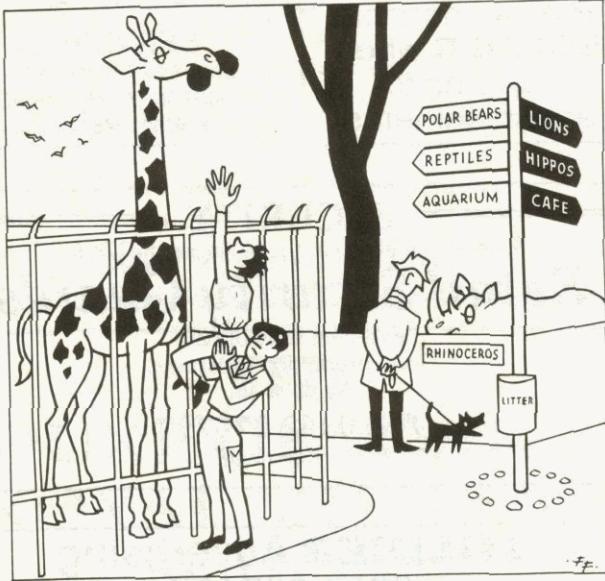
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Congratulations to Mr F J Whitehouse, of Quinton, Birmingham, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr C Sharp, of Breaston, Derbyshire, and Mr M Protheroe, of High Wycombe.



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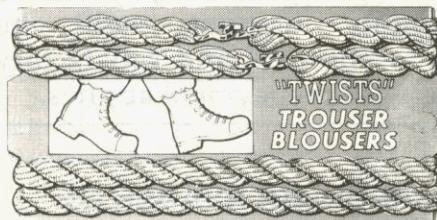


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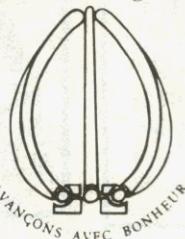
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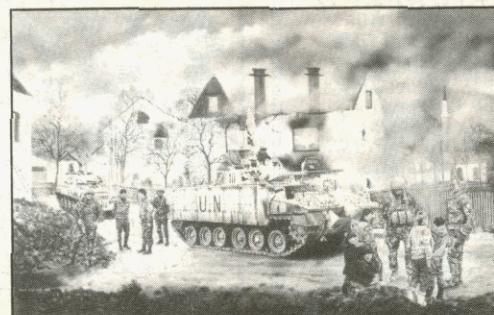
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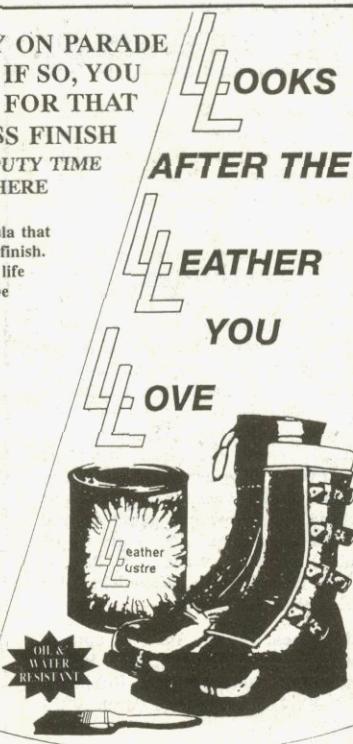
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D4/TC

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

NOVEMBER 13, 1993

First prize (21 goals £2,000):

Cpl R S Henry, 7 R Irish, BFPO 801.

Three-way tie for second prize (20 goals, £633.33 each):

Capt N J W Bailey, HQ ARRC, BFPO 39; Cpl G A Brown, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Sgt G Walker, 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Signal Regt, BFPO 15.

Nine-way tie for 5th prize (19 goals, £66.67 each):

Sgt P J Crysell, SEME, Bordon; Maj M C Glyeat, 56 Signal Sqn (V), Eastbourne; LCpl G G Hill, RMCS, Shivenham; Cpl K Hunt, 1 LI, Colchester; WO2 B A Johnson, 1 Kings, Hounslow; WO2 A D Maine, School of Infantry, Warminster; SSgt G

Pew, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; LCpl M A Thomas, 22 Regt RA, Kirton in Lindsey; Sgt M Wilkinson, QDG, BFPO 16.

NOVEMBER 20, 1993

Two-way tie for first prize (16 goals, £1,500 each): WO2 R E Ramage, ASMT, Lecofield; WO2 L J C Scott, HQ Dhekelia Garrison, BFPO 58.

Six-way tie for third prize (15 goals, £250 each): Pte L D Coutts, 2 LI, BFPO 16; Cpl P George, 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Signal Regt, BFPO 15; Pte B C Goldie, 1 KOSB, Preston; Cpl S Reilly, ITB, Catterick; WO2 D A Riley, British High Commission, Lagos; Maj S P Ward, 3 RSME Regt, Blackwater.

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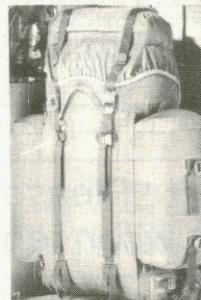
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CAPACITY: 125 litres
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EXTRAS: Side pouches £24.99 pr
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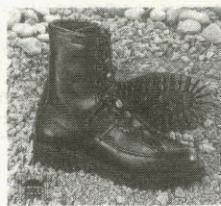
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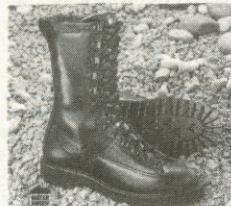
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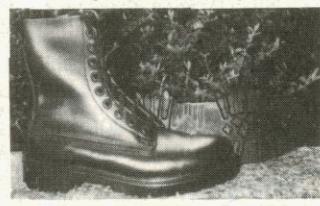
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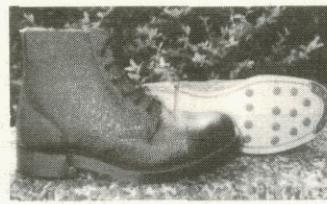
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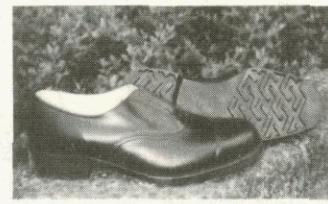
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3 Para take relay

SGT ROD Finch anchored the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment to victory in the Army relay championships at Rushmoor Arena on November 13 with the fastest individual time of the day.

LBdr B Stoddart of 4 Regt RA led the first-leg pack home, closely followed by Sgt Bill Bailey (fastest veteran of the day) of 2 Sig Regt and LCpl Gary Wadsworth running for a composite team.

Cpl Stuart Richards, 3 Para's lead-off runner crossed the line in eighth place, 43 seconds down on the leader. Second runner LCpl John Harrison improved to fifth and Sgt Pete Cawse made up two more places to put England international Rod Finch in third place, just over a minute behind 2 Sig Regt's Cpl P Castle who led from 28 Engr Regt's A team.

Finch, AGC (SPS) attached to 3 Para, stormed round the one-lap course in 16min 28sec, the best of the day by 27 seconds, giving 3 Para a comfortable winning margin. York-based 2 Sig Regt were second and 28 Engr Regt third.

In the Minor Units competition, the 5 Airborne Brigade Logistic Battalion A team (Pte



Poynter, LCpl Burke, LCpl Harwood, Maj Herring) beat HQ 42 (NW) Bde by three seconds in a desperately close finish, with 14 Sup Regt RLC third.

The veterans' race was won by 28 Engr Regt ahead of 3 RSME RE and 1 A and SH.

Fastest individual in the women's race, by some distance, was international track star Cpl Kelly Holmes (CMETS Beaconfield). Although she began the fourth leg nearly five minutes behind

Women's Services Northern Ireland, Holmes narrowed that huge deficit to just over a minute on the finishing line.

Nevertheless, CMETS (SSgt Langhorn, Capt Hunt and Holmes) took the team prize because the WSNI team (Cpl McCall, LCpl Austin, Cpl Bradbury) was a composite effort.

Worthy Down Station and Aldershot Garrison were second and third.

Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow A and B teams were

Paul's power tells

LCPL Paul Todd of 9 Signal Regiment became the Army's first winner of the Cyprus All Island Individual squash championships when he defeated the aggressive Cpl Brian Harris of the RAF.

Todd's control and use of the angles proved decisive in a fast and furious final which he won 3-2. But the strength in depth of the airmen looks ominous for Army hopes in the island's Inter-Services competition.

The plate competition was dominated by Army players and won by Rgr Garry Brown (1 R Irish) who completely outplayed SSgt Mark Potts (259 Sig Sqn) in the final.

Todd is pictured at the prize-giving with Col Ivar Hellberg.

first and second in the junior race, with Princess Marina College, Arborfield third.

Runners had to contend with unpleasantly wet, windy and cold weather conditions.

AB loggies' US triumph

A FIVE-MAN team from 82 AB GS Sqn RLC, part of 5 Airborne Brigade Logistic Battalion, finished fourth among more than 50 military teams entered in the 18th US Marine Corps' marathon in Washington at the end of October.

The USMC marathon attracts more than 13,000 athletes, making it one of the biggest in America.

Running for the 5 AB loggies were Maj Robert Herring, SSgt Ray Keeney, LCpl Gavin Felton, LCpl Paul Harwood and LCpl David Smith.

Ahead of them in the military team competition were the US National Guard, the Royal Navy/Royal Marines and the US Marine Corps.

Herring and Harwood were members of the 5 AB Log Bn team which won the Minor Units trophy at the Army relay championships at Rushmoor. Gavin Felton was in the B team which finished 12th.

CANNONBALL RUN-IN

THE HISTORIC rugby rivalry that exists between the Royal Artillery and the Royal Engineers - formal competition between the corps dates back to the last century - has a chance to exercise itself in the Army's annual Inter-Corps merit table matches.

And the gunners have the edge in the 1993 competition, closely pursued by REME who would benefit enormously if the sappers beat the Royal Artillery at Chatham on December 1.

At stake in the RA-RE confrontation is a cannonball, the Jones-Drake Trophy.

In the 1993 competition, due to be finalised by Christmas, the gunners and REME have lost one match apiece, although the former enjoy a crucial points advantage courtesy of their 41-16 thumping of REME.

The gunners' only defeat so far has been at the hands of the Royal Signals, by 22 points to 24. The Royal Artillery were runners-up last year to the Royal Signals. Winners of the ARU's inaugural merit table in 1991 were, to khaki embarrassment, the Royal Marines.

In November, the Marines lost 0-27 to the Royal Engi-

neers, the Infantry beat R Signals 10-8, REME scraped past RLC 9-8, the Marines beat the Infantry 37-7 and the Artillery crushed the RLC 35-13.

In Division 2, AG Corps beat the APTC 55-0 and lost to Army Medical Services 13-36.

Lt Tim Rodber, Green Howards, was on the flank for England in their superb 15-9 victory over the All Blacks at Twickenham on November 27.

• The Regular Army's annual rugby fixture against the Territorial Army is to be hosted by South Wales Police at Bridgend on December 15. Kick-off is at 1900 hours.

Whittle shines as BAOR battle

**BAOR 2,
Bundeswehr 3**

IT IS more than 20 years since BAOR took on the Bundeswehr at football, so there was considerable anticipation when the sides met under floodlights at the Grenzland Stadium in Mönchengladbach.

The German Combined Services team included two senior internationals, an Under-21 cap and eight players currently performing in the Bundesliga. High calibre opposition indeed.

BAOR's strongest side, led for the first time by LCpl Shannon in the absence of the injured Cpl Lind, applied the early pressure and took the lead in the 36th minute through a volley by Pte Ginge Holt.

That spurred the Bundeswehr to greater urgency and they equalised three minutes later when Karsten Janker of FC Köln stabbed the ball over the line. A defensive mistake soon afterwards by BAOR allowed FC Gevelsberg's



BAOR defender Pte Justin Whittle (AGC (SPS)) meets the Bundeswehr's Gen Hoster in a line-up which includes Sgt Perkins (RLC) and Pte Yeo (1 Cheshire)

Stefan Trinekens to put the Germans ahead, and they scored a third just after the interval when Christian Brauckmanns of Kaiserslautern glanced in a header.

BAOR put on Cpl Service, Sgt Perkins, Pte Holt and Cpl Tam Blakey, raised the tempo, and were rewarded when Cpl Barny McHugh smashed the ball into the roof of the net.

Pte Justin Whittle was exceptional in the BAOR

defence, a performance that earned him a week-long trial with Borussia Mönchengladbach, whose coaching staff were interested spectators.

The referee issued six yellow cards, although the game was very physical and competitive rather than dirty.

The BAOR-based players certainly benefited from the experience and were delighted that the Bundeswehr has agreed to a return match.

ENGINEERS CLINCH IT

**Royal Engineers 2,
Infantry 1**

DEFENSIVE lapses presented the Royal Engineers with two goals minutes either side of half time through Cpl Tony Luscombe and Cpl Ronnie Barker.

Cpl Eric Tomlinson (Kings) scored on the hour and the Infantry were unlucky not to equalise towards the end of a hard-fought match.

Bessey and Burford in early wins

ARMY boxing captain LCpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) and heavyweight Cpl Steve Burford (REME) both made good use of opportunities in early-season international matches.

Bessey, whose ABA victory last May confirmed him as Britain's best amateur welterweight, notched up a points win for England against Norway in Oslo, while Burford, last season's losing ABA heavyweight finalist, beat Paul Douglas in Dublin on the England-Ireland bill.

Hameln sappers make it four

DEFENDING champions 28 Engineer Regiment from Hameln won the BAOR six-a-side football competition for the fourth consecutive year at Bracht.

The sappers beat 7 Bn REME and 5 Regt RA and drew with 1 Cheshire to qualify

for the second round where an extra-time goal against the newly-formed Queen's Royal Hussars put them into the semi-finals against the Cheshires.

Trailing 1-2 in extra time, 28 Regt seemed to be on their way out of the competition when

the Cheshire 'keeper gave away a penalty. They equalised and won the penalty shoot-out before going on to beat the Royal Dragoon Guards 1-0 in the final.

SAPPER GAMES

● 28 Engr Regt won the football, cross country, volleyball, tug of war, hockey and orienteering competitions at the 1993 RE Games staged at Hameln.

Winners of the squash were 35 Engr Regt, 21 Engr Regt won the rugby and badminton and 32 Engr Regt the basketball. ARRC Power Troop (Corps Lights) took the shooting honours.

SUE BOWLS TO VICTORY

POSTIE SSgt Sue Horton (RLC) became the first woman to win the Serviceguard Invitation singles bowling tournament when she beat off tough competition from 28 entries from BAOR, RAF Rheindahlen, RAF Bruggen and the

United Kingdom. She is based at JHQ BAOR.

Sue's victory denied Sgt Denis Powell (RAF) a hat-trick of consecutive wins in the competition, which is sponsored by Sun Alliance in conjunction with Naafi financial services.

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A gunner from 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery stands by on Salisbury Plain as the British Army's new AS90 self-propelled gun is fired at its first full-scale live firing demonstration. The Tidworth-based unit, in its 200th anniversary year, has become the first regiment to be equipped with the 155mm gun. Story and more pictures in Pages 14-15

Picture: Mike Perring



SOLDIER