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INSIDE:  
Interview  
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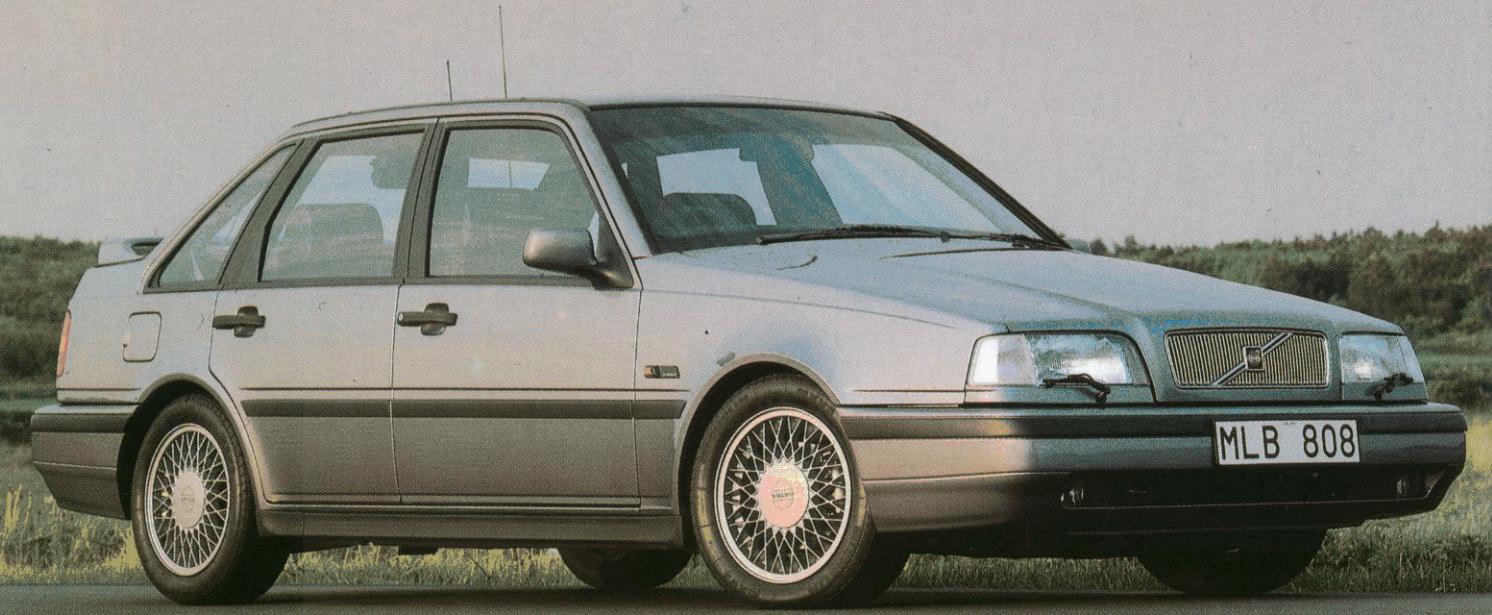
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**January 24, 1994**  
**Vol 50/2**

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# Light at the end of the tunnel – CGS

THE ARMY is going through a "dark tunnel" – but while there are considerable challenges still to face, overall morale is remarkably good and there are positive signs for the future, the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Inge, said in an interview with **SOLDIER**.

Questioned about the effect on morale of amalgamations and turbulence, Gen Inge said: "The Army is going through



Gen Inge

what I call a dark tunnel at the moment.

"However, recognition of the needs of the Army was made clear by the Secretary of State following the [November] Budget and, I think, was well received by the Army.

"An extra 3,000 men, the decision on Challenger 2 and the support helicopter were all positive enhancements."

Gen Inge added: "I believe we will get through this diffi-

cult period and the Army will settle down again and will continue to give rewarding careers with a major role to play."

In a wide-ranging interview Gen Inge covered the shape, size and roles of the Army and reserves, their training, deployment, equipment, the regimental system, ceremonial duties and bands.

He also paid particular tribute on several occasions to the quality of the Army's junior leadership.

● For full interview, turn to Pages 14-17

## Queen's Medal winner to join Paras



Picture: Mike Perring

A dazzling display of shiny toe-caps as the Grand Duke of Luxembourg (with dark diagonal sash) reviews the 113th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Among the 626 cadets on parade were 13 from overseas and 178 who were being commissioned. Officer Cadet Liam Cradden, who is to join The Parachute Regiment, received the Queen's Medal from the duke as the cadet achieving best overall results in military and practical tests, while the Sword of Honour for best recruit went to Junior Officer Gavin Baxter who will serve with The Royal Highland Fusiliers

## Confidential monitoring process to start soon

# Ethnic origins form on its way

SERVICEMEN and women are being encouraged to complete and return as soon as possible a questionnaire on ethnic origins. Royal Air Force personnel were receiving their forms first, followed by the Army and Royal Navy in the New Year.

Questionnaires to Army personnel will be accompanied by a letter from the Adjutant Gen-

eral, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, and a leaflet answering the questions most frequently asked about ethnic monitoring.

In order to produce useful statistics, it is important that there is a high response rate.

In May 1992, the then Minister for the Armed Forces, Archie Hamilton, announced that the decision had been taken to extend to serving personnel the current ethnic monitoring of applicants to the Armed Forces.

Ethnic monitoring of serving personnel began with the RAF in December and will take in all members of the regular

● Turn to Page 5

FRONT COVER: Main picture: WO2 Tinny Dorling from 10 Airborne Workshop has his French parachute wings pinned to his uniform by a member of 2ème Régiment Étranger Parachutiste (French Foreign Legion) during the final Exercise Winged Crusader parade at Camp Raffelli in Corsica. Story and more pictures in Pages 18-19. (Picture: Chris Fletcher.)

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# RGBW's new quick march is home grown

A QUICK march specially written by WO1 (Bandmaster) Gary Clegg, bandmaster of 1 Glosters, has been chosen for the new regiment to be created

out of The Gloucestershire Regiment and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

The selection board, comprising colonels, commanding

officers, 2iCs, adjutants and RSMs from both regiments, listened to a shortlist of quick and slow marches performed by the combined bands.

Handel's slow march, *Scipio*, was also chosen for the new regiment, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment (RGBW).

## New knight to take over at Kiseljak

LT GEN Sir Michael Rose, Commander UK Field Army, is to replace Lt Gen Francis Briquemont of Belgium as commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Gen Rose, whose appointment was announced in New York on January 5 following Gen Briquemont's sudden resignation, is expected at UNPROFOR headquarters in Kiseljak by the end of January.



Lt Gen Rose

He is the first British officer to serve in the post.

Knighted in the New Year Honours, Gen Rose commanded 22nd Special Air Service Regiment from 1979 to 1982 during which time he saw active service in the Falklands War. He later commanded 39 Infantry Brigade in Northern Ireland.

## Highlanders agree name

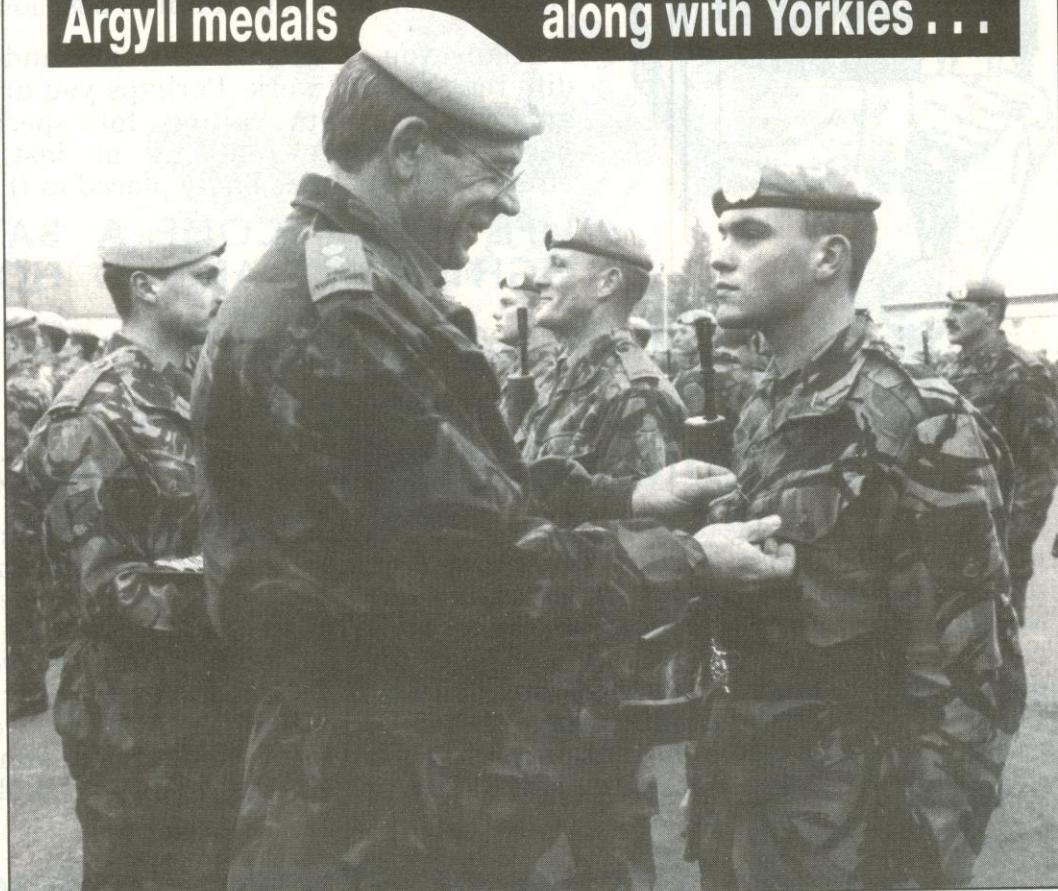
THE NAME for the regiment to be formed by the amalgamation of The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) and The Gordon Highlanders will be The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons) and the contraction 1 HLDRS.

Core issues have been decided, such as the Queen's Own Highlanders' cap badge and glengarry being adopted along with the Gordon tartan as the main working tartan, but details of the accoutrements are still under discussion

TWO off-duty soldiers, both members of The Parachute Regiment, died while climbing in the Glencoe area of the Scottish Highlands.

It is thought that LCpl Paul Callaghan and Pte David Reed – both trained in winter warfare and mountaineering –

## Argyll medals along with Yorkies ...



Lt Col Alastair Duncan presents a UN Bosnia medal to Pte Thomson of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during a special parade at Belfast Barracks in Osnabrück. About 500 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire group received their medals following a six-month tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It was very much a family occasion and a fitting tribute to the magnificent effort put in by the "Yorkies" in support of UN humanitarian aid.

## Soldier murdered

GDSM Daniel Martin Blinco (22) of the 1st Battalion, The Grenadier Guards was murdered by a sniper in south Armagh on December 30.

The seventh Army sniper victim in the past 18 months, he was hit by a single high velocity round as his foot patrol came under fire.

The 1st Battalion is currently on a six-month roulement tour in the area.

## Ethnic survey

### ● From Page 3

Armed Forces, excluding the Brigade of Gurkhas.

The survey is being undertaken by the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA), which, over the next few months will dispatch questionnaires to all Service personnel. The completed questionnaires are to be returned to DASA, which will use the information to pro-

duce statistics on the ethnic composition of the Armed Forces, for example, by rank and Service.

These statistics will be used by the Services to monitor that their policy of equal opportunities for all racial groups is working.

Ethnic origin information will be treated as confidential and will not be entered on personal files. To ensure confidentiality, a code of practice has been drawn up which restricts access to ethnic origin information to staff involved in the survey and the production of statistical analyses.

A copy of the code of practice and further information about the survey are contained in DCI JS 100/93 which was published on December 3.

## Para tragedy on mountain

were swept off the mountain-side by an avalanche.

Maj Simon Barry, Regimental Adjutant at RHQ, The Parachute Regiment, Aldershot, said: "They will be sadly missed by their comrades in the regiment and 5 Airborne Brigade."



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## Christine breaks into a man's world

SGT Christine Becket pushed aside 92 years of tradition when she joined the Military Provost Staff of the Adjutant General's Corps.

Until now Military Provost Staff have always been recruited exclusively from male soldiers seeking transfers from other corps and regiments.

Now Sgt Becket, who joined the WRAC in 1980 and spent the first nine years of her career in the postal and courier squadrons of the Royal Engineers, has broken the pattern.

Recent changes in MoD policy have made it possible for a proportion of AGC(MPS) recruits to be female transferees – and she is the first.

A change of trade to administrative assistant resulted in a posting to the Military Correc-



Exercise Arabian Dragon literally reaches its peak as members of C Coy, 1 KOSB pose for the camera on top of Jebel Rum

tive Training Centre (MCTC) in Colchester, where she worked in F Section which holds in safe custody Service-women under sentence and other female detainees.

Having passed the Non-AGC(MPS) Security NCOs' course last year, Sgt Becket

returned to duty in F Section and, when the rules changed, applied to join the MPS.

Now rebadged into her new branch, she will in future work alongside men – and other women as they complete the transfer process – at MCTC Colchester.

## RDG welcome Lord Mayor to Paderborn



LCpl Appleton, Royal Dragoon Guards, puts Clr Ann Reid, the Lord Mayor of York, through her paces in the gunnery wing at Barker Barracks, Paderborn. Clr Reid had stopped off for a brief tour of the barracks during a working visit to Germany. The regiment has close links with the City of York, which is at the heart of its main recruiting area

## Jordan Jocks rise to occasion

WITH a little assistance from the Jordanian Special Forces, 12 members of C Coy, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers achieved their aim of climbing Jebel Rum, the highest mountain in Jordan.

The four-hour ascent, begun at five in the morning, involved the negotiation of a narrow path up the side of a 1,000ft high cliff. Once the summit had been reached, the Jocks adopted Jordanian local tradition, using paint and sharp objects to write their names for posterity.

Units planning adventurous training abroad could do worse than consider the "pleasant, friendly" country of Jordan as an option, members of the expedition confirm.

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ORDER OF THE BRITISH  
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CBE

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## OBE

Lt Col D M Anderson RLC; Lt Col I C D Blair-Pilling REME; Lt Col A B S Collings MBE, D and D; Lt Col P L P Douglas RLC; Lt Col D T Keatton RA; Lt Col E Lawrie MBE, SG; Lt Col (Acting Col) P J Mead

ACF TA; Lt Col S F Owen RLC; Lt Col T Pemberton AGC (RMP); Lt Col R R P Prichard, Para; Lt Col T M Reeve-Tucker PWRR; Lt Col J W G Rogers RE; Lt Col N A Sutherland RE; Lt Col D C Thorneycroft BW; Lt Col A E Wallington RTR.

## MBE

Maj A Amber LI; Sgt (Acting SSgt) S J Baldwin RLC; Maj M P Banham RA; WO1 G R Bannister RA; Maj A L Bateman QRL; Cpl K V Bradbury RE; Capt J H Bridges, Staffords TA; Capt T E Broughton BEM RE TA; Maj M G Brown REME; Lt Col R W Burkey RA; WO1 R M Cainan RLC; Lt (Acting Capt) R M Chatell AAC; WO2 S G Clark, Glosers; Capt (now Maj) P J Cook RA; Maj P F Copson, Para; Capt J C H Cross REME TA; WO1 C M Crowdron 9/12 L; Maj M I Dolamore RLC; Maj J R Donovan RLC; WO1 R C Drewett RA; Cpl D A Driver AGC (SPS); Maj E Erskine TD RE TA; WO2 E Fannon KOSB; Maj F Fewster PWO TA;

Maj R J Ford WFR; Maj J Garven RHF; Maj A S R Groves 6 GR; WO2 (Acting WO1) A J Gullis RLC; SSgt J A Gurney, R Signals TA; Maj (QGO) Haribahadur Gurung MVO 2 GR.

Maj D Harwood TD, Londons TA; Capt R McG Henry BW; Capt (Acting Maj) A Hickling, R Signals; WO2 L G Jones RLC; Maj R A D Kelly IG; Capt J W Kendall RLC; Maj W D M Levack, Int Corps; WO2 A M Lewis, Int Corps; Maj M R Lilley RLC; Maj P R Littlewood, Glosers; Lt Col D Lockhart, Cheshire; WO1 C Long QLR; Maj P C Luxton LI; SSgt D McLoughlin REME; Maj C H Merrington-Rust AGC (SPS); Maj R D F Millington RTR; Lt (Acting Maj) G L Morrice ACF TA; WO1 J J O'Leary RAMC; Maj C L Pape, D and D; Lt (Acting Lt Col) P M Parker CCF TA; SSgt (Local WO2) R V C Pearce RLC TA; SSgt M J Porsch AGC (RMP); Capt R W Potter, R Anglian; Maj E M Pringle RAMC TA; Maj A L Reid RHF; WO2 R Reuby RE TA; Maj R

A Rosenhead AGC (SPS); Capt R M Sadler RA TA; Maj J G Savelle, Coldm Gds; WO2 (Acting WO1) J Seymour RLC TA; WO1 H R Smith AGC (SPS).

Maj P A Stack RRF; Maj R W Stangroom AGC (SPS); Maj D M Steele, R Signals; Maj D J L Swann QRH; WO1 M Tazey LD; Sgt S P Walton APTC; Lt (Acting Maj) T D Watt ACF TA; Maj G C Watts RE; Capt D Webb RRW TA; WO2 R H Webb APTC TA; Maj C White RAMC TA; WO2 R J Winstanley, Int Corps; SSgt J S Wood RE; Cpl Chung Man-hung RHKR; Capt Leung Chun-chung RHKR.

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# Pioneers hit the hot spot

A COMPOSITE squadron of three troops from 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC has completed out-of-area training in Cyprus on Exercise Lion Sun, which is designed to test a soldier's adaptability to deployment and operations in an unfamiliar environment.

Initially commanders conducted troop-level training before the squadron moved to the eastern end of the island for live-firing and beach landings from rigid raiders.

It also gave the soldiers an opportunity to fire 66mm anti-tank rockets. Five failed to explode, giving SSgt Derek Dudley and Sgt Tony Topping a chance to test their demolition skills.

The squadron returned to its base at Radio Sonde in western Cyprus for an exercise during which the three troops acted as enemy to each other. Helicopters were used for recce and each troop attacked an enemy location. The final dawn attack on Paramali village, conducted by Maj Phil Wilde, was a great success.

During the fourth phase of Lion Sun the pioneers carried out adventurous training in the Troodos Mountains, climbing,

abseiling and walking. Back on the coast, canoeing, windsurfing and sailing instruction was given by LCpl John Bishop, Mitch Mitchell and Gary Barker.

Finally, the squadron was given three days R and R. Several soldiers went on cruises to Egypt, others toured the island, but the majority "hit the beach", especially Ayia Napa.

Overall, the exercise proved both tough and demanding, especially in intense heat which hampered operations. Capt Paul Fish, the exercise 2iC, summed up: "The soldiers learned to overcome these conditions, conducted successful operations and thoroughly enjoyed themselves."



Pte Barry Evans keeps dry during the pioneers' Exercise Lion Sun

## Queen approves Russian medal

THOUSANDS of British ex-Servicemen who took part in the Russian campaign in the Second World War are to be allowed to wear a medal issued by the Soviet Union nearly ten years ago.

An announcement in the London Gazette on January 4 said the Queen was "graciously pleased" to approve the Russ-

ian Commemorative Medal, struck in Moscow in 1985 to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the war.

Until now veterans have had the Queen's approval to receive the medal but not wear it. The change of mind follows the collapse of communism and improved relations between London and Moscow.

The Gazette announcement said permission was not envisaged for other commemorative medals issued more than five years after the event, the rule applied by King George VI in 1951. It is thought likely that a number of foreign medals to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day and the end of the war may be issued.



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# Soldiers are there when you need them...



Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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# Great escape for the Lowland Volunteers

A REALISTIC exercise scenario based on the current situation in Bosnia gave the men and women of the 1st Battalion, The 52nd Lowland Volunteers an insight into prisoner-of-war handling.

The escape and evasion exercise took place at Sennybridge during the second week of the Ayr and Glasgow-based regiment's annual camp.

Escapees in groups of four had to avoid capture by the

multinational hunter force – who were equipped with helicopters, motorbikes and dogs – for four days, reporting to checkpoints to avoid hiding for the duration.

Final phase of the exercise

was an attack on Sennybridge's Fibua village – complicated by the presence of innocent civilians as well as hostile forces. "UN observers" and a BBC "camera team" all added to the authenticity.

## Pathfinder Platoon sets pace in 5 AB's tough test

MORE than 400 officers and soldiers, ranging from brigadier to private, took part in 5 Airborne Brigade's rigorous one-day march and shoot competition at RMA Sandhurst.

Designed to help the brigade assess each participant's personal abilities and skills accurately for future training purposes, the competition consisted of a 120m swim, a nine-mile march carrying 50lb plus weapon and helmet, and a run and shoot.

A series of demanding stands during the march, including a casevac, a gun run up and an ammo re-supply with a trailer of ammunition – both up a sharp gradient – sorted the sheep from the goats among the 42 teams of ten men.

Some exceptional times were produced from the march, with Pathfinder Platoon, who had already set a cracking pace at the swimming stage, finishing in one hour 36 minutes and A Coy 3 Para, with 9 Para Sqn four minutes behind.

In the shoot, which required teams to run down from the 400m to the 300, 200, 100, firing from all three distances and with heavy penalties for cross-firing, a 7 GR team produced an outstanding time of 2min 42sec: average time was 3min 20sec.

Eventual winners of the coveted silver trophy for successfully completing the course with the highest score and in the quickest time was the Pathfinder Platoon.



Tough going for 5 Airborne Brigade shoot winners 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles

## Staffords play out time

THE BAND of The Staffordshire Regiment played its final note on a parade at Dale Barracks, Chester, timed to coincide with the celebrations of the battle of Ferozeshah when the 2nd South Staffords won battle honours during the first Sikh war.

After providing music for nearly 300 years, the band slowly marched off the square, a victim of last year's review of military bands.

Old Colours of the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards were laid up in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey on December 3 in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh. The old Colours, presented to the battalion in May 1978 by the Queen, were replaced by her in May last year. The new Colour

### IN BRIEF

will be trooped for the first and only time this summer before the battalion goes into suspended animation.

• • •

A rolling programme to replace or refurbish the C130 Hercules fleet has been confirmed by defence procurement minister Jonathan Aitken. Lockheed will be invited to tender for the provision of a replacement aircraft.

• • •

Novices from 16 Signal Regiment, Krefeld, earned the basic qualification at the end of a 14-day diving expedition, Exercise Deci Bijou, in Sardinia.

They were among 12 people who, under the patient instruc-

tion of Lt Brian Elliot, Flt Sgt Derek McShaffrey and Cpl Lee Punyer and Chris Pinnock, were into a full programme of two dives a day by the end of the first week.

• • •

A new headquarters for 102 Battalion REME(V) has been opened in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham. Also located within the HQ building is 124 Recovery Company, part of the battalion.

• • •

SSVC has joined forces with the American Columbia Communications Corporation to construct a new earth station facility at its Buckinghamshire headquarters. It will provide international video, voice and data services in Europe, North America or the Pacific Rim.

# Play it again, Mr Bean



Cpl Dave Dawkins, who plays the tuba in the regimental band of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, has an alter ego. During performances he blunders on and causes some chaos as Mr Bean.

Ever since friends asked him to do a turn to cheer them up, he has been delighting audiences in the role, and is pictured with fans in Belfast.

"The first time I did it off the cuff, but it went down so well I have been studying Rowan Atkinson's character closely ever since and desperately want to meet him," he said.



After an Army career stretching over 45 years as a National Serviceman and in the Territorial Army, Col Frank Gale (right) has retired as commandant of the Somerset Army Cadet Force. He is pictured handing over a ceremonial Light Infantry bugle to his successor, Col Allen Wise.

## Over to you



## Margaret's medal

WO2 Margaret Shannon QARANC is the first military health care assistant to become an Associate of the Red Cross for services to nursing. Her medal, announced in the Birthday Honours, was presented to her at Buckingham Palace by the Prince of Wales.

Margaret, 17 years in the QA, is currently Detachment Warrant Officer at Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, where she is the senior QARANC WO.

## A taste for understanding

Lt Col Robin Phayre (left), CO of ATR Winchester, welcomes three Russian officers with a light snack. Lt Cols Yuri Yasakov, Dmitri Rebrin and Andrey Korotov spent a day at the ATR under the "moratorium of understanding" between Russian and British Forces. All are members of the Kantemirov Guards Division which stormed the White House in Moscow on November 24.

As guests of the Director RAC they also visited Bovington.



Thanks, brother!



It was a lift with a difference when Lt Julian Facer offered sister Penny a ride from Oxford to a training weekend on Salisbury Plain.

Julian, who had served in Oxford University OTC, is now a pilot with 3 Regiment AAC, and combined a training flight with a lift for his sister to the Plain, where her OTC Royal Armoured Corps troop were able to fly recce missions.

Penny plans to join the Regular Army and goes to RMA Sandhurst in March.

## PEOPLE

### Amanda's all heart

Horse mad teenager Amanda McCommon raised hundreds of pounds for the families of Gulf Servicemen and women by organising a gymkhana. She has also raised a lot of money for other good causes, including research into disease, by taking part in sponsored rides and other equestrian events.

Now her "heart of gold" has been recognised by the BBC Television programme. And the certificate was presented to her by proud dad, Sgt Kevin McCommon (left), 1 WFR serving with the careers office in Chesterfield, and Capt John Bright, also serving with 1 WFR.

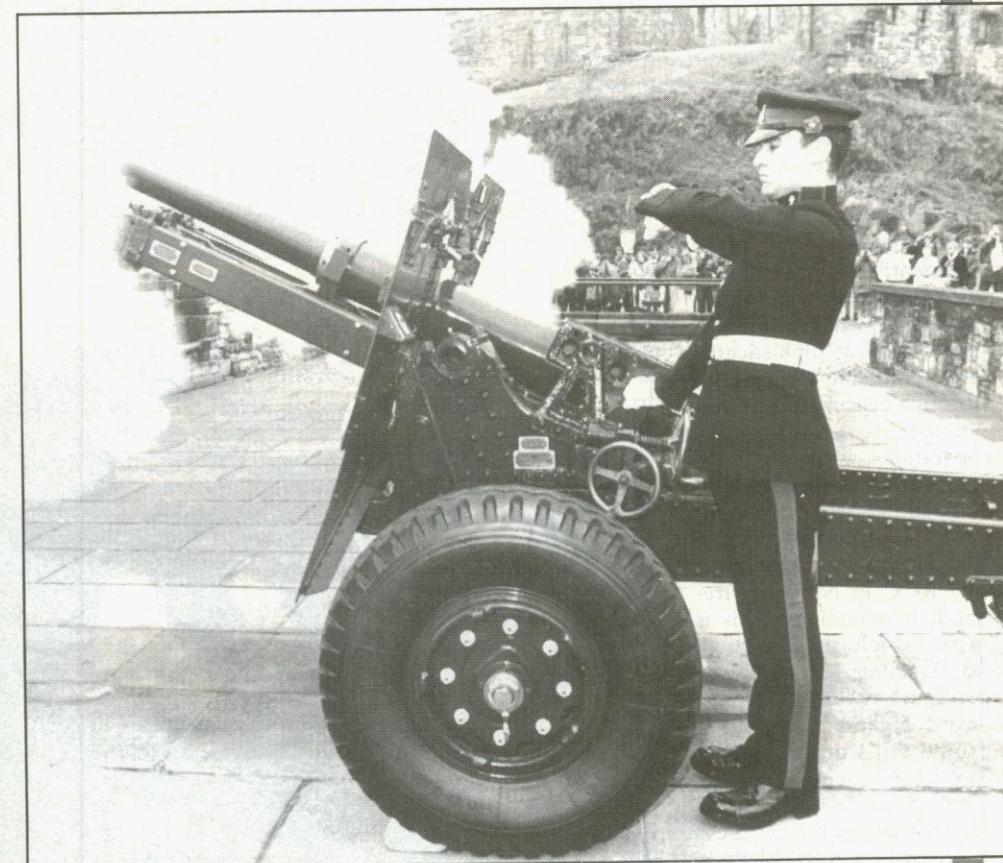
Amanda (16) is appealing to all military equestrian centres to join her in a project to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund and a horse sanctuary in Lancashire. She wants each to organise a gymkhana on the same day during the summer.

Any garrison clubs who can help are asked to ring Mrs Kristina McCommon on 0246 569990.



### Sound choice

New man at the head of SSVC is Air Vice-Marshal David Crwys-Williams, the first ex-Service managing director since the present corporation was created in 1981. AVM Crwys-Williams attended the Army Staff College and the Royal College of Defence Studies and was a former Commander British Forces Falkland Islands.



### Billy's medal is a bit late

When LCpl Billy Green attended an Armistice Day parade in North Shields he got the surprise of his life - he was presented with the General Service Medal (Borneo).

Daughter Beverley, who serves in 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC with her father, realised he had never received the medal to which he was entitled for working as an air despatcher during the Confrontation in Borneo 27 years ago, so made her own discreet enquiries.

Then a Regular in the RCT, he flew 93 sorties in support of British troops in the jungle.

### Bang on time . . .

Gnr Andrew Fleming makes sure he gets his timing precisely right before firing the One O'Clock Gun at Edinburgh Castle. Based in Germany with 40 Regiment RA - the Lowland Gunners - Andy got his chance to man the famous time signal gun while based in Edinburgh with the regimental information team.

# Why we must not lose our fighting skills

**SOLDIER:** Now that the all-out strategic threat has receded, what will drive the organisation and training of the Army post-Options?

**CGS:** We have gone from being a threat-based Army justified against the Warsaw Pact. The way we trained, the way we organised, the way we justified increases, the way we justified our equipment programme and, to an extent, where we did our training was related directly to the threat from the Warsaw Pact.

Now we have got to become what we call a capability-based Army and by that I mean that we are producing an Army whose *raison d'être* is to be prepared to deploy on operations and to meet the unexpected.

The operational calls on the Army in the future could include a whole range of possible scenarios. If you start at the lower end of the scale we could be providing individual officers and non-commissioned officers for United Nations operations as individual observers, as we are at the moment; through to providing humanitarian aid as in Bosnia (which has developed into a sophisticated and difficult operation) through peacekeeping operations; to peacemaking operations, which are much more complex and dangerous and much more difficult to work out than peacekeeping; supporting the RUC in Northern Ireland; to retaining – this is what I would stress to you – to retaining the ability to fight at the high-intensity level of conflict in what I would call a major regional conflict, as we did in the Gulf. There is a danger, I think, that people get mesmerised by United Nations operations and see this as the way forward and think that we do not need the sort of capability to wage high-intensity war.

Now, we do not need the same level of capability that we had in the past to deal

**The Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Inge, talks to SOLDIER Managing Editor Chris Horrocks**

with the threat to the Central Region but we certainly need that capability for some of the things we could be facing in the future. Where that will be I do not know, but if we lose that capability in terms of equipment, training and quality men and women, it would take many years to build back.

I am not saying that we would fight in a major regional conflict as an individual nation – it would almost certainly be as part of a coalition. But as I said earlier, if we were to lose the expertise it would take years to bring back. Divisional commanders, brigade and battalion commanders do not develop such expertise overnight.

Equally important, and part of this, is

the need to retain a balanced forward equipment programme to support the high-intensity warfare capability.

## Training

*Given the pressure on training areas, how will the Army train for operations? In particular, what will be the contribution of simulation and overseas training, including BATUS, to this?*

First, I would emphasise the importance of training which is every bit as important a factor affecting the operational effectiveness of the Army as force structure and equipment. It is not only a factor in its own right but also a major component of morale.

Your question rightly intimates that the pressure on training land is likely to increase as our forces withdrawn from Germany redeploy in the UK. We intend to offset this in two ways.

First, by the extensive use of simulation which in many ways increases the realism of training, particularly in the field of Direct Fire Weapons Effects Simulators. The computer age also offers greater opportunities for training headquarters more realistically even than CPX's. The procurement of the Higher Formation Trainer will be a major contributor in this field.

Secondly, we are seeking new opportunities for field training in other countries. We are pursuing this idea actively at present. BATUS, of course, remains crucially important as it is currently the only facility in which we can conduct all arms live firing on a significant scale. I am conscious that training is currently affected more by commitments and the drawdown than by lack of facilities. However, I am confident that this situation will improve as the reorganisation nears completion provided we can find the necessary resources.



During a visit to Bosnia Gen Inge meets Maj Patrick Darling, LD



## ARRC and deployment

*What is the role of British Forces in Germany post-Options?*

During the Cold War, British Army units in Germany were either part of the national 1st British Corps or components of HQ BAOR. British troops were therefore assigned to the defence of a closely-defined portion of the Central Region. This has now changed. British Army units, other than those for purely national administration, are now all part of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). This is SACEUR's rapid reaction land force for use anywhere within his area of responsibility.

The UK is providing the Commander, the greater part of the Headquarters and two divisions, one of which, 1(UK) division, is based in Germany. This has significant implications for the British Army. It means that the units in Germany will be strategically mobile and must expect to operate in a far wider variety of theatres and types of operation than previously envisaged. This will influence the equipment programme, organisation, training, logistic concepts and, above all, mental approach of those involved.

However, I would say that we undoubtedly will need a significant number of reservists to complete the Order of Battle of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps. In addition, there will be certain levels of reservist who will

## Gen Sir Peter Inge

The **SOLDIER** Interview

In a career spanning four decades, Gen Sir Peter Inge GCB ADC Gen has served in Hong Kong, Malaya, Libya, Germany, Northern Ireland and England.

Commissioned into the Green Howards from RMA Sandhurst in 1956, he became their Colonel in 1982. He was appointed Colonel Commandant Corps of Royal Military Police in 1987 and Colonel Commandant of the Army Physical Training Corps a year later.

After assuming command of 1st British Corps in 1987 and subsequently commanding Northern Army Group and BAOR, he became CGS in February 1992.

be at a higher degree of readiness to fill, particularly, key parts of the Order of Battle. And I think the most important thing of all – and it is something the Secretary of State has already signed up to – is that we must be prepared to use our Reserve Forces, particularly the TA and individual reservists, much more readily than we have been prepared to in the past. We have tended not to want to call out the reservists – there was even a reluctance in the Gulf, for example – unless there was a national emergency. We shall be running a pilot scheme in 1994/95 to see how this might be done.

What I would like to see happen in the future is if, say, a battalion were to need 30 or 40 extra men to run a particular operation then I would like to think that those numbers could be made up from its affiliated TA battalion, so that the battalion would not have to milk another Regular battalion to bring it up to strength.

Those soldiers, of course, would have to achieve the right level of training. They would have to carry out training with the Regular battalion and then they would go on the operational tour with that battalion. I believe that this would be welcomed by the Regular and Territorial Armies and would give real meaning to the "One-Army" concept.

## Equipment

*The Army Air Corps has been promised a new attack helicopter. Is it possible to look beyond*

● Turn to next page



Challenger 2 – taking the Army into the 21st century

# High praise for junior leadership

## From Page 15

Challenger 2, AS90 and SA80 to the next generation?

Challenger 2 does not start coming in until 1995. It will be early in the next century before the order is completed, so we are looking some way into the future as far as that is concerned. AS90 is only just coming into service and so it is also too early to be considering its replacement.

HVM, the new high-velocity anti-aircraft missile, has also recently come into service. Firms have tendered for the future attack helicopter but a decision has not been made on which one it will be.

We do need an RPV (Remote Pilotless Vehicle), which at the moment is on trial, to improve our surveillance and target acquisition. And of course, downstream, we have got to decide what reconnaissance vehicle we will need for the future.

### Morale

What is your assessment of morale in the Army bearing in mind the effect of amalgamations and turbulence?

It is difficult to generalise about something as difficult to define as morale. The Army, of course, is a very complex and big organisation and morale varies according to role, commitments, location, rank, age and domestic circumstances. So it is a very broad church. I think, overall, Army morale at this moment is remarkably good – and that says a great deal for the junior leadership at the sharp end, because the nearer you go to the front, the better the morale.

But equally I recognise that people are concerned about the future. Options for Change was followed by three difficult years of resource cuts, and quite understandably the Army wants to know what the future holds for them.

It is a difficult time for the Army and I understand that. The Army is going through what I call a dark tunnel at the moment. However, recognition of the needs of the Army was made clear by the Secretary of State following the Budget and, I think, was well received by the Army. An extra 3,000 men, the decision on Challenger 2 and the support helicopter were all positive enhancements.

### Conditions

SOLDIER is sometimes criticised by its readers for appearing to gloss over the conditions in Northern Ireland, but to do otherwise might provide comfort for the opposition...

If you look at the places where we have to deploy operationally you have to accept that, sadly, we do not have the option to build the sort of facilities that we would like. The conditions and hours of work that many of the soldiers have to undergo in operations in Northern Ireland are in a number of places



AS90 – just coming into service

pretty grim. The way they respond to those conditions says a great deal for the soldiers. We spend and have spent a lot of money over the years improving this; frankly you cannot produce ideal living conditions, which are also secure, in some of the operational areas.

### UN operations

Do you believe that the Army will be involved in UN operations more often in the future? If so, what are the implications for the Army in terms of training and organisation?



Soldier of 2 RRF on foot patrol in Northern Ireland

Whether we get more involved or not is a political decision. People feel the UN is likely to play a greater role in our lives than it has in the past.

What we must not do is design an Army for UN operations and not much else, because we would become a gendarmerie and that is the last thing we want to be. In any case, who can define the type of operation that will be conducted by the UN?

I do not think that we should set up a special UN training school. We should do what we do with Northern Ireland and Bosnia. A battalion is given a warning order and a specially designed training package is put together. If you have an Army that is well equipped, well trained, and well led, then you start with the right basis. You build on that with special training for the particular operation you are going on. We should not become an Army trained specifically for the United Nations.

### Northern Ireland

As CGS, how do you see the Army's commitment to operations in NI? What is being achieved and what is the effect of this major commitment on the Army?

That is a very broad question, of course. First of all, what is being achieved? I am quite clear that if the Army was not there in support of the RUC, the violence and civil unrest would be considerably worse. I have no doubt that the Army's presence is a major factor in reducing the level of violence.

This campaign has tragically gone on for more than 23 years and the way the British Army has behaved during that time says a great deal for it and in particular for the junior leaders. I think it is a remarkable achievement and I am not sure many armies could have done it. We place great pressure on those young soldiers; the positive, calm and balanced way they respond is an enormous credit to them.

Northern Ireland is of course the most significant operational commitment we have. Twelve major units are deployed



Junior leadership to the fore: APC crews on the alert as they enter an abandoned village in central Bosnia

there. That must, in a small Army, distort the programme generally, and training in particular. It also places a great strain on the families.

It is a fact that 25 per cent of the Army is either preparing directly for operations, actually on operations or immediately recovering from operations. I would have thought that is a higher percentage than any of our allies.

### Ceremonial

How would you respond to the suggestion that the fabric of military pageantry and the regimental system is being eroded to the detriment of the Army; for example, the reduction in public duties and the reorganisation of Army bands?

Public duties are part of the fabric of the nation and are recognised as such. Yes, we have made some reduction in State ceremonial but I think, as far as the general public is concerned (rather than the "experts"), we still manage to put on a very considerable display with regard to State ceremonial.

As for bands, I am well aware that this is a very emotional issue. Bands are a very important part of the regimental system, not just for those in infantry battalions and the Royal Armoured Corps but for others as well. The hard facts were that we were not able to recruit enough musicians of the right quality to man regimental bands

and a lot of the small regimental bands, whether we liked it or not, were well under strength. All the signs were that if we tried to keep them, even if the manpower had been available, we would have had to revisit that decision within a very short time because enough musicians simply were not joining the Army.

I do not underestimate how sad people are to have lost those regimental bands, but what we have had to do is to produce a compromise solution. I know it doesn't please everybody, but there will still be a considerable amount of military music available to the British Army and that military music will be of a higher standard than we had before.

I can speak for all the members of the Executive Committee of the Army Board when I say that, while we may have to make changes within the regimental system, the basics of that system are still very much in place.

### Message

Finally, do you have a general message for the Army, its soldiers and their families?

First, I would like to give my reaction to the Budget announcement. It would have been naive to have expected defence to have been immune from the need to reduce the nation's budget deficit and, sure enough, we have been given a great challenge to meet the savings across the

Defence area. However, the Budget announcement did have some very positive aspects for the Army. The addition of 3,000 men and the confirmation of a Challenger 2 and support helicopter purchase gave a very clear signal that the need for an effective Army is recognised by our political masters. Very clear statements of the inviolability of the "front line" in the savings exercise can also only be good news. We are now looking at how to put this to best effect.

Secondly, I want to thank the Army, not only on my own behalf, but also on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Army Board, for the way they have responded to the enormous challenges of the reorganisation and have taken on the extra operational commitments that have developed.

It has been a remarkable achievement and says a great deal for the junior leadership and for the men and women themselves.

I also recognise that it is a difficult time because at the moment there is still a great deal of uncertainty. I believe that uncertainty will reduce. I think manning will improve, the key elements of the forward equipment programme are still funded and, if I look beyond 1995, I believe we will get through this difficult period and the Army will settle down again and will continue to give rewarding careers with a major role to play.

# Beau Geste meets the Red Devils

THE SIGNAL was grim. Help was needed and it was needed fast. Corsica had fallen into a state of civil war with the north of the island under control of dissident Red Forces, and an invasion from a hostile foreign power, the Grey Forces, was imminent.

Before the government fell, those remaining in power had pleaded for assistance from two of Europe's most formidable fighting forces: the British Army's Parachute Regiment and the French Foreign Legion. Beau Geste meets the Red Devils... let the enemy beware.

In Aldershot, 400 men from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment gathered in Montgomery Lines to be briefed on their mission. They were joined by 30 men from 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, 22 men from the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, 80 members of the Royal Logistic Corps, and 13 men from the Parachute Regiment's 2nd Battalion.

The plan was simple, but it would put all their training to the test. The French Foreign

Words: Susan Coulthard  
Pictures: Chris Fletcher

cold in the mountains, and the strain was intense as they sent signals back to Aldershot where the control staff were planning the main insertion.

"They can't afford to get caught, so we've stripped their scoff right down," said CSgt Mark Brown. "They can't light a fire for fear of being seen, so there's no cooking, no brews. They rely on their kit to keep them warm."

Communications for the British troops proved a nightmare. CSgt Brown explained: "We're working with Ultra High Frequency radios, normally ideal for this kind of operation, but there's something about the mountains here that's causing us all sorts of headaches. We can talk to HQ in Aldershot perfectly, but trying to communicate with blokes just up the road in Calvi is nigh impossible."

Back in Aldershot, the final chalk parade took place in a freezing gale on Montgomery Lines just after midnight.

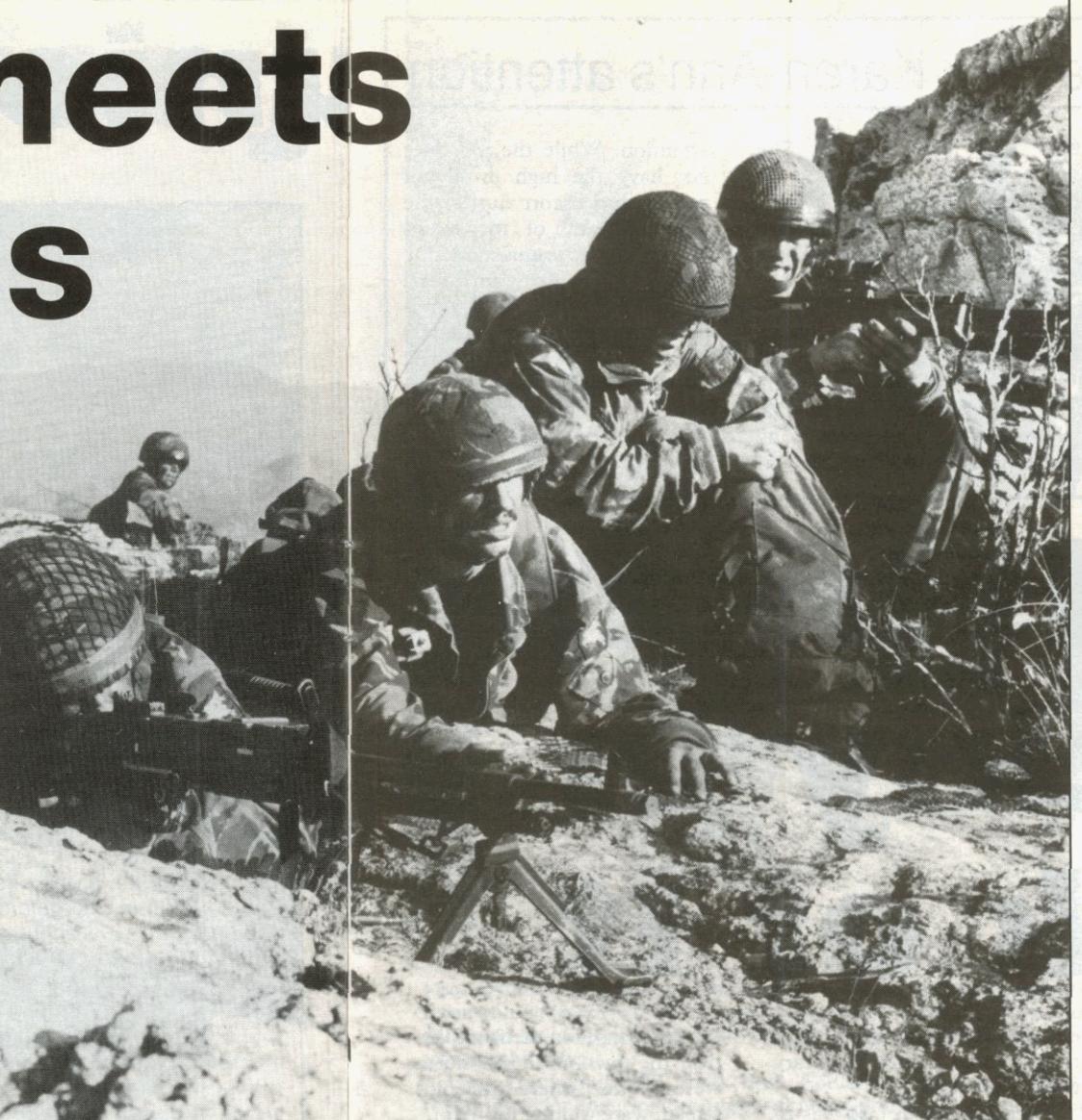
Six Hercules aircraft took off from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire just before dawn.

Just before 1100 hours the paras were told to be ready for the approach to Corsica. They had been warned that the two chosen drop zones, which would push them in close to enemy positions, were not easy.

But after four hours in a Hercules, initial fears of tricky landings were soon replaced by an urgent desire to get out.

They threw themselves out into a surprisingly warm, sun-filled sky, smelling of thyme and the sea...

Not everyone landed safely. The warnings back in Aldershot seemed well founded as Capt Sam Pambakian from 23 Parachute Field Ambulance later said:



Above - The lads of the 2nd Battalion celebrate a hard-won victory in their own inimitable style on the Corsican mountain ridge of Bergerie de Tettu

Left - Soldiers of B Company 1 Para make their final assault on Bergerie de Tettu, high in the Corsican mountains, where Foreign Legion "drug bandits" were holding out

it's pushing them to the limit and forcing them to use their initiative."

The legionnaires had encountered an equally fierce struggle in the south of the island. But they had managed to drive the enemy away from the coastal area at Bastia with an impressive heliborne assault, and secure the airfield at Borgo. That left the north.

Anglo-French Exercise Control

had been set up in the French Foreign Legion's base at Camp Raffalli in Calvi.

There the two nations discussed tactics: 5 Airborne Brigade led the British operation, while French specialists had flown in from Toulouse to aid the Legion.

The British and French Pathfinders were redeployed to hunt out the remaining enemy.

As the news began to filter through of large numbers of guerrilla hordes entrenched in the mountains, options were suggested and discarded. Then the French Commandant, Lt Col Bertrand Bourgoin, came up with a solution.

With all helicopters grounded,

repeated communication breakdowns, and the prospect of even worse weather ahead, the mission was not looking hopeful.

British Exercise Control liaison officer, Maj Alex Boyd, said: "We don't get many opportunities like this, so we've got to make the most of it when we do. The officers and NCOs in the field get real benefit from everything that goes wrong -

In the mountains, the enemy were scattered among the highest peaks, watching for the para advance. The largest group were in a desolate area called the Bergerie de Tettu. Shortly before noon they saw an RAF Puma helicopter against the distant skyline. The paras were coming.

A volley of shots rang out from just 20 yards behind them, followed by another, and another, and another. Thunderflashes went off all around, the air became acrid with smoke. The enemy spun round to meet the assault, and became disorientated as paras leaped in, guns ablaze, from all directions.

Within minutes the enemy were running, desperate for cover, yet unable to find it as the Red Devils closed in ruthlessly. Terrified, they lay down their weapons and surrendered. The battle was over.

Maj David Limb of 1 Para led the attack, and wasn't slow to praise his men for their efforts after deciding on a pincer movement.

"It meant a long, sheer climb up that rockface for those soldiers coming up from behind, but we'd remembered to pack a few ropes and they came in handy.

"We took them completely by surprise - I can hardly believe how close we were able to get before we started firing. Out of 36 enemy, we captured



"So this is Corsica!" The Paras' first view of the island from the exiting door of a Hercules. Ably assisted by the RAF Parachute Jump Instructors, members of 2 Para jump on Exercise Winged Crusader



Maj Alex Boyd, from the headquarters of 5 Airborne Brigade, who was Primary Planning Officer for Exercise Winged Crusader

## Red Devils

• From Page 19

19, and I didn't lose a single soldier."

That night, British and French troops met to celebrate a hard-won victory, and the celebrations continued well into the following day, when, back at base in Calvi, soldiers swapped kit to carry out one final parachute jump to qualify for new wing badges.

As he watched the first soldiers make their descent, Maj Boyd expressed his delight with the way the exercise had gone: "For most of the young men here, this is the first time they've ever operated in mountainous terrain. Their only experience of active service is on street patrol in Northern Ireland. Now, at last, they're putting into practice the three most important skills an infantry soldier needs: the ability to march and shoot, and communicate.

"The French have realised it, that's why they spend so much time training here – it's hostile, and it's hard, and it's just what we need. We've got to keep coming back to the simple approach if we are to keep our soldiers up there with the elite forces of the world."

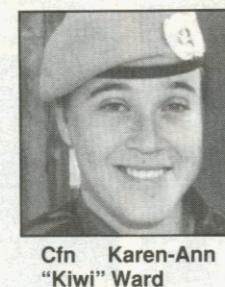
Capt Gary Heam, Logistics Support, added: "Working with the Legion isn't that hard, we have a lot in common and there's a lot of mutual respect. In addition, although all the officers are French, many of the soldiers are British – about 30 per cent in fact, and we've even seen a few familiar faces."

On an unassuming stone near the gate of Camp Raffalli is carved an anonymous statement: "Sur la terre impregnée du sang des légionnaires le soleil ne se couch jamais."

And as the sun never sets on land coloured by the blood of legionnaires, so it shall never set among the memories of those who have fought with them and shared in their glory.

## Any old vehicle took Karen-Ann's attention

KIWI soldier Crafts-woman Karen-Ann Ward, on attachment to 3 Battalion REME, has just completed a six-month tour of duty in the former Yugoslavia.



Cfn Karen-Ann "Kiwi" Ward

New Zealand. She has been in the British Army since 1991 and is the holder of a brown belt in karate. Cfn Ward, a vehicle mechanic, normally maintains and repairs tank engines. In Bosnia, however, she has been fixing any Army vehicle in need of

attention. While the job does not have the high profile of patrols and escort duties, the crucial nature of the maintainers' task is unquestioned.

The British Army in Bosnia has driven more than 2½ million miles so far on humanitarian operations, averaging 400,000 miles a month.

It is a heavy responsibility for the REME maintenance crews.

# Coldstream quickly in thick of it

WITHIN a month of being posted to war-torn Bosnia, soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards had taken part in two important mercy missions.

almost as soon as they took up their United Nations military responsibilities.

Their first main task was to escort a group of Muslim families from behind Serb lines to the relative security of Muslim areas. In all, 136 people, mainly women, children and the elderly, were taken in two

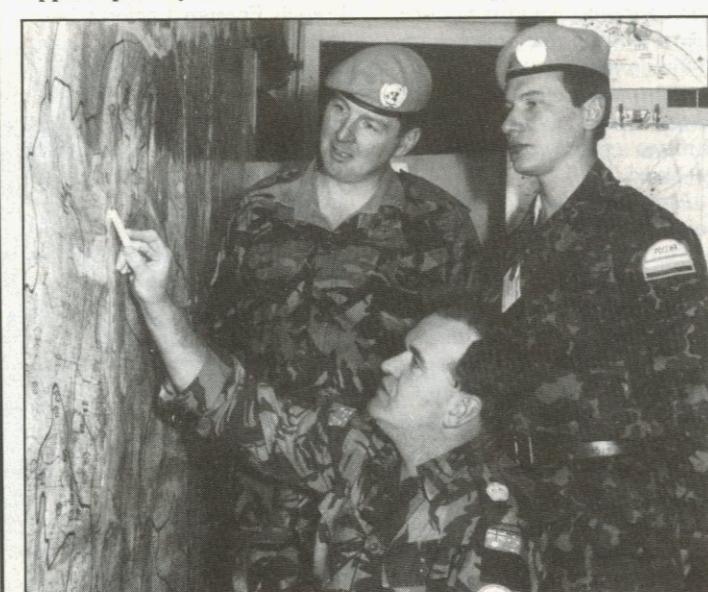
battered buses to the front line near the town of Turbe, north west of Vitez, where the Coldstream were waiting for them.

They were so crowded in the buses that as the door of one of the vehicles opened, bundles of possessions fell to the ground. With bitter irony one bus still bore a sticker proclaiming "Tourist Service", recalling happier days.

The families, mainly from the villages around the town of Banja Luka, had to pay a fee equivalent to £100 a head to be allowed to leave homes in which they had expected to spend the rest of their lives. To put this in perspective, Serb soldiers at the crossing point said they were paid less than £1 a month. The refugees were allowed to take only possessions which could be carried.

The exchange was overseen by the Coldstream Guards' liaison officer for the Turbe area, Maj Hugh Bodington, who has the task of negotiating with Muslim and Serb factions on behalf of the British UN Battalion.

It took longer than expected. Serb soldiers in the front lines had not been warned about the hand-over, and a warning shot was fired over Maj Bodington's Land Rover as he drove through the battered and debris-strewn no man's land



The concept of United Nations military co-operation takes on real meaning in the operations room of the British Battalion Group at Vitez. Maj Mike Tucker (seated), Royal Australian Regiment points out a potential trouble spot to WO2 Tony Dunn, 1 Coldm Gds and Maj Andrei Bobylev, Russian Airborne Forces.

Maj Tucker, an Australian infantry officer from Adelaide two years into a 30-month exchange posting, is the battalion's Ops Officer. Maj Bobylev is one of a number of UN military observers who act as liaison officers to the British battalion.



LSgt Arthur Lowe tries on a pair of skis, much to the amusement of Bosnian children in Zenica, where soldiers of 1 Coldm Guards had delivered fuel for generators and hospitals and emergency aid centres around Vitez.

LSgt Lowe is UBRE (Unit Bulk Refuelling Equipment) NCO, responsible for ensuring the supply of petrol and diesel which keeps

towards the Serb positions.

As representatives of the Muslim and Serb sides completed the final formalities, Maj Bodington was struck by the utter futility of what was happening.

"I am very sorry for these people who are being forced to leave the land in which they had chosen to live," he said. "The reality of people having to leave their homes does not hit you until you see it with your own eyes."

One old woman with a heart complaint, and three other elderly people, had to be moved by military ambulance. Other members of the group were loaded on to a convoy of nine Army lorries of the Coldstream Guards, and, escorted by two Warrior armoured personnel carriers, set off on the slow journey to the centre for displaced persons in a former school at the village of Han Bila.

Forced to use steep and icy one-lane tracks to avoid a second confrontation line between Muslims and Croat forces, the journey of about 30 kilometres took almost two hours.

At the centre, where the

battalion group on the road. About 5,000 litres of fuel are used each day.

Said LSgt Lowe: "Our weekly fuel delivery runs to hospitals are a pleasant break from routine, but I do feel very sorry for the children I meet. My parents send me sweets from the UK and I take a bagful to distribute each time I go out."



Maj the Hon Richard Margesson

mistrust on the part of each community towards the other; the aid was only allowed through after protracted negotiations led by European Community Military Monitors with the two mayors, which resulted in an agreement that each could choose which trucks he wanted from the convoy of ten vehicles, and the aid would be simultaneously unloaded in each town.

"We are trying to get through as much aid as we can now because we do not know what will happen in the future. The onset of winter makes our task more urgent," said Maj Margesson.

As a Guards officer, 32-year-old Richard Margesson has an unusual past.

Born in Stone Ridge, near Kingston, in New York State, the son of British parents, he was educated at St Bernard's School in New York City and at St Paul's School in New Hampshire, before crossing the Atlantic to Exeter University.

He was commissioned into the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards in April 1985.

No stranger to active service, Maj Margesson is a veteran of the Gulf War.

The UN, ever careful to deal equally with all sides in the tragedy of Bosnia, decided to deliver 50 tons of food to each town. But the aid, desperately needed as the early snows of the harsh Balkans winter began to settle, could only be taken in after a number of intractable problems had been overcome.

The first was the safety of the route itself. After that it was the

Members of 4 Field Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment – normally based at Nienburg – recently completed a six-month operational tour of Belize. WO2 (SSM) Mick Melnyk RE and members of each troop involved have been giving their impressions of the experience to SOLDIER

# From desert boots to jungle boots

LAST operational tour by 4 Field Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment was as a part of the British Forces involved in the Gulf War.

The Belize undertaking, which provided many trials, challenges and triumphs, means that many members of the squadron have now experienced both desert and jungle warfare.

On deployment, the 134 members of the Royal Engineers were joined by 26 Pioneers who had recently re-badged to the Royal Logistic Corps, said WO2 Mick Melnyk.

Arriving in Belize, 4 Field Squadron was quickly widely scattered, with HQ Troop, 2 Troop, 4 (RLC) Troop and Support Troops being located at Airport Camp (APC).

The camp, which contains HQ British Forces Belize and is located about ten miles from Belize City, is the temporary home for approximately 1,200 all ranks, with a wide selection of cap badges.

Holdfast Camp, a two-hour drive south west of APC, was the base for 1 Troop, commanded by Lt Tony Vosper, assisted by SSGt Ray Moffatt.

Contrasting conditions were

experienced by 3 Troop's Lt Shane Green and SSGt John Powell. On arrival, the troop was quickly dispatched to the humid jungle conditions of Rideau Camp, Punta Gorda in the south.

They were re-deployed almost as quickly to the hot, dusty and frequently wet surroundings of Orange Walk town in the south.

Squadron tasks were varied, with projects ranging from the construction of a 120-person permanent camp at Orange Walk to the construction of a swimming pool for the RAF.

Other projects included a sewage treatment plant, culvert construction, a basketball court, vehicle washdown plant and many other section-size tasks.

The jungle warfare school commanded by Lt Jim Weeden provided an excellent insight into living and operating in the jungle.

And field firing on Baldy Beacon ranges (Belize's answer to Sennybridge) gave many members of the squadron an opportunity to fire their weapons realistically – with fewer range restrictions than normally apply in Germany.

A spattering of periodic REME (PRE) and other inspections, interspersed with various visits and a four-day adventure training package, culminated with the force patrol programme.

The RE squadron was tasked with providing soldiers for all the patrols for a period of three weeks during the hand-over of 45 Commando, Royal Marines to 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles.

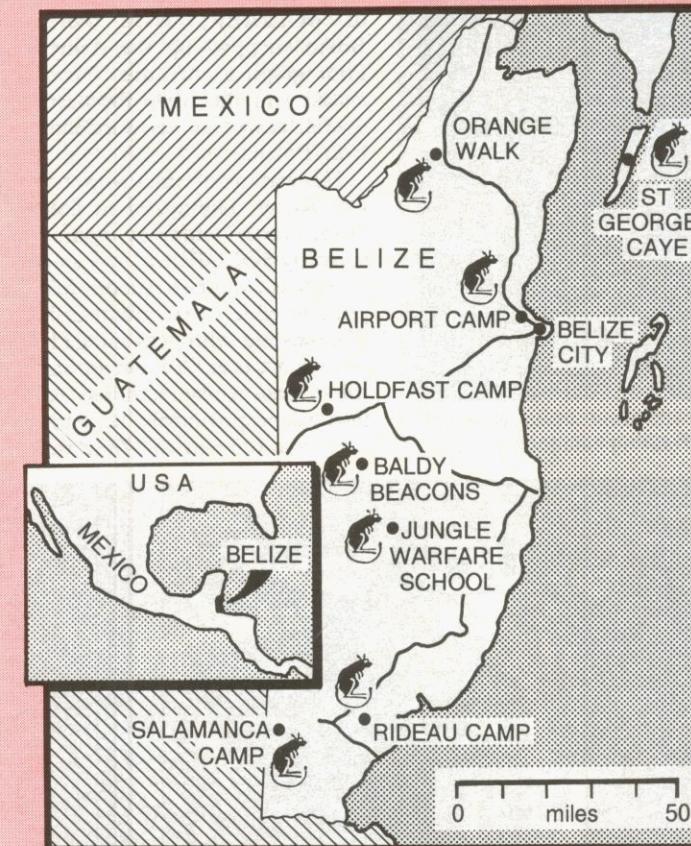
At Airport Camp, said Pte "Blister Agent" Shaw, members of 4 (RLC) Troop soon



Spr "Faz" Farrell of 3 Troop, tasking with constructing a permanent camp at Orange Walk



LCpls "Dream" Topping and "Frank" Franklin of 2 Troop's boat section, who moved the entire complement of 45 Cdo across New River Lagoon in one night during Exercise Mayan Sword



Cfn "Paddy" Farmer, REME FRT, at Airport Camp, where he and his colleagues ensured that the all-important wagons were in a fit state to be deployed

Puma flights for all. They also took part in jungle training and field firing – and Exercise Mayan Sword.

Support Troop, Airport Camp, were up to their necks in work almost as soon as they arrived, said LCpl Eamon O'Malley.

MT section deployed wagons to a multitude of locations, REME FRT working to ensure

that the vehicles were sound, while the plant section carried on with a landscaping project inherited from 25 Sqn. This came to an abrupt halt after a month as the ammunition compound slowly disappeared under monsoon-like downpours.

Disheartened members of the plant section attempted to improve an impassable road at

Baldy Beacon, only to find their efforts on the first 500m washed away.

The weather continued to be a nightmare when further road repair projects were undertaken, leading to eventual abandonment after the recce party had been bogged down in their vehicle in boiling heat and dense jungle for 36 hours, with no food or water.

On return to APC, everybody was busy preparing for the twice-yearly PRE, with MT spray-painting anything that stood still for more than 30 seconds and plant ops chipping the mud – which had accumulated in copious amounts over the previous four months – off their machines.

The PRE came and went with good reports in all departments, which led on to preparing for the end-of-tour hand-over.

At Holdfast Camp, the 17 men assembled were tasked with a number of activities which most of them had not expected, Cpl Mick Bruce of 1 Troop explained.

These ranged from manning safety boats for jungle school river crossings, to a two-day mini troop jungle orientation exercise.

Among other tasks, the troop also provided engineer support to the enemy element of a battle group exercise, which completed an "arduous but enjoyable" six-month tour, during which many new and varied skills were learned and developed.

where they cleared helicopter landing sites and constructed enemy camps in the jungle.

Most of the troop completed a jungle warfare course, either with 45 Commando or on one of the three squadron ten-day courses at Guacamallo Bridge.

Rideau Camp and Orange Walk were the venues for 3 Troop, said Cpl "Taff" Rees.

BG (S) Troop's task at Rideau was to support the Battle Group South (45 Commando) carrying out various jobs including building paths, drainage clearance and helping other units with small construction tasks.

On exercise, they were tasked with providing drinking water to the Marines.

After six weeks, the troop moved to Orange Walk, about an hour from the Mexican border, leaving just the boat section and a section of field engineers at Rideau.

In common with other troops, the Orange Walk element had horrendous problems with flooding, but managed to construct a camp for the Belizean Defence Force from scratch.

This was just one of many tasks for members of a squadron which completed an "arduous but enjoyable" six-month tour, during which many new and varied skills were learned and developed.



## Bosnia images steal the show



The scene: Ahinici, Bosnia. The photographer: LCpl Giles Penfound RLC, of HQ UKLF PInfo, with 1 Cheshire on Op Grapple 1. The picture: runner-up in the Military Operations or Training category



"Street Talk": This picture by Sgt Mike Couchman RLC, of HQ Northern Ireland, took second place in the contest for best monochrome photograph



"A Helping Hand": SOLDIER staff writer Laurie Manton received a runner-up award in the TA category with this unusual view of soldiers of 6/7 PWRR on exercise Turtle Reef in Ascension Island

SOLDIERS and refugees in Bosnia ... a sapper with a spanner ... an Army wife and two young children ... a Para veteran brushing a tear from his eye ...

These images and more were all to be seen among the prizewinning entries in the 1993 Army Photographic Competition, a selection of which are on these and the following two pages.

As reported in the last issue of SOLDIER, WO2 Pete Bristo snapped up the Army Photographer of the Year award and the prize for best overall entry for his portfolio from Bosnia.

He was also runner-up to Col Roger Thompson in the "own choice" category, sponsored by SOLDIER.

It was another successful photographic year for Col Thompson, who was judged best amateur and runner-up in the overall entry sections. A few weeks previously he had been a winner in the Martini

Royal photo competition at New Zealand House, with his pictures of the Princess Royal and the Duchess of Kent.

For Maj Roy Bevan, of Merseyside ACF, a public relations officer for volunteer regiments, it had been a case of "always the bridesmaid" - a runner-up three times - until he became TA Photographer of the Year and won the military operations or training category this time around.

Maj Martin Figura AGC (SPS) scored well with his socio-documentary style and the work of LCpl Giles Penfound also impressed the judges, who were *Daily Mail* picture editor Andy Kyle, *Practical Photography* editor William Cheung and Capt Alex Roche AGC (SPS) of the Army's Public Relations Directorate.

The competition was organised by Sarah Shepherd, of the Army Public Information staff at Headquarters UK Land Forces, Wilton.



"Mechanic": Best monochrome photograph - an atmospheric study by Maj Martin Figura AGC (SPS) during a tour by 53 Fd Sqn RE, part of 39 Engr Regt, in the Falklands. Inset - Maj Figura

### Army Photographic Competition results

**Army Photographer of the Year**, sponsored by Nikon: WO2 Pete Bristo RLC, P Info HQ ARRC, Bielefeld.

**Best monochrome photograph**, sponsored by Ilford: Maj Martin Figura AGC (SPS), AGC Training Centre, Worthy Down. **Runner-up**: Sgt Mike Couchman RLC, HQ Northern Ireland.

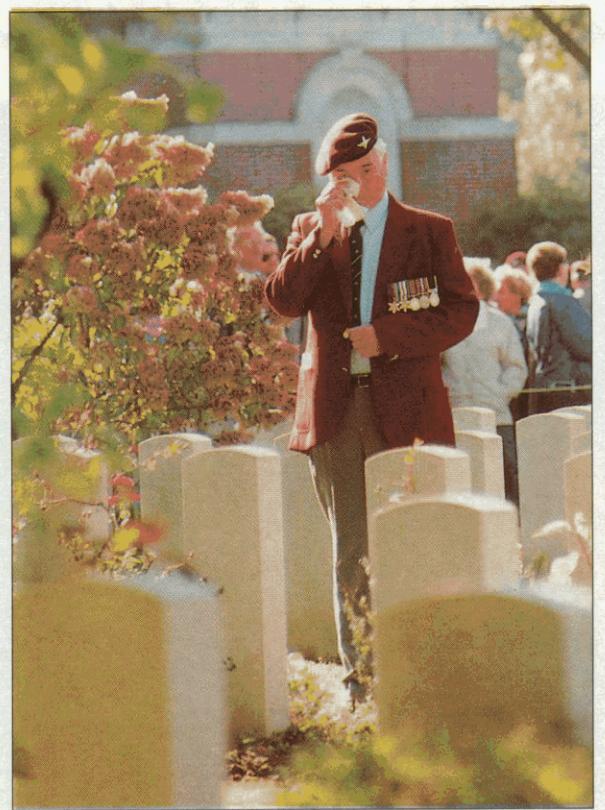
**Best colour photograph**, sponsored by Kodak: LCpl Giles Penfound RLC, P Info HQ UKLF. **Runner-up**: Mr Chris Fletcher, MoD Southern District P Info photographer.

**Best Overall Entry**, sponsored by Vickers: WO2 Pete Bristo. **Runner-up**: Col Roger Thompson.

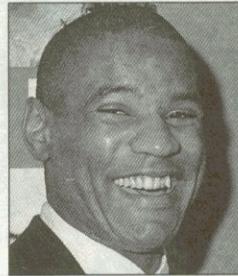
**TA Photographer of the Year**, sponsored by SSVC: Maj Roy Bevan, Merseyside ACF and Volunteer Regiments PR. **Runner-up**: LCpl Giles Penfound.



"Offer Family Packed": An aspect of Service family life all too familiar to most which brought a runner-up prize for Maj Martin Figura



A veteran remembers: Cpl Shaun Harris, formerly of 1 Para, now a freelance photographer working for three daily newspapers, won the "Aspect of Service family life" category with this scene from the 1993 Arnhem commemoration ceremonies



Cpl Shaun Harris



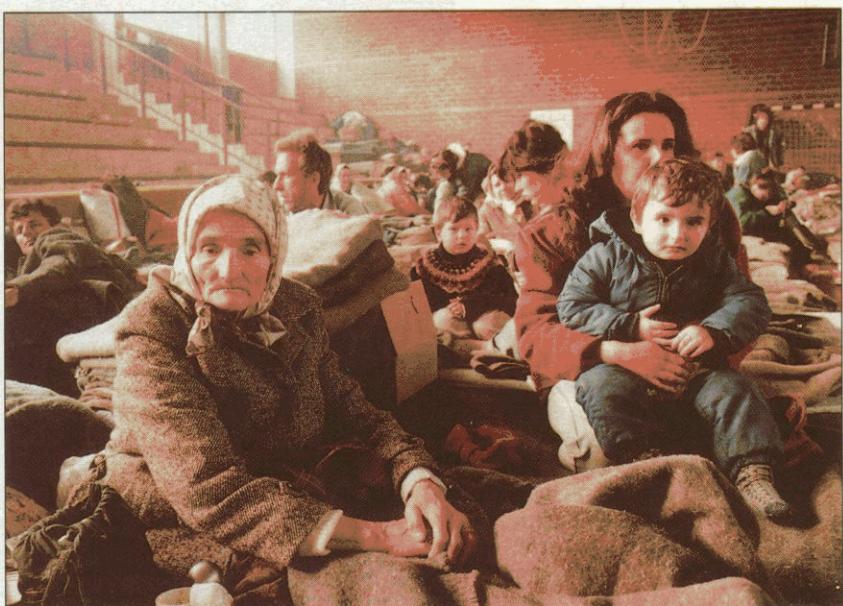
Maj Roy Bevan



Left - "Jungle Patrol": Voted best colour photograph was this picture of A Coy, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, taken in Jamaica by LCpl Giles Penfound RLC, of HQ UKLF PlInfo



LCpl Giles Penfound



Right - And the dog came, too: One of a portfolio of eight pictures taken in the former Yugoslavia by WO2 Pete Bristo RLC which won him the title of Army Photographer of the Year



WO2 Pete Bristo

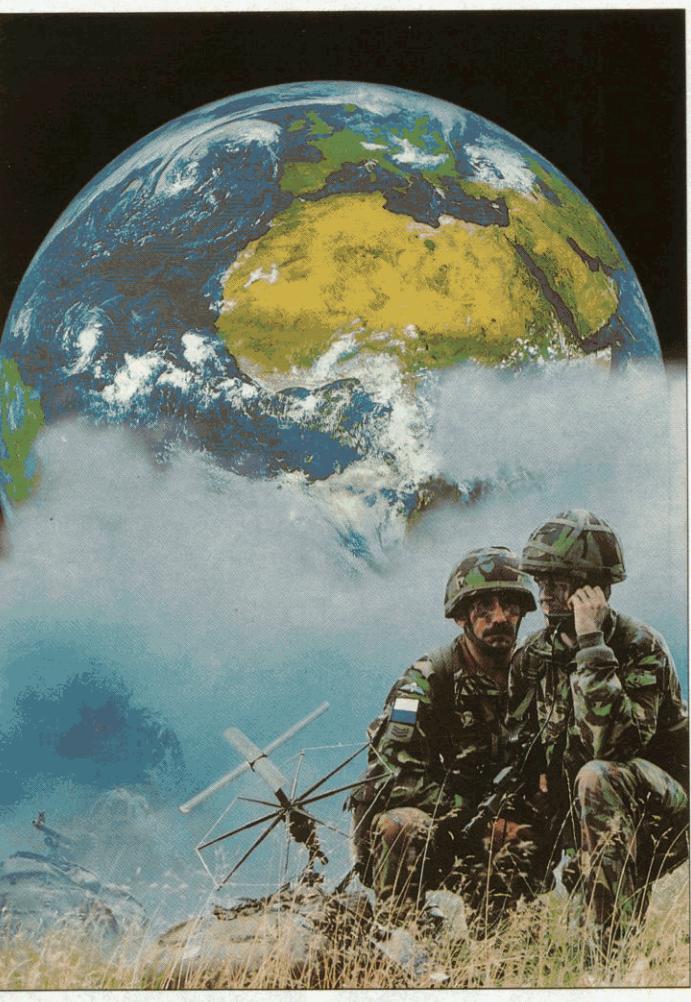


Col Roger Thompson



Above - Making a splash: Maj Roy Bevan, of Merseyside ACF, TA Photographer of the Year after finishing runner-up three times previously, won the Military Operations or Training category with this shot of Liverpool Scottish recruits training at Holcombe Moor

Right - Out of the scrum: Col Roger Thompson, secretary of Army Rugby, selected this incident from the Army v New Zealand Army match at Aldershot for the portfolio which won him the Best Amateur Photographer title



"Good Morning Britain": Col Roger Thompson achieved this striking effect with computer assistance. Using the Israeli-made Scitex system, images of the earth (provided by RAE Farnborough) and of 216 Signal Squadron were fed into two databases and merged into one. The result won the SOLDIER-sponsored Own Choice category

# Youngest Scottish lion rampant in the Highlands

SCOTLAND's youngest regiment, The Scottish Yeomanry, chose the Highlands for its first ever annual camp.

Stripped-down Land Rovers from A (Ayrshire (Earl of Carrick's Own) Yeomanry) Sqn from Ayr, B (Lanarkshire and Queen's Own Yeomanry) Sqn from East Kilbride, C (Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse) Sqn from Cupar and HQ (Lothian and Borders Horse) Sqn from Edinburgh headed for the Victorian splendour of Cameron Barracks in Inverness.

In all, 315 officers and soldiers and 74 vehicles took part in the inaugural Exercise Yeoman Trot.

While the Ayrshire Yeomanry had transferred from the Queen's Own Yeomanry and, despite losing their Fox armoured cars, already possessed the skills of light recce,

Words: John Boyes  
Pictures: Mark Owens

for the other squadrons – many of whose soldiers had come from former RCT squadrons based at the locations – it was the first real opportunity to acquire the "skills of the trade".

As this was the first time the regiment as a whole had come together, it was also a matter of getting to know each other.

To mark the occasion there was a full regimental parade with a dedication by the padre, the Rev Iain Barclay, who saw service in the Gulf as padre to 205 (Scottish) General Hospital.

Just before the parade officers and soldiers received their new cap badge, which features a Scottish lion rampant against crossed cavalry lances sur-

mounted by the Scottish Crown, the latter believed to be unique to the regiment.

"It was an important opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and to learn to work as a coherent operational unit," said commanding officer, Lt Col Simon Stewart. "Until then we had been getting organised, obtaining and preparing the various pieces of equipment we needed, and on top of all this we had just seen the move into our magnificent headquarters building. At last we were ready to go."

And go they did. During the first week the squadrons were deployed to various locations around Inverness. Whenever there was time to stop and draw breath, glorious weather allowed the most spectacular views of the surrounding Highland scenery.

Unseasonably warm weather proved particularly popular with Sgt Li Kwei-Piu, one of three members of the RHKR with the Yeomanry on attachment and who had joined B Sqn in the field.

The addition of a Gazelle from newly-formed, Edinburgh-based 3 Flight AAC(V) permitted even more spectacular views as the soldiers learned the skills of working with helicopters.

Capt David Fortune AAC proved an able ambassador for his unit and strong links have been forged between the Yeomanry and 3 Flight.

Beach assaults took place on the northern shore of Loch Ness, and the first week also included a visit by the Honorary Colonel, Lt Gen Sir Norman Arthur, a former GOC Scotland and a prime mover behind the formation of The Scottish Yeomanry.

He had long wished to see a dedicated yeomanry regiment within Scotland, and it was through him that the regiment wears the distinctive French grey beret, worn also by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.



Above – B Sqn: Cpl Henry Roger, (left), Tpr Gary Ballantyne

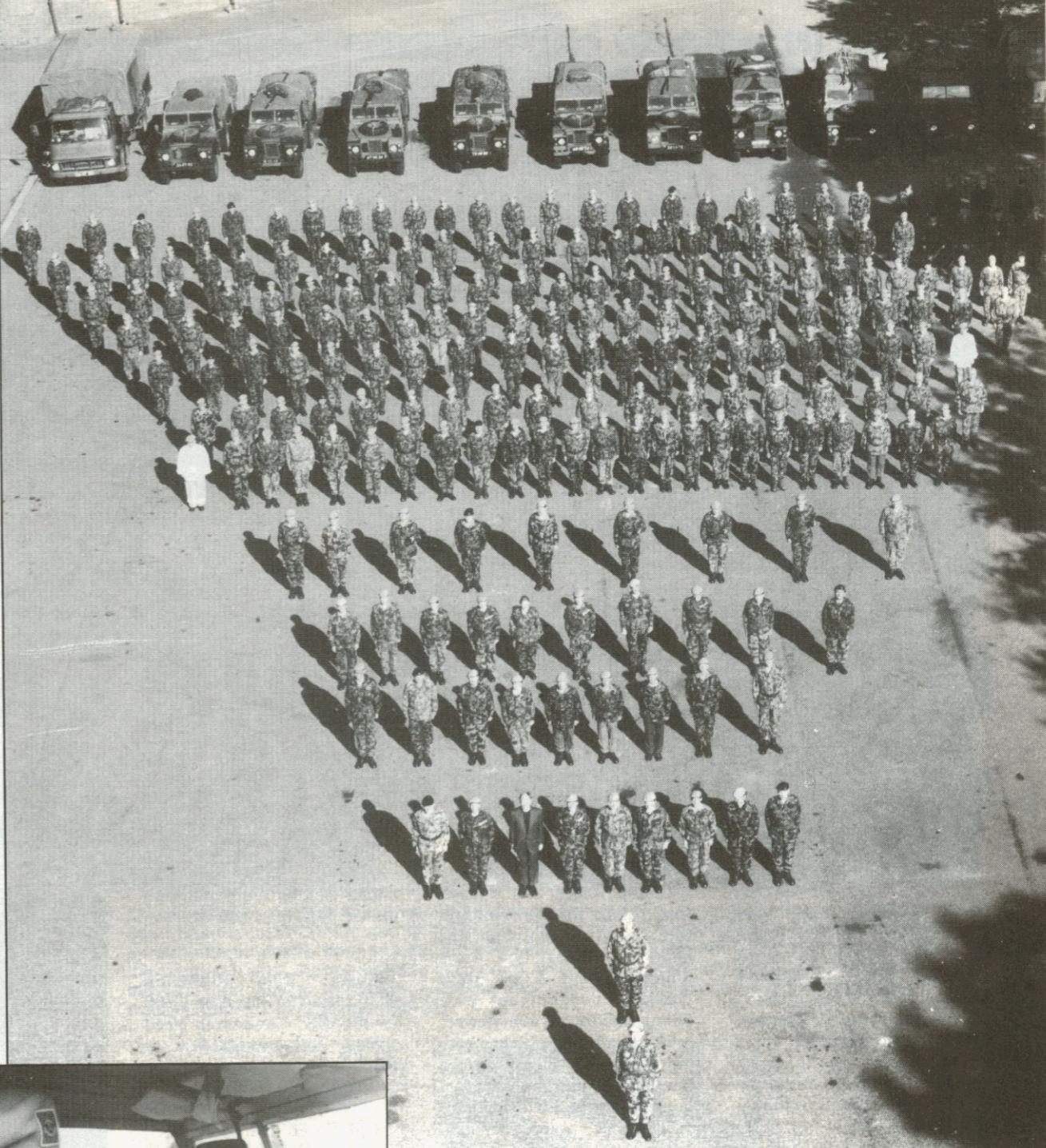
Right – A Sqn: Sgt Hugh Guy

Below – Lt Col Simon Stewart, CO The Scottish Yeomanry



Skills acquired during the week were rehearsed in a full day's tactical exercise on the Fort George ranges.

Masterminded by Training Major Maj Martin Masters RTR, the "Sword, Lance and Revolver" competition took



The Scottish Yeomanry's first regimental parade

for best crewman.

The soldiers deployed into the field in the second week, initially in the Applecross area on the west coast of Scotland, where the rugged and inhospitable terrain provided its own challenge, not least in the maintenance of communications.

With the help of the Coast Guard and two Royal Navy submarines operating in the area, recce skills were well tested before the regiment conducted a sweep eastwards across Scotland, starting with a 120-mile night navigation deployment.

The passage, in the early hours, of one troop through the small Highland village of Craigellachie was apparently witnessed, from behind the safety of her net curtains, by a local resident and duly report-

ed to the local paper. It proved to be an event of such significance that it became front page news.

The exercise finished in the Montreath forest near Arbroath and involved the civilian authorities.

Col Stewart commented: "This proved to be a most successful first annual camp for the regiment. It was hard work, unbroken sleep became a distant memory, but everyone clearly had fun – an important element for the TA soldier. "Indeed, at times I was concerned that sheer enthusiasm might burn up our energies in the first week. We all learned new skills and re-learned old ones.

"Most importantly, however, we have seen how to work together as a fully-fledged regiment."

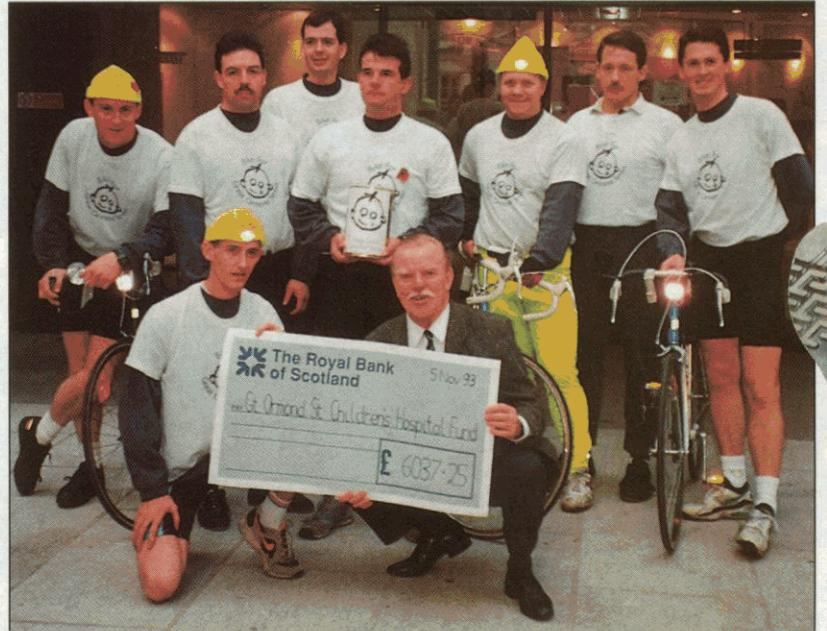


Captain Iain Thornton, C Sqn

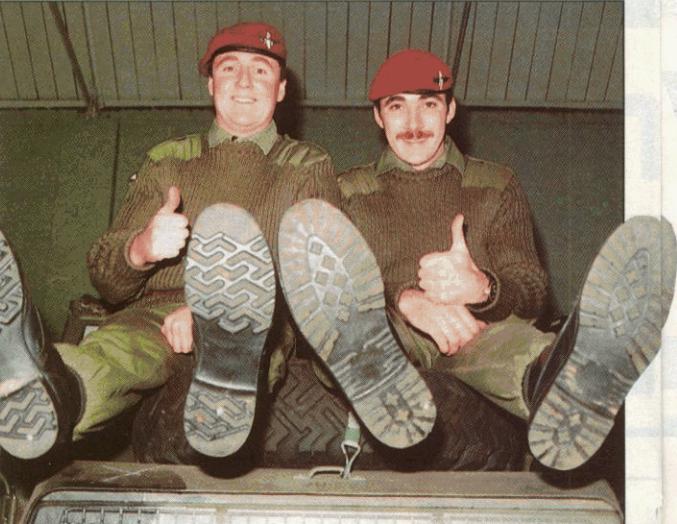


the form of an inter-squadron competitive event. B Squadron fared particularly well taking the Arthur Plate for champion squadron, the Royal Bank Challenge Quaich for best trooper (won by 2nd Troop with 1st Troop C Sqn as runners-

## ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE!



Actor Windsor Davies receives a cheque for more than £6,000 from the Germany-based 9/12 L cyclists outside Great Ormond Street Hospital, London



The boots of Cpl Mike Hopkins and Neil Austin of 13 (Lancashire) Coy, 4 Para (V) were not just made for walking – they were made for raising £1,000 during a nine-day hike over the Pennine Way. The money will be split between Liverpool Radio City's "Give a Child a Chance" charity and the Airborne Benevolent Fund



# HERFORD REME LADS WHEEL IN THE CASH

CYCLISTS from the 9th/12th Royal Lancers Light Aid Detachment REME raised more than £7,000 for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital with a 500-mile round trip from their base at Herford in Germany to London.

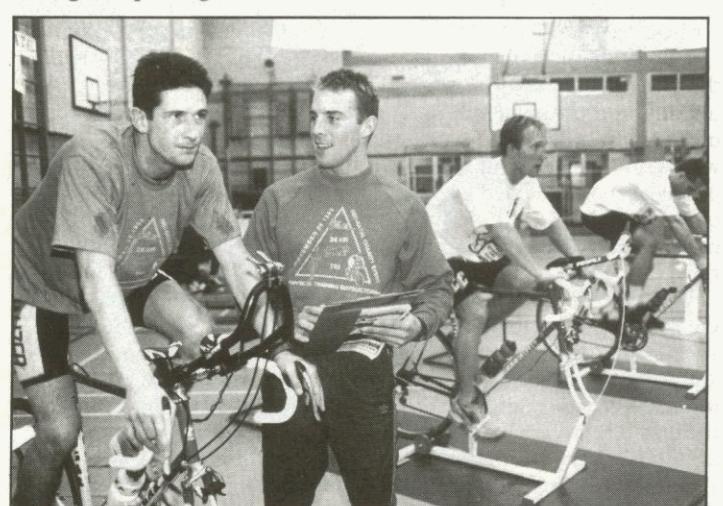
The route took the eight-man team via their home headquarters and REME Manning and Records Office in Leicester, where SSgt Skilly Skilbeck arranged a posting for himself to Hong Kong. The cyclists then passed through Nottingham and Loughborough, the home towns of Cpl Steve Smithurst and LCpl Dave Dawkins, where they were photographed and interviewed.

tained children and staff with his Mr Bean impressions.

★ ★ ★  
Cadets from Rhiwderin ACF Detachment raised £300 for the BBC Children in Need appeal, and presented it to BBC Cardiff.

★ ★ ★  
Cpl Karen Hilton RAMC, serving at the Force Hospital in Belize, helped 45 Commando RM raise £2,422 for Great Ormond Street Hospital. She joined three Marines in a sponsored 12-hour relay swim, the proceeds from which were added to a collection of loose change given by people leaving the country.

★ ★ ★  
Ten runners from the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment are planning sponsored entries to the New York, Pyramids, London, Ottawa and Mombasa marathons to give sight back to 300 children in Kenya.



LCpl Steve Spiers RE encourages Cpl Tony Lynch RE as he, Sgt Matt Chapple APTC and WO2 QMSI Ian Shaw APTC carry out a sponsored 24-hour triathlon at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley to raise £1,500 for equipment for the neo-natal ward of St George's Hospital, Tooting, where Cpl Lynch's baby, Shannon, was treated



performs cataract operations. Each operation costs about £15.

Leading the team will be Lt Maurice Evelyn-Bufton, who said: "This event will enable us to celebrate 300 illustrious years by giving the gift of sight to 300 children in Kenya, home of our affiliated regi-

ment, The Kenya Rifles."

In a typical year Sight Savers supports more than 10,000 operations and treats up to a quarter of a million people.

Lt Evelyn-Bufton can be contacted at 1 Glosters, Regional HQ, Custom House, Gloucester GL1 2HE (tel: 0452 522682).

Left – Glorious Glosters: Lt Maurice Evelyn-Bufton (bottom left) with (clockwise) Cpl Paul Courtney, Cpl Jim Willes, Pte Neil Skeene, Cfn Ashley Winslow REME and LCpl Mark Wiltshire, who will be running in a number of international marathons

Right – Terminally-ill Suzanne Sutherland, with her parents Pauline and David, hear Cpl Gordon Walker of the Royal Highland Fusiliers play the specially composed and recorded single "Song for Suzanne", the royalties of which will go towards providing Scotland's first hospice for children. Composed by Bandmaster (WO1) Graham Jones, the single hit the charts a week after release



golf balls believed lost there.

Led by 1 Para Sub Aqua Club diving officer WO2 Jim Davidson, 18 divers recovered 6,000 balls.

The sunken treasure from Operation Christmas Ball will be sold to raise funds for the NSPCC and Airborne Forces Security Fund.

★ ★ ★  
Nine brave 1 Glosters' wives completed the Basic Fitness Test within the set time and still had the energy to go round the camp at Alma Barracks, Catterick Garrison to collect £765 for the Children in Need appeal.

## ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE!

# Why there's little sympathy for these mums

THE LOCAL newspaper headline read '£172,912 for mum frozen out by RAF - career ruined because of pregnancy'. Described as record damages, the amount of money awarded to Mrs Nicola Cannock came as "quite a shock" to MoD, according to a senior officer in the Ministry who gave his reaction to the *Daily Telegraph* story on the same day.

He wasn't the only one to be shocked.

Widely portrayed in the press as wronged women, those seeking compensation from MoD for being dismissed on pregnancy attract little sympathy among many wives of serving men who have seen their lives changed by sweeping defence cuts and the impact of Options for Change.

The many women who

have gone out of their way to voice their feelings to me are greatly disturbed by the idea that the issue has anything to do with political correctness on the part of the MoD.

In trying to clear up the misunderstanding, I asked MoD departments for an official reaction. They regretted that they felt unable to say anything useful.

"They knew the rules," said one. "They shouldn't get a penny."

Another woman who left the Army on pregnancy said she wouldn't dream of making a claim and she didn't think much of those who did. Far from being women who had had their careers ruined, she thought they were greedy and that MoD was being weak, paying money out with apparent ease for the sake of political correctness.

As far as commenting on the current situation, my feeling is that they're damned if they do and damned if they don't.

Whatever you might believe about the ethics of

making a claim, it is vital that no one goes away with the idea that the issue has anything to do with political correctness on the part of the MoD.

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Some reports have said that MoD may well have to pay out as much as £170m by the time all the claims by women who had to leave the Services on pregnancy

knew political correctness it's the ultimate irony.

It's difficult to explain that there's no choice in the matter. Machinery exists to process claims and, as one

community has had a chance to reflect on the wider question of pregnant women and Service life.

If you can't discharge a woman from the Forces

being worked upon in the slow but sure tradition that makes the British famous as meticulous diplomats.

But it's to be hoped that, when a structure for the career of Servicewomen who choose to have children and keep their career is worked out, the Press Office at MoD is able to talk about it without constraints.

Then perhaps all the men and women who have railed against the current situation can do so from a position of informed strength and without the influence of the politically correct press for whom pregnant women in battle-dress make good copy.

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

Cari Roberts

## ► COUNTERPOINT

between 1978 and 1990 are settled.

That's enough to buy a helicopter carrier for the Royal Navy. For men and women who are saying goodbye to colleagues who are being made redundant, it's not a particularly welcome thought.

For the woman who accuses MoD of weak-

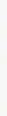
well-informed person pointed out, if you had a right to claim would you pass up the opportunity?

Setting aside the debate about that point, there's another matter to consider. While the press has been trumpeting so-called victories and splashing pictures of smiling women across their pages, the Service

because she is pregnant what do you do with her? If you send her out on exercise and the national papers get to hear about it you get silly stories about pregnant women being "forced" to yomp across the heath. Oh dear.

If you make special allowances for her and excuse her from arduous or

**"My feeling is that they're damned if they do and damned if they don't..."**



difficult duties, who covers for her? Colleagues who aren't pregnant and resent having to do her share of the work. That won't do - it's bad for morale.

And what happens when she has to be excused at short notice when morning sickness takes its toll? Perhaps the solution is to put her on sick leave. Hardly the ideal solution.

Of course, this is oversimplifying the issue. There are pregnant women serving in the Forces and they probably all have different experiences.

Some will feel they're getting a good deal. Some will feel they've been discriminated against. Some will be effective Service-women making a good contribution to the life of their unit. Some won't.

**My impression is that the whole question is**

• • •

## Can you give SSAFA a hand?

SSAFA volunteers carried out 82,334 casework and friendship visits in 1992, and dispersed more than £5m from statutory sources and benevolent funds. And they would be glad of some help.

Now SSAFA has produced a bright new range of leaflets and posters - the theme is "You'll never walk alone" - to catch the eye of potential helpers and clients.

Volunteers receive training and out of pocket expenses. SSAFA's central office is at 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP (tel: 071-403 8783).

### Keeping warm with the RBL

FOR more than 50 years the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion has organised a widows' and ex-Servicemen's weekly allowance through which nearly 1,000 women ranging in age from 32 to 100 receive a regular cash payment.

Now the Women's Section has decided to make additional cold weather payments of £20 to all those receiving the weekly allowance.

### Naafi joins Halifax on home front

NAAFI has launched a new home purchase scheme in conjunction with the Halifax Building Society.

John Loaring, Naafi financial services director, said Service personnel using the scheme would save hundreds of pounds on house purchase costs.

Special benefits include 15 per cent discount on estate agency fees, 20 per cent off valuation fees, assistance with legal expenses, ten per cent discount on removal services and no lease fee when letting a UK property.

The Family Fund can provide financial assistance for family holidays if you have a child with a severe disability and are below the income limit of

A SPECIAL Services edition of the National Stepfamily Association newsletter has been produced in association with SSAFA. It is full of useful information and can be obtained from the NSA at 72 Willesden Lane, London NW6 7TA or SSAFA at 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP.

The autumn edition of the Forces Children's Support Group's *Children with Special Needs* newsletter is available from Anne Cowan, 5 Lathbury Road, Oxford OX2 7AT.

It has news of support groups and helplines, and information on holiday schemes, including the Guild of St Helena holiday for Service children organised by the Service Children's Education Authority (SCEA).

The Family Fund can provide financial assistance for family holidays if you have a child with a severe disability and are below the income limit of

### Read all about it

£17,000. Details from SSAFA or The Family Fund, PO box 50, York YO1 2ZX.

Are you caring for a disabled friend or relative? If you are, you may be entitled to claim allowances and help from the Department of Social Security and your local council.

Details of what assistance is available is contained in a new DSS booklet (FB 31) entitled *Caring for Someone?*

The booklet also contains a mass of information on support agencies including cancer relief, Parkinson's Disease, diabetes and epilepsy. You can pick up a free copy in any Benefits Agency.

Other new DSS booklets include *Which Benefit*, a guide to all Social Security and NHS benefits (booklet FB 2), and *Help With Your Rent* (RRI).

One of the best routes is through training and upgrading of skills.

To see for himself what was on offer, Capt Alex St Mathew-Daniel RLC, resettlement officer at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham, spent three days on attachment with Holland Training Services in Boston and LBC Itec in Louth.

Capt St Mathew-Daniel

## SETTLE FOR A JOB IN LINCS?

LINCOLNSHIRE Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) and the Armed Forces have teamed up to create a resettlement package for soldiers planning to settle in the country.

The TEC has arranged for resettlement officers to spend time with local employers, learning about the skills Lincolnshire employers are seeking from Service leavers and discovering the quickest route into a job for Service personnel.

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Capt St Mathew-Daniel



Capt Alex St Mathew-Daniel learns about training courses at LBC Itec at Louth, Lincolnshire

## FRANCHISE SHOW BACK AT OLYMPIA

ANYONE thinking of starting their own business will be interested in the spring national franchise exhibition at Olympia, London on April 15-17.

It will feature more than 100 companies looking to recruit new franchises in areas as diverse as fast food, retailing, cleaning, fashion, home improvements and business services.

Discount tickets (£8 single, £12 double) and a free information pack are available from Ann'Rea Clark, Blenheim Events, Blenheim House, 630 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5BG (tel: 081-742 2828). Admission on the door will be £10.

The autumn franchise exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, is scheduled for September 30 to October 2.

# Price of pregnancy dismissals escalates

THE CASE of former flight lieutenant Nichola Cannock, who left the Royal Air Force in 1984 on becoming pregnant and is now the recipient of a £172,000 settlement, is the tip of a rapidly expanding iceberg.

Her award, for lost earnings and hurt feelings, was announced by a tribunal in November.

The size of the award caused ripples of shock in the Ministry of Defence, which faces claims from more than 5,500 other women dismissed in similar circumstances. The MoD has not ruled out an appeal against the size of the judgement.

The MoD has already agreed to a number of out-of-court settlements, most recently £17,000 to Cpl Kim Castledine (26), who has two sons and is now serving with 16 Signal Regiment at Rheindahlen. She was out of the Army for 16 months.

Following a change in the rules, she took her case for unfair dismissal and sexual discrimination to an industrial tribunal at Newcastle upon Tyne. The MoD accepted liability and she withdrew her application.

Her case is one of thousands. A total of 1,631 women dismissed from the Army alone have approached the MoD, and the figure for all three Services is in excess of 5,500.

Of those, 595 have accepted an MoD offer and 635 are going to industrial tribunals.

In 1991 the High Court ruled in favour of two Service nurses dismissed in 1990 on becoming pregnant. One, former QARANC corporal Julie Lane, was awarded £10,000. The other, an RAF nurse, received £15,000.

The Government conceded that its policy was in breach of the 1978 Equal Treatment Directive of European Community law.

The recent spate of

industrial tribunals - Cpl Castledine's was the first of 19 in the north-east - follow the European Court's landmark judgement last August that former dietitian Helen Marshall, forced to retire at 62 by her local authority, was a victim of sexual discrimination.

And the Luxembourg court also ruled that British law limiting the amount of compensation did not apply.

In October, another former RAF Servicewoman dismissed after becoming pregnant was awarded £33,000, and a former RAF medical assistant received £22,000 in an out-of-court settlement in September.

Under arrangements announced by the MoD in January 1992, pregnant Servicewomen who qualify for maternity leave and who wish to return to duty after confinement are allowed 98 days' paid leave plus unpaid leave up to a maximum of 48 weeks.

To retain the right to return to work, Service mothers must be back on duty within 37 weeks from the beginning of the week of confinement.

They are permitted to remain in the Service provided they can fulfil their contract of being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, for deployment at home or abroad.

To be eligible for maternity leave, a Servicewoman must have worked at least 15 hours a week and completed a minimum of one year's paid service during the three years immediately prior to the start of maternity leave.

At one time women had to leave the Services on marriage.

The MoD is currently looking into the sensitive question of provision of accommodation and Boarding School Allowance for single mothers who choose to remain in uniform.



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Royal Tank Regiment.  
Corps of Royal Engineers.  
Royal Corps of Signals.

The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

The Royal Irish Regiment.

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.  
The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

The Royal Regiment of Wales.

The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters.

Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

The Light Infantry.

7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

The Army Air Corps.

The Royal Army Chaplain's Department.

The Royal Logistic Corps.

Royal Army Medical Corps.

Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The Adjutant General's Corps.

Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

Small Arms School Corps.

Royal Army Dental Corps.

Intelligence Corps.

Army Physical Training Corps.

The Berkshire Yeomanry.

The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry.

Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

The Wessex Regiment.

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## Battle of Britain medal plea

GOOD luck to Col Newton in his renewed efforts to secure a Suez Canal Zone medal.

Using the same logic there is surely a case for the award of the 1939-45 Star to RAF groundcrew, soldiers and Royal Marine gunners who served on Battle of Britain airfields in south-east England in 1940.

For what they endured – and hundreds were killed and wounded – and for facing the very probable threat of invasion, these men and women

did not even qualify for the Defence Medal, let alone the 1939-45 Star.

They were not operational, but their sacrifice equalled that of any man who served abroad. They did get the War Medal – along with other Service personnel who served 28 days and never heard the bang of a firework.

Had the Battle of Britain been lost and the Germans occupied the UK, there would have been no Desert Victory and no D-Day.

The losing teams in cup finals get a medal – how about one for the winners of the one battle that had to be won by Britain and for which there was no second chance? – **H V Cossons, Wincanton, Somerset.**

### Review: proof is in the reading

MANY thanks for the review (December 13) of Kevin Callaghan's book *A Price on My Head*.

It is a pity the reviewer's constructive article was marred in the final paragraph with an apparent obligatory adverse criticism referring to a chapter out of sequence – which was not the case – and the apparent need for "more careful proofreading".

While admitting the product is not guaranteed to be literally free, it is no more so than many books put out by large publishing houses.

Insofar as the comment that Kevin Callaghan's story "deserves better presentation", I can only state that the one constant comment most people have made to me thus far is: "Excellent presentation".

The book is a good read and at £8.95 represents excellent value for money. – **J A Roby, Owl Books, Wigan.**

● Adverse criticisms are not "obligatory" in *SOLDIER* book reviews. Our reviewer stands by his judgement, which he considers to be fair. – **Editor**

I REFER to the letter from Jerry Ford (October 18) and other letters on the subject of long serving soldiers.

In 1930 (I had recently entered the Duke of York's Royal Military School), I was shown newspaper photographs of a Pte Nobby Clarke kneeling and kissing the ground at Southampton after 33 years' continuous overseas service. I am unable to recall any other details of his service.

Before the war I was posted to Trincomalee in Ceylon. A sapper, "Pugged" Percy Hetherington, was in his 18th year of continuous overseas service.

### GUIDELINES

CORRESPONDENTS are asked to include their full name and address, printed in block capitals where handwritten. Letters should be brief and to the point; they may be edited for publication.

### BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"Entente cordiale or not, Horace . . . if he tries to kiss me I'll thump him!"

● Red Devils meets Beau Geste – Pages 18-19

## NOBBY WAS GLAD TO GET BACK

On the rare occasion when naval ships visited the port Percy would dress himself in full khaki drill to show off his three World War and LS and GC medal ribbons, and the five Service stripes on his left forearm. This always guaranteed him many free drinks from the sailors.

Percy was so well known to port and trooship officials he only ever stencilled "PP" and his destination on his kitbag. Nothing was ever lost.

When I left for the Indian Army in 1943, Percy was still in Ceylon. While in BAOR in the Fifties I read in *Sapper*, the Royal Engineers' journal, that Percy had received his second LS and GC clasp. Still a sapper, he was that evening entertained in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess. – **J V Lewis, Longfield, Kent.**

### Languedoc mystery action

OUTSIDE the small town of Fontes near Montpellier, Languedoc, in south-west France there is a memorial, the centre stone of which is engraved:

*To the memory of Captain Peter Fowler of the British Army, gloriously killed August 21st 1944 – à la mémoire des Gendarmes Pradeilles, François, Lebaron, Maurice. Glorieusement tombés pour la patrie et la liberté dans un combat inégal contre les troupes*

*Allemandes le 21 Aout 1944.*

August 1944 is late in the Second World War for this British officer to be an escaping prisoner en route to Spain, and equally late for insurgent activity in that part of France.

Does any reader know the story of Capt Fowler and how he came to be killed in an apparently peaceful area? – **Brian Jewell, The War Room, 30 Park Parade, Harrogate HG1 5AG.**

Your medal rules are twaddle!

I HAVE just read "Rights and wrongs of medal wearing" (November 29). I am not surprised that no author's name was attached to such twaddle.

There are many instances of foreign awards being worn together with the British award for the same event (eg Turkish medal for the Crimea and Khedives Star for Egypt). If this was good enough for Queen Victoria . . .

Once a person has left the Services the wearing of any medal to which he is entitled is entirely at his own discretion, whether the medal was approved by our Queen or not.

Although I am not personally concerned in the Suez Medal saga, the failure to issue a medal in this case is just another indication of the hypocrisy of the British medal system. – **Ray Parkes, Halesowen, W Midlands.**

● Quite right, Mr Parkes, ex-Servicemen may wear what they will. For them, as the article pointed out, it is a matter of conscience . . . and a courtesy to the Queen. But the official position for serving personnel is as stated: any medal worn on uniform must have the formal approval of the Sovereign. The article was prepared by me, with guidance from the MoD.

The Suez Medal saga is, surely, an entirely different matter. – **Editor**

## A man with five clasps

WITH reference to two previous letters about the TA Efficiency Medal with a fourth clasp, I have in my possession my late father's TA Efficiency Medal with five clasps. He was awarded the MBE in 1952 for services to the Territorial Army.

I understand his full-time active service in 1939-45 enhanced his entitlement to count "bonus" years.

For the record, he was 3706141 WO2 R H Gardner, 5th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster). – **A Gardner, Lancaster.**

## SOLDIER to Soldier

### 'Experience' of 1914-18

LEEDS is to play host to an international conference on the theme of "The Experience of War 1914-18". In the same week, September 3-11, the city will stage approximately 20 exhibitions, lectures, commemorative concerts, sporting events and a range of related performances for public participation.

Each day there will be re-enactment events, such as convoys of wounded being taken from the railway station to St James's Hospital and Leeds General Infirmary; period-costumed police will be on the streets and firemen will deal with the effects of a Zeppelin raid.

Departments of the two Leeds universities will be arranging lectures and the conference – scheduled for September 7-12 – has a programme of 42 speakers, all eminent historians, not only from the Royal Military Academy, the

Royal Military College of Science and the Royal Naval College in Britain, but from universities in Adelaide, Ohio, Amiens, Lyon, Stuttgart, Louvain, Nijmegen and Moscow.

As the close of the 20th Century approaches, this will not only be the first such large-scale commemoration, but the last when re-examination of the period can be held in the presence of an appreciable number of people who were alive during the war years.

Details and provisional programme for the commemoration week are available from the Event Secretary, The Liddell Collection, University Library, Leeds LS2 9JT.

### Abram Games's war posters

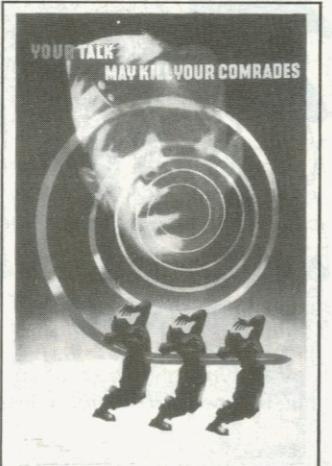
POSTERS of the past conjure up bygone images better than any other artefacts, and those of the Second World War are particularly evocative.

Numerous artists were commissioned to produce propaganda and informative posters, one of the most prolific and best remembered of these being Abram Games, who before the war had designed publicity posters for clients that included the London County Council, London Trans-

port, General Post Office and Shell UK.

Still engaged in commercial artwork, he was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Art in 1992.

A loan collection of 55 wartime and immediate post-war posters, which Abram Games has selected as being representative, will be exhibited in British galleries and museums during 1994, including the Mercer Gallery, Harrogate (February-March), the Aldershot Military Museum (March-April) and the Imperial War Museum (August-September).



An example of Abram Games's Second World War posters

### Heard the one about . . .

ROYAL British Legion field officer Trevor Jones wants you to tell him a funny story. If he can collect enough of them he intends to publish a book, all of the proceeds from which will go to the Poppy Appeal.

Poppy Day comes round but once a year; the RBL's support for soldiers old and young, and their families, goes on every day. Consequently, its fund-raisers need to generate income all year round.

Trevor, who can be contacted at the Royal British Legion, 5 Blenheim Terrace, Leeds LS2 9JD (tel: 0532 340711), is looking for stories about Service life, or involving Servicemen and women.

### The Russians have landed!

SHETLAND's part-time soldiers sprung into action as 73 Russian sailors landed on their doorstep in the middle of the night.

When the Russian ship ran aground in the mouth of Lerwick harbour, the town's Territorial Army unit turned out in force to offer hospitality and accommoda-

## DIARY

### MARCH

30: Final flypast at Middle Wallop of Scout helicopter after 30 years' service with AAC.

### MAY

14-15: International Air Show, Middle Wallop.

21-23: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

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 572582).

### JUNE

1-2: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130 hours. Tickets £12, £10 and £3 (unreserved) from Household Division Funds Office, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 (enclose sae).

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.

tion in their TA Centre. Following a spectacular rescue of the crew by the Shetland Coastguard, CSgt Ian Duff, permanent staff instructor at Fort Charlotte, responded to a midnight cry for help from the islands' council.

The Terriers immediately made their hall available to the Russians, most of whom had escaped with only the clothes they were wearing.

Combined hospitality by 42 Platoon, the Royal National Mission for Deep Sea Fisherman, the Shetland Islands Council and the islanders themselves ensured the shipwrecked sailors were well entertained until they returned to Russia a week later.

## SEARCHLINE

● Sgt Ann Grant from Banff, Scotland, served 40 Sqn RCT, Catterick in 1973, Rheindahlen 1976, and godmother to Richard Sewell, please contact Jean Hill (formerly Sewell), 1 Sudbury Close, Holme Hall, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S40 4RS.

● Tom Whitehead, ex-RA: Richard Field of 3 Colliers Brook, Aylburton Common, Lydney, Glos GL15 6DX, wishes to contact Tom Whitehead of Nottinghamshire, with whom he served in the Royal Artillery attached to 656 Sqn AAC in Malaya in 1959-60.

● Prince Rupert School (Wilhelmshaven, Germany) Association is trying to create a register of former pupils so that reunions can be arranged. Details from ex-pupils or relatives sought by Elizabeth Bird, 54 Shaftesbury Avenue, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO5 3BP (tel: 0703 252925, 0252 816777 daytime).

● Isle of Man 50 years on: Isle of Man Joint Ex-Service Association is planning a 1995 reunion for all ex-Servicemen and women who served or trained on or around the island during the Second World War. Anyone interested in attending should write to the association c/o E L Kissack, 5 Fort William, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 5BG before March 31, 1994.

## MILITARIA

● Irrawaddy River: P Ogle (63 Carnforth Crescent, Grange Estate, Grimsby, South Humberside DN34 5JB) wants to know why soldiers in his father's RASC amphibious company in India were allowed to wear Australian bush hats, and if any veterans of the Irrawaddy crossing meet for reunions.

● Combined Services Caving Association is hoping to publish a book covering the history of Service caving and cavers. Information and stories to Sgt Ian M Rolland, Mountain Rescue Section, RAF Leuchars, St Andrews, Fife KY16 0JX.

## APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers – R J Heywood – To HQ Londist, Dec 6; M S Jameson – To be Comd 51 Highland Bde, Dec 10.

Colonels – B J Dickson – To be Comdt CAD Kineton, Dec 7; J C Longfield – To HQ DRA, Dec 6; M A Corbet Burcher – To MoD, Dec 6; G N Donaldson – To HQ Wales & W Dist, Dec 12.

Lt Cols – C P Conlon, R Signals – To RSA Larkhill, Dec 6; G A Fryatt RA – To HQ Episkopi Gar,

Dec 6; V G Iwanek RE – To be Comd Rheindahlen Sup Unit (A), Dec 6; D G Ross, A and SH – To HQ Scotland, Dec 6; J D K Russell PWRR – To be CO 1 PWRR, Dec 6; C G Stallard, R Anglian – To be DA/MA Vienna, Dec 6; C A Cocker, R Anglian – To be CO Sec UKSC(Fwd), Dec 6.

### RETIREMENT

Colonel – G M Gadd, late RAFC, Dec 8.

## REUNIONS

● 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).

● Glosers' 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).

● R Signals TA, Eastbourne: All ranks 25th anniversary reunion dinner, March 26. All past members of 858/859 Tps and 56 Sig Sqn (V) welcome. Details from PSAO, 56 Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN2 7NL.

● 4 QORWK (50th anniversary of Kohima): Reunion to take place on April 9 at Boxley Road TA Centre, Maidstone. Contact Capt J Brown on 0634 850573.

● 74 Medium Regt RA: Annual reunion, May 14. Details from Ron Somers, 104a Lee Road, Blackheath, London SE3 9DE (tel: 081-852 6716).

● 1 RWF (1942-45): 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers (1942-45). Pieces not claimed will be given to another mess.

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).

● Harrogate final reunion: A reunion is planned for July 2-3 to mark the move of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate to Blandford in mid-1995. If you served, trained or instructed at Penny Pot Camp, Army Apprentices' School 1947-66, Army Apprentices' College 1966-93 or Uniacke Barracks, and have not already registered, send your details to SO2 Coord, Army Apprentices College, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate HG3 2SE by April 1.

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

## CLOSURES

### QGE mess

ANY ex-members of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers who donated items to the British WOs' and Sergeants' Mess are requested to contact the president regarding disposal of property on closure of the mess. Correspondence to WO2 (BRQMS) G Holtham, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Perowne Barracks, BFPO 1.

### 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron

Anyone who donated or presented to 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE items which they wish returned on the unit's disbandment in June should contact WO2 (SSM) G W Bell on Berlin 01049 030 309 ext 3610 (or c/o 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 45). Pieces not claimed will be given to another mess.

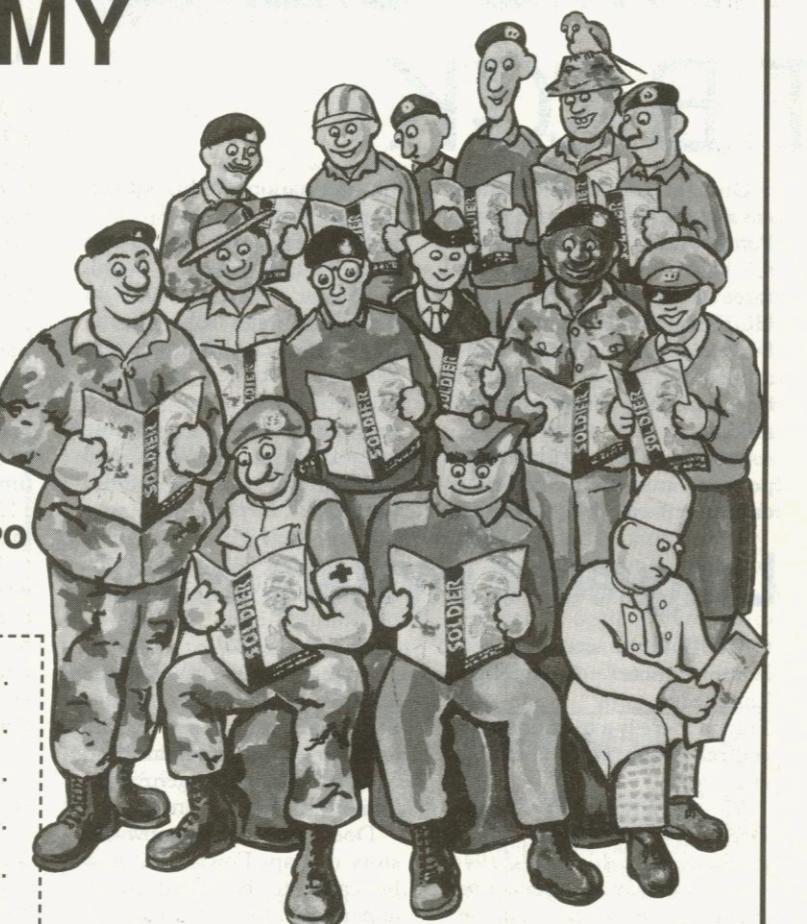
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# From the Western Front, with no sense of futility

THE YEAR 1994 has more than an average share of important anniversaries relating to the two major 20th century wars: D-Day in June and Arnhem in September will have their half-centenaries commemorated.

August will see the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War, which has now joined the mainstream of history; the number of survivors is rapidly decreasing and soon there will be none.

For this reason the start of that devastating conflict may

not be marked to the same extent as D-Day or Arnhem but already books are being released and there are plans for a special week in Leeds.

An important work on the Great War is Malcolm Brown's *The Imperial War Museum Book of the Western Front*, and as the author explains in his foreword: "What gives this volume a special validity is that it presents its subject through evidence which, in virtually every case, is in public print for the first time.

"It is as though long after an

election or a referendum a mass of unopened ballot-boxes had been found in a hitherto locked room . . ."

The text is based on letters home from soldiers of all ranks and the photographs are drawn from the Imperial War Museum archives.

The letters give us the best insight we can now expect of day-to-day life in the trenches; of the misleadingly-termed 'rest billets' from where the troops still had to go up to the front to dig, repair the wire, or patrol in no man's land.

On the less brutal side we can read of the affection felt for towns like Abbeville, Amiens and Béthune, all too rarely visited to enjoy the "good shops, clean billets, and an excellent little pastry shop for tea".

"Ultimately there is always likely to be a lack of understanding between our later perception of the special ordeal of a First World War attack and that of the men who undertook those terrifying journeys across no man's land."

What was it that kept thousands of men from reacting with dismay or fear?

The author suggests that some of the factors were "tradition, unit pride in the flag . . . and there was always the hope that what they were about to do would help to finish the war . . ."

Newspapers portrayed the Tommy as buoyant and uncomplaining, happy to do what he was told and to lay down his life for "King, Country or High Command at the drop of a tin hat . . . One reason, arguably, for the persistence of this simplistic version is that it was widely endorsed by officers who, remote from the Tommies by reason of class and education, found it difficult to understand his real thoughts and motivations . . ."

In a book about Irish soldiers it is to be expected that the forming of the Irish Brigade (38 Infantry Brigade) should meet with approval.

Even this excellent book cannot explain why most of the

too often, as a nuisance."

However, Richard Doherty does concede that sometimes Churchill was thinking along the right lines.

" . . . On 9 October 1941, he sent a note to General Sir John Dill, Chief of the Imperial General Staff: 'Pray, let me have your views, and if possible your plans, for the forming of an Irish Brigade' . . ."

In a book about Irish soldiers it is to be expected that the forming of the Irish Brigade (38 Infantry Brigade) should meet with approval.

The author's rare criticism of the generals is frequently cloaked in hearsay.

For example, he writes: "Alexander's critics have claimed that he was not an intelligent commander, that he lacked that little extra ounce of intellect that would have made him a military genius."

Ten biographies in a book of about 200 pages is undeniably good value but the once over lightly treatment gives the impression of being more a collection of obituaries than a critical study of leadership in war.

"Although there is no doubt that Churchill's strategic vision, this particular conceit . . . was to have serious consequences for many of his generals as the war went on.

"While Churchill saw himself as a military man and dressed up in uniform as often as possible, the Army regarded him only as a politician and, all

## RANDOM HARVEST OF IRISH GENERALSHIP

"CONVERTING the radio programmes to book form was not a straightforward exercise . . ." So writes Richard Doherty in *Irish Generals*, for which ten Second World War senior commanders of Irish parentage have been selected and given potted wartime curriculum vitae.

The book has its origins in a BBC Radio Ulster series and it is easy to see that putting the theme into print was less than straightforward.

To say that it does not really come off is probably to miss some point that the author intended.

Maybe it is to draw attention to the debt of gratitude owed to Irish generalship by the rest of Great Britain.

The order in which the commanders appear is puzzling; it is neither alphabetical nor by seniority – seemingly a random harvest of generals who received either the approval or wrath of Winston Churchill: the good and the bad who have already been treated to numerous in-depth biographies.

Doherty's chosen subjects are: Bernard Law Montgomery who, untypical of generals, did not come from a family noted for any military tradition; Harold Alexander, Churchill's beau sabreur; John Dill, nicknamed "Dilly-Dally" by

Churchill before he sacked him from the office of CIGS; Richard O'Connor, whose role in the desert offensive of 1940 was not recognised; Nelson Russell and Pat Scott, successive commanders of the Irish Brigade; Frederick "Tim" Pile, master-mind of anti-aircraft defences; Gerald Templer, to whom the structure of the Intelligence Corps is owed; and Alan Brooke, one of whose forebears had the distinction of leading an expedition which burned the home of the American president during the war of 1812.

Refurbishment of the residence included painting the walls white – thus the White House.

The author's rare criticism of the generals is frequently cloaked in hearsay.

For example, he writes: "Alexander's critics have claimed that he was not an intelligent commander, that he lacked that little extra ounce of intellect that would have made him a military genius."

Ten biographies in a book of about 200 pages is undeniably good value but the once over lightly treatment gives the impression of being more a collection of obituaries than a critical study of leadership in war.

"Although there is no doubt that Churchill's strategic vision, this particular conceit . . . was to have serious consequences for many of his generals as the war went on.

"While Churchill saw himself as a military man and dressed up in uniform as often as possible, the Army regarded him only as a politician and, all

## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

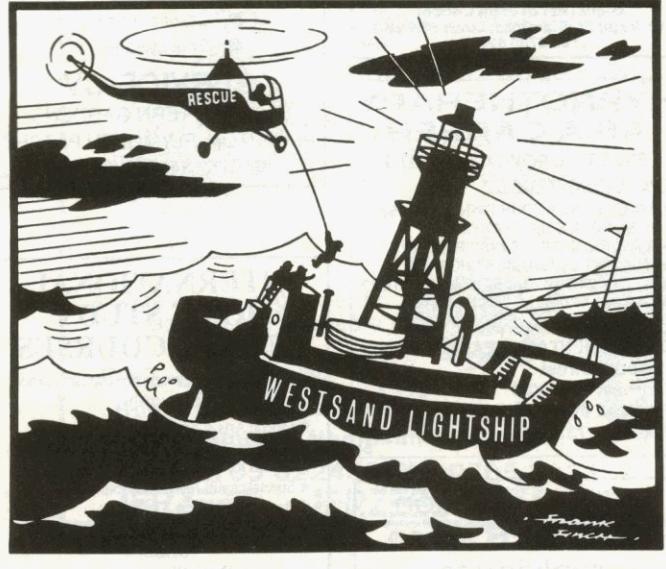
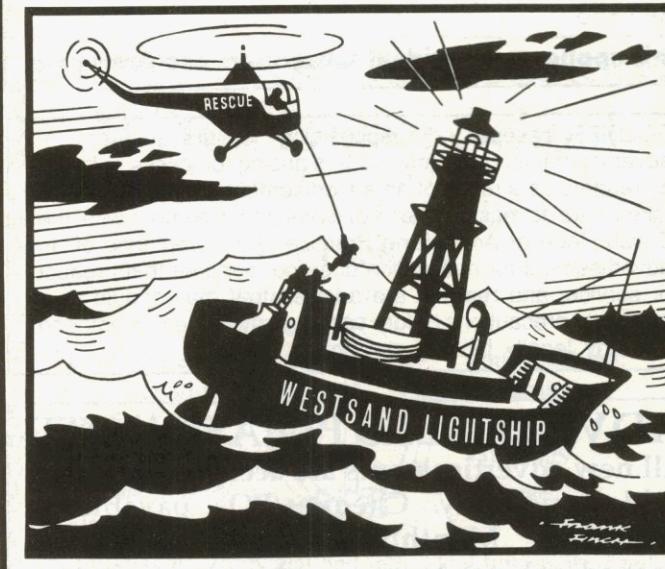
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The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the March 7, 1994 issue.

Name: (Give rank or title)

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Competition No 576: Congratulations to Mr G Collingwood, of Bovington, Dorset, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs O Floyd, of Neath, W Glamorgan, and Mr E E Hemmings, of Hove, E Sussex.

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## Inside story of a fighting man

SCHOOLED by life in a Glasgow slum, Peter McAleese learned to fight in the traditional manner of the area – with everything and anything to hand.

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In his autobiography, *No Mean Soldier*, written in collaboration with Mark Bles, himself a former SAS officer, he tells the story of his own killing fields in 30 years of soldiering.

He describes his career as that of a "professional operational soldier", as opposed to a Regular soldier who wanted only to "keep his nose clean and worry about promotion and pension".

The name of the game for him was adventure because above all he loved to fight and to shoot. He gives the impression that he would fight anyone anywhere just to get a buzz. He

was never happier than when in action, he says.

According to his story he saw plenty of that with the Paras, the SAS, the Rhodesian SAS, and the South African Defence Force and, for a few months, as a mercenary in Angola and Colombia.

He says his pay was modest and he gets no pension from any of the armies with which he served.

What he has got is a book full of memories of exciting days as a soldier, and of a violent career in world trouble spots.

Now he invites the reader to judge him and his career as a soldier. "Do not be manipulated by the Press or second-hand stories," he urges, "decide for yourself."

For this reader he's another soldier with yet another tale, although it's fast-moving and very well told. – JM

*No Mean Soldier* by Peter McAleese. Orion, £16.99.

## HOW THEY REPORTED THE BOER WAR

WITH the notable exception of one well-known TV news-caster, "good news" takes a back seat as far as most journalists are concerned.

In the main it is hard news they are after because that is what sells newspapers.

It was true during the Crimean War, when the reports of William Howard Russell of *The Times* proved to be a big thorn in the sides of the military and the government of the day.

His exposure of the mismanagement of the campaign created a sensation and he became a target for the establishment – although that did

not stop him accepting a knighthood in 1895.

Moving on from the Crimea to the war of 1899-1902, *The War Correspondents – The Boer War* tells the story of the men who wrote the news about the war for home consumption.

A similar conflict – which continues to this day – between the Establishment and the "Fourth Estate", was again evident when the State tried to censor and manage the news from the front.

And when questions were asked in the Commons, *The Times* began a campaign denying reports of the deaths of thousands and of the terrible conditions prevailing in the camps. – JM

present and maintain the images of certain heroes and events.

He cites a number of "serious lapses in journalistic ethics" when it came to reporting the conditions in the concentration camps set up by the British authorities.

And when questions were asked in the Commons, *The Times* began a campaign denying reports of the deaths of thousands and of the terrible conditions prevailing in the camps. – JM

*The War Correspondents – The Boer War* by Raymond Sibbald. Alan Sutton, £17.99.

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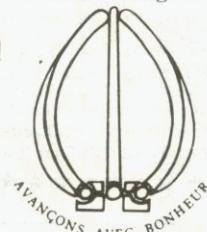
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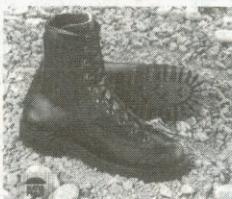
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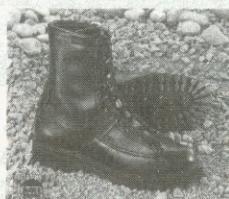
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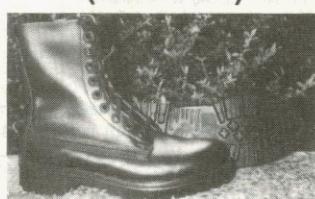
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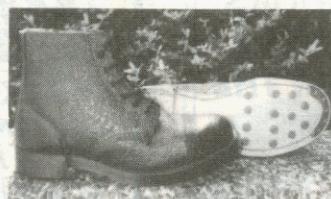
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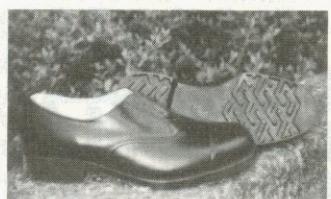
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**REPLIES.** To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be CLEARLY written in the TOP LEFT CORNER of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8" x 4" and should only contain a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

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

**Hi, we are two females** aged 28 and 30, living in Manchester. Interests: clubs, socialising and holidays (especially Cyprus). Would like to write to two squaddies aged 24+. Photo appreciated. P800

02/94

**Confident, optimistic** and caring 37-year-old graduate lady. Seeks like minded companion with a good sense of humour, the best of old fashioned values and an open mind. P801

02/94

**Wiltshire Rose** waiting to be picked. Pretty feminine lady, 32, 5'4", slim, light brown hair, blue eyes, n/s, romantic, old fashioned standards. Seeks officer. Please write wherever you are. P802

02/94

**Need any writing practice?** I'm aged 33, 5'9" tall, nutty red head. I enjoy music - punk to Pavarotti, walking my GSD, rugby and generally being daft. Will reply to all letters. P803

02/94

**Hi, I'm 25**, small, with long dark hair. I enjoy music, pubs, clubs, books and films. I would like to hear from anybody, especially signals, with similar interests. P804

02/94

**Shy lady**, late thirties, recently divorced. Would like to correspond with people in similar position, to rebuild her social life. Likes cinema, eating out and rugby, dislikes discos. P805

02/94

**34-year-old** divorced lady with three children. Rescue me, I've entered the classified zone. I'm loving, passionate, pretty and alone. Can you change that? Write, you've nothing to lose. P806

02/94

**Single female**, 5'5", 28 years old, slim and attractive with red hair and brown eyes. Seeks male pen pal, please write soon. P807

02/94

**Hi my name is Bev**, from Greater Manchester. 32 years young, 5'7", blonde, slim and attractive. Good job, car and house. Go on, put pen to paper - you won't be disappointed. Write soon. P808

02/94

**Lonely**, 5'7", dark blue eyes, medium build, semi-divorced! Two children (10+8), army daughter. Likes swimming, walking, reading, theatre, bowling, pubs and motor sports. Please write, all letters answered. P809

02/94

**Mark**, 30, UK based. I'm slim, fit, 5'10" and nearly divorced! If you are slim, pretty, n/s, gosh and need fun, romance, excitement and TLC then I'm waiting. Photo please. P810

02/94

**Attention!** Stand easy lads. Prepare for kit inspection by Sarah, 23, who likes pubs, cinema and spending money. So, if you're bored on guard duty, why not write to me. P811

02/94

**Hi, my name is Kay**. I'm 31, totally daft and I love skiing, especially the apres ski! learning German (well I try), pubs, pizza and white wine. Berks/Bucks area. P812

02/94

**Fun loving** 23-year-old Arsenal fan, likes theatre, pubbing, cinema and animals (the four-legged kind). Anyone, any age, with similar interests? Go on, drop me a line. P813

02/94

**I am 26**, 5'6" with blonde hair and brown eyes. I work as a medical secretary at a Sheffield hospital. Like going to pubs, clubs and keeping fit, I love football. P814

02/94

**Lesley**, 29, secretary, fair hair and blue eyes. Loves animals, children and outdoors. Whether you're 5ft to 6ft tall, I promise to reply to you all! Come on, make my day. P815

02/94

**Attention** soldier got the blues, look no further for happy news. I'm a bubbly blonde, vivacious, female in mid thirties. A delight to know, so give it a go! P816

02/94

## More Pen Pals in next issue

## Announcements

### LIBERATION OF BERGEN BELSEN

The Military Attaché, Paris is in contact with the President of an organisation which is to put up a statue in Paris on 23 March 1994 to commemorate those who died in Bergen Belsen concentration camp.

Veterans who helped to liberate the camp are to be invited to the ceremony. The French organisation will pay for the accommodation, food, and probably transport.

Those ex-RAMC officers and soldiers who were at the liberation should contact:

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D5

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24/03

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08/94

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## Western Isles set challenge

ROYAL Artillery personnel based at the range on Benbecula are to provide logistic support for the Western Isles Challenge, a novel competition to be staged on April 27-28 across some of the least-known terrain in Europe.

Teams of up to four plus back-up are being sought for the 200-mile challenge which will take contestants from Barra Head to the Butt of Lewis. Bicycles, dinghies, sailboards and hang gliders are expected to feature. Further details are available from Ian Callaghan on 085 985 238 (fax: 085 985 277).



Sgt Rod Finch in contention during the international middle distance race at Durham

## Boxers ready for the Navy

ARMY boxers warmed up for the Royal Navy match with two convincing wins just before Christmas.

They beat a London ABA team at Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent by six bouts to two, and followed up with a 6-1 win over a Western Counties select team at Bristol.

The Inter-Service team championship gets under way on January 20 when the Army entertain the Navy in the Boxing Centre at Aldershot, and it is certain to be a baptism of fire for new coach Sgt Norman Phillips.

Whatever the relative strengths of the two teams, sailor and soldier always bring the best out of each other and the evening is rarely a disappointment for amateur boxing enthusiasts.

Norman Phillips, who took over from Mick Gannon in the summer, said: "If all goes well we will have a strong side out against the Navy, including a few new faces."

The Army, who have been Inter-Service champions for ten consecutive years, will be



Fus Dale Duncan, who was in action against the Russians

captained again by ABA champion LCpl Chris Bessey, one of only two home winners on the Combined Services bill against Russian Combined Services at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth on December.

Bessey looked very impres-

sive in outpointing his opponent on an evening when the Russians had things pretty much under control. Fus Dale Duncan (1 RRF), the only other soldier on the main bill, lost on points.

LCpl Vinny Powell (RE), an ABA finalist last year, returned to action in a special bout and forced a third round retirement from the Navy's contender for the Services' championship. There was a second boost for the Army when Gdsm Kevin Shaw (WG) also won a special contest.

Another to watch out for in the Army-Navy match is LCpl Steve Burford, the England heavyweight who reached last year's ABA finals.

Tickets are available from HQ Aldershot Garrison Sports Office (Aldershot Mil 4084 or 4155) at £4.50 (ringside, reserved) or £3.50 (Service personnel with ID £1.50) at the door.

The RN-RAF match is at Portsmouth on February 3 and the RAF host the Army at Cosford, near Wolverhampton on February 17.

## Deepcut to host the corps

THIS year's Inter-Corps cross country championships at Deepcut on March 9 are certain to produce a new name on the men's trophy - the first two races were won by the RAOC.

The 1993 race was the RAOC team's swansong before the corps became part of the new Royal Logistic Corps.

Individual winners were Pte Darren Stephenson (1 PWO) and Cpl Kelly Holmes, who led the Adjutant General's Corps to victory.

Entries for the third running of the championships should be in to the secretary of the Army Athletics Association by February 7 and further information can be obtained by contacting Capt Peter Marsh on Bicester Mil (724) 2112.

The Training Regiment and Depot RLC at The Princess Royal Barracks is hosting the event, which will be run over six miles for the men and four miles for the women. Both courses involve a number of steep hills.



LCpl Alan Shepherd (3) keeps pace with the leaders during the 8,300m event at Durham

## Rod in frame at Gateshead

ARMY athletes again competed at both the Gateshead and Durham international cross country races and turned in excellent performances, writes Peter Marsh.

At Gateshead, Sgt Rod Finch confirmed his position as one of the country's leading middle distance runners with a superb effort in the 1,900m international event which earned him third place in a very strong field, just three seconds behind the winner.

Over the longer 6,900m course, LCpl Alan Shepherd took on some of the world's best distance men and finished just over 60 seconds behind the winner.

In the veterans' event, Sgt Bill Bailey, who has just moved into the over-40 class, served notice on the national selectors with a fine fifth place in a field which included several current international athletes. In the same race, Maj Les Wood was second in the over-45 age group.

Army positions at the Gateshead meeting were:

**Senior men's open 3,500m** - 5, Tpr Steve Haywood; 9, LCpl John Smith (2 Sig Regt); 14, Pte Carl Dunne (1 R Anglian).

**Men's middle distance international 1,900m** - 3, Sgt Rod Finch (3 Para).

**Men's international 6,900m** - 36, LCpl Alan Shepherd (23 PFA); 49, Cpl Colin Palmer (Dep Regt RE); 52, Sgt Ian Atkinson (HQ 42 Bde); 83, Cpl Lee Boston (2 Sig Regt); 96, SSgt John Lennon (23 Div Tp Sqn).

**Veteran men's 5,200m** - 5, Sgt Bill Bailey (2 Sig Regt); 13, LCpl Shaun Malone (14 Sup Regt); 15, Capt Peter Marsh (16 Regt RLC); 17, Maj Les Wood (2 Sig Regt); 29, SSgt Jeff Baker (ACIO Peterborough).

**Junior men** - 24, Pte Nigel Bomford (23 PFA); 42, LCpl Alan Shepherd (2 Sig Regt); 48, Pte Jamie Webber Fryer (Army Sch of Catering).

The County Durham international races were held at Beamish on a frosty New Year's Day and attracted good quality fields in all events.

In the opening race, the junior men's open, Pte Nigel Bomford's steady improvement continued with a fine 15th.

Rod Finch, trying to shake off a bout of 'flu, nevertheless achieved a creditable 10th place in a class international

middle distance field. He lost touch with the leaders only in the closing stages as he ran out of steam as the pace began to hot up.

Race organisers combined the senior men and veteran events, which made for an interesting competition.

LCpl Alan Shepherd ran very positively in the leading group and his reward was a fifth place which will boost his confidence for the Army championships.

Bill Bailey accounted for all the veterans in the race with the exception of former Olympian Mike McCloud, with fellow Army veteran Maj Glen Grant not far behind in third position.

Durham results were:

**Junior men's 5,800m** - 15, Pte Nigel Bomford.

**International middle distance 3,600m** - 10, Sgt Rod Finch.

**Senior and veteran men's open, 8,300m** - 5, LCpl Alan Shepherd; 11 (2nd vet), Sgt Bill Bailey; 15 (3rd vet), Maj Glen Grant (Greenwich Naval College); 18, Cpl Gareth Williams (Depot Regt RE); 26, Cpl Lee Boston; 45 (2nd over-45s), Maj Colin Walker (3 RSME); 50, Capt Peter Marsh (16 Regt RLC).

## Jennings's 12 of the best sinks Royal Navy

REME won a very competitive Inter-Corps indoor hockey tournament staged at RAF Newton, with APTC finishing as runners up.

Army selectors had a very good opportunity to see the talent on display and used the tournament to select a team for the Combined Services indoor championships at HMS Collingwood.

They got it absolutely right, because the Army won both the senior and Under-21 competitions.

The senior clash between Army and the Royal Air Force was a memorable affair, with the soldiers equalising at 9-9 just 20 seconds from the final whistle.

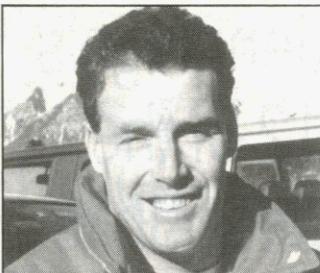
At the break the Army trailed 4-5, with SSgt Ian Jennings scoring a hat trick and LCpl Burton the fourth. At one time in the second half 'keeper Lt Igor Johnstone and Jennings were both given two-minute suspensions, leaving just four men on court and no goalkeeper.

But the depleted ranks defended superbly, conceding just two more goals before the side was restored to full strength. With four minutes left and the RAF 9-6 ahead, defeat seemed inevitable for the Army.

In an intensely exciting finale SSgt Marston-Weston, scored twice in a minute and Cpl Green got the equaliser with seconds remaining.

After the airmen had beaten the Royal Navy 10-5, the Army had to beat the Navy by six clear goals to prevent the RAF retaining the title. They managed it comfortably, Jennings smashing in 12 of the Army's 19 goals against five in reply.

In the first Under-21 game the Army shot down the RAF 10-2, with hat tricks from skipper Sig James and Spr Conetta. Needing only a draw in the final game, the Army juniors beat the Navy 3-2, James getting two. The Navy beat the RAF 6-2.



## Britain leads the world

Cpl Mark Tout (pictured left) has moved into the lead in the World Cup bobsleigh series. As SOLDIER went to press it was learned that Tout was heading the four-man bob points table after the fourth competition in the series.

Pictured in action on the opposite page during earlier World Cup competitions, Tout and his crew now go to the British championships at La

Plagne in France to win selection for the Winter Olympics before the final World Cup races at St Moritz on January 23-30. Cpl Sean Olsson was ninth in the four-man rankings after four races and WO2 Pete Gunn 33rd.

In the two-man competition, Tout was fourth, Olsson - who won a bronze in Calgary - 14th and Gunn 41st.

## Sussex fall to in-form soldiers

**Sussex 0,  
Army 2**

IN THEIR best performance of the season so far, the Army beat Sussex by two goals to nil in the first match of their defence of the South West Counties Championship, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Although without SSgt Kevin Parkins, Pte Pete Batey and Sig Jim Strouts, the visitors found admirable deputies in the forms of Gnr Lee Bluck, LSgt Patsy Fagan and Sgt Steve Davis.

Both 'keepers were in action during the first half, with SSgt Nigel Wiscombe looking particularly secure in the Army goal. Sussex did hit a post and Sig Joe Collins, back after injury, saved one threatening situation.

At the other end, Davis and Cpl Dave Maynard were both denied strikes on goal.

Davis broke the deadlock in the 52nd minute when he neatly sidestepped the Sussex goalkeeper after Bluck had made the opening.

After Wiscombe had twice saved well, the Army scored a second when Sgt Steve Bates, who had a superb second half, lobbed the Sussex defence for Maynard to run clear and find SSgt Alex Higgins who slid the ball home.

The second goal capped a terrific Army performance and puts the side in high morale for the second match in the championship against Dorset on January 24.



Mass start in the relay race on the second day of the Army and BAOR orienteering championships in Berlin. WO2 Richard Bonnett sprints into the lead

## MoD stay clear of RHA after protest

MORE than 400 orienteers from as far away as Hong Kong, the Hebrides and Northern Ireland gathered in Berlin for the 1993 five-day BAOR and Army individual and inter-unit championships.

A fast course produced very quick times on the first day in the individual event at Schafenberg by Warinsee in south west Berlin.

At the end of it the MoD team held a six-minute lead over 7 RHA in the Major Units competition, while AGC Centre, Worthy Down were in

contention for the Minor honours with Vehicle and Weapons Branch REME. In the women's event HQ NI and 15 Signal Regiment had a big lead over HQ UKLF.

The second, relay, day of the inter-units was staged on the relatively flat Konradshohe in Tegel Sud. But after a protest lodged over control descriptions, the committee decided to base the Major Units result on the first day finishes. Minor and women's teams, whose relay teams were not affected, contested both days.

MoD were declared the Major Unit Army champions with 7 RHA second, and QRH and 5 Regt RA first and second in the BAOR competition; in the Minors, AGC Centre were first with Veh and Wpns Br REME second (BAOR - 1, 14 Topo Sqn RE; 2, BMH Iserlohn); and HQNI and 15 Sig Regt won the Army women's title ahead of HQ UKLF, with 16 Sig Regt and 14 Sig Regt first and second in the BAOR competition.

Individual champions were - Army men, Capt Christopher Sanderson RLC; Army women, Capt Wendy Allen AGC(ETS); BAOR men, Bdr Gary Priestley; BAOR women, Capt Jeanne Ebling REME.

BAOR will next stage the Army championships in 1996.

## Army rider claims skeleton title

Cpl Mark Wood of 1 ADSR won the British skeleton bob championships at Altenberg, with Cpl Tim Hathaway (REME att 40 Fd Regt) the runner up. Fourteen of the 22 competitors were from the Army. Story in next issue.



Above - A jubilant Great Britain bob driven by Cpl Mark Tout (RTR) finish second to Germany in the third World Cup race, giving them the silver medal and fourth place in the world rankings

Right - Cpl Mark Tout's GB 1 crew on the start of their lauf to take the bronze medal in the first World Cup race

## Tout takes World Cup silver medal

EIGHT members of the 12-strong Great Britain team competing in the World Cup bobsleigh series are serving in the Army and have already enjoyed astonishing success.

Cpl Mark Tout (RTR) drives GB1, Cpl Sean Olsson (Para) GB2, and WO2 Pete Gunn (AAC) GB3.

At Altenberg in the first race Tout took the bronze and Olsson was sixth, and the following day Tout finished second, 200ths of a second behind the German No 1 bob. Olsson slipped to 12th, mere fractions of a second behind the lead.

Gunn, a junior last season, has crept up the rating into the mid-twenties.

Tout and Olsson seem certain to qualify for Olympic selection, and a good performance by Gunn at the British championships could also ensure his selection for the winter games in Norway.



# SOLDIER



**Soldiers of 5 Airborne Brigade Logistic Battalion manhandle a trailer loaded with ammunition up a hill in the grounds of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst during the brigade march and shoot competition. Story in page 11**

Picture: Mike Weston