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- WRAC's last parade
- 3 RRF in the picture
- R Irish's big change



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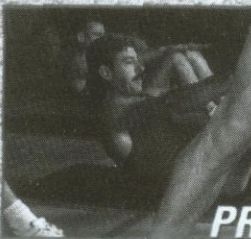
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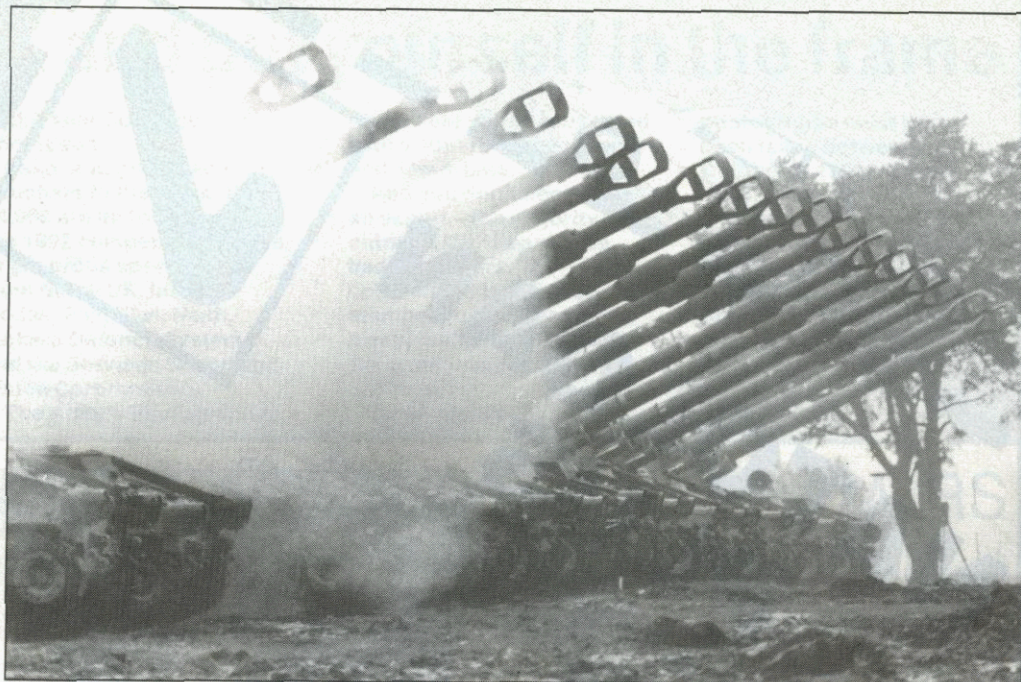
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Last round for 49 Field Regiment



Smoke obscures the guns of 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery as they fire their last rounds on Munsterlager ranges. Under Options for Change the regiment is to go into suspended animation in September. Orders to fire the last rounds were given by the commanding officer, Lt Col Christopher Lunn; the regiment's Honorary Colonel, Gen Sir Edward Burgess; Major General Royal Artillery, Maj Gen Graham Hollands; and Commander RA 3 Armd Div, Brig John Milne

Adjutant General's Corps raises its flag

FORMED UP

FRONT COVER (main picture): British Army uniforms of the last century add a dash of colour to the halls of the National Army Museum. But the predominant colours in the museum's latest exhibition, marking the tenth anniversary of the Falklands War, are drab camouflage greens and browns. See Pages 22-23. (Picture: Mike Weston)

INSET: The Queen Mother, Commandant in Chief of the Women's Royal Army Corps, accompanied by (from left) Col Chris Marriott, parade commander and Commander WRAC Centre; Brig Gael Ramsey, Director WRAC; and the Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant WRAC, inspects the farewell parade of the WRAC at Guildford. See also Pages 24-27 and the back cover. (Picture: Mike Weston)

THE FIRST new corps in the British Army for more than 14 years, the Adjutant General's Corps, held its formation day on April 6.

Based at Worthy Down, Hampshire, the 6,800-strong corps is made up of former members of the Royal Army Pay Corps, the Women's Royal Army Corps, the Corps of Royal Military Police, the Royal Army Educational Corps, the Military Provost Staff Corps and staff clerks of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Newly-appointed AG Corps

make to the operational effectiveness of the future British Army."

In a ceremony at Worthy Down on April 6, Brig Colin Geale, Director of the AG Corps' Staff and Personnel Support Branch (SPS), presented berets and badges to representatives of the branch, which is formed from RAPC, WRAC and RAOC staff clerks.

Main role of the SPS will be to carry out the Army's clerical and accountancy functions.

Maj Gen Grist, accompanied by the AG Corps (formerly WRAC) band, inspected a guard of honour and raised the new corps flag. The Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, met warrant officers and sergeants from the corps.

Colonel-in-Chief of the AG Corps will be the Queen, with the Duchess of Gloucester and the Duchess of Kent as Deputy Colonels-in-Chief.

Director General, Maj Gen Robin Grist, said: "I am convinced that all elements of the corps have an essential contribution to

Message to news trade

As from this issue all news trade distribution of SOLDIER in the United Kingdom will be handled by SM Magazine Distribution on a sale or return basis. Members of the news trade who wish to increase their orders should contact SM (Circulation Department), 6 Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London SW16 2PG (tel: 081-677 8111, fax: 081-769 9529 or 081-677 0136).

SOLDIER Magazine has won three major awards including one for the best magazine of its kind in Britain. The awards were made by independent judges from the fields of journalism, design and communication. Full story - Page 9.

SOLDIER

Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine.
Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.
Telephone: Army network: Dial internal code and extension number. Civil network: Dial 0252 347 followed by last three digits of extension number.
SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed in the UK for HMSO.
Photoset by RSB Typesetters, Worpleston, Surrey.
Crown copyright 1992.

Managing Editor: Chris Horrocks (Ext 2355) • Editor: John Elliott (2356) • Assistant Editors: Laurie Manton (2362), Gordon Skilling (2360), Phil Wilcox (2361) • Picture Editor: Terry Champion (2357) • Photographers: Mike Weston, Mike Perring (2357) • Art Editor: Les Gwyer (2169) • Families: Anne Armstrong (2169) • Librarian: Bill Stroud (2351) • Accounts/Distribution: Janice Follwell (2353) • Advertising: 2352 • Fax: 2358

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Annual (25 issues) UK £19.30
..... BFPO £11.50
..... Other £25.30

Send UK postal order, UK cheque or international money order expressed in sterling and made payable to SOLDIER. Views expressed in SOLDIER are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

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Snap to it . . . and put yourself in the frame

SOLDIER will again be sponsoring the "own choice" category in the Army Photographic Competition, for which 1992 entries close on September 30.

We are giving £125, a framed scroll of honour and a year's free subscription of the magazine to the winner in a category scooped last year by Army Photographer

of the Year Col Roger Thompson.

Cash, equipment and vouchers to the value of £4,000 are up for grabs in the 1992 competition thanks to generous sponsorship from Nikon UK, Ilford, Kodak, Fuji, Kiwi, Naafi, Vickers Defence Systems and the Services Sound and Vision Corporation.

The Army's Photographer

of the Year will be presented with a superb Nikon camera and 50mm lens.

And you don't need to be an expert – the majority of entrants in the past have been amateurs. The competition is open to members of the Regular Army, the Territorial Army, dependants and MoD(A) civilians.

To be eligible,

photographs must have been taken between October 1, 1991 and the closing date.

Details are available from local P Info offices and entry forms can be obtained from Terry Clark, Photo Competition Manager, G3 P Info, HQ UKLF, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 0AG (tel: Salisbury Mil 3345 or 0722 433345).

Dragoon medal medics parade

THE PRINCE of Wales presented Gulf Medals to more than 40 members of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards when he visited the regiment at Paderborn on Oates Day.

A parade is held every year to commemorate Capt Lawrence Oates, who in 1912 sacrificed his life on Scott's ill-fated polar expedition to give his colleagues a greater chance of survival.

Prince Charles, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, visited the WO's and Sergeants' Mess, and later watched from the tank park as five of the regiment's old Chieftains were loaded on to transporters and driven away.

Their place was taken by 5 Innis DG's first Challenger, from the top of which the Prince addressed the regiment.

The new tank has been named The Hook after the regiment's last battle honour, won during the Korean War.

Many of those who received Gulf Medals were bandmen who had served as medical



The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of 5 Innis DG, pins the Gulf Medal on Brig Patrick Cordingley's tunic. Waiting to receive theirs are Cpl Colin Shaw and LCpl Phil McCarthy, two members of Brig Cordingley's tank crew during the war

assistants. The Prince of Wales also presented medals to Brig Patrick Cordingley, a former commanding officer of the regiment, who commanded 7 Armoured Brigade during Operation Granby, and two of his tank crewmen, Cpl Colin Shaw and LCpl Phil McCarthy.

Music was provided fittingly by the combined bands of 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and 5 Innis DG – the two regiments are to amalgamate in July to become The Royal Dragoon Guards.

New MLRS role for 8 Regiment

A PARADE at Munster marked the re-rolling of 8 Regiment RCT, formed in 1964 to undertake special weapons support within Nato.

The regiment, which has also lost a squadron in the reorganisation, will now support Royal Artillery units equipped with the Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS).

The parade also marked the disbanding of the regiment's 27 Squadron. It was formed in 1887 at Woolwich.

Contingents from US Army, Belgian and German artillery groups with which 8 Regiment worked in its Nato capacity took part in the parade, which was reviewed by Maj Gen John MacDonald, Director General Transport and Movement.



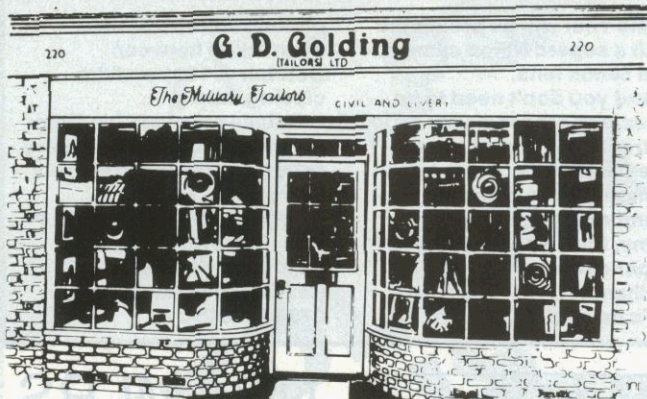
Maj Gen John MacDonald presents the Gulf Medal to Sgt William Bell during 8 Regiment's re-rolling parade at Munster

RS in dissolution ceremony

A GUARD of honour formed from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, accompanied by the regiment's Band, escorted the Lord Lyon King at Arms and Members of the Lyon Court to the Mercat Court in Edinburgh to proclaim the Dissolution of Parliament. The ceremony took place three days after the official announcement at Westminster. Three days was once the time it took for a horseman to deliver the message to the Scottish capital.

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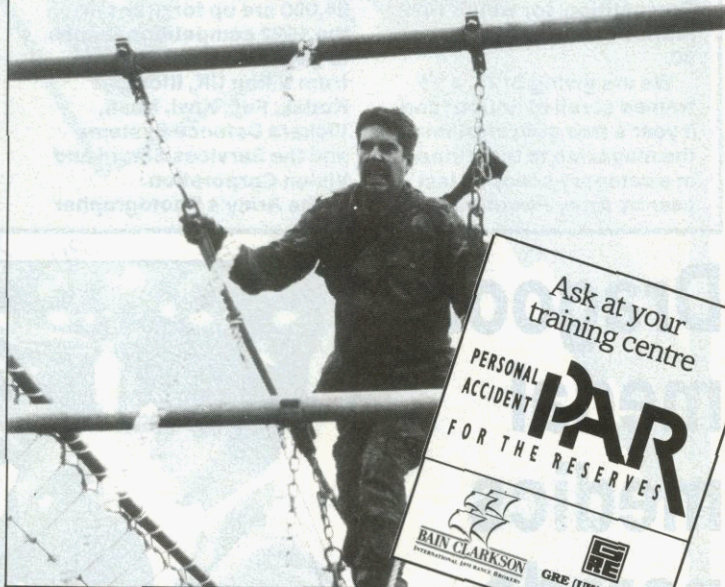
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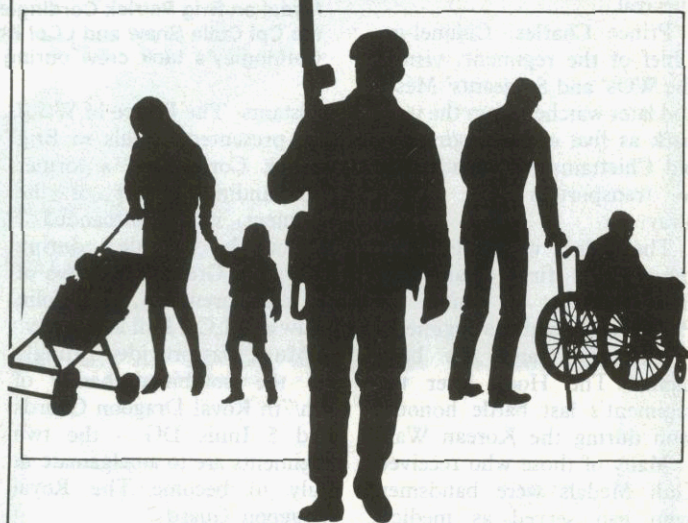
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Services' bid for Everest summit on schedule

AN ASSAULT on the summit of Everest in the first week of May is still on schedule for the British Services' expedition led by Col Mike Kefford.

Reports from the Himalayas say Base Camp and Camp 1 have been established and that

expedition members are very fit. The weather has been good – clear in the mornings but cloudy with light snow and reasonably strong winds by late afternoon.

The team, which arrived in Kathmandu on February 16,

acclimatised at 16,000ft in the village of Pheriche, about nine miles south west of Everest.

On March 12 a group moved north to the Base Camp site in the Khumba icefall area, and the whole team, complete with Sherpas and stores, was

established there by March 25. Another group went forward to Camp 1 sited at about 20,000ft in the Western Cwm, south west of Everest, and Camp 2, to the north and higher up the mountain, was due to be established on April 1.

Southern, Eastern districts formed

THE LAST links in the British Army's new military administrative district structure in the United Kingdom have been closed with the formation of the new Southern and Eastern Districts on April 1.

Southern District amalgamates the former South East and South West Districts and comprises four one-star area HQs subordinate to the three-star district HQ at Aldershot, commanded by Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn.

The areas are 43 (Wx) Bde/Exeter, Bulford, Aldershot and 2 Bde/Dover. A tiger has been adopted as the District's motif.

Stretching from the Tweed to the Thames, the new Eastern District comprises the former East and North East Districts, and has its HQ in York under Maj Gen Michael Walker. Its four one-star areas are Catterick, York, Chilwell and Colchester.

Before the formation in York, Sig Gary Bowman lowered the crossed-keys flag of the Second Infantry Division which disbanded 183 years after being formed during the Peninsular War. Sig Bowman's father served with the division in Germany, and his grandfather with it in Burma, where it earned its glorious reputation at Kohima, Imphal and Mandalay.

Wales and Western District, commanded by Maj Gen Michael Reagan, was formed on November 29, while London and Scotland remain essentially unchanged.



Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn watches as Southern District's new flag is raised for the first time by Dvr Stephen McNeill and admin officer Sarah Wendes, the two youngest members of his staff

Woman commands new Aldershot area

THE former director of the Women's Royal Army Corps, Brig Gael Ramsey, has taken command of the new Aldershot area within Southern District. She is the first woman to hold a one-star command appointment.

Only one other DWRAC has gone on to a staff job, but Brig Ramsey will have responsibilities for 127 Army units in Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

Brig Ramsey, who took up her appointment on April 5,



has been succeeded as Director Women (Army) by Col Joan Roulstone on promotion to brigadier.

In brief

TWO sappers from the Roulement Search Troop, 42 Field Squadron RE operating in support of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire search team in west Belfast discovered the major horde of terrorist weapons reported in SOLDIER (March 23).

Servicemen made redundant are entitled to 42 days leave as opposed to the 28-day entitlement of those leaving under normal circumstances.

Sandhurst cadet 2nd Lt Alastair Johnson (23) died during an amphibious exercise off Cyprus when he was thrown overboard by a giant wave and crushed against a boat. The dead man, who was due to commission into the Royal Engineers, was one of several thrown overboard by the wave.

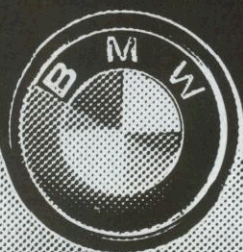
Maj Gen Robert Hayman-Jones, Director General of Land Fighting Systems, and Maj Gen Anthony Denison-Smith, GOC 4 Armoured Division at Herford, visited 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron at Ohr Park on the River Weser at Hameln to watch the ferrying capability of the versatile M3 amphibian.

The Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray, was second in the Army's annual farriers' competition (SOLDIER, April 6), not third as stated. The King's Troop finished in third place.

Commander British Forces Gibraltar, Rear Admiral Geoffrey Biggs, has opened a Joint Services medical centre on the Rock. It is believed to be the only instance of a combined Army-Royal Navy families' clinic.

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Gulf reports win editors' acclaim

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EDITING for INDUSTRY
AWARDS 1992

SOLDIER Magazine has won three national awards for its coverage of the Gulf War.

In the Editing for Industry Awards it was placed top of the class for newsmagazines published more than ten times a year.

It also won top marks in a "Humour in Print" category – for a selection of Gulf cartoons by Capt Chip Wood, RE.

Staff writer Laurie Manton's compilation of personal stories from the war won an award of excellence.

Purpose of the awards, in a competition organised by the British Association of Industrial Editors (BAIE) among private and public sector publications is "to highlight and publicly recognise the very best in corporate communication".

The winners were selected by independent judges from the fields of journalism, design and communication. They took particular note of journals' objectives and their role within their organisation.

SOLDIER's top overall prize was awarded for its edition of March 18, 1991, containing "an immense range of material, from eye-witness reports of Gulf War G-Day to PoW camps, field hospitals and postal deliveries, covered by a small team on site and a depleted editorial office back in Aldershot."

The judge added: "Even though the desert dominates content there are still pages for letters, sport and home news. The reporting fascinated this judge and must have left its military readers with a great sense of the importance of their role and the professionalism of the British Armed Forces."

"The copy was easy to read, lively, humorous and surprisingly varied for what was almost a one-subject issue. This is a most professional magazine."

Capt Wood, who served in Saudi Arabia as quartermaster of 3 Field Squadron RE, and whose cartoons were published in the June 24, 1991 issue, was described as "better than many cartoonists who sell regularly

on a freelance basis". Laurie Manton's award-winning "From the Battlefield" reports, which appeared in the April 1, 1991 edition, drew the following accolade:

"This must be one of the most graphic accounts of the Gulf War written. The planning, anxiety, stress, humour and the pathos are all there with the after-victory humanity of

the British troops fully documented.

"This well-researched feature raced along with writing of the highest calibre geared to the occasion."



Maj Jim Castle (left) and Spr Andrew Titmus of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) examine a length of pipemine on the former Second World War airfield at Goodwood, near Chichester in West Sussex.

Maj Castle and his team from 22 (EOD) Support Squadron cleared 15 pipemines, the remnants of hundreds laid to destroy the

Sappers lift airfield pipemines

airfield in the event of an enemy invasion.

Occupants from 51 nearby houses were evacuated

during the operation, made necessary because explosive charges in the pipes had deteriorated into unstable nitroglycerine.

Goodwood, the site of the wartime Westhampnett airfield, was one of the last of more than 50 former fighter bases to be re-checked and cleared by Chattenden-based 33 Regiment during the past ten years.

Larne honours UDR with Freedom scroll

THE FREEDOM of the Borough of Larne has been conferred on The Ulster Defence Regiment.

It was granted to the regiment at a ceremony in the Council Chamber of Larne on March 14.

Gen Sir Charles Huxtable, Colonel Commandant of the UDR, received the freedom scroll from the Mayor of Larne, Mrs Rosalie Armstrong, who inspected a guard of honour of eight officers, 16 senior ranks

and 144 soldiers, including Greenfinches, from the 5th (County Londonderry) Battalion.

Lt Col David Walsh, commanding officer of 5 UDR, was given permission for the battalion to exercise its Freedom, marching through the town with bayonets fixed, Colours flying, drums beating and band playing.

It was the first time the Queen's Colour and the Regimental Colour had been

paraded since they were presented by the Queen last June.

It was the tenth Freedom conferred on the UDR, which is due to merge with The Royal Irish Rangers this summer to create The Royal Irish Regiment. Similar honours have been bestowed by the city of Belfast and the boroughs of Antrim, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Coleraine, Craigavon, Lisburn, Newtonabbey and North Down.



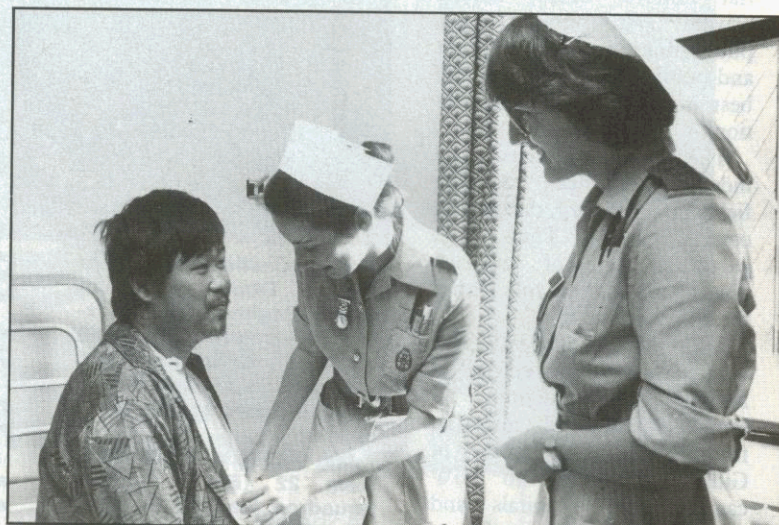
Marching into a new era...

Girls serving with 1 Corps Troops Workshop at Mossbank Barracks, Bielefeld march on to parade wearing the badge of the Women's Royal Army Corps – and marched off again as fully-fledged members of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Commander Maintenance 1 (BR) Corps, Brig **Murray Wildman**, reviewed the parade, during which each girl broke ranks and removed her WRAC beret in order to receive her new blue-black REME beret and cap badge.



Deputy commander is former Para private

Col **Joe Harkon**, who joined 12/13 Para (V) as a private, has been appointed Deputy Commander, North West District. A former OC of A Coy, 4 Para (V), he also commanded Liverpool University OTC.



Capt **Joanne Wootton** (right) and LCpl **Rebecca Ashworth** at the King Edward Military Hospital in the Falklands sometimes have to resort to charades to explain the menu to foreign fishermen casevaced off ships in island waters. Communication is a major complication, but the QAs still manage to cheer up a Korean fisherman with a broken arm.

A click of photographers

Top commercial photographers **Martin Grahame-Dunn** and **George Dawber** and **Trevor Drake** of Fuji, all kitted out in combats and helmets, were the focus of attention at a seminar for 25 RAOC photographers at the Joint School of Photography, RAF Cosford. Organised by Army Chief Photographer WO1 **Jim Gallagher**, the programme provided an update on the latest imaging techniques and technology. It was dedicated to the memory of Territorial Army captain **Peter Hamp**, a former WO1 Photographer, who died last month.



Brig **Bruce Willing**, Commander 160 (Wales) Brigade, inspects a lance bombardier leadership cadre of 104 Air Defence Regiment RA (V) at Raglan Barracks, Newport. It was his first visit to a Welsh unit after taking command of the brigade. He had previously been Divisional Colonel at the Prince of Wales's Division Depot at Lichfield. Brig Willing succeeded Brig **Bill Mackereth**, who is retiring to become secretary to the Cardiff-based Wales TAVRA.

Welsh AD gunners on course for promotion

QA Mike joins up

Pte **Michael Knight** (left) has become the first man to be recruited into Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. He is pictured with Sgt **Steve Wright**, R Anglian, at the Army Careers Office at Blackheath, London, before reporting to the QARANC Training Centre at Farnborough. Michael, a married man with three children, is already a qualified Registered General Nurse (RGN).



PEOPLE

First lady of Arty Int



First woman to be recruited to the Royal Artillery Specialist Pool (V) is **Maria Howard**. After being attested at CVHQ RA Woolwich, WGnr Howard reported to the Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill to train as an Operator Artillery Intelligence. Six officers of the All Arms Watchkeepers and Liaison Officers Pool (V) have been presented with efficiency decorations and clasps. Maj **Alisdair Bruce**, RA (V), Maj **Adrian Fieldhouse**, RTR (V), Maj **David Ryan**, Wessex, and Maj **Huw Williams**, R Mon RE (M) each received a third clasp, joining an impressive band of 14 watchkeepers with CVHQ RA who hold the same number of clasps. The six, who included Capt **Rod Owen**, R Irish (V), and Maj **Kip Gardner**, R Anglian (V), represent 156 years of Territorial Army service.

Sappers sort it...

Flushed with success after a three-week task in the Falklands are members of 516 Specialist Team Royal Engineers from Nottingham, who have been testing a reserve underwater fuel line from ship to shore before it was brought into use. Capt **Roger Norton** (front), pictured with (from left) Cpl **Brian Duff**, SSgt **Tony Gravenor** and WO1 **Bob Thompson**, had the use of seven divers from Ripon-based 38 Regiment. When dyed water was flushed through the pipe under pressure they noticed dye escaping from a leaky flange, which could have caused a damaging fuel spillage on the coast.



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FD SD27/1

1 R Irish faces up to a change of identity – and scenery . . .



Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring

The Rangers' regimental march, *Killaloe*, includes the occasional battle cry from the soldiers

Rangers take the clear way forward

QUEEN VICTORIA commemorated the bravery of her Irish soldiers in the South African War by raising the Regiment of Irish Guards and commanding all Irish regiments in the British Army to wear shamrock on St Patrick's Day.

For the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, this year's shamrock parade was especially poignant. It was the last time they would celebrate the occasion as Rangers before merging with the Ulster Defence Regiment in the summer to form The Royal Irish Regiment.

But the Rangers' moment of sadness was shortlived and the 1st Battalion was soon enjoying its day of family celebrations.

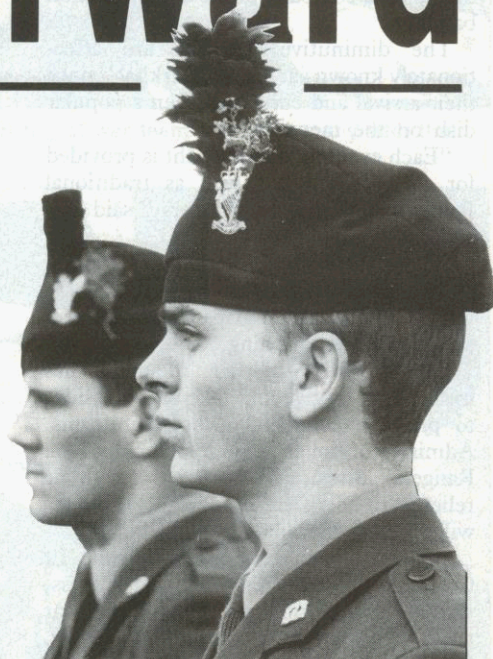
There was an early but traditional start to St Patrick's Day when officers and senior NCOs gathered at the cookhouse to collect supplies of "gunfire", a potent mixture of tea and rum which they served to their soldiers.

Families did not escape the early start. They were woken by the Pipe Band which marched around the married quarters area, playing fit to bust.

Currently the Infantry Demonstration Battalion at Warminster, 1 R Irish supports the School of Infantry. It does this by providing soldiers for students – from lance corporals to brigadiers – to command on exercises, and demonstration troops for a wide range of courses.

On July 1, the regiment merges with the UDR and becomes the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment. Not only will the battalion be wrestling with the change in uniform and badges, but it will shortly afterwards move to Cyprus.

It adds up to a busy time for Quartermaster Maj Terry Darley and his staff, who have to pack up and hand over the barracks and move families and their



Looking forward . . . shamrock-adorned Irish Rangers on parade

● Turn to next page



An early morning shock for Sgt Major Wesley McGill and wife Margaret when the Pipes and Drums arrived during a tour of the married quarters



A bit of a "rum 6" as gunfire is prepared by the officers



Unit guards are now known as the Anti-Terrorist Force. Here Rgr Alistair McClean points out a possible problem point under the watchful eye (left) of the Orderly Officer, 2nd Lt Charlie Thompson

Rangers face double change

From Page 13

possessions. They also have to prepare the new site.

As if this was not enough, the change in title means all regimental signs and notices have to be repainted in the colours and with the badge of the new order.

The Royal Irish Regiment cap badges are with the manufacturers and the first 300 badges should be available next month.

Departure of the Rangers will mean splitting up with their Gurkha colleagues of A Company, 7th Gurkha Rifles, which makes up a company of the demonstration battalion.

The diminutive warriors are affectionately known as "Paddy Gurkhas" since their arrival and curry has been a popular dish on the menu.

"Each evening, a curry baht is provided for the Gurkhas, as well as traditional British recipes for the Rangers," said Maj Darley.

"Everyone intermingles and you often see Rangers tucking into a plate of curry while Gurkhas get to grips with roast beef and Yorkshire pudding."

Merger with another regiment has meant a bit of give and take on both sides to preserve elements of both uniforms. Admirers of the caubeen and hackle – the Rangers' distinctive bonnet – will be relieved to hear that the unique headdress will live on in some form.

Explained the commander officer, Lt Col Tony Potter: "In some forms of dress, we will stop wearing our bonnets and wear a new green beret with the new cap badge. We will also adopt a new stable belt, dark green with red, blue and red central stripes.



The new cross-belt badge

"The officers' cross belts will have a new badge with the regimental crest. It has been very well received. Our soldiers will change the badge on their black belts which are worn on ceremonial duties, but apart from that and flying a new regimental flag, there won't be that many changes."

Links with the Rangers' predecessors are to be preserved. One of the criteria when the regiment's dress sub-committee first met their Ulster Defence Regiment counterparts was that something from each of the former regiments should be retained.

As a result, they will keep their Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers collar dogs, retain the eagle of the Royal Irish Fusiliers on the back pouch of the officers' cross-belts, and still wear the green trousers, black buttons and belt from the Royal Ulster Rifles.

The caubeen and hackle will be worn by all in the Royal Irish Regiment when in No 2 Dress, and the UDR-style green beret will be worn by soldiers in combat kit or working dress.

"Since the public announcement of the merger last August, the regimental hierarchies of the Rangers and UDR have held regular meetings to discuss dress, conditions and terms of service, and how the new regiment will be organised," said Col Potter.

"Ending up with one general service battalion and seven home service battalions will make us the largest infantry regiment in the British Army. The career opportunities for Ranger and UDR soldiers should widen enormously. It's good news," he said.

CSgt Norman Fletcher, 2iC of C Company's APC platoon, agreed: "Amalgamation is nothing new. It has happened to lots of other people in the past. It won't make much difference. We undergo changes in cap badge and uniform, but should continue our normal infantry role – which is why most of us joined in the first place."

CSgt Fletcher praised the regular briefings and newsletters that have kept the battalion in the picture.

"You know what the Army is like for rumours. The fact that we have been kept bang up to date with everything has prevented all that."

WO1 (RSM) John O'Kelly told SOLDIER: "Like the UDR, we are separate regiments and would obviously have loved to remain Royal Irish Rangers. But, we are all aware of the changes in the Army and the fact that it is getting smaller. I think you have to compromise and accept the changes."

The refreshing attitude to change adopted by the Rangers ensures the best possible start for the new regiment. Fittingly, the motto for the Irish Rangers is *Faugh a Ballagh* – Clear the Way.



Commanding Officer, Lt Col Tony Potter



A Company, 7 GR tug of war team surprised many with their performance



Rgr Kevin Davies repainting the regimental sign



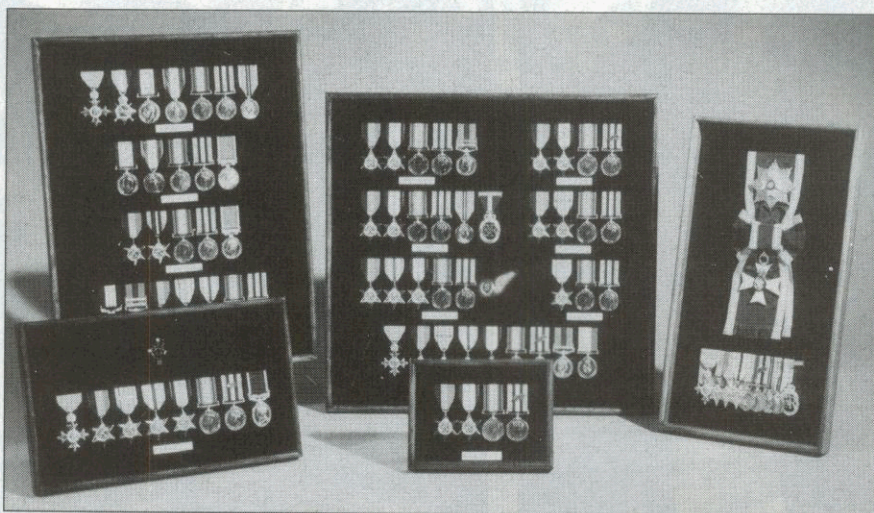
The Quartermaster, Maj Terry Darley adjusts the new beret and cap badge of Rgr Patrick Kavanagh

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Guardsmen on course to be ...

Prospective lance corporals ground arms prior to carrying out a lesson without them

Pictures: Mike Weston

DRILLED TO PERFECTION

DRILL, by tradition, is a matter of great pride throughout the Brigade of Guards. The soldiers' bearing and turnout is expected to be second to none and nowhere in the Army is that pride greater than among young guardsmen preparing to take their first step up the promotion ladder, writes **Laurie Manton**.

Before they can be considered for appointment to lance corporal, budding NCOs must pass a cadre course. These used to be carried out at unit level, but no more. Supported by the Guards Depot at Pirbright, the Household Division Centralised Courses (HDCC) department now runs promotion courses for the whole of the Brigade of Guards.

Officer commanding HDCC is Capt Billy Coulson, Gren Gds, who told **SOLDIER** the new centralised system is popular with battalions.

"It takes the pressure off them during Public Duties. Previously, they would have had to draw off men, vehicles and equipment to organise their own cadre course," he said.

HDCC runs a number of leadership courses including those for potential instructors, section commanders and pla-



CSgt Vince Gaunt, 2nd Battalion, The Grenadier Guards briefs students before their next session on the drill square

toon sergeants. It also holds a sniper qualification course twice a year.

More than 80 soldiers from the Grenadier, Coldstream, Welsh and Irish Guards took part in the latest course, only the second to be organised by HDCC. Initial indications are that a maximum of 60 would be better.

Before progressing to the tactics and weapons phases, carried out partly on Salisbury Plain, guardsmen undergo a gruelling series of drill sessions under the watchful eye of the Guards Depot Drill Sergeant,

WO2 Rex Proctor of the Coldstream.

"The secret of good drill is patience, confidence, smartness, the ability to react on a word of command and team spirit," he explained.

"Learning to give words of command involves students standing on either side of the square shouting at one another. Not in the sense of screaming and bawling, but practising drill movements on each other."

Projecting one's voice is a real art. The voice comes from deep down in the stomach.

"Until they get used to it, people tend to shout only from the throat and lose their voices as a consequence. The traditional remedy is to drink a glass of port."

Standards are naturally very high. Some regiments, such as the Coldstream, put 40 of their guardsmen on a pre-cadre selection course and selected the best 15 to attend HDCC.

It may be hard work for the young soldiers, but it is even more so for the instructors. They have to be experts in everything and possess the talent to pass on their knowledge. They are responsible for laying down a foundation for the future.

It is noticeable from watching instructors and soldiers on drill that No 2 Dress uniforms worn by the Brigade of Guards are more colourful since regimental shoulder titles have been sewn back on.

The wearing of titles was phased out because, when shouldering arms with the SLR, the weapons tended to catch in the cloth and rip the uniform. After the introduction of SA 80, which is sloped instead of shouldered, the shoulder titles made a comeback.

The Depot where training is a growth industry

Bassingbourn set to take on other Arms

FIFTY YEARS ago the air above RAF Bassingbourn echoed to the roar of B17F Flying Fortresses as the United States Army Air Force's 91st Bombardment Group (Heavy) flew in to take over the airfield.

But since the British Army assumed command of the base 20 years ago the only roars to be heard are those of drill instructors shouting at recruits.

Depot The Queen's Division was once home to the "Memphis Belle", a wartime American bomber whose crew were the first of the group to complete 25 missions.

The Depot trains recruits for the three regiments making up the division – The Queen's Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Royal Anglian Regiment – as well as the Royal Pioneer Corps

whose recruit training has been integrated into the Depot since 1985.

"All train together with each platoon being made up of all four components of the training population," said the Depot's commanding officer, Lt Col Jerome Church, RRF.

"We take adults and young soldiers from 17 years upwards. After completing 21 weeks' training, they are dispatched to their regiments as fully-trained infantry soldiers, ready to take their places in a rifle section."

The work of the young Junior NCO section in-

structors came in for special praise.

"We are lucky in the Infantry because they come ready-trained for the role through the nature of their progression to full corporal



Lt Col Jerome Church



Maj Malcolm Lawson and WO2 Paul Aujla coordinate all courses held at the Depot



Master Chef SSgt Gareth Roulston (left) plans the next meal with his chefs in the Army's largest kitchen



Cpl Chris Long has a few words of advice for these recruits. Only on passing off the square at the six-week point of their training do soldiers earn the right to wear a cap badge.

rank. They are fundamental to our success," said Col Church.

First few weeks of the course are particularly demanding for the instructors at platoon and section level. Training is concentrated on short term objectives so recruits can look on each two-week module as a matter of "challenge and reward".

It is a rewarding experience for both training and support staff, and there is a real feeling of success as they watch recruits who have made the transition from civilian to professional soldier pass through the Depot.

"Every four weeks, more than 100 soldiers pass off the square, and the pride they feel is transmitted to us all," said Col Church.

The Queen's Division is the successor to an original 17 county regiments. It was created in the late 1960s when the British Army's infantry structure was reorganised into six separate divisions.

Bassingbourn replaced depots previously at Canterbury, Sutton Coldfield and Bury St Edmunds.

Much of the wartime landscape has changed since a re-building project began in the early 1980s. Originally, most



Sgt Steve Munroe checks weapons are clear after a training session

buildings were flat-roofed, distinctive among which are the H-shaped accommodation blocks. Pitched roofs are now being incorporated into the re-builds.

The trees that line the roads, mainly poplars, were planted during the Second World War and now dwarf most buildings and the hangars.

One hangar houses a gigantic

gymnasium complex, another is used as an indoor drill and parade square.

The junior ranks dining hall – now known as the Roysia Restaurant – is said to house the largest kitchen in the British Army.

"The restaurant can take up to 1,200 soldiers in one sitting," said Master Chef SSgt Gareth Roulston.

Bassingbourn Barracks possesses extensive facilities, including a dry-ski run and a lake for windsurfing, canoeing and angling. Charities also benefit because they are permitted to use the wide open spaces for sponsored wheelchair pushes and assault course runs to raise money.

The famous "Bassingbourn Breeze" that sweeps across the

old airfield is ideal for land-yachting. At weekends, dozens of wheeled craft race along the old runway at tremendous speeds.

Despite the demographic trough of recent years, the Depot has no problems in attracting sufficient recruits and its future as a training establishment is certain.

"It is set to become one of



The Changi Lychgate was built in 1942 by British prisoners of war at the infamous Japanese prison in Singapore. In 1972 it was moved to Bassingbourn as a memorial to the 18th Division

the new Army Training Regiments where we will not only train our own recruits, but those of other Arms and Services as well," said Col Church.

"We are busy making plans for its implementation later this year."

Words: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Terry Champion



Gone are the days when returning to Civvy Street was cause for celebration.

Nowadays it could well prove to be the most inhospitable environment thousands of members of the Armed Forces will have ever had to face.

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Lynx armed with the TOW missile system

Now 659 Squadron can see in the dark . . .

NIGHT HAWKS

AN AIRBORNE thermal imaging missile system rushed into service during the Gulf War has just passed operating procedure trials in Germany with flying colours.

It has been described as a quantum leap for the Army Air Corps towards a 24-hour operational capability.

Air and groundcrews from Detmold-based 659 Squadron, part of 4 Regiment AAC, completed three punishing weeks of trials designed to test a range of standard operating procedures for the firing of TOW missiles using TITOW, a new thermal imaging system.

Validation trials should have taken place a year ago but were put on hold when 4 Regiment deployed to the Gulf on Operation Granby.

But the TITOW system was fitted to a number of Lynx

helicopters and was used in anger against Iraqi tanks on at least one occasion.

The introduction of night vision goggles (NVG) and the arrival of TITOW gives the Army Air Corps the potential to operate round the clock against enemy armour.

Exercise Night Hawk 92 put operating procedures for that role to the test, culminating in the live firing of 12 TOW missiles using the TITOW system at US Army ranges at Grafenwohr in southern Germany.

Five Lynx helicopters, three Gazelles and a small ground-crew party achieved a 100 per cent success rate at Grafenwohr.

Image-intensifying night vision goggles allow aircrew to fly at low level along pre-recced routes when light levels are too

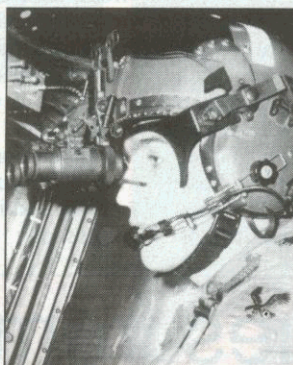
low for the naked eye. But they do not allow aircrew to see through fog and heavy rain.

TITOW, introduced as an enhancement to the optical TOW missile system, has a thermal imaging facility which allows targets to be detected, identified and engaged in weather conditions which previously had made anti-tank operations impossible.

The engagement in the Gulf took place in poor visibility (less than 1.5km) at dawn. The NVG/thermal imaging capability also proved an invaluable aid to airmen evacuating casualties at night.

For 659 Squadron and its officer commanding, Maj Graham Sheeley, Night Hawk became a way of life for more than a year. Following their return from the Gulf he and his men used every available flying hour and aircraft to train for the exercise.

Aircrew flew at night two or three times a week to achieve the skills necessary to attack in formation at low level. Ground-crew had to learn to assemble



A combination of night vision goggles and thermal imaging (TITOW) enables pilots to engage targets at night and in poor weather

landing sites, then rearm and refuel in pitch dark.

Maj Sheeley said: "659 Squadron is the first and only Night Hawk squadron within the Army Air Corps.

"Night Hawk has been specifically designed to validate the procedures needed to carry out anti-armour operations using the

combination of the Ferranti NITE-OP night vision goggles and British Aerospace's thermal imaging system for TOW."

He explained that a pilot would use NVG to see and fly at low level to a specific firing point. But NVG cannot be used with the optical sight, so in poor weather or at night the pilot would use the thermal imaging sight to detect and engage targets. Enemy troops and tanks for the exercise were provided by 33 Brigade.

"We set out to make the first live firing and to validate a set of procedures which all the Army Air Corps can use," said Maj Sheeley. "659 Squadron is the Night Hawk squadron and I sincerely hope we retain this capability in the future."



Maj Graham Sheeley briefs crews during Exercise Night Hawk 92



National Army Museum

Curtain goes up on Falklands exhibition

THINGS have been hectic of late down Chelsea way.

Earlier this month, a Scout helicopter suddenly materialised indoors – with 10cm to spare – on the ceiling of a building situated next to the Royal Hospital.

Soon, wary visitors to the same establishment will have to negotiate a booby-trapped bridge . . .

Both phenomena are to be found at the National Army Museum.

The helicopter, and other items such as a Rapier missile launcher and laser target marker, and the Victoria Cross awarded to Lt Col "H" Jones for his actions at the Battle of

Goose Green, are part of the museum's recently-opened tenth anniversary Falklands exhibition which runs until October.

And on April 25 the curtain will go up on a new gallery which features a permanent memorial to the "Forgotten Army" – the British 14th Army which fought in the Far East from 1941 to 1945.

Several full-scale reconstructions, including a prisoner-of-war hut and a machine gun position, as well as the bridge, will depict the varied terrain and conditions under which the war was fought.

Both exhibitions reflect the philosophy of the museum's

**Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston**

Director of Public Relations, Julian Humphreys.

"I feel quite strongly that places such as this are not just about getting people to come in, but about getting the message out to people – whether it's the history of the bearskin or the British Army in the Gulf," he said.

Established by Royal Charter in 1960, the National Army Museum was, until moving to its present purpose-built site in 1971, based in a former riding school of the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

Its staff of around 90 cover, to take a few examples, weapons, uniforms, equipment and vehicles, prints and statues and a comprehensive reading room.

Unlike the longer-established Imperial War Museum, which concentrates on warfare in the 20th Century and includes other countries, the National Army Museum covers the history of the British Army at peace and at war from 1485 – when the Yeomen of the Guard was established – to the present day.

"We've found that, because of the Gulf War, there's been an upsurge in interest," said Mr Humphreys, "and this has

been reflected in our business figures, which showed a substantial increase last year."

The story of the Army is being updated all the time, and the museum cannot afford to stand still, he added.

Indeed, as soon as hostilities ceased in the Gulf, the museum sent two representatives to visit 4 Armoured Brigade.

The result is a gallery, to which new exhibits are being added all the time, on "The Gulf War 1990-1991: Aftermath of Battle".

"Our brief was 'keep it life-like', showing what sort of food the troops ate, how they kept up morale and so on," said Mr Humphreys.

Alongside on-the-spot pictures taken by SOLDIER photographers Terry Champion and Mike Weston can be found a fusilier's Newcastle United scarf, Iraqi battle maps hastily painted on polystyrene – and a book, *Saddam's War*, inscribed by US General Schwarzkopf with the words: "He lost".

Other galleries contain exhibits such as the order which launched the Charge of the Light Brigade, the medals of Florence Nightingale and the Duke of Windsor, a Bren gun carrier used in the western desert – and the skeleton of Napoleon's horse.

"We do act as a repository," said Mr Humphreys. "For example, the Middlesex Regiment are transferring their memorabilia to us, and we have many items from disbanded Irish Regiments, including six or seven original VCs."

However, the museum is not in competition with individual regiments – or, indeed, the Imperial War Museum – when buying items. "We all work together: it's not like buying a



Jo Roberts, from the museum's flourishing education department, looks at a Second World War diorama

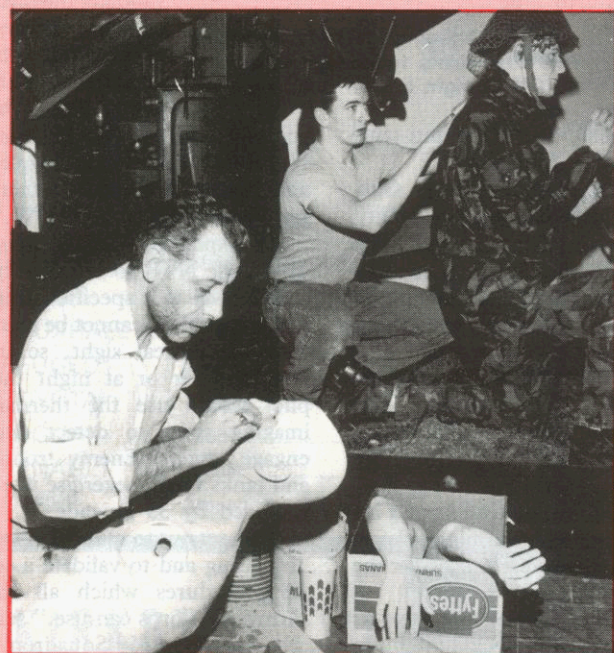


Youthful visitor William Paterson, whose grandfather and great-grandfather were in the Black Watch, admires a model of a First World War lance corporal from 1 Battalion, 24 Division, North Staffordshire Regiment. The figure, similar to others used in the museum, was modelled in Switzerland from life and its uniform is covered with mud, shell fragments and minute pieces of bone



Natalia Wieczorek, curator of the uniforms, badges and medals section of the museum, with rare find. The 9th (late Royal Norfolk) Regiment helmet, only two of which are known to be in existence, and valued at £17,000, was discovered by a browser at a car boot sale . . .

Scenes from the South Atlantic . . .



Modelmakers John Payne (foreground) and Lee Ross at work on dummies used to create a dramatically realistic tableau for the Falklands exhibition

Below: Curators Emma Bond and Keith Millar pull cam netting over a 105mm light gun, a feature of the National Army Museum's Falklands War exhibition



brand of soap powder. Our main problem is finding the space for larger items."

Indeed, with 1,000 people on average crowding in on a summer's day – and more exhibits waiting in the wings – the museum is looking for additional space.

As Julian Humphreys

pointed out: "It's an active place, and, as the Army changes and develops, more and more items will be coming our way."

"After all, a set of medals donated to us might not be very rare – but it's the story behind them which will interest future visitors."

● "Ten Years On: The British Army and the Falklands War" runs until October 18.

"The Forgotten War: The British Army in the Far East, 1941-1945", a permanent exhibition, opens on April 25.

Admission to the National Army Museum is free.

THE LAST PARADE

TO MARK the passing of the Women's Royal Army Corps, several historic events over the previous weeks culminated in a Royal send-off on March 25.

More than 500 serving and retired WRAC officers and other guests attended the final regimental dinner of the corps in February at the Guildhall in the City of London, in the presence of Controller Commandant, the Duchess of Kent.

On March 21, more than 70 former corps musicians – some from as far afield as Canada and South Africa – participated in the final concert as a Corps Band.

Included among the line-up at the Civic Hall in Guildford were some of the members of the original 1949 band, as well as past directors of music, who took part as guest conductors.

Among these were Maj Jean McDowell, the first female director of music in the British Army, and Maj Lynette Hopkin, the band's longest-serving member, who joined in 1949 as a clarinettist.



Pictures: Mike Perring

The Queen Mother meets serving and former members of the corps

Four days later, following a church service in Guildford, more than 1,000 Servicewomen paraded at the WRAC's Queen Elizabeth Barracks headquarters in the town.

Taking the salute at the largest all-female representative parade ever held in the British Army, and attended by old comrades and Servicewomen from units at home and

overseas, was the Queen Mother, Commandant in Chief WRAC.

At her side was Controller Commandant, the Duchess of Kent.



More than 1,000 Servicewomen took part in the farewell parade of the WRAC at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Terry Champion



Students from one of the final courses to be held at Guildford

There's life after Options for the WRAC Training Centre

Guildford given role for the 90s

WITH THE demise of the Women's Royal Army Corps this month after more than 40 years, a chapter in British Army history has closed.

Mainstream officers and staff clerks who had not already re-badged to other corps transferred to the Adjutant General's Corps on April 6.

But what of the WRAC Training Centre at Guildford, Surrey... has it now ceased to exist?

On the contrary – under its mint-new title of the Army Women's Training Centre it will have a more important role than ever.

Before the WRAC was formed in 1949 as an integral part of the Army, women had already played a distinguished

part in both world wars in the predecessors to the corps – the Auxiliary Territorial Service (formed in 1938) and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (formed 1917).

Under Options for Change, women have become members of the various corps in which they are employed.

The Training Centre has adopted the ten-week Common Military Syllabus – so the girls do exactly the same training as men.

"We train all female Regular recruits," explained Maj Bridget Harrison, OC Training Company, "with two intakes, junior and senior, at any one time, numbering up to 150 in each."

Female Territorial Army

recruits are also trained at Guildford, although their courses are for two weeks only. In addition, the unit has responsibility for Reservist training if a girl's unit does not have a training role.

"Our NCO training staff, who include some male instructors, are largely volunteers," said Maj Harrison.

"It's a fairly demanding job for the NCOs, because the hours are long (generally a 16-hour day) and, because they live on the same premises as the recruits, they take a lot of the strain as far as being an immediate point of contact is concerned."

At first, the girls are surprised to have instructors giving them a bit of frank

criticism. But, said Maj Harrison, given a little cajoling, they respond well.

One thing not put into practice at Guildford at the moment is drill with weapons, said the OC.

"We have done a trial, and await results. I don't know whether the Common Military Syllabus Review Board will adopt it or not.

"With the Army looking to reduce the differences between male and female recruits, it could certainly be on the cards."

In the meantime, the Centre's instructors have had to qualify as weapon training instructors.

At the time of SOLDIER's

● Turn to next page



Fighting fit: gymnasium girls supplement classroom work with rigorous physical instruction



Pacing practice: Sgt Caroline Jenkins sticks to her task



CSM Marie Simon with members of the senior intake

● From Page 25

visit, LSgt Matt Jones, Gren Gds, was explaining the intricacies of the SA 80 to a junior intake, which had been at Guildford for just eight days.

"I find I'm not as strict as I would be with men," he said, "but the girls do pick instructions up more quickly."

There are on average 12 or 13 girls in his classes, because of the Centre's large intakes. They are trained in weapons until the fifth week of their course, then spend a week on the ranges.

After a two-year stint at Guildford, LSgt James is due to return to his battalion towards the end of next year.

Overseeing her charges with just the right combination of severity and sympathy is CSM Marie Simon, "very much a kingpin" according to Maj Harrison.

"The principal difficulty here is having too many recruits for too few instructors," CSM Simon said.

"Every recruit is bound to have problems, and one has to identify those problems. But, with the numbers involved, it can be difficult to deal with them all on a one-to-one basis. The NCOs, on call in the guardroom, are invaluable in this respect."

New recruits find the long hours hard to take at first.

It is the first time many have been away from home, and they have to learn to iron their own clothes, put their kit in certain



Maj Imogen Corrigan

specified drawers, and generally consider other people sharing a room.

"They don't just learn the Common Syllabus in the ten weeks they are here: they learn a lot about themselves," said CSM Simon.

"I go on forced marches with them, and the difference between the first time they go out and the last is a real eye-opener."

Sgt GERALYNN Harbage-Brown, one of the Centre's fieldcraft and first aid instructors, was of the same opinion.

"Before they come here, the majority haven't even ironed a shirt or made their own bed. They are very green, and very much in awe of the place. But about two weeks into the course, their character starts coming out."

The normal size of class is 50, ranging in age from 17 to

27. Work in the classroom is supplemented by rigorous physical instruction in the Centre's gymnasium.

"The girls are required to pass certain standards as the ten weeks go by," said physical instructor Sgt Jane Strezaker. "Personal fitness assessments are undertaken in the first, sixth and ninth weeks."

Under current trials, exercises for each platoon gradually increase in difficulty.

"For the latest intake, to gain the P1 combat endurance qualification, they will have to carry 35lb, including a personal weapon, on a six-mile route in 87 minutes," said Sgt Strezaker.

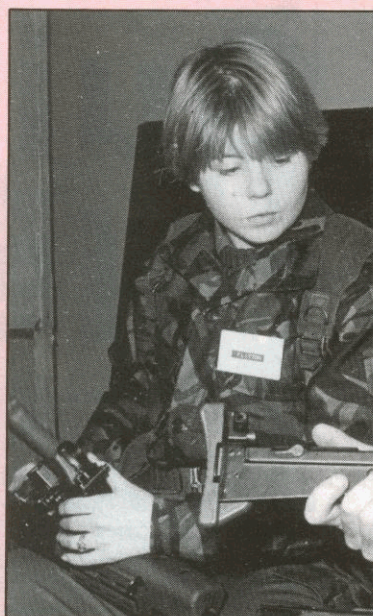
"They've got to come to terms with wearing boots, and have to graduate from carrying 20lb packs to 35lb ones in a short time."

"We'll be surprised if they make P1 level of endurance and fitness under the current trial. It's all going to be one Army, but it has to be accepted that there are physical differences."

Out on the parade ground, Sgt Avril Laver - taking a senior platoon in their eighth week - said their drill had improved enormously since they first arrived in camp.

"We're getting ready for the new fully-integrated Army," she commented.

Indeed, this was borne out by a junior intake in another part of the camp, all in NBC gear, playing a rather surreal-



LSgt Matt James explains the nitty gritty of an SA 80 to Pte Wendy Flitton



tic game of football. They have no fear of putting their respirators on and going into the test chamber, said Cpl Karen Donaldson.

Also based at the Centre is the WONCO training wing, which, under the watchful eye of Maj Imogen Corrigan, is responsible for the promotion and leadership training of

everybody below commissioned rank.

Training is run at three levels: lance corporals hoping to gain promotion to corporal, corporals to sergeant and sergeant to warrant officer. Courses vary from ten days to three weeks.

"In the main, the girls who come here have been in the



Classroom concentration: learning fieldcraft

Army a while," Maj Corrigan said. "Here, we don't do any military training, we do leadership training - irrespective of trade - with girls working in syndicates."

"We also put them through an Annual Personal Fitness Assessment."

Maj Corrigan, whose grandmother and mother were both

in the Army, feels strongly that girls passing through the training wing leave with a confidence that they can do well.

"It is training by encouragement and it will be good grounding," she said.

"The wing is scheduled to close at Easter. It's a very logical progression, but it is sad

an era has come to an end," said Maj Corrigan.

From April 6, the Women's Royal Army Corps Centre became the Army Women's Training Centre.

If the renamed centre maintains its enviable high standards, the future for women in the modern integrated British Army look bright.

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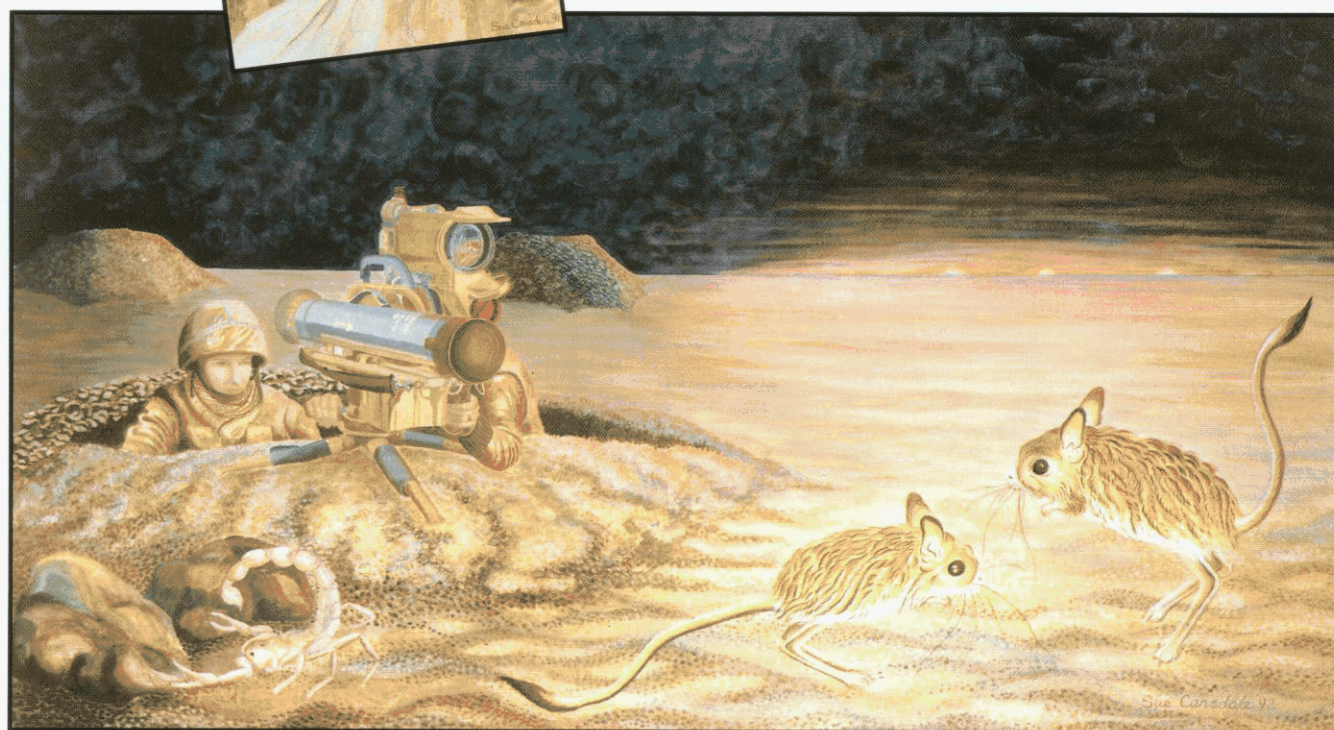


Time of preparation: A Fusilier officer briefs Dan in front of the laden Warriors as an American helicopter takes off

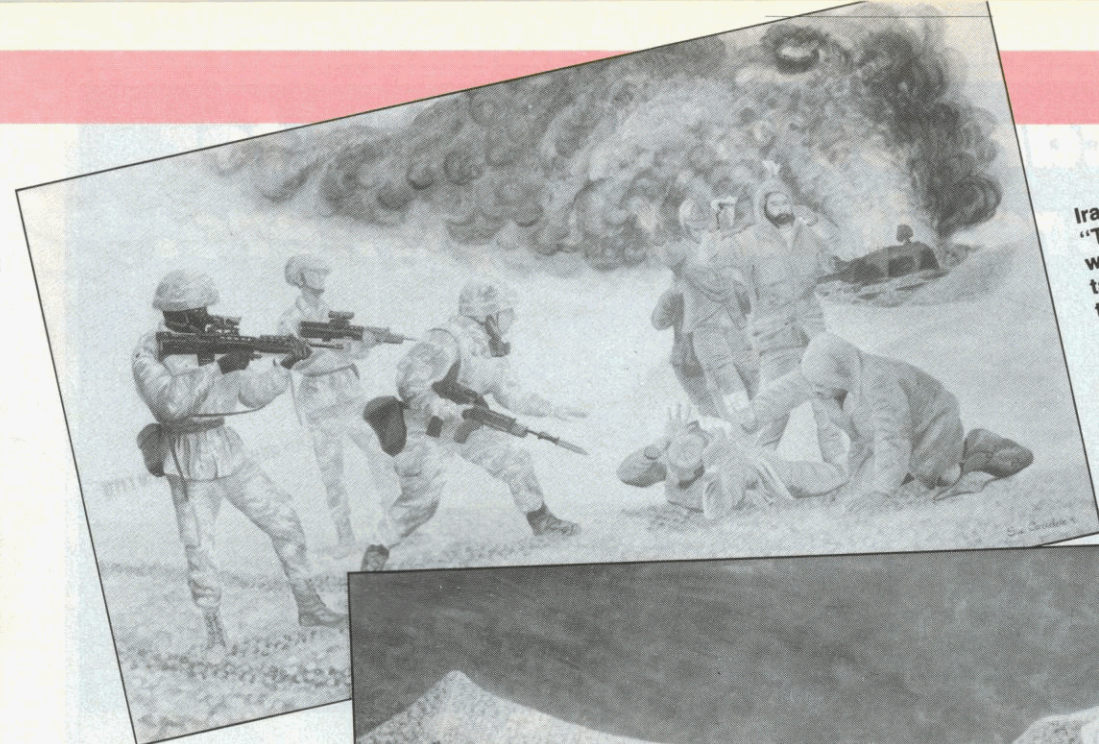
Portrait of Dan: "Even though I'm a driver of a Milan Warrior, I've still got to shoot. Most of them had families as well..."



Letters



Night in the Gulf: "At night everything is still and all you can see is four or five oil wells alight in the sky. Milan gives a thermal picture so anything that gives off heat you can see. At night when you're on guard you can see little desert rats running and playing and fighting. Then there's the scorpions and the lizards..."



Iraqi soldiers surrender: "The Iraqis didn't want war - they just blew their tanks up. Then, after all the shooting had stopped, they came out hands up - thousands of them. Most of them were really dirty and smelly, but they were happy - they knew they would not die..."

Boredom and waiting: "There's nothing whatsoever out here. Just sand for as far as the eye can see. I've eaten the same food for three months. All it is for most of the time is stew. The flies are really bad - they get everywhere..."



from Dan



LETTERS from a fusilier to his art teacher have inspired a series of paintings which will form part of the Imperial War Museum's permanent Gulf War exhibition at Duxford.

When Sue Cansdale learned that a former pupil of hers was serving with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in Saudi Arabia, she wrote to him.

Fus Dan Kenyon's response, letters full of humour (and sand!) vividly conveyed the impressions and feelings of a young soldier involved in war.

Sue said: "Dan wrote with pride of his Warrior APC as the newest, the fastest, the most powerful and the best in Nato. He wrote of having mixed feelings about the Iraqi soldiers who he knew had families just like his.

"He wrote of the pressures of war as well as the lighter moments when the soldiers were relaxing, the luxury of a shower after six weeks in the desert, the animals, the searing heat, the torrential rain, the boredom and interminable waiting and waiting for things to



The artist: Sue Cansdale

happen." After the war Sue travelled from her home in the tiny Northumbrian village of Hartburn, near Morpeth, to visit the 3rd Battalion in Barossa Barracks at Deilinghofen near Hemer.

She collected more material, rode in Warriors, took photographs and talked to fusiliers about their experiences on

Operations Granby and Desert Sword.

Back home, she spent months planning and painting each picture, attempting to capture the atmosphere and mood of the battalion at war, and to tell a story at the same time.

"Once I begin to paint, the pictures seem to take on a life of their own. The way I paint skies, the sand and fire - even the colours I use - are all in direct response to the evolving picture."

The result of Sue's labours is a unique collection covering different aspects of the fusilier's daily life in the desert - each inspired by a passage from one of Pte Kenyon's letters.

She has so many requests for prints of the paintings that a limited edition of each is being produced. They are available from her at The Baker's Chest, Hartburn, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 4JB.

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Sergeant Major Andy Garnell, RWF, inspects RAMC recruits preparing for their passing out parade at Lichfield

First medics pass the Lichfield test

THE FIRST Royal Army Medical Corps recruits to be trained at Depot Prince of Wales's Division passed out at Lichfield on March 20, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

Under Options for Change, the Depot is one of four training establishments which have become an Army Training Regiment, to handle recruit training for the whole Army.

Lt Gerry McBride, whose RAMC platoon was passing out at the end of ten weeks' training, explained: "In December last year, basic recruit training at the RAMC Training Group in Aldershot ceased and,

together with a senior NCO and five junior NCOs, I came to the Depot as Platoon Officer."

Of the original 50 recruits, including two from the Royal Army Dental Corps, who started in January, 39 (38 RAMC and one RADC) passed out. The 39 included combat medical technicians, environmental technicians and laboratory technicians.

"There were no clerks or radiographers, but we could have them here if the opportunity arose," said Lt McBride, "and we are expecting female recruits."

The platoon now returns to

Aldershot for Phase 2 training, eventually being posted to a hospital or field ambulance in the United Kingdom or BAOR.

"I think the biggest change for the medical team is fitting into the Depot system," Lt McBride said.

"It is more infantry-orientated, so it raises one's professional soldiering standards. In the long term, it is going to be a good thing for the Army medics."

The platoon was unusual, he added, in that it had a sergeant major and an OC not from the RAMC.

Under the Geneva Conven-

tion, because the RAMC is a non-combatant corps, bayonets were not fixed on parade, nor did the officers draw swords.

Lt Col Paul Norrington-Davies, commanding officer of the Depot, commented: "Teaching the medics is an early implementation measure under Options. By next January there will be two more medical platoons under training, and in May this year we shall have the first women on parade."

The salute at the medics' passing-out was taken by Maj Gen Alan Ticehurst, Commander Medical UKLF.



On parade: Members of the first RAMC platoon to pass out from the Depot Prince of Wales's Division march on to the square



One FAW all and all FAW one in BAOR

"MAY the Federation of Army Wives be with you" says the jingle on BFBS. And if you tune in on Friday mornings you will hear BAOR chairman Judy Newall giving an update on all FAW matters.

Courses and visits were on the menu the day I visited the Federation's office in HQ 1 (BR) Corps. The activity is intense and space is at a premium, an accurate reflection of FAW's steady growth over the past three years.

Leading the "troops" are Judy, who took over the chair from Cherry Milne in January, and secretary Cree de Foubert, who has just succeeded Sue Bonney.

Judy and Sue worked very hard to gain the trust of the military authorities and have bequeathed a sound base and a modern, smooth-running office to the new incumbents.

The three BAOR conferences have attracted an impressive list of ministers of State, senior officers and civil servants, a testimony to the status of the organisation.

Judy Newall told me: "It is so important that we establish a good working relationship with other agencies and organisations working in Germany. For example, YWCA director Paula Pridham thought there was a need for wives to retrain."

"She contacted us and we put together the courses which she now runs for us."

Carol Martin, the administration and finances secretary, commutes from Herford, fitting in her office hours with FAW school runs.

"I run the office," she told me. "My main job is to organise courses and the financial side of FAW. The job is great and it gives me a marvellous opportunity to extend my skills."

The telephone rang continually. Call after call came in after the BFBS programme as wives sought places on courses and asked for advice on employment, schools and welfare.

Sue, in the process of handing over to Cree, explained how valuable the FAW-run courses

are to Service wives.

"In 1990 we started running word processing courses in six garrisons, and 800 wives have taken advantage of them so far. By the end of 1992 we hope to have established courses in four more garrisons."

The Federation was taking delivery of more computer equipment to enable these courses to be expanded.

Judy Newall explained: "In 1991 we began the 'Fresh Start' courses in conjunction with YWCA and we hope to run ten in the garrisons and stations due to close under Options for Change."

"It is very important that these go ahead as so many wives seeking employment will need to update their skills. They are not entitled to resettlement courses."

"We run FAW (BAOR) in a slightly different way to FAW in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, but we are affiliated to them and have joint meetings and conferences."

"FAW (BAOR) has been able to highlight a number of important issues, such as the need for employment, establishing training skills courses, health and education."

While I was in the office Maj Gen Graham Holland, the new Commander Royal Artillery, and Brig Richard Oliver, Assistant Chief of Staff, dropped in.

The Federation team faces mighty challenges during the draw-down. If you need to get in touch telephone them on 0521 293 2170 or Bielefeld Military 2170.



The BAOR Job Centre at Herford

Right: At your service with a smile – BAOR Job Centre staff Margaret Anne Boyle, Judith Eley and Heather Rodgers

IN MY...

Nice to see you...

HOW gratifying it is to meet people I have been able to help through these pages.

On a recent visit to BAOR I was approached by several Servicemen and dependants who had made contact over one problem or another. It was great to put faces to the names, and to catch up with their news. Fortunately, in most cases the initial problem had been satisfactorily resolved.

One recent caller, upset by my answerphone, duly voiced his feelings. I regret that I can't always be available, and urge him to leave a message. I will get back to him as soon as I can.

For me the visit ended on a high note at SSVC in Rheindahlen when I met a family with whom I have been corresponding for the past three years.

It was a real surprise and it made my day.

...VIEW

Trouble with schools

Dear Anne, I am having trouble registering my children for the September 1992 term with local authority and grant maintained grammar schools of my choice in preparation for my return posting to the United Kingdom.

The local authorities refuse to proceed until I actually live in the area, and the grant maintained school is not offering a

place – again because we do not live in the UK. Can you help?

Anne writes: You must be prepared for your first, second and even third choice schools refusing you. The child may have to travel some miles to a school, with transport laid on by the authorities. The Parents Charter, available from Unit Education Officers, explains the situation.



Redundee action lines

ACTION Support Offices have now opened in all districts to deal with queries on redundancy.

The desks are manned during normal working hours and many have an out-of-hours answerphone.

The central Ministry of Defence Action Support Desk can be contacted on Empress State 2396 or 2301 (24 hours); fax: 3254.

All RAC redundees with queries should contact Depot Sqn RAC on Bovington Mil 3176/8.

GOALS deals with all RA redundees on Woolwich 3711.

Other Action Support Teams' contact numbers are:

43 Inf Bde – Exeter Mil 2184.

HQ 49 Inf Bde – Chilwell Mil 2010; fax: 2015.

G1 Branch HQ 143 Inf Bde – Shrewsbury Mil 2338, 2393.

2 Inf Bde – Shorncliffe Mil 2066/7.

HQ London District – London Dist 3401/4; fax: 3405.

HQ 160 (Wales) Bde –

Brecon Mil 2229; fax: 2225. HQ 42 (NW) Inf Bde – Preston Mil 2277/8, 2255, 2273.

Southern District – Aldershot Mil 2874, 2483, 4384.

HQ NE District – York Mil 2495; fax: 2397.

Steer the right training course

RETURNING to civilian life is rarely simple when it comes to finding a new career.

But the self-reliance and attitude to work of Service men and women are much in demand by civilian employers, says a new booklet published by ET (Employment Training), freely available from units.

The training agency publication points out that

although Forces' skills may not coincide exactly with those needed by industry and commerce, ET can steer you in the right direction.

Forces personnel with three years' service can start employment training up to 56 days before discharge date.

Alternatively, they can start ET within the six months following their

discharge date, even if they have had civilian employment during that time.

Spouses may not realise that if they have been away from work for at least two years because of family commitments they too can join an ET programme.

Ex-uniformed personnel in the Forces for less than three years will have to be unemployed for six months to qualify.

Team manager Fred Boyle said it had been an enormous challenge to

establish the BAOR job centre. "We needed to recruit four qualified staff and four reserves, but to our surprise we had more than 100 applicants. Now we have to assist not just the redundees, but also Service personnel and dependants seeking work in the UK, as well as people wishing to remain in Germany."

Fred, who joined the DoE in 1966, spent 24 years in the Territorial Army and commanded an air defence battery. The job centre staff offer advisory interviews, personal action plans and help in translating military skills and experience into civilian terms. They have access to all the information available in a job centre in a United Kingdom job centre.

The reception area is run by three locally recruited women, Services wives Nikki MacDonald and Sue Burlinson, and soldier's daughter Sam Bauzeval.

Opening hours are 10am to 7pm during the week and 10am to noon on Saturdays.

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Special support leaflet

PARENTS of children with learning difficulties – they may have dyslexia or suffer from physical or emotional handicaps – will welcome a new and helpful leaflet.

The excellent and informative document explains the advantages of registering a child with the Service Children's Education Authority special needs section to obtain support.

Leaflets, and further details, are available from admin offices or from SCEA, 1b HQ DAEd, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR (tel: 081-781 4263, 4282, 4285, or Woolwich Garrison Mil 4263, 4282, 4285).

Guide to job-hunting

DESCRIBED by its publisher as "one of the most comprehensive job-hunting manuals available", *Setting Your Sights*, by Chris Brightwell, could prove a valuable source of information for soldiers facing redundancy.

"It is written for people who are having to take stock of their careers and places strong emphasis on the importance of transferable skills," says publisher Clare Goodrick-Clarke.

The paperback, subtitled

A Complete Guide to Job Hunting and Interview Technique, packs a wealth of detailed advice into its 166 pages.

Retailing at £7.99 from bookshops, it is also available by mail order and Ikon Productions Ltd are offering SOLDIER readers a discount price of £6.99 including p and p (cheque or credit card).

Apply to Ikon Production Ltd at 75 James Street, Oxford OX4 1EX or telephone 0865 247635.

SOLDIER to Soldier

The gates to Isandhlwana

NERVE ends tingled as an old comrade of The Royal Regiment of Wales stood at Isandhlwana where 600 of the 24th Regiment fought the Zulus - and died.

Now Mayor of Brecon, Chris Lewis was representing the regiment at a ceremony to dedicate ceremonial gates to the battlefield. Both his father and grandfather were members of the 24th.

Many of the 10,000 others present were in full Zulu battle order, and Mr Lewis, resplendent in regimental tie and No 1 chain of office, presented Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini with a RRW helmet plate as worn by the band, and his prime minister, Chief Buthelezi, with a 24th Regiment soldier's shako plate, both mounted on oak shields.

The gates, which were paid for by the regiment, are decorated with regimental, Welsh and Zulu emblems. Another £1,000 was donated for a new school for Zulu



Col Barrie Harban (right), Naafi Army director and Maj Gen Charles Grey, Controller of SSAFA, at the presentation of the commemorative banner marking 100 years of SSAFA nursing and welfare

children at Rorke's Drift, where a museum was opened.

SSAFA banner

THE WORLDWIDE celebrations surrounding the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association's Nursing and Welfare Centenary have been given a colourful boost by Naafi.

As a sponsor of the centenary, HM Forces official trading organisation paid more than £1,200 for the production of a commemorative banner, presented to Maj Gen Charles Grey, Controller of SSAFA, by Col Barrie Harban, Naafi Army director. The presentation was made at a special ceremony held at banner makers, Watts and Co, in Westminster, London.

The banner will be displayed at various events marking the centenary, in particular a thanksgiving and rededication service at Westminster Abbey on May 12.

Maj Gen Grey said: "I am heartened to see Naafi and SSAFA in partnership for this anniversary. Both have at their roots, a desire to meet the welfare needs of British Servicemen and women and their families, wherever they are."

Sneek preview

TO MARK its tenth anniversary, the Netherlands Branch of the International Military Music Society (IMMS) is organising a tattoo in the city of Sneek on June 20.

Among visiting participants in the three-hour evening event will be a military band from Hungary, which will join bands from Belgium and Germany as well as Holland.

The IMMS, which started in Great Britain, has branches in the USA, Canada, Australia, Scandinavia, Germany, France and Belgium.

Further information about the anniversary celebrations is available from IMMS, Molenweg 29, 3708 SC Zeist, Holland.



Mystery badge

MR F J BEALES of 20 Wilberforce Road, Peterborough PE1 3JE is a puzzled man.

He is mystified by this badge, identical in every respect to that of the Northamptonshire Regiment except for the inscriptions. In his version the words "Gibraltar", "Talavera" and "Northamptonshire" have been replaced by "Sonneti", "SC-51" and "Arctic Patrol".

Perhaps one of our readers can enlighten him?

DIARY

APRIL

Until October 18: Special Falklands War exhibition at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

26: REME 50th anniversary military band concert, Royal Albert Hall (for ticket availability ring 0734 763272).

MAY

7-8: Helimeet international flying competition and helicopter exhibition, Stockbridge, Hants.

9-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show, Stockbridge, Hants (advance bookings: 0264 384421 or 384461).

15: 76th US Army Band concert at Southport Theatre, Southport, in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

16: Military in Miniature show, British Model Soldier Society (Aldershot Branch), Princes Hall, Aldershot.

23-25: Military Vehicle Trust annual international D-Day show, Weston-super-Mare.

29-31: Military Vehicle Trust Overlord 92 rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

JUNE

6: Garrison 92, Warminster summer show including massed bands and displays.

12-14: Rhine Army Show, Bad Lippspringe, near Paderborn.

13: Queen's Birthday Parade. Colour Trooped by 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

27: RAF Halton show, near Wendover, Aylesbury.

JULY

1-6: Armed Forces Week, a Tri-Services event on Plymouth Hoe.

6-12: Public events at Royal Citadel, Plymouth, to mark completion of its renovation and 30th anniversary of Commando Gunners.

8-25: The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box Office tel: 071-373 8141).

11-12: Men at Arms display, Military Vehicle Museum, Exhibition Park Pavilion, Newcastle upon Tyne.

17-25: Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

29 and 31: Prince of Wales's Division Massed Bands display, Cardiff Castle.

AUGUST

7-29: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (tickets from credit card hotline tel: 031-225 3661 or Tattoo Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB).

SEPTEMBER

6-13: Farnborough International Air Show.

12-13: Wessex Regimental Tattoo and exhibition, Devizes, Wiltshire.

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

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier - S M B O'Meara - To be Dir AIS (A), March 27; D A K Biggart - To be Bde Comd 49 Inf Bde, April 1; H H Kerr - To be Comd Engr HQ BAOR/BRSC, March 30; J G Reith - To be Bde Comd 4 Armd Bde, April 3; P J Russell-Jones - To be Comd HQ RSME, April 3; A J K Calder - To be Comd 54 Inf Bde, April 1; A P V Rogers - To be Brig Legal HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, March 30.

Colonels - Col G J S Weir to HQ NE Dist as Comd Med, April 6; D C N Shaw - To HQ The Prince of Wales's Div, April 1; D P Stephenson - To be Comd Engr Resources, March 30.

Lt Cols - M J Dent, R Signals - To be CO 11 Sig Regt, March 23; P J Grimes, RE - To be CO 4 PC Regt, March 23; J R M Pitt, RA - To be SVC Attaché Warsaw, March 23; T Lowry, RAPC - To be CO CPO Cyprus, March 23; D T M Brennan, RAMC - To BMH Iserlohn, April 8; E Gordon, RAMC - To HQ Brunei Gar, April 8; G W Lawrenson, RAMC - To 19 Inf

Bde Fd Amb, April 4; S M Alabaster, Coldm Gds - To be Comdt Guards Dep, March 30; G M Bass, RACHD - To be Chaplain EDIST, April 2; J Blackburn, RACHD - To be Sen Chaplain HQ EDIST, April 2; P B G Cummings, RCT - To be CO HQ 152 Amb Regt, March 30; C H B Garraway, ALC - To HQ Wales and WDIST, April 1; G Hill, RPC - To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, March 30; A M F Jelf, Queens - To MoD, March 30; N Munro, RE - To be Comd Eng HQ Mil Works Force, March 30; G J Parker, RAEC - To ARELC, March 30; M Smith, RGJ - To Brit Appts (USA), April 3.

Retirements
Brigadiers - A F S Ling, late Queens, April 2; J D Rash, late RTR, April 6.

Colonels - T I Courtneil, late REME, March 27; B B Trinkwon, late RCT, March 24; J A Craven, April 3; A M McCaffery, March 31.
Lt Cols - A M McCullough, RAMC, April 4; R L W Pickard, RADC, April 7.

SEARCHLINE

● **Daniel Sheehan:** Former Royal West Kent who was based in Kuala Kubu Bharu, Malaysia 1950-54, wants to contact former colleagues Alan Greensmith (drummer), Malcolm Polkay (drummer), and Bob Chapman (military policeman). Replies to Mrs Tarnya Hurcombe, 43 Cornish House, Brandon Estate, Walworth, London SE17 3PE (tel: 071-820 1161).

● **Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion:** B A Roberts, The Caretaker's House, Magdalen College School, St John's Site, High Street, Brackley, Northants NN13 5AE, seeks documents, maps, photographs on the IJLB at Plumber Barracks, Plymouth and Oswestry in the 1960s.

● **Pipers and drummers** due for release and planning to settle in the south are invited to contact a Hampshire-based band consisting mainly of ex-Servicemen. Ring 0705 833189 or 0703 618287 (both evenings only).

● **WO2 George Henry Painter RAMC:** Old comrades sought to piece together the Service history of the late WO2 Painter, of Croydon, who is understood to have been imprisoned for three years in Changi and to have bribed a Japanese guard to obtain medical supplies with which to treat his fellow prisoners. He later became a Chelsea Pensioner and died in 1956. Information required for a book planned by his great-niece, Miss Pippa Jones, c/o Lt Col Montgomery, 5 Innis DG, Barker Bks, Paderborn, BFPO 16.

● **6922970 Rfn H W Chipperfield:** Harry E Jury, 56 Lynn Road, Portsmouth PO2 7NS, seeks details of Rfn Chipperfield of King's Royal Rifle Corps, buried September 9, 1944 at Sint-Niklaas Cemetery, Belgium, aged 28.

REUNIONS

● **Armourers and Artificers Weapon:** Armourers Association reunion will be held on May 16 in London. For details contact W J Thorne, 5 Highgate Court, Laundry Lane, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 8JT.

● **The Queen's Regiment:** Grand reunion on July 5 at Basingstoke Barracks, Royston, Herts, from 11.30am. Enquiries to Maj W D Marshall (tel: 0227 763434 ext 4254).

● **25 Regiment RA (1947-1984):** Sixth reunion of 25 Regt RA (1947-84) at the Royal School of Artillery on July 5. Details for those not on mailing list from L

Haddow, Oak Trees, 11 Chapel Lane, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3TD.

● **Yeoman of Signals:** Reunion to celebrate 30th anniversary of first YofS course, July 25 at Blandford Garrison. Open to all who have passed the course since 1962. Details from WO1 (YofS) Tony Reynolds, OC Radex Troop, 1 Sqn, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT1 8RH.

● **HMS Hydra 1982:** A reunion for the ship's company of HMS Hydra 1982 is being considered for July. Any wounded carried by Hydra who wish to attend should contact CPO Joe Erskine, The Elms Guest House, 48 Victoria Road South, Southsea, Hants PO5 2BT (tel: 0705 823924).

● **224 Field Ambulance RAMC (V):** Former officers and SNCOs of 224 (North Staffs) Fd Amb RAMC (V) - also known as 224 Field Dressing Station and 159 Fd Amb - are invited to attend a double 25th anniversary, of the TAVR and the naming of 224, later this year. Tel: 0782 219959/204326 for details.

● **National veterans' week September 5-9:** Cliftonville/Margate, including trip to De Panne, France, for civic reception. Details from Hon Secretary, Monte Cassino Veterans Association (The Impossible Victory), J Clarke, 41 Aldermay Road, Manchester M21 2QW, include sae (061-881 4594).

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Silence of the Sparrows broken

ARE the survivors of the 14th Army who fought so bravely in the Burma campaign right in their belief that they were the "Forgotten Army"?

According to author Tony Paley in *The Sparrows*, they are overwhelmingly correct in their assertion.

"They had been pitched into a fight with no chance of victory, and in their eyes abandoned to their fate," he writes.

"When you speak to these veterans now there is an overwhelming feeling that they were completely forgotten."

In *The Sparrows* - an Allied formation known as Sparrow Force - he tells the story of a Dad's Army-style TA outfit from Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, which was recruited in 1939 to guard the local water works, but which finished up on the island of Timor, Dutch East Indies, eventually becoming prisoners of the Japanese for four years.

Paley was moved to write this book because of his father's links with the 79th (Timor) Light Anti-Aircraft Battery RA (TA), his resolve strengthening after attending their 50th anniversary at a Walton pub in 1989.

But he realised that if he didn't soon record the personal accounts of his father's old comrades, he would be confined to a search of official records.

So he spoke to the old soldiers and then approached officialdom. This proved no easy task. Indeed, Paley claims researchers at the Imperial War

Gulf armour collection is modellers' goldmine

ARMoured fighting vehicles used in the Gulf War are given full-colour photographic treatment in *Blitzkrieg in the Gulf - Armor of the 100-Hour War*.

Most of the photographs were taken by author Yves Debay, with additional contributions from the US Defence Department. The book is split into neat sections covering each main participant with a short introduction giving facts, figures and background, and vehicles are shown during the build-up, training and actual fighting.

The US section takes up half the book, with a comprehensive survey of the many types of vehicle used by the American forces. These range from the first M551 Sheridans and Marine LAVs and M60s, still in European camouflage, through to the M1 series Abrams and

M2/M3 Bradleys with a good number of supporting M113s, M901 ITOWs, M109, MLRS and even towed artillery and HUMVEEs.

The other sections are smaller and less wide-ranging in coverage. The main British types are shown, but no artillery vehicles are included, and many of the photos are of early training periods before Challengers and Warriors were up-armoured, although there are a few shots of these variations.

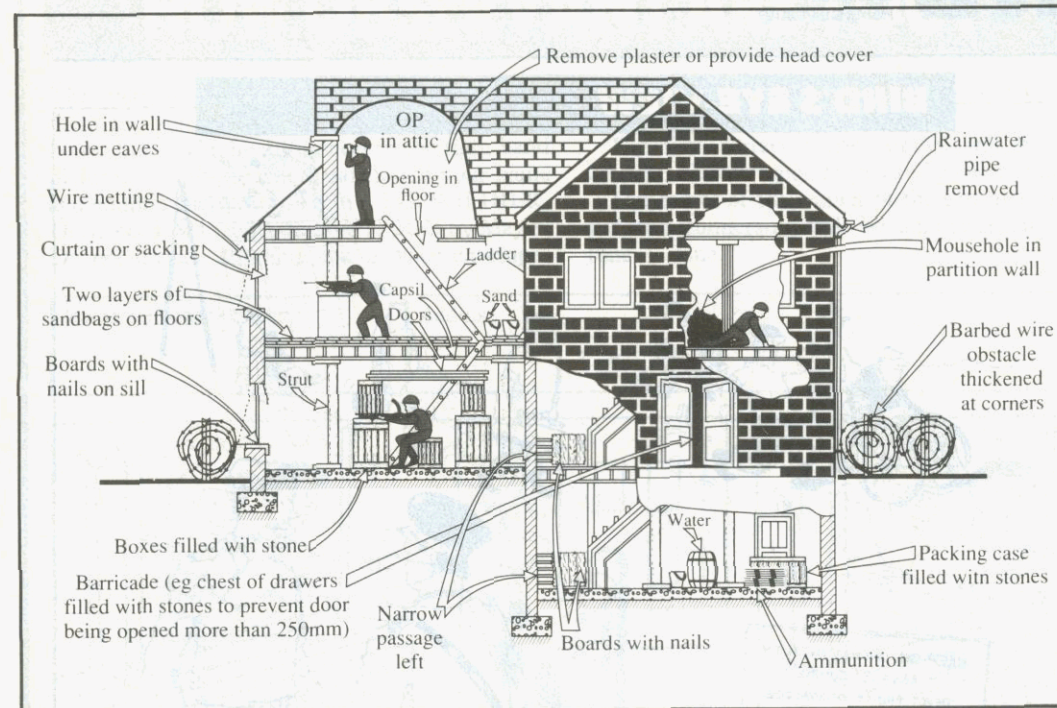
The French section covers AMX-10RC, VAB in many forms and AMX30B2 mostly, while the Arab Coalition forces provide a wide range of subjects. Saudi ASTROS rocket launchers and AMX30s, Egyptian M60s, M113 variants complete with colourful camouflage and markings, Kuwaiti Chieftains and M84 (the Yugoslav-built

T72) and a lone Qatari AMX30 are a reminder of the variety of vehicles in the Middle East and show types and units rarely seen in news coverage and other books.

Iraqi armour rounds off the book with some of the huge range of types they deployed shown, many in knocked-out form, but there are some good shots of intact vehicles showing marking details. Even the Chinese-built YW531 which "captured" Debay is shown.

Overall, photo captions point out useful details and there is a wealth of ideas for modellers here, from straight re-paints to conversions and even scratchbuilds. - PB

Blitzkrieg in the Gulf - Armor of the 100-hour War by Yves Debay. Concord Publications, Hong Kong, soft-back, £14.95.



This illustration from *War in the Streets* shows the plan of a building prepared for defence

Complete guide to fighting in cities

ALTHOUGH the attack on and defence of a village was briefly referred to in the manual of Infantry Training as early as 1914, by the Second World War what little instruction the British Army received on urban combat was based on lessons learned in the Spanish Civil War.

Now, half a century later, fighting in built-up areas is central to the concept of modern warfare, due in no small way to the economic success of Western Europe, resulting in increasing urbanisation of the countryside.

It would now be impossible to avoid fighting in cities and towns should hostilities occur. All Nato forces and the armies of what was until recently the Eastern bloc place considerable emphasis on Fighting In Built-Up Areas, known in the business as FIBUA, or Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) to the US Army.

Col Michael Dewar's latest book, *War in the Streets*, is an account of how urban warfare has developed since the great town battles of the Second World War: Stalingrad, Cassino, Berlin, Aachen, Caen, and Gennep and Goch, where a rifle and bayonet, the Bren, a liberal supply of grenades, stout hearts

and a very high standard of leadership were all that was required.

In the more recent conflicts of Algiers, Hué, Aden, Belfast and Khafji, Kuwait, armies have evolved new techniques, weapons systems and vehicles, all of which are well covered in this excellent, readable study.

Col Dewar faces the hard facts: "Fighting in towns requires a degree of commitment which is not usually required in a rural setting... urban fighting is dangerous, frightening and difficult."

It involves problems which are neatly summarised as follows: difficulty in locating source of enemy fire; restricted fields of fire and observation; the need to protect armoured vehicles used in close support; interference with VHF radio communication; and complication of civilian presence.

Of course, not only conventionally-disciplined forces engage in urban warfare, and it is now mainly irregulars and terrorists who choose built-up areas for their operations.

The British involvement in Palestine at the end of the 1940s is described in some detail with the conclusion: "Despite some experience of conventional warfare during World War II,

the British Army had failed to translate its experience into the context of a terrorist campaign. However, this conflict marked the beginning of the post-1945 tendency to exploit the urban situation..."

Revolutionary organisations had begun to recognise the publicity value of urban warfare and, as is so rightly observed, "Of all the post-war examples of urban warfare, Northern Ireland has been the most persistent."

In the author's view, "on balance, a defender should have the advantage. Little has changed since the Rifle Brigade held the Wermacht at bay in Calais in 1940 (an action described as the turning-point in urban warfare)."

"They lost because they were grossly outnumbered. The force multiplying effect of an urban environment has its limitations. But in general, a defender outnumbered by three or four to one should be able to hold a city indefinitely. Stalingrad is a classic example of this truth." - BJ

War in the Streets: The Story of Urban Combat from Calais to Khafji by Col Michael Dewar. David and Charles, hardback, £15.99.

Book REVIEWS

Battledress coverage misses the Gulf mark

I SUSPECT *British Combat Dress Since 1945*, in the style of *Uniforms Illustrated* but in the longer format, is the *British Battledress* pair predicted but not produced.

This is borne out by the introduction and great detail in which battledress in its different forms is covered, beginning with pre-war and wartime types and continuing until, as plain "No 5 Dress", it became obsolete.

This is the book's best area, with the differences and development of patterns clearly shown in text, drawings and photos. Other dress used at the same time in hotter climates is covered also, with good photos of the British soldier in many locations.

However, once off battle-dress the coverage is less good. The text seems to say that soldiers went almost straight into DPM combat dress from there, which is not true, and even the photos seem to jump over the plain green combat dress, with some shots showing it as battledress.

This, together with an almost total lack of coverage of parachute clothing and a sadly-missed opportunity to cover items issued in the Gulf other than a few shots with uninformative captions, sadly spoil what could have been a fine work.

That is not totally to dismiss what is here, and there is a lot to be learned from closely reading text and studying photos. It is just that the book tries to cover a little more than can be covered in this format. Lack of colour photos, which no doubt keeps the price down, is another drawback.

The listing of current dress types is useful, but the appendix on model figures giving details of current stockists, makers, ranges and prices will soon be out of date. - PB

British Combat Dress Since 1945 by Michael G Burns. Arms and Armour Press, softback, £9.95.

In brief

Desert, Jungle and Dale by Philip van Straubenzee. The author of this memoir was commissioned into the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1932, served with the Royal West African Frontier Force in East Africa, and commanded the 1st British Sierra Leone Regiment in Burma and, more latterly, 4th Battalion, The Green Howards (TA). The Pentland Press, hardback, £16.50.

Marching as to War by C A Blewett. Despite little formal education the author was commissioned into the Royal Engineers and left the Army as Staff Captain RE Intelligence. His story tells of evacuation from Dunkirk and service in North Africa, Egypt, Italy and Greece. Excalibur Press, paperback, £5.95.

The Little Men by K W Cooper. Paperback reissue of the stirring 1973 account of the Burma Campaign through the eyes of an infantry platoon and company commander, based on his 1945 notes. Robert Hale, £6.95.

Armour in BAOR

FOLLOWING Concord's earlier coverage of Israeli and Soviet subjects, *British Army of the Rhine Armored Vehicles in Exercise* details the great variety used by the British part of the Nato armies.

From Ferrets and "probably the last Saracen serving in Germany" to the latest Challengers and Warriors, we see an almost bewildering range of types as they appear in Germany during various exercises.

The author has taken a number of very clear pictures to illustrate each, usually depicting several views of each type if not of the same individual vehicle, and using others' photographs to fill the few gaps in his work.

I cannot spot any type not included, and there is a lot for the eagle-eyed to find here, so take a while to pore over the photos for a real treat. - PB

British Army of the Rhine - Armored Vehicles on Exercise by Thomas Laber. Concord Publications, Hong Kong, soft-back, £7.95.

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Is it or ism it?

WILL THE British Army, still reeling from the effects of Options for Change, next have to face the challenge of "Political Correctness" sweeping in from across the Atlantic?

Will traditional rank titles have to be changed to Signaller, Guardsman, Queensman, Kingsman, Rifleman and Craftsman to reflect the sexual equality brought about by the disbandment of the WRAC and assimilation of its personnel into other units?

Will all "Royal" regimental titles be abolished to avoid the charge of elitism?

Will the seniority of corps and regiments in the Army List be eliminated to avoid accusation of ageism?

And will the title Small Arms School Corps be amended to Vertically-Disadvantaged Arms School Corps to obviate heightism?

As the opportunities for "PC" are boundless, serving soldiers might be persuaded to suggest other changes to their RSM. — Yours androgynously,
R A Hamilton, Southport.

Going down in history

COULD I suggest an area which amateur military historians might not yet have considered — namely, making chronological lists of the regiments which have been based in their local barracks.

Such lists would be of real use to local historians, using the local newspapers of the period. Photographs or prints of a regiment might well be lying in another area.

How many historians realise that the dogs' cemetery in Edinburgh castle was started by the 76th Regiment, or that Growler, of the 4th Foot, lies buried there?

Lists have been compiled in the ex-colonies. If all the lists were put together on computer an overall picture of the British Army and the Empire could be formed. — **George Robinson, Edinburgh.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"I appreciate the implications, Sir, but you must admit it's meaningful . . . and the local old folks' home are keen to join us."

● RAMC recruits train at Lichfield — see Page 33

A record of service . . .

WITH the approach of the Sovereign's Birthday Parade in this 40th anniversary year, readers might not be aware that no soldier has more experience of this parade than the Queen herself.

According to my researches she has been on parade an astonishing 43 times, 38 of them on horseback.

On 40 of these occasions she was the principal figure, taking the salute (once for her father, King George VI).

Incidentally, she has served in the Army almost continuously since 1945, when she joined the ATS — quite a record.

Closely following is the Duke of Edinburgh, who first went on parade on horseback in 1952 in his new uniform as a field marshal in the British Army.

In this capacity he carried his field marshal's baton in his right hand. He was then appointed Colonel of the Welsh Guards (later switching to the Grenadier Guards) and was henceforth not required to carry the FM baton.

This was fortunate for him

because after the 1952 parade, near Buckingham Palace his horse acted up and the Prince whacked it on the rump with his baton, breaking off the little figure of St George and the Dragon and incurring for himself a hefty repair bill!

So it seems that this summer His Royal Highness, a keen naval officer and sailor, will have served 40 years in the British Army. — **Capt (Retd) W A Ewbank, RE, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana.**

Learning the three Fs

I WATCHED the "Cutting Edge" Channel 4 documentary on P Company on March 23 and came to the conclusion it put back Army public relations many, many years.

Do the permanent staff really believe their bombastic manner generally, and their effing and blinding in particular, will really make their students better soldiers?

Perhaps no one has taken the trouble to teach them the three

Black mark for school report

YOUR article on the move of the Junior Leaders' Regiment RCT/RAOC from Colerne to Harrogate (March 23) stated in error that the unit moved to Chepstow in 1929 to become part of the Boys' Artificers School.

I enlisted in 1927. On September 7 I arrived at Beachley Camp, Chepstow, which was then the Boys' Training School. It still was when I joined the ranks in August 1930.

May I say how much I enjoy reading SOLDIER. Although long since retired (1957), I am still not entirely a "civvy". **C N Walker, WO2 (RQMS) RE (Retd), Swansea.**

Fs of man management — be Firm, be Fair, be Friendly — and that even airborne soldiers in difficult situations should be coaxed, not bullied. I went through P Coy 44 years ago as a senior NCO student when it was obviously a far happier unit.

I served with Airborne Forces for many years and the programme made me feel ashamed. — **Susagep, Northwich, Cheshire.** (Name and address supplied).

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

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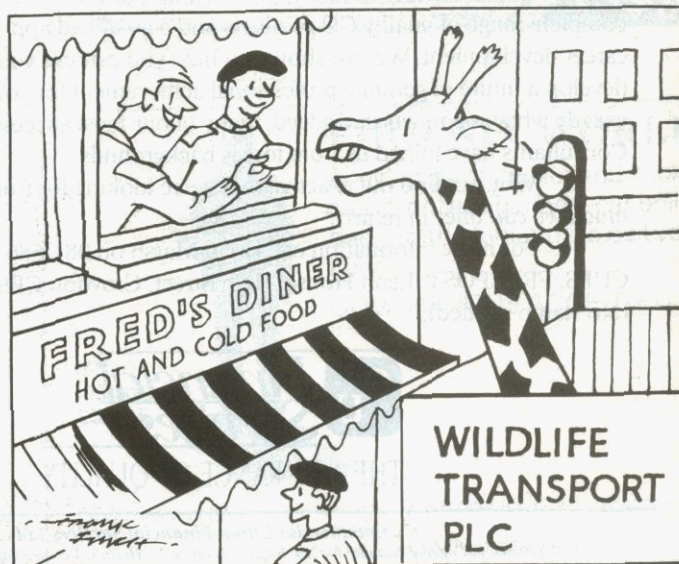
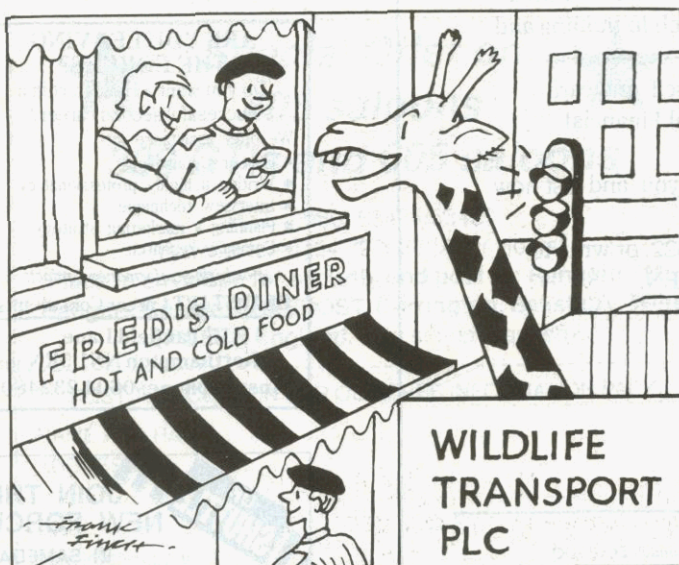
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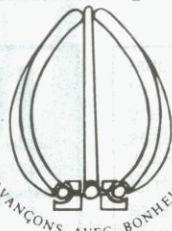
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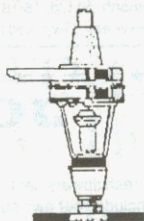
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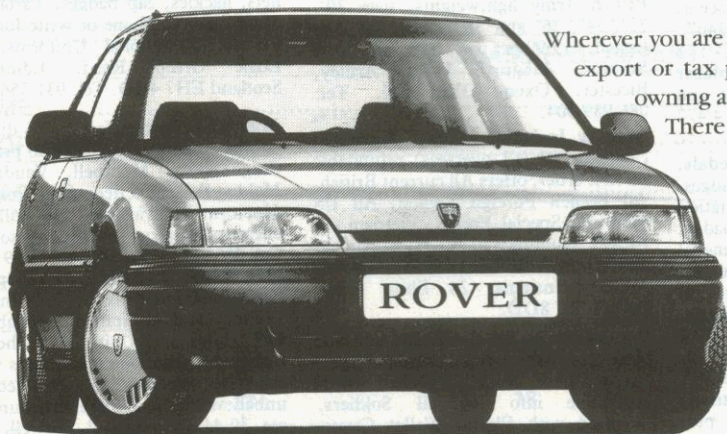
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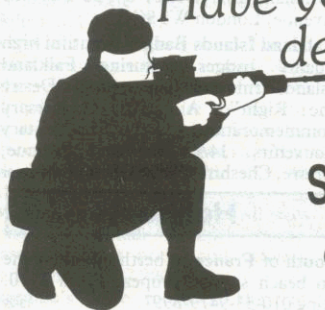
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International incident: Capt Peter Boxell (left), of 7 Para RHA and SSgt Ian Jennings (42 Svy Engr Gp) in opposition during the UK Major Units final. Both have played for their country

Below: Moment of triumph for Capt David Wilson of 7 Para RHA after the Major Units final



Pictures: Terry Champion

UDR wins Infantry UK final

7/10 UDR 3, 1 RS 0

THE UK final of the Infantry Football Cup was won by 7/10 UDR who beat 1 RS 3-0 at the Tidworth Oval.

A scoreless first half produced little excitement, but 7/10 took the lead ten minutes into the second half when Pte Joe Dunseith netted from close range.

LCpl David Goodall increased the lead with a header 15 minutes from the end and Pte Gary Crowe scored the best goal of the match just before the final whistle.

RAPC 2, Infantry 5

A treble from Gdsm Neil Trebble put the Infantry on the way to a fine 5-3 win over the RAPC after SSgt Peter Willey had opened the scoring for the pay corps.

Trebble equalised before the interval, and scored the Infantry's second and fifth goals. The others came from WO2 David Matthews (LI) and Cpl Davey Hughes (BW).

Infantry 2, RCT 3

Goals from Cpl Paul Hesk, LCpl Tony Jones and Dvr Paul Darwood gave the RCT victory in an exciting and sporting contest. Neil Trebble and Cpl Nobby Clarke (R Hamps) scored for the Infantry.

Hazlitt inspires hat trick heroes

THE ARMY won the Inter-Services hockey championship for the third successive year with conclusive victories over both the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force at Reading.

It was the eighth time in the past nine years that the Army has won the Services tournament.

Two goals by Maj Ian Jolly (32 AD Regt RA), flown back specially from BAOR for the tournament, undermined a spirited performance by the Navy.

Jolly scored his first from the

Army's eighth short corner, and added the second five minutes from time after England international Lt Simon Hazlitt (LI Depot) had created the chance.

There was an early scare for the Army in the deciding match against the RAF the next day, but after the airmen had taken a tenth-minute lead, the defending champions equalised through Capt Matt Hanson (2 Div HQ and Sig Regt) just before the interval.

Jolly gave the Army the lead soon after the break, and

Hazlitt, again in outstanding form, added a third 13 minutes from time.

Hazlitt was awarded the Player of the Tournament trophy, provided by STC Defence Systems.

The tournament, sponsored by Aegon Financial Services, also involved the under-21 and veterans' championships, in which the Army was less successful. The juniors were beaten 1-0 by the Navy and 3-0 by the RAF, and the veterans lost 2-1 to the Navy and 3-1 to the airmen.

UK unit finals

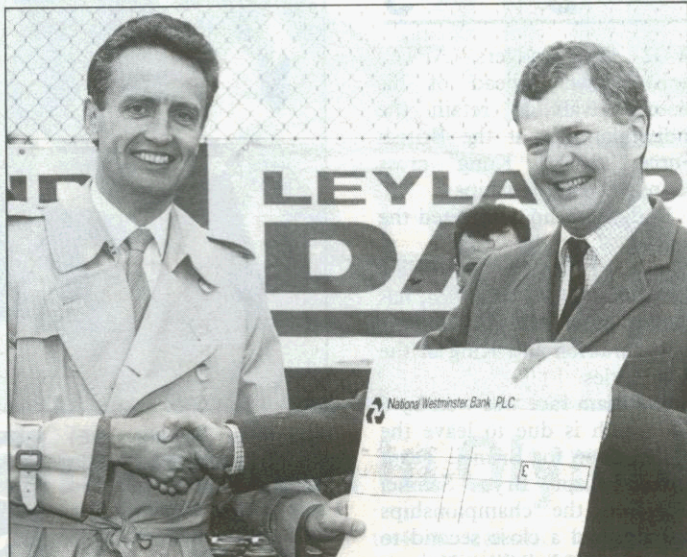
A hat-trick from Capt Peter Boxell won an exciting and closely contested Army (UK) Major Units final for 7 Para RHA against 42 Survey Engineer Group RE at Aldershot.

Two of Boxell's goals came from penalty flicks, and the Airborne Gunners eventually won an end-to-end contest by three goals to two.

SSgt Ian Jennings scored one of the 42 Svy Engr Gp goals, Sgt Mick Forsdick the other.

The Minor Units final ended in victory for Depot, The Queen's Division by two goals to nil over the competition's surprise finalists, Joint Communications Unit Lisbon.

The tiny Portugal-based JCU overcame all the odds to reach the final.



Maj Gen Alex Harley, president of Army hockey, accepts a cheque for £18,000 from Mr Chris Thorneycroft-Smith, marketing director of Leyland DAF at the prizegiving after the Army (UK) Major and Minor Units hockey finals at Aldershot. Gen Harley received the money on behalf of the Army Sport Control Board, whose director, Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, will distribute it among various sports

Fleet-footed runners in clean sweep

THERE was a triple success for the Army in the Inter-Services half marathon run concurrently with the Fleet half marathon on March 22.

The Army won both men's and women's races in the Services team competition, and the day was capped by FOD Dulmen, who beat Bridgend AC by a single point to become the first Service unit to win the overall team prize.

Dulmen's SSgt John Lennon led home the Army scorers. He finished first in the Services race and 6th overall, with FOD colleague Cpl Jim Laker fourth (9th overall) and Sgt Jeff Martin (2 Div HQ and Sig Regt) fifth (10th overall).

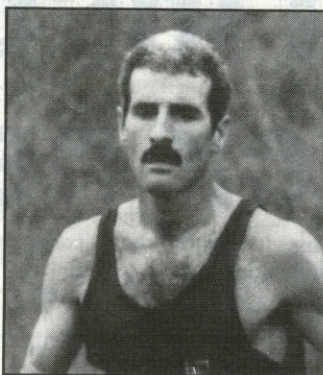
Cpl Dave Boswell (FOD Dulmen) packed into eighth place (16th) and Cpl Peter Cawse (Depot Para) was ninth (19th). First Service veteran and 40th overall was Capt Peter Marsh (AVSD Ludgershall).

WO2 Helen Meen (HQ SW Dist), Sgt Kay Mitchell (RMP Trg Centre) and Capt Maxine Brown (WRAC Trg Centre) filled the top three places in the women's Service race.

British international Billy Dee won the half marathon, with Barcelona-bound Steve Bruce second.

Peter Marsh and Army athletics secretary Maj Morris Murch were leading a Com-

bined Services team due to compete in the Rotterdam marathon at the beginning of April. And after the success of the Fleet event, thought is being given to a Combined Services entry in other premier half marathons.



WO2 Alex Rodgers

Rodgers first in Hong Kong

WO2 Alex Rodgers (APTC) finished well ahead of his closest rivals to retain the individual title at the British Forces Hong Kong cross country championships.

Rodgers, who completed the tough 7.3-mile course at Cassino Lines in the New Territories in 39min 26sec, has already won the Hong Kong half marathon and King of the Road titles.

The team race was won by 6 GR which is due to leave the Colony soon for Brunei. Team captain Capt Bryn Samuel organised the championships and finished a close second to Maj Nick Nicholls (Maintenance Section HQBF) in the veterans' event.

Minor Units team winners were 31 Squadron GTR, and the women's race was won by Cpl Nicki Thomas.



Maj Alan Macklin (RE) supported by Sgt Louis Gayle (1 WFR) powers into the Royal Navy in the other Army v Royal Navy rugby match - in the Falkland Islands. Helped by a strong wind, they scored the Army's tries in the first half. In a very hard match played on even harder ground, Macklin had to leave the field for repairs to an injured nose and shoulder, but returned to stem the tide of a well-organised Navy side in a desperate final 20 minutes. The Army held on to win by 14 points to ten.

Southern champions



Airborne Gunners win in Olympic Stadium

1 RWF 6, 7 RHA 20
THE Airborne Gunners have done it again. For the third consecutive year the 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery have beaten the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers in the final of the

Army Rugby Union Cup. The Aldershot-based gunners, who defeated Troops Hereford in the UK final, travelled to Berlin to take on 1 RWF in the 1936 Olympic Stadium.

The Berlin-based Welshmen

took the lead after ten minutes when winger Mark Watters ran in from his own 22.

Light rain turned torrential after the interval, creating conditions which favoured the much heavier 7 Para RHA pack. With the Welsh finding it

Above: Lt Howard Graham takes a tackle but still manages to get his pass away to Army centre Capt Will Bramble (12)

Left: Cpl Steve Bartliff storms down the wing at Twickenham to score the Army's first try against the Royal Navy

Against odds

● From Page 54

Army regains the title from the light blues.

So if you are anywhere near "HQ" on that date, how about giving the boys some support to round off a remarkable season?

Team: Capt M Walker (RAMC); Cpl S Bartliff (R Sigs), Lt H Graham (RHA), Lt W Bramble (RA), Lt J Fenn (RCT); Capt A Deans (RAEC), Lt S Pinder (DWR); Sgt D Coghlan (RHA), Bdr C Wood (RHA), Bdr J Fowers (RHA), Lt D Orr Ewing (BW), Lt C Buss (DWR); 2nd Lt T Rodder (Green Howards), Capt G Richardson (RS) (Capt), LSgt S Berryman (Coldm Gds). (Replacement: Lt S Butt (RRW) for Richardson.)

increasingly difficult to win good ball, the gunners levelled the score with two penalties, then went ahead with a goal. A push-over try made it 16-6 to the defending champions, and their backs completed the scoring with another try.

UK triumph in RE final

IN THE first all-sapper Inter Corps badminton final, the United Kingdom-based Royal Engineers saw off their BAOR counterparts at Worthy Down.

The margin was 7-2 and it was the second time in four years that the UK sappers had won the Army title.

The "home" team took a 5-0 lead before their most experienced pair, Capt Simon Hardiman and Sgt Jerry Carty lost to the BAOR No 1s, Cpl John Gibb and Cpl Davitt.



Picture: Mike Perring

Moment of triumph for Capt Guy Richardson, RS, as he lifts the Willis Corroon Trophy at Twickenham. An eye injury forced the Army captain to leave the field in the first half

ONE AGAINST THE ODDS

Royal Navy 9,
The Army 16

THE SCENE is now set for a great climax to the 1991-92 rugby season, writes John Quin.

In the annual clash with the Royal Navy for the Willis-Corroon Trophy, the Army senior XV surprised many by beating the much-favoured sailors in a game which showed great character and a lot of sheer guts from the boys in red.

The Royal Navy had had a very convincing build-up to this game with a very concentrated training and preparation programme, which produced impressive wins over Cornwall and Public School Wanderers.

They were determined to stop the Army making it "five-in-a-row" and, on paper, looked set to do just that.

Army skipper Capt Guy Richardson, Royal Scots, told his men in the dressing room at

Twickenham before taking the field that "they all knew why they were here and what they had to do, so let's go and do it!" And they did, every man Jack of them.

It was a game that did Service rugby a great deal of good and the watching hierarchy of the RFU, often rightly critical in the past, were full of praise afterwards for what they had seen.

It would be unfair to single out any individual soldier for mention, for it was a real team effort. But the sight of Bdr Chris Wood, of Army champions 7 RHA, selling a dummy before diving over for the clinching try after a 60yd sprint typified the whole team effort.

Even when the Army lost their injured captain, to be replaced by RRW flanker Lt Simon Butt, the rhythm of the side was not affected and the

Navy were simply unable to break the Army down.

So it is now the Royal Air Force, the current champions – and lo and behold the championship favourites had their colours lowered by the Navy in the second game of the tournament.

Those of you who relied on the national press for your results may by now be totally confused as to what has really happened to date, for many papers got the Army-Navy result the wrong way round, showing the Navy having won.

One Sunday giant assumed that, having beaten the RAF, the Royal Navy were the 1992 champions.

Not so, I can assure you. The 1992 championship depends on the very last game on April 11 at Twickenham, and a win over the RAF would ensure that the

● Turn to Page 53



Dvr Chris Bessey

Bessey in lone fight

ARMY welterweight champion Dvr Chris Bessey from Aldershot-based 27 Regiment RCT lost to Pat Burns of North West Counties in the England ABA semi-finals at Bletchley Leisure Centre on April 1.

Bessey was the only Army boxer to qualify for the semi-finals by winning his bout in the England ABA quarter-final match between Combined Services and Western Counties at RAF Halton.

Bessey won a unanimous points decision to record one of only five Services' successes on the night. There was disappointment for LCpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR) and LCpl Jeff Ollerhead (1 Kings), beaten on points, and Pte Loz Roche (1 LI) and LSgt Dave Abbott (2 Gren Gds), both stopped inside the distance.

Heavyweight contender Abbott knocked his 19-year-old opponent down twice in the opening round, but ran out of steam in the third and was forced to retire.

Bessey was joined at Bletchley by AB(MW) Lennie Woodcock (who got a walkover to the British semi-finals) and Mne Gary of the Royal Navy, and SAC Owen Spensley and Jnr Tech Darren Rudd of the Royal Air Force.

● Seven Irish Rangers and six from 1 Queens were among 35 boxers accepted for the Army novices individual championships due to take place at Aldershot on April 13-15.

● Inter-Service hockey champions – see Page 51



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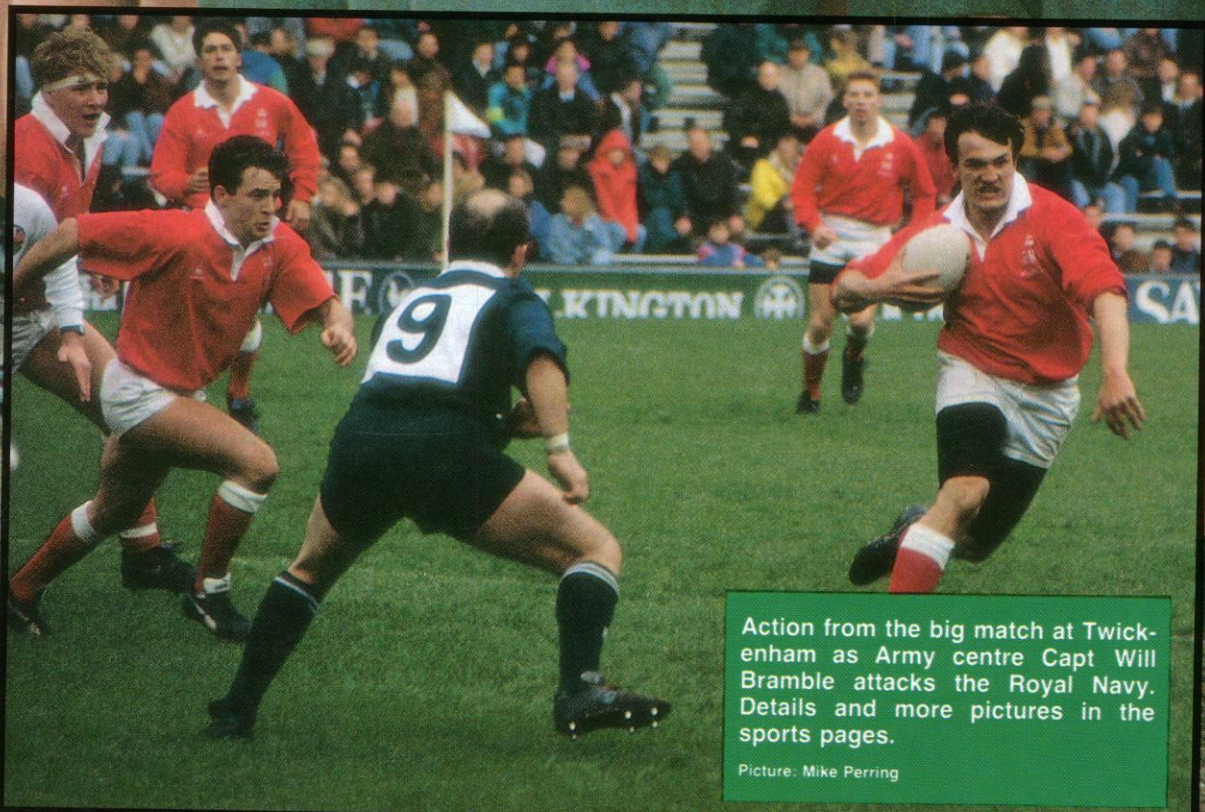
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SOLDIER



Members of the Women's Royal Army Corps march into history at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford to mark the final days of the Corps. More than 1,000 Servicewomen took part in the largest all-female parade ever held by the British Army. See also picture on front page and feature inside.

Picture: Mike Perring



Action from the big match at Twickenham as Army centre Capt Will Bramble attacks the Royal Navy. Details and more pictures in the sports pages.

Picture: Mike Perring