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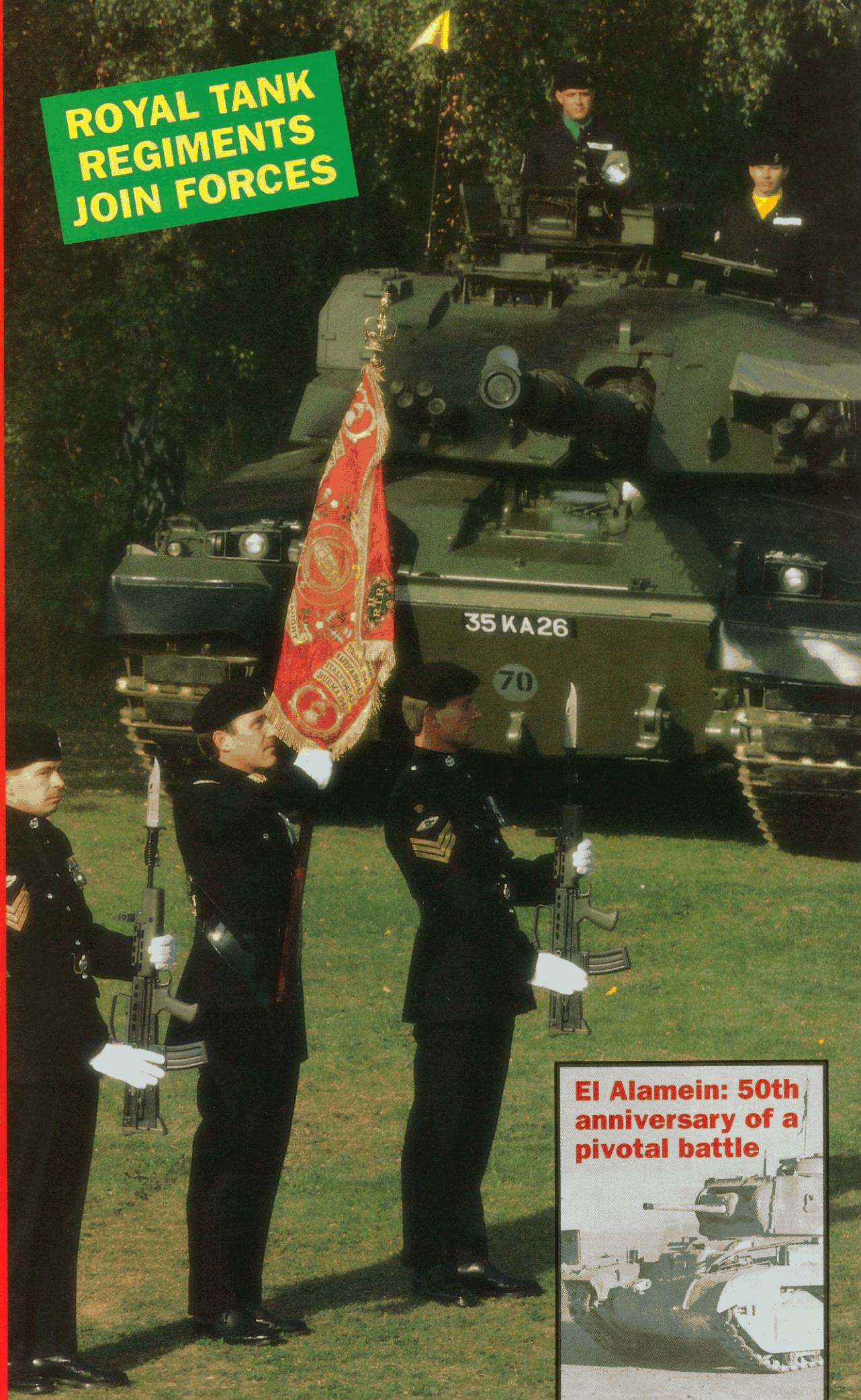


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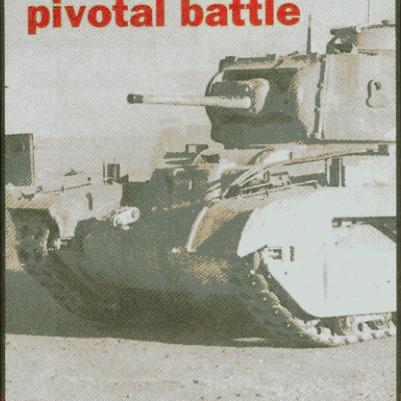
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SOLDIER

Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine
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 digits of extension

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SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed in the UK for HMSO. Photocopy by RSB Typesetters, Worpledon, Surrey. Crown Copyright 1992. Views expressed in **SOLDIER** are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

UK news trade distribution: SM (Circulation Department), 6 Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London SW16 2PG. Telephone: 081-677 8111. Fax: 081-769 9529 or 081-677 0136.



Picture: Terry Champion

Queen joins El Alamein veterans in national tribute

To the glory of the fallen

THEY WERE there in their scores, campaign medals resplendent. Septuagenarians and octogenarians now, almost to a man.

From Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India they had come to Westminster Abbey to commemorate the 50th anniversary of an event which had left an indelible mark on all of them – the Battle of El Alamein writes **Phil Wilcox**.

By their side in a building which has also witnessed its share of history were the widows and families of their not-so-fortunate comrades who had sacrificed their lives in the searing heat of the desert, half a century ago almost to the day.

Significantly, and an indication, perhaps, of the very different climate which the intervening years have brought – the sons of two former enemies were in attendance at the service on October 14.

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein and Dr Manfred Rommel, both 14-year-old schoolboys when their fathers led their respective troops into battle, gave readings from the Bible on the theme of peace and harmony.

Earlier, to the sound of a fanfare played by the Trum-

ters of the Lifeguards, the Queen had been seated by the Great West Door, close to the Grave of the Unknown Warrior and the memorial to Sir Winston Churchill.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester listened as the Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev Michael Mayne, paid tribute to the 13,500 Allied casualties – including more than 4,000 members of the Eighth Army – and the 32,000 Italian and German soldiers who died in “a turning point in the Second World War”.

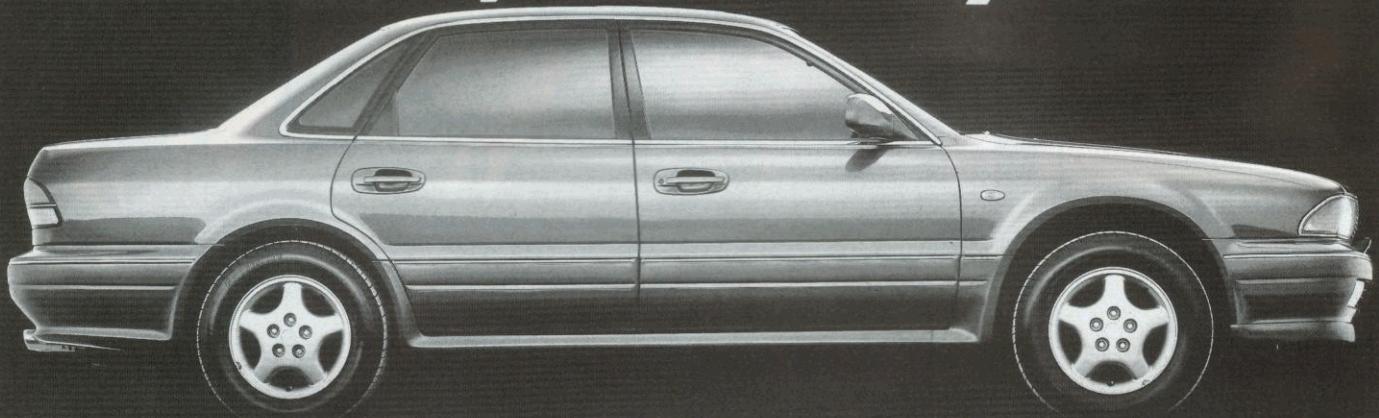
Because of their sacrifice, he said, “we live in freedom in a new Europe”.

Pipe Major Graham Marr, Queen’s Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons), play-

FRONT COVER: Men of the 2nd and 3rd Royal Tank Regiments prepare for their amalgamation parade at Fallingbostel. Pictured in the Colour party are SSgt Charlie Wilde, WO2 (RQMS) Steve Proctor and SSgt Chris Mander, and in the Challenger tank Sgt John Channon and Cpl Ray Heil. Green scarves signify former members of 3 RTR, yellow 2 RTR. See also Pages 14-15. (Picture: Mike Weston)

● Turn to Page 5

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DESIGNED to be DRIVEN

El Alamein

● From Page 3

ed a lament from his perch high under the abbey's roof - a battlefield sound recalled, among others, by former BBC commentator Godfrey Talbot, reading an extract from one of his moving broadcasts from El Alamein.

"Tonight, this once empty, uninhabited desert wilderness is just one vast khaki cauldron, boiling with men," he had said.

Once the Last Post had echoed round the ancient abbey, the spine-tingling silence which followed was interrupted only marginally by the muffled sound of traffic in nearby Parliament Square.

After the Royal procession had moved down the main aisle to the Sacraum for the remainder of the service, Sgt Philip Simmonds (2 Gren Gds), escorted by CSgt Gary Smith (Royal Marines) and Flt Sgt Michael Austin (RAF), bore the Union Flag along the length of the abbey.

Equally proud were Jim Rimmer, bearer of the National Standard of the Eighth Army Veterans' Association, and escorts and fellow veterans Arthur Thorpe and Harry Johnson who - followed by branch standards of the association - also made their stately way down the nave.



Picture: Terry Champion

Loyal salute: veterans greet the Queen and the Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev Michael Mayne, at the Great West Door after the 50th anniversary service commemorating El Alamein

In moving symbolism of hope for the future, they were followed by children from the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, Germany, Italy and Egypt carrying flowers from the West End of the Church to the High Altar.

Second World War veteran and former cavalry officer the Rt Rev Michael Mann, addressing the assembly, said that, especially for Britons, whose Armed Forces were experiencing a period of restraint and reduction, this was a time when thankfulness for the courage

and self-sacrifice shown by the nations involved at El Alamein was particularly pertinent.

"We do well to remember that it is these virtues - and the wonder that even in war, enemies can be reconciled through their shared experience, for which we give thanks 50 years on - that are still the bedrock of all that is best in the character of the men and women of our Armed Forces".

Music for the service - which included prayers in German and Italian by military chaplains from those countries -

was played by the Royal Artillery Woolwich Band.

The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, provided a guard of honour.

As Westminster Abbey disgorged its distinguished congregation into the October sunshine, a crowd of curious tourists had gathered.

The Germans among them might well have been pondering the fact that, thankfully, the only serious disagreements these days between our two nations are of a monetary nature . . .

Bosnia force on its way

OPERATING under United Nations auspices, an advance party of 96 British soldiers and 33 vehicles flew from Gutersloh by American C130 transports in mid-October to activate Operation Grapple, writes Gordon Skilling.

By the beginning of November there will be about 1,000 troops on the ground, and by November 13 about 2,400 British soldiers equipped with 45 Warriors and 30 Scimitars will be ready to protect convoys taking supplies to the starving, freezing people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The British force is commanded by Brig Andrew Cumming, former commander of 20 Brigade in Detmold, and his headquarters staff is from 11 Brigade in Minden, which was due to be his next posting.

Because of destruction to

buildings and infrastructure, 400 extra sappers drawn from 35 Engineer Regiment at Hameln, comprising RHQ, 37 Field Squadron and 44 Field Support Squadron, will travel with 42 Field Squadron already assigned to Op Grapple.

The Cheshire Regiment battle group will remain in Bosnia for six months before being relieved.

The sappers will provide accommodation in container-type buildings and are expected to complete their task within three months. Initial transit accommodation will be provided by the logistic landing

ship RFA *Sir Bedivere* when it arrives at Split, the main logistic base and one-star headquarters.

Elements from the Military Works Force at Chilwell will deploy to Bosnia, as will bomb disposal specialists from Chatterton-based 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), a Postal and Courier unit and map-makers from the military survey branch.

The Cheshire group, commanded by Lt Col Bob Stewart, will be based on Vitez, 30 miles from Sarajevo, with a company located between them and Split to keep the road open.

With battalions from France, Spain and Canada, this group will form the United Nations Protection Force II (UNPROFOR II) commanded by a French officer, Maj Gen Philippe Morillon, whose Chief of Staff will be Brig Roddy Cordy-Simpson, Chief of Staff of Nato's Northern Army Group.

Northag's expertise in operating a multinational headquarters will be called on as it will provide troops for the two-star headquarters, of which 40 per cent will be British. The force will be supported by units from Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Norway. British troops will escort supplies carried in mainly Dutch lorries.

The British element will have little contact with the 300-

● Turn to Page 7

Strensall re-roled to train Infantry

DEPOT The King's Division Strensall, near York, officially changed both its title and role on October 5.

Renamed Infantry Training Battalion Strensall (ITB), it will in future train Regular Army recruits from both the King's and the Prince of Wales's Divisions. In addition, from January ITB will train Territorial Army recruits for the Queen's, King's, Prince of Wales's and Light Divisions.

A flag-changing ceremony and parade took place in front of HQ ITB in Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall.

Representative platoons of the King's and Prince of Wales's Division paraded before Commander 15 (NE) Brigade, Brig Bill Marchant Smith. Also present were, CO ITB, Lt Col Jack Sheldon, QLR, Divisional Colonel King's Division, Col Peter Gardener, and COS HQ Prince of Wales's Division, Lt Col Crichton Wakelin.

Twenty-one Infantry capbadges were present as the new ITB flag – a black bayonet on a red background – was raised.



Fifty-eight members of the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital at Woolwich received Gulf Medals from Maj Gen Robert Corbett, GOC London District, at a parade on September 29. In all, 98 members of QEMH's clinical staff served with units on Operation Granby, and the hospital formed the centre of plans for casualty reception in the United Kingdom.

Although battle casualties were light – 42 in all – a large number of non-battle casualties were evacuated from the Middle East to Woolwich, and

QEMH on Gulf Medal parade

the hospital later treated Army personnel involved in Op Haven in northern Iraq and personnel injured during post-war EOD operations in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

British AMF units deploy to Turkey

EXERCISE Alley Express 92 took the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (AMF) to Turkey to practise the AMF

Southern contingent in deployment, deterrent and combat operations.

Troops from Germany, Bel-

gium, Italy, the United States of America, Turkey and the United Kingdom were deployed.

The AMF is a mobile, multinational, conventional force which can be sent to any Nato country under threat.

Its purpose is to make clear to an aggressor that an attack against one nation would constitute an attack against all members of the alliance.

While in the region, AMF soldiers queued at an Italian Army field hospital to give blood later donated to the Turkish civilian transfusion service.

Others attended a wreath-laying ceremony in Corlu in memory of Turkish sailors killed when their ship was struck by a missile fired accidentally from an American aircraft carrier.

Larkhill-based 5 Gibraltar (1779-1783) Field Battery RA was one of a number of batteries which took part in Exercise Alley Barbara, an artillery firepower demonstration for senior military commanders and Nato observers.

New women's uniform unveiled



Picture: Chris Fletcher

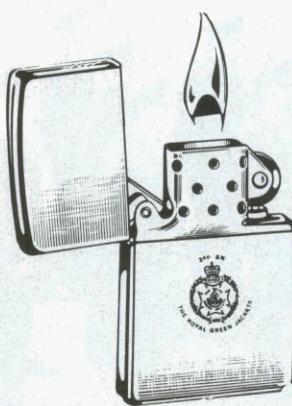
The new khaki No 2 Dress for women soldiers made its first public appearance on October 8 during a passing out parade for Regular recruits at the Army Women's Training Centre, Guildford. It is anticipated that issue of the new No 2 dress and barrack dress uniform for wear in temperate and tropical areas will start in September next

year. Women serving in the Territorial Army and UOTC personnel will receive their new uniforms in 1994.

Recruits at the passing out parade had not received the new No 1 forage cap and are pictured wearing the old WRAC version with their new regimental and corps badges attached.

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2 GR in first Gurkha merger

A SMALL piece of Hong Kong history was made at Cassino Lines, San Tin, on September 14 when the two battalions which made up 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) merged into a single-battalion regiment.

This is the first time since 1886, when the 2nd Battalion was raised, that the regiment has consisted of only a single battalion. At one stage during the Second World War, the regiment boasted five.

The merger, part of Options for Change, was the first to take place in Hong Kong and the first involving the Gurkhas, who are to lose 65 per cent of their total strength after 1997. It also reflected the successful completion of the handover of responsibility for the Sino-Hong Kong Border to the Royal Hong Kong Police.

Led by the Brigade of Gurkhas Band, representative sections of the 1st and 2nd Battalions marched on to the parade ground from different directions. They were then reviewed by their Regimental Colonel, Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, with the current Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen John Foley and his immediate predecessor, now Lt Gen Sir Peter Duffell, among the spectators.

After the inspection, the two battalions marched past in line for the last time and then reformed as a single battalion on the direction of Fd Marshal Chapple who, in a short speech, spoke of the Gurkhas' proud record and their future in the mainstream of the British Army.

September 14 is a significant day in regimental history as it marks the anniversary of the action at Delhi during the Indian Mutiny in 1857 which led to the regiment being granted its principal Battle Honour, The Queen's Truncheon.



Members of 22 Signal Regiment on their farewell march

Lippstadt farewell

March signals end for regiment

SOLDIERS of 22 Signal Regiment have said a sad, formal farewell to the German town of Lippstadt, home of the regiment for the past 40 years.

Due to be disbanded in December, the regiment exercised its Freedom of Lippstadt – granted in 1973 – for the final time during a rain-swept parade which ended in the main square in front of an audience of German dignitaries, regimental families, old comrades and local residents.

The salute and inspection, received by the Master of Signals, Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle, were followed by the presentation of a commemorative pennant – *fahnenband* – by Commander Wehrbereich Kommand 3, Generalmajor Manfred Wuerfel, on behalf of the German Government.

In an emotional speech, Herr Franz Klocke, the Bergermeister of Lippstadt, expressed



Generalmajor Wuerfel fixes the *fahnenband* to the flag

his town's sorrow at the departure of the British signallers and their families.

Town and regimental flags were exchanged before the commanding officer, Lt Col Ken Hadfield, led the regiment off parade with the words: "It is time to go."

TA team on Mont Blanc

FOURTEEN Territorials and two Regular staff members of the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment have reached the summit of Mont Blanc.

The expedition, drawn from the battalion's TA Centres in Lancaster, Kendal, Workington, Carlisle and Barrow in Furness, was led by TA officer Maj David Kay and Regular RSM Phil Johnson, both experienced climbers. Also in the party was REME TA soldier Pat Gunson, a veteran of two expeditions to Everest.

Colchester hosts Alamein veterans

TWENTY-FIVE former officers of the 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, all veterans of El Alamein, were marking the 50th anniversary of the battle with a visit to Kirkee Barracks, Colchester on October 23. Gen Sir Martin Farndale, senior officer of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, was joining the veterans for dinner after a floodlit Beating the Retreat by the Royal Artillery Band.

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S C E

HCR is 'eyes' of new 3 Div

THE HOUSEHOLD Cavalry Regiment came into being on October 19 following the union of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals under Options for Change.

Assigned to the 3rd (UK) Division in an armoured recce role, the new regiment will be based at Combermere Barracks, Windsor.

Under the command of Lt Col Simon Falkner, LG, the HCR will comprise two squadrons of Life Guards, two squadrons of Blues and Royals and a composite regimental HQ and HQ squadron.

The new regiment replaces two units involved in recent conflicts - the Challenger-equipped Life Guards who served in the Gulf and were based at Sennelager in Germany, and the Windsor-based Blues and Royals, elements of which fought in the Falklands.

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, based in Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge, and responsible for carrying out state ceremonial duties, remains unchanged.

Customs, traditions and uniforms of both Life Guards and Blues and Royals will be retained within the Household Cavalry Regiment.

Berlin sappers in Italy

Heads bowed, Berlin-based British soldiers take part in a remembrance service at Monte Cassino War Cemetery during an exchange visit with elements of the Italian Army. The party from 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron RE included 1 QLR, 15 BAD, 229 (Berlin) Signal Sqn, REME, ACC and RCT personnel.

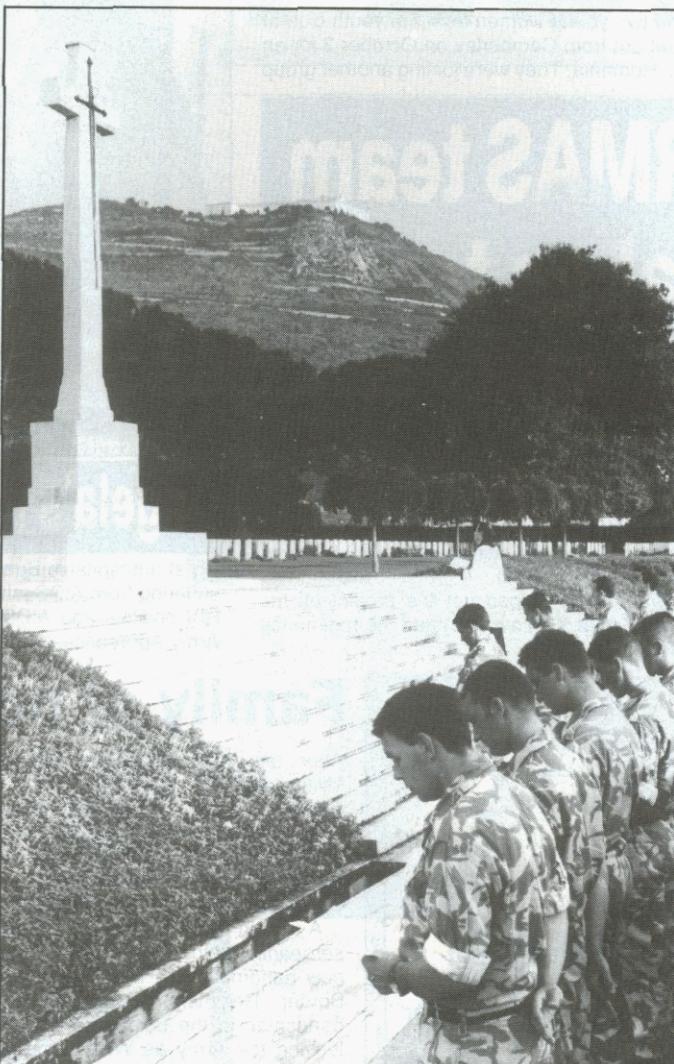
They were hosted by the 3rd Engineer (Lario) Battalion at Cremona and carried out combat engineer and bridge-



The Duke of York, Colonel in Chief of The Staffordshire Regiment, receives a briefing in the field during his visit to the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion's annual camp at Sennybridge, Powys. The battalion is based in Wolverhampton with companies located in Tamworth and Rugeley,

Stoke-on-Trent, Burton-on-Trent and Walsall, and is roled to the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps.

Prince Andrew presented Gulf Medals to ten Regular members of the regiment now serving with the 3rd Battalion as permanent staff instructors.



building exercises with the Italian sappers.

In 1944 men of 38 Company RE bridged the Garigliano river, enabling the Allies to

advance on German positions along the Gustav Line, the campaign during which the bitter battle for Monte Cassino was fought.

Bosnia

• From Page 5

strong British Medical Battalion, drawn mainly from 24 Field Ambulance, supporting UNPROFOR I in Croatia and based on Zagreb. Those medics are due to be replaced in December by 4 Armoured Field Ambulance from Minden.

Senior United Nations commander is Gen Satish Nambiar of the Indian Army.

Routes were recce under the supervision of the Director of Military Operations, Brig David Jenkins. Roads are not good and may be temporarily blocked by snow, but the force's engineering equipment includes snow blowers and graders. He is confident they will be kept open.

"The soldiers are not there to fight their way through and take unacceptable risks, but the force is rugged enough to give the battle group commander the ability to do what he wants."

Deploying as part of the Cheshire battle group are a squadron from the 9th/12th Royal Lancers from Herford, 100 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment at Lemgo; and a National Support Element (NSE) made up from HQ 5 Ordnance Battalion RAOC at Paderborn and units from 10 Regiment RCT (Bielefeld), REME and the RMP.



Four soldiers, an MoD policeman and two young women from the youth club at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst set out from Camberley on October 2 for an orphanage at Casa de Copi in Gaesti, Romania. They were joining another group at Dover for the 1,750-mile trip under the banner of the Aid to Romanian Orphans project, and taking with them tons of toys, food and medical equipment.

The Sandhurst team raised more than £900 towards the trip – enough to feed the whole population of Gaesti, 70 miles from Bucharest, for a year.

Pictured with Maj Gen **Tim Toyne Sewell** (right), Commandant of RMAS, are (from left, front) LCpl **Richard Whittemore** (15/19 H), Wcpl **Paula Edwards** (AGC), youth club members **Louise Hobson** and **Jo Dannatt**, and PC **Steve Greenall**, community police officer at Sandhurst, who was making his second visit to Romania; (back) SSgt **Barry Mumford** (RAMC) and Sgt **Dennis Boot** (1 RTR).

Among the many people at Sandhurst who helped get the project off the ground by raising money were Cpl/Maj **Spike Yarrow** (LG) and the regimental police staff at the Academy guardroom.

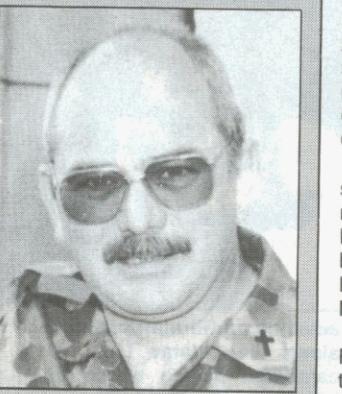
RMAS team takes toys to orphans

Welsh Aussie in Yorkshire

Australian Army chaplain **David Hosking** has a temporary new flock – the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and HQ 24 Air Mobile Brigade in Catterick Garrison.

Under the Exercise Long Look programme David "swapped" parishes with British Army chaplain Padre **David Hart**, who is now in Brisbane as Co-ordinating Chaplain for the Australian Army at Headquarters 6 Brigade.

It is Aussie David's first visit to Britain since his family emigrated from Neath, South Wales, in 1966.

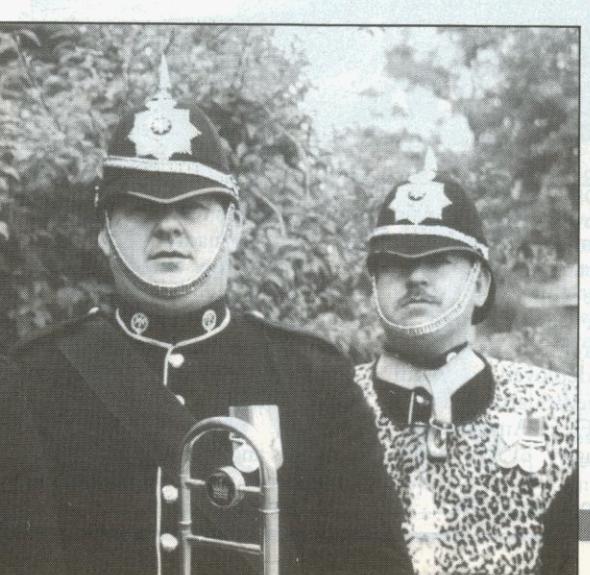


Family of note

After ten years serving together in the Military Band of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, the brothers **Milgate** are splitting up. Sgt **John Milgate** (centre) has moved to the 2nd Battalion at Celle, while Cpls **Steve** (right) and **Graham** remain in Colchester with the 1st Battalion.

A fourth brother, **David**, was also a sergeant with the Pompadours' band and is now bandmaster of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment. Their father was a bandsman in the Leicestershire Regiment, leaving the Army as WO2 Band Sergeant Major of the Queen's Division.

Purists may be interested to note the Royal Anglians' practice of wearing either the GSM and United Nations medal in the priority in which they were received.



Eric's on the right trek...

Cpl **Eric Riddle** (left) of the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders is presented with his log book and the first Alpine trekking leader qualification by QMSI **Henry Branigan** at the new adventurous training centre at Sonthofen, Bavaria. Soon afterwards Eric set off to lead a group on a ten-day trekking expedition in the Via Ferrata, Italy.



Angela's mission

ing at a hospital in Bucharest, Romania. Pictured comforting a child suffering from AIDS, she worked alongside other volunteers nursing HIV positive and AIDS-diagnosed orphans. Angela, serving at the Army Apprentices College medical centre, Harrogate, took with her medicines donated by her unit.

Enrolled Nurse Cpl **Angela Jones** QARANC spent her summer holidays working at a hospital in Bucharest, Romania. Pictured comforting a child suffering from AIDS, she worked alongside other volunteers nursing HIV positive and AIDS-diagnosed orphans. Angela, serving at the Army Apprentices College medical centre, Harrogate, took with her medicines donated by her unit.



They're an efficient lot, the **Turner** family. Pictured are Sgt **David Turner** of the Territorial Army's 253 Provost Company RMP based at Tulse Hill, London, and his father, Maj (Retd) **Gerry Turner**.

The occasion was the award to David, a policeman serving with the Met, of his Territorial Efficiency Medal. Dad received his TA Efficiency Medal in 1949, and David's late grandfather, Capt **Thomas James Turner**, received his during the period 1902-1916.

Maj Turner joined the RMP Training School at Sennelager in 1947, later helping in the repatriation of 60,000 PoWs from the Hook of Holland. He retired from the Regular Army in 1977 before serving as a retired officer with Tpt and Mov HQ Scotland until 1984.

Spirit of Arnhem

Dutch children at Arnhem learned something of the spirit of The Parachute Regiment when they met Sgt Tex Banwell of 10 Para at the annual commemoration at Ginkelheide. Still jumping at 73, he was a 19-year-old platoon sergeant in 1944 during the operation to capture the bridge. Only 30 of his 580-strong battalion survived but each young para's grave is cared for by a Dutch child. See also Page 38.



Cumbrian commands 4 Kings Own Border

Lt Col **Stephen Flanagan** MC has taken over from Lt Col **Simon Strickland** as commanding officer of the Territorial Army's 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment based in Cumbria and North Lancashire.

A Cumbrian himself, Lt Col Flanagan (pictured above) joined the Army in 1971, commissioning at Sandhurst before serving with the Kings Own Border in the Far East and Northern Ireland. His most recent appointment was to Nato headquarters in Belgium.

Lt Col Strickland is to become a military attaché in Finland after completing a languages course.

PEOPLE



No looking back for new Second



IN AN impressive display of armoured power, the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment (formed in August) held a mounted parade in Germany last month to mark the amalgamation of the 2nd and 3rd Royal Tank Regiments, writes Phil Wilcox.

The parade, which took place at the new regiment's home at Lumsden Barracks, Fallingbostel, included a drive-past by all 50 of the regiment's Challenger main battle tanks.

Inspected by Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Blacker, Master General of the Ordnance, it was the first fully mounted parade undertaken to mark an amalgamation under Options for Change.

Both amalgamated regiments can trace their respective histories to 1916, when they were separate companies in the Machine Gun Corps, whose soldiers manned the first tanks in the First World War.

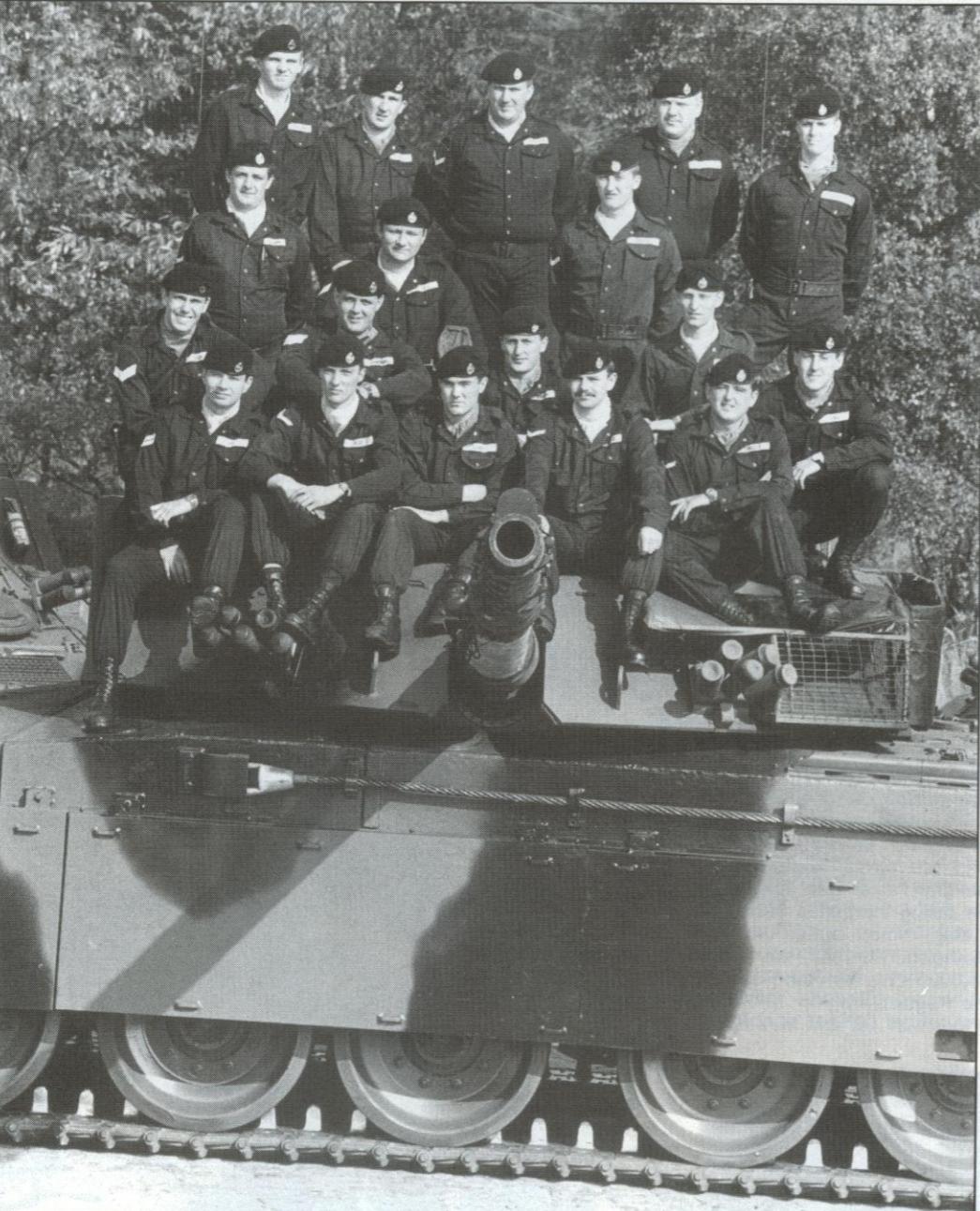
Each can also claim a lengthy association with the Desert Rats – the 7th Armoured Brigade – of which they are now a part.

Before the amalgamation, 2 RTR had been stationed in the United Kingdom as the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment, based at Catterick, while 3 RTR was already in situ at Hemer, as part of the 6th Armoured Brigade.

Most famous battle honour for 2 RTR was won at Cambrai in France on November 20, 1917 when – as B Battalion, Heavy Branch Machine Gun Corps – it took part in the first successful tank battle.

During the Second World War, the regiment fought the Axis powers on three continents and in all five theatres of war. At the end of hostilities, it was the first armoured regiment to enter Austria.

More recently, during Operation Granby, the Second sent six officers and 54 men to the Gulf as part of an armoured delivery squadron and ambulance group, as well as being



heavily involved in the distribution of men and equipment from Catterick and Bovington.

World War, including Calais and all the major engagements of the desert campaign.

Like their new colleagues, members of 3 RTR can boast a distinguished military history.

When the Gulf War broke out, 3 RTR was on a tour in Northern Ireland: its bandsmen were deployed to Saudi Arabia as medics attached to 5 Armoured Field Ambulance.

Their forebears also fought at Cambrai, and the regiment was involved in several heroic actions during the Second

World War, including Calais and all the major engagements of the desert campaign.

During the Second World War, instead of being known as A, B, C, D and HQ Squadron, they were christened Ajax, Badger, Cyclops, Huntsman and Nero.

One casualty of the amalgamation has been the names of 2 RTR's squadrons.

But, philosophically, the officers and men of both former regiments will now be looking forward, not back.

Parade pictures: SSgt Andy Mason, P Info 1 Armd Div;
other pictures: Mike Weston



Above: Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Blacker takes the salute as the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment's Challengers parade at Fallingbostel

Left: B Squadron Command and Recce Troop. The scarves, light for the old 2 RTR, darker for 3 RTR, indicate former allegiances

Right: The Master General of the Ordnance inspects men of 3 RTR

Below: The new regimental Colours are paraded at Lumsden Barracks



Right: WO2 (RQMS) Steve Proctor (left) and WO1 (RSM) Malcolm Newton with the painting presented by 3 RTR's WOs and Sergeants Mess to the new 2 RTR mess on their amalgamation





Above - Gen John M Shalikashvili, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, hands the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps flag to the corps commander, Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie

Right - The ARRC British detachment, comprising elements of the HQ Regiment ARRC supported by the Royal Corps of Transport and Royal Pioneer Corps, on parade at the corps' formation ceremony at Bielefeld

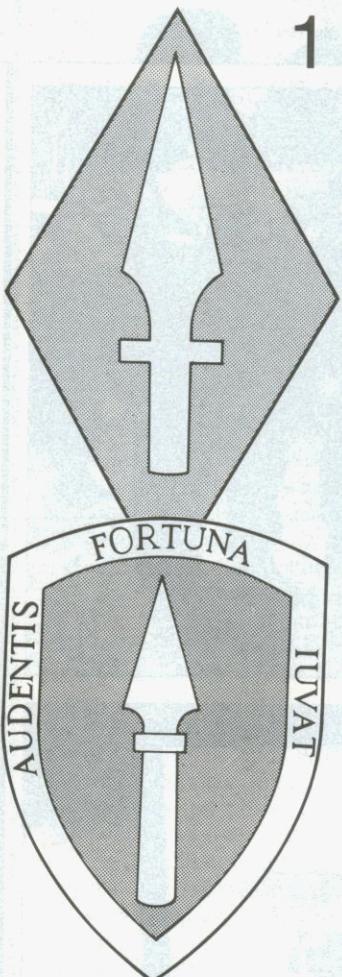


Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Inge (foreground) watches the parade. To his right are Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, C-in-C BAOR, Gen Clauss, Deputy Supreme Commander Europe (Germany) and Gen Sir Brian Kenny, DSACEUR (UK)

1 (BR) Corps passes into history to make way for new peacekeeping formation

Nato ushers in the era of ARRC

Flags of ARRC nations on parade



AS WITH most military ceremonial occasions it was colourful, musical, dramatic, highly symbolic and carried out with satisfying precision.

The parade at Ripon Barracks, Bielefeld, illustrated by a selection of photographs on these pages, showed Nato at its best - marking the passing into suspended animation of the 1st British Corps and the simultaneous activation of the Headquarters, Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

Europe's top military figures and some of the best fighting men and musicians from Allied nations were the leading players, while the fascinated audience included the multinational media.

VVIPs and VIPs included

the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Gen John M Shalikashvili; the Nato Secretary-General, Dr Manfred Wörner; and the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Inge.

As the parade, commanded by Lt Col Adrian Gage, Gren Gds, bade farewell to 1 (BR) Corps, its flag was handed to Gen Inge to be passed on to the National Army Museum in Chelsea for safe keeping.

Later the ARRC flag was presented by SACEUR to Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, last and first commander of the respective corps.

"Few occasions can equal this ceremony in historical significance," said Gen Shalikashvili.

"Today we bid farewell to

the proud, battle-tested formation of the 1st (British) Corps. A corps born at the turn of the century which has lived through the trials of two world wars and which most recently performed so professionally in moving many of its units and men to fight so magnificently in the Gulf War."

It had also for the last 47 years guarded the plains of northern Germany and helped assure freedom and prosperity.

"The history of the 1st (British) Corps is in many ways the history of this bloody century. It is a history of sacrifice, of perseverance and of victory.

"How fitting, then, that this formation should form the framework for our Alliance's new centrepiece as we restructure ourselves for our tasks of tomorrow."

In outline the ARRC, led by Britain, will consist of an international headquarters and appropriate corps level combat support and combat service support. Ten divisions, covering a wide spectrum of military capability, are currently assigned to the new force, from which up to four divisions can be drawn, tailor-made for a specific crisis.

Although mainly British-staffed, the HQ will be multinational. It is planned to move to Rheindahlen in early 1994 and the ARRC will be fully operational by 1995.

● After the Bielefeld parade a multinational equipment demonstration took place at the Sennelager training area.



Airfield sappers breeze in

IN THE wake of Hurricane Andrew, soldiers from 218 Field Squadron (V) flew into Eglin Air Force base, Fort Walton Beach, Florida, for a gruelling five-day exercise with their American counterparts.

The squadron, based at RAF Honington, is responsible for airfield damage repair (ADR). It is 218's job to get the airfield operational again in the shortest possible time, and to keep it that way during hostilities.

"On exercise it is very nearly impossible," said LCpl Chris Bateman, a plant operator with the squadron. "Just as things are up and running again, something comes in and destroys all our good work. We just keep at it, and hope that eventually the enemy give it up as a bad job."

The squadron began the exercise in a sunny 95F and high humidity, a great change from their usual Norfolk climate. During an initial two-day training package members got to grips with American kit and the American way of doing things.

"Their kit is marvellous, but not too different from ours, really," said Spr John Cone. "It's still worthwhile getting to know it properly before the real exercise begins."

The squadron undertook tasks such as runway



Capt Randy Sipe USAF points out to two Norwich men, Cpl Alan Charles RE (centre) and Sgt Matt Timbers of the UKLF Mobile News Team, that the B17 Flying Fortress on show at the ASAFA Armaments Museum at Fort Walton Beach was one of thousands which flew from East Anglia during the Second World War

levelling, crater-filling and surfacing and repair of all airfield ancillary equipment.

The exercise began in earnest with a simulated attack in the training area – including NBC conditions – and the deployment of the

whole squadron to the airfield to begin work. For the next three days, British sappers maintained and repaired anything that moved, ensuring that all types of aircraft could use the airfield to its maximum capacity.

Words:
Capt Steve Munns
Pictures:
WO2 Arthur Thomson



Lunch time for the sappers. Stew is stew, whether you are serving in East Anglia or Florida ...



Soldiers of The Middlesex Regiment man a Vickers gun at El Alamein

El Alamein

The second battle of El Alamein has been chosen by the British Army as the focal point of its Second World War 50th anniversaries. **Gordon Skilling** summarises this watershed in British fortunes

EL ALAMEIN was always a scruffy little railway halt with a cluster of houses stuck in the middle of nowhere under the "ridge of twin cairns". Its only claim to fame used to be as the best place to stop for a swim on the way to Mersa Matruh.

But events there 50 years ago caused church bells to ring in Britain for the first time since the Second World War began.

The second battle of El Alamein ranks with Stalingrad and Kohima as one of the pivotal land battles of the war. Churchill's comment about never winning a battle before it and never losing one after it was an understandable exaggeration

but the months before October 24, 1942 had seen little but defeat, great losses and humiliation.

Mainland Europe lay under the German jackboot, U-boats had a stranglehold, America had been crippled at Pearl Harbour and, amazingly, Singapore had surrendered. The largely Canadian attack on Dieppe had been a costly failure.

Germany was pushing through the Caucasus and if Malta and the Suez Canal were to fall, the Germans could reach the Persian oil fields and conceivably link up with the Japanese.

In the desert, Rommel had trounced us at Gazala when we hoped to finish him off. Heroic Tobruk fell like a ripe plum and Gen Sir Claude Auchinleck had to take personal command of the Eighth Army. Mussolini flew south to prepare his triumphal entry to Cairo while we were preparing to destroy Alexandria. "Ash Wednesday" came early as the British Army burned documents and started withdrawing its HQ Middle East.

The Desert Fox was rampant.

But by the end of July 1942 the "Auk" had at least halted Rommel at the first battle of El

Alamein before Gen Sir Harold Alexander, Dunkirk veteran and mastermind of the tragic retreat from Burma, replaced him as C-in-C Middle East Command.

Several "white-kneed" generals arrived in Africa: the first of them the diminutive Lt Gen Bernard Montgomery. Quickly adapting to the casual dress of the desert, he brooked no negative attitudes, firing a senior staff officer who wanted to make contingency plans for a better organised withdrawal.

The spirit of the previously demoralised Desert Rats soared.

● Turn to next page

'IT WAS A GENTLEMAN'S WAR'

OLD ENEMIES are joining old friends in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the second battle of El Alamein. Events included services both in the desert and in Westminster Abbey.

The sons of Bernard Montgomery and Erwin Rommel stood together in the Abbey on October 14 in a gesture symbolic of a campaign remarkable for the absence of hate among the combatants.

About 3,000 Commonwealth veterans were travelling to Egypt to join some

7,000 Desert Rats and Afrika Korps veterans at an international service of remembrance at the German memorial in the presence of the Duke of Kent, President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and Prime Minister John Major.

Each year a remembrance service is held by a different country, and the UK took the lead last year.

After the international service at El Alamein on October 25 a national service was planned for relatives making the pilgrimage for the

first time. They will experience the daytime heat and bitter night-time cold. Sand and flies will get everywhere. But the acrid taste of V cigarettes, hard tack and tainted water will be only a memory for the veterans who return.

"It was a gentleman's war in the desert," said George Worthington, a corporal with the Durham Light Infantry during the battle, and now secretary of the Eighth Army Veterans' Association.

"To some extent it was similar in Sicily because many

of the Afrika Korps were there, particularly the paratroopers. When we landed in Normandy it was a completely different kind of German we were up against."

German and Italian veterans regularly attend annual El Alamein reunions at Blackpool despite the last "official" reunion being held soon after Montgomery's death in 1976.

"We in the north said we were not having that, and on November 1 we will once again take over the promenade for our own service," said Mr Worthington.

From Page 19

Rommel's last throw against them floundered on the heights of Alam el Halfa in August – only 50 miles from Alexandria.

Refusing the temptation to chase the Desert Fox, Monty re-established the front... and waited. Malta, too, had survived and while he built up his strength, the Axis were starved of supplies.

Three hundred Sherman tanks, diverted from the Americans preparing to land in Morocco, and the arrival of the 25-pounder gun significantly improved the British position.

Rarely can one commander have known so much about the intentions and capability of his adversary. Monty had the benefit of the highly secret Ultra decoding device, while Rommel had lost his radio interception unit which until then had told him so much about the Eighth Army's immediate intentions.

Backbone of the Axis forces was the Afrika Korps, with 15 and 21 Panzer Divisions respectively north and south, supported by two Italian armoured divisions. As well as Italian infantry, the German 90th and 164 Light Divisions were to be reckoned with.

In the north, the 9th Australian, 51st Highland, 2nd New Zealand and 1st South African Divisions formed 30 Corps, with 1, 8 and 10 Armoured Divisions of 13 Corps behind them. In the south, 13 Corps comprised 7 Armoured Division, 44 and 50 (Northumbrian) Divisions.

Initially, the infantry and artillery were to lead the armour through the breaches made by the Royal Engineers in the five-mile belt of mines.

Sappers had also made a

significant contribution in suggesting an extra dummy division with 13 Corps supporting a feint in the south.

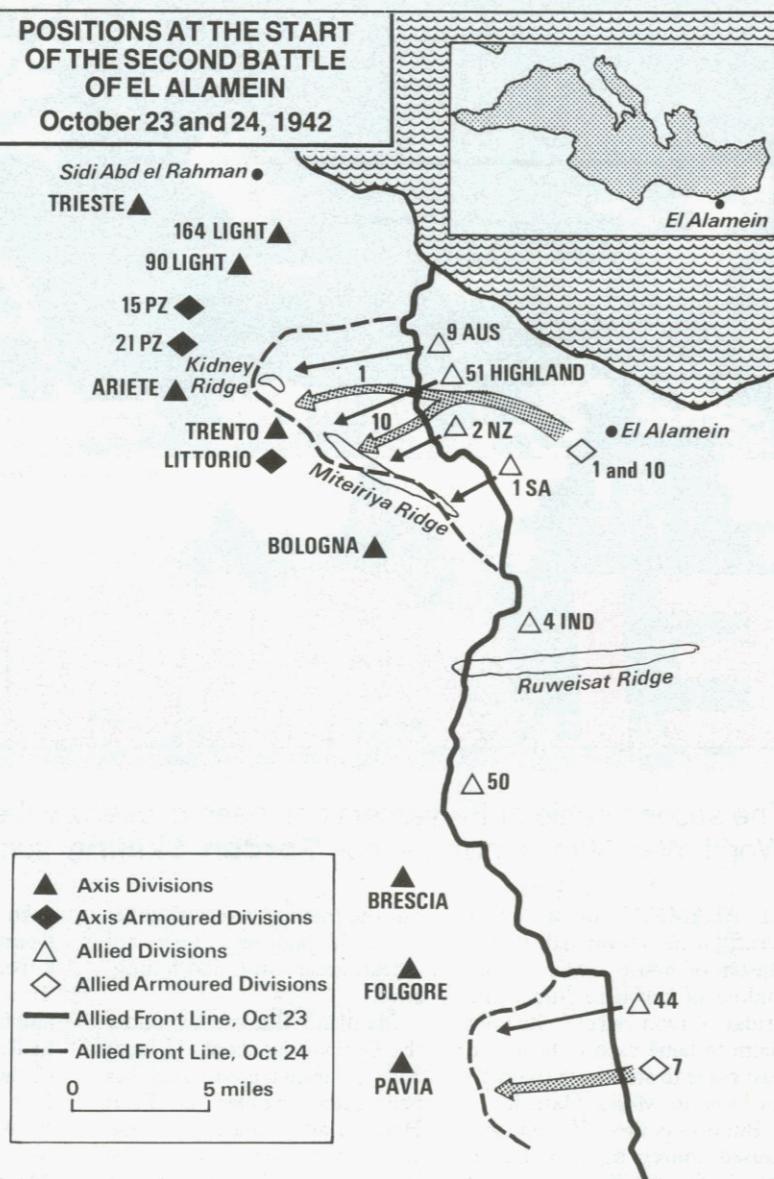
At 9.40 on the night of October 23 – the day Rommel flew to Germany on sick leave – the largest British artillery barrage since 1918 shattered the night in a spectacle that struck the waiting soldiers with awe.

Over the next 12 days 824 25-pounders fired on average 102 rounds a gun a day, 48 4.5in-guns managed 133 rounds each a day, and the 5.5in guns 157 shells.

In the lull as the gunners changed from counter battery fire to more immediate objectives, veteran Aussies and Kiwis on either flank of the Jocks took heart from the pipes as they advanced, 75 paces to the minute, through the dust and smoke, with Bofors guns firing tracer along brigade boundaries to guide them.

The 23rd New Zealand Battalion took its objective without a fight, so carried on without support to the foot of Miteirya Ridge, and sat there as first its own protective barrage arrived, then the amazed 21 and 22 Battalions.

The Australians struck lucky by knocking out Rommel's deputy, Stumm. As the diggers shot him up he had a



heart attack and fell out of his wagon during evasive action.

When Rommel returned the gunners got wind of his position. Every gun in range opened up, but missed him by just 15 minutes.

In the south, 44 Div and 7 Armd Div got bogged down in

mines but held the powerful 21 Panzer and Ariete Group waiting there for a main attack which never came.

Severe congestion stopped the British armour pushing through in the north, and the infantry did not particularly enjoy the proximity of their



Above: Two British infantrymen take cover behind a water truck as a one-ton bomb bursts perilously nearby

Left: Gen Montgomery poses for an official photograph with a light anti-aircraft gun crew at Benghazi

drive: "Supercharge".

Though ordered by Hitler not to withdraw, Rommel tried to save what he could. But on November 4 his depleted southern defence broke and he had to retreat to avoid being

By now both sides were exhausted and Monty's men had little left for an energetic pursuit, particularly in the torrential rains which were turning the area to mud.

Monty did not succeed in his objective of destroying the Afrika Korps and was subsequently criticised for showing too much caution. But the Germans were to display an amazing capacity for the defensive battle all the way through the desert, up the length of Italy and through northwest Europe.

That was still to come: El Alamein was a good start and church bells all over Britain reflected the country's joy... and its relief.

own tanks in the lee of the Miteirya ridge... they attracted artillery!

Montgomery drove his northern divisional commanders past their limit as the attack floundered on the "Kidney" depression, then switched direction to the north.

won, was a decisive factor in wearing down the enemy.

Rommel brought up most of his southern group, but another Australian night attack worried him so much he took personal charge of his panzers.

Monty then switched back to his original axis for his final

BELIZE TOUR

Words: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring



Sappers leave lasting legacy

SAPPERS have a head start when it comes to making friends with Belizeans, writes Gordon Skilling.

Other soldiers undertake community relations projects

during their tour, but the men of 59 Independent Commando Squadron have specific skills at their fingertips, and tend to leave more permanent reminders of their presence.



Keeping a grip on the situation with their boa constrictor mascot are LCpl Rob Hallam, Spr Mac McCullagh and LCpl Ian Murison

As well as being combat engineers, the sappers are craftsmen capable of producing fine furniture, and long after 2 Troop has returned the children in one settlement will remember who built a solid school to replace their old open hut.

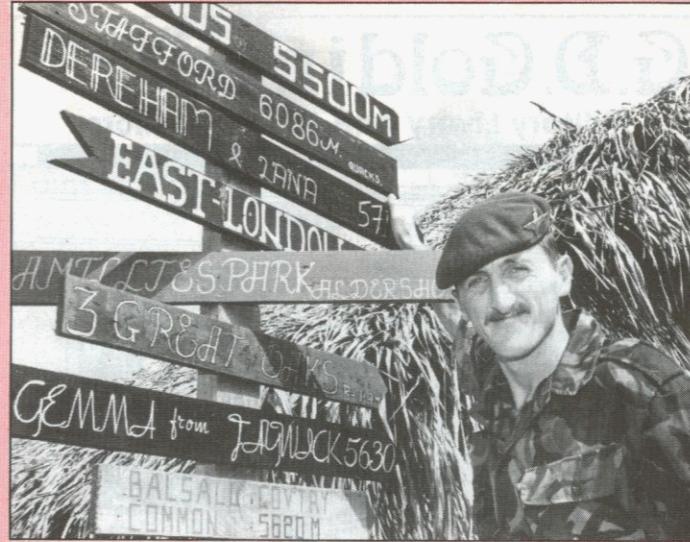
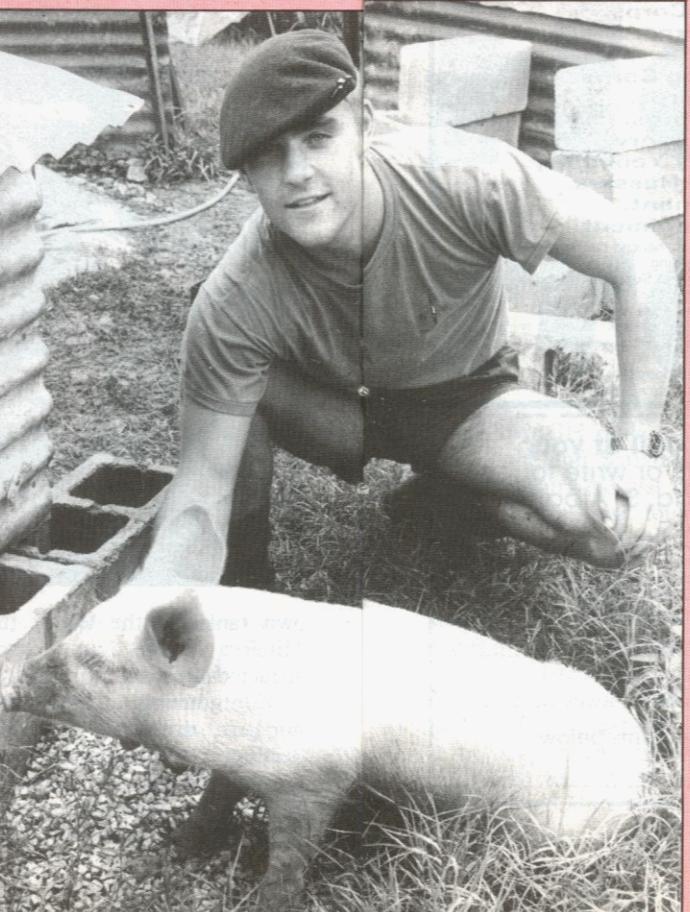
As the sappers were working during the monsoon season, they also obtained authority to upgrade the mud track leading to the school to carry vehicles.

It was frustrating not being able to communicate, though some children have a little English, so several sappers learned Spanish on their own initiative.

Troop Commander Capt Dave Wilson already had a passing knowledge. After university he back-packed round South America and spent three months in Chile on Operation Raleigh before joining the Army.

Above - Capt Dave Wilson (foreground) and his Sappers find willing helpers among the children as they build a more permanent school than the hut behind them

Below - LCpl Mark Waldron and a present from a local bar owner



Cpl Gary Knight checks his bride Lana's name on 7 RHA's signpost to their wives and girlfriends

Jungle puts the gunners on trial

A JUNGLE environment presents special challenges for gunners. Apart from learning to survive in it and taking part in routine patrolling, they have to master a whole new range of procedures.

Maintenance of the guns is a completely different proposition in the heat and humidity of the jungle.

"Things that don't go wrong in Britain go wrong here," said WO2 Baz Powell, Troop Sergeant Major of 1 (Parachute) Battery (Bull's Troop), 7 Royal

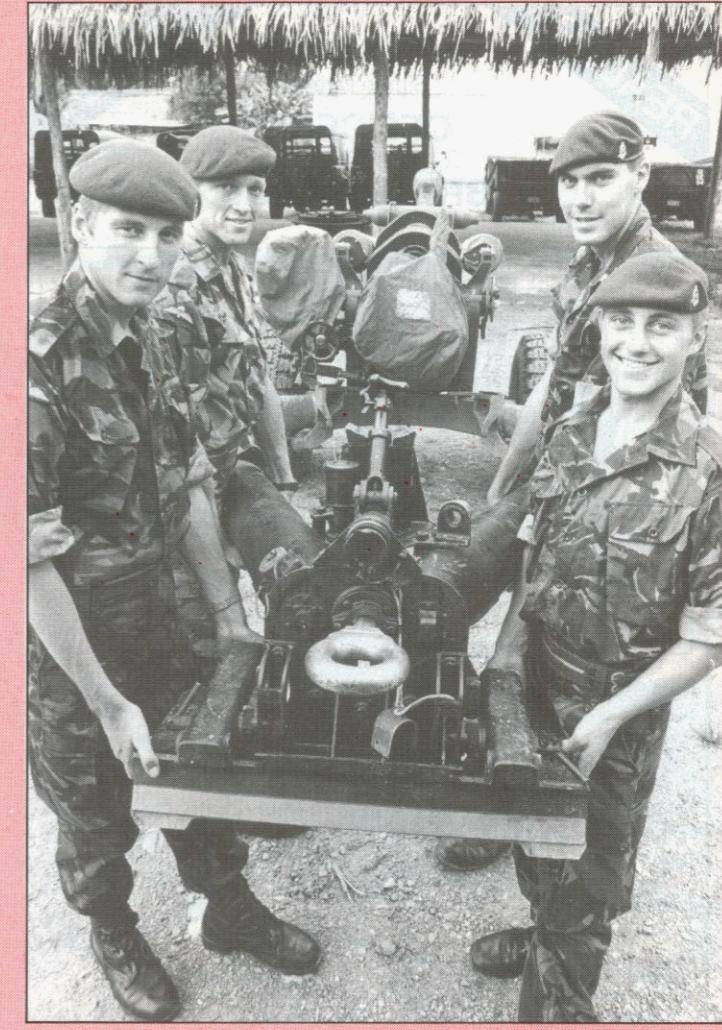
(Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, for example, was broadening his horizons working with guns and employing basic infantry skills with the Forward Observation Officer's party

Cpl Gary Knight of 10

Horse Artillery. "Batteries overheat much more quickly, and radios go off the road a lot more because of the humidity."

Vehicles can literally go off the road because of the terrible state of tracks. Driving and handling skills have to be of a high order.

Practical experience in an exciting environment is being shared with members of the Territorial Army, several of whom are on a year's attachment with the troop.



Bdr Skip Hopper, Gnr Neal Radford, Shaun Nixon and Richard Price make light of the 105mm light gun

bringing down fire on the enemy. During his rest and recuperation period he returned to Norfolk to get married – and his bride took a lot of persuasion to let him return to Belize!

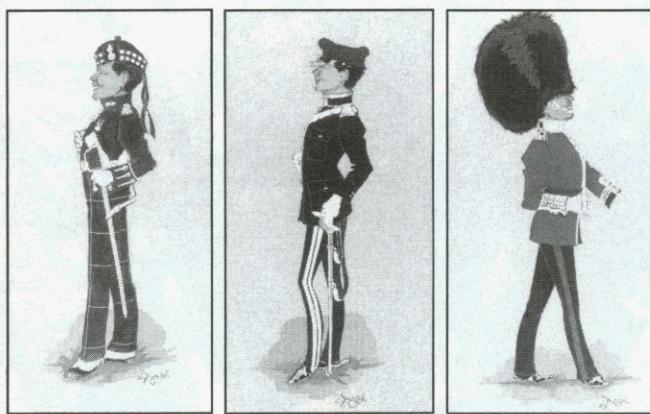


High angle firing is much more common in jungle warfare – Bdr Skip Hopper, Pte Stephen Shippam, Gnr Stephen MacLean, Pte Billie McKee and Bdr Andy Dart with a 105mm light gun

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7. The Queen's Own Hussars
8. The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars
9. 9th/12th Royal Lancers (PoW's Own)
10. The Royal Hussars (PoW's Own)
11. 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Qn Mary's Own)
12. 14th/20th King's Hussars
13. 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars
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15. 17th/21st Lancers
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5 Platoon, B Company at Romeo 21

Home from home

AS ARMAGH roulement battalion, the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry has just finished a record-breaking fourteenth tour in Northern Ireland since the Troubles began 23 years ago. The battalion, which has deployed to the Province four times in the past two years, has now completed more tours in Northern Ireland than any other infantry battalion.

Lt Col Mark Elcomb is convinced that it is a time of change in South Armagh.

"I do detect a much greater feeling of sympathy towards the Army than on previous tours. The natural emotions of the populace tended towards antipathy, but now, people have started to express their sympathy and to offer help."

The individual companies each have a specific role.

D Company's role in the Crossmaglen tactical area of responsibility (TAOR) is to

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston

dominate the ground through a combination of surveillance and information-gathering linked to searches, vehicle checkpoints and observation.

The terrain in D Coy's TAOR has been likened to an egg box - dozens of small hills, interspersed with low-lying areas.

Fields in the area are mostly banked and ditched with blackthorn fences and barbed

wire or a combination of both. Progress can be slow, but by the end of the tour soldiers on rural patrol had become quite adept at negotiating the obstacles.

Said Capt Nick Scarfe: "We have certainly detected a feeling from the people that Sinn Fien and PIRA are not really providing any answers to the problems. Perhaps people are now starting to look for other solutions."

● Turn to next page



Conditions are cramped at Crossmaglen Security Force base

LI in Armagh

From Page 25

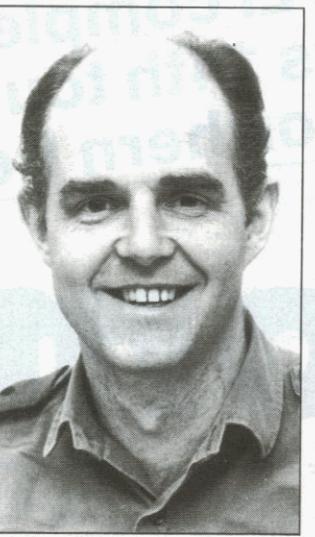
The tour was not without incident or tragedy. Sadly, Pte Paul Turner, 18, was murdered by an IRA gunman at Crossmaglen on August 28.

Although his death distressed the battalion, the soldiers of 2 LI did not let it deter them from single-mindedly pursuing their main objective of overcoming the terrorist.

There were successes. Most notable was the foiling of an attempted mortar attack against the Crossmaglen base when a vigilant WO2 Tommy Walker spotted the device in a van while monitoring images on a closed-circuit television screen.

Three major operations involved 2 LI during their tour.

They provided cover during the General Election, protecting ballot boxes and polling stations at Newtonhamilton,



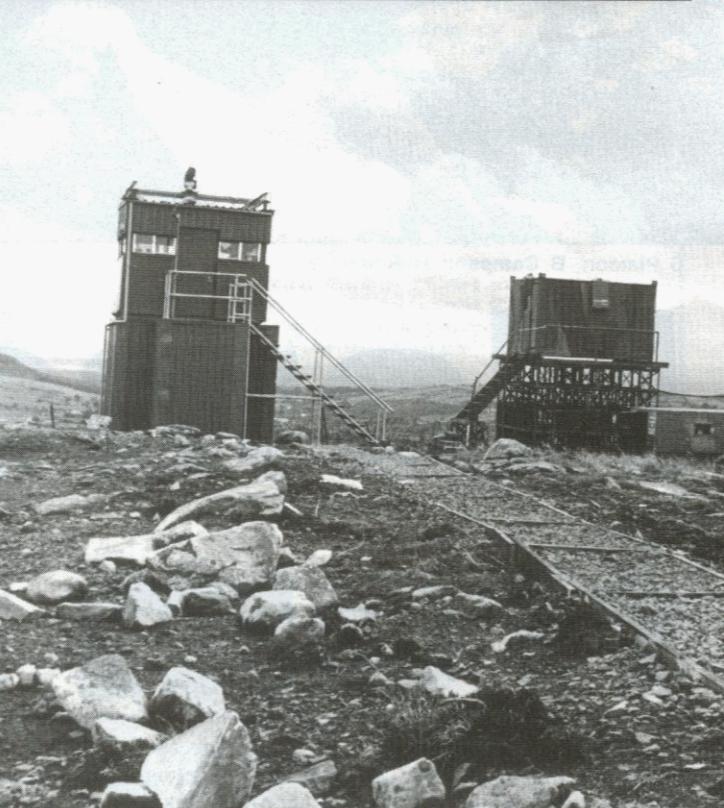
Lt Col Mark Elcomb, CO 2 LI

Forkhill and Crossmaglen; on Operation Cristo the battalion deployed in support of the RUC and Customs officers who raided homes throughout the TAOR to hamper the IRA's fundraising activities involving racketeering; and the battalion supported an operation to build a new patrol base to replace PVCP Romeo 15 which was destroyed in a bomb attack last May.

The new patrol base overlooks the main A1 Dublin road. Sappers with convoys of lorries loaded with plant and building materials travelled in daily and had to be protected.

As one convoy passed through Newry, a drogue grenade was thrown. It bounced off the cab and failed to explode.

Bessbrook Mill housed the battalion's headquarters and command elements. Support



Cpl Kev Jackson crosses a new trackway at Romeo 21 Charlie

Company was based at Newtonhamilton and B Company was stationed in Forkhill SF Base.

Romeo 21 has undergone a complete refurbishment and the standard of accommodation on the hill has been raised considerably. It should improve the lot of the soldiers about to endure a winter in the

bleak, lonely observation post.

When SOLDIER visited the Armagh roulement battalion, it consisted of eight companies numbering more than 1,000 men. This heavy strength was required for operations to protect various programmes, including the rebuild at Romeo 16.

Now 2 LI goes into limbo

No time to admire the flowers. Light Infantrymen concentrate on the matter in hand during a patrol



Pictured at Newtonhamilton are Ptes Gary Chappell, Steve Humby and Simon Marshall and LCpl Mark Crewe



Low viewpoint at Forkhill

The shape to be in.



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Wainwright's 2½-ton bronze bison provides a Canadian backdrop for Pte Ally McNaughton (left) and Pte Mike Thomas of D Coy, 1 BW

Sky's the limit at Wainwright

Military training for British infantry battalions takes on a whole new meaning at a Canadian Forces base so vast it has no firing restrictions

Words: Capt Steve Munns
Pictures: WO2 Arthur Thomson

THEY SAY the weather in England is unpredictable. Try it in Alberta, Canada, where temperatures in excess of 90 F, persistent rain and a good deal of snow were endured by the men and women of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch.

Both battalions have been taking part in Exercise Pond Jump West, a yearly infantry battle camp which takes in all aspects of military and adventurous training.

The exercise package begins

in Wainwright Camp, a Canadian forces base located close to the town of the same name. The camp's back yard is 1,500 square miles of dedicated military training area – with no fire restrictions or out-of-bounds routes.

Once settled in, battalions have a five-week stint which includes an intense range firing phase, fitness and endurance training, fieldcraft revision and a march-and-shoot competition, all of which culminates in a demanding five-day exercise with a company-level assault

using live ammunition and live fire support.

OC D Company, 1 Kings, Maj Peter Rafferty, explained: "The real advantage is the sheer size of area in which we can operate. Because there are no restrictions on firing, a dawn company attack is exactly what it says."

"All of this combines to make the exercise as realistic and as challenging as possible, which is good for everyone. There is no way we could have done this in the UK."

Supporting the battalions in

their work was 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, normally based at Netheravon. Two Gazelle helicopters permanently based at Wainwright provided recce platforms, commanders' transport and a 24-hour casevac service.

The detachment commander, Capt Nick Goss, explained: "We average about five hours' flying per day, which although it does not sound much, is a lot for two helicopters and a very limited number of pilots."

"We enjoy it here though. At

least we can say we know the exercise area pretty well."

As for free time, there is little to do in Wainwright itself, apart from a few run-down but friendly bars.

"Most soldiers choose Edmonton for their R and R," explained Maj Alistair Louden, OC D Company.

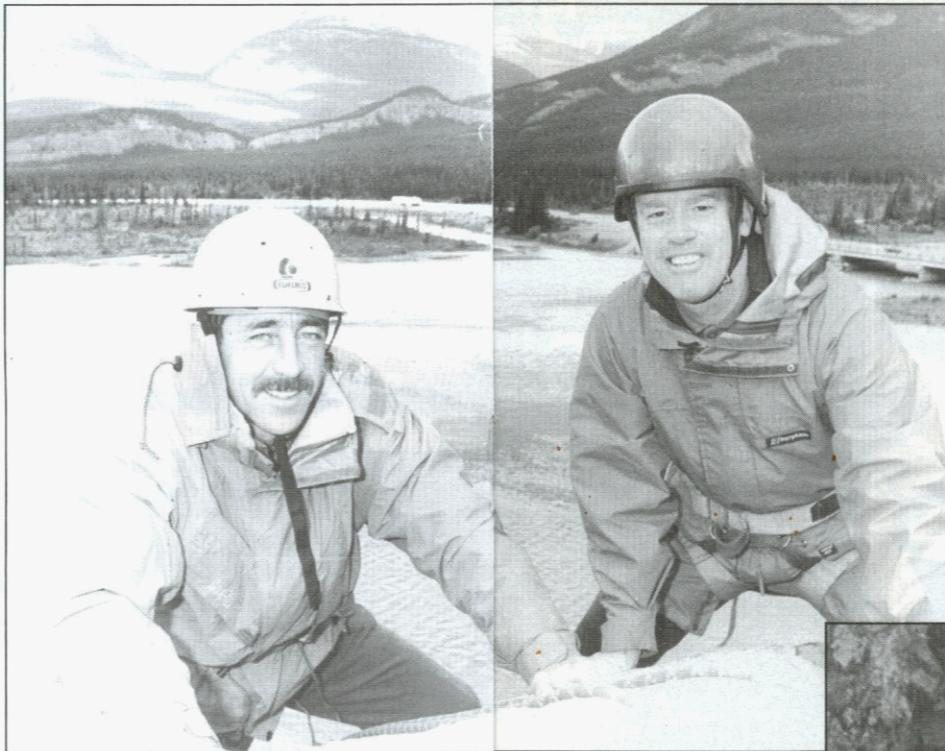
"It is two hours' drive away, but certainly worth the trip."

After the military phase, the fun really starts with a five-day adventurous training package in the beautiful, dramatic setting of Jasper National Park, Western Alberta.

bald eagles and 3ft long spawning red salmon could be observed in the wild.

Described as "truly memorable", "amazing" and "wonderful" by all of the soldiers who made the trip, it will stay in their memories for a very long time.

For both battalions, their return to duties in Hounslow and Tern Hill will seem a bit run-of-the-mill after their experiences in Canada. Both units worked hard, played hard and enjoyed the Canadian experience to the full.



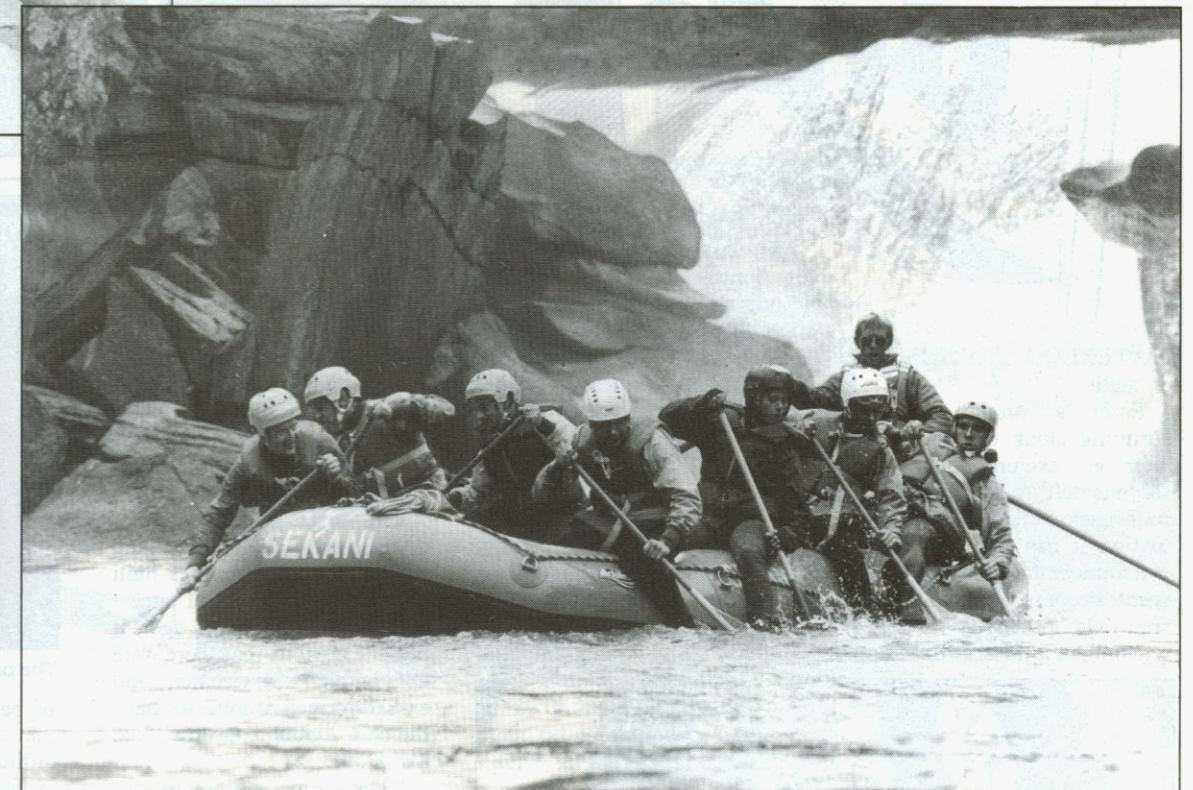
Above – CSgt Willie Nichol (left) and Cpl Henry Keenan, Black Watch, climbing in the Jasper National Park



Below – TA trio of LCpl Ian McCarthy, Kgm Mark Citrine and Kgm John Rigby, all 5/8 Kings



Magnificent seven, all from Perth. These members of D Coy are (from left) Ptes Michael Thomas, Ally McNaughton, Donald Gurrie, Mark Sutherland, Sandy McNicholl, "Hammerhead" Innes and Arran Ellis



Black Watch rafters take on the mighty Fraser river during the week-long adventurous training phase of Pond Jump West in Western Alberta

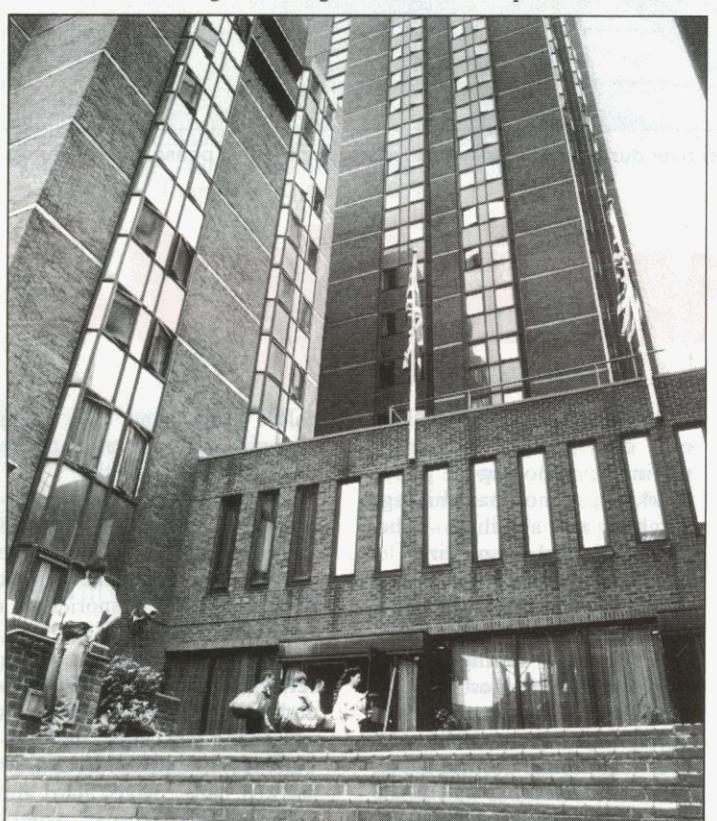
As the Serviceman's hotel in London prepares for its two millionth guest, writer **Phil Wilcox** and photographer **Terry Champion** were given a...

Warm welcome at the Union Jack

WATERLOO STATION late at night.

Enter a young corporal, sprinting along the concourse after an evening out, with seconds left to catch the last train back to Aldershot - only to find it has gone.

An uncomfortable few hours spent sleeping on a hard seat seems in prospect, until he remembers the large building



Welcome sight: entrance to the club

just across the road...

A two-minute walk, and he finds the welcoming lights of the Union Jack Club where, on production of his ID card, he will find somewhere to spend the night - even if it is only on one of the leather sofas in reception.

"Of course, that scenario is slightly exaggerated," said front-of-house manager Terry Dove, "but, with certain modifications, our policy is still as it was when we were founded in 1904: to provide residential

club accommodation for serving and retired members of the Armed Forces below commissioned rank - and their families."

Those modifications have been brought about by necessity over the years.

The original building was demolished in 1972 and completely new premises built on part of the original site.

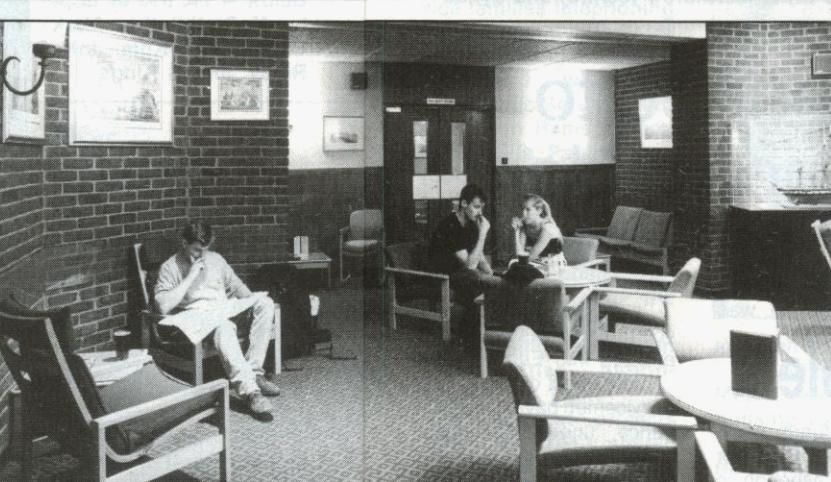
"About 12 years ago it became obvious that there were not enough Servicemen and ex-Servicemen around to make the club a going concern," said Mr Dove.

"The centre of gravity for troop movement had moved away from London to places such as Luton and Brize Norton, so we had to do some pretty serious thinking."

As a result, for the first time in its history, the Union Jack Club offered temporary honorary membership to outside organisations, including the fire, police and ambulance services. Then, in 1985, it was opened to officers.

To improve its image further, eight bedroom floors were adapted to include en-suite facilities - a process which is now being extended.

"We have been ploughing money back in considerable quantities to improve the facilities," said Terry Dove, "so we hope we are getting up to the standard of a good hotel or London club - but at the same time retaining our intention of keeping the price



The public room

of bed and breakfast at below the daily rate of pay of an ordinary trained soldier, male or female."

The Union Jack is open 24 hours a day, club secretary Lt Col Tom Forrest explained, and has a good proportion of regular visitors - many of whom re-book before they leave.

Serving members of the Armed Forces and Territorial Army pay no fee: they have automatic membership of the club. Ex-Servicemen and women and their families can either take out temporary honorary membership if they do not visit London frequently, or pay a subscription and entrance fee.

As for catering, Col Forrest feels the club has been exceptionally lucky.

"It was of fundamental importance that we got away from the 'cookhouse' syndrome and left that image behind," he said.

"Nowadays, with carpet on

the floor and cloths on the tables, not to mention waiter service at lunch and dinner and à la carte meals cooked by a master chef who served with the Welsh Guards in the Falklands, it's definitely a restaurant and not a canteen."

The club has 120 professionally-trained staff, with housekeeping the biggest department.

"We decided some years ago that we had to pay above the basic rate to staff if we were going to attract them, so we hold an annual review of salaries," said Mr Dove.

Like himself, many of the staff are ex-Service personnel: the stores and functions managers are both former Guardsmen, for example.

But private soldiers need have no fear of an RSM checking their every movement.

"This is not a military establishment, it is definitely the place for a break. Servicemen can walk through

the door and they don't have to buy a drink or meal. The only proviso is that they should be serving at the time."

As a deliberate policy, officers and their families have separate facilities.

Keeping an avuncular, but nonetheless extremely professional, eye on the club is its Comptroller, Brig John Ghika.

"The aim of the Union Jack is to make people welcome," he said.

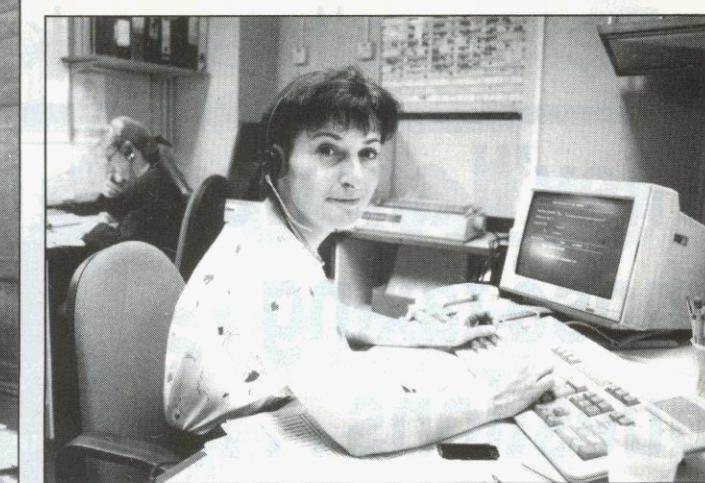
"We have more than 360 rooms, both single and family. The club is a registered charity and is not owned by the MoD or any individual service."

Each room contains a "tick list" to help with quality control, the brigadier explained.

"If anyone puts 'fair' or 'poor' we write to them. That is terribly important."

He has stayed overnight at the club when necessary.

"It's one thing to discover faults when I am walking round, but quite another when



Above: Corinne Amalric programmes the all-important bookings computer in the front-of-house manager's office, which handles a huge volume of enquiries

Left - Brig John Ghika, the Union Jack's Comptroller, seated in the library

Below - Lunch time in the restaurant



too much like Army wash-houses, which is the image we want to do away with," the brigadier said.

The future of the Union Jack looks good, according to Col Forrest.

"I do think we provide what people want at the sort of price which they think is reasonable.

"Of course, the 'old and bold' might say: 'This isn't what I remember'. But there are a whole lot of new conditions which prevail today. As well as being a charity, we are also a public limited company, so we could easily go to the wall if we got our sums wrong."

He is due to leave his post this year and Brig Ghika is due to retire possibly in 1994, when it will be time for new blood and new ideas, they say.

The Union Jack Club will be all the poorer without them.

Meanwhile, some time next May, the Waterloo establishment is expecting its two millionth guest...

They'll answer those taxing questions . . .

TAX RETURNS are one of life's blessed essentials guaranteed to send a shiver down the spine - mostly because filling in the form accurately can be a far-from-simple operation.

While tax matters were usually dealt with by husbands in the past, wives have been drawn into the net since the widely welcomed introduction of independent taxation.

Inland Revenue roadshows have for several

years been dispensing advice, but until recently these mobile "clinics" had never called at an Army garrison.

That changed at Tidworth on August 18 when nearly 40 individuals took advantage of the facility. Soldiers and their wives who attended expressed delight at the friendly reception they received in genial and confidential surroundings.

It is estimated that a million women in Britain fail to claim the tax relief that is their due. It is likely that Army dependents figure in that number.

The Tidworth trial, arranged by Lynda Grange of the Inland Revenue mobile enquiry centre, was conducted outside the Naafi and community centre. Tina Bentley will be taking a one-woman roadshow to Fort William on December 9.

Incidentally, between October 12 and December 1 an Inland Revenue team from Ty-Glas in Wales was booked in to visit a number of Royal Navy and Royal Air Force establishments, but not a single Army garrison or unit.

Kids have fun with Glossters

TREKKING, sailing, cycling, canoeing and abseiling were among the activities organised by the Physical Training Instructors of the Catterick-based 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment for their first children's summer camp since Ballykelly in 1988-90.

Initial apprehensions were soon dispelled and five enjoyable days were spent in the Lake District.

X2

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Maj Nick Rynn welcomes Inland Revenue's Chris McAndrew (centre) and Lynda Grange to Tidworth Garrison

Tax relief extended to EC maintenance orders

I HAVE received the following letter which tells its own story:

"You may recall that I

wrote last year on behalf of my son who had been denied tax relief on maintenance payments he was

making because the order was made in a German court.

"I am pleased to inform you that this has now been enacted into English law.

"The effect of this is that Servicemen paying maintenance under EC court orders can apply for tax relief with effect from August 1992 and will receive the tax relief in the same way as if the order was made in an English court.

"Thank you very much for all your help and keep up the good work."

Nor are funds available through Consular or MoD sources, although in an emergency relatives or friends can transfer funds through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Consular Department at a cost of £15.

That establishment has now closed its doors to all but those on duty or travelling in Service vehicles. Be warned and don't get caught short in Belgium.

WO1 MARK Cockram, RAOC punches up data on his screen at the official opening of the Joint Service Housing Advice Office at Old Sarum, Salisbury.

Watching are (from left) Fit Sgt Ian Sadler, RAF, Officer in Charge Cdr Bob Cribb, RN, and Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, the Adjutant General.

Mark, whose voice has become familiar to Service families telephoning JSHAO's Army Desk for help, had just been presented with the Meritorious Service Medal by Gen Ramsbotham. Mark's wife, Pauline, was there to see the proud moment.

The centre can advise families considering a number of housing options on leaving the Services, including:

- Housing association opportunities nationwide;
- Low cost projects such as DIY shared ownership, shared equity
- and self-build;
- Applications for MoD nominations to housing associations;
- Availability of married quarters under the

discount sales scheme;
● Local private rentals, estate agents' addresses and SSAFA contacts.
You can tap into this invaluable source of information by writing to the JSHAO, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN or telephoning 0722 336222 ext 8350/8351.

Finally, a happy ending

IN SEPTEMBER I reported that a Service couple returning from Germany was considering an appeal to the Secretary of State for Education after their son had been denied a place at a grant maintained school in the United Kingdom.

The boy sat the entrance exam while overseas and finished in the top third. He was offered a place on condition that his family was resident in the UK within two weeks.

This was quite impossible, and his admission was subsequently blocked, causing much anxiety at a time when the family was already under stress because of the move. An appeal to the governors failed on residency grounds.

There is, however, a happy ending to the story - the boy has been offered a place after all.

I would be pleased to hear from any other Service families experiencing difficulties in placing their children at the schools of their choice.

UKLF housing centre has all the answers



Tripped up by pay block

Worth a read

ANYONE leaving the Army, redundant or otherwise, will find much of interest in three excellent booklets produced by the Department of the Environment.

Stocks of the booklets - *Employment in Civilian Life: Guidance for Servicemen/women leaving the Forces*; *Employment Training for ex-Regulars*; and *Resettlement Guide for the Regular Officer* are held in MoD stores and are available from your TRSO. If they are not, write to me.

Not to mention removal expenses, the cost of training courses and so on.

A further drain on the resources of the now ex-Service redundant is that his MQ rent rises immediately.

IN MY... Unequal rights!

FOLLOWING a ruling by the European Court of Justice that a woman living in the Irish Republic can claim family credit in Northern Ireland, where her husband is employed, may we anticipate equal treatment for Service families posted abroad?

I do hope so.

Migrant workers may now claim family benefits for which United Kingdom citizens serving Queen and country - and paying UK taxes - are ineligible. This is unfair.

To date no money has been available to take the case of a Service spouse to the European Court of Justice. In addition to family credit, we should already have asked for rulings on unemployment benefit and disability working allowance.

...VIEW

Naafi spreads the cost

NAAFI has introduced a new worldwide credit scheme which enables its customers to buy household goods and spread payments between £150 and £1,000.

The Credit Purchase Scheme can be used to buy electrical household and decorative goods priced between £150 and £1,000.



Art of war on the Home Front

THE ART of the Second World War is the subject of an exhibition at a London art gallery in November, the catalogue proceeds from which will go to the Poppy Appeal.

David Cohen's collection of striking images illustrates a variety of contemporary artistic reactions, concentrating mainly on the effect of the war in Britain.

This is the "Home Front" as experienced by cartoonists, newly-enlisted soldiers, savings scheme poster artists, factory workers and war artists.

Most of those whose work is on show were employed at some time by Sir Kenneth Clark's War Artists' Advisory Committee (WAAC) which aimed to create a pictorial record of the war by commissioning a great number of artists.

Ray Howard-Jones was commissioned to draw fortifications in the Bristol Channel, while



LCpl Robertson, Edinburgh Home Guard, a pastel by the late Eric Kennington

Olga Lehmann depicted the Blitz, the rescue of victims and damage to buildings.

Portraits include a blue and brown wash study by Henry Lamb of Monty in his twin-badged RTR beret, a stunning Eric Kennington pastel of a jovial NCO of the Edinburgh Home Guard, and a series of intense American Servicemen sketched in the Red Cross Service Clubs of the Home Counties by Erna Plachte.

Graphic art is represented by designs for War Bonds posters by Walter Nessler, a German refugee, and Olga Lehmann's commercial series urging "Don't Undermine the War Effort".

Art of the Second World War will open from November 6 to 22 at the King Street Galleries, 17 King Street, St James's, London SW1 6QU (tel: 071-930 9392). All the works will be for sale and catalogue proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Street Galleries, 17 King Street, St James's, London SW1 6QU (tel: 071-930 9392). All the works will be for sale and catalogue proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

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No slight to the AG Corps

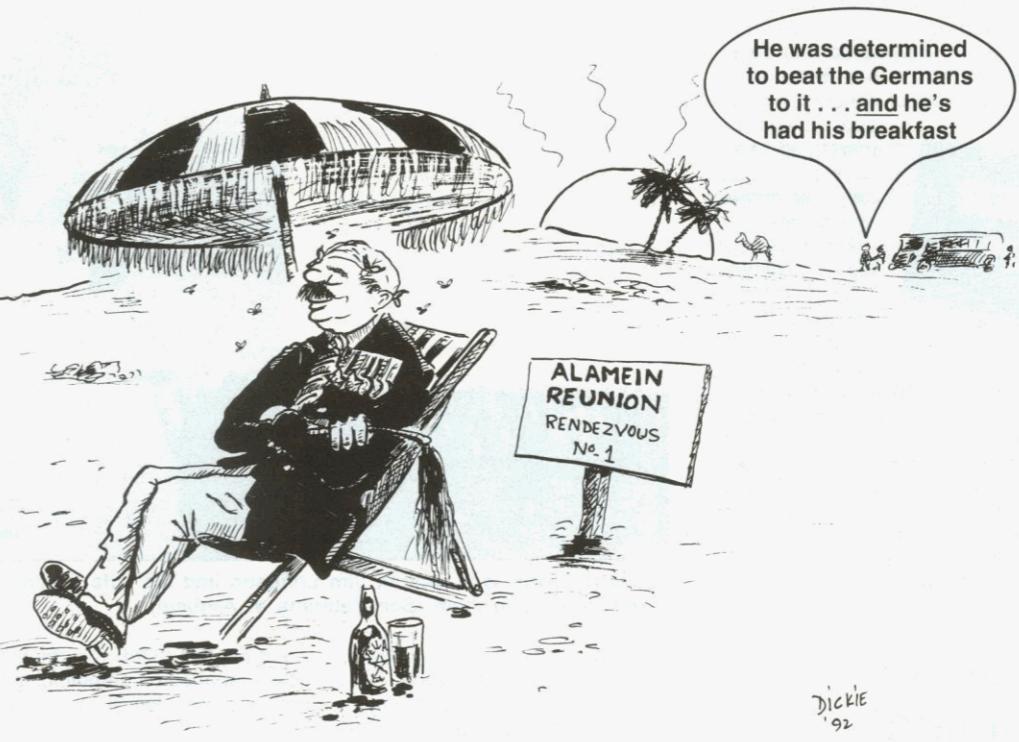
IT HAS long been the custom in the British Army for a new corps formed by amalgamation to be granted the prefix Royal if its component units had previously borne this honour.

For reasons known only to itself the Army Board has chosen not to recommend such a title for the new Adjutant General's Corps, in spite of the fact that six out of its eight constituent units had earned the title Royal for honourable service.

I would be interested to know why the new corps has been slighted in this manner? — **R A Hamilton, Southport.**

● Response from The Adjutant General's office is that "The Royal Adjutant General's Corps" would be a double possessive, and that the Adjutant General is not a "royal". It also points out that the Queen is Colonel-in-Chief of the AGC — **Editor**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



● El Alamein special feature — see Pages 19-21

Fighting Jocks second to none

IN REPLY to Peter Keating's assertion that a para battalion is worth two infantry (Letters, October 5), the 2nd Battalion, Black Watch held Heraklion airfield in Crete from April 20-28, 1941 without losing a yard of ground until ordered to evacuate when the Navy came in to take them off.

Each day German troop carriers were dropping paras around the position. The commander of the first battalion to drop, later captured in Libya, gave this information when being interrogated:

"My first surprise was when I found the position was held. The second was when I discovered who the infantry were."

"The battle continued with great ferocity for two days. The Black Watch never surrendered. Had it been any other

regiment, any other, all would have been well... I had but 80 men left of my 800, no food, little ammunition; our food was being eaten by the Jocks." (The Jocks had copied Jerry signals for supplies.)

In March 1944 they were flown behind Japanese lines in Burma to set up two fighting columns, returning in late August, 1944. Would they have passed "P" Company? — **Bob Lanhurst, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.**

To my knowledge the Germans never used large-scale drops again.

The Jocks went on to the break-out from Tobruk in

November 1941, with the bayonet, losing more than 75 per cent of the battalion and still achieving their objective.

On opening the curtains in my billet one morning I was surprised to see a group of what looked like gypsies lighting a fire in the garden.

When I approached them a woman handed me a scribbled note which read: "We are Croats on the run from Tito's communist forces and we seek the help of British or American soldiers."

Marshal Tito supported the Allies, so the note suggested the Croats were pro-German.

Nevertheless, I gave these frightened people some food and water. — **Charles Meacher, Glenrothes, Fife.**

Calais defence saved army

PETER Keating should look at the history of the Second World War when 3,000 riflemen and officers held up for four days the best part of the German Army's 4 Division during their main advance on Calais. Only 30 riflemen returned. This action helped to get the bulk of the British forces out of France

via Dunkirk — **S T Hedge** (former rifleman, Rifle Brigade), Northfleet, Kent.

● Other letters taking issue with Mr Keating have been received from G A Simmons, of Sutton Valence, Kent, and C Craig (ex-Scots Guards), of Kilbirnie, Ayrshire. — **Editor**

Arms and the role of women

I MUST take issue with my regimental colleague Maj N W Wilkinson, RCT (V), who expressed sadness that females were excluded from bearing arms on ceremonial occasions (Letters, September 21).

For my part I am in the Territorial Army to preserve our country's moral and cultural heritage.

The thought of women bearing arms is complete anathema to most English gentlemen. Yes, they have an important role to play in the Services; bearing arms is not one of them.

Let us leave that to the old communist empire and the banana republics. — **Maj Godfrey W Bloom, 522 Sqn, 150 Regt RCT (V), Londesborough Barracks, Hull.**

Splendid to the last...

WHAT A splendid aspect the men of Princess Diana's Royal Hampshires presented on their final parade through Winchester (SOLDIER, August 24) — both "oldies" and "youngies" as it were.

If you can judge a man's character by his deportment and face the Hampshires must be among the best.

We should be hanging on to regiments like that. — **R J C Holmes, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.**

Squadron tends Bulford Kiwi

I WOULD like to thank Col J J G Hunter for pointing out (Letters, September 21) the inaccuracy in the August 10 article about soldiers of my squadron tending the graves of New Zealand soldiers in Codford Cemetery.

He is absolutely correct that this is carried out by employees of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. My squadron actually looks after the Bulford Kiwi and has done so since 1979. — **Maj P J Oldfield, R Sigs, 294 Signal Squadron (AMFL), Bulford Camp, Salisbury.**

14/20 H goes full circle

THE 14th Dragoons' first action was to attack Preston, and their final action will be to receive the Freedom of the town.

The 14th/20th King's Hussars, which will amalgamate with The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) in December to become The King's Royal Hussars, are based in Münster but 60 members will travel to Preston on November 6 to march through the square where their ancestors watched Jacobite rebels lay down their arms in November 1715.

The regiment had been hurriedly raised following deep cuts in Marlborough's famous army after the long war against the French. When George of Hanover became king riots and general unrest caused the government to rethink its options for change, and when some Scottish and Northumberland Jacobites went on a recruiting drive to Preston the 14th (Dormer's) Dragoons were part of an understrength army which rushed north to confront them.

The rebels received no support in the north west and after some fierce fighting on foot not far from the Hussars' present regimental headquarters, the Jacobites surrendered when Government reinforcements arrived.

McCrea post refurbished

A FIRST World War Belgian dressing station near Ieper (Ypres) in which thousands of soldiers were treated by Lt Col John McCrea is being restored by a Scottish war charity.

McCrea, a Scottish-Canadian surgeon best remembered for *In Flanders Fields* and other war poems, died of pneumonia at Boulogne in 1918.

Now the Flanders Scottish Alliance, 3/2 Academy Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 7EE (tel: 031-554 4529) is seeking photographs, memorabilia and anecdotes from soldiers who fought in the Ypres/Flanders area or from their relatives.

The site of the McCrea dressing station was recently declared a national monument by the Belgian authorities.

R Irish brochure

EVERYONE connected with The Royal Irish Rangers will want to own a copy of the handsomely-

illustrated brochure commemorating the regiment's short history.

With a print run of only 5,000, the glossy publication, compiled by Lt Col D W F Twigg, covers the years from its formation in 1968 to amalgamation earlier this year.

The brochure's 60 pages, eight in colour, are packed with detail, ranging from a narrative history, through lists of honours, awards and appointments to sections devoted to old comrades and cadets.

Members of the regiment when it merged with the UDR are assured of their copy but all others must apply to: Regimental Secretary (Funds), Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Irish Regiment, St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena, Co Antrim BT43 7BH. They should enclose a cheque for £3.70 (overseas £4) to cover postage and packing, payable to the Colonel of Regiment's Account.

SOLDIER to Soldier



Picture: Geordie Smith

Second World War veteran Jim Longson and his wife watch 10 Para drop at Arnhem (See Veterans at Arnhem)

London United!

THE ONE about the Scotsman, the Englishman and the Irishman was no longer a joke in Catterick when whisky, whiskey and good English ale sat together on the tables for the inaugural mess night of the newly forming London Regiment on its first annual camp.

The annual pilgrimage is a major event in the Dutch calendar. About 5,000 veterans and their families and 40,000 Dutch people watched the 1992 drop, which was followed by a memorial service in Oosterbeek cemetery.



The Iron Division centrepiece

The only battalion to keep four companies under Options for Change, it has two English companies, one Scots and one Irish, each with strong London connections: A (London Scottish), B (The Queen's Regiment), C (City of London Fusiliers), and D (London Irish Rifles), plus HQ (Anzio) Coy.

When the corporals visited the sergeants and officers for a games night, tribal songs got louder and louder until everybody united in a rousing *Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner*. The London Regiment will soon make its mark.

Veterans at Arnhem

THEY reserve a special welcome for men like Jim Longson when he goes back again to Arnhem.

The first time he went there, in 1944, he was a Vickers machine gunner with S Company of the 1st Battalion, The Border Regiment and the reception party was different – a couple of veteran panzer divisions on holiday.

Now he regularly returns with his wife to the Ginkelheide drop zone to watch the 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, the only

Territorial Army unit with a direct link with the battle, drop 300 Regulars, volunteers and veterans to commemorate the heroism of those who held out for nine days instead of the expected two.

The annual pilgrimage is a major event in the Dutch calendar. About 5,000 veterans and their families and 40,000 Dutch people watched the 1992 drop, which was followed by a memorial service in Oosterbeek cemetery.

Recce Corps at Cenotaph

REMAINING members of the former Reconnaissance Corps, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of its formation last year, will move as a distinct squadron during the march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

The Royal British Legion, which supported a suggestion to this effect, has assigned the squadron to Column A.

Formed in January 1941 to provide speedy mobile reconnaissance units for each infantry division, the corps replaced the former divisional cavalry regiments, which had been incorporated in the new armoured divisions.

In early 1942 the corps was granted cavalry status and from January 1 1944 became amalgamated with the Royal Armoured Corps, adopting the black beret but retaining both its cap badge and its corps designation.

By the end of the Second World War 2,325 officers and men from the 20,000-plus who had passed through this corps-within-a-corps had lost their lives. Decorations included 21 DSOs, 18 DCMs and 14 MCs.

Each Remembrance Sunday afternoon a service for the fallen of the corps, which was disbanded on August 1, 1946, is held at the Church of All Hallows by the Tower, home of the corps memorial.



A NEW set of stamps issued by the Falkland Islands depicts officers and privates of the West Yorkshire Regiment (1942) and the islands' Volunteers (1892) Defence Corps (1914) and Defence Force (1920 and 1939-45). They can be obtained from The Philatelic Bureau, Post Office, Port Stanley (first day covers £2.25, mint £1.74, p&p £1).

Polish story

THE STORY of Polish soldiers who spent time in Scotland in the Second World War, some of whom settled there afterwards, will be the subject of an exhibition opening in Edinburgh next April.

The display is being prepared by National Museums of Scotland with the help of film footage from 1945 and personal items lent by Polish settlers and their families.

More information about the exhibition, to be held at the Scottish United Services Museum in Edinburgh Castle, is available from Virginia Braid, Marketing Officer, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh (tel: 031-225 7534 ext 108).

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier – A P Norris – To HQ UKLF, Oct 2; The Hon S J T Coleridge – To be DA/MA Ankara, Oct 5.

Colonels – A A S Adams – To be CO CPO BAOR, Oct 2; P J Wagstaffe – To P and EE Shoeburyness, Sept 28; V Batchelor – To HQ UKLF, Oct 1; C T Rogers – To HQ TRADOC USA, Oct 1; W E Strong – To be Comd RA Range Hebrides, Sept 30; D A J Corbin – To MoD, Oct 5; P G H Jepson – To be Comdt RAVC Cen, Oct 16; J W M Ellery – To JSOC, Oct 12; J C H Moorhouse – To MoD, Oct 16; A J Rice – To Joint Forces Ops Staff, Oct 12.

Lt Cols – J S Carter, RGJ – To MoD, Sept 28; M Delf, REME – To Electronics Br REME, Sept 28; J A Flake, AGC (SPS) – To be Comdt Army Women's Trg Cen, Oct 1; T E A Hawkins, RRF – To be DA Ghana, Sept 28; K Jackson, RE – To HQ RSME, Sept 28; A C Mieville, Queens – To MoD, Sept 28; T J O'Donnell, 10 GR – To BMM SANG, Saudi Arabia, Oct 1; J C M Swabey, AGC (ALS) – To HQ Army Legal Gp UK, Sept 28; M W M Warren, RE – To MoD, Sept 28.

G A R Adams, AGC (ALS) – To SHAPE Staff (BAE), Oct 5; J C Campbell, REME – To MoD, Oct 5; P G Davies, RRW – To be DA/NA/MA Bucharest, Oct 5; J Goodsir, AAC – To AAC Cen, Oct 5; A J Griffin, RAChD – To be Sen Chap (RC) HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, Oct 6; G C J L Pearson, 7 GR – To MoD, Oct 5; C M Steirn, RCT – To be CO 7 Tk Tpr Regt, Oct 5; A J Walsh, R Irish – To FG and IMRO (N), Oct 5; C J Box, RAMC – To MoD, Oct 19; K J McIntyre-Warnock, RAMC – To BMH Rinteln as Admin Offr, Oct 19; S A St J Miller, RAMC – To HQ UKLF as SO1 Med, Oct 12.

P S W F Falkner, LG – To be CO LG, Oct 12; N H Hatton, ACC – To be CO ASC, Oct 12; S C J Hutchinson, RA – To be CO 12 AD Regt, Oct 12; G F Lesinski, Gren Gds – To HQ Foot Guards, Oct 12; C D Lunn, RA – To RSA Larkhill, Oct 12; N P Parker, AAC – To be CO 3 Regt AAC, Oct 12; R G C Campbell, RCT – To be CO 29 Tpt and Mov Regt, Oct 12; H J Quinn, AGC (SPS) – To RMCS, Oct 16.

Retirements

Brigadiers – M G R Anderson, late RA, Sept 30; G B L Campbell, late RE, Sept 30; I W McLaughlan, late SG, Oct 4; B Reeves, late RAEC, Oct 14.

Colonels – G A Allen, late R Signals, Sept 30; P D Bentley, late RTR, Oct 1; P M Connaughton, late RCT, Oct 1; G F V Cowell, late RAOC, Oct 1; R H Dadswell, late RCT, Sept 30; J Difflin, late QLR, Oct 1; F J M Esson, late AAC, Sept 30; I K Forward, late RA, Sept 30; P S H Lefever, late

RA, Oct 1; E Lowndes, late RAPC, Oct 1; R F McDonald, late RPC, Oct 1; J N B Mogg, late RGJ, Sept 30; J F B Power, late RAPC, Sept 30; R I Reive, late RE, Sept 30; T C K Ridley, late RAOC, Oct 1; M G Stythe, late RAEC, Sept 30; J H B Taylor, late RTR, Oct 1; K G

Turner, late R Signals, Sept 30; J C Vernon, RAChD, Sept 29; M S Wing, late WRAC, Oct 2; K Woodrow, late R Anglian, Sept 30; D J Wright, late REME, Sept 30.

Lt Col – R M Forsyth, RAMC, Oct 23.

DIARY

NOVEMBER

1: Band of The Life Guards concert at Southport Theatre, Southport in aid of Army Benevolent Fund. Box office 0704 540404.

7-8: Salisbury Militaria Society's 21st annual exhibition, Red Lion Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury.

Until November 29: Assignment Falklands exhibition depicting role of sappers during the war, Royal Engineers Museum, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.

JANUARY 1993

30: Victorian Military Society "British India" fair, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2 (1030 to 1630). Details from Dan Allen, tel: 0635 48628.

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

REUNIONS

1993

● Windsor School, Hamm, Germany:

Reunion for pupils/teachers planned 1993. Contact Bob Jordan, Greenacre, Shepherds Lane, Compton Down, Winchester, Hants SO21 2AB, for details and newsletter.

● RAOC footballers past and present:

RAOCFA will play its last fixture under the corps flag on March 31 and to mark the occasion a reunion dinner will be held at CAD Kineton in March. Details from Maj Richard Attard (Bicester Mil 3049) or Maj Ray Goff (Kineton Mil 3492).

● Bridlington Combined Ex-Services Association:

Reunion weekend and conference, May

14-16. Details with SAE from Ticket Secretary, 17 Hustler Road, Bridlington, E Yorks after January 1.

● The El Adem Radio Service (TEARS):

Reunion on June 19 at Stakis Country Court Hotel, Northampton, to mark 35th anniversary of first broadcast. Ex-TEARS personnel based at RAF El Adem between 1958 and 1970 are asked to contact John Moir, 27 Wilton Drive, Horndean, Waterlooville PO8 9QY (tel: 0705 59489).

● Royal Canadian Regiment:

The regiment will hold its 110th anniversary reunion in CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick, on June 25-27. Details from RHQ, RCR, Wolseley Barracks, London, Ontario, Canada N5Y 4T7.

SEARCHLINE

● 2nd and 1st/7th Bns, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment:

Members who took part in the Normandy campaign from D-Day to Falaise in August 1944 are asked to contact Area HQ RRF, St John's House, Warwick CV34 4NF, giving regimental number, rank and appointment at the time.

● Northumberland Fusiliers Boys Football Team, April 1933:

Mr G Prince, The Gleanings, Magpie Hall Road, Stubbs Cross, Ashford, Kent TN26 1HF, has a photograph of the team and would be willing to send copies to families of those involved: A Cousins, W Moir, W Birnie, W Pickles, J Dickenson, W Mowat, J Cutter, G Prince, K

Proctor, S Turner, J Hurst, T Stobart and Bds J Spencer and LCpl Tappenden.

● Christmas Island 1961-62:

Former colleagues of George Snell, who as a corporal was i/c RAOC Laundry attached to 73 Squadron RE are asked to contact him at his new address, 36A Blessington Road, Anfield, Liverpool, L4 0RZ.

● LI Depot video:

Mr D Storey, 66 Cartmel Road, Huyton, Merseyside L36 3RZ, wishes to contact anyone who videoed the passing out parade of **A Coy, Calais Platoon** at St John Moore Barracks, Winchester, on January 12, 1990.

But what became of Spetsnaz?

AT ONE TIME Soviet Spetsnaz groups were thought to be dispersed around the UK ready to go to work if hostilities between the Allies and the Soviets had broken out.

The scenario has changed since then – but what of the Spetsnaz force which was thought to be in this country? Are they still here or have they been recalled by their masters?

Terry White's *Swords of Lightning*, which tells the story of special forces around the world, includes much about the Spetsnaz force, but does not answer the question.

While this is an interesting read about the tough and clever people who make up these specialist outfits, Mr White has seemingly been overtaken by the speed of international change.

Swords of Lightning by Terry White. Brassey's, hardback, £15.95.

Para RSM had last laugh on snoopers

AS THE back-cover synopsis of Brig Joe Starling's *Soldier On!* so casually informs the reader, there cannot be too many subalterns who have shot their commanding officer.

The CO in question, who happily survived, features in one of many anecdotes, some hilarious, some more serious, culled from the author's Army career and beyond.

Commissioned from Sandhurst into the Suffolk Regiment, he later transferred to the

Parachute Regiment, whose regimental colonel he was in the early 70s.

Later he served on the staff of Gen Haig when he was supreme Commander Allied Powers in Europe and as Deputy Commander South West District. On retirement he was a TAVRA secretary for 11 years and was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Avon in 1986.

At each stage he finds a story or two well worth the telling,

Saga of the Burma campaign simplified

ERROL FLYNN once made a film about the war in Burma. The film raised fierce criticism and memories of it persist.

Veterans of the Burma campaign were outraged by his screen antics in the Hollywood jungles and Flynn never really shrugged off the tag of the man who won the war in Burma single-handed.

In the aftermath of that conflict with the Japanese and the emotions it aroused, it was not surprising that people reacted in the way they did. But for all that, filmgoers understood the storyline even if they recognised it as total rubbish.

Conversely many publications on the Burma war are too detailed for readers to follow, says David Rooney, author of *Burma Victory*.

His story of the battles of Imphal and Kohima in 1944 will, he suggests, pave the way for readers to understand more

such as the time 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment was stationed in Berlin in the mid-70s.

"Owing to the vagaries of geography," writes Brig Starling, "their Berlin barracks was not only close up against the Iron Curtain but part of it was actually on what was technically part of the East German territory.

"Two watchtowers had been built into the famous Berlin Wall which overlooked 1 Para's barracks and were the source of particular activity, in the early morning when the battalion fell in for muster parade, appearing to be manned entirely by East German officers with high-powered cameras.

"The RSM put up with this for a few weeks and finally produced a blackboard under the charge of the Provost Sergeant, which was angled at the two watchtowers.

"After getting his Parade State from the companies, the RSM would have the board completed to show: THREE MEN ON LEAVE. TWO SICK. ONE IN THE GUARDROOM. OTHERWISE ONE PARA ALL PRESENT AND CORRECT.

"After a couple of days of this the enthusiasm of the communist watchers visibly waned and their duty watch returned to its normal complement."

Not a conventional biography, this – more a series of entertaining and thought-provoking personal glimpses of a colourful life. – CH

Burma Victory by David Rooney. Arms and Armour Press, £17.99.

BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN... THE LITERARY LEGACY

KEITH DOUGLAS, a 22-year-old junior officer with Nottinghamshire Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, commanded a couple of Crusader tanks at the battle of El Alamein.

He was just one of many young men who took part in that pivotal battle in the desert. Many of his compatriots died for their country.

He survived – if only for two short years – to tell the tale in *Alamein to Zem Zem*, an everyday account of life and death in one of the most historic battles of all time.

His book was published in 1946 to much critical acclaim and has been re-published a number of times since. Now, to coincide with the 50th anniversary year of the battle it has been re-issued as a paperback.

Here of course is the broad outline of the battle, beginning on October 23, 1942 with a massive artillery bombardment and effectively ending 12 days later on November 4 with tanks and infantry chasing the retreating enemy back to Tunisia.

Personal testament

But Douglas's account is much more personal – the story of his part in the battle, much of which he seemingly carried out in his own way.

Doubtless battle conditions allowed for instant, individual decisions if those involved were to survive.

It is a tale vivid with descriptive detail of the experience of going into battle, of being on the receiving end of a barrage from the dreaded 88mm gun, and of the resulting carnage of dead, dying and injured men, the incessant flies, sand and discomfort. The reality of war.

Two years after Alamein, Douglas was killed taking part in the main assault on the Normandy beaches. He was just 24 years old. – JM

Alamein to Zem Zem by Keith Douglas. Faber and Faber, paperback, £6.99.



Gen Montgomery and other senior officers stand on a tank in the Western Desert to survey the battle area

Vivid images of the desert campaign

PUBLISHED on the 50th anniversary of El Alamein, *The Imperial War Museum Book of the Desert War 1940-42* tells the story largely through the experiences of those who took part.

Under the overall supervision of Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, chairman of the museum trustees, editor Adrian Gilbert has drawn on the museum's resources and deployed memoirs, diaries, letters

and taped interviews to add extra bite to his narrative.

Journalist Godfrey Talbot's impressionistic piece on Operation Supercharge, November 2, 1942, captures some of the atmosphere:

"When we saw the armour moving up it was an almost ghostly sight. Tanks' engines roared and tracks squealed as the column moved forward.

Black noisy shapes in the night, each tank creating a choking

fog of dust as it moved through the sand.

"You could hardly see them in these clouds until they were nearly on top of you. And so we saw these strange dramatic glimpses of the armed might of the Eighth Army moving into battle."

A feature of this excellent book is its record of the Commonwealth forces' experience, including a wealth of hitherto unpublished material

from Australia. Another is the extraordinarily good reproduction of photographs from the museum's collection, which complement the immediacy of verbal descriptions by front-line soldiers and observers.

Also just published is *Dance of War: The Story of the Battle of Egypt*, an illustrated account of the first battle of El Alamein by Peter Bates, a New Zealander taken prisoner during the fighting in July, 1942

when "the few" of the desert held Rommel at bay and almost destroyed him. – CH

The Imperial War Museum Book of the Desert War 1940-42 edited by Adrian Gilbert. Sidgwick and Jackson, hardback, £20.

Dance of War: The Story of the Battle of Egypt by Peter Bates. Leo Cooper, hardback, £8.50.

Bitter tale of a Singapore scapegoat

NUMEROUS books have been written about the fall of Singapore, who was to blame and the reasons for the defeat of the Allied forces.

Fifty years after the event George Chippington, who served with the 1st Leicestershire Regiment and was among those ordered to lay down their arms and surrender to the Japanese, tells a "simple eye-witness account at grass roots level of the fighting from the Thai border to the suburbs

of Singapore." Now in a nursing home, Chippington has put his book together with the aid of diaries he kept while a PoW for more than three years.

It is a story about those whose job was not to reason why, but simply to do or die.

As Chippington writes, the island's defenders did both. Thousands of British soldiers died, of whom 24,000 have no known grave.

Churchill and many of the military leaders do not come

out well in Chippington's view. A number of their actions and decisions he considers to be near treachery.

Revered at home for his leadership and morale-boosting flair, Churchill, it seems, did not enjoy the same measure of popularity with those at the sharp end in Malaya.

Judgements attributed to him and the actions of the top brass whose leadership Chippington describes as "poor" and "inadequate", did not

appeal to the soldiers who were later to see themselves as scapegoats for the surrender of Singapore.

At times this is a bitter and sad story, especially his description of throwing his rifle down a well to prevent it falling into the hands of the invaders. It was then, he says, that he felt he was no longer a soldier. – JM

Singapore: The Inexcusable Betrayal, by George Chippington, Images, £14.95.

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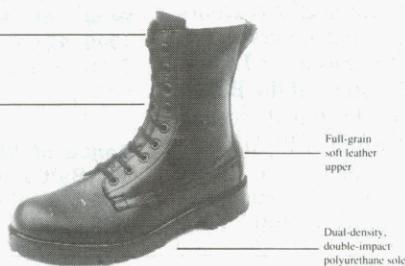
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The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the December 14 issue.

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Competition No 546:
Congratulations to Mrs H Hutchison, c/o B Sqn, 4 RTR, BFPO 36, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr Barry Shanks, of Denny, Stirlingshire, and Cadet John Davis, of Gloucester ACF.



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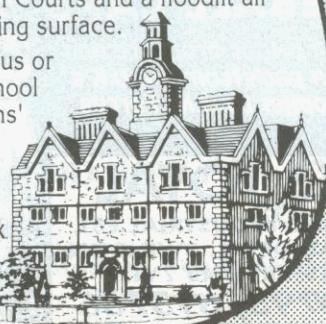
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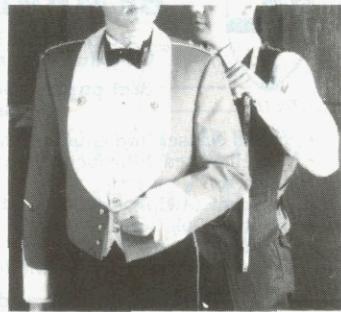
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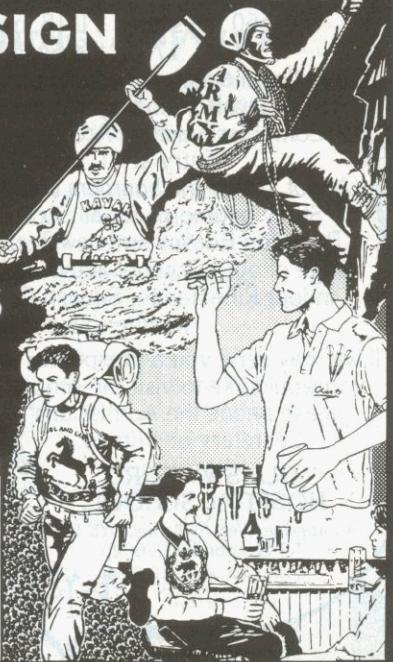
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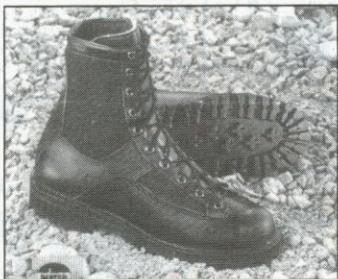
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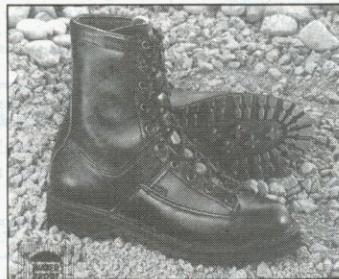
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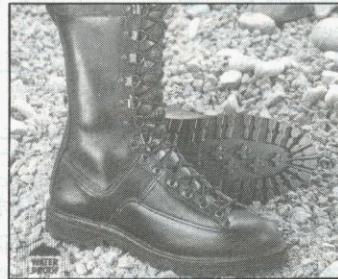
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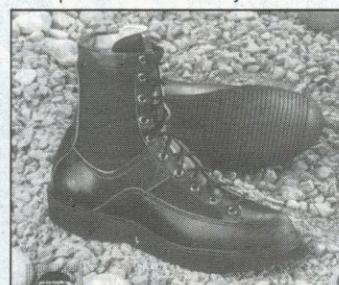
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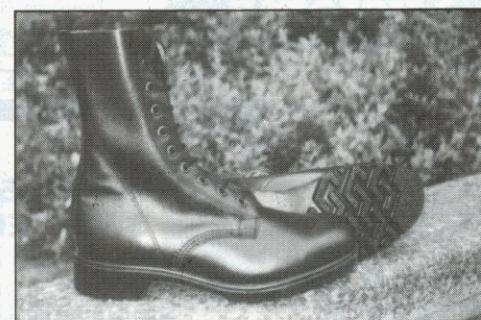
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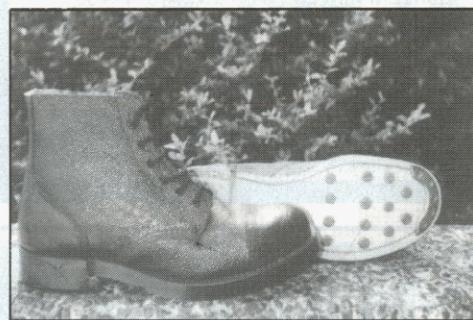
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A pen pal advertisement costs £11.75. Send your details (maximum 35 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to 'Soldier', to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded.

814

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

I need someone to write to me, all I get is bills. I'm 21, 5'8", brown hair, blue eyes, single, completely mad and a nurse. All this and more. Who could refuse! P335

Hi, I'm Paula, 37 and lonely. Are you a 35+ serviceman, kind and loving, who could restore my faith in mankind in return for tender loving care? If so, you are the man for me. P336

Soldier, Soldier, will you write to me, with your paper, envelope and pen? So off you go to your sergeant's desk, write a note of the very best. I wait for your replies to come through. P337

Hi, I'm Teresa. Searching for a pen pal aged between 25 and 35. I am 26, 5'2", blonde with blue eyes. Hope to hear from you soon. P338

Single lady seeking pen pals. 26, slim with brown hair and brown eyes. Legal secretary. Likes photography, reading, cinema/films/videos, home entertaining, travel and watching sport. Own home and three cats to support. P339

Fun loving female seeks unattached bandsman, 20-30, for long term friendship/relationship. Must have a great sense of humour. P340

Two Pen Pals wanted for 2 females in Hertfordshire. Like rock music? write to Charlie (26). Like 50's music and Kraftwerk? write to Paula (28). P341

Clare 23, wishes to write to men (not boys) of 23+; no wrinkles please. Passions include Guinness, fitness and living life by the seat of my pants. A taste for adventure? Then get scribbling! P342

Australian Uni student. My name is Debbie, I'm 19, in the Army Reserve, love music, travelling and life in general. I would like a pen pal (reliable please) in the British Services. All letters answered. P343

Lady, 38 years old, would like someone to write to. Good sense of humour appreciated, and needed if you reply! Home or away, I promise to answer all letters. P344

Hi, my name is Gina. I'm 23 years old and my interests include hiking, writing, cinema. I like various types of music. I'll write to anyone of any age. All letters answered. P345

My name is Pat, I'm 36 and would like to have a Pen Pal. I'm very outgoing and friendly. I love music and going out. Come on, make my day and write to me. P346

Hi, I'm Louise, a 20-year-old fun loving blonde who enjoys socialising, travelling and drinking. So if you're a single soldier, 21+, get writing to me. All letters answered. P347

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35-43

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1718

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T.C

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41-43

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43-45

Well equipped West Wales Health and Fitness Club for sale. Established ten years. The club is a going concern with growing membership. For further information, apply in writing to Box 219, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

43-47

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43-92

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T.C

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41-29

49

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Near Andover, Hants. 5 mins to HQ QMG, delightful recently converted 2 bed mews with front garden in quiet location. Living/dining room with private patio, fitted kitchen, utility room, garage, parking, GCH, low outgoings. £67,950. Vendor to pay stamp duty. Tel: 098064 411 weekends or 071-486 6347 evenings. Viewing highly recommended. 43/92

Lancashire, immaculate 3 bedroom detached ex-showhouse near Blackpool/Preston. Fully fitted kitchen, bathroom. All bedrooms fully fitted. Landscaped gardens front, side and rear. Full GCH. Includes coordinated carpets and curtains, light fittings plus £1,000 security system. £75,000 ono. A dream come true. Available Jan 93. WO2 Cock, 0952 244810 or Donnington Mil 2109. 43/92

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Situations Wanted

Nanny 22, seeks position Colchester/elsewhere with army family. 2½ years experience with CO's family (BAOR). Non smoker. Box No 220, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 43-45

Wanted

Guards items required by private collector. Certain bearskins, officers and o/r to complete collection. Very good prices paid. Mike Gray 0943 831009 anytime. 29-47

Envelopes etc. sent by United Nations soldiers to Britain. I am a private collector. Please call Willem Put, 0734 835405. 39-43

Gulf War militaria bought by historian, e.g. badges, propaganda leaflets, photographs, printed ephemera and souvenirs etc., Laurie Manton, c/o Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. T/C

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Geoff White's British Army postcards. Latest sets: Support Arms 3, Regimental Set 3. SAE catalogue, 19 Rushmoor Lane, Backwell, Bristol BS19 3JA. 41-45

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Gurkhas join the Union

A NEW era in Army rugby in the United Kingdom began last month when the Gurkhas joined the brotherhood of rugby-playing units, **writes John Quin.**

Rugby in the Far East has been gaining momentum and increasing popularity over the past few decades, and it is good to see a Gurkha battalion in the British Isles raising its own team. We hope to have a more detailed report on the progress of the men from Church Crookham in the near future.

However, back to the domestic scene. A quick glance at the Army Cup results reveals that all the favourites are still there, although we are at the stage now where the better-known teams are beginning to meet each other and names that once adorned the trophies are in danger of falling by the wayside.

For example, the winners of the clash between holders 7 Para RHA and the AAC Centre will meet SEME, all pretenders in their own right to the throne in recent years.

The Dukes meet up with

Colts home in county opener

ARMY COLTS face a tough programme of fixtures in the Rugby Football Union's Nat-West County Championship, travelling away to take on Middlesex (November 1), Hampshire (November 8) and a third county (November 15).

But their opener in the championship for the National Westminster Shield was due to take place at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on Octo-

SEE, while at Chatham, 12 RSMR Regt will either meet their bomb disposal neighbours from just up the Lochat road, 33 Engr Regt (EOD), or 2 PWRR. And 8 Sigs will have to overcome 19 Fd Regt RA if they are to proceed, as will last year's finalists and BAOR champions, 1 RWF, who take on the men from Shropshire.

Schh, You Know Who are still there, while 1 WG in Northern Ireland have to wait to see who they meet in the local final - either 2 RRF or 6 R Irish.

The usual familiar names crop up in the equally competitive Minor Units Army Cup challenge, with 24 Fd Sqn RE looking good and taking on 8 Fd Wksp, while the 5 AB Bde logies have to do battle with fellow paras, 9 Sqn RE, to see who goes on to meet 3 Fd Wksp.

Up north, Scottish Div Depot take on Ouston, while AAC Chepstow have to travel to the POW Depot at Lichfield.

With 29 Tpt and Movers meeting Depot RAOC, 16 Bn RAOC meeting the Comms and Sy Gp and 22 Fd Hosp or 9 Ord



Concentration in the 7 GR front row against the RAOC at Blackdown. From left to right are Rfn Bhim Chandra Gurung, Rfn Tej Bamadur Limbu and Rfn Surendra Gurung. The Gurkha team were beaten by 37 points to 14

meeting the winners of the Light Div Depot and 23 PFA, the pace is certainly hotting up.

The Northern Ireland final is between 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and 176 Pro Coy. Watch this space!

Finally, a correction to the date I gave you last time reference the day on which the Army entertain the touring New Zealand Combined Services. The date is December 10 in Aldershot and the kick-off is likely to be brought forward to the afternoon, as there is a problem with the floodlights.

Short of getting ARU secretary, Maj David Murray up one of the pylons with a 75-candle candelabrum, there will not be enough electric light for an evening match. Shocking!

York, Harrogate at Harrogate, Boys Clubs of Wales in the Principality, the Royal Navy at Portsmouth and the Royal Air Force at Princess Marine College, Arborfield.

End-of-season incentives for the colts include a Combined Services tour to Wales, to meet Cardiff District at the Arms Park and Bridgend at Bridgend RFC, and a possible tour to Canada.

Easy route to the final

TWO teams had an untroubled path to the final of the UKLF Minor Units novices Grade 3 team boxing championships on January 28 - 216 Para Sig Sqn and 9 Para Sqn were the only teams to enter.

Eleven teams entered the Army novices Grade 3 inter-unit competition, the final of which is scheduled for March 5. New contenders 2 PWRR have been given a bye into the second round where they will meet 3 Para, and the Northern Ireland interest will be maintained by 5 or 7 R Irish who box off in the first round.

Details for the next Inter-Garrison match, scheduled for January, are available from WO2 (SMIG) Taff Bliszk on Larkhill Mil 5465.

Best runner to receive merit award

ARMY cross country is to introduce a Runner of the Year award based on the best five results recorded in a series of selected races.

Because some of the races have limited entries (for example the Army-Wales match), the first merit awards will be restricted to athletes who finished in the top 30 (men) and top 20 (female) in the 1992 Army cross country championships - plus any Army-standard athletes who missed the event due to injury or Service commitments.

Rules have been drawn up by the Army Athletic Association to cover athletes posted between the United Kingdom and Germany.

Qualifying races are the forthcoming Army relays at Rushmoor, the Army-UAU-BPSA match, the BAOR championships in December, Army v Wales in January, the Army championships at Longmoor in February, and the BAOR Inter-Corps championships at Dulmen, the Army

Inter-Corps championships at Blackdown and Army-Territorial Army match at Rhyl, all scheduled for March.

Athletes who are not members of a team but who wish to compete in the Army relays on November 7 should contact AAA secretary Maj Morris Murch on Aldershot Mil 3575. They will be placed in composite teams.



Martial arts club on the up

A MARTIAL arts club formed in Catterick Garrison at the beginning of the year has gone from strength to strength and is now seeking official recognition.

The Catterick Tae Kwon Do Club has received permission to use the name of the garrison in its title and has attracted a membership across a wide range of ages.

Students of tae kwon do - which was an official Olympic demonstration sport at both Seoul and Barcelona - are graded every three months, leading to the award of coloured belts ranging from the novice's white to the black belt of the experts.

Chief instructor CSgt John Parks, 1 DERR, has so far put forward 89 students for grading, all of which have achieved passes.

People interested in the sport can contact CSgt Ed Kingston on Catterick Mil 3242.

Truckies hit the rest for six

SURPRISE winners of the Army six-a-side football tournament at Aldershot were York-based 2nd Division Transport Regiment, writes Pat Massey.

In the group matches, defending champions 2 Signal Regt went down in their opening game to Scottish champions 2 SG A by the only goal of the game, and, after beating 17 Trg Regt RA 3-1, dropped a further point in splitting goals with 1 PWRR.

Wins against 7 Para RHA (4-2) and 1 RWF (5-0), and a 2-2 draw with 7 R Irish, were just enough to see them through to the last four of a group in which results were unpredictable throughout.

The eventual group winners, 2 SG A shared the points with 7 Para RHA before beating 1 PWRR by the odd goal in three. They suffered a hiccup after the lunch break, going down to 7 R Irish by the only goal of an entertaining contest, but won their last two games starting with a narrow victory over 1 RWF (3-2).

Their final match was against 17 Trg Regt RA. Both sides were on seven points, one behind 2 Sig Regt who had already completed their programme. The winners would qualify for the semis as group winners, while a draw would see 2 SG A through as runners-up.

In the event, the Guardsmen ran out comfortable winners by three goals to one.

In Group B, SEME Bordon and Eastern District champions 2 Div Tpt Regt set the pace with three wins in a row, SEME beating 16/5 L (2-0), 1 DWR (3-1) and 2 SG B (4-1) and 2 Div Tpt Regt disposing of 2 SG B (3-0), 2 Coldm Gds (2-0) and 16/5 L (3-1).

The two potential group champions then met. SEME



The ACC (BAOR) football team in Czechoslovakia



Cpl Ritchie Forde, watched by LCpl Ian Rawlings, entertains Pribram children

won a very tight game by the only goal of the tie.

After the lunch break, SEME went on to take Group B with an unblemished seven wins from seven ties, beating 2 Coldm Gds (2-0), POW Div (2-0) and 15 Sig Regt (1-0). Meanwhile, 2 Div Tpt Regt dropped a third point in drawing 1-1 with 15 Sig Regt before wins over 1 DWR (6-1) and POW Div (3-2) saw them safely through to the last four as runners-up.

The semi-final pairings set up a repeat of last year's final, SEME against 2 Sig Regt, and 2 SG A against 2 Div Tpt Regt.

The signallers retained the trophy donated by Brig Bob Thorpe - an old and valued friend of Army football who sadly died the previous day - awarded to the team scoring the highest number of goals in the

group matches (19).

In the first semi-final 2 Div Tpt Regt always had the edge on 2 SG A and eventually moved into the final with a comfortable 4-2 win. The second tie, on the other hand, was a dramatic affair which went to a penalty competition. The holders shocked SEME with a goal from their first attack, but SEME battled back and equalised before the half-time break.

Early in the second half, following an incident between the Signals skipper, Sgt Alan Higgins, and a SEME defender, Higgins was sent off. His team responded by taking the lead.

SEME equalised just before the end and the tie went into extra time. The extra six minutes produced no further goals and the tie had to be

Czech mates

THE ARMY Catering Corps (BAOR) football team travelled to Pribram in Czechoslovakia to compete in the inaugural Tournament of Enterprise and ended up winning it.

Although the competition was billed as an international tournament, none of the other expected guest teams turned up and the enterprising Army chefs were left to take on four local sides.

The British Consulate in Prague was unable to confirm the last time a British military football team had visited the country.

Despite very hot weather the chefs won all four matches, scoring ten goals and conceding none in the process.

decided on a penalty shoot-out.

The first for each side were superbly saved, and the next three rattled home. Cfn Mike Taylor, the Army and Combined Services 'keeper then saved 2 Sig Regt's fifth attempt and SEME converted theirs to go through.

SEME took an early lead in the final, but 2 Div Tpt Regt bounced back with an equaliser in the first half. They scored twice in the second session, and although SEME battled back and reduced the arrears near the end, the Truckies from York held out and were well worth a slightly surprising win.

Brig Andy Massey, Vice-Chairman of the Army Football Association, brought a most successful day to a close with the presentation of trophies and mementoes to players and officials.

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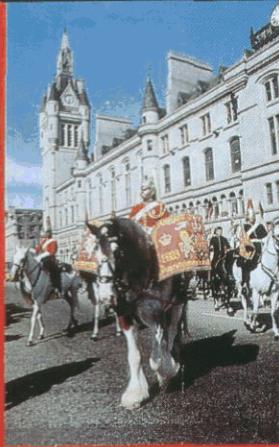
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Four Lynx helicopters from 3 Regiment Army Air Corps refuel and rearm on Goldrund training area during an Army aviation awareness day for officers of the 3rd Armoured Division. In all, five Lynxes were turned round in under four minutes. The programme included briefings by Maj Gen Christopher Wallace, Commander 3 Armd Div, and Lt Col Simon Fogden, CO 3 Regt AAC, and HELARM demonstrations by 653 and 663 Squadrons AAC. Challenger tanks from 2nd Troop, C Squadron, Royal Dragoon Guards provided the enemy.

Picture: Roger Lortie, P Info 3 Armd Div.



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