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# ARMED FORCES

MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
BRITISH  
ARMY



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IN NORTH BELFAST**



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**March 8, 1993**  
**VOL. 49/5**

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Pte Jason Rawbone ACC (right) keeps watch as APC commander 2nd Lt Simon George uses the radio to warn Maj Jamie Sage that armed police have prevented him entering Maglaj. The road ahead is blocked by tank traps

Picture: Terry Champion

# Into the battlefield

### From Laurie Manton in Bosnia

IN THE volatile part of Bosnia in which the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group operates, roads and tracks used by the humanitarian aid convoys are frequently designated unsafe because of fighting between warring factions in areas through which the vehicles have to pass.

Roads stay closed for days, sometimes weeks. Before they can be reopened, someone has to travel the route to ensure it is safe.

Around Vitez, route clearance is the responsibility of the Royal Engineers, and sappers of 42 Field Squadron are frequently called upon to enter danger areas to assess the situation.

**SOLDIER** accompanied the squadron on a route-clearance operation north of Zenica. A three-vehicle convoy of armoured personnel carriers led by squadron OC Maj Jamie Sage set out from the British

base at Vitez to check roads, tracks and bridges in Maglaj.

The town is close to the front line and frequently bombarded by Serbian artillery. It is a particularly high-risk area and



### FORCES SWEETHEARTS

Pages 26-27

British troops, clad in helmets and body armour, operate there in armoured vehicles.

The journey along the main road from Zenica to Maglaj is interrupted at the spot where a link of a massive bridge has been brought down by demolition charges.

Destruction of this nature is commonplace. Factions destroy bridges in their own areas to deny their use to others, even at the cost of massive inconvenience to lines of supply.

Bosnian army engineers have bridged the gap with a wooden structure further upstream. It is up to Maj Sage and his men to check the new bridge is safe for heavy vehicles to cross. After clambering over and under the lattice of woodwork, he declares the structure sound.

In the main, the reaction of the people along the route is friendly. The driver of a passenger train at a station alongside the road sounds his whistle deafeningly as the APCs lumber by. Few adults wave, but children mostly do. Many living close to the war zone brandish wooden rifles to emulate their older relatives.

On the outskirts of Maglaj, the sappers are halted at a Bosnian Muslim checkpoint where local military policemen, equipped with automatic

● Turn to Page 5

**FRONT COVER:** Pte Bob Kerr of the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards on patrol in north Belfast. Stories and more pictures in Pages 14-17. (Picture: Mike Perring.) **Inset:** Pictured at an Operation Grapple briefing in Gornji Vakuf are, from left, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton; Lt Col Bob Stewart, CO Cheshire Battalion Group; Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, Adjutant General; Lt Col Rupert Prichard, AG's MA; and Brig Andrew Cumming, Commander British Contingent. (Picture: Terry Champion.)

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A Bosnian soldier (left) at a checkpoint above Tesanj uses a walkie talkie radio to inform the local commander that British troops have arrived. The sappers received a hostile reception from the sentries before being escorted into the town

## Into the battlefield

● From Page 3

weapons, block the way.

They are not in favour of 42 Squadron entering the town, saying it is being shelled. It obviously is not, because no explosions can be heard.

As in all encounters at roadblocks, diplomacy is essential; soldiers cannot afford to display impatience or cause loss of face. A commander may be able to "persuade" his way through in an APC, but the next unit may be mounted in lightly armed, soft skinned vehicles, and receive the full wrath of the aggrieved policemen.

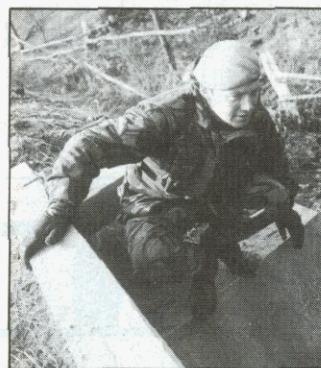
Much negotiation later, Maj Sage greets the local commander who authorises the British troops to proceed. The APCs start to move. Only the OC's vehicle gets through.

The next in line, crewed by 2nd Lt Simon George and Spr Clarky Clarkson and carrying SOLDIER's writer and photographer, and the REME support vehicle bringing up the rear are prevented from following.

Despite Maj Sage's protests the gunmen will not budge and the mission is aborted.

It is decided to try to get through to Tesanj, another town in the front line.

The route taken is horren-



Will this bridge bear the weight of a 24 tonne Warrior? A judgement is made by the OC 42 Field Squadron RE, Maj Jamie Sage

dous. A track bordered by precipitous slopes winds tortuously through a forest into the hills. The sapper vehicles soon climb above the snow line into an area covered by recent falls.

Traffic is coming from the opposite direction and road blocks are plentiful. One is manned by sinister-looking members of HOS, the military wing of the extreme right wing Croatian Party. These armed irregulars are believed to carry

out the ethnic cleansing. They are feared in battle because, it is said, they show no quarter and take no prisoners.

Although their reception of the British troops is less than friendly, they allow them to pass. One impassive, long-haired thug, dressed in black and armed with a self-loading rifle, raises an eyebrow in acknowledgement as the APCs roar by.

Eventually, a heavily-guarded Muslim checkpoint on the outskirts of Tesanj is reached. It is an unfortunate time for the British Army to arrive with a photographer in tow. Only the previous day, film taken secretly in the area had appeared on Serbian television and the Muslim guards are understandably upset.

The situation becomes tense and the soldiers have to wait more than an hour before being permitted to proceed as far as the local army headquarters. After delicate negotiations, permission is granted for the sappers to drive, under escort, around the town.

Photography is banned.

In slow procession, the armoured personnel carriers are led along the streets of Tesanj. Evidence of shelling and severe fighting is all around. Parts of the town have been "trashed".

Then the soldiers are escorted out of town to their original entry point and waved through.

A nightmare descent in worsening weather conditions has to be negotiated before the convoy of APCs reach the main road.

It is after dark by the time the 42 Squadron vehicles reach their base at Vitez. APCs have to be refuelled and checked out before the men can rest. Maj Sage has to write up a report and pass details of the restricted passage to UNPROFOR headquarters.

The day has been fraught with difficulties, but the sappers have coped admirably. It could have been worse. They have not been shot at on this occasion, as they often are.

But they are rapidly getting used to the adage that in Bosnia nothing comes easy.

## Cheshire escort duties suspended

CONVOY protection duties carried out by the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group in Central Bosnia were put on hold after the United Nations announced a suspension of relief missions.

The halt was ordered after Serbian and Muslim disruption

of relief operations in Sarajevo and eastern Bosnia.

Later, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs Sadako Ogata, said deliveries would continue at a reduced level in areas where UNHCR could still function effectively,

including the British area of responsibility around Vitez, where troops have escorted thousands of tonnes of aid.

● The UN Security Council has given its troops in the area greater powers to take offensive action.

# COMBAT STRESS

'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'

and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner

Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' Gittins. DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew.

But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

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To protect those concerned, this is an amalgam of several such case histories of Patients in our care.



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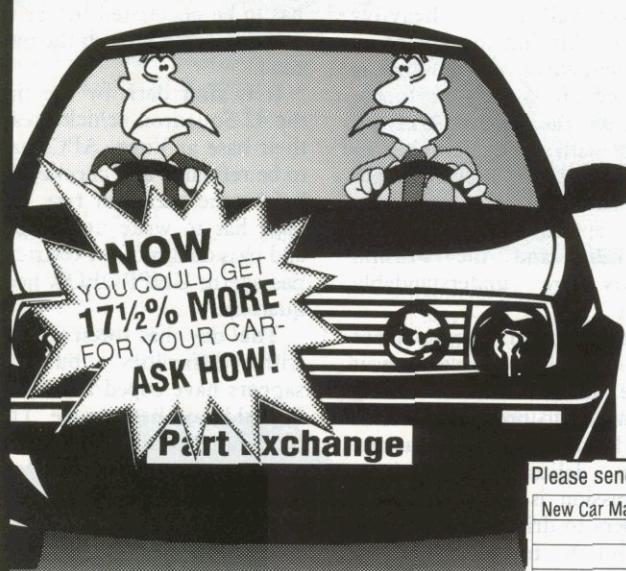
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# Chunnel capable of taking main tank

THE CHANNEL Tunnel is physically capable of taking the Challenger main battle tank, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton told the House of Commons in a written answer.

But no decisions have been made on the military use of the tunnel in peacetime, and a number of technical, commercial and safety aspects would have to be resolved first.

Cost would be a major factor in any decision to use the tunnel for routine movements.

"The dimensions of the Challenger tank, and the absence of suitable rolling stock, currently preclude it from movement on the railways of the United Kingdom. Challenger tanks are routinely moved by railway in Germany," he said.

- The estimated cost to the Exchequer in 1993-94 of British Army redundancy payments – special capital payments – is £188m, Mr Hamilton has told the Commons. During that period, 9.6 per cent of Army redundancies, all of them officers, would be compulsory.

## Lulworth ceremony

A NEW accommodation block for permanent staff at the RAC Gunnery School, Lulworth has been opened by Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn, GOC Southern District. Gen Swinburn also inspected new vehicle instructional sheds and maintenance hangers.

# Kuwaiti medal approved

THE QUEEN has given her approval for the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal to be accepted as a keepsake by British personnel involved in Operation Granby.

Conditions applied to the medal will be the same as those attached to the Saudi "Liberation of Kuwait" Medal. It may not be worn.

The Kuwait Liberation Medal has been presented in five

# RCT exercises Rushmoor Freedom



Stepping out in Aldershot. Some of the 270 members of the RCT who exercised their Freedom of Rushmoor for the final time in February, prior to becoming part of the Royal Logistic Corps in April. A cavalcade of RCT transport, including four-tonners, a white UN vehicle and Field Marshal Montgomery's Rolls-Royce was also given an airing

Picture: Mike Weston

grades – from Excellent for very senior commanders to Fourth grade for WO1 and below – following guidelines laid down by the Kuwaiti Government.

Claims for the medal are not necessary. It will be issued through single-Service arrangements against claims already made for the Gulf Medal 1990-91 with clasp January 16 to February 28, 1991.

Medal grades for non-Service personnel will be determined by the Directorate of Defence Personnel or, in the case of UK-based civil servants, by the Civil Honours Secretary (Civilian Management (Industrial Relations) 5 (Honours)).

Next of kin of those killed in action will receive one grade of medal higher than otherwise entitled. Details are contained in DCI GEN 30/93.

## Leeds unit gets DROPS

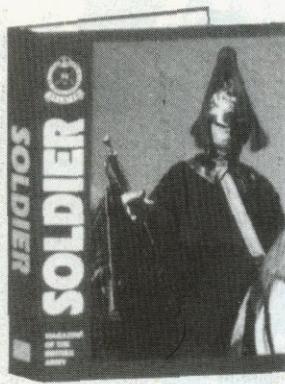
LEEDS-based 217 Squadron RCT(V) has taken delivery of 12 new DROPS (Demountable Rack-off load and Pick-up System) vehicles.

The unit is roled in support of Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps. Its Churchill Barracks base has been substantially refurbished to accommodate the DROPS fleet, which will also contain a number of new 14-tonne Bedford trucks.

# SOLDIER

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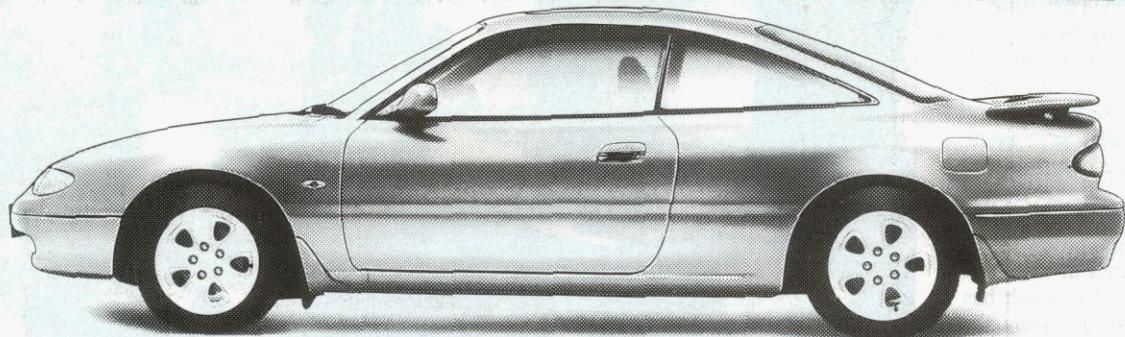
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# Pay to rise by 1.5pc

PAY in the Armed Forces up to one-star level will rise by a maximum of 1.5 per cent on April 1.

A similar increase will be made in food and accommodation charges for all ranks.

A junior private's salary will rise from £7,884 to £8,001 and a brigadier's from £52,808 to £53,600.

The 1.5 per cent ceiling is in line with the Government's public sector pay policy.

Major generals and above are not included in the pay award. Instead, phase two of the 1992 staged increase will be implemented. This year's part of the three-year award by the Top Salaries Review Body equates to a 2.89 per cent increase on current pay levels. From April a major-general's salary will be £56,710 and a field marshal's £112,083.

Medical and dental officers will receive the 1.5 per cent increase.

Among the areas on which the AFPRB will focus for its 1994 report are Northern Ireland pay and working hours.

Review body members are concerned at the apparent discrepancy between the Survey of Working Patterns, which indicates that hours worked have broadly remained the same as in previous years, and comments made by individuals during visits that hours worked have increased significantly. This was particularly evident in Northern Ireland, their report says.

## Fusilier killed

ONE SOLDIER was killed and four wounded, three seriously, when an Army-RUC foot patrol in Armagh was hit by IRA bombs detonated beside the road. The dead man was LCpl Michael Joseph Beswick (21), single, from Heywood in Lancashire. He was serving with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

• Mervyn Johnson (38), a part-time lance corporal with the 7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, was shot and murdered in Northern Ireland while off duty.

# Spr John jumps to rescue

SPR JOHN Davidson became a modest hero when he saved a German boy from drowning.

Spr Davidson, of 5 Field Squadron, 26 Engineer Regiment based at Iserlohn, and his wife Melanie were driving on the Moehnestrasse when they were flagged down by two distraught and very wet youngsters.

Their boat had capsized and a friend was still in the Moehne, unable to reach the safety of the bank.

Without hesitation, Spr Davidson stripped to his shorts, dived into the very cold water and pulled 13-year-old David Schickoff out of the river.

He and his wife then drove the boys to a nearby fishing club, ensured they were in safe hands, and drove off. Three days later the Davidsens were surprised when the boys and their parents called to deliver grateful thanks, flowers and other gifts.



Spr John Davidson

# RAF tribute to QA



Cpl Ann Purvis QARANC has received a certificate of commendation from RAF Strike Command for her work during the Gulf War when she was based at RAF Hospital Wroughton. Pictured right, Ann received her commendation from the QARANC Colonel Commandant, Col Di Anderson (left) and Col Iona Leith-Macgregor (centre), matron of the Cambridge Military Hospital Aldershot, where she now works as a health care assistant

# Workshop switch to agency status

ARMY Static Workshops, the organisation which overhauls Challenger and Chieftain main battle tanks, is to become a Defence Support Agency from April 1 and will be known as the Army Base Repair Organisation (ABRO).

Brig Jim Drew, Commander Army Static Workshops, will head the new agency which comes under the Director General Equipment Support (Army).

It has 13 workshops located

at Bovington and Lulworth (18 Base Workshop); Donnington (34 Base); Old Dalby (35 Base); Stirling (26 District Workshop); Warminster (27 District); Catterick (31 District); Colchester (36 District); Aldershot (43 District); Ashford (44 District); Long Marston (Engineer Resources REME); and Andover (Contract Repair Base and HQ ABRO).

Workshops are to be market tested and industry invited to tender for the operation.

## IN BRIEF

# Service to buy Harleys

FAMOUS American manufacturer Harley-Davidson has won a contract to produce 1,570 military motor cycles for the MoD.

Due to be produced and delivered over a four-year period from July, the vehicles will replace the Army's existing fleet of motor cycles, purchased from 1985 to 1987, and will be used world-wide primarily for despatch riding and combat communications.

• • •  
Sappers from 28 Engineer Regiment joined forces with the 54th American Engineer Battalion for Exercise Wild Quadrant at Wildfleken on the US Army base and at Hameln.

The exercise was planned by Sgt Ginge Turner, 71 Amph Engr Spt Sqn, and American sapper SSgt Ed Lantrup.

• • •  
Winning section in the 1993 Queen's Gurkha Engineers competition was led by Cpl Benu Prasad Limbu, who received the trophy from Maj Gen John Foley, Commander British Forces Hong Kong.

The five-day competition began in glorious sunshine and ended in icy, gale-driven rain.

• • •  
The RUC has become the first police force in Europe to acquire and use a new system of compiling facial likenesses. The CD-FIT computer system, which replaces the old Identikit and Photofit techniques, results in a likeness of almost photographic quality.

# SOLDIER

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Sol/08/03

# Cancel infantry cuts

## — Defence Committee

A WEEK after the announcement that four regiments had been reprieved, the House of Commons Defence Select Committee called for the cancellation of all infantry battalion cuts.

The committee's report, published on February 9, concludes:

"In the light of the chronic overstretch being experienced by the Army, which shows no sign of abating, we recommend that the Government cancel all amalgamations or disbands of UK infantry battalions currently planned."

Members of the all-party select committee, chaired by Sir Nicholas Bonsor, considered oral and written evidence from senior military and MoD personnel and a number of submissions from regiments.

Assessing defence strategy, the report says:

"... MoD assured us that the Army would retain the capability to deploy on the scale of Operation Granby in the future. But everything in the past three years leads us to the bleak conclusion that the proposed rundown goes too far, and that... even minor contingencies are imposing an unacceptable strain on the Army."

Emergency tour commitments for the infantry have risen substantially since the Options for Change plans were finalised. The commitment of two additional battalions to Northern Ireland in 1992 had "made nonsense of the figures used in 1991 to justify the Army strengths proposed".

"If the Government does not soon recognise the very real possibility that the additional commitments in Northern Ireland and Bosnia could continue into the medium and long-term, or be replaced or even augmented by other commitments elsewhere, it risks finding that it no longer has the forces available to fulfil commitments that it needs or wishes to fulfil."

Turning their attention to the Emergency Tour Plot (ETP) — which the report says could be more accurately titled the "planned unaccompanied tours plot" — the authors say that neat calculations on intervals between tours "do not

OTHER points in the Defence Select Committee report:

**Emergency tour intervals:** "... there are 17 infantry battalions or parts thereof due to undertake emergency tours in 1993-94, with the length of interval ranging from 12 months for one battalion to 82 months for another. Seven of those battalions participating in the 1993-94 ETP (Emergency Tour Plot) are below the target interval of 24 months.

"In the following year, 1994-95, nine of the ten UK infantry battalions which will be deployed on emergency tours will have an interval of less than 24 months; the spread of intervals is between nine and 52 months."

**Non-infantry arms and services:** "Our predecessors expressed their concern lest the armoured reconnaissance strength proved 'too small even in relation to peacetime requirements, including international peacekeeping operations': it would seem that this has indeed proved to be the case, and that armoured reconnaissance commitments have had to be reduced accordingly."

**Redundancy:** "In view of an earlier ministerial suggestion that talk of widespread redundancy was alarmist, it is worthy of note that one in every 200 serving Army personnel has now been made compulsorily redundant, and one in eight voluntarily redundant."

**Manning:** "Despite the Army's proportionately greater loss of personnel under Options for Change than the RAF or Royal Navy, recruitment continues with more vigour for the Army than for the other two Services. It would seem that the Army has chosen the costlier, but possibly more balanced, course of preserving a steady if reduced inflow of recruits at the cost of a higher level of redundancy."

**Gurkhas:** "While we have been made aware of continuing resentment in some quarters at the retention of the two Gurkha battalions at the 'expense' of British battalions, and without a liability to serve in Northern Ireland, we share our predecessor's conviction that they will represent good value for money and a capability for swift force reconstruction."

reflect the real world".

Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton had told the House in January that, excluding Operation Granby service, the average emergency tour interval for infantry units stood at 18 months in 1990-91 and rose to 32 months in 1991-92. For 1992-93 he gave a figure of 17 months as the average infantry emergency tour interval.

The MoD had cautioned against seeing emergency tour duty as a purely negative factor in a Serviceman's life, and select committee members on a visit to Northern Ireland in November had been impressed by the enthusiasm of soldiers on roulement duty.

"MoD told us that roulement tours in Northern Ireland were of 'considerable operational and

duty' was alarmist, it is worthy of note that one in every 200 serving Army personnel has now been made compulsorily redundant, and one in eight voluntarily redundant."

All 5,150 soldiers selected were volunteers, although 623 of the 1,311 officers will be compulsory redundancies, bringing the total of compulsory Army redundancies to 816.

**Manning:** "Despite the Army's proportionately greater loss of personnel under Options for Change than the RAF or Royal Navy, recruitment continues with more vigour for the Army than for the other two Services. It would seem that the Army has chosen the costlier, but possibly more balanced, course of preserving a steady if reduced inflow of recruits at the cost of a higher level of redundancy."

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training value', and that the benefits applied to non-infantry units as well.

"Despite this, it clearly remains desirable to maintain a reasonable protracted tour interval..."

The report says the ETP interval used alone as an indicator of overstretch is flawed because it does not include short deployments of less than six months, and it does not reflect occasions when part of a battalion (a company or platoon) is called on to reinforce an understrength unit on emergency tour duty.

"As at 30 November 1992, personnel from no fewer than nine infantry units were supplementing other units deployed to Northern Ireland," says the report.

"The AUS (Programmes) explained to us that individuals sent to reinforce undermanned units were 'volunteers'.

"With undermanned units, nevertheless, the burden of emergency tour duty is necessarily more onerous for many individual soldiers than overall emergency tour figures would suggest. Even if individual soldiers do 'volunteer' for extra ETP duty, it is still a profoundly unsatisfactory way of managing the Army's meeting of its peacetime commitments."

The defence committee recommends that figures for "nights out of bed" — the number of nights each year on average that individual soldiers are away from their normal home — should be made available for the Army as a whole to supplement information on overstretch by ETP data.

Principal concerns on overstretch are voiced by the committee in the following summaries:

● "The additional emergency tour tasks assumed by the infantry since the beginning of 1992, in Northern Ireland and Bosnia, have led to an unacceptable contraction of the emergency tour interval for infantry units, with serious consequences for individual Service personnel and their families as well as for the Army's capacity to prepare for and carry out its primary wartime roles.

● "The increased use of non-infantry units in the infantry role to meet emergency tour commitments will threaten the effectiveness of those units in their primary role.

● "Our case that chronic overstretch will be the normal state of affairs within the Army unless the Government's restructuring proposals are modified does not rest on the assumption that the additional deployments in Northern Ireland and Bosnia will themselves necessarily be extended: these commitments are rather symptomatic of the pressures which the Army is likely to face on a constant basis in a future characterised by international instability and uncertainty.

● "While overstretch is currently exacerbated by the unavailability for emergency tours of infantry battalions undergoing amalgamation, the mismatch of the Army's resources and commitments looks set to continue after 1995."

*Britain's Army for the 90s: Commitments and Resources, Defence Committee Second Report, Session 1992-93. HMSO £14.70.*

... everything in the past three years leads us to the bleak conclusion that the proposed rundown goes too far, and that... even minor contingencies are imposing an unacceptable strain on the Army'

# Henry's game trio



CHALLENGE '93

Pictured with former champion boxer **Henry Cooper** at the launch of Challenge 93, the first international wheelchair games for ex-Service personnel, are Barcelona paralympics shot putt gold medallist **Terry Hopkins** (centre), table tennis, bowling and billiards expert **Anne Peskey** and ex-Royal Navy diver **Mike Marten**, a specialist in five sports.

Army hopefuls on the shortlist to join Terry (a former member of the AAC injured in a helicopter accident) and Ann

(ex-WRAC, injured while performing gymnastic exercises) include **Wally Kelly** (formerly 7 Para RHA), **Bill Blackburn** (ex-63 Para Sqn RCT) and **Robert Osborn**, a serving member of the Scots Guards who lost a leg in the Falklands campaign.

The week-long event, at Stoke Mandeville Sports Centre from July 10, is being jointly organised by the Royal British Legion and the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation.

## Cutting edge



Picture SACW Jules Hague, WRAF

Helping to prepare Gibraltar's Rosia Bay area for future use is Pte **Lee Booth** of 23 Group, Royal Pioneer Corps. Normally based in Northampton, he and other members of the 60-strong detachment were – among other tasks during their month's stay on the Rock – assisting the Department of Trade and Industry in tackling the effects of sea erosion on the harbour, which hosted Nelson's flagship HMS *Victory* in 1805.

## Prince at Arborfield

Inspection time for a guard of honour lined up for Prince **Edward**, who was opening a £2m building at the School of Electronic Engineering at Arborfield. It will house the training centre for the new Rapier 2000 air defence system.

Hosting the visit were Brig **Peter Besgrove**, commandant of the newly-formed REME Training Group, Col **Stephen Abate**, the school's commandant, and Maj **Douglas Marlow**, officer commanding the Radar Training Company. A significant investment for REME, the building opens just as Arborfield has been confirmed as the main centre for all REME training.

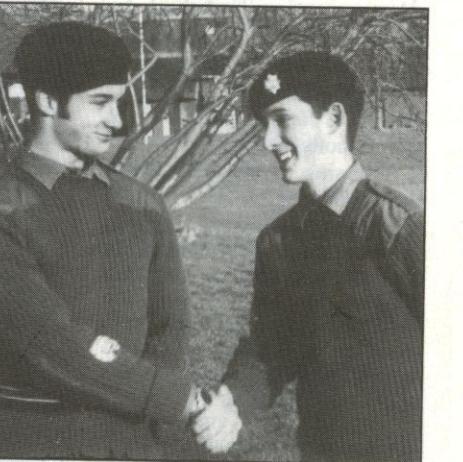


Picture: Mike Weston

## Long server



This recipient of a bar to add to his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is Maj **Ron James**. The award, presented by GOC 1st Armoured Division Maj Gen **Iain Mackay-Dick**, recognises 33 years of outstanding service.



Is this a record? Brothers **Matthew** and **Richard Penny**, members of Exeter School Combined Cadet Force, have both been awarded Army scholarships within the space of a year. Having got the mutual congratulations out of the way, Matthew (left) now hopes to be commissioned into the Royal Artillery and his brother Richard is a potential Grenadier Guardsman.

## Scholarly types

## Snow Queen Jane



Qualified ski instructor **Jane Hatton**, daughter of SSgt **Phil Hatton**, was one of 90 instructors employed on this year's Exercise Snow Queen, based on the newly opened British Alpine Centre near Sonthofen in Bavaria. Commandant of the centre – described as the biggest non-commercial ski school in the world – is Lt Col **Graeme Cooper**.

## REINING CHAMP!



The British Forces Germany Youth Training Scheme (BFG YTS) has notched up another success story in the shape of **Anne Duerden**.

Having gained qualifications and work experience through the scheme, Anne is now in full employment looking after the horses of a Swiss family living in Hildesheim.

One of recently retired Rheindahlen Deputy Garrison Commander Lt Col **David Emmett**'s last duties was to present her with the widely-recognised British Horse Society's assistant instructor's certificate. Anne initially joined the scheme – which offers training leading to qualifications in anything from vehicle mechanics to community care and catering – in 1991 at Oxford Barracks.

Apart from six gold medals, two silver, two bronze and certificates of merit, the lads – seen here with ACC Commanding Officer Lt Col **Wally Torrington** and instructors – came away with the College Award.

App Keith Best (front row, third from left) lived up to his name by carrying off the Table d'Honneur gold award and the Junior Grand Prix prize, to add to his gold medal in the decorated celebration cake (royal icing) class.

## Chefs' delight...



Apprentices from the Army School of Catering at Aldershot show off their tally of awards gained in the Heart of England Birmingham 1993 Salon Culinaire competition.



A three-course concoction of delicacy of brill with spinach and sorrel, breast of pigeon in Fleurie and pineapple parfait helped to win these happy chefs a gold award apiece. The ACC's British Army team of chefs (left to right SSgt **Garry Young**, Sgt **Andrew Sargent**, SSgt **Stephen Whitworth** and Sgt **Paul Clarke**) gained their accolade at La Parade des Chefs, held at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.



Father **Michael Weymes** (left) may have spent a mere three years as an Army chaplain, but he saw his share of action during that time. Stationed in Dortmund, Fr Weymes was attached to 14th/20th King's Hussars during the Gulf War and was recently presented with both the Gulf Medal and the Saudi Defence Medal at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst by Monsignor **Joseph Mallon**, Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain and Vicar General for the Army. Michael is now leading a rather more sedate life ... as a parish priest in County Durham.

## Ministry of action

# PEOPLE





Above - Commanding Officer 1 Green Howards: Lt Col Nick Houghton

Left - Smiles on the faces of a multiple being carried in the rear of an armoured pig

# Green Howards in north Belfast

THEIR LATEST roulement tour in Northern Ireland proved to be a novel affair for 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, following the Government's decision to send two extra battalions (the 11th and 12th) to the Province.

As a result the battalion found itself plucked from rural operations and dispatched to north Belfast where it was to establish a Girdwood roulement battalion.

The city-based tactical area of responsibility contrasted sharply with three months of mind-numbing routine in north Armagh and East Tyrone as the Drumadd roulement battalion.

"The first half of our tour involved just four incidents, but that is the nature of rural operations," explained Lt Col Nick Houghton, who commands 1 Green Howards.

"Nothing much happens, but when it does, incidents are generally quite large," he said.

The Girdwood TAOR was established in what was previously a company patch of the Belfast battalion and proved much busier, with more than 70 major incidents logged

in just three months.

**Words: Laurie Manton  
Pictures: Mike Perring**

Despite this, the Green Howards describe the locals as "not too bad". Said Col Houghton: "Inevitably, in training, you get wound up to expect the worst, but it is never quite like that. Those of us who remember our 1985 tour in west Belfast would remark on how, in areas like

the Ardoyne, the attitude of the local population has distinctly improved.

"That's not to say they are actually actively supporting the Security Forces, but in the main the terrorists have lost the sympathy they once enjoyed," he said.

There is still tension in the New Lodge, but it is a more

modern estate and its younger, population may not be as "war-weary" as those in the Ardoyne.

In terms of the hearts and minds campaign, the Ardoyne has been a singular success story.

There are various reasons for this. Soldiers are being taught to place more emphasis on the importance of community relations, and the Green Howards are quick to praise the efforts of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

"We cannot claim the success story ourselves," said Col Houghton.

"The RUC are permanent residents and the quality of their community policing in the area is very good. They have a dedicated force who carry out all the patrols in the Ardoyne, made up of men who have almost an evangelistic dedication to make sure they get on with people."

The Girdwood TAOR covers about 45 sq km and has a population of more than 100,000 people, of whom 65 per cent are Protestant.

● Turn to Page 16



Curious young children see for themselves the telescopic effect of the sight on Cpl Brian O'Toole's SA 80



Above - Pte Bob Kerr remains alert in the New Lodge

Right - Rubbish litters an alleyway in the Ardoyne as arms and explosive search dog, Grizzly and his handler, LCpl Barry Hocking check a patrol route

Below - Soldiers of 1 Green Howards at Girdwood SF Base attend a briefing before going out on patrol





A Green Howards armoured patrol vehicle negotiates a rubbish strewn alleyway in the Ardoe estate

## Green Howards

• From Page 14

The IRA has deployed various weapons against Security Forces in the area. Most prolific is the use of the "coffee jar" bomb which is thrown at foot and mobile patrols. A variant of this device - the "sweetie jar" - bomb has made its debut. Glass confectionery jars packed with explosive are hurled down at patrols from the tops of high buildings.

An improvised grenade launcher was used on a number of occasions. It is normally fired against moving targets such as mobile patrols. Recently one was fired from the upper floor of a block of flats against a sanger.

The Green Howards were

especially busy in the run-up to Christmas, when IRA terrorists were attempting to drive explosives into the city centre.

Although a number of small devices got through, a ring of RUC/Army checkpoints prevented the terrorists smuggling in any large bombs which could have caused widespread destruction.

The RUC has primacy, and everything the soldier does is in reaction to RUC requirements, a case of military support to RUC-driven tasks.

This type of effort calls for co-operation at all levels, from brigadier and assistant chief constable to the soldiers and constables who actually police and patrol on the ground.

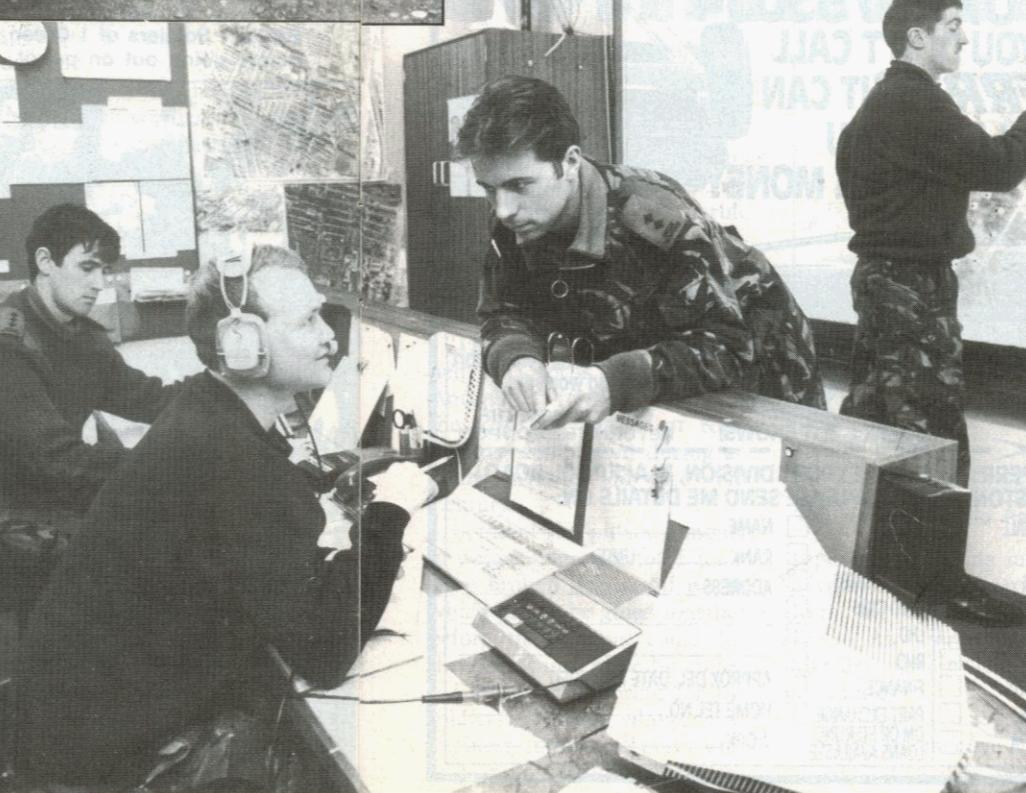
The Green Howards battalion group consisted of B and Support Companies plus an attached gunner unit from Larkhill, 156 (Inkerman)

### Locating Battery RA.

While the two infantry companies made up the Girdwood roulement battalion, 156 Battery (to be the subject of a separate report in SOLDIER) were detached to 7 R Irish in east Belfast. A number of Support Company soldiers guarded the Crumlin Road jail.

The future looks bright for the Catterick-based Green Howards as this well-recruited family regiment has escaped amalgamation. The end of its Northern Ireland tour coincided with a change of role. After two-and-a-half years with 24 Airmobile Brigade, it will spend the next 12 months as a Saxon-mounted infantry battalion with the newly-forming 19 Mechanised Brigade.

Then the battalion will convert to Warrior and join the 4th Armoured Brigade at Osnabrück.



Above - Spot check in an estate to deter arms being smuggled

Below - Duty watchkeeper, Lt Jamie MacKenzie raises a point with LCpl Geoff Dryden. Left is Capt Rupert Neville and right is Cpl Tony Ray marks up a map.



Above - Support Company's Cpl Tom Fisher is the Assistant Prison Liaison Officer at Crumlin Road



Below - Milan Platoon, Support Company with Nigger the dog pictured before a patrol. Left to right: Dvr Kev Elliott, Pte Mal Brown, Cpl Andy Kidger, Ptes Wayne Goyas and Pte Kevin Sandham and Dvr Andy Calarco

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Above - Counter Terrorist Search Wing instructors providing in-theatre search training for the Infantry and Royal Air Force in Cyprus were (left to right) Sgt Jim Duckworth, WO2 (QMSI) Kenny Matheson, Sgt Hugh Vaugh and WO2 (QMSI) Marty Franks

Left - Spr Alf Garner uses a locating device to search for mines, trip wires and booby traps



SSgt Keith Lowerson (left) with members of Field Troop, 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron RE

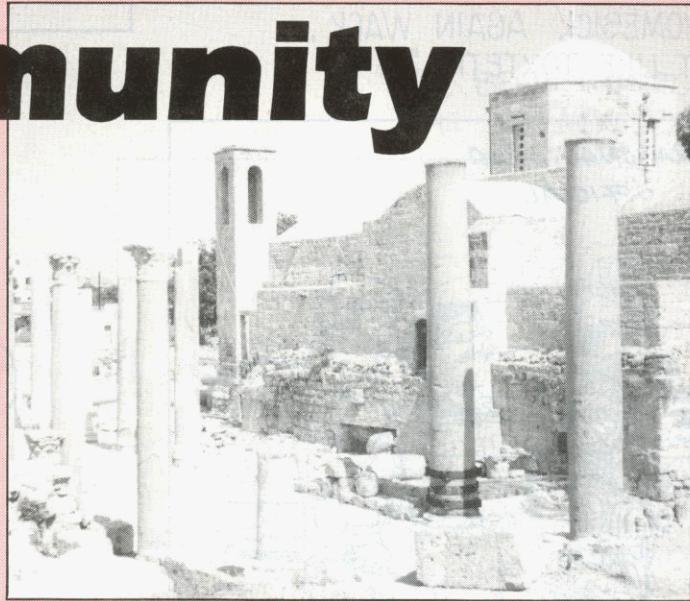
# Pillars of the community

ONE OF THE more unusual MACC (Military Aid to the Civil Community) tasks carried out by 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron Royal Engineers involved a large crane, a vast quantity of glue and five marble pillars dating from Cyprus's Roman period in the 4th Century, writes Laurie Manton.

The squadron was detailed to help the Cyprus Department of Antiquities re-erect pillars in the Christian basilica at Kato Paphos, demolished during an Arab invasion in the 7th Century.

Some of the pillars, ranging in weight from five to 15 tons, were broken into small pieces which had to be glued together before the sappers could lift them back into place by crane.

Life is never boring for the soldiers of 62 Sqn, who provide engineer support to every unit in Cyprus. Tasks range from



The pillars at Kato Paphos

supervising training in the use of rigid raiders to clearing snow from the approach roads to Royal Air Force and Royal Signals sites in the Troodos mountains.

In war, the squadron supports the massive RAF base at Akrotiri and is responsible

for airfield damage repair.

Said Field Troop SSgt Keith Lowerson: "We also support the two resident infantry battalions in the construction of company positions, battle simulations and mine warfare."

The Field Troop, commanded by Lt Stuart Browse,

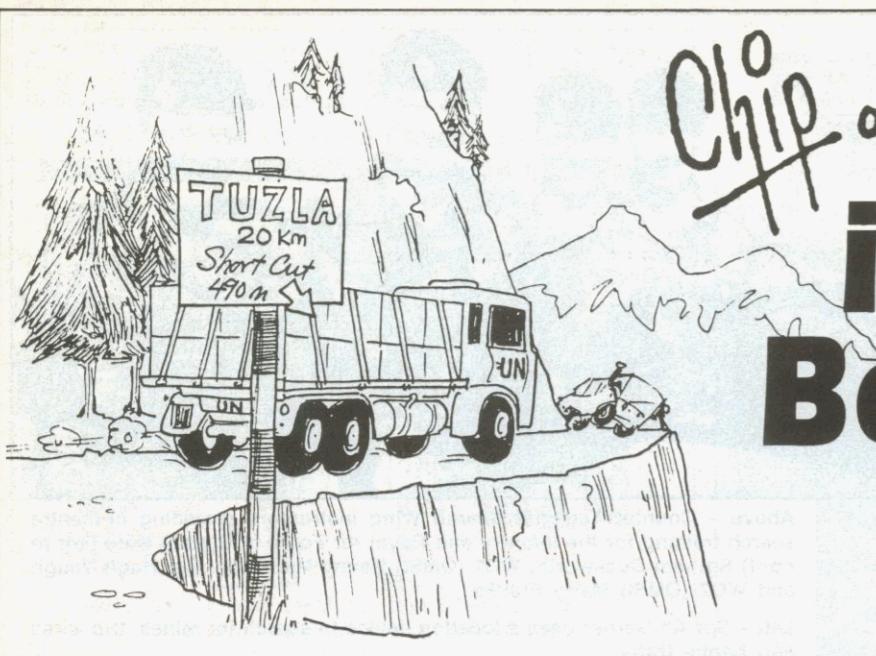
**Cyprus sappers rebuild history!**

maintains three Royal Engineers search teams and four search advisers.

Search techniques have to be updated and, during SOLIDER's visit, instructors from the UK-based Counter Terrorist Search Wing were testing the search skills of 62 Squadron's LCpl Steve Napier and Spr Alf Garner.

The two men had to check a strip of Cyprus countryside that had been pre-mined and booby-trapped in various places. Any error or misjudged movement resulted in the detonation of a small explosive charge which, besides causing an awful shock, tended to concentrate the mind on getting it right first time.

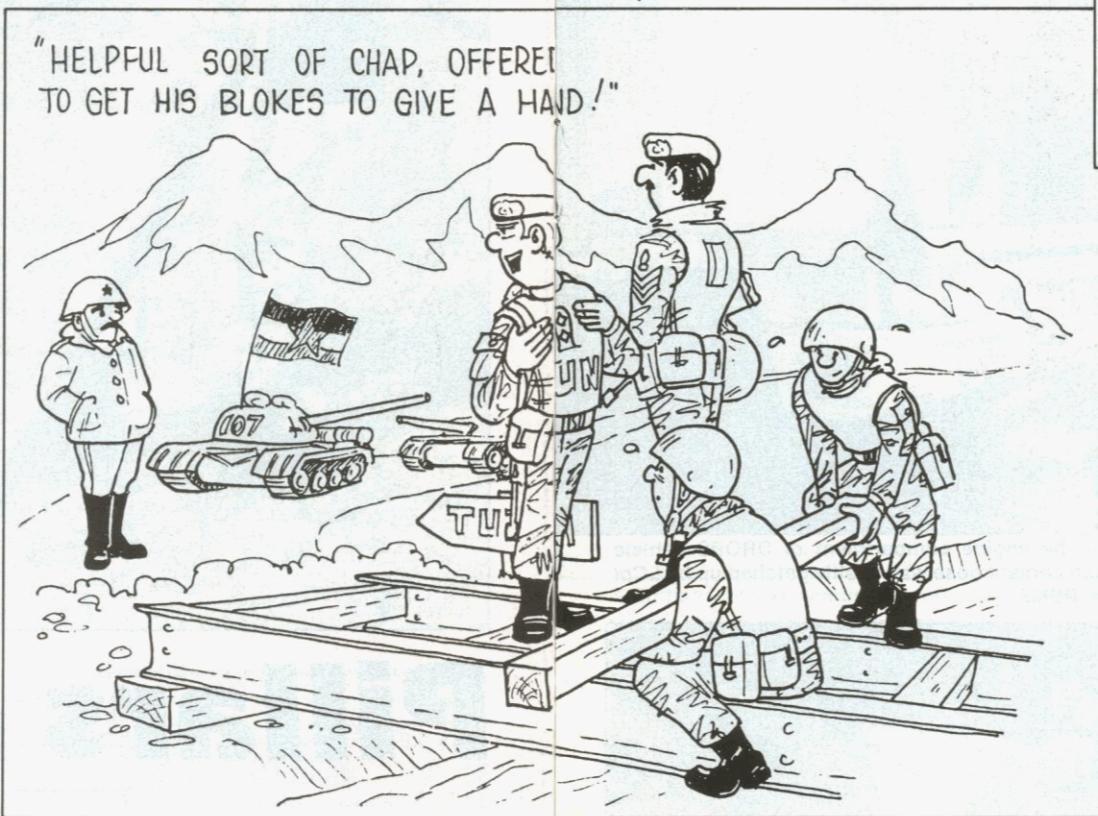
Duties of the squadron's busy Plant Troop include constructing roads, regrading tracks for the United Nations and exercising skills ranging from surveying to bulldozing. It is said that after a two-year tour with the squadron, plant operators are the most experienced in the Royal Engineers.



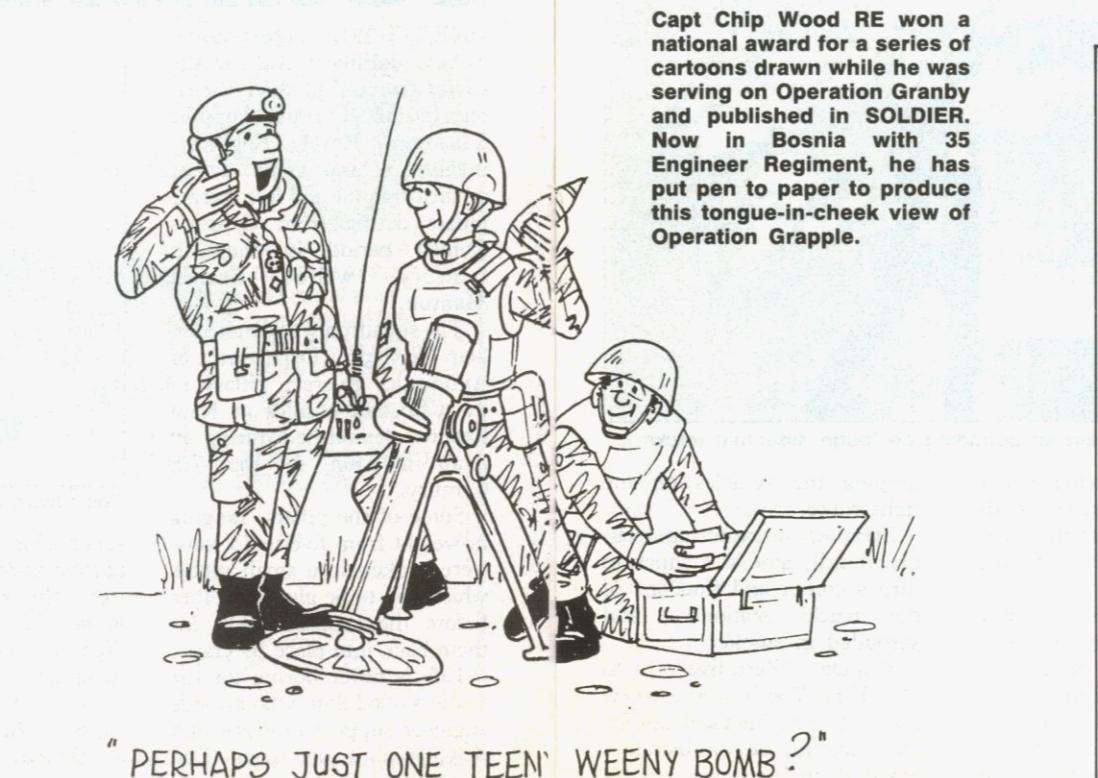
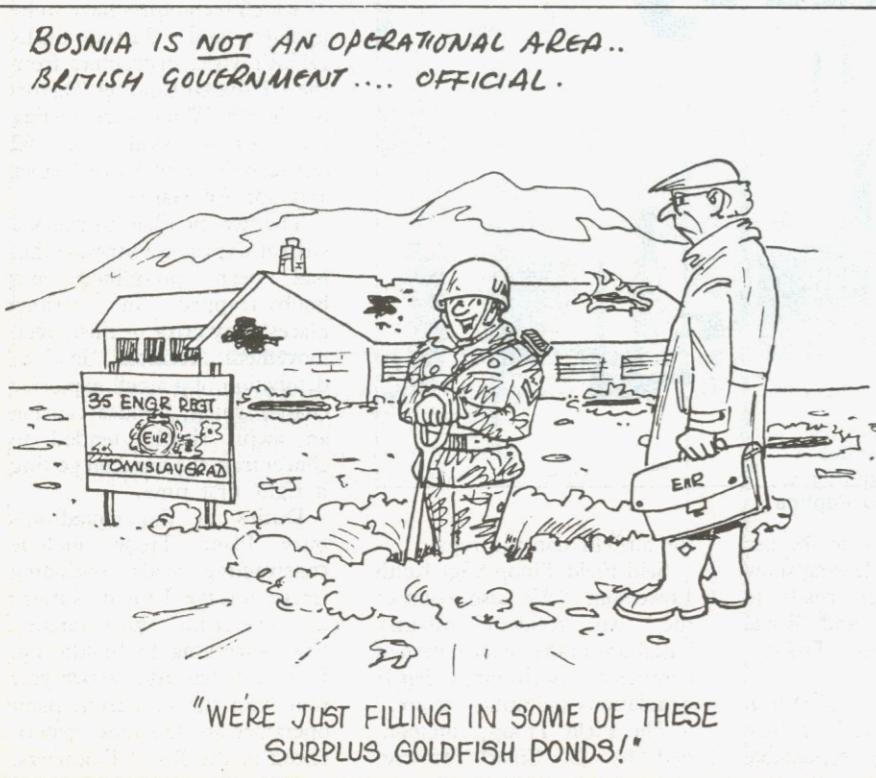
# Chip in Bosnia



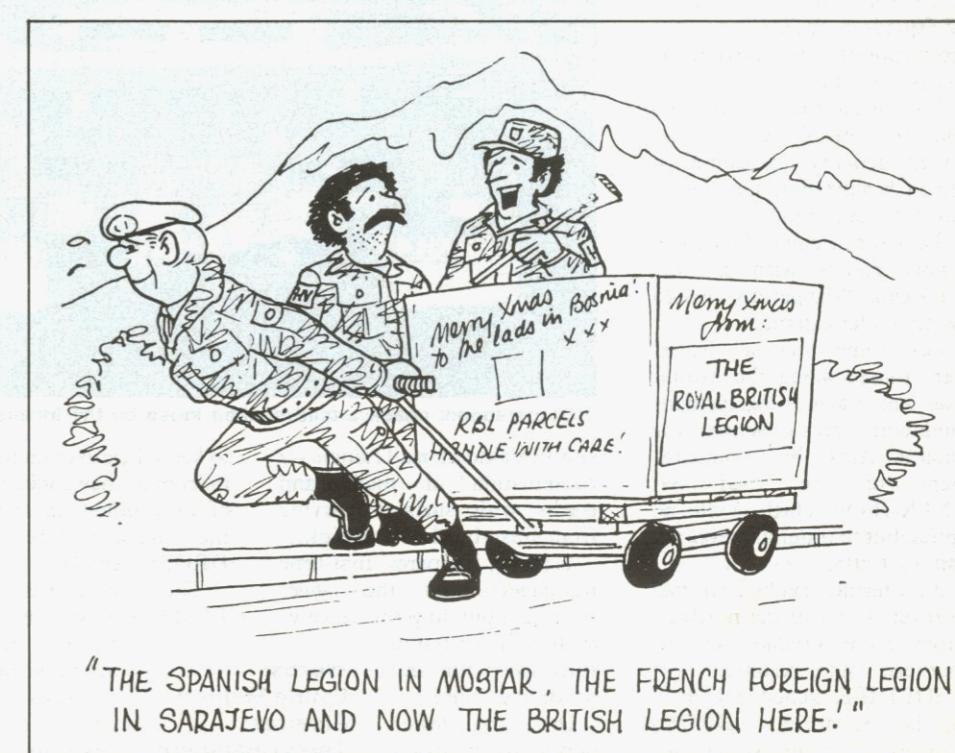
"I'M GETTING HOMESICK AGAIN WACK,  
IT'S JUST LIKE TOXTETH!"



"I'VE BEEN SENT TO ENFORCE  
THE NO FLY ZONE!"



Capt Chip Wood RE won a national award for a series of cartoons drawn while he was serving on Operation Granby and published in SOLDIER. Now in Bosnia with 35 Engineer Regiment, he has put pen to paper to produce this tongue-in-cheek view of Operation Grapple.



"THE SPANISH LEGION IN MOSTAR, THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION IN SARAJEVO AND NOW THE BRITISH LEGION HERE!"

# ROAD TO HELL

... but it's just another job for 17 Squadron RCT

NO AMOUNT of background briefings or television news coverage can adequately prepare a soldier for the reality of service with the Bosnia-Hercegovina Command of the United Nations Protection Force based in the former Yugoslavia.

The almost total breakdown of accepted standards of conduct places most Bosnians in the middle of a nightmare in which the gun rules, and murder and rape are commonplace.

Relative calm has been established in a number of areas in which British troops have set up bases from where they provide armed escorts for humanitarian aid convoys.

Riding shotgun for the vulnerable trucks carrying food and supplies to towns and villages cut off by fighting or seige involves standard operating procedures that have become second nature to the British soldiers.

It is a mission of mercy not without danger. The driver of a British Warrior infantry fighting vehicle was murdered by a sniper at Gornji Vakuf where a company of 1 Cheshire keeps the route back to Split open for its main battalion group based at Vitez.

The forward British troops themselves cannot operate without a regular resupply operation organised by 360 Supply Company RAOC based at Tomislavgrad, along with the 17 Squadron RCT Group who are responsible for moving the stores forward.

Life on the road for the men and women drivers of 17 Squadron delivering supplies to the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group has not been easy.

To describe parts of the main supply routes used by the truckies as "dangerous" would be an understatement.

For some weeks, drivers were routed along the Mostar road which avoids the tortuous mountain tracks across the Dinaric Alps, but bombardment of the road left UNPROFOR chiefs with no option but to order a temporary halt to traffic.

As a result, trucks have had to revert to using the northern Alpine route, Triangle, and the southern route, Square.

SOLDIER joined a convoy of 17 Squadron's DROPS vehicles carrying stores for



Despite the dangers of moving stores on the bumpy road to Gornji Vakuf, LCpl "Spend" Spencer remains cheerful



Smoke pours from the engine compartment of DROPS vehicle "Zero five". A broken coolant hose was hastily patched up by LCpl Tony Sharp of the REME



RCT personnel check a load shaken loose by the incessant pounding on tough mountain tracks

to keep their eyes on the vehicle in front as they choke on clouds of dust billowing from under the massive tyres of the DROPS vehicle.

Nothing prepares first-time passengers for the sheer physical pounding they receive as the vehicles bump their way up and down the route.

The convoy was led by a Land Rover carrying Lt "Red" Savage RCT, an accomplished, no-nonsense female troop commander responsible for

keeping the vehicles on the right route.

Even when expecting trouble, it still came as a shock to turn a corner and find one of the trucks stationary and shrouded in smoke.

Vehicle "Zero-five" with Dvr Kirk Walsh at the wheel had not been knocked out by incoming fire, but disabled by a snapped coolant hose.

**Words:**  
Laurie Manton  
**Pictures:**  
Terry Champion



A British convoy wends its way across the difficult terrain of an exposed mountain plateau on the way to Gornji Vakuf



Members of 17 Squadron RCT wearing combat body armour load their weapons before setting out

It is during moments like this that the truckies' ever-present REME support comes up trumps. Vehicle mechanic LCpl Tony Sharp took one look and in just a few minutes had cobbled together a temporary repair that got the truck back on the road and the convoy moving again.

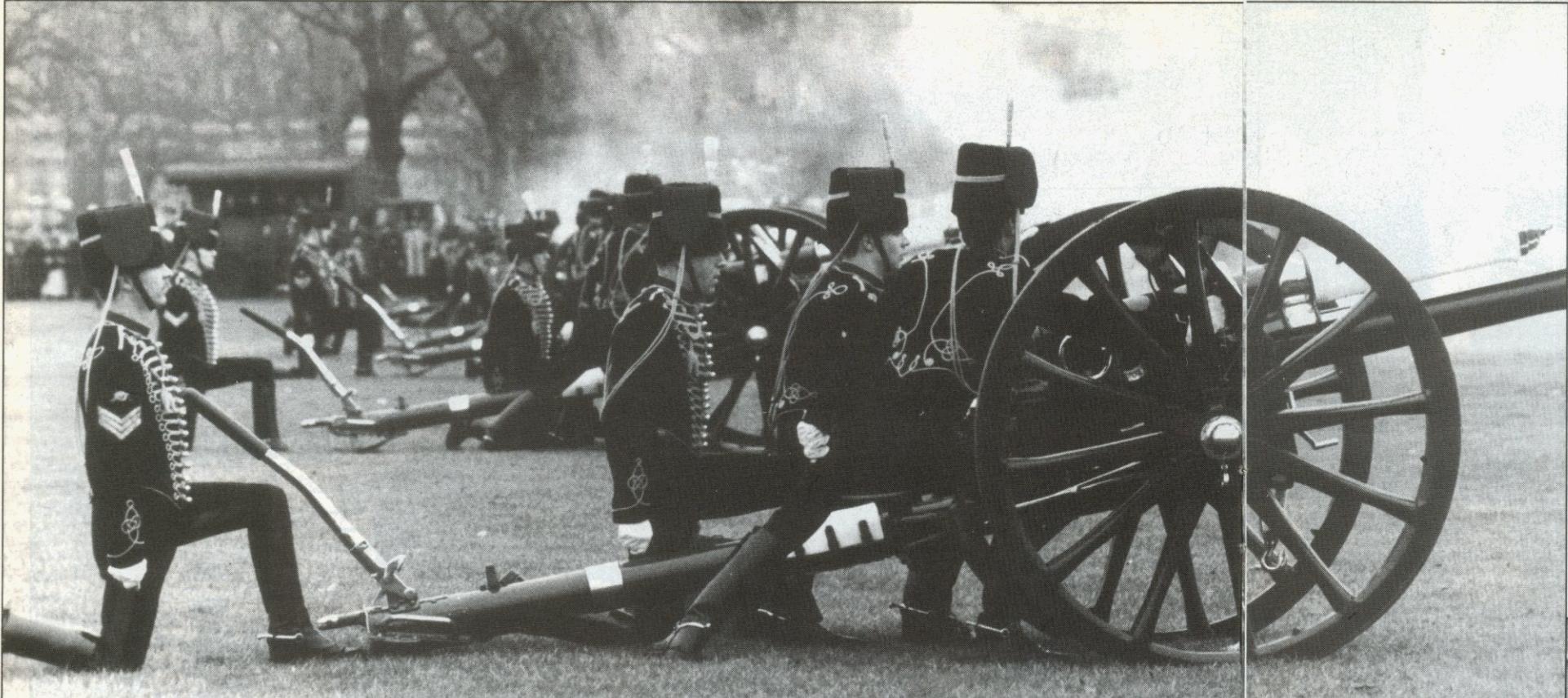
Pushing on towards Gornji Vakuf, the convoy passed through Prozor where a drunken local militia soldier stumbled out of a house, raised

their AK47 and fired a burst over the cab of one of the vehicles.

Last time a convoy passed through the far side of the village it was still home to a small community. Now the houses had been burnt to the ground and the occupants murdered. Washing still hung on lines in the gardens, a poignant reminder of lives recently shattered.

The situation worsened the next morning. Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton, who was visiting the base, departed in a Chobham armour-protected Warrior.

For the truckies of 17 Squadron RCT, it was just another journey.



Fired with enthusiasm: The King's Troop RHA fire a 41-gun royal salute in Hyde Park last year to mark the Queen's 40th anniversary

# Élite gunners mark 200 years

TO AN outsider, the most vivid image of the Royal Horse Artillery is probably the musical drive by the men, horses and gun-carriages of the ceremonial King's Troop.

But there is a lot more to the Horse Gunners, to use their universal nickname, than that, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

On February 1, this famous and exclusive "corps d'élite" celebrated 200 years of service to Queen and country.

According to Maj Bill Clarke RA, who has produced a book\* to commemorate the bicentenary, the creation of the first horse artillery troops at Woolwich in 1793 was a "radical innovation to the art of waging war in the 18th century."

Speaking at the launch of the book at the National Army Museum, he said at the time of their formation as a fast-moving, highly manoeuvrable and self-contained artillery arm the only comparable units existed in the continental

armies of France and Prussia.

Rules which governed service with the RHA laid down that every officer and man should be selected for service in the corps, from the Royal Artillery as a whole, by means of merit and efficiency only.

"With such a selective system, it was hardly surprising that the RHA should distinguish itself so brilliantly in battle during the early years of existence," said Maj Clarke, who has served for

more than 25 years in various RHA units.

The new troops of the RHA saw their first action during the Irish Rebellion in 1798, when four divisions – each division

consisting of two guns – fought at the battles of Ross and Vinegar Hill.

But it was in the Peninsular War, from Sir John Moore's Corunna campaign in 1808 until the defeat of the French in Vittoria in Spain in 1813, that the true value of horse artillery became apparent.

By the time of Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo in 1815, their reputation as a corps d'élite among British Army regiments had been established.

Wellington himself is said to have had nothing but the highest praise for the conduct and professionalism of the "new" corps.

Episodes of gallantry and heroism in the history of the regiment since Waterloo have covered innumerable colonial wars of the 19th century to the more recent actions of this century, including Nery in France, where the officers and men of L Battery RHA won three VCs "before breakfast".

Contemporary records, Maj Clarke said, gave the story of events surrounding the battle on the morning of September 1, 1914.

"L Battery, who were at this time part of the 1st Cavalry Brigade, were at bivouac with men dismounted and the gun teams immobilised, when the tranquillity of the morning cool was shattered by the attack of the whole of the German 4th Cavalry Division.

"Three German horse artillery batteries (12 guns) had been able to deploy undetected close by. They opened fire on the battery at a range of only 700 yards. The effect was

devastating. Within a few short minutes, most of the battery guns were destroyed or out of action. One gun, manned by Capt E K Bradbury RHA, the BSM and several others was kept in action for over an hour and so able to occupy the German gunners until the 1st Cavalry Brigade was able to organise a counter-attack.

"At the conclusion of the battle, only BSM G T Dorrell and Sgt D Nelson were left unwounded and serving the gun, Bradbury having been

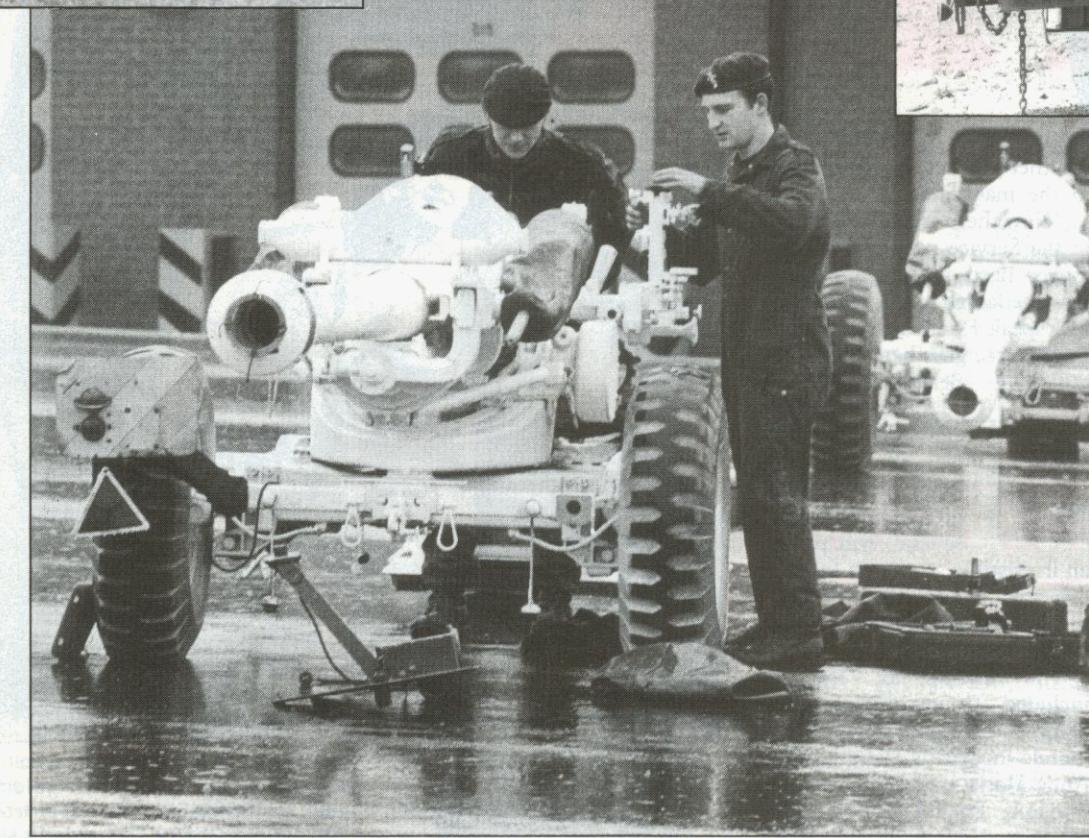
killed earlier whilst bringing up ammunition."

All three were awarded the Victoria Cross for their outstanding and gallant action during the battle – a tradition of bravery carried on by the RHA in the Second World War.

At Sidi Rezegh in the Western Desert in 1941, the by now mechanised J Battery RHA, equipped with the puny two-pounder anti-tank gun, took on the might of Rommel's Panzers – and won.

A young officer, 2nd Lt

Picture: Terry Champion



Ward Gunn of the 3rd RHA, was awarded a posthumous VC on that occasion.

Since the Second World War, officers and men of the RHA have served all over the world as part of an RHA regiment or battery, or as reinforcements to units involved in areas such as Korea, Cyprus, Aden, Northern Ireland and the Gulf.

These days, apart from the popular ceremonial saluting battery, the King's Troop, named by King George VI in

1947 as a special mark of favour, there are three active RHA regiments, each equipped with the latest artillery.

"The King's Troop is a marvellous anachronism in today's modern Army," said Maj Clarke. "They serve to remind us of the splendour and professionalism of the RHA at its best."

In August, to mark the bicentenary, the RHA will hold a parade at Woolwich where the Queen, as Captain General of the regiment, will review all her Horse Gunners, past and present.

With a history as rich as the RHA's, it promises to be yet another memorable milestone along the way.

\* **Horse Gunners**, with a foreword by Gen Sir John Learmont, a lineal history of all the RHA formations which have existed since 1793 and a total of over 90 photographs – some never previously published – will be reviewed in a forthcoming issue of **SOLDIER**.



Fortuno Matania's picture of the action of L Battery RHA at Nery, September 1914



Two-pounder anti-tank gun of the 3rd RHA in action during the Crusader battles at Sidi Rezegh, November 1941

Picture: Illustrated London News

# LOVE AND WAR



# LOVE AND WAR

SIX PARAGRAPHS in the June 10, 1991, edition of *SOLDIER* led to a quiet and unassuming Yorkshire grandmother taking her place among a host of national celebrities in London last month.

Cherry Richards, who had been the magazine's first back-page pin-up in 1945, was tracked down by a national newspaper to her Doncaster home just days after we published the Imperial War Museum's appeal to trace her.

As the museum's Forces Sweethearts exhibition was launched to coincide with St Valentine's Day 1993, Cherry celebrated with a galaxy of stars led by Joanna Lumley.

The exhibition, and Joanna's accompanying book of the same title, tell the story of wartime romance from the First World War to the Gulf.

Cherry, gracing the back cover of *SOLDIER* at the age of 20, is a key figure in both the exhibition and the book.

Joanna, daughter of an Army officer and herself a "Forces Sweetheart" in the Falklands said: "In the very first chapter, on pin-ups, we have that picture of Cherry wearing a darling swimsuit made out of a vest because she had nothing else, due to rationing.

"There is also the 1966

**Words:**  
Chris Horrocks  
**Pictures:**  
Mike Weston

debate in *SOLDIER* on whether pin-ups should remain in the magazine.

"Now there are more women in the Service perhaps men no longer need pin-ups. Perhaps they are fading away – although as I speak I notice three lovely Page Three girls here today, so perhaps not!"

A later photocall proved what we all probably knew, that a leggy girl (or in this case, several) will prove an irresistible attraction for the cameras – and that Forces' pin-ups are certainly not fading away.

The line-up of lovelies included Donna Ewin, who boosted 30 Signal Regiment's morale in Croatia last autumn; Anna-Maria Kalebic, Miss 3 RHA; Rachel Garley, who as Miss Viking visited 1 R Anglian on operations; and "Starlight Express" singer-dancer Lyndi Oliver, who has been dubbed the modern Forces Sweetheart as a result of the many concerts she has given for Servicemen in the Falklands, Belize, the Gulf and other theatres.

Original Forces Sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn, whose pencilled wartime diary is on show at the museum, was unable to join the launch festivities because of another commitment.

Among items to intrigue the reader and visitor are the 6,000



Actress Joanna Lumley, who has written *Forces Sweethearts*, a companion volume to the exhibition, with the *SOLDIER* back cover from 1945 showing the 20-year-old Cherry Richards. Inset: Cherry today

letters exchanged between Bill and Helen Cook during the Second World War which earned them a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Canon and Mrs Cook joined the star-studded launch gathering, along with Jack and May Gearing, aged 98 and 99 respectively and married for more than 75 years. He is a Gallipoli veteran who also took part in the D-Day landings; she, a First World War munitions worker, took along

the faded wedding dresses she wore in November 1917.

And just to prove by their very presence that the art of romantic letter-writing is alive and well were LCpl Douglas Potter, serving with 28 Engineer Regiment Workshop REME, at Hameln, his wife Claire and their five-month-old daughter, Charlotte.

In 1990 the then Claire Abbott sent a Christmas card to an "unknown soldier" in the Gulf. Douglas, serving with 10



Lt Bill Holford, of the Colchester-based 3rd Royal Horse Artillery, clearly approves as Miss 3 RHA, Anna-Maria Kalebic, tries a new fashion



The Forces Sweethearts HQ Combitfa OP Grappie BFPD 544



Singer and dancer Lyndi Oliver, who is appearing in *Starlight Express* at the Apollo Victoria, with her own contribution to the *Forces Sweethearts* exhibition, including desert kit she wore when she visited the Gulf on a Forces show tour in 1991

Here's lookin' at you, Bluey! Sig Hoss Cartwright, of Blandford-based 30 Signal Regiment, gets to grips with a massive airletter as regimental pin-ups join their Army fan club in the back row at the launch of the Imperial War Museum's Forces Sweethearts exhibition. Rear, left to right: Anna-Maria Kalebic, Miss 3 RHA; Lt Bill Holford, 3 RHA; Lt Spencer Mannings, 30 Sig Regt, with Donna Ewin, who visited the unit in Croatia last autumn; Gnr Andy Winfield, 3 RHA; Sgt Ralph Grey, of Colchester-based 1 R Anglian, with former Miss Viking, Rachel Garley

## CHERRY: PICK OF THE BUNCH

CHERRY RICHARDS, billed at the Forces Sweethearts exhibition as "the Army's first official pin-up", appeared on the back cover of *SOLDIER* on August 18 1945, five months after the magazine was launched on captured presses in Germany.

The pin-up obviously reflected the common soldier's longing to get the war over and return home, writes Bill Stroud. The girls who were featured subsequently were mainly from publicity stills of the major film companies. Cherry's photo, submitted by a freelance photographer, was an exception.

Twenty years on, the times had changed. The decorous starlet in a tasteful pose seemed

outdated and the magazine phased out the back-page pin-up in 1965-66.

There was an outcry in the national press and *SOLDIER* received its own share of letters.

Comments ranged from "Your cancellation of pin-ups is about as far-seeing as the reduction in the TA" (from a disgruntled serving soldier) to "Congratulations on getting rid of the pin-ups . . . they were rather boring. What about pin-ups of generals?" (from a female reader).

*SOLDIER NEWS*, a companion newspaper to the magazine until 1981, included more explicit, though far from pornographic, full-page colour pin-ups hidden away inside.

# Hong Kong says thanks a million for Trailwalker

HIGHLIGHT of the Queen's Gurkha Signals' calendar is the annual Trailwalker in the New Territories, a rugged charity walk or run of 100km over two days.

Most walk, the military run and the Gurkhas win. The Queen's Gurkha Signals, which holds the record of 13 hours, 21 minutes and 15 seconds, normally vie with The Queen's Gurkha Engineers for top honours, but last year the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles won and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales amazed everyone except themselves by coming third.

"It is the equivalent of doing two-and-a-half marathons and climbing the height of Mount

**Words: Gordon Skilling**  
**Pictures: Mike Perring**

Everest in 48 hours," said Maj Jeremy Ellis, 2iC QG Signals, who started the event as the Gurkha Signal Squadron in 1980.

Trailwalker raised 80,000 Hong Kong dollars then and caught the imagination of the community, snowballing until last year 634 teams took part, aiming for a staggering 8.8 million Hong Kong dollars.

So many teams take part that there are two starts, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Of the teams, 75 were entered by Service units and the excellent organisation by QG Signals gives the

military a high profile during the event.

Money raised is split between Oxfam Hong Kong, local charities, and the Gurkha Welfare Scheme in Nepal, where it is used exclusively for building and improving schools. Currently there are 113 projects under way, and it was particularly satisfying for Lt Col Tom Richardson, CO QG Signals, to open a school for 50 blind boys and girls in the west of Nepal.

"In some ways Trailwalker is similar to the Cyprus Walkabout, which I have also done," said Maj Ellis.

Nine checkpoints are manned by the QG Signals. Water and RAMC medical assistance is available at four minor points, and they provide soup and tea at five major stations, where back-up teams can also cook meals.

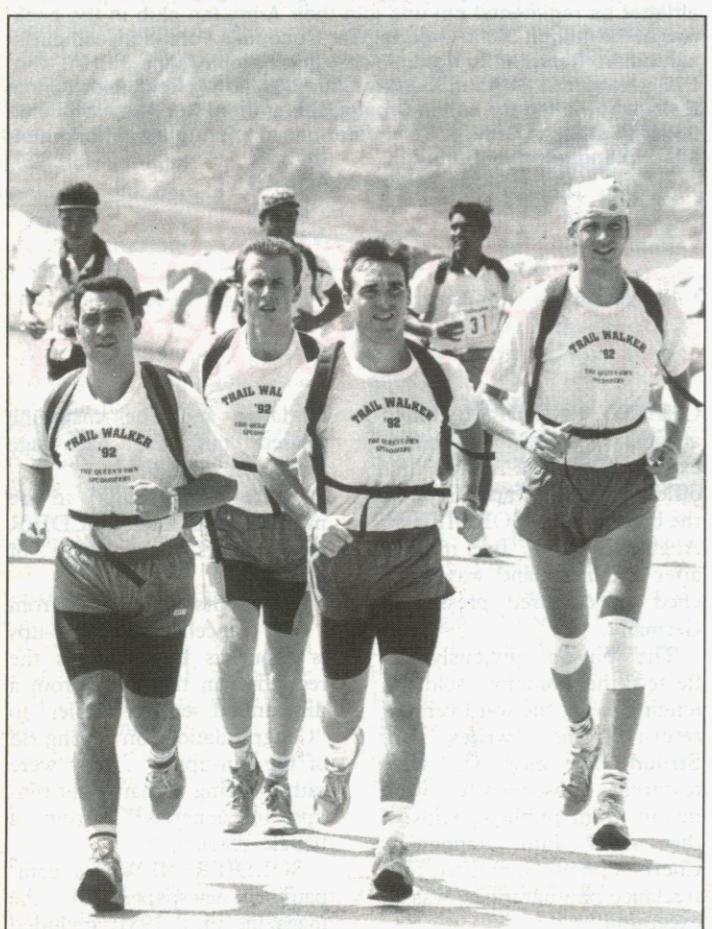
Lt Iain Stirling Stainsty of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers had high hopes of beating the record with the QGE team, especially as they were 20 minutes in front of 10 GR going through checkpoint five. But disaster struck when their strongest runner, Padam Bahadur Thapa, had to be taken to hospital with a stomach injury.

"Young Gurkhas are probably the fittest soldiers you will find," said Lt Stirling Stainsty. "In training my problem was slowing them down!"

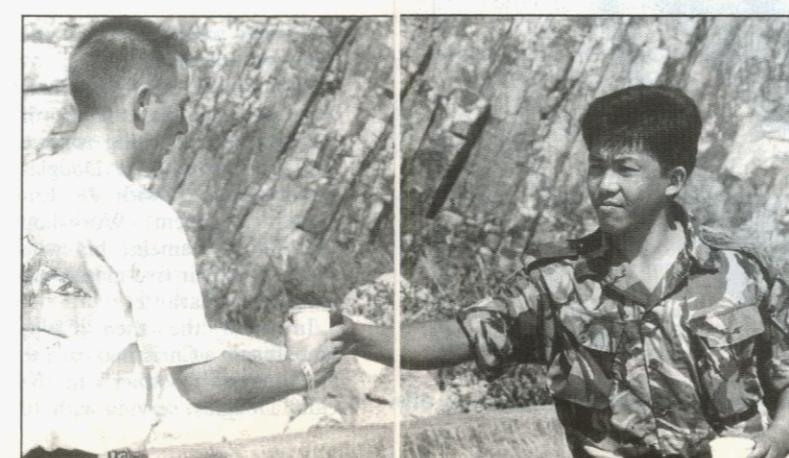
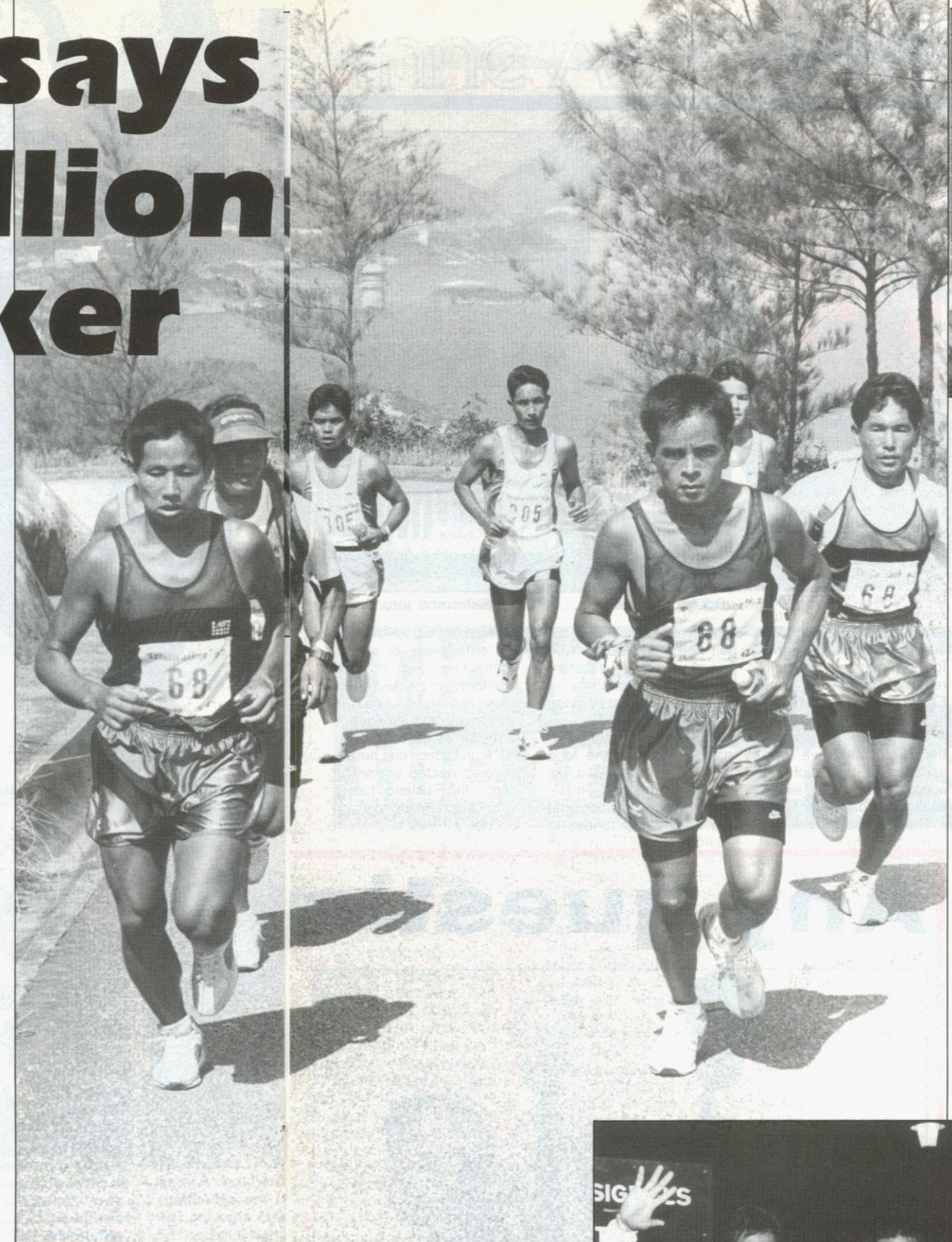
Tham Bahadur of the winning 10 GR team has not slowed down despite, at 31, being one of the oldest Gurkha runners. The last time his regiment won was in 1987.

WO2 Richard Molloy, a sprightly 33, was in the RRW team and felt that with a bit more training they could have made up the 14 minutes that separated them from the leaders.

"It is hard to train when you are working a 17-hour-day," he said. "It is a challenge, but I think we could knock the Gurkhas off their perch."



As good on foot as on wheels: the Spudoofers of the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment step out: Capt Tony Tuncan, Lt Charles Moores, Capt Mark Shepherd and Capt Dominic Morgan



Above - The winning 10 GR team: Tika Prasad Gurung, Tham Bahadur Limbo, Saraj Grung and Dal Bahadur Limbu  
Left - Dvr Rabindra Rai dispenses water at the first checkpoint



At the QG Signals regimental command post WO2 Santa Pun keeps track of the runners as computers log their progress by recording their bar codes



Above - As one of the organisers of Trailwalker, Capt Peter Taylor had to know the route. Education officer for QGS and QOGTS, he has a hectic time doing two jobs but finds teaching Gurkhas English very satisfying

Left - Gurkhas of 10 GR set a fast pace at the start of Trailwalker

# Personally speaking

## FAW on a mission of mercy to Zagreb

THE OVERWHELMING response to an appeal by Federation of Army Wives (BAOR) chairman Judy Newell at the end of last year for warm clothing and toys for children in the former Yugoslavia meant that the first eight-ton batch – sent to UNICEF in Split in December – had to be followed swiftly by a second convoy.

And this time Judy, together with FAW (BAOR) administrative secretary Caroline Kempster and a four-man team, found themselves right on the spot, **writes team photographer Ben Newell**.

The second batch of aid consisted of just under four tons of clothing and toys and one ton of baby milk purchased from Humana, Herford, who also contributed some extra baby milk.

Payment for the milk was made possible by donations from units, including The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

At 0900 on Monday, February 8 the team, complete with lorry loaned to the Federation by Cars 4 Rent Budget and a Transit van from The Cheshire Regiment PRI, left Ripon Barracks in Bielefeld for Zagreb.

A friendly taxi driver was recruited to show them the way to UNICEF headquarters, where, after a briefing, plans changed slightly.

Initially, Judy and her colleagues were to leave the distribution of aid to UNICEF but it was suggested that they might prefer to deliver the aid themselves.

Next morning, the team ended up in Daruvar, 143km east of Zagreb in west Slovenia, the northernmost part of troubled Kriens.

The surrounding villages were predominantly Ser-

bian and, during the war, the Serbs were either killed or fled to refugee camps.

Arriving at the medical mission in Daruvar, the team was met by the co-ordinator for the surrounding area, Dr Vesna Glumbic. With help from her nurses, the dentist and eager volunteers, the vehicle was quickly unloaded.

The FAW team then called on the local UN headquarters in Daruvar, manned by 4 Armoured Field Ambulance from Minden, and later drove to the village of Djvlovac, one of the many abandoned Serbian villages in the hills surrounding Daruvar.

On our visits to units in the Bulford area, we were appalled at some of the accommodation, for single soldiers in particular."

The report says that UK



Rough and ready ... to be transformed into the RBL Tidworth Training Centre, Phase Two



Frank Bone (standing) instructs pupils on the computer literacy and information technology course

Picture: Mike Weston

## State of single quarters 'parlous'

MEMBERS of the Defence Select Committee were "appalled" at some soldiers' accommodation in the United Kingdom, according to their report published on February 9.

The authors expressed concern that, while very substantial funds were allocated in 1991 for new building and refurbishment related to the new force structure, no comparable sum was made available for the maintenance and repair of the existing Army Estate, "which seems to be in a pretty parlous state".

"Expenditure on maintenance, which in the long run saves money, is a low Treasury priority. It is particularly frustrating that the Army is not funded to

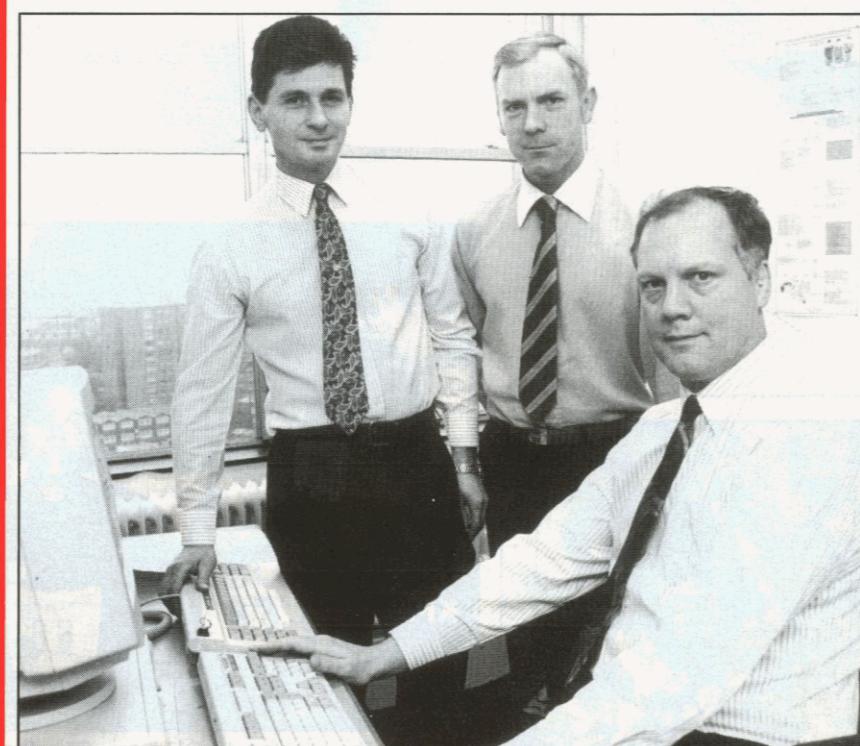
Army married quarters are felt by all those with experience to be substantially worse than those in Germany, as are many single quarters.

"A unit which can build a covered heated swimming pool in the Falklands has to suffer from leaking roofs on Salisbury Plain."

maintain its estate through the orderly use of civilian contractors; yet is also prohibited from using its own enormous pool of equipment and experience to build for itself.

"A unit which can build a covered heated swimming pool in the Falklands has to suffer from leaking roofs on Salisbury Plain."

## Any questions?



Ready for action are (left to right) CSgt Alec Bell, Black Watch, Sgt Andy Smith PWRR and WO2 Pete Higgins KRH who, together with Executive Officer Rod Jones, make up the Central Action Support Team based at Empress State Building, London.

Established just over a year ago, they fielded an estimated 1,200 enquiries during Phase 1 of Options for Change and are currently experiencing a "lull before the storm" of anticipated calls when Phase 2 gets under way.

Queries dealt with by the team – who also handle any particularly difficult problems encountered by the outlying Action Support Teams – cover anything from special capital payments to unemployment benefits.

PREPARATION for potential jobs in civvy street is in full swing at the Royal British Legion's Joint Service Resettlement Training Centre project at Tidworth Garrison in Wiltshire **writes Phil Wilcox**.

Initiated in September last year, the heavily subscribed MoD-sponsored training courses are at present being held in leased premises on the first floor of one of the blocks within the garrison.

But all that is due to change next year when the Phase Two permanent accommodation – a purpose-built 50,000 sq ft training centre – opens on a site, purchased by the Legion, currently being cleared in another part of the camp.

The £4.6m project has been partly funded by a European Community grant and, says the Legion, is being looked on as a pilot scheme for the rest of Europe in the drawdown of armed forces.

A campaign to raise the remaining £3.5m needed to meet the costs of the project has been aimed initially at Service units.

There is also a two-week small business development course.

ance Battalion, Bicester, started the ball rolling with a donation of £400, presented by their commanding officer, Lt Col Mike Wilcox, at Tidworth on February 10.

Current training at the centre differs from resettlement training offered by the MoD.

Not only is it additionally funded by Wiltshire Training and Enterprise Council, but spouses are included on the courses.

"We have recognised that their financial contribution to the family budget is often essential," the Legion says.

An on-site crèche, besides providing a service to mothers attending courses, should prove an invaluable asset, since care of the children in the nursery will form part of childcare courses.

"All our courses are geared towards helping ex-Service personnel transfer their skills into a commercial and technological environment," Frank Bone said. "Some of them give an opportunity to gain qualifications at the end."

"They are open to anyone in the country, regardless of rank or experience, though obviously priority is given to soldiers due for resettlement and their dependants. And where else could you get information technology

training for £85 a week?"

One of his students, a WO1 from a REME field workshop due to leave the Army shortly, agreed.

"I am finding the course invaluable," he said. "The first day was very intensive but if you take your time, a lot slots into place."

"And, since most job application forms these days ask what stage of computer literacy you have reached and which computers you have used, it will be of huge benefit."

He had already booked for a later course in the series, on stores and distribution.

Frank makes allowances for the different levels of experience and competence, the WO1 said.

And, apart from anything else, there cannot be many other places where one will find a private sitting at a desk on equal terms with a major general.

● Further information on the courses is obtainable through Education/Resettlement Officers or direct from Mrs Katherine Johnson at the Royal British Legion Training Company on 0980 43674 or Tidworth Mil 2331.

# Anne Armstrong

Home telephone: 0276 29653



● A big thank you from Anne for all the get-well cards, messages of support and flowers. Until she is able to take calls again, please ring 0252 347356 (Aldershot Mil 2356) if you require assistance



# Officer élite bought place in society

ALL regiments believe they are different from – not to mention better than – any other.

That's all part of regimental pride and rates high in today's Army. But in Wellington's day that pride could be bought for cash.

Top of the shopping list of bought commissions were the Guards. Young men, or their wealthy fathers, paid large sums to join this exclusive and unrivalled officer corps.

To be accepted as a Guards officer was a passport into an elite circle of military and social life.

Known to other Army units as the *Gentlemen's Sons* – title of a new book by Ian Fletcher and Ron Poulter – they paid fortunes to get in and needed huge amounts of cash to maintain the lifestyle demanded.

To buy the rank of lieutenant colonel cost £6,700, major £6,300, captain £3,500 and lieutenant £1,500, vast sums if calculated in today's currency values. Other regiments sold commissions considerably cheaper.

While rival units sniggered at them for their dress and behaviour, they were much envied for their place in high society. And it was there that the necessity for a fortune was most needed as they spent lavishly on women, gambling and London club life.

But while these well-connected young men may have looked and dressed like dandies – even taking their umbrellas into battle until stopped by Wellington, who considered them "unmilitary" – they won the Iron Duke's vote in an argument as to their discipline, bravery and smartness in battle. – JM

**Gentlemen's Sons** by Ian Fletcher and Ron Poulter. Spellmount, £25.

# LIFE GUARDS: A REGIMENT OF CHARACTER

THE LIFE GUARDS have provided mounted escorts for British monarchs since 1660, as well as regularly taking part in wars great and small.

In *Challengers and Chargers*, William Loyd, a retired Life Guards officer, has compiled a history of the regiment between 1945 and the amalgamation with The Blues and Royals in October 1992.

The Second World War caused The Life Guards' horses to be replaced by armoured cars but, largely through a gift of black mounts from Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, the regiments of the Household Cavalry were able to resume their peacetime ceremonial role as well as continuing that of armoured reconnaissance until 1969 when they were converted to tanks.

On active service The Life Guards were the last British troops to leave Palestine in 1948 after a thankless policing assignment, and Egypt in 1955.

They were the first to wear the United Nations blue beret (much to the Corporal Majors' disgust) in 1964, and were among the first to enter Iraq with their Challenger tanks in the Gulf War.

A recruiting poster of the Sixties encouraged the taking of the Queen's shilling by telling young men they could Ride, Drive and Fly with the Household Cavalry. "No men-

characters live on in regimental lore and William Loyd draws on all ranks for his

tion was made of being deployed on foot in the slums of East Belfast, yet that is what the regiment, in 1972, was required to do."

Like all good regimental histories, *Challengers and Chargers* includes many anecdotes, like the one about a post-war exercise in North Africa during which an officer decided to look for the armoured car he had been forced to abandon in battle some years before.

His driver, who doubted whether any officer could even locate the Mediterranean by using a map, let alone a dot in the desert, was quite impressed when they came across the car.

All regiments have their singular customs. One unique to the Warrant Officers' and Corporals' of Horse Mess of The Life Guards is brick-hanging.

"It originated in 1888 when the Foragemaster . . . one Joe Holland, threw a house-brick on to the forage barn roof before the Christmas break.

"Once the brick has been hung from the ceiling of the mess bar, normally about two days before Christmas, thereafter only essential duties are carried out throughout the barracks or camp until the brick comes down . . ."

We read that the Gulf War brought a series of short-notice changes of plan for the Regiment. First, the 7th Armoured was the only brigade warned and The Life Guards had to hand over their new Challenger Mark III tanks to The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.



Fd Marshal Lord Harding inspects The Life Guards at Windsor in 1958

Hardly had the 7th Armoured left than the decision was made to send another brigade, the 4th Armoured, and A Squadron were required to hand over their tanks to the 14th/20th Hussars. This was not the end of the matter for then they were told they were to provide a sabre squadron for the 14th/20th.

"And so yet another fleet of Challenger tanks had to be prepared! . . . Maj James Hewitt, A Squadron Leader, was Mentioned in Despatches in the subsequent Gulf Honours List, an honour that reflected not only his leadership, but also the professionalism and efficiency of his squadron." – BJ

Returning from the Gulf and

the "enemy without", The Life Guards found they were now faced with the "enemy from within" – Options for Change.

"In October they came home to Combermere for union with The Blues and Royals to form the Household Cavalry Regiment, a temporary arrangement one must hope." Surely a hope shared in other regiments that have undergone mergers.

This history will be appreciated not only by Life Guardsmen who have served since the end of the Second World War, but also by those who have thought the Household Cavalry to be something of a mystery – perhaps even a separate army. – BJ

**Challengers and Chargers: A History of the Life Guards 1945-92** by William Loyd, published by Leo Cooper Pen and Sword Books, hardback, £17.95.

## Reporter caught up in a Storm

REASSURED by his editor that he had life insurance cover for half a million pounds, *Daily Mail* reporter Richard Kay went to war with his typewriter, an NBC suit and a flak jacket.

As the *Mail's* royal correspondent he reported to RAF Brize Norton in December 1990 to fly with Prince Charles to Kuwait and cover HRH's morale-boosting visit to the British force waiting for the start of Operation Desert Storm.

A nice little jolly entailing visits to all three Services . . . but his blue skies suddenly turned black when as the Prince returned home, quickly followed by most of his Fleet Street pals, his editor asked if he would "mind awfully staying on a bit longer?"

Today's soldier knows that, if wounded, everything possible will be done to get him clear of the action for treatment and care in quick time.

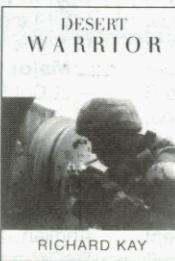
Different to the olden days when injured men were left where they fell and either finished off by the enemy or their own side. – JM

In no position to refuse, he saw Christmas and the New Year come and go and prepared himself for the stand-off to end and for Operation Desert Storm to begin.

From January 17 to mid-March 1991 he found himself

## DESERT WARRIOR

a unique portrayal of life at the front with the oldest regiment in the Army.



"a highly personal and extremely readable story, often funny, sometimes exciting..." *Daily Mail*

"what it lacks in analysis is compensated for by the perceptions of a newcomer. Kay's prose, while emotive, never gives way to sentimentality." *Daily Telegraph*

available from Waterstones, Dillons and good booksellers. Signed copies of Richard Kay's new book can be purchased direct from PENUMBRA BOOKS 21 Pandora Road London NW6 1TS £9.95

## REFERENCE AMBULANCES . . .

both definitions under the one heading of ambulance.

This book is history with a capital H as it reaches only 1925 and is more a reference book than a good read.

There are a number of interesting points throughout its 280 pages, some a bit gruesome, but in the main it tells the story of how a start was made to rescue and treat wounded soldiers from the battlefield and not abandon them to a "military Moloch".

We are also told that ambulance is, strictly speaking, an Army mobile hospital – something like the 4077 in the popular TV series *MASH*.

Either way, the Oxford English Dictionary agrees with

without intelligence, reason or compassion".

Today's soldier knows that, if wounded, everything possible will be done to get him clear of the action for treatment and care in quick time.

Different to the olden days when injured men were left where they fell and either finished off by the enemy or their own side. – JM

**Farmcarts to Fords** by John S. Haller, Jr. Southern Illinois University Press, \$32.5.

**Desert Warrior** by Richard Kay. Penumbra Books, £9.95.

# LETTERS

Write to:  
**SOLDIER,**  
Ordnance Road,  
Aldershot,  
Hants GU11 2DU.

## Crete medal fight lasted 25 years

I WAS MOST interested to read Col Newton's letter (February 8) about the failed campaign for a Suez Canal Emergency medal.

For more than 25 years on behalf of the Crete Veterans' Association I fought a similar battle with the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Army and RAF record offices and other Government departments for the Greek War Medal which the Greek Government had wished to award to British and Allied ex-Servicemen since the end of the Second World War.

The Australian and New Zealand Governments approved the award for their ex-Servicemen but the British Government would not permit the Greeks to award the medal to United Kingdom forces.

Our association continually pressed our claim, especially on behalf of widows and next of kin. Eventually approval for the award to British ex-Servicemen was given and the medal is now being distributed to entitled personnel. — Brian H Hughes, The UK Crete Veterans' Association, Bicester, Oxon.

## Don't give up now...

AT THE risk of being carpeted I must take issue with Col Newton's letter.

Fd Marshal Lord Bramall's statement that the Government is not aware of the "original political rationale" is hard to understand.

If it wanted to ascertain the reasons behind the strategy and thinking, there are politicians and Foreign Office officials

## Reuters' debt of gratitude

PLEASE pass on heartfelt thanks from Reuters editorial staff to all British Army personnel who rendered invaluable assistance to our correspondent Hugh Pain and photographer Corinne Dufka, injured in a landmine explosion in Bosnia on January 25.

Hugh and Corinne returned safely to London. They were driven from the British Army hospital in Vitez to Sarajevo, then flown in an outgoing RAF relief flight to Zagreb, where they were put on an air ambulance to Britain. We are

around today who actually took part in the decision-making at the time and I am sure they would be glad to participate in any debate.

There are also historians, professors of international relations, soldier-scholars like Col Newton, various papers, reports and appraisals in FO and MoD files and, of course, Hansard. They could all contribute to "setting the scene".

Even if it were to be established that the cause was unpopular with the nation — the posting certainly was with the Army — would that be more justification for giving a medal to those who took part? Soldiers did their jobs in trying circumstances and that is surely what should count.

The comment "so long after the event" is ironic. After procrastinating for years the Government and MoD now say the issue is time-barred.

Yet this very Cabinet made

hugely relieved to have them back, bruised but in excellent spirits.

Hugh and Corinne are among our most experienced journalists covering the Balkans conflict. They both speak in glowing terms of the medical treatment they received at Vitez and join me in saying we owe the men and women of the British Army in Bosnia a huge debt of gratitude for taking care of them in their hour of need. — Anthony Winning, News Editor, Europe, Reuters

strenuous efforts to try to bring to book geriatrics for alleged war crimes which happened more than 50 years ago. The Suez Emergency (1951-3) occurred more recently. There is an old saying, "Where there's a will, there's a way!"

Finally, a word on giving up. I do not see how we can. Where a principle is involved the fight only stops when the wrong has been righted. — C L Golder, Bolton, Lancs.

## Evasion pays off

ON THE subject of the lack of a Suez Medal, for years we have been asking why and never received a proper answer.

Now it looks as if the Government's and MoD's evasive tactics have paid off.

I hope there are others like me who will not give up — L V Oliver, Colchester, Essex.

## WHAT A LOAD OF BULL!

GEN HOBART would turn in his grave if he was able to read "Paderborn farewell to Buffalo Brigade" (SOLDIER, February 8).

The "Taurus Pursuant" sign of the Second World War 11th Armd Div was authorised by Gen Hobart when he was the GOC.

It is recorded that he was insistent that the charging bull was complete in all its

anatomical detail and was not emasculated by coy embroideresses.

The same sign was re-adopted by 33 Armd Bde in, I believe, 1982 and clearly depicts a charging bull.

Buffaloes, being alien beasts, have nothing to do with it. — W M W Jackson, Erskine Barracks, Wilton.

● Quite right! Our correspondent is suitably cowed... — Editor

## Women and arms drill

IN YOUR January 25 issue you stated that "women cadets carrying weapons created military history when they took part in arms drills on parade."

In 1988-89 passout parades at the Royal Military Police Training Centre, Chichester, women RMPs took part in arms drill on parade. There were photographs in your magazine to prove it.

Perhaps you would like to put the record straight. After all, the motto of the RMP is *Exemplum Duceamus — We Lead by Example*. — J V Buckland, Fishbourne, W Sussex.

● In self-defence, the story, under the headline "History made at Sandhurst parade", was referring specifically to women cadets bearing arms for the first time on parade at the Royal Military Academy. — Editor

## 16th Foot: The facts

WHILE Richard Doherty may well be correct about the Salamanca and Barrosa Eagles (Letters, January 25) I find it perturbing that incorrect information is published about any regiment.

In 1812 the 16th was returning from Surinam, having taken part in the capture in 1804 and stayed for eight years.

The 16th took no part in Spain or France in Napoleon's time, so earning the nickname "The Peacemakers".

According to Brig Peters' excellent book on the 16th (originally 14th) this distinguished regiment lost 25 officers and 500 men through illness in the eight years of duty.

Mr Doherty is incorrect on one point. The 16th also recruited in Ireland, from where 50 per cent of the regimental strength often derived. This may be why Bedfordshire has a strong Irish community.

While the Bedfordshire and Essex regiments were not "glamorous" they had a fine record, especially on extended tours in difficult circumstances.

They deserve to have been left alone. — R Smith, Lennoxtown, Strathclyde.

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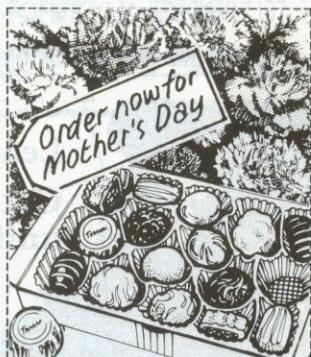
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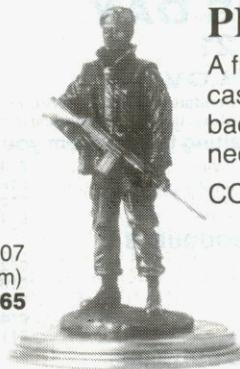
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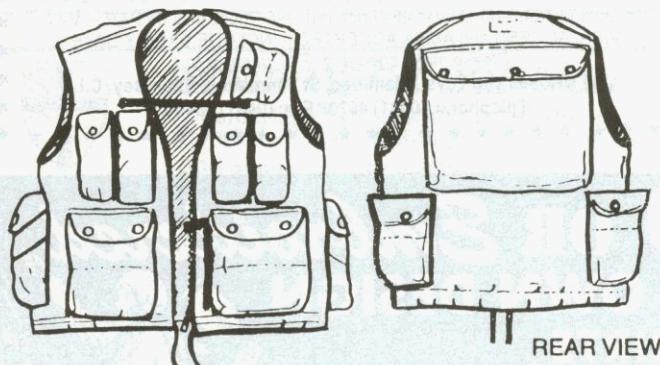
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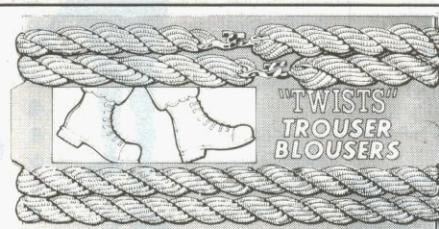
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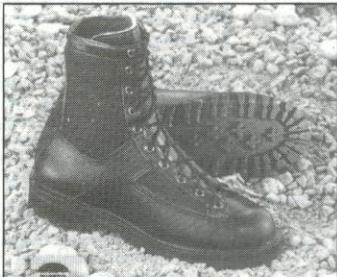
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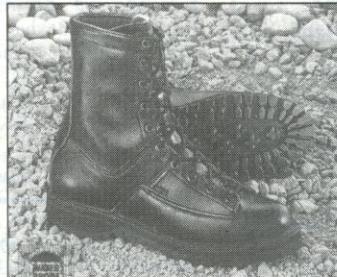
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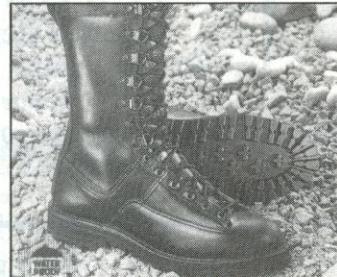
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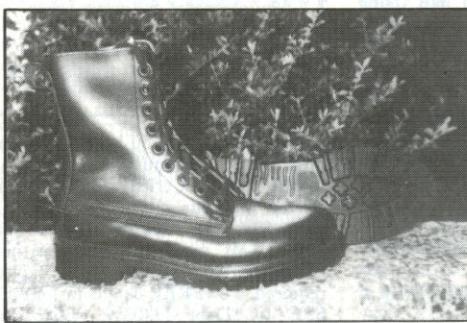
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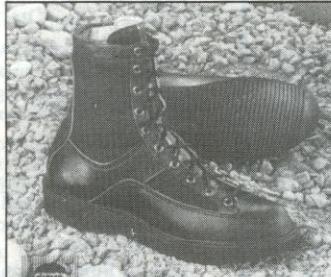
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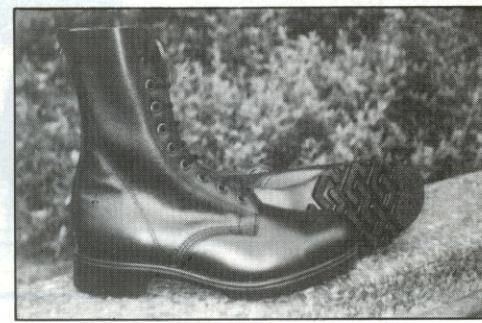
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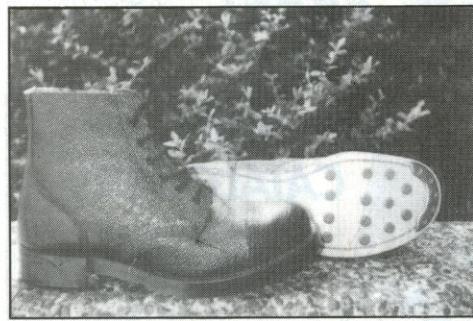
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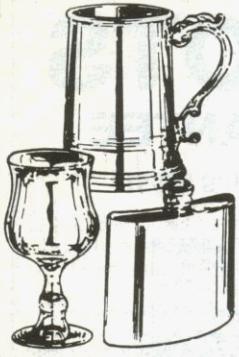
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# Anyone's match at Twickers

THIS YEAR's Army-Royal Navy rugby match at Twickenham on Saturday March 13 looks like attracting a record crowd to beat the 10,000 or so who watched last year when the Army won by 16 points to nine, writes Desmond Leach.

Traditionally the Navy supporters have always outnumbered the Army but recently there has been more interest among Army enthusiasts.

For years, Royal Navy coaches from all over the UK have occupied the West car park and organised lunch parties for their supporters. Now the sponsors, AFFAS, have introduced a competition for the most enterprising mess in the car parks. RAOC Blackdown, who won last year, beating RMA Sandhurst, the 1991 winners, are hoping to retain the silver salver.

On the field, both teams have had mixed success during the run up, with the Navy beating both Cambridge and Oxford Universities and the Army winning at Oxford but losing to Cambridge. The Army may be able to call on two current internationals, Capt Rob Wainwright RAMC of Scotland and Lt Tim Rodber, Green Howards, of England if they are fit and not on international duty that day.

This year is the 77th meeting of the two teams. The Army has won the last five games and will be all out to equal the record of six in a row only once achieved by them from 1932-1937.

The RFU has organised an interesting curtain raiser between the Combined Services and the England Students Under-21 team. It kicks off at 12.30 hours. Tickets are available from the Secretary, Army Rugby Union, (ASCB), Clayton Barracks, Aldershot or at the gate.

The 1992 championship ended in a three-way tie. The RAF and their matches are being played at Twickenham on Wednesday March 24 against the Army and Wednesday March 31 against the Navy.



Picture: Mike Perring

Cpl David Williams of 1 RRW starts an attacking movement for the Army against Hampshire at the Military Stadium, Aldershot. To the left is Bdr Jim Fowers (7 RHA), and behind the Hampshire forwards is 2nd Lt Dave Dahinten, also of 7 RHA. Hampshire won by 18 points to three

# Gannon fodder!

## Boxers win tenth title for coach

A UNIQUE naval tribute marked coach WO2 (QMSI) Mick Gannon's last night of Inter-Service team boxing - and the Army's tenth consecutive title - in a packed and appreciative HMS Nelson gym on February 19, writes John Elliott.

After Royal Navy coach Tony Bevil had seen his team well beaten by seven bouts to three he paid generous tribute to his rival, calling Gannon into the ring to present him with an engraved silver salver.

The Army coach, whose well disciplined, highly motivated, fit and technically excellent boxing squads have been the hallmark of his stewardship, leaves the Army in July.

A capacity crowd at Portsmouth - the start was delayed for 30 minutes to get everyone in - was curiously subdued as bout after bout followed a predictable pattern.

A never-say-die spirit was often all the Navy boxers had to offer against an Army team which ultimately won almost as comfortably as it had done against the Royal Air Force.

Pick of the bill was a superb contest between former ABA finalist Royal Marine Trevor French and LCpl Chris Whittaker of 38 Engr Regt.

Although French's aggres-



WO2 Mick Gannon

sion earned him a unanimous points decision, the sapper's accurate counter-punching ensured it was a close and absorbing battle.

And like every other contest on the night, it was fought cleanly and bravely.

**Flyweight** - Fus Dale Duncan (1 RRF) beat AB Lenny Woodcock, pts u; **bantam** - Fus Danny Greenslade beat WEM John Paul Eccles, ffc 1; **feather** - Pte Bob Basford (1 Staffords); **light** - LCpl Vinny Powell (59 Ind Cdo RE) beat Mne Andy Calpin, rsc 1; **light-welter** - Spr Jhaptal Singh Bhujel (QGE) beat Mne Brian Horner, pts u; **welter** - LCpl Chris Whittaker (38 Engr Regt) lost to Mne Trevor French, pts u; **light-middle** - Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RCT) beat Mne I Thompson, pts u; **middle** - LCpl Lee Innes (1/3 Trgs Regt RE) beat LWTR Ian Cummings, pts u; **light-heavy** - LCpl Jeff Ollerhead (1 Kings) beat AB Nick Mabbott, retd, 2; **heavy** - LBdr Vinny Jones (32 Hvy Regt RA) lost to Cpl Steve Fulthorpe, pts u.

**Special light-welterweight** - Pte Sam Boreham (PWRR) beat Mne Andy Screen, pts u.

The UKLF Minor Units Boxing championship was won by 9 (Para) Sqn RE, who beat 216 (Para) Signal Sqn, also

from Aldershot, by seven bouts to nil in a fiercely contested final. A number of contestants looked capable of challenging for places in the Army squad.

It was 216 Sqn's second consecutive final. Last year they lost to 59 Ind Cdo Sqn RA. The Major Units final between 2 PWRR and 1 Kings takes place on March 5.

• Army boxing is mourning the death in January of WO1 (RSM) Barry Routledge RTR, for many years a devoted servant of the sport. He was 55.

In recent years he had done much to raise the standard of Army officiating, now held in high regard at national level.

A sum of £265 had been collected towards a presentation for Barry to have been made at the ABA dinner in Aldershot on February 19. With the permission of his widow, this money is now being put towards the cost of a guide dog for the blind, to be named Cyclops after Barry's own dog.

Collections at several boxing events, including the UKLF Major Units final on March 5, will be taken to make up the £2,500 needed to train a guide dog.

Barry Routledge was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours.

# Ladies deliver ARA centenary win

THE ARMY won the women's Inter-Services smallbore rifle championship at Uxbridge for the first time since 1947.

Top Army individual was Sgt Sally McNeill, and the team was led for the first time by Capt Charlotte Tipper.

Sgt Fiona Smith, at 18 the youngest competitor, was outstanding for the Army, scoring

183 after just a month of shooting.

SSgt Helen Telford the last to shoot, started with a six-point advantage and increased it by one as the Army finished on 1,885 points to the Royal Air Force's 1,878 and the Royal Navy's 1,868.

Also in the ten-woman team were SSgt Michelle Roberts,

the squad should contact Capt Tipper at ACIO Exeter.

• Yorkshire Army Cadet Force (N and W) won the officers' team event and took third place in the sergeants' event at the TARA non-central target rifle competition fired on Strensall ranges, York, at National Rifle Association targets at 300 and 500 yards.

The victory got the Army Rifle Association's centenary year off to a splendid start. Novices interested in joining

# Marchwood gives RCT last word

MARCHWOOD-based 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RCT earned a footnote in the records of Army basketball as the last Royal Corps of Transport outfit to win the UKLF Major Units title. They are to be absorbed into the Royal Logistic Corps.

Having overcome a determined 17 Trg Regt RA and Depot in the semi-finals, they beat defending champions 39 Engr Regt by 77 points to 61 in a defence-dominated final at Fox Gym, ASPT.

The sappers had earlier beaten an operationally weakened Royal School of Artillery in the other semi-final.

Key to 17 Regt's victory lay in the rebounding strength of LCpl Jim Green and LCpl Glen Creffer. The teams were about equal in the fast break and outside shooting departments, with QMSI Chris Andrews (APTC), LCpl Paul Blake and Spr Dean Saunders for the sappers matching the scoring of SSI Frank Pask (APTC), Cpl Rod O'Reagan and LCpl Robbie Burt.

THE ARMY U-21 hockey team continued their build-up for the Inter-Services tournament with a match against Berkshire U-21s at Aldershot.

The young Army side weathered the initial storm, gained in confidence and began to dominate the midfield. Just before half-time, the soldiers had five short corners, none of which was converted.

But an error in the 57th minute by the Army defence resulted in a penalty flick for Berkshire from which they scored. Three minutes later Berkshire converted a short corner to lead 2-0. The home side fought back and forced an error in Berkshire's area from which Sig James converted the flick. From then until the final whistle, the Army continued to press but failed to equalise.

The Army U-21s have two more matches before the Inter-Services, which this year are being played at Aldershot over the period March 10-12, against London Indians and Sussex (March 7).

## U-21s turn corner

With the lead changing hands regularly, there was never much in it until the last five minutes. But unforced errors by the Waterbeach engineers were punished in the closing stages. Burt discovered his three-point shooting range to stretch a five-point lead to 12 and pick up the trophy for most outstanding player from Col John Houchin, Army Director of Naafi, sponsors of Army basketball.

Pask ensured the RCT team kept its composure as the sappers raised their tempo, and the men from Marchwood ran



Cpl Dave Hollyoak finds no way past Sgt (SI) Nick "Magic" Johnson of the ASPT in the Minor Units final. Also in the picture are Sgt Caz Staines (left) and SSgt Michael Revell, both ASPT

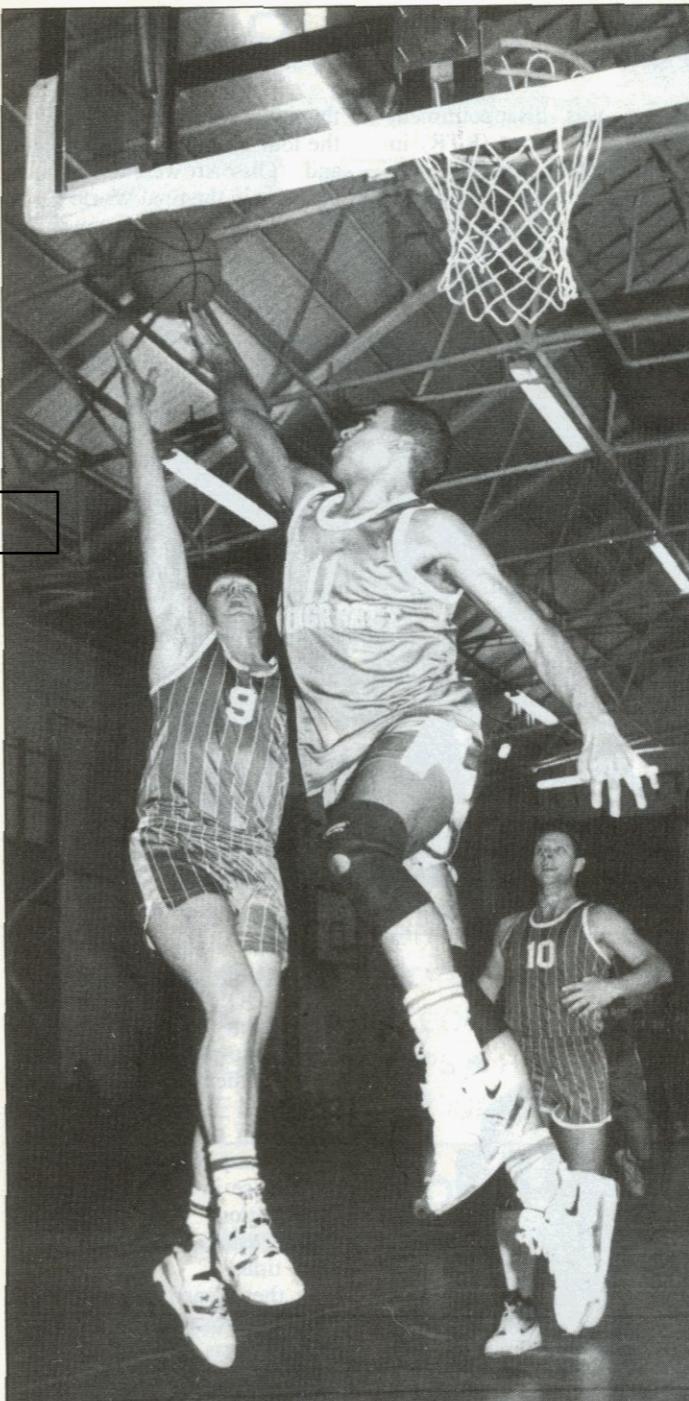
out winners by 77 points to 61.

Sgt (SI) Nick "Magic" Johnson led the Army School of Physical Training to victory over Depot and Trg Regt RCT in the Minor Units decider after a three-way play-off with ASMT Leconfield.

The bigger RCT side settled first to take an early 10-5 lead through Cpl Dave Hollyoak as RSM Roger Cass, QMSI Ray Wallen and WO2 Alan Treadwell controlled the rebounds.

But the quicker and fitter Aldershot PTIs fought back to take a 41-40 interval lead.

Johnson exerted his influence from the three-point zone and created fast-break opportunities which QMSI Bob Gildert and SSI Michael Revell exploited. The ASPT side extended their lead to ten points and eventually won by 80 points to 73 before receiving the trophy from their Commandant, Lt Col Tudor Quare.



LCpl Robbie Burt (9) of 17 Port and Maritime Regt RCT attacks the 39 Engr Regt basket during the Major Units final at the ASPT in Aldershot. LCpl Paul Blake (11) tips the ball away

# Army holds Manchester Dream Team

## Man Utd Youth 0, The Army 0

THE ARMY left Manchester with a scoreline most Premier League clubs would be happy to achieve - a goalless draw.

Known as "The Dream Team", the Manchester United youth side featured an Irish U-21 international central defender, some well-known names and several players who have subsequently signed four-year contracts with the Premier League pace-setters.

The match, played at The Cliff - Manchester United's training ground - followed a tour of the club's famous Old Trafford stadium and lunch in the executive suite.

On the way to Manchester, the Army squad stopped off at Lilleshall to be put through their paces at the Football Association's National Human Performance Centre.

Results compared well with professional teams which have completed identical tests, and each Army player was given individual advice on diet and programmes to improve aspects of fitness.

## Cornwall 0, The Army 0

An uncompromising goalless draw against Cornwall at Saltash has given the Army every chance of heading their South West Counties Championship group, writes Derrick Blay.

They take a two-goal advantage on goal difference over Cornwall into their final match against Wiltshire at Devizes on March 9. Should the Army keep that lead, their opponents in an "Inter-Services" South West final would be the Royal Navy, winners of their group.

## The Army 5, Sussex 0

Taking advantage of ideal conditions, the Army played some excellent football to destroy Sussex in the South West Counties Championship with a three-goal burst in a

nine-minute spell midway through the first half.

Cpl Dave Maynard, Cpl Shane Smith and Sgt Jim Strouts went close before Smith opened the scoring in the 21st minute following a great run by Sig Paul Brown.

Four minutes later Brown beat two defenders to lay on a second for Smith and soon afterwards Strouts headed home Dvr Dave Glenister's pass.

Six minutes into the second half Glenister scored the Army's fourth, and Pte Pete Batey added a fifth.

## Diadora League 0, Combined Services 2

Combined Services defeated a strong Diadora League XI 2-0 in an entertaining game watched by 500 spectators at the Aldershot Town ground.

After just four minutes striker Gdsm Neil Trebble (Gren Gds) laid the ball off for Bde Steve Bates (7 RHA) who drilled home a right foot shot from fully 30 yards.

The Services went two up when Batey's pass let in Neil Thwaites of the Royal Navy.

All the Combined Services players, including Sgt Alan Higgins (R Signals), Sgt Pete Brown (R Signals), Pte John Wills (Staffords), Sig Jim Strouts (R Signals), goalkeeper Cfn Mickey Taylor (REME), and substitutes Gnr Mark Mahoney (7 RHA), Cpl Tony Wright (REME) and SSgt Nigel Wiscombe, did their chances of selection for the forthcoming Kentish Cup games against the Dutch and Belgian Armed Forces no harm.

• Attention all veteran footballers! Capt Mick Goig (York Mil 8930 or 0908 83251) is looking for officers and men who have played a good standard of football (or are still playing) to join an Army-RAF side entered for the Over-35s tournament at the international soccer week being sponsored by Manchester United from July 28 to August 1.

# AAC bobs sweep to victory at La Plagne

A ONE-TWO-THREE finish swept the Army bobsleigh team to their fourth successive Inter-Services championship at La Plagne, France.

WO2 Pete Gunn and Sgt Al Carter (669 Sqn AAC) finished first, followed by WO2 Jeff

Schuneman (659 Sqn ACC) and Cpl Bob Talbot (RAMC) and WO2 Tony Shanahan (662 Sqn AAC) and Sgt Tony Boyd (APTC).

The Royal Air Force finished second and the Royal Navy third.

There was disappointment for Cpl Mark Tout (RTR) in the world championships at Igls when a leg injury prevented him from competing in the two-man competition. Cpl Sean Olsson (Para) was 13th.

Tout, still handicapped by

the injury, managed ninth in the four-man bob, and both he and Olsson were due to compete in the final World Cup races of the season at Lillehammer in Norway. Olsson did not compete in the four-man event at Igls.

## Clarke leads 1 ADTR charge

THE 1st Armoured Division Transport Regiment made a clean sweep of the four team events in the British Army Alpine ski championships at Serre Chevalier in the French Alps, writes George Attard-Manche.

Sponsored by Clerical and Medical Investment Group and with administrative backing from King's Ski Club, the 45th Army championships involved 112 individual qualifiers and 23 regimental teams competing over World Cup courses in very fast and difficult snow conditions.

As with previous championships, new skiing stars emerged and several promising talents consolidated their position. Dvr Sacha Zvegintzov and 2nd Lt Jamie Clarke, both 1 ADTR, certainly made their mark.

Zvegintzov, a Scottish international skier and competing in his first Army finals, showed brilliant form to win the Super G, downhill and slalom races, but could not beat for consistency Clarke, who took the Alpine combination champion title.

The established front-runners maintained their form, with excellent performances from Sgt Geordie Dryden (QOH), the runner-up in the giant slalom, the downhill and the Alpine combination, Capt Tim Lai (R Irish) second in the slalom and third in the downhill, and Sgt Geordie Crawford (4 ADSR) who was



The 1 ADTR team with Maj Gen John MacDonald (centre), Director General Transport and Movements



Army women's team at Serre Chevalier: From left are Lt Palmer, 2nd Lt Giles, Cpl Shenton and Capt Steel

prominent in all his races.

Other individual performances of note came from Tpr Stuart Skidmore (QOH) – at 18 the youngest qualifier and in only his second season as a skier – who won the top junior award and finished 12th in the final seeding list, and Cpl Chez Chesterton (LD) and Capt Richard Determeyer (LD) who

were awarded Army colours.

In the team events, 1 ADTR showed their superlative form in the first team race, the giant slalom with a 1st, 2nd and 5th place. The 1 ADTR quartet of 2nd Lt Clarke, Sgt Knight, Cpl Hutchinson and Dvr Zvegintzov went on to dominate the remaining team races, which they won with wide margins to

clinch the Army Alpine team combination champions title.

The QOH team skied their hearts out to record three runners-up places, with QRIH pipping them in the slalom. UK-based 2 Gren Gds improved on their placing in the 1992 championships, and with sixth place in the Alpine team combination won the best UKLF team and best Infantry team titles.

In the women's events, Cpl Judy Shenton showed a lot of dash but was let down by her finish. Lt Judy Palmer skied consistently well throughout to win the women's Alpine combination champion title.

### Individual results:

**Giant slalom:** – 1, Tpr A G Beech HCR; 2, Sgt I Dryden QOH. **Super G** – 1, Dvr S Zvegintzov 1 ADTR; 2, 2nd Lt J R Clarke 1 ADTR. **Downhill** – 1, Dvr S Zvegintzov 1 ADTR; 2, Sgt I Dryden QOH. **Slalom** – 1, Dvr S Zvegintzov 1 ADTR; 2, Capt T J Lai, R Irish.

**Alpine combination Army champion** – 2nd Lt J R Clarke 1 ADTR; runner-up, Sgt I Dryden QOH. **Alpine combination ladies' champion** – Lt J Palmer AWSST.

**Most promising RCT skier** – Dvr S Zvegintzov 1 ADTR. **Most promising R Signals** – Cpl Newman 4 ADSR. **Best RE individual** – Cpl S J Whitlock 28 Engr Regt. **Best RAC** – Sgt I Dryden QOH. **Best veteran** – Maj M S Perkin 1 Kings Own Border. **Best novice** – LCpl R K L Owen QDG. **Best junior** – Tpr S Skidmore QOH.

### Team results:

**Giant slalom** – 1, 1 ADTR; 2, QOH. **Super G** – 1, 1 ADTR; 2 QRIH. **Downhill** – 1, 1 ADTR; 2, QOH. **Slalom** – 1, 1 ADTR; 2, QOH.

**Best teams: Infantry** – 2 Gren Gds; **RE** – 28 Engr Regt; **RA** – 5 Regt RA; **RAC** – QOH.

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Capt Tim Lai, R Irish, attacks the course in the giant slalom race at the 45th British Army Alpine ski championships at Serre Chevalier in the French Alps. He finished 12th. Story in the sports pages.

Picture: Hendrick Pastor, Pinfo Berlin

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