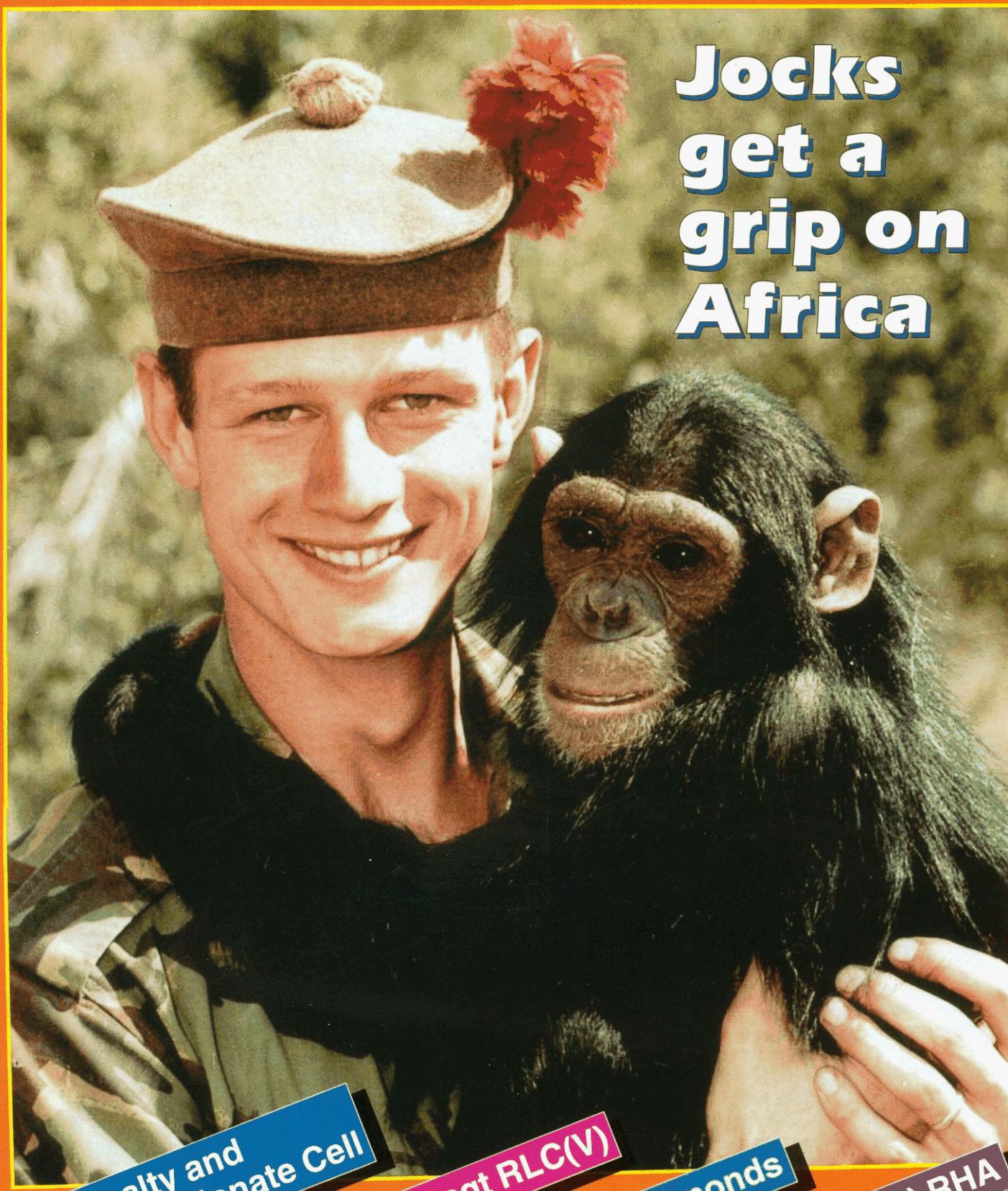


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FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

FEBRUARY 17 1997

80p



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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

February 17, 1997 Vol 53/4

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Picture: Mark Owens

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Above: Troops queue for a cuppa at a mobile Naafi canteen in Cairo in 1941; and (left) chief taster Steve Cooper passes judgement on a more recent blend in the tea factory at Amesbury in Wiltshire

Naafi goes back to basics



... but you can still buy the char

NAAFI's famous blend of tea – synonymous with the soldier's "char and wad" – is not threatened by the loss of the company's £400 million contract to supply food to the Armed Forces in the United Kingdom and Germany. In fact, the distinctive brew, which has sustained troops worldwide, might even become more widely available.

Blending will go on in the tea factory at Naafi's headquarters at Amesbury, Wilts, at least in the short term. A spokeswoman said that Naafi would be looking to sell licences for the special blend to other tea makers so that the product could become available in supermarket chains.

Reassurances have also been given on any impact the loss of the contract might have on welfare funding through the annual rebate. In the past five years Naafi has returned £17.8 million to the Service community through activities ranging from added discounts in its shops to creating better sporting facilities. The Naafi Council has stated its commitment to ensuring the knock-on effect is minimal.

Following the decision by the Ministry of Defence to award the food supply contract to Booker Foodservice Group,

Naafi is to focus on its traditional core business of shops, clubs, the Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) and naval canteen services. But, with the lost contract accounting for a quarter of Naafi's turnover, 2,000 jobs are to go at depots in Wiltshire and Nottinghamshire and at Kempen, Germany.

EFI canteens used by troops in operational areas such as Bosnia will remain unaffected by the switch to Booker.

Targets exceeded

In concentrating on clubs and convenience shops, Naafi will be looking to build on the progress it has made following conversions to outlets at Bicester, Blandford, Bovington, Hermitage and Catterick, where sales targets are said to have been dramatically exceeded.

The Silver Horse pub at Hazebrouck Barracks, Arbor-

field, an experimental joint venture with Scottish Courage Brewers, has been described as an outstanding success since it opened in December. Both shop and pub developments are part of a major restructuring of Naafi following an independent review.

Another strand is Naafi's financial services operation which will continue through the creation of a new company, Warrior Group plc, in partnership with banking institutions.

Booker is to take over on October 1 for a five-year period. The announcement by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames on January 28 said the contract covered the purchase, warehousing and distribution of food supplies for the Armed Forces in the UK and Germany, and the needs of ships, exercises and operations worldwide.

● Turn to Page 9

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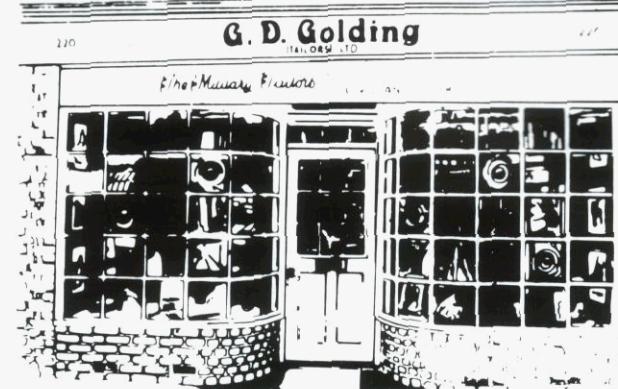
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NAPS 'not given' to French troops in war

A CLUE why French soldiers who served in the Gulf War do not appear to have suffered symptoms similar to those of other nations has been given by Defence Minister Earl Howe.

Lord Williams of Elvel asked

in the House of Lords on January 16 why symptoms of illness were appearing among Czech, Slovak, Danish, American and British soldiers but not, apparently, among French troops.

In reply, Defence Minister

Earl Howe said that the French "did not give their troops, as I understand it, any form of protective immunisation against either chemical or biological agents.

"Nerve agent pre-treatment

sets [NAPS] were not taken by the French troops.

"The French authorities have also advised that their troops did not use organophosphate pesticides or insecticides during the Gulf War."

Units told to search for Gulf War jab records

UNITS which served in the Gulf War have been told to dig out any nominal rolls used to record the names of troops who received inoculations in the desert.

There is evidence to suggest that many units deployed to Saudi Arabia used the rolls as a method of recording the information.

In the light of major parliamentary and public interest in Gulf War medical records, the Ministry of Defence has instructed that an "intensive search" be conducted to identify nominal rolls held at unit level.

Main headquarters have been ordered to organise searches of rear parties and rear HQs for documents. Headquarters have also been told to identify any units which do not respond to the signal.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a Commons written reply to a question from Shadow Defence Secretary Dr David Clark that Gulf War vaccination details should have been copied from the rolls on to the medical record form FMed44, and on to BMed27 where available.

"Unfortunately in many cases transcription of the relevant details has not taken place," he said. "Some nominal rolls have also been lost or destroyed since the conflict.

"A search has now been initiated for any surviving nominal rolls, and medical records of Gulf veterans which are currently incomplete will be



Czech Republic Foreign Minister Miloliv Vybor presents Cpl Allen Belton with the Czech Peacekeeping Medal at HQ MND (SW) in Banja Luka, Bosnia. The medal, which was also presented to Maj Gen Evelyn Webb-Carter, Brig David Leakey, Maj George Lowder and Maj Tim Kidwell, was for

their contribution to the peace operation while working with Czech forces in Bosnia.

● A Memorandum of Understanding between Britain and the Czech Republic was signed in London by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo and Dr Miloslav Vyborny, the Czech Defence Minister.

updated to a more acceptable standard wherever possible."

In a further reply Mr Soames said that family doctors were not charged for copies of Service medical records to help them treat patients but patients themselves were charged £10 plus 10p per sheet.

Meanwhile, at the invitation of Mr Soames, the Royal British Legion has submitted a five-point plan on how medical provision for people leaving the Services could be improved.

RBL recommendations are:

1. That every Serviceman or woman, on discharge, be given a copy of his or her medical record and advised to hand it to their new GP on registration.

2. A veterans' register, and registry service, be initiated immediately for all Service personnel serving today and those who join thereafter.

3. Those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on discharge should, with their approval, be automatically referred to the

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society.

4. A unit similar to that established to diagnose and monitor Gulf War illnesses be established as a permanent fixture to assist GPs with the treatment of problems arising from ex-Service people and their families.

5. Ex-Service personnel required to attend MoD-sponsored medical examinations should receive travel warrants and accommodation costs.

● See Around the Houses, Page 7



SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Civil tel: 01252 347 plus last three digits of Aldershot Military extension given below

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New CGS takes up appointment

GEN Sir Roger Wheeler began his appointment as Chief of the General Staff on February 3, taking over from Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, who is to

become Chief of the Defence Staff on the retirement of Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge.

Gen Wheeler was succeeded as Commander-in-Chief Land

Command by Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker, who took up the appointment at his Wilton headquarters on January 30 in the rank of general.



Snap shot: Cpl Jason Stiff of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment explains the finer points of the L96 sniper rifle to Lt Gen Jacques Baton, commander of the French Force D'Action Rapide.

During a day in Aldershot, Gen Baton called on 5 Airborne Brigade and visited static displays put on by 1 Para and 216 Para Sig Sqn. He took a keen interest in weapon systems used by the brigade.

NHS treats soldiers to cut military hospital waiting

UP to 1,300 military patients are being treated until the end of March under a special arrangement introduced to reduce the waiting times at military hospitals.

Started at the end of last month, the one-off initiative is designed to reduce the time that military personnel have to wait for treatment, by allowing those currently on the waiting list to be treated by two National Health Service Trusts, at Portsmouth and Coventry.

The MoD has been assured the scheme will have no detrimental effect on the length of time civilian patients will have to wait at those hospitals.

A combination of factors –

namely the significant number of military medical staff going to Bosnia, especially now there is an ongoing commitment there, recruiting difficulties and the recent re-organisation of the Defence Medical Service – has led to the build-up of waiting lists. Military patients being treated are mainly

orthopaedic cases, although there will be some rheumatology, ENT and general surgery.

The initiative, result of close co-operation between the Defence Secondary Care Agency and the National Health Service, should enable patients to be restored more quickly to operational fitness.

New guard force on trial

A PILOT scheme to replace MoD Police (MDP) with Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) soldiers is to start in April at four trial sites.

Recruiting has begun for the new service, which will initially involve 188 soldiers providing armed security at Chicksands, Chilwell-Chetwynd Barracks, BOD Donnington and Land Command, Wilton, establishments which represent a spectrum of units within the UK.

MPGS staff will carry out the functions of the station guard, including the quick reaction force. They will be able to make random searches and some will be trained to handle dogs.

If the trial is successful, MPGS soldiers, equipped with SA80 rifles, would replace MDP personnel at other military locations where police officers are complemented for armed guarding rather than constabulary duties.

It's a fact

The Territorial Army was 1,700 below its establishment of 59,000 on April 1, 1996. – Parliamentary reply.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Veterans' unit still an option

A FRESH proposal by the Royal British Legion for an ex-Service affairs unit as a focal point for veterans' problems is being considered by the Government.

Announcing this at the end of a Lords debate on January 16, Defence Minister Earl Howe said ex-Service organisations would be consulted.

He said he understood the RBL did not see the proposed unit as dealing directly with individuals' problems but as a co-ordinating point, on behalf of appropriate ministries, available to help ex-Service organisations.

An RBL proposal for a special department to deal with veterans' welfare had been considered by the Government to be unnecessarily bureaucratic, he said.

At the start of the debate Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde had called for a special Defence Ministry unit, with a designated minister, to look after the interests of ex-Servicemen and women and their dependants.

As an RBL representative, Lord Molloy said the organisation's thinking was for an ex-Service unit within MoD or the DSS which would co-operate with and advise all departments.

OMBUDSMAN

Lord Freyberg favoured the appointment of an ombudsman rather than a minister.

Earl Haig, the First World War field marshal's son, told peers: "I know ex-Servicemen who are wandering the streets unable to find the help which is available if only they knew where to find it."

□ □ □

Delays in the award of war pensions for veterans who are ill as a result of Gulf War service were explained in the Lords by Social Security Minister Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish.

Replying to the Countess of Mar on January 27, he said decisions were taking longer because of ill-defined symptoms and the time taken to assess medical and service evidence. Steps had been taken to speed the process.

Later he said about 180 claims relating to illness connected with the Gulf War had been awarded.

Museum of Army Transport to close

LACK OF funds has caused a major military museum to close. A High Court order has been granted to start the winding up process for the Museum of Army Transport in Beverley, North Humberside.

The action was taken following a statement by the board of trustees that the museum "must close due to insurmountable financial problems".

A spokesman said: "The museum's financial predicament has been well known since last autumn.

"The withdrawal of local authority support dealt the fatal blow. The prospect of a Lottery-financed feasibility study for moving the museum to Driffield has receded after protracted negotiations with the Defence Ministry."

Final straw in the crisis was the ending of a subsidy by the local authority. The new East Riding District Council raised doubts about its continued support last April but kept hopes alive with a payment of £35,000 up to the end of September.

A large number of artefacts

on display – they include the Rolls-Royce used by Monty in North West Europe and a wagon used by Lord Roberts in the Boer War – belong to the Army and the National Army Museum. It is understood that the MoD is looking at the feasibility of the NAM, the British Army's principal museum, taking responsibility for all the vehicles.

Until a display site can be identified, the MoD will be considering ways of extracting Army and NAM-owned artefacts and how best to store them.

Opened in 1983 on the site of a former tannery, the transport museum was run by a private organisation. The MoD

had no responsibility for its operation.

It told the story of Army transport from the Crimean War to the Gulf, and included trains and aircraft. A giant Blackburn Beverley aircraft had been recently restored and put on display.

More than 130,000 people visited the museum last year.

The MoD described the closure as a sad loss to the military museum community.

• Museum trustees have been advised that from April 1998 there will be a reduction of 12.7 per cent in the contribution MoD makes to the funding of regimental and corps museums. Not all museums will be affected.

Atlantic rowers pulling together for RNLI

TWO British Army officers are on course to take part in a transatlantic rowing race scheduled to start from Tenerife in October.

Captains Martin Bellamy and Mark Mortimer, both serving in the Light Infantry, have had a boat specially built in Kiel, Germany for the crossing, and will be training intensively off Mallorca.

News of their decision to enter the 3,000-mile challenge – and their determination to cut the 73-day record by up to 13 days – first appeared in *Soldier* in December 1995.

The race has been organised by Chay Blyth, who in 1966 rowed the Atlantic with fellow Para John Ridgeway.

Bellamy and Mortimer have added a further challenge by undertaking to raise £68,000 to fund an Atlantic 75 lifeboat for the RNLI. If they succeed, they hope the lifeboat will be based in one of the Light Infantry's recruiting areas.

Signals flag up RAF link

COLERNE-based 21 Signal Regiment, the Army's only remaining air support signals unit, has a unique new flag. For the first time it incorporates the RAF Strike Command crest.

It was presented to the regiment at its base in Azimghur Barracks in Wiltshire by Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten, Commander-in-Chief Strike Command.

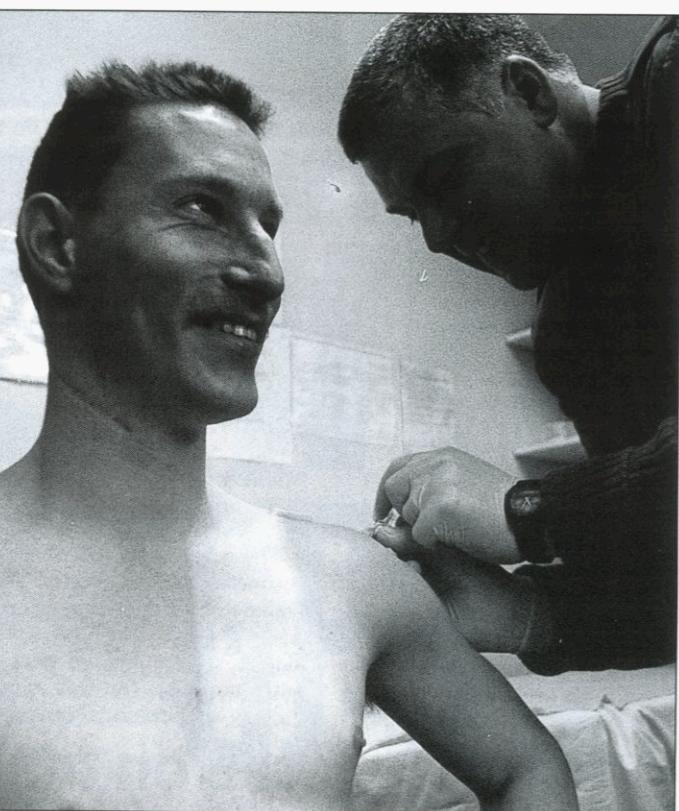
Regular and Territorial Army sub-units of 21 Regiment took part in the parade on January 29.

The regiment's old flag incorporated the RAF Germany crest in recognition of its strong domestic and operational ties at the time it was presented in May 1984. Following the drawdown of forces in Germany, 21 Regiment moved to Colerne, which has had an association with the RAF since 1940 when an airfield was constructed there.

Yorkie at the sharp end . . .

been accepted by the Regular Army and will start training at Glencorse in March before joining his brothers-in-law in the regiment's 1st Battalion.

Administering the injection is Sgt Anthony Wright RAMC.



MPs in Bosnia

BOSNIA-based 39 Engineer Regiment played host to two MPs under the MoD's Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme when Lady Olga Maitland and John Robertson were briefed in Gornji Vakuf.

Maj Chris Wellman, OC 48 Field Squadron (Air Support), said the scheme allowed MPs to see how the Armed Forces worked in the field.

About 5,000 British troops are involved in Op Lodestar as part of the 35,000-strong NATO Stabilisation Force (SFOR).

Pte Jez Hammond receives the first of four injections to prepare him for a deployment to Kenya with the 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

The Yorkshire-based Territorial Army unit was due to spend six weeks training on Exercise Grand Prix in Africa.

Jez, who fought and overcame cancer before joining the TA, received the Simpson Memorial Trophy as 3 PWO's top soldier last year. He has



Belts and braces: From left to right are the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Cllr Frank Doran, Lt Sie Barry, 2nd Lt John Russell, and the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Cllr Derek Shaw at Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia

Kings belt up in style

HISTORIC links between the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment and its traditional recruiting centres of Liverpool and Manchester in April 1963. Intricately woven, and worth about £2,000, the belts are emblazoned with the regimental badge and the coats of arms of both cities and worn over the shoulder.

They were guests of honour at a parade in Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia Garrison, during which they presented new colour belts to the battalion. The elaborately-decorated belts are worn by Ensigns to the Colour, soldiers charged with carrying the colours.

Commanded by Lt Col Clive Hodges, 1 Kings has been stationed in Cyprus since January last year to maintain the security of the Dhekelia British Sovereign Base Area. The battalion is due to remain on the island until March next year.

Commanded by Lt Col Nick Everard, 9/12th L forms the Army's third armoured reconnaissance unit. It is roled to the rapid reaction corps (ARRC).

Naafi goes back to basics

• From Page 3

Answering a Parliamentary question, he said that following a competition for the follow-on to Naafi's initial three-year contract, Booker had been judged to offer the best overall value for money for the MoD.

Naafi's supply contract, awarded in 1994, got off to a bad start when a new centralised food ordering system crashed. Disaster struck when

the telesales system linking the main warehouse to units was plugged in to bases in Germany and Northern Ireland.

One catering officer described the situation as "pandemonium" as food arrived late or not at all, forcing Army chefs to strip nearby supermarkets in order to feed troops.

Naafi chief executive Geoffrey Dart has confirmed that a

high level of service to establishments and units will be maintained until October 1, and that Naafi will co-operate in ensuring a trouble-free transition.

Naafi – the Navy, Army and Air Forces Institutes – was formed in 1921 to provide canteen services to the Armed Forces. Its role later broadened to incorporate other welfare services.



Rabies test 'not reliable'

PLANS to scrap rabies controls have hit an 11th-hour setback after crucial blood tests proved inaccurate. The tests, on which plans to cut quarantine time for pets from six months to one are based, are proving up to 30 per cent unreliable. – *Daily Mail*

□ Evacuation plans for hundreds of British Service families living in Cyprus have been finalised as tensions rise on the island. Holidaymakers and ÜK passport holders living on the island would be included in any evacuation. – *Daily Express*

□ Retired Special Air Service Regiment personnel, including Gen Sir Peter de la Billière and *Bravo Two Zero* author Andy McNab, who have written about the regiment's exploits, have been banned from all SAS premises. – *Sun*

□ The provision of military cadet training is to be expanded to make it available to all teenagers if the Conservatives win the election, in a bid to instil a greater sense of self-discipline, under proposals being worked on by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo. – *Guardian*

□ A Gurkha veterans' group, the Gurkha Army Ex-Servicemen's Association, is threatening to sue the Government for "discrimination" against old soldiers which, it says, has left thousands in penury. It is to press its claim for pensions equal to those of British-born troops. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ Scores of former prisoners-of-war are stepping up their protests at the Government's failure to give back £25 million in "lost" pay docked from their wages while they were in PoW camps. – *Mail on Sunday*

□ As Portsmouth hospitals signed a contract to treat Service personnel (see Page 7), Gosport MP Peter Viggers warned that cuts to the military medical service had gone too far. – *The News, Portsmouth*

Cadet vision in step with times

THE suggestion that most schools should run a cadet corps has thrown up interesting reactions.

Setting aside who should pay for the scheme, the main problem for me is the suggestion that it would somehow reduce crime. Even if you accept the idea that most young people are violent and mindless – I don't – would the Army want to attract this type?

There is a feeling among civilian observers that young men and women undergo a magical transformation once they don a uniform . . . when a Serviceman breaks the rules it makes headlines.

While we should be thankful that the Army is a bastion of traditional values, there is no point in being unrealistic. Service people are prone to the same mishaps as civilians.

Suggesting that a cadet corps would lick young criminals into shape is doing the Army a disservice.

On the other hand, youngsters do benefit from discipline, both external – imposed by a system – and internal, that is, self-discipline. As a teacher I saw this vividly. In some schools the children were uncontrolled and unfocused. In other schools, where the head showed strong leadership, children were cheerful and self-motivated.

Giving more of them a chance to experience a disciplined environment would, in my opinion, be a positive step. But I suspect some older folk are conjuring up visions of ranks of subversive juveniles drilling and being shouted at by instructors.

The wisest definition, I think, came from Defence Secretary Michael Portillo, who said that cadet corps "make young people team players, give them self-esteem and satisfy their love of adventure. For some young people they point the way to a career in the military, for others they simply lead them to know more about themselves." As long



Cari's column

as instructors understand that these are the aims all will be well.

A predictable response came from the gun-control lobby. Cadets would be trained to maintain weapons and the possible effects of this are hard to predict.

I am reminded of an experiment by one police authority to reduce car crime. It set up a scheme so youngsters could learn car maintenance and drive off-road. Car crime figures went down.

Might it not be possible that, by training young people to use potentially lethal weapons in a controlled environment, instructors might instil in them a realistic attitude to guns?

Finally, there is the question of patriotism. It has been suggested that a cadet corps would encourage young people to feel more patriotic . . . a dangerous argument. Try to define the British character and you will find yourself ensnared in a minefield of prejudices. And what

about Europe? The reality is that Britain is a part of Europe and young people increasingly see themselves as a part of that greater whole.

The young are emotionally literate in a way not always understood by their elders. They are exposed to a media extolling the virtues of self-knowledge and analysis.

If a cadet corps is to attract their attention it must be sold in language they understand. Like it or loathe it, that language has to be free of some long-cherished words and phrases.

It also has to offer them something more than the chance to turn themselves into well-scrubbed objects of approval.

Personally I think it will . . . but only if it is offered to them in a form they find attractive.

● Cari Roberts presents *Counterpoint* on BFBS radio. Write to her at BFBS, BFPO 786; c/o Soldier.

Special needs seminar

REVISED date for the SSAFA Forces Help special needs seminar is June 5 at the Union Jack Club in London.

Topics to be covered by speakers will include Service accommodation; statementing procedures; specific needs of carers; and regulations covering posting and careers of Service personnel who

have a dependant with special needs.

Parents of a child with special needs and adults with a disability (or their partners) will have their expenses paid, including, where necessary, accommodation on the night of June 4.

Details: tel SSAFA Forces Help on 0171-403 8783.

Mr Horsefield comes up trumps for tots

FAMILIES in the Edinburgh Garrison have a Good Samaritan to thank in the form of John Horsefield of the Royal Caledonian Schools Educational Trust.

Two-and-a-half months ago he visited Scotland on a fact-finding mission.

His goal was to gain first-hand experience of what life is like for children of serving soldiers from within the Scottish Division, with a view to giving assistance in the form of a grant from the trust.

Accompanied throughout his visit by Lt Col Andy Middlemiss, the divisional colonel, his first port of call was to the new community centre based in Dreghorn Barracks, where he met Maj (Retd) Bob McDonald, WSO Edinburgh, and community organiser Norray Tulloch.

The potential benefactor was briefed on some of the major anxieties which Service families and their children face by Lt David Gregson, Unit Families' Officer, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, before stopping at the pre-nursery school and crèche on the Dreghorn estate.

Group supervisor Jane Jewiss and colleague Pat Gault explained to him the problems which occurred in the running of the nursery – particularly the shortfalls of equipment.

Three weeks later, a cheque arrived for £5,950, of which £4,500 was for

educational and sports equipment for the centre, £700 for toys and equipment for the pre-nursery school, and £750 for similar items for the crèche.

Both of the latter establishments were asked to retain £500 as a top-up fund from the grants to pay the staff during times when the facilities would normally close temporarily, such as when awaiting a new influx of families.

In effect, this means that they can now provide the service throughout the year.

The grateful families are to recognise the donation by placing brass plaques on each of the buildings involved.



Lt David Gregson, Unit Families' Officer, 1 KOSB, and (inset), Sgt Derek Roshford, A and SH, pictured with happy children from the Dreghorn estate's pre-nursery school and crèche



Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, visits a stand at a job fair at Osborn Barracks, Kowloon Tong. More than 400 soldiers from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps, due to be made redundant as the British Garrison draws down to June 30, took the opportunity to meet potential employers from 40 of the territory's top institutions, ranging from banks to security companies and hotels

Nursery voucher scheme: the facts

ALL Army personnel whose families are in the United Kingdom are entitled to a voucher to contribute to the cost of education of children aged four.

The nursery education voucher scheme, which became law in July last year, becomes effective in England and Wales on April 1 and at later, unspecified, dates in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Under the scheme, vouchers will be needed from the beginning of the term after a child is four, until the end of the term during which he or she reaches the age of five.

To be eligible, the child must attend for at least five half days a week at a school, playgroup or other educational establishment registered to redeem the vouchers

– which may only be used to contribute to the cost of education.

Parents will need to apply for the vouchers using forms sent to them via the Child Benefit Agency.

First vouchers should now be available, ready for use in the summer term.

For families already based in the United Kingdom with eligible children at school (that is, not already over five years old), parents must obtain a voucher and give it to the school.

As its money has been taken away to pay for the voucher, the school may not be able to continue to offer a place to a child without one.

The provisions apply to nursery and reception classes of State

schools, as well as private nurseries and schools.

Parents with eligible children not yet in school must obtain a voucher and give it to the school which they want their child to attend: the school may not be able to offer a place to them without a voucher.

If the Child Benefits Agency has not sent a voucher application form, parents are advised to request one, or talk to the school they wish their child to attend.

Various rules will apply to changes of school: Army members whose posting will require a family move during term time will need to consider the timing of the move carefully if they have children eligible for the vouchers.

Once partly used in one school,

Welcome to the Big Apple

LOOKING for somewhere affordable, clean and safe to stay in New York?

The Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Club, which has been "serving the men and women of the United States Armed Services and its friendly Allies" since 1919, is still very much alive in the city to provide accommodation.

Situated in lower midtown Manhattan, close to the theatre district, Empire State Building and the United Nations Plaza, the club is open to active officers and retired military personnel of all ranks, their dependants and guests.

A non-profit organisation supported by private donations, the club was founded by Cornelia Barnes Rogers with the help of Gen John J Pershing, with whose Expeditionary Forces she served overseas in 1917 as a civilian ambulance driver.

Its aim was, and is, to provide a clean, safe environment for the Service and ex-Service community. The SSAC rents beds, not rooms. Rooms fall into a variety of configurations, ranging from two beds for a couple, or guests booking as a party of two, to three- and four-bed rooms.

Prices range from \$25 (£15.80) to \$40 a night.

Details from Col (Retd) John T Barber, the club's executive director, at 283 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10016, tel (212) 683-4354, fax 4374.

Boarding benefit

● Average number of Armed Forces officers whose children benefited from boarding school allowance during 1995-96 was 4,340. The figure for other ranks was 2,525.

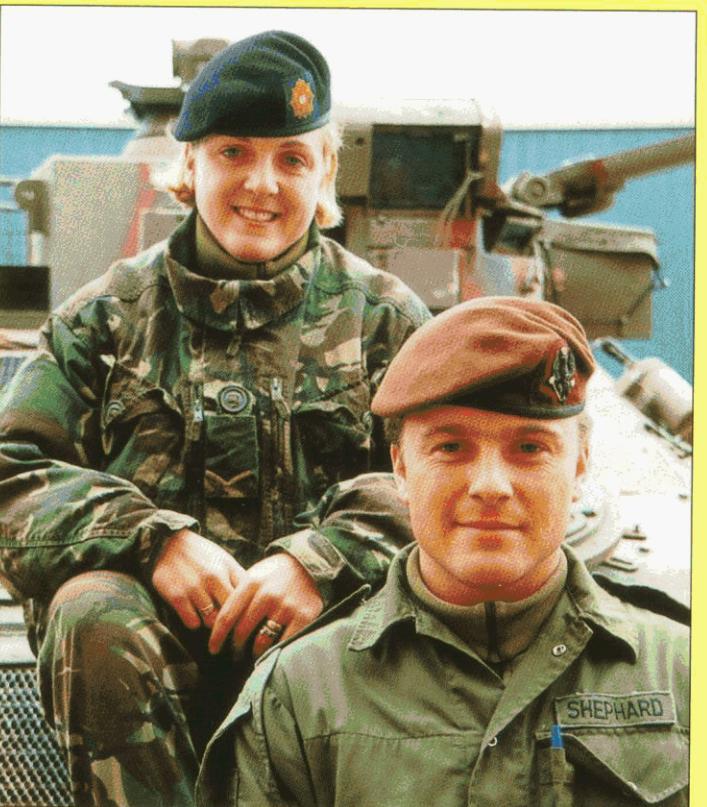
Are you following me?

When LCpl Peter Shephard learned that he will be deploying to Bosnia with The King's Royal Hussars later this year, he was not entirely surprised to find that he would, not for the first time, be serving alongside his sister, LCpl Julie Brown, RLC.

A Challenger tank crewman, Peter was serving in Northern Ireland in 1994 when Julie was also posted on a six-month roulement tour of Belfast – to the same barracks, as a Land Rover driver for one of his squadron leaders...

Last year, he was serving as part of OPFOR on the Canadian prairie when his younger sister turned up as one of the DROPS drivers for the exercising armoured battle-group, The Queen's Royal Hussars.

Now both brother and sister are once again due to be together in Bosnia in July.



Lunch with the boss



Maj John Geddes, who spent part of last year in Bosnia, had plenty to discuss with Defence Secretary Michael Portillo when the minister joined him and other members of a Territorial Army Joint Services Command and Staff College course for a mess tin lunch in a barn somewhere in deepest Hampshire.

A former Royal Signals squadron commander at Aberdeen, John is now a member of the Royal Artillery's Woolwich-based Central Volunteer Headquarters.

The old with the new

Giving a salute of thanks to members of Strensall-based 34 Field Hospital is Royal Army Medical Corps veteran Victor Hirst, a resident of Westminster Nursing Home in York

After Victor's service with the corps and the unfortunate loss of his Second World War medals had come to their attention during a community liaison visit to the home, the unit "adopted" the former Desert Rat and, as well as a new RAMC beret, have now presented him with a new set of medals.



Nein to the Rhine?

WO1 (GSM) John Pinkney jokingly shows his uncertainty at assuming the responsibilities of GSM Rhine Area Support Unit from WO1 Jim Sweeney. Both are serving in the Royal Artillery



Stamps for the memory

Among the main items which came under the hammer as part of a fund-raising appeal in aid of Wireless for the Blind and Project Orbis held by the Forces' radio station in Hong Kong were two rare (only 25 of each were signed) commemorative covers.

Donated by Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces, and signed by him and Maj Gen Liu Zhenhu, Commander of Hong Kong's future PLA Garrison, the covers, shown here by Cpl Sarah Quinlan and WO Trevor Lawrence of the Postal and Courier Troop at Prince of Wales Barracks, raised \$29,000.

Neither of the rare items – one of which commemorated Maj Gen Liu's visit to the British garrison last year, the other featuring an inscription for the PLA – has previously been released for general sale (See feature on pages 28/29).

Grenadiers' proud moment

A memorable occasion for members of the Grenadier Guards Association, as a plaque is unveiled within the precincts of the Guild of St Sebastian in Bruges to mark the formation of the regiment in the 17th century.

Doing the honours is Patrick Moenaert, Burgomaster of Bruges, watched by Brig Evelyn Webb-Carter, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Grenadier Guards and Willy Van Poucke, Captain-General of the Guild of St Sebastian.

The guild is also known as the Archery Club – a favourite haunt of Charles II, who used to enjoy the sport there when he was in exile, prior to the formation of the King's Royal Regiment of Guards in Flanders.

In 1665, the regiment was united to the King's other Royal Regiment of Guards – raised in England after the Restoration – and which together are now known as the first or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards.



Picture: Jo. Deman, Brugge

PEOPLE

Sue's a creditable winner

Pictured in Herford receiving the keys of a seven-seater car from Andy Hewitt of Rover Tax Free Sales is Sue Corner, an auxiliary at Sir John Mogg School in Germany.

Wife of Detmold-based REME sergeant Robert Corner, Helen had purchased two tickets for the BFBS Germany charity star car draw by credit card while shopping with a friend.

Both women agreed that, if either ticket proved a winner, they would share the car. With odds of 7,000 to 1, that seemed a remote chance.

However, since her friend, a nurse, is based some distance away in Osnabrück, she has agreed Sue's offer to buy out her share...



It's all in hand...

Showing off their newly-acquired gongs are Sgt Cliff Lee, 1 PWRR (centre) with his Accumulated Campaign Service Medal, and Sgt Andy McNally, 41 Squadron, Aldershot (left) and SSgt Tony Knott, Chief Clerk G1/G4, Headquarters 4th Division, who were awarded Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.



Picture: Roger Lorrie, Media Ops, Herford

THE PS4 Casualty and Compassionate cell at Upavon is manned 24 hours a day. Ten civil servants deal with cases as they arise during normal working hours and four retired officers provide cover at night and over weekends.

If a parent, spouse or child is seriously ill or dies, staff at the cell arrange for the soldier to be brought back as soon as possible, using military trooping or civilian flights.

Executive Officer Mandy Marks said the work is driven by events: every phone call provides a fresh challenge.

Open all hours for compassion

"Getting people back can be complicated, especially if they are based somewhere remote. Once we establish what the problem is, we signal the Joint Services Travel Centre which makes the necessary travel arrangements on our behalf. It is a well-tried and trusted system," Mandy and her three col-

leagues also implement a temporary retention scheme under which soldiers can apply to stay in the UK for up to 12 months to resolve domestic or welfare problems.

"After carefully checking the case, we would issue the authority for such a move and the soldier is then posted to a unit closer to home," she said.

In the event of a major war, a group of pre-selected officers and soldiers would be drafted in from other units to help staff a crisis cell which includes a computerised casualty-logging system.

Battlefield detectives

A SMALL cardboard box was all that was needed to store the personal effects of 27 British First World War soldiers whose remains were found during excavation work on a building site near Arras in Northern France.

Individual plastic bags contained uniform buttons, cap badges, regimental shoulder titles and a well-preserved leather belt.

There was also a Victorian penny with a hole drilled in one edge to allow it to be worn on a cord around the wearer's neck. It may have been a token of love or a lucky charm presented to the soldier by his wife or sweetheart. It was consigned with its owner to the bottom of a mass grave forgotten for 80 years.

Two civil servants donned surgical gloves before searching carefully for clues to the identities of the long-dead soldiers.

Mandy Marks and George Papadopoulos are hardened to this sort of thing. They work for the British Army's PS4 Casualty and Compassionate cell, part of the Directorate of Personal Services (Army), which recently re-located from Empress State Building in London to Upavon in Wiltshire.

"We are responsible for the remains of all British soldiers uncovered," said George.

"The task of identifying the body, tracing next-of-kin and making final funeral arrangements falls to us. It is a protracted process which can take more than two years to close."

Although identification is impossible in some cases, Service and medical records and regimental war diaries often provide vital clues.

Sometimes luck plays a part in the process. One set of Second World War remains unearthed by workmen proved particularly difficult because part of the skeleton was missing and there were few other clues on the site.

After the date of burial had been elicited from local sources, a search of military



records provided the breakthrough.

"It was a stroke of luck. When we checked through the records, we discovered that of all the casualties that day, only three were listed as missing," explained George.

"We called for all three files and the description given by the pathologist seemed to match that of one individual. Because full medical records were unavailable, we

couldn't go on circumstantial evidence alone. What was known, however, was that the remains included a clip-on plate bearing three false teeth."

Armed with this information, an officer called on two nephews of the man believed to be the dead soldier. While reminiscing with the officer, one nephew men-



Above - A graves registration team uncovers another body on a Western Front battlefield at the end of the First World War... but the remains of British soldiers are still being unearthed and are later identified by an Upavon-based cell

Left - George Papadopoulos, Karen Fisher and Ian Matthews ensure the establishment sign is pointing in the right direction.

Right - Janet Thompson and George Papadopoulos prepare to unpack a plastic bag containing the personal effects of a First World War soldier whose remains were unearthed near Arras

tioned how frightened he had been as a child of his uncle's party trick - removing a plate of false teeth and playing with them...

"We were able to make a positive identification and close the file on that particular casualty," said George.

Ian Matthews is a desk officer with the



casualty cell. He monitors details of the three levels of Army casualties: seriously ill, very seriously ill and dead.

"It is my job to ensure next-of-kin are notified as soon as possible," he said. "I arrange for close relatives of very seriously ill soldiers to be flown to visit their son or daughter, and organise flights, travel to the airport and accommodation."

"We normally get them to the bedside in a matter of hours, but there may be occa-

Report: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Weston

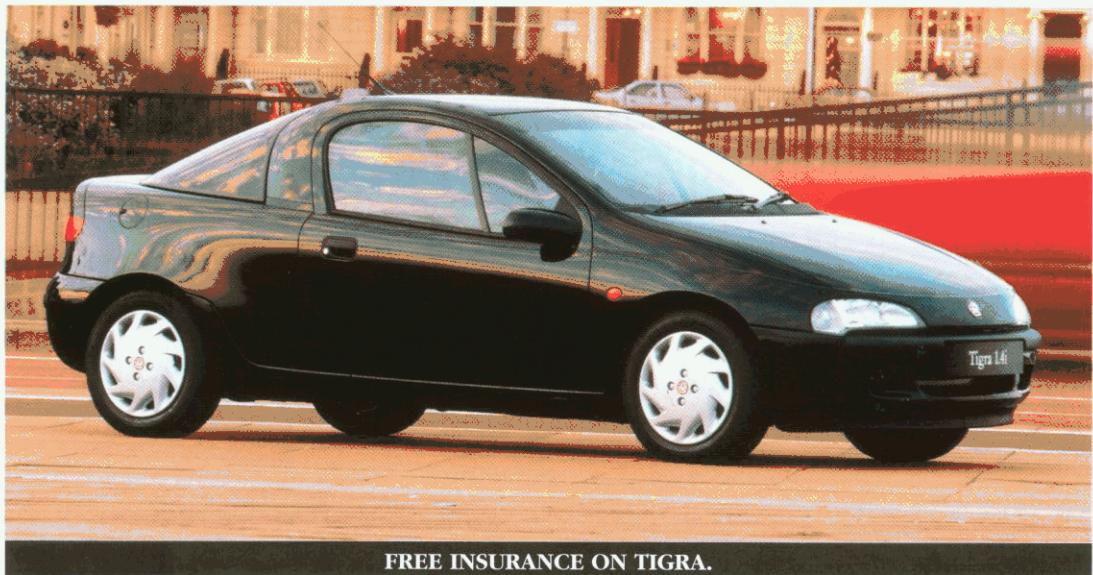
Last May, North Korea returned the remains of a British soldier killed during the Korean War. Although the regime has repatriated American war dead in the past, it was the first time British remains had been handed over.

Investigations have gone on ever since and a positive identification is believed to be only weeks away.

What of the remains of the 27 British soldiers found at Arras?

In the bags of personal effects, George and Mandy found two mud-encrusted identity tags. They will be taken to the Institute of Archaeology in London to be X-rayed. It is hoped the process will reveal Army numbers and names, leading to the early identification of at least two more lost heroes of a war waged 80 years ago.





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Diamonds in the sky

THOUSANDS of people have enjoyed the spectacular displays of the Red Diamonds free-fall parachute team since they were formed two years ago.

Representing the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, the Diamonds are one of only two Territorial Army parachute display groups.

As their battalion carries out its recruiting from Cumbria and north Lancashire, the aerial daredevils have a particular affinity in the north, appearing at about 20 shows every summer. The 4th Battalion has company bases in Carlisle, Workington, Barrow-in-Furness, Kendal and Lancaster.

The free-fallers take their name from the red diamond backing to the Kings Own Border badge. The backing dates from the defeat of the French at the battle of Arroyo dos Molinos on October 28, 1811, during the Peninsular War. The British 34th Regiment, predecessors of the modern regiment, defeated the French 34th Regiment, and were awarded a red-and-white pom in the shakos.

In just two years the Red Diamonds have earned a reputation throughout Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and are widely regarded as the North West's premier free-fallers. When the team goes into action it comprises four display jumpers and their ground support including a commentator, drop zone safety officer, and personnel to

cordon off the DZ. Team leader is the commanding officer, Lt Col Tom Cobley, who founded the Red Diamonds in February 1995. He has jumped in the past with the Parachute Regiment's Red Devils and the Royal Air Force's Falcons.

Endorsed by both the British and Army Parachute Associations, the Red Diamonds may put on their display anywhere in the United Kingdom.

Their usual routine is to jump from 12,000ft, manoeuvring in free-fall until 3,500ft when the members turn away from each other before deploying their ram-air parachutes at 2,500ft.

Once under canopy they form a stack, releasing smoke and suspended flags before making their landings.

Last year the Red Diamonds performed in front of Prince Edward at Greystoke Castle during the finale to the two-day

Above - Streaming in: the Red Diamonds at 12,000ft

Below - All together: Members of the Red Diamonds free-fall team meet Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike. From the left are Gen Pike, commanding officer Lt Col Tom Cobley, WO2 Robbie Bain, Sgt Geoff Wood, LCpl Mark Blanchard and Sgt Roger Walker



Duke of Edinburgh's Award competition, Challenge 96.

Aim of the jumpers is to promote the regiment; at every display the 4 Kings Own Border recruiting team is on hand to spread the message on the ground. A skydiving club within the 4th Battalion encourages other soldiers to qualify to the point where they can be considered for Diamond status.

It obviously works, because the battalion has achieved a 102 per cent establishment and claims to be the best-recruited TA battalion in the Army.

As the first flurry of snow arrived over Jezero, central Bosnia, members of F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, were looking for-

ward to the end of their successful six-month deployment on Operation Resolute 2 with the UK contingent of IFOR. Their successors in theatre – though based in Sipovo –

were their fellow unit from Aldershot, G Parachute Battery (Mercer's Troop), also part of the regiment. Bdr Ned Kelly reports on the highlights of the deployment.

TEN-man tents, snoring colleagues and flood water gushing around the Jezero orange factory (a disused warehouse), is something that will not be missed.

Based in what was a medical station during

the war, members of the unit carried out a great deal of work in making life a little more comfortable. Experience was gained in operating portable fire pumps each time the flood waters rose.

When the fire pumps failed, Capt Johnathon Crisp, camp commandant BK F Para Battery, led the way with fire buckets to dredge the drains. This is something future units will not have to worry about, since the battery was the last United Kingdom unit to occupy the isolated camp.

Members of the battery made acquaintances with soldiers from the Dutch mortar company – also based in the factory – who took a liking to Battery Airborne insignia, buying large quantities of T-shirts and plaques.

No one from F Battery managed to master the Dutch language, although there were some good attempts on Airborne Forces Day. Fortunately, most of the Dutch spoke good English and some attended a course in basic signals run by the battery.

The Airborne Gunners carried out 150 operational deployments in theatre, operating with both British and Canadian brigades.

Many of these were by RAF Chinook helicopter, proving the mobility of the battery in its quick deployment role around the country.

One troop and the divisional reserve forward observation officer party were always on stand-by, ready for a support helicopter move, at the Sipovo helicopter landing site well within the required 60 minutes of the call-out. The other troop then moved to 60 minutes' notice.

This was practised many times by the Commander Artillery.

On one occasion, the guns were deployed for real to Vitez to assist with the control of a possible incident, an operation which went smoothly and made the training worthwhile.

The deployments attracted significant attention from the local population, especially when establishing gun positions in town locations.

While in theatre, the battery won both the Divisional Artillery Group (DAG) sports and military skills competitions. The DAG inter-troop competition was held at Glamoc ranges, with A and B Troops each



Chinooks move a 105mm light gun and its towing vehicle high over Bosnia



The troop of guns were ready to move within 30 minutes of being cleared out of Jezero

A bombardier in Bosnia

leadership course was run by the 1st Regiment RHA, with another good result for the battery in LBdr Scott Gray's best student award for the former.

On the operational front, the battery took on some patrolling tasks in the A Company, 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, now an area of operations controlled by A Company, 1st Battalion, The Green Howards.

This was different from usual deployments, giving the opportunity for junior ranks to get out on the ground. Patrols involved visiting villages off the beaten track, attempting to talk to local people and handing out sweets to the children.

As 3 (UK) Division departed and 1 Division assumed command, the adventurous training scene blossomed. Brac Island, off the Croatian coast, was the venue for water-based activities.

There was no shortage of entertainment during the tour, as 1 RHA have their own rock band, Danger Close, who provided the music.

Maj Mark Banham, the battery commander, was known to join in with his flute and guitar, with Gnr Mick Hayes another budding guitarist.

Now back in Aldershot, the men are looking forward to another busy year within 5 Airborne Brigade as part of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force.

As well as being involved in airborne exercises, the battery has troops deploying to Norway and Kenya and are engaged in adventurous training in Venezuela.

Army aviators on top of the world

A HEAD for heights came in useful for eight Northern Ireland-based members of 5 Regiment, Army Air Corps.

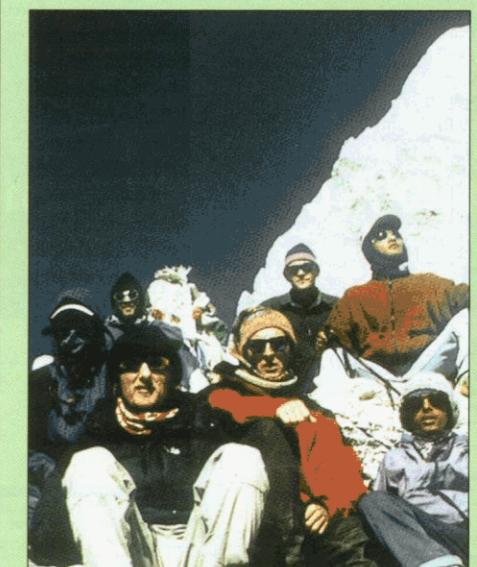
During a 30-day adventurous training expedition in Nepal they trekked to 18,500ft in the Everest region after completing a nine-day river journey.

Led by SSgt Simon Ellis, the team used kayaks and rafts to navigate the Sun Kosi River from central to eastern Nepal, followed by the trek to Kalar Patar, a mountain adjacent to Everest.

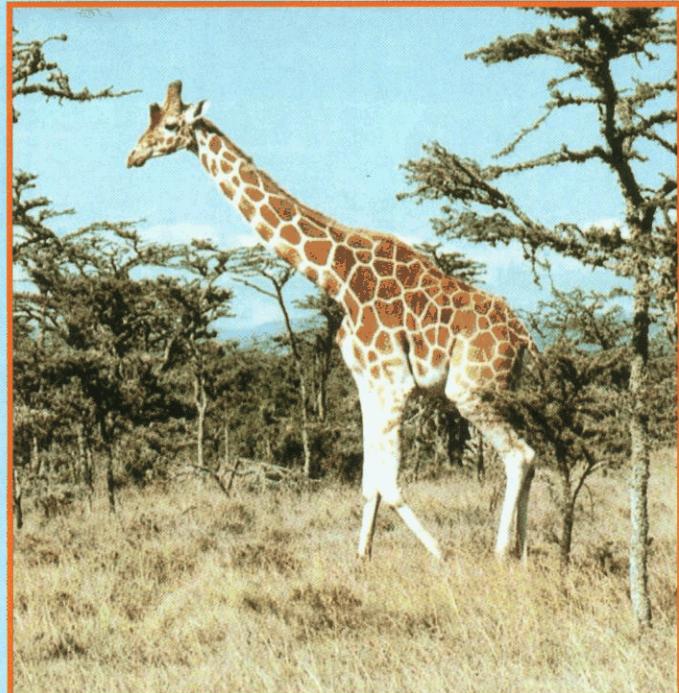
Four members of the expedition dropped out of the climb after suffering badly from altitude sickness and acclimatisation problems, but the others reached the summit and were rewarded with crystal-clear views of Everest itself.

SSgt Ellis said one of the most frightening experiences for the Army aviators was a flight in an old Russian Hip helicopter. The technicians in the party were said to be particularly relieved to touch down safely at Kathmandu.

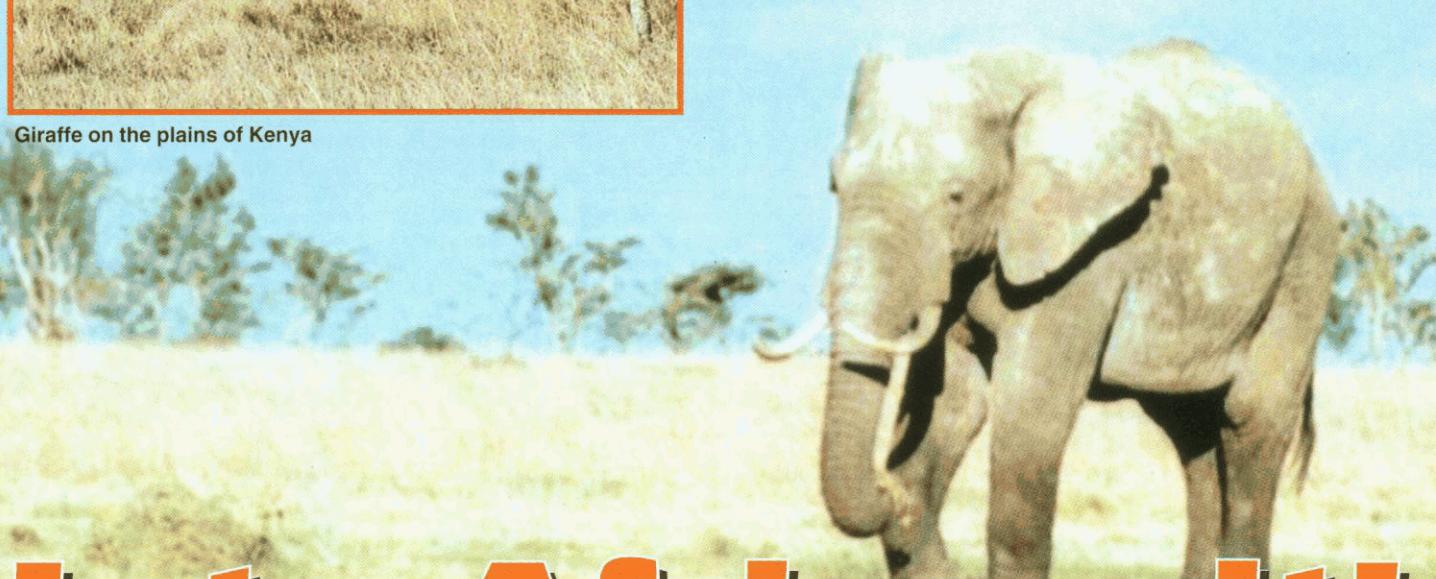
He said the massive wave "trains" and very long rapids on the Sun Kosi had required careful scouting. Team members had found it an enjoyable experience once they became used to the speed and volume of the Himalayan river.



High point: team members on the way to Kalar Patar. Four reached the summit



Giraffe on the plains of Kenya



On patrol at Mpala Farm are D Company soldiers (left to right) Cpl Duncan Milne, Pte Steven Hamill, and Pte Scott Whytock



LCpl Gary Liddell and Pte Simon Mortimer kept an eye out for big game after encountering a herd of elephants while on exercise in a game reserve

Into Africa with the Black Watch

MORE than 600 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch swapped the depressing cold of a Scottish winter for the hot, dry climes of Kenya when they deployed on Exercise Grand Prix, a six-week test of their warfare skills.

Grand Prix took place at several locations along the Great Rift Valley in central Kenya. Battalion headquarters was sited at Nanyuki, a small town close to the equator, and the actual training was done in environments ranging from humid, rat-infested jungles to sweltering, dust-laden scrubland.

It was the arid scrubland region of Dol-Dol, several hours drive north of Nanyuki, that the Black Watch chose as its dry training area. In the parched, rocky and inhospitable terrain, the soldiers trained at section, platoon and company level before an overnight 22km march through flesh-ripping elephant thorn to Mpala Farm.

Once there, they put their previous hard work into practice, this time with live ammunition and heavy mortar and artillery bombardments.

Strict safety procedures had to be followed, although the main danger to the

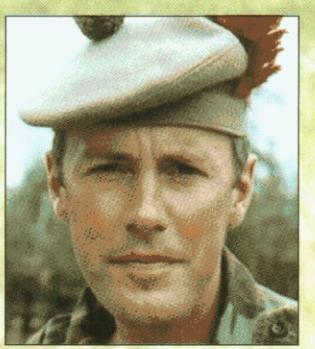
troops was heat, dehydration and sunburn as temperatures flared to more than 130F.

The soldiers were faced with a completely different environment when they moved to Kathendini to complete their six-day training package in jungle warfare. Kathendini is set high in the foothills, where tea and coffee plantations border the jungle and the Jocks' aptly-named Tetley Camp could only be described as wet.

As well as wading knee-deep in black mud and coping with jungle rats the size of Jack Russell dogs, the men were taught survival techniques, close combat and ambush drills, live-firing, navigation and patrol procedures.

But it was not all hard work. Every soldier had a chance to relax and try his hand at the excellent adventurous training opportunities on offer. Options ranged from the delightful combination of a camel safari and whitewater raft-

Report: Lesley Edgar
Pictures: Mark Owens

Lt Col Alasdair Loudon,
CO 1 BW

ing from a base at Battalion HQ to an ascent of Mount Kenya. There was also a paragliding package, rock climbing, mountain-biking and canoeing on the glorious setting of Lake Naivasha, the largest freshwater lake along the Kenyan section of the spectacularly beautiful Rift Valley.

Despite the fact that the Jocks had to keep to a hectic training schedule, they found time to make an impression on the local Kenyan community. The hospital and orphanage at Nanyuki owed the regiment a great deal for the help and support offered while the Black Watch was in the area.

Corruption is a major problem in the country, so instead of donating cash, the Jocks gave practical help to the sick, the needy and the helpless. Told of the plight of the orphanage, the soldiers took toys and children's clothes with them, and the regimental police were soon in action, scrubbing and

painting the building and stocking the larder.

One of the most moving stories of their stay concerned the soldiers organising a collection to buy a cow in calf for the orphanage where the arrival of a four-month-old girl meant that fresh milk was essential. The baby had been abandoned in a forest, left to be eaten by wild animals.

The hospital was greatly assisted by REME personnel attached to the Black Watch. They restored electricity and hot running water, set up an incinerator system and tried to instil good hygiene and waste disposal practices among the staff.

Commanding officer Lt Col Alasdair Loudon said: "Grand Prix has given us the training opportunity of a lifetime. The climate and the terrain mean it has been hard on the lads involved, and the live-firing and strenuous training has sometimes made it a dangerous place to be."

"But they have done it and survived. The battalion has successfully completed a vital training exercise and they've all got loads of stories to tell everyone back home. I am very proud of their achievements."



Members of the regimental police pose for a farewell picture with children and staff at the Nanyuki children's home. The soldiers helped to repair the buildings

Wandering off to war with Bolton

BETTER to kick hell out of an enemy on the battlefield than an opposing team of footballers.

With similar words Harry Goslin, captain of Bolton Wanderers, put out an appeal to the 23,000-strong crowd at the club's ground for volunteers to join the 53rd Field Regiment of the Bolton Artillery.

This was Easter 1938 and the Government was desperate for TA volunteers. What better way to get them than at a football match?

Wartime Wanderers tells the story of how the entire Bolton Wanderers first team took their captain's words to heart and signed on for the duration.

Harry Goslin made his appeal for volunteers, urging everyone present to "do their bit", just before the kick-off

Wartime Wanderers by Tim Purcell and Mike Gething. Mainstream Publishing, hardback, £14.99.

except one returned safely to take up where they left off in 1938.

This is more a story about a team "at war" and of the difficulties faced by their club in their absence than of the war itself.

It is also a story of unforgettable soccer names, such as England internationals Ray Westwood and Nat Lofthouse, and the indomitably witty Ernie Forrest.

Lofthouse, now president of Bolton Wanderers, was still at school in 1938 when Harry Goslin led his team to join up.

They also, inevitably, established themselves as a force to be reckoned with as a regimental football team throughout the theatre of war.

And when it was all over all

Low point in adventurous training

IN THE context of military adventurous training, Low's Gully has achieved a significance far beyond the thousands of out-of-the-way and potentially hazardous projects that routinely stimulate and broaden the lives of young soldiers.

A spectacular geographical feature on Mount Kinabalu in remotest Borneo, Low's Gully had its five min-

Kinabalu Escape – The Soldiers' Story by Richard Mayfield with Bob Mann. Constable Publishers, hardback, price £14.95.

utes of fame when a ten-man British Army expedition went missing on its impenetrable slopes.

Everyone got out alive, just, and the Army found itself defending its policy of using adventurous training to prepare its men and women for the mental and physical rigours of war.

Hostilities of a personal nature quickly surfaced as



Start line: Richard Mayfield on the summit of Kinabalu.

the team leaders publicly criticised their most experienced

and able climbers for becoming separated from the main party. The whiff of disobedience, even desertion, further muddied already confused waters.

First into print were Lt Col Robert Neill and Maj Ron Foster, the expedition leaders, whose book *SOS* was reviewed in this magazine in May last year.

Now former lance corporal Rick Mayfield, the climbing instructor, and TA sergeant Bob Mann, give their account in *Kinabalu Escape – The Soldiers' Story*.

Published to coincide with two major television produc-

tions – one dramatised, the other documentary – the book makes no excuses for "setting the record straight" on who was to blame for the failure of the trip.

Mayfield and Mann, besides detailing their own incredible hardships in Low's Gully, have also taken their chance to correct the assertion in the Neill-Foster account that they had disobeyed orders.

Mayfield, it should not be forgotten, was commended for his actions on Kinabalu by the Army board of inquiry which investigated the whole sorry saga. – JE

SPEED
TRAP

Guru on 'hiding to nothing' in the East Indies

EXTRAORDINARY political and military events took place in the Netherlands East Indies in the two years which followed the Japanese surrender to the Allies in 1945.

They are described in *The Admiral's Baby*, as are the activities of the author, the late Laurens van der Post, who was central to these events as a military political officer.

Remarkably, after suffering three years as a prisoner-of-war of the Japanese, Col van der Post remained in Java at the request of his former captors to assist in the repatriation of former PoWs and internees, including Dutch nationals.

This led him, seemingly not unwillingly, into a confused political and military situation which arose from the determination of the former Dutch administration to re-establish colonial rule in the face of the demands of the Indonesian nationalists for independence.

The author's description of what happened includes something of the activities of the Allied Forces Netherlands East Indies (AFNEI), made up predominantly of 15 Indian Corps,

in its efforts to keep the peace.

Van der Post was under no illusion as to the significance and special difficulties of his own task and indeed was warned by Mountbatten that

"... if you get yourself into trouble I shall not be able to help you... you will have to be a soldier/statesman..." A remarkable challenge for a

The Admiral's Baby by Laurens van der Post. Published by John Murray, hardback, £19.99.

man who had not been allowed the time or opportunity to recover from his experiences as a prisoner.

Following the withdrawal of British forces from a confused and thankless task, van der Post remained behind as the military political adviser to the British Minister in Batavia until 1947.

Laurens van der Post has been described as a spiritual guru, a mystic. He would surely have denied this, but he was evidently without hate or dislike of anyone; even of the Japanese who had ill-treated him, and of the senior British

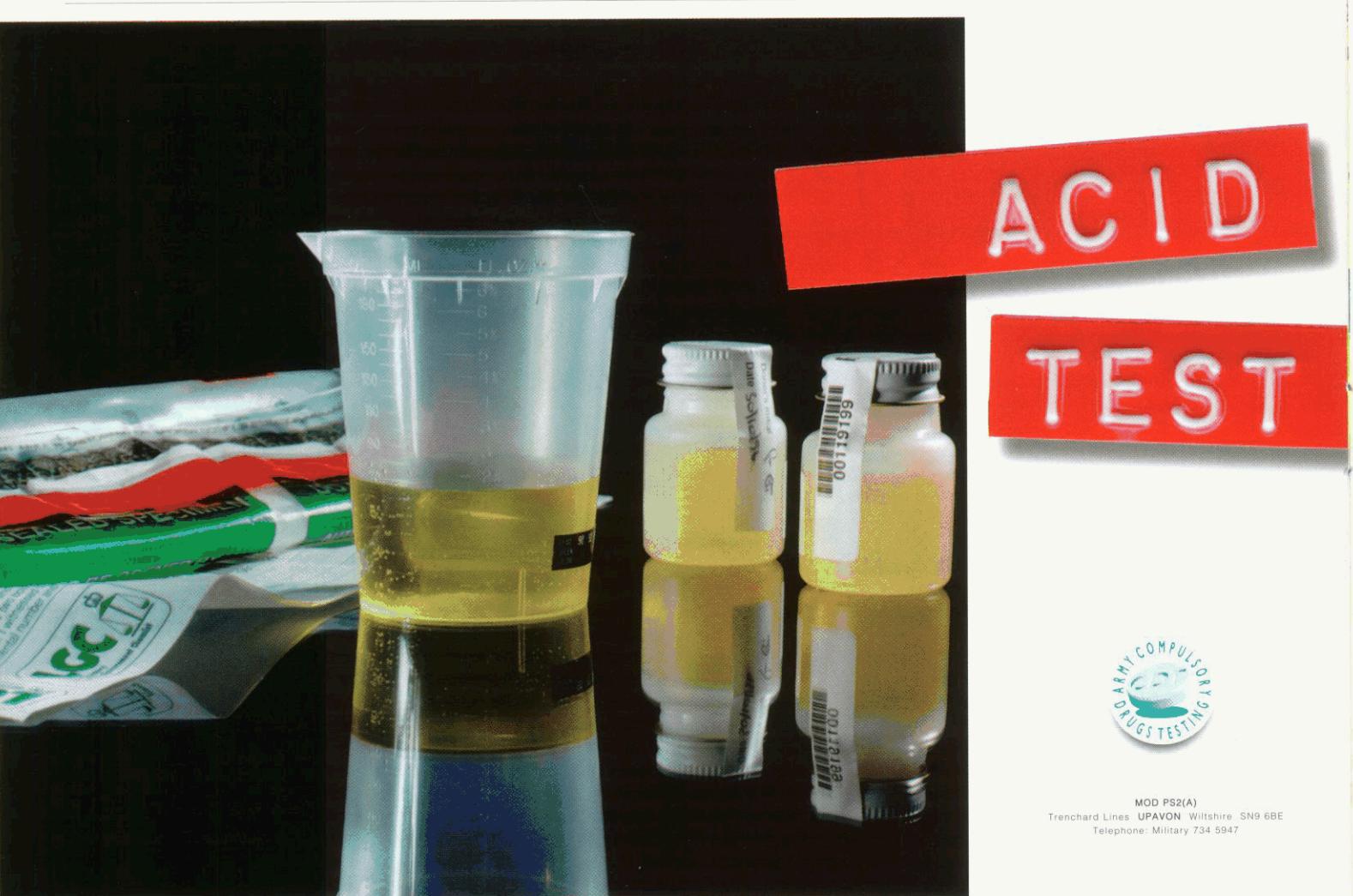
and Dutch military officers and civilian officials who so obviously resented the way in which he sought compromise and understanding rather than confrontation.

They also resented his unique position and influence at the highest military and political levels with the Supreme Commander in Ceylon and with ministers in London and The Hague.

For all that, *The Admiral's Baby* tells as much if not more about the author than of the events in which he was involved. Indeed, the reader is often diverted to reflecting on how van der Post could possibly have remained so patient, even-handed and generous towards those who not only disliked him but who sought to frustrate or undermine his efforts.

In the jargon of today he was "on a hiding to nothing" but he rose above it.

Laurens van der Post was no ordinary man. In a long life he was a friend and inspiration to all manner of people from bushmen in the Kalahari Desert to royalty. – AKD



A hero found, but the search for Pte Walters goes on

WHEN the Canadian nephew of a British soldier who died near Dunkirk in 1940 tried to trace a private who had attempted to save his uncle, he got nowhere... until the details appeared in the Searchline columns on these pages.

Newspaper appeals and an item on a national television programme failed to turn up the whereabouts of former Pte Frank Hockley of the 1st Bucks. But within weeks of a request appearing in Searchline, a reader traced him to Newton Abbot – leading to a poignant meeting with the Canadian nephew and his wife.

The story began in the grim days of 1940 as British units fought their way towards Dunkirk and evacuation. Pte Robert Walters was shot in the neck as the 1st Bucks fought a historic rearguard action. He was carried by Frank Hockley for two miles through enemy territory to a first aid station at Hazebrouck, where

he died of his wounds on May 27, 1940.

More than half a century later James Walters of Ontario began his search for the hero who had carried his uncle away from the enemy. Enter 83-year-old Jack Cheshire, "self-imposed" historian of the 1st Buckinghamshire Battalion, Oxford and Bucks, an entirely different unit to the 1st Buckinghamshire Battalion.

Listed as having "no known grave", his name is engraved on column 93 in Dunkirk Cemetery.

Jack cannot understand why a man whose date and place of death is well documented has no known grave. He was not "missing believed killed", and letters written to his mother by his company commander and soldier pals confirm that he died of a gunshot wound to the neck. The body was not badly mutilated.

And there it might have ended, but for Jack promising to find out where Robert Walters was buried. To his surprise, his comprehensive records revealed the casualty details and last resting

place of every 1st Bucks casualty except Pte Walters.

Further research revealed that the name of the man who died at Hazebrouck was recorded in the files of the 1st Battalion, Oxford and Bucks, an entirely different unit to the 1st Buckinghamshire Battalion.

● Soldier congratulates Mr Roland on being the first with the Popski story, but to say that we claimed to have broken the story is not quite correct. We said that it "appeared in Soldier on May 11, 1946". The recent scramble by the national newspapers is therefore all the more remarkable. – Editor

GOOD NEWS

Within weeks Jack had written to tell us the good news.

He sent his findings to Ontario and the family contacted Frank by return, following up with a recent visit to the United Kingdom during which they met Frank and his wife.

The story began in the grim days of 1940 as British units fought their way towards Dunkirk and evacuation. Pte Robert Walters was shot in the neck as the 1st Bucks fought a historic rearguard action. He was carried by Frank Hockley for two miles through enemy territory to a first aid station at Hazebrouck, where

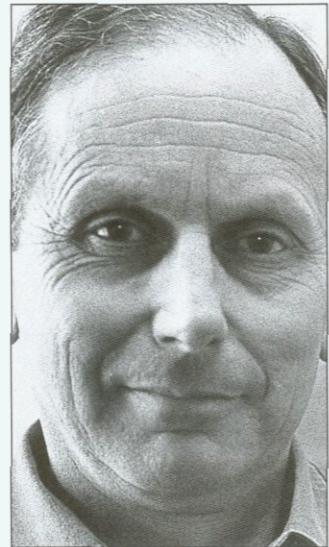
Zulu War foes seal friendship

A FORMAL alliance forged between The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st) and the 121st South African Infantry Battalion, a Zulu unit, has put another twist on an association which began in bloody confrontation in 1879.

Last month Brig David Bromhead, Colonel of the RRW and descendant of Rorke's Drift hero Lt Gonville Bromhead VC, exchanged messages with the local commander at Mtubatuba, home of the 121st in KwaZulu Natal.

The formal scroll from South Africa will return to Brecon, home of the 24th Regiment and the museum of the 24th and the RRW. The message from Wales will remain in Mtubatuba.

After the bloodshed of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, where Zulu warriors and Welsh soldiers fought and died, a mutual respect grew between the old enemies. Links developed in recent years were cemented last summer when British soldiers returned, with the blessing of



Brig David Bromhead

President Nelson Mandela and the Zulu nation, to Rorke's Drift to build a community hall.

Brig Bromhead, who visited KwaZulu to seal the first formal alliance between Regular units of the South African Defence Force and the British Army, is the great-great nephew of Gonville Bromhead.

The Victorian hero was played by Michael Caine in the film *Zulu*, which dramatised the incredible rearguard action at Rorke's Drift.

Moving in society circles

THREE quite separate societies of military collectors are looking for new members.

The Military Heraldry Society, the Crown Imperial Society and the Indian Military Historical Society share the same contact point, so anyone wanting details should write to the Publicity Officer, IMHS, 37 Wolsey Close, Southall, Middlesex, England UB2 4NQ.

Activities of two of the societies are signposted in their titles (although the scope of the heraldry body includes formation signs, shoulder titles, unit flashes and so on). The third, Crown Imperial, was formed in 1973 to study the history, traditions and regalia of the forces of the Crown and other insignia. It meets monthly in London and Strensham.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, February 1947

POPSKI SCOOP

Extract from an exchange of views in the Letters columns: In your issue for December you claim to have first broken the story of Popski's Private Army on May 11, 1946. It is true that national newspapers were falling over themselves to tell the story a month or so ago. I first told the whole story in the *Sunday Pictorial* on April 29, 1945, thus scooping *Soldier* by more than a year. – Bill Roland, *Evening Standard*, London.

● Soldier congratulates Mr Roland on being the first with the Popski story, but to say that we claimed to have broken the story is not quite correct. We said that it "appeared in *Soldier* on May 11, 1946". The recent scramble by the national newspapers is therefore all the more remarkable. – Editor

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, February 1972

LET THERE BE LIGHT
Villagers in the remote hamlet of Tei Yung Tau in Hong Kong have electric light for the first time as a result of a project by a team from 50 Command Workshop REME. Mules of 414 Pack Transport Troop RCT were used to carry six tons of building materials needed for constructing the generator house. The village is a considerable distance from the nearest road. The generator was flown in by helicopter.

Memories of the Fifth Northants

A BOOKLET dedicated to members of the 5th Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment, who served in North Africa and Sicily, is to benefit the funds of the regimental association.

The 36-page publication, edited by Col T A Buchanan, is not an attempt to write the history of the 5th Battalion in North Africa and Sicily, but is a compilation of official history with personal anecdotes and graphic details.

Anyone wanting a copy is asked to telephone 01604 35412. A donation towards production costs and association funds would be appreciated. Lt Col Anthony Swallow, secretary of the Northamptonshire Regiment Association, says £2 might be reasonable.

Cpl Ernie was the original Desert Rat

ERNIE GEARY is proud to be the original Desert Rat... the first man to "wear" what is perhaps the British Army's most widely recognised formation badge.

A story on these pages about Lady Helen Creagh's part in creating the famous Desert Rat shoulder flash (Diary, Jan 6) brought in its wake a letter in which Ernie explained his claim to fame.

In mid-1940 Ernie Geary was a 23-year-old lance corporal in the Corps of Military Police attached to HQ 7th Armoured Division at Maarten Gerwala on the escarpment to the east of Mersa Matruh in North Africa.

One morning he was checking his truck, a Morris 15-cwt, when a staff officer appeared and asked him if he had any red paint.

Now in his 81st year and living in Lancashire, Ernie recalls: "I answered in the affirmative, as CMP carried paints for the construction of directional traffic signs.

"He produced a stencil and instructed me to paint it on the divisional sign – a red square with a white ball in the centre – on my vehicle. I placed the stencil over the white area and saw that it was



Proud of his part in Desert Rat history: Ernie Geary, then and now

the jerboa, although, unlike the modern one, the tail extended up its back.

"Later that day a bevy of officers inspected my handiwork.

"I drove round the area for some considerable time before the amended sign was authorised for general use, and it raised quite a number of comments.

"At the age of 80 I cherish the thought of the day that I claimed to be the original Desert Rat, and I am proud to have been the first to carry the sign that became so famous."

Ernie joined the Royal Artillery as a boy soldier in 1931 and switched to the Military Police six years later. In November 1940 he

REUNIONS

Army Catering Corps Association annual general meeting will be held in Blandford on June 14. Details from Capt (Retd) Scotty Reynolds, SORLS, Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH (fax 01258 482147; tel 01258 5893/4). Meals on payment available.

Coldstream Guards, No 4 Company (1950-55): Fifth reunion dinner in Birmingham on April 19. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

1st, 4th, 7th Royal Tank Regiments: Reunion to be held at the St John's Swallow Hotel, Solihull, on April 25-27. Details G J Bourne on 01752 880527 or R T Rathmell on 01752 893495.

D Deptford: (tel 01472 852246) seeks information on W H P (Crump) Chattey, pre-war Aden Levy, and captain/adjutant Middlesex Regiment, Hong Kong, interned in Stanley as civilian 1941-45, later retired to Gloucestershire.

Coldstream Guards, Sgt Peacock's squad, July 1950: where are they now? News sought of D Mitchell, A Ryan, W Wright, R Gray, J Robson, K Bostwick, A Gillette, R Wostear, G Brabander, F Douglas, G Peear, B Tinsley. Eight members traced so far. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby

with 30 Regiment during 1982 is to be held in Blandford on June 14. Details from Capt (Retd) Scotty Reynolds, SORLS, Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH (fax 01258 482147; tel 01258 5893/4). Meals on payment available.

SEARCHLINE

National Malaya-Borneo Veterans' Association: has a new branch in Bristol which meets monthly. Details from Jack Spackman, 34 Lydiard Croft, Hanham, Bristol BS15 3LT (tel 0117 9613121).

Division Reconnaissance Regiment (1941-46): sought. Also information on either regiment and anyone who recalls Tpr Bernard Shilleto, A Sqn medic. Contact Carl Shilleto, 17 Wheatlands Grove, Acomb, York YO2 5NQ.

562 Brigade Sp Sqn RLC (V): 50th anniversary reunion to take place in May. Details from WO2 (SSM) T Ritchie, 562 Bde Sp Sqn RAC (V), Territorial Army Centre, Horn Lane, Acton, London W3 9HA (tel 0181-992 5601).

Model builder J M Bowdler: seeks information on all types of Second World War landing craft. Replies to him at 272 Valley Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 7UE.

Memories of National Servicemen: of all ranks sought for BBC Radio 2 documentary to be broadcast on April 8. Contact Sarah Newman on 0171-794 1247.

Ex-members of 7/9 Royal Scots (1939-41) and 52nd (Lowland)

DATES

APRIL

26: British Model Soldier Society annual show, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Holborn, London.

JULY

15-27: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets on 0171 244-0244.

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

was sent to Crete, where he was taken prisoner.

He was held as a PoW in Germany until he escaped on the Long March in the spring of 1945. As the column went first east then west, Ernie broke out on April 23, St George's Day, and joined the Americans, serving with them as an interpreter for a month before going home in May 1945.

He ended his service with the Army in Hong Kong in 1960 as a WO1. On April 4 this year he will mark an association with the Royal Military Police extending back 60 years.

Ernie's son, Graham, served 22 years with the Royal Engineers, retiring as a staff sergeant. Now working in America, he completed two Cold War tours with the secretive British Military Exchange Mission.

A photograph of him being arrested by the Russians was used in the November 11 issue of *Soldier* to illustrate the review of a book about the work of Brixmis in gathering information behind the Iron Curtain.

□ Mark Gilbert has taken over as secretary of the British Model Soldier Society. He succeeds David Pearce, secretary for the past 14 years, who has retired. Mark can be contacted at 50 Putney Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 6NN (tel 01992 715621).



They've got things covered

WHEN lazier members of the British element of IFOR, the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, wanted to write home last year, they had no excuse.

All they had to do was fill in the date and addressee's name on a card, fill in their own (already inscribed "best wishes") at the bottom, and tick one of three boxes on four topics – health, work, weather and social life – ranging from "I am: (well)" to "What social life?" and place the result in a ready-stamped envelope.

This witty approach originated in an office at Mill Hill, north London, where the Defence Postal and Courier Services Philatelic Bureau has its base.

"We are an official handstamp centre, authorised by the Royal Mail: the only military one for the whole of the British Forces cancelling stamps and producing first day covers," said Sgt Stan Hogg, who oversees the office.

"The IFOR venture was part of a first-day cover, sold as stationery, with the money going to tri-Service charities and at the same time generating the sale of stamps for the Post Office."

Handstamps or postmarks are special datemarks produced for the cancelling of philatelic covers.

According to Sgt Hogg – something of a one-man Forces Post Office himself in Brunei, where he supported a Gurkha battalion and a headquarters garrison before taking up his current post in 1995 – the handstamping centre title is "quite significant", since philatelists have to get military issues franked by someone.

"We are very competitive, charging con-



Sgt Stan Hogg with just a sample of the first day covers produced by BFPO



bursed to unit, Service or military charities.

Sponsors are totally responsible for financing the undertaking (everything from artwork and printing costs to payment for the stamps to be used on the commemorative covers), and arranging the sale of their own covers.

But, with past topics ranging from VE Day commemorations to the creation of



Above – WO1 Sarah Hickson, DPCSA corporate headquarters staff, dispatches a first-day cover in an Argentinian post box, liberated – and subsequently used – by British Forces in Port Stanley in 1982 and now *in situ* at Mill Hill. BFPO memorabilia such as old sappers' and RLC signs are now starting to arrive there from Hong Kong

Left – Carefully does it: Julie Shortland franking first-day covers individually at Mill Hill, using a TV monitor to line up the frank with the stamps to ensure a perfect result

Land Command and the opening of JHQ Northwood, covers are a proven method of fund-raising.

Brig Tweedie McGarth Brown, Director Post and Courier Services, recently handed over £8,000 to the organiser of the Royal Tournament – the proceeds from a "self-generated" first-day cover sold at the 1996 show by the Philatelic Bureau's mobile display team.

"We are offering interested regiments, corps and so on a classic facility if they want to issue a first-day cover," said Stan.

Stan Hogg, and newly-appointed MoD Philatelic Officer Capt Donna Peak, are anxious that Army units put them to a much better use.

Details: tel Mill Hill Mil (764) 3274.

Postal pointers

AS long ago as 1644, Oliver Cromwell, recognising the need for a postal service for the New Model Army, established a Master of Messengers, Posts and Couriers to maintain good relations between Parliament and its forces.

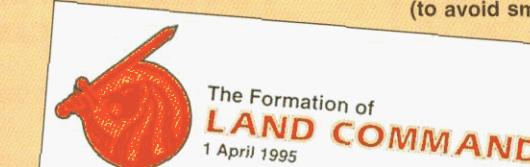
HANDSTAMPS, postmarks and commemorative covers issued through the MoD are not allowed to contain any exhortations such as "support" or "help". Nor must handstamps bear the portrait of anyone – living or dead.

WOULD-be sponsors are advised by the Defence Philatelic Bureau to keep designs simple: large solid areas are

liable to smudge, large open areas could pick up unwanted ink, and too fine lines tend to break down.

ENVELOPES to contain first covers also have to be carefully chosen, the bureau says. As well as being porous (to avoid smudging), the open

ending flap should be either on the left-hand end or centrally located: envelopes with flaps on the right-hand end tend to produce 'ghost' images of the postmark.



Philatelic Officer
HQ Land Command
Winton, Wiltshire
SALISBURY



Philatelic Officer
HQ Land Command
Winton, Wiltshire
SALISBURY



Brigadier T. McG. BROWN OBE
Director
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Satisfied customer

I WISH to thank you for publishing my appeal to contact my cousin, Maj N P Notley, in your Searchline column (Dec 9 - Jan 6).

Not only did he contact me directly as a result, but two other readers also wrote to me, kindly providing me with relevant information.

I have been a "sometime" *Soldier* reader in the past and have always been impressed by the standard of your publication. I should now like to become a regular subscriber. — **W I Reeves, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.**

● *Welcome to our growing legion of subscribers, Mr Reeves.*
— *Editor*

Cadets earn their badges

MR MARRIOTT (Letters, Feb 3) raises an important point about the wearing of regimental and corps cap badges and other qualification badges in the Army Cadet Force.

I command the ACF in Merseyside, which includes the area where Mr Marriott lives, and I thought that he should receive a considered reply. Mr Marriott is right to say that such badges should be worn with pride and should be earned.

Do the cadets earn their badges? Yes, they most certainly do. With a structured syllabus of recruit training and progressive training through "star levels" in the Army Proficiency Certificate, there is no more demanding youth organisation requiring more commitment and determination.

With the syllabus ranging broadly across military training, citizenship training and character development, the cadets are proud and worthy representatives of their parent regiments and corps.

The ACF does not wear the red beret of Airborne Forces unless the individual has served as an adult with Airborne



Forces. One or two of my adult staff are qualified by previous service to wear both the beret and wings. One of our senior officers wears the parachute "light bulb" badge signifying jumps completed, but, never having served with Airborne Forces, she wears her Parachute Regiment cap badge in a blue beret.

The value of dressing cadets in regimental or corps dress is self-evident to those of us who have served with the Regular Army, the Territorial Army and ACF. It is not an accident that the cadets receive the high level of excellent support that they do from Regular and Territorial units.

Visits to British Forces Germany to the Royal Dragoon Guards, helicopters from 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps, visits to and from the Irish Guards, competitions arranged by The King's Regiment, The Cheshire Regiment, The Royal Irish Regiment and the Royal

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"CSM said it would be a quiet day out on the river!"

Black Watch in Kenya — see Pages 22-23

**That Dragon motif
— see Page 33**

Logistic Corps are just a few of the advantages accruing from wearing the badges worn by the cadets' "elder brothers and sisters".

I am most grateful to all the 17 regiments and corps who are represented in my county.

Why should these regiments go to so much trouble? Because up to 30 per cent of the successful recruit applicants for the Regular Army and a significant proportion of

those going to the Territorial Army are ex-cadets. The Army Cadet Force is firmly a voluntary youth organisation, not a recruiting organisation. However it is immensely valuable in offering a first insight into the Army to young people who may wish to consider the Army as a volunteer or as a Regular. Would Mr Marriott consider joining us? — **Col M G C Amlot, Commandant, Merseyside ACF.**

Unwarranted outburst

MAY I reply to David G Marriott's outburst of righteous indignation regarding officers, adults and cadets in the ACF "wearing cap badges of élite regiments and corps".

I am privileged to serve in the ACF as a chaplain, wearing the cap badge of one of the most élite sections of the British Army.

Many of the adults I have worked with over the years run detachments affiliated to the Parachute Regiment and wear

with dignity and pride that cap badge on a black or blue beret.

If Mr Marriott has ever seen an ACF officer or adult wearing such a cap badge on a "cherry beret" or parachute wings on the sleeve it is because that individual has earned that honour through Regular or TA service.

Many of the adults involved in the Cadet Force Movement have had Regular or TA service and are willing to offer

● Turn to next page

● From Page 31

their training and experience to the ACF when they conclude their Regular or TA engagement.

Other officers and adult instructors have never seen either Regular or TA service, but give up spare time and holidays to undertake training at the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park, Surrey, a facility which is valued by us all and contributes to the standard of leadership and instructional expertise in the ACF.

Other training in areas such as Range Management or Method of Instruction are often undertaken alongside TA and Regular Army personnel.

I am sorry that Mr Marriott finds himself "irritated to see these people with no service elevated to high ranks", but he really does need to find out what the ACF is all about.

It would be far better for Mr Marriott to take the expertise he acquired during his Regular service along to his local ACF battalion and make a positive contribution, rather than publicly scratching his irritation in the pages of *Soldier* – **Rev Gareth T Jones (an ACF padre), Perth.**

We already have a badge!

IN RESPONSE to David Marriott, who called for a separate Army cadet badge, there already is one [see Page 31]. However, cadets wear with pride the badge of their affiliated regiment or corps.

The Regular units are equally proud and supportive of their "younger arm", which is often a feeder source to it.

At any one time more than a third of the British Army is made up of ex-cadets. Many field marshals and generals started their careers in the cadets, including Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, our president.

In a farewell speech when he relinquished his post recently my previous colonel commanding spoke to the cadets about his military career as a Regular, then TA and Cadet officer.

The most telling part of his speech was that this was the end of a career that started in 1955 as a cadet. Who would question that he had earned the right to wear his various insignia?

David Marriott has only to attend a Remembrance Parade

that involves cadets to see on the chests of many officers and ORs much evidence of "earning". Even those of us who haven't "served" or "earned" in his sense can claim pride in our regiment or corps.

As the mother, wife, sister, daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, niece, aunt,

great-niece, *ad infinitum*, of serving personnel, I happen to believe "they also serve who only stand and wait".

We all have our posers. Who doesn't, even among the Regular Forces? – **Jill Milnthorpe (Lt, Detachment Commander, Beds Army Cadet Force), Newport Pagnell.**

For the record ...

Getting the needle

WE READ with interest of the officer who, having had some experience of veterinary practice in Brisbane before joining the RAMC in 1993, appears to have been philanthropically administering to the civilian animal population while serving in Bosnia as a medical officer for the troops ("Aussie Gavin gets the needle", *People*, Jan 20).

There seems to be a great similarity with Capt Gavin Macgregor-Skinner, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, who was detached for duty in Bosnia from the Defence Animal Support Unit RAVC, Sennelager for a period in 1996.

The significant difference is that the RAVC veterinary officer was in Bosnia with the express intent to

provide veterinary advice and support for the wellbeing of animals, both Service and civilian. Indeed, it was a planned response in accord with the aims and objectives of the RAVC – not the whim of an individual officer who happened to pass by.

Some of my colleagues have expressed interest in "Aussie Gavin's" administration of the injection [in the neck] as illustrated by the photograph. Their custom and practice is to administer at the opposite end of the animal.

Perhaps a future edition of *Soldier* might afford the "Aussie doctor" the opportunity to expound the merits of his method. – **Peter Roffey, Regimental HQ, RAVC, Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray, Leics.**



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An amalgamation in 1968 between the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Royal Ulster Rifles and Royal Irish Fusiliers produced the Royal Irish Rangers. The Ulster Defence Regiment was formed in 1970.

The Royal Irish Regiment is the largest infantry regiment in the Army today. It consists of a General Service (GS) battalion, liable for service worldwide, six Home Service (HS) battalions, for duty in Northern Ireland only, and a Territorial Army battalion.

The postcard illustrated here was reproduced from a watercolour painting by Douglas N Anderson. It shows:

- Pipe major: Full dress.
- Officer: No 2 dress.
- Soldiers in combat dress with Warrior.
- Background: The Water-



gate, Inniskilling Castle.

Both main figures are shown wearing the Irish caubeen as headdress with a green hackle. The pipe major wears a green jacket and sa-

fron kilt. On the kilt are superimposed the three cap badges of the three parent regiments of The Royal Irish Rangers.

The officer wears piper green trousers and carries a

traditional Irish blackthorn stick. The silver cap badge on his caubeen replicates the gold (or gilt) UDR cap badge worn in the piper green beret in working dress.

For details of this and other postcards depicting regiments and corps of the British Army, send SAE to: Geoff White Ltd., 19, Rushmoor Lane, Backwell, Bristol, BS19 3JA.

Dragon badge and how it was won

The point raised by Mr J Levine, of Brighton (Jan 20) about the Royal Berkshire Regiment's Chinese Dragon cap badge and its similarity to the badge of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps drew our biggest mailbag on a single subject for some time. Here is a selection of replies. More in the next issue.

Fighting 49th

THE 49th Foot, later the 1st Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment) was awarded the China Dragon superscribed "China" as a battle honour for its conduct in the first China War of 1840-42.

It was proudly worn on the 49th's head-dress for more than 100 years and continued to be prominent in the cap badge of the combined regiment, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).

However, since the further amalgamation with The Gloucestershire Regiment it appears only on the buttons.

The Chinese dragon has long represented the geographical and ethnic origins of many of members of the various military forces raised in the Colony. These originated with the raising of the Hong

Kong Volunteer Defence Corps in May, 1854.

I would suggest that the designer referred to the Royal Berkshire badge, especially as the previous badges of the Volunteer Defence Corps had depicted two dragons.

Regarding the further question whether it is normal to appropriate another unit's badge, it is not

THE Royal Berkshire Regiment badge contains the device of an oriental dragon in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in the "Opium War" in China during the 19th century.

The school in Reading at which I teach, Ranikhet Primary School, is built on the site of a former Royal Berkshire Regiment training camp, named after Ranikhet, a hill-station on the India-Tibet border where the Royal Berkshires were based in the 1920s.

Our school, which opened in 1970, adopted the China Dragon as its official emblem. — David Downs (history co-ordinator at Ranikhet School and ex-Royal Berkshire Regiment), Reading, Berks.



In all, the 49th fought in six battles under great hardships, and with great distinction, during the two years it spent in China. As a result it won the honour of "The Dragon", superscribed "China" which was adopted by the regiment in 1843.

It was finally lost as any form of cap badge when the DERR merged with the Gloucestershire Regiment. It can now be seen on the buttons of No 2 dress and the regimental colour of the RGBW. — M J McIntyre, Hungerford, Berks.

Not unusual

IT IS not unusual for several regiments to use the same honour on their badges. The HLF and the 1st Punjab Regiment badges both carry an elephant and scroll "Assaye".

Other devices used by several regiments include the Garter Star, the Sphinx above "Egypt" and the Castle of Gibraltar. — P R McDonald, Aldbrough, E Yorks.

Disease

IN total, three regiments went to China and fighting was severe. Disease was, however, the greater enemy. — Bertie Greer (Cadet RGBW), Newbury, Berks.

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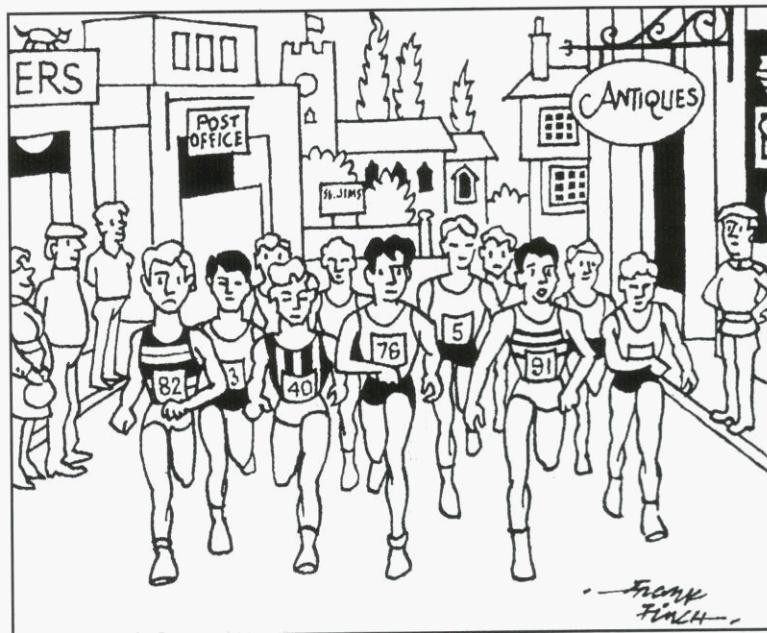
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JANUARY 18, 1997

TWO-way tie for first prize (21 goals, £1,925 each): LCpl DJ Davies, HCMR, London; Maj GJ Paulin, 22 Regt RA, Kirton in Lindsey.

FOUR-way tie for third prize (20 goals, £537.50 each): Capt G Cutter, 100 Regt RA (V), London; Pte SB Galloway, 1 Hldrs, BFPO 807; WO2 CB Oliver, SEAE, Arborfield; Cpl TG White, 19 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Bulford.

JANUARY 25, 1997

TWO-way tie for first prize (24 goals, £1,925 each): Maj AB McLeod, RMCS, Shrivenham; Cpl G Scott, 24 Airmob Bde CSS Bn, Colchester.

FOUR-way tie for third prize (23 goals, £537.50 each): WO2 D Bowen, HQ 3 Inf Bde, BFPO 809; Cpl MP Goodison, The Light Dragoons, BFPO 30; Cpl RE Keightley, RMP Trg Centre, Chichester; LCpl G Pogue, 32 Engr Regt, BFPO 30.

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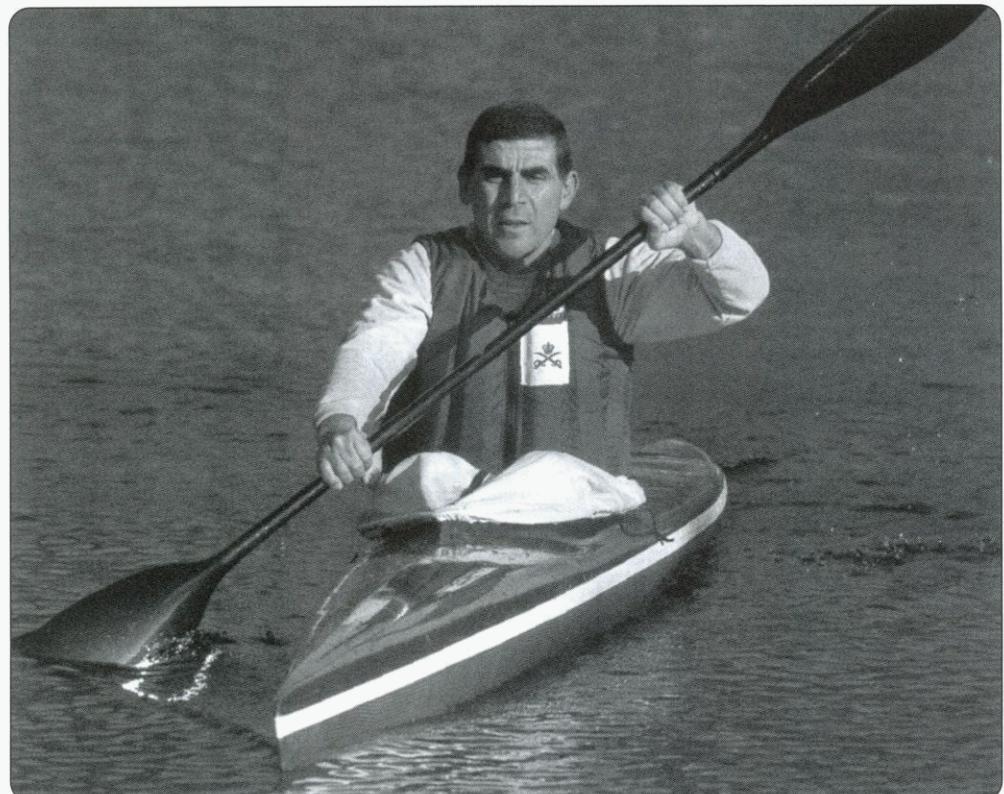
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Pictured during a training session on the Basingstoke Canal, Capt Ted Martin has paddled, swum, cycled and run his way to World and European sporting honours

Ted Martin: an enduring talent

WHEN Capt Ted Martin joined the Army 30 years ago, he can hardly have expected to end up as a World and European quadrathlon champion, but that is precisely what happened.

The Army Physical Training Corps athlete came to the sport via triathlon. He had always enjoyed endurance events and took part in the 1984 world triathlon championships.

Competing in the world quadrathlon championships for the first time in 1995, Ted won the veterans' title for his age group, completing the four-event competition in just under eight hours... no mean feat for a 5km sea swim, 20km sea kayak race, 100km cycle ride and a 21km run.

Last season, he lost his title when a stomach bug affected his form. He did, however, recover to enter the European Cup quadrathlon series, competing in Hungary, Germany, Spain, Britain and the Czech Republic and finished first in his age group.

Ted (45) is a former Army, Combined Services and Welsh

international water polo player and swimmer, and once held the Combined Services 100m butterfly record.

A keen sportsman, he was a member of the 7 Parachute Regiment RHA Nordic ski team for four seasons and was both player and coach for the Welsh handball team.

When first commissioned, he was posted to the then

"I had to drive to some of the events in Europe because I couldn't afford the train fares. Fortunately, the Army Sports Lottery backed me with a grant of £1,000."

Surprisingly, the sport does not have its own Army championship, but Capt Martin is hoping to rectify that omission. On behalf of the Army School of Physical Training and 3 RSME Regiment Royal Engineers, he is organising an Army open invitation quadrathlon competition at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley next month.

The challenging event, a new addition to the British Quadrathlon Association calendar, will help identify talented quadrathletes who could compete in this year's British and European championships.

Capt Martin said: "It is also intended as an introduction to the sport for military personnel."

"Once soldiers and their units become aware of the competitive nature of quadrathlon, I believe it will really take off as an Army sport this season." — LJM

SPORTING PROFILE

Army Catering Corps apprentice college at Aldershot, where he organised nine adventurous training expeditions in three years.

In Belize, he helped start up a fund to preserve a section of barrier reef by swimming 16 miles through shark-infested waters from the reef back to the mainland.

Competing in quadrathlon can be expensive. The cost of travel and equipment is considerable.

"My racing bicycle alone cost £1,800 and then I had to pay another £400 to upgrade the wheels," said Ted.

Five-star champions

Gladiator Jude set to bow out with fifth title

SSgt Jude Shenton (APTC) won the women's individual giant slalom at St Moritz and looks set to become Army women's Alpine champion for the fifth time in her last year of competition with the Army.

Shenton, who took part in the *Gladiators* television show last summer, was more than three seconds ahead of her nearest rivals, Capts Emma Watson-Mack and Kirsty Pemberton-Piggott.

The Army Winter Sports Association's fortnight-long 50th anniversary meeting — AWSA 50 — attracted more than 450 soldiers. Among the spectators was Lord Glenborian, who as Capt Robin Dixon, Gren Gds, won a gold medal in the two-man bob at the 1964 Winter Olympics.

Sgt David Belam (3 RHA) powered to victory in the 15km British and Inter-Services classical cross-country for a remarkable fifth year in succession. He beat off a determined challenge from Olympic veter-



SSgt Jude Shenton (APTC) on her way to victory in the women's individual giant slalom at St Moritz. It put her on course to win the overall Alpine title for the fifth time. Shenton is based in Wales

an Sgt Michael Dixon (35 Engr Regt) and LCpl Wayne Kennan (QRH).

Belam, a former British Olympic Nordic ski team member, said: "I really wanted this one. It has never been won five times in a row before so I am very pleased."

"The course was a hard one, with a lot of uphill and few places to recover. We got the wax right and put everything into it, and it all worked out."

The day before the AWSA 50 opening ceremony, seven

soldiers competed in the international Coppa d'Italia race on the Cresta run.

After a night of heavy frost, the run was fast and a season's best run of 52sec was achieved by a Swiss rider.

Three Army riders were placed in the top half of the 60-strong field. Maj Rupert Wieloch, racing on a traditional toboggan, finished 17th, with Capt Charlie Slater and Maj Matthew Sample not far behind.

Cpl Sean Ollson (1 Para)

and Cpl Dean Ward (2 Para) notched up their highest-ever placing in the two-man bobsleigh World Championship at St Moritz, finishing eighth in a top-class field.

After the race, Sean, the British number one driver, said: "I'm pleased with the way it went. Our previous best was tenth and it proves that slowly but surely the driving is getting better."

● A round-up of news, pictures and results from AWSA 50 will appear in the next issue.

County dish out a lesson in teamwork

Army 0, Hampshire 3

THE Army women's football team could not have chosen a tougher start to their South West Counties Championship campaign when Hampshire were the visitors to the Military Stadium, Aldershot, writes Derrick Bly.

While Army coach QMSI Joe Roach is still hard at work formulating his squad, the county party consisted of 12 players from the Southampton Saints WFC who play their soccer in the National

Women's Premier Division. Centre back and skipper of the county side was ex-England international Linda Coffin.

Hampshire quickly adapted to the heavy conditions and Sgts Max McQue and Debbie Batey and Ptes Battams and Leader had to work hard in defence to contain the non-stop county onslaught.

Army keeper LCpl Tracey Garner saw plenty of the action and her use of feet and legs to keep out Hampshire goal attempts caused some anxious moments for home supporters.

The opening goal arrived in the 36th minute when Hilary Carter (Wimbledon WFC) outpaced McQue and put Charlie Simm clear. Five minutes later Hampshire went further ahead through Claire Butler.

Army attackers Cpl Terry Bennett, Pte Naomi Burden and Pte Tania Smyth got little change out of their more experienced markers and, with the Army defence and midfield tirelessly while Bennett, a lone figure up front, never stopped looking for gaps in the county defence.

FA slam five past Services

FA 5, Combined Services 0

OXFORD City's tiny stadium provided the venue for this season's prestigious battle between the Combined Services and the Football Association, writes Derrick Bly.

Services traditionally use the fixture to make final preparations for the Kentish Cup matches against the Belgian and Dutch Armed Forces and, on this occasion, the FA fielded a strong squad of players from the Vauxhall Conference League.

After an early goal attempt by POAEA Nigel Thwaites (RN), the semi-professionals went in front in the 20th minute. A cross from the right was flicked on into the crowded area and Kidderminster striker Hughes headed past the Services keeper, Cfn Ian Elliott.

Within a minute a bad bounce in the penalty area from a 25-yard shot by Oxford City striker Forinton deceived Elliott and the ball ended up in the back of the net.

The best effort from Services came when SAC Chris McGuire (RAF) jinked past two FA defenders, but his left foot drive was high and wide.

Services were further exposed in the 32nd minute when Cpl Gary Wootton lost his footing and Hughes stepped in to give the unprotected Elliott no chance.

A floodlight failure brought the first half to an abrupt end, but within five minutes of the re-start Harriers winger Hughes completed his hat trick when he turned in a cross.

The fifth FA goal came when WO2 Alan Higgins lost possession in midfield and a long ball by Cousins (Yeovil Town) was glanced home by Slough Town player Cliff Hercules.

The Vauxhall Leaguers were in a class of their own on the night and Elliott made three good saves later in the game to prevent an even bigger defeat. Substitute Cpl Lee Innes added some fire to the front line but the strong FA defence gave very little away.

Desert Rats win battle of the signal squadrons

IF REPUTATION was anything to go by, 216 Parachute Signal Squadron should have been clear winners of the Army Minor Units novice team boxing championships, but they were outpunched and outpaced by a far superior 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron team, writes Laurie Manton.

The Desert Rats won the contest at the Aldershot boxing centre by five bouts to two.

Cpl Tony Caulfield (7 Bde) made a fast and furious start in his featherweight bout against Sig Jimmy Shaw. Shaw took a standing count in the second round, surviving through to the third and final round, albeit in a bloodied state. Caulfield won unanimously on points.

In an exciting lightweight contest, Sig Gaz Woolley (7 Bde) earned a unanimous points win despite taking a standing count in the first round against LCpl Nick Jenkins.

LCpl Titch Meakin was far too strong for Sig Loddy Jones (216) at light-welterweight and the referee had to step in smartly to stop the contest to prevent Jones being hurt.

Army coach Ssgt Andy Edwards was at ringside to look for fresh talent to add to his team. Meakin's name was probably on his list.

The next two bouts produced first-round wins, light-middleweight LCpl Carl Harris (7 Bde) stopping a badly-cut Sig Jakey Jakeman



Sig Tricky Dick (right) lands the big punch which floored his 7 Bde opponent, Sig Dave Wheeler

and Sig Tricky Dick providing a first win for the Parachute Signal Squadron against middleweight Sig Dave Wheeler.

In the penultimate bout, light-heavyweights Sigs Thommo Thompson and Chris Moore (7 Bde) went the distance, with Moore winning on a majority decision.

Sgt Yaf Yaifai (7 Bde) flew at his opponent in the opening

seconds of the final contest of the evening, almost knocking him over in the rush. After the referee persuaded him to calm down, Yafai took a fair bit of punishment from his welterweight opponent, LCpl Pete Watson, who won convincingly on points.

Featherweight winner Cpl Tony Caulfield won the award for the most promising boxer.

Bonus draw marks lottery landmark

THE millionth pound in prize money since the Army Sports Lottery began more than three years ago will be paid out on April 12.

Maj Alan Cassie, lottery manager, said: "To mark the occasion, the prize money for the April draw will be increased from £6,000 to £7,500. The top prize will be £3,000."

Cash raised so far for Army sport by the lottery amounts to £1.37 million. It has been paid out in direct grants and to Army Sports Control Board trust funds.

To qualify for the big April draw, new entrants to the lottery scheme have until the end of February to get their application forms to Maj Cassie. They can be obtained from unit regimental admin offices.

Taff boots Navy into touch

Army U-21s 18, RN U-21s 12

A YOUNG Royal Navy team arrived at Aldershot with their tails up and confidence at a peak after demolishing a Royal Air Force team by 49 points to nil a week earlier, writes Tom Wye.

The red-shirted Army team had Sprs Taff Griffiths and Matt Chalmers in their ranks for the first time this season,

the former fresh from an operational tour in Bosnia.

The players also had the benefit of being coached by WO2 Nipper Garrett, a veteran of many inter-Service battles at Under-21 level.

As usual in these encounters, the match was played at a frantic pace with no quarter given. With points from penalties likely to be crucial, the duties of the kicker were critical.

Griffiths, playing his first full game of the season, rose to the occasion and slotted two out of two to make the half-time score 6-6. His opposite number managed only two out of six.

In the second half the Army built up a 15-6 advantage, all the points scored by Griffiths. The visitors clawed back to 15-12 before Taff the Boot kicked the penalty that made the game safe for the Army.

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A Royal Air Force Chinook helicopter carries an underslung 105mm light gun during a fire-power demonstration at the Glamoc range in Bosnia. Waiting to unhook the weapon are Gnr Matthew Newman (left) and Sgt Derek Hunter of F (Sphinx) Battery, 7th (Parachute) Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery. Story in Pages 18-19.

Picture: Capt Kevin Harvey



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