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# SOLDIER

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● Paras and Scots Guards in Poland ● Op Grapple and Rwanda EOD



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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**November 28, 1994**

**Vol 50/24**

## CONTENTS

- 5 News
- 10 People
- 12 EOD Rwanda/Bosnia
- 14 Paras, SG in Poland
- 19 Argylls in west Belfast
- 22 3 Regt AAC
- 24 Rwanda feature
- 26 Op Grapple pictures
- 28 For families
- 30 Letters to the Editor
- 32 Briefings
- 35 Reviews
- 38 *Soldier* Mart
- 39 HOAY competition
- 45 Classifieds
- 48 Sport

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**FRONT COVER:** Pte Gary Leitch, of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, on duty in a more relaxed west Belfast, makes a new friend on the Ballymurphy estate. The regiment's roulement tour spanned the IRA cease-fire. See Pages 19-21. (Picture: Mike Weston.)

● **MINE MENACE:** Wherever there is conflict anti-personnel and anti-vehicles mines take their toll of life and limb. In Bosnia and Rwanda, British EOD soldiers are tackling the menace. *Page 12-13.*

● **POLISH LINK:** British links with Poland have survived the Cold War years. Soldiers from 5 Airborne Brigade and the Scots Guards have been exercising there as the hand of friendship and co-operation

is extended once more. *Pages 14-17.*

● **NORTHERN IRELAND:** Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders have adopted a softer image on the streets of Belfast. *Pages 19-21.*

● **FAMILY WELFARE:** The annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives (Germany) was given an update on family welfare in Germany. *Pages 28-29.*

# Mine blast sapper gets UN Rwanda medal

SPR Robert Copsey, who lost the lower part of his right leg when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine during Operation Gabriel, was presented with his United Nations Rwanda medal before flying home on November 3.

The sapper, serving with Aldershot-based 9 Parachute Squadron RE, was injured while repairing a bridge 10km south of Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

He received his medal from Gen Guy Tousinant, Commander UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda, only eight days after a British and an Australian surgeon had operated on him in Kigali hospital, which is staffed by the Australian



Spr Robert Copsey, back in uniform, shows off his UN medal

medical contingent to the UN.

Another soldier, also from 9 Para Sqn, was slightly injured by shrapnel in the blast at the bridge – which has now been repaired and renamed “Copsey Bridge”. They are the first sol-

diers injured by mines or other munitions since the start of Op Gabriel on August 17.

The 550-strong British contingent was due to return to Aldershot on November 17.

● **Rwanda EOD – Pages 12-13**

# Tribute paid as parade marks end of BAOR

THE SYMBOLIC end of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) – which with other NATO armies safeguarded the freedom of the West for almost 50 years – was marked by a parade at Rheindahlen attended by the Prince of Wales.

At the height of the Cold War the formation consisted of 80,000 troops. Now, following the reduction of force levels in Europe, the number of British troops remaining in the Feder-

al Republic is about 25,000.

A new organisation, United Kingdom Support Command (Germany), is now responsible for administration of British troops stationed in Germany. Operational command is exercised by Herford-based 1 (UK) Armoured Division, commanded by Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson.

Along with the headquarters of NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), the Multi-

National Division (Central) and the RAF's No 2 Group, UKSC(G) occupies the Joint Headquarters complex at Rheindahlen, former home to BAOR, RAF Germany and NATO's Northern Army Group and 2nd Tactical Air Force.

Among those joining Prince Charles at the parade were Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and the last two com-

● **Turn to Page 5**

Picture: Sean Jackson UKLF/MPC



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shattered'*

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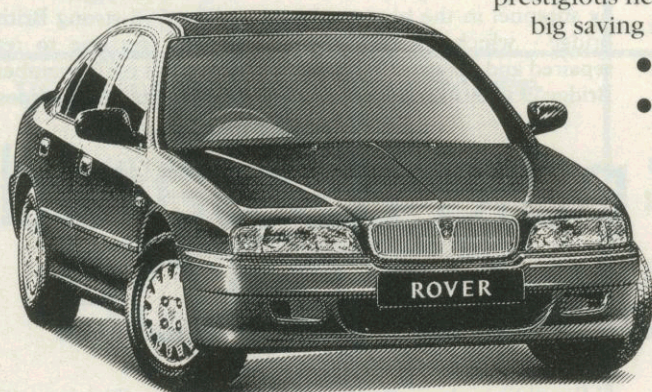
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## BAOR: End of an era

● From Page 3

manders of BAOR, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge and Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, now the Chiefs of the Defence and General Staffs respectively.

BAOR's role in the defence of Germany was recognised when the German Government presented a *Fahnenband* – a prestigious ribbon in the German national colours – as “an outward sign of the mutual performance of duty in the service of the people and the state”.

Disbandment of BAOR and consequent changes were symbolic of a new role in a new Europe, the Prince said.

“The British troops in Germany are a part of that new Europe, and a part of the transformation going through it.”

Close links between the British Army in Germany and the German communities which had played host to them for so many years remained, and would hopefully grow even stronger, he said.



Soldiers of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards and the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment form the guard for the farewell to BAOR parade at Mönchengladbach, where they were inspected by the Prince of Wales and Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff (inset above)



Picture: Terry Champion

Heading for Luxembourg are (from left) Sgt First Class Richard Mutz US Army, SSgt Chris Boal, Sgt Dick Punshon, Sgt Mark Ablethorp, Pte Becky Burton, SSgt Terry Grantham and WO1 Lou Jones

## Top Army chefs take on the world

THE ARMY Culinary Team UK took a bold menu to Luxembourg when it attended the Military World Cup at the 7th international trade show for gastronomy from November 19-23.

Led by WO1 Lou Jones, who won the British Chef of the Year competition in February, the team of eight instructors from the Army School of Catering at Aldershot had to produce a three-course menu for 150 using a German Army field kitchen.

WO1 Jones converted this to

produce a fillet of Scottish salmon pan smoked with apple wood as a starter, followed by a north of England beer pie. His lemon *crème royale* with orange sauce clinched his national success earlier this year.

The menu was entered in the Restaurant of Nations category and was designed to show the team's skill under

testing conditions. The team also produced seven three-course menus of hot food served cold.

This culinary “World Cup” happens every four years, and a similar competition two years ago, the World Championship of Armed Forces, was also won by WO1 Jones while on exchange with the American Army in Virginia.

## Drug tests ‘to be introduced’

THE ARMY was preparing for the introduction of random drug testing soon, after impending measures were announced in several newspapers this month.

Among those predicting official moves to detect and deter misuse of drugs were *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Independent* and *The Guardian*, as well as the British Forces Germany newspaper, *Sixth Sense*.

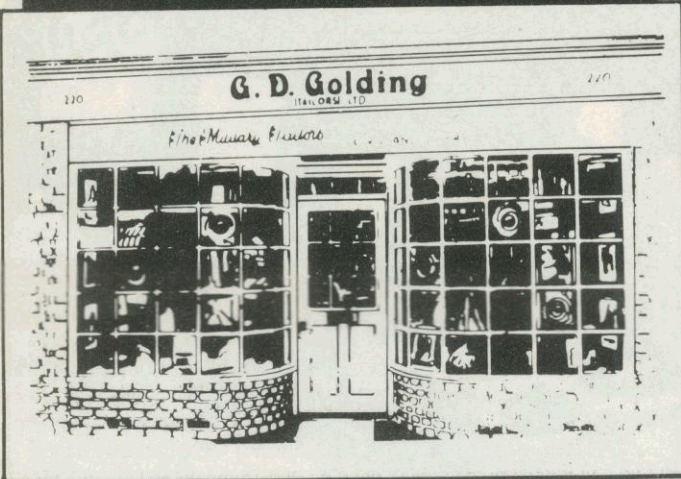
According to *The Daily Telegraph*, a civilian contractor is being hired to carry out the testing of both officers and other ranks.

The newspaper added that reported drug offences in the Army increased from 708 in 1990 to 1,046 last year, despite a 20,000 reduction in Service strength.



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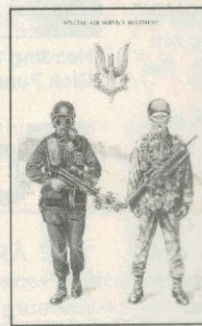
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## Hameln sappers set new bridge-building record

A NEW world record for building a medium girder bridge (MGB) was set in Hameln during the annual Royal Engineer games for sappers serving in Germany.

Highlight of the exciting and competitive two-day event, the MGB competition involved teams from the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and the United States.

As a result of the rules being changed this year to increase the safety of participants, the winners automatically set a new world record.

Honours went to Hameln-based 35 Engineer Regiment, which recorded a time of 10min 34sec.

## Two die on exercise

TWO students from Oxford University Officer Training Corps, Miss Karen Buttenshaw (19) and Miss Becky Norris (20), died from burns after the Land Rover they were travelling in overturned and caught fire during a Territorial Army exercise on Salisbury Plain on October 29. A warrant officer permanent staff instructor also suffered extensive burns.

## WG remember

THE Prince of Wales, Colonel of the Welsh Guards, attended the regiment's annual Remembrance Day service. He met the Guards Chapel choir and presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to CSgt Philip Stevenson of the Welsh Guards Band and LSgt Ian Rogers, 1 WG.



Members of the 35 Engineer Regiment medium girder bridge team haul their way to a new world record



## CDS visits Gabriel medics

CHIEF of the Defence Staff Gen Sir Peter Inge (centre) watches the work of medics from 23 Parachute Field Ambulance RAMC during a visit to the 600-strong British contingent serving the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda. The troops deployed to Rwanda on Gabriel on August 17 and are due to return on November 17

## IN BRIEF

DEFENCE Secretary Malcolm Rifkind flew to Washington on October 30 for three days of defence talks and visits. His programme included meetings with his American counterpart, Dr William Perry and new NATO Secretary General Willy Claes.

Fifteen officers of 31 (German) Airborne Brigade were hosted by Colchester-based 24 Airmobile Brigade in a "Patenschaft" visit. The twinning of the two brigades is sanctioned by both countries, and the visit was designed to give the German paras an insight into the British Army.

Coldstream Guards – all of whom served in Bosnia this year – made a rare sight in central London when they paraded in combat dress for UN Secretary General Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali when he laid a wreath at the Cenotaph.

Control of Ayrshire Barracks South in Monchengladbach has passed from the Americans of the British. The barracks remain part of NATO.

A 22-tonne Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle has been transported by rail between Army bases at Ludgershall and Bicester in a trial by the MoD and Railfreight Distribution.

The trial – culmination of a project to meet the UK-based Army's requirement to move armoured vehicles throughout the country – entailed the design of a special platform on an existing wagon.



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## Hurd pays tribute to Op Gabriel team

BRITAIN's Operation Gabriel contribution in Rwanda had been "a substantial, timely and successful effort", Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told the Commons on November 2.

He said the 600 troops provided by Britain to the UN force had helped restore transport routes and had run a field hospital which had treated more than 106,000 people.

Tributes to the work of the military, as well as the humanitarian agencies, in Rwanda were paid in the Lords on November 1 by, among others, Foreign Office Minister Baroness Chalker, the Bishop of Lichfield and former Defence Minister Lord Judd, who described the efforts as "outstanding".

De-lousing pesticide used during the Gulf War was safe enough not to require those applying it to wear protective clothing, Defence Under-Secretary Lord Henley said in the Lords.

In answer to a written question from the Countess of Mar on November 1, he said 50 Iraqi prisoners were treated by the British Army Medical Service in the two weeks a prisoner-of-war enclosure at Quaisuma was operational.

The dusting powder used, which included one per cent malathion, is safe enough to be used on clothing and the body and is similar to preparations available commercially in

the United Kingdom, he said.

Answering a further question from the Countess, Lord Henley said a substance alleged to be Iraqi mustard gas found stored in Kuwait had been identified, on analysis, as fuming nitric acid – a rocket motor propellant.

In a Commons written answer on October 31, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames reiterated that medical and scientific investigations had produced no evidence of any medical condition peculiar to service in the Gulf.

British Service volunteers took part in research in the 1960s to determine the effects of the hallucinogenic drug LSD in a military setting.

The experiments took place at Porton Down and all volunteers were subjected to stringent medical and psychological screening.

The information was given by the chief executive of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Graham Pearson, in a letter to Labour MP Dr David Clark which formed part of a Commons written answer.

Twenty-eight Service personnel are known to have contract-

ed HIV, said Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames.

He told Dr David Clark in a written answer: "Personnel who consider themselves to be at risk of HIV infection are encouraged to undergo counselling and voluntary testing."

"Service personnel who are infected are given counselling and receive advice and treatment appropriate to their medical condition. The Ser-

vices continue to employ HIV carriers until their health deteriorates to a point at which it is appropriate to terminate their employment on medical grounds."

Strict environmental health and hygiene measures were taken to eradicate an outbreak of diarrhoea affecting 250 soldiers in Vitez and the surrounding areas of Bosnia between July and September, the Commons was told.

Nearly 700 non-commissioned women and an estimated 49 female officers left the Army on grounds of pregnancy between August 1990 and June 1994.

Mr Eric Martlew had asked for figures relating to actual dismissals but Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said

the records were not specific.

The figure for female officers is only an estimate because actual figures for some of the time in question are not available.

When the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, visited Indonesia in October as part of a programme of calls in the area he met with President Suharto, the Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces, and other senior military figures.

Answering a written question about military equipment contracts, Defence Procurement Minister Roger Freeman said negotiations were commercially confidential and pointed out that export of military goods from the UK was subject to export control.

Strength of the Army on September 1, 1994 was 120,058, said Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames.

Mr Soames said there were no plans for Britain to join the Eurocorps, although British forces are in principle available to the Western European Union.

Estimated cost of converting Beachley Camp, Chepstow, from an apprentices' college to an infantry battalion barracks was given as £15.3 million.



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

## LD quit Bosnia

FOR THE first time in 18 months, there are no formed elements of Light Dragoons stationed in central Bosnia. As their last troop departed, the regiment claimed to be the longest serving in Bosnia.

Light Dragoon soldiers have served on Op Grapple since May 1993.

B Squadron took part in Grapple 2, followed by C Squadron on Grapple 3. D Squadron deployed as part of the augmentation force in March, while A Squadron deployed with Grapple 4.

To complete a full house, RHQ deployed for three months to command BRIT-CAVBAT in the Maglaj finger.

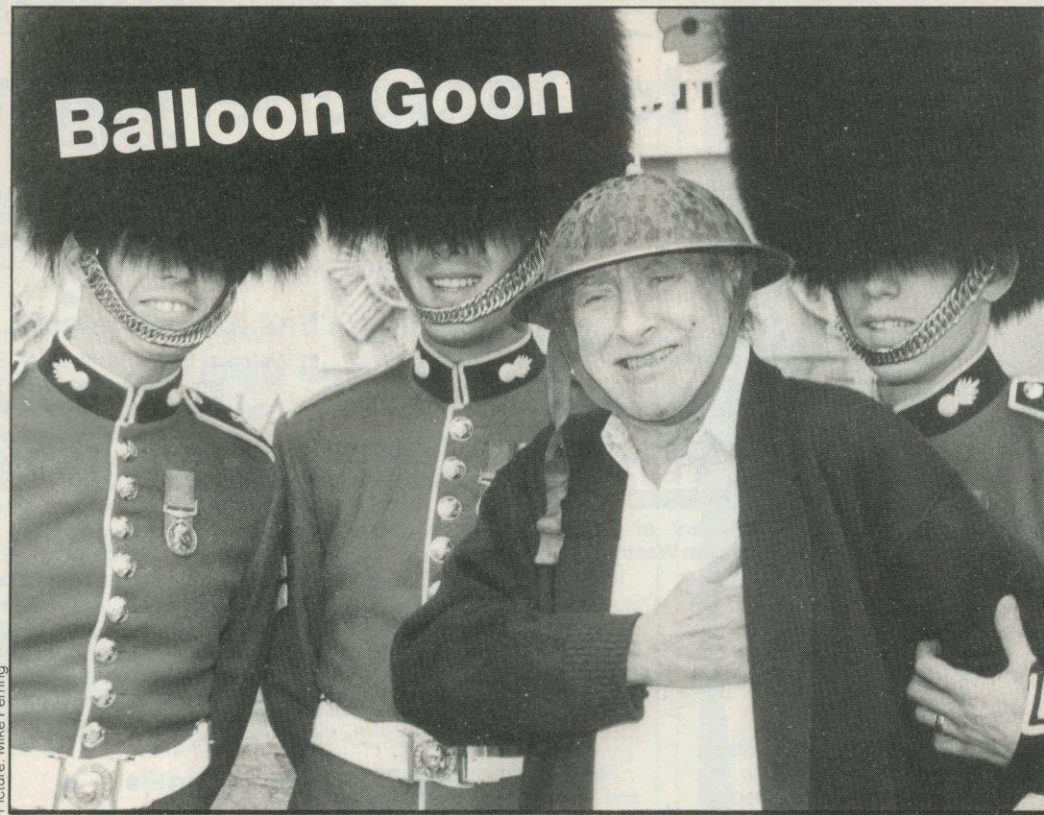
● 30 Signal Regiment has had an unbroken presence in the region since 1992.



The Princess Royal meets members of 8 Signal Regiment, of whom she is Colonel-in-Chief, during their farewell parade at Catterick Garrison. Based in Catterick since 1961, the regiment is due to leave on December 2, before being disbanded in March next year



## Balloon Goon



Showing that his heart is in the right place when it comes to commemorating the end of the Second World War is writer, comedian and former Goon **Spike Milligan**. He and (left to right) Gdsm **Sean Tomlinson**, Cpl **Chris Fish** and Gdsm **David Cornet** of the Grenadier Guards released balloons in central London as a foretaste of the Great British Balloon Launch – involving at least half a million balloons to mark the 468,000 lives lost during the 1939-45 war – organised by the Royal British Legion and due to take place next August to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

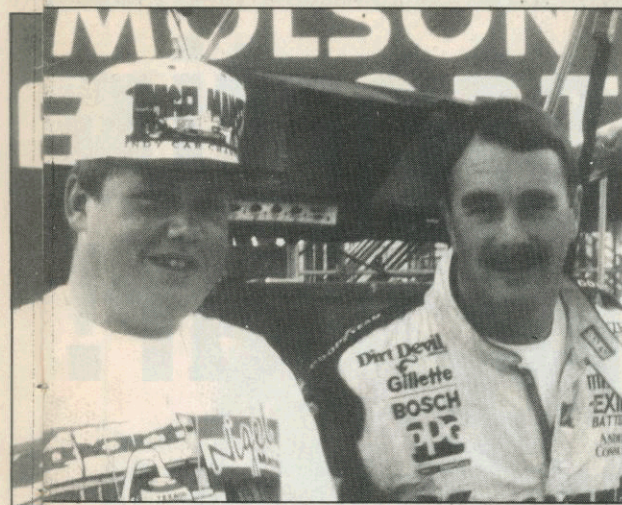
## Hair of the dog?



Cpl **Watchman the Third** – mascot of the 3rd Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment – approves of the first pint of Regimental Ale brewed for the Staffords to mark Arnhem's 50th anniversary. Watchman's pint was pulled by Maj Gen **Ian Freer**, Colonel of the Regiment. Crates of the beer are being flown by Marston's, the brewers, to the 1st Battalion in Northern Ireland.

## FAST MOVER

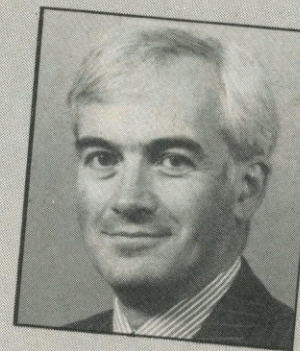
The CO of 205 (Hull) Field Ambulance RAMC(V) may notice a difference in his driver's performance after Pte **Phil Fudge** of the Royal Logistic Corps Detachment won a phone-in quiz prize of a trip to Canada, where he met Indy Car superstar **Nigel Mansell** and other leading drivers.



## KING PIN

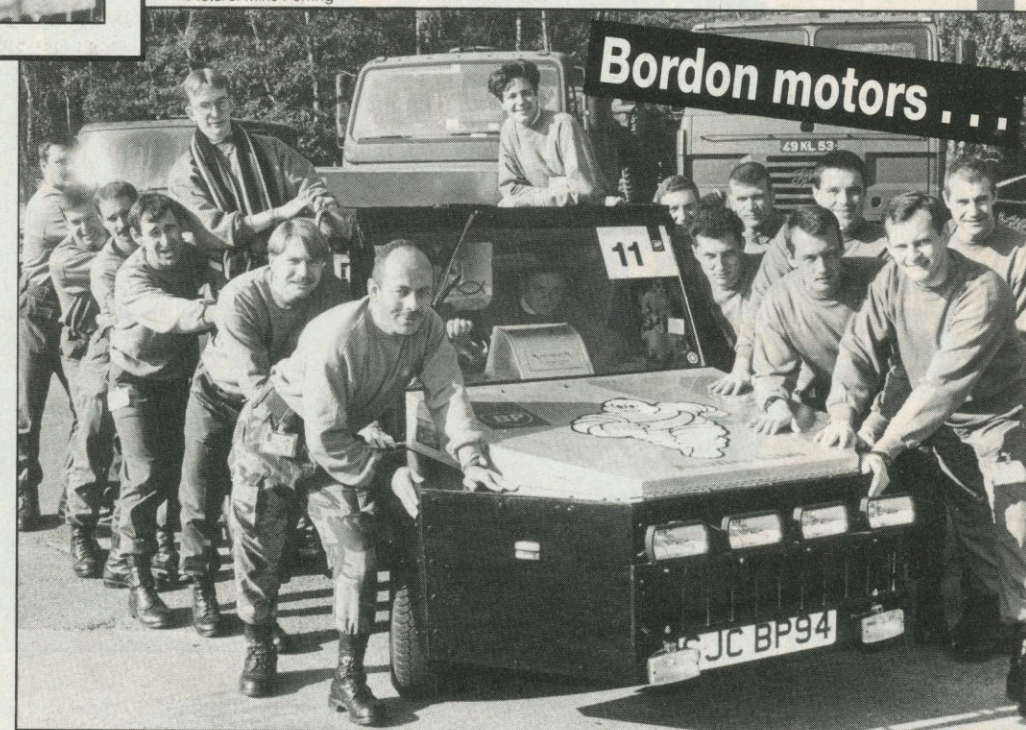
New regimental secretary of The King's Regiment is Lt Col **Martin Amlôt**, former CO of the Warrington-based TA battalion, 5/8 Kings. He takes over from Maj **Bob Baker**.

The regiment has two headquarters offices – in Ardwick Green, Manchester, and in Liverpool.



Picture: Mike Perring

PEOPLE  
PEOPLE  
PEOPLE  
PEOPLE  
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PEOPLE  
PEOPLE  
PEOPLE



Lending some muscle to the five-man team from St Joseph's College, Stoke-on-Trent, which, as part of BP Oil's long-running Buildacar competition, had designed and built this vehicle to be used by Christian Brother missionaries in Africa, were SSgt **Willy Bernard** (front left), an engineering instructor at SEME Bordon, and some of the 18 artificer vehicles course students at SEME who helped to host the final stages of the competition.

## MBT MP ...

Tynemouth MP **Neville Trotter**, a member of the Commons Defence Select Committee, visited the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington after the Conservative Party Conference last month and was briefed on the Challenger 2 main battle tank by Maj **Mike Bullen** of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.



## Scout's honour



Maj (Retd) **Sam Law**, who logged more than 11,000 flying hours in the Army, was back in the cockpit to mark 30 years of flying Scout helicopters.

One of the revered "old and bold", Sam first flew a Scout while serving with the Rotary Conversion Flight from June to December 1964, and regularly flew the aircraft until April this year when 667 (D and T) Sqn AAC's last Scout was delivered to RNAY Fleetlands for disposal reserve.

For the 30th anniversary of Scout operations, Sam flew the Historic Aircraft Flight helicopter, landing at the headquarters of Director Army Aviation, Middle Wallop, where he was greeted by Maj Gen **Simon Lytle** and colleagues.

## WOt a combination!



WO2 **Eric Barnett** wants to know if he and WO2 **Steven Barnett** are the only father and son Warrant Officer combination in the Royal Logistic Corps. Between them they have 44 years of service.

Eric (left) is Wing Warrant Officer of the Driving Training Wing at the Army School of Mechanical Transport, from where some of his drivers join Steven (right) at 36 Squadron RLC in Colchester.



## John stays in the firing line

No longer in uniform, but still involved in front-line operations is **John Campbell**, now with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees after 32 years serving in The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Royal Pioneer Corps.

During his final posting, as UN Liaison Officer in Vietnam, John became interested in the work of the UNHCR and, on retirement, took over as head of the UNHCR operation in the UN's Protected Area East in former Yugoslavia.

He has a responsibility for more than 45,000 refugees, most of them from Vukovar.





# We're not starting the war!

AN EXTRA risk faced British Army EOD personnel in Rwanda as they went about clearing unexploded mortars, mines and munitions on the United Nations' main routes of supply, writes **Gordon Skilling**.

When soldiers of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) heard ordnance being detonated, they thought the fighting had begun again and went looking for the enemy.

Capt Mark Hurlston and his three men from Wimbish-based 3 Engineer Regiment (EOD) had some unnerving moments, including being

confronted by 14-year-old soldiers who thought they were starting a war.

"It is impossible to communicate with a youngster pointing an AK47 at you because he is not interested in explanations," said Capt Hurlston.

The RPA provided a sergeant to act as liaison officer for the EOD team. He put a stop to the interference and halted traffic when a grenade or anti-personnel mine had to be blown up in situ.

The sappers were tasked only to deal with ordnance which directly threatened the

United Nations' effort. A lemonade factory had more bang than pop when artillery was located nearby during bitter fighting round Kigali's old Islamic centre. Later the heavily-shelled factory was used to produce clean water – until a Russian 82mm mortar was found lodged in the roof.

Under Capt Hurlston's supervision it was pulled free, gently lowered to the ground

and subsequently detonated. The detachment was leaving when more mortars were found. They were also destroyed.

With so much unexploded ordnance lying around there was little time for the British sappers to give formal instruction in safety. This task will fall to a contractor hired to take over the work of the EOD detachment when it returns to Britain.

**RWANDA**

## MINE ALERT... **BOSNIA**

THE BEST known "pin-up" in central Bosnia is a photograph of a pair of shredded Army boots. The image, torn from a magazine article, can be found pinned to walls in every British Army base in the region, writes **Laurie Manton**.

The reason for its notoriety is explained by the caption below. The boots were worn by someone who had the misfortune to stand on an anti-personnel mine. The resulting explosion ripped off the toe caps... and the feet inside.

In common with every field of conflict in modern times, mines pose the greatest threat to life – soldiers and civilians alike – in Bosnia, and the Army is taking no chances. Every opportunity is grasped to educate troops in the dangers of mines.

Millions have been scattered across the confrontation lines of the former Republic of Yugoslavia and British sappers are in the forefront of operations to get rid of them.

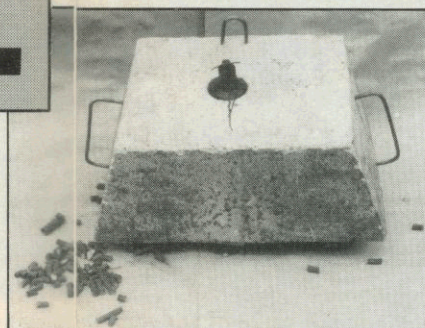
Under a United Nations-brokered agreement, HVO and BiH commanders marked and cleared minefields within the Sector South West area of responsibility.

It was a considerable task. Around the Vitez pocket alone, maps handed in revealed there were 82km of confrontation line, almost all of it mined.

Detachment OC Capt Paul Buttery of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosives Ordnance Disposal) and his men were tasked with supervising the minefield clearance operations.

"We go out on the ground with HVO or BiH EOD teams as they work and, afterwards, arrange liaison meetings to show each side what's been achieved," said Capt Buttery.

"There has been quite a difference in the types laid by each side. The Bosnian Muslim BiH Army uses commercially-produced mines bought off the shelf, while the Bosnian Croat HVO soldiers



An improvised Bosnian Claymore mine. The hollow concrete box is packed with 10kg of explosives and shipyard "confetti"

have made many of their own devices," he said.

This improvisation was made possible because HVO troops cut off in Vitez had an explosives factory at their disposal. The performance of "home-made" weaponry can be unpredictable... with fatal effect.

Cpl Barney Warburton was killed at Stari Vitez last March when a home-made mine he was preparing for disposal exploded prematurely. In a separate incident, Spr Barry Nicholas was killed while helping local forces clear a minefield near Gornji Vakuf. Both men were members of 33 Regiment.

Four Royal Engineers



Left – Capt Paul Buttery shows off two rocket grenades improvised by the Bosnians. At his feet are several examples of mines recovered by his sappers

hand grenades being handed in at UN checkpoints to vehicles hitting mines.

The regiment's EOD operators cleared mines from Tuzla airport and checked out a route for combat engineers constructing a bypass and bridge links at Bijela. This involved sweeping sections of a river bed in which a number of munitions were discovered.

The Bugojno detachment was responsible for battle area clearance at Gornji Vakuf. More than 1,000 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) was cleared from around the no man's land area which ran straight through the centre of town.

On two occasions, Bosnian Serb soldiers threatened to open fire on sappers clearing mines.

The EOD detachments are also responsible for raising the level of mine awareness among British troops serving in Bosnia. They have achieved this by regular briefings and a poster campaign.

EOD detachments are stationed in Bosnia; two at Vitez, one in Gorazde and one in Bugojno.

Sappers maintain a readiness level of 30 minutes' notice to respond to EOD taskings which range from



Capt Mark Hurlston watches as LCpl John Adams loops a cable round an unexploded mortar bomb found on a Kigali factory roof

Picture: Terry Champion

Picture: Mike Perring

LCpl John Adams gingerly prepares an unexploded Russian-made Rwandan mortar bomb for disposal



# Paras step back in time to revive old friendships

FIFTY-FIVE years ago Germany invaded Poland, and Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain committed British forces to five bloody years of war.

Britain's relationship with Poland is a long one, and despite almost 50 years of isolation in the Eastern Bloc, memories remain.

So it was fitting that 50 years after the battle of Arnhem, where a joint airborne force of British and Polish units suffered fearful casualties, their military descendants should meet to begin a new era of peace and co-operation.

Curiosity and excitement were in equal evidence when the elite 5 Airborne Brigade (5 AB), set off from Aldershot on a cold autumn morning to complete the first mass parachute drop by Western Forces into the heart of the former Warsaw Pact country.

Navigating by 30-year-old charts designed for potential Allied bombing raids against the Soviet threat, a single Hercules C130 flew from RAF Lyneham to Belice airport near the medieval city of Krakow.

Minutes before landing, 71 paratroopers representing almost every unit in 5 Airborne Brigade, threw themselves out over one of the most fascinating drop zones in Europe, the Bledowska desert.

It was there that Rommel trained his formidable desert forces, and as the paratroopers were soon to discover, the place was eerily unchanged since then, bomb craters remaining in abundance to test their landing skills.

Sand, fortunately, is a forgiving surface even for 13-stone

paras carrying additional 70lb packs and dropping at 17 feet a second.

It was a textbook insertion, but from the moment they hit the ground, the paras knew that nothing would be normal.

At every turn they were reminded of the significance of their visit and its historical antecedents.

"When Churchill announced he wanted to raise a force of 5,000 airborne troops it was the Polish Army in exile that helped him do it," said Royal

Marine Maj Ziggy Fec, the interpreter for the exercise. "Stanislaw Sosabowski founded the Polish 1st Airborne Brigade in Britain in

1941. He was the father of today's parachute forces. He had worked on the development of the parachute before the war and took it up again later when they founded Ringway near Manchester as the testing ground for our first Airborne Forces."

"As you know, we are the descendants of the noble traditions of the 1st Independent Polish Parachute Brigade in Great Britain," said Col Mieczyslaw Bieniek, the Commander of 6 Air Assault Brigade. "And we are extremely honoured to greet you."

His conscript soldiers from 10 Air Assault Battalion, gave up their beds and barracks for the British soldiers, and more than a month's rations went into providing the very best in Polish catering for the five-day tour.

"The exercise has a high priority for us," said Lt Col Tom Cobley, head of Special Forces and Airborne Forces Parachuting Equipment Acquisitions at the MoD.



"We are flying the flag for Britain and British forces, and expanding our own experience at the same time. As NATO looks set to increase in size we could one day be working side by side with these people, using their kit in an operational role.

"To get a taste of a different

military life, to see their rank structure and observe their social habits is a real education and one which I'm sure can only be of benefit in years to come."

The paras were put through a vigorous two days of ground training, Polish-style. An integral part of this was use of the paratrooper's knife, a new piece of kit as far as the British were concerned.

It sparked off a number of Errol Flynn-like fencing displays and cries of "Save yourself!" among the ranks.

The Poles are very proud of their knives, and relished describing the numerous occasions when they could be brought into play on a parachute descent.

"The knife flashes into action to cut the rigging lines if they become snagged on fuselage, or on a part of your equipment, if your reserve 'chute malfunction,

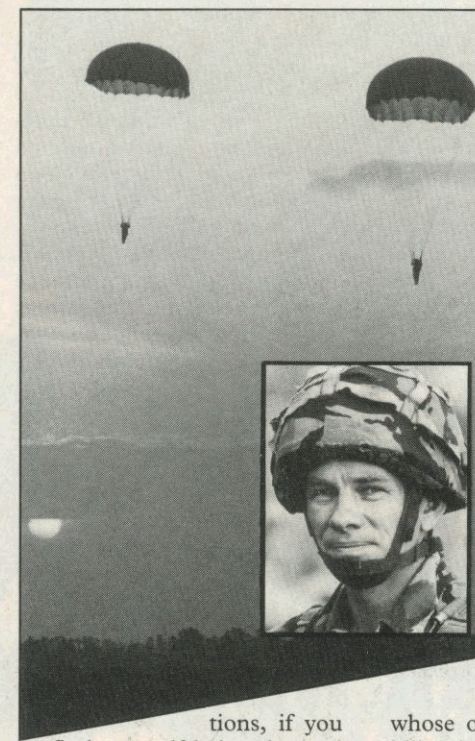


Above - A farmer's wife collects hay from the airfield and passes two of the vintage Antonov An2 biplanes still in service with the Polish Army

Far left - Polish parachute ground training is almost tougher than the real thing, as Rfn Limbu from 3 RGR, Church Crookham, discovered

Left - Two British para's complete their first parachute jumps using Polish equipment from an Antonov biplane

Inset - Exercise Valkyrie Venture CO Lt Col Tom Cobley



tions, if you find yourself being dragged along into danger after landing, and more sinisterly to cut the lines of your opponent's chute if he becomes entangled with your own," Maj Fec translated.

The men from Aldershot were introduced to the Polish D5 parachute, which dates back to 1976 and turned a few hardened Airborne faces ashen when the jumping procedures were explained.

Soldiers of 5 AB jump from a static line which automatically opens their parachute as they step out of the door of the aircraft. The Polish static line

opens a small drogue canopy whose only purpose is to stabilise the descent.

"It is up to the parachutist himself to choose the right moment to open his 'chute," said Lt Col Cobley. "It's more like free-fall parachuting, and a lot of the lads were understandably nervous at the prospect."

The exit from the aircraft also proved a bit of a worry. Instead of stepping out of the side door with all the head room afforded by a C130, the British paras were faced with squeezing through the four-foot gap in a Polish AN2 biplane, whose design dates back to the 1940s, or somersaulting

off the tailgate from the only slightly larger Antonov AN 26 Colt.

When the AN2 bi-plane spluttered and cranked into action on a grassy runway in Pobiednik, almost swallowed up by great clouds of smoking aviation fuel, a nervous laugh went up from the Aldershot men waiting in their chalk lines of ten with steely grey Polish parachutes strapped to their fronts and backs.

It was to be the first trial of their hosts' equipment. Nearby, Polish farmers were collecting hay by hand and loading it into huge wooden carts, a scene which heightened the surreal prospect of soldiers used to working at the forefront of the world's hi-tech war machine about to throw themselves out of an 1948 aircraft in parachutes whose technology was 30 years behind their own.

The men jumped from 2,600 ft which meant that they were in the air for more than two and a half minutes.

They had plenty of time to get a feel for their new equipment, try turns and manoeuvres, and even attempt the standard Polish standing touch-down.

The Poles are very proud of their country and its history, and organised two special visits on the paras' last day in Poland, one to the 3,000-year-old salt mines in Wieliczka, and the other to Auschwitz, most notorious of the Nazi concentration camps.

The salt mines proved to be splendid, containing vast rooms carved from the salt complete with ornate pillars, intricate sculptures and reliefs,

● Turn to next page





LSgt Andy Trodden fires an AK47 on the ranges



Gdsm Keith Barrett receives the congratulations of co-exercise director, Polish Brig Gen Sadowski, for being the best shot in his platoon

# MISSION OF PEACE

## Scots Guards in Poland

FIVE years on from fall of the Berlin Wall, detente between armed forces from both sides of the old Cold War is growing apace.

A platoon of Scots Guardsmen has returned from Poland where it represented the United Kingdom in the first "Partnership for Peace" exercise, marking a new era of international military co-operation after nearly half a century of institutionalised confrontation.

Thirty-five men of F Company, Scots Guards left Wellington Barracks, London at short notice for Biedrusko Camp, near Poznan in western Poland, to join soldiers from 12 other nations on Exercise Co-operative Bridge.

The participants were drawn almost equally from NATO and the former Warsaw Pact. From the West there were the

United States, Denmark, Holland, Italy, Germany and Britain; from the East, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, the Ukraine, Lithuania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Co-directors of the exercise were a US major general and a Polish brigadier. Rations for the 670 participating troops had the same ethnic origins, with the Americans providing their boil-in-a-bag field rations and the Poles producing breakfasts and suppers in camp.

The nations paraded before VIPs (including Polish President Lech Walesa) and a vast array of international media before settling down to five days of exercises designed, in the words of the official com-

muniqué, to develop "a common understanding of peace-keeping operations and enhance military interoperability through exercising selected basic military skills related to such operations under joint NATO/host nation control."

The Poles went to much trouble to give an appearance of authenticity to the various stands, representing observation posts, check points, threatened landing sites and so on. Each site offered tented ablutions, kitchens, and living accommodation, even though everyone returned to the main camp at night.

As a military exercise it was more a demonstration of good intent than challenging train-

ing. The guardsmen, certainly, did not find it over-demanding after tours of Northern Ireland. But it did give them the chance to meet soldiers from a number of different armies and to try their personal weapons.

Each country had its own presentation board. On theirs the Scots Guards displayed pictures of F Company at the Queen's Birthday Parade and scenes from the Gulf War - a combination which attracted a great deal of interest.

They had another star attraction in the form of piper LCpl Innes Anderson who did much to enliven the social side of the exercise. He was obliged to attend the opening and closing parades wearing combats as it

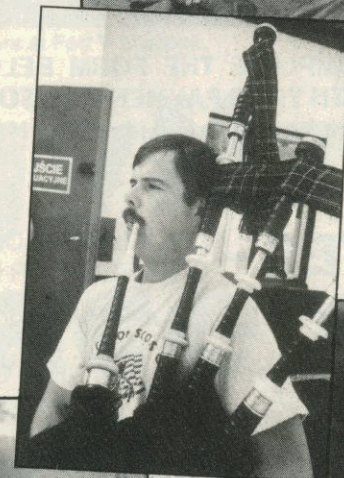
was feared his full ceremonial uniform would eclipse all others.

The political and historical significance of the occasion was not lost on those present. Maj Mark Bence-Trower, the F Coy commander, who led an international company of Ukrainian, Dutch and Romanian soldiers as well as his own guardsmen, admitted that training objectives had been limited, but said goals had been achieved despite different languages, radios and military traditions.

"As the week went by," he added, "it served to reaffirm that, given the opportunity, soldiers do have a certain rapport which transcends uniform, language and politics."



Above - Scots Guards get to grips with a T-80 tank. In the hatches on the turret are Lt Charlie Andrews, platoon commander (left) and LSgt Biss Bissett. LCpl John Arkeley looks out of the driver's hatch in the front while the Polish tank crew looks on



Left - Piper LCpl Innes Anderson limbers up at Biedrusko Camp

## Paras step back in time

● From Page 15

chapels, lakes and winding corridors, all lit with magnificent chandeliers made from salt crystals.

But Auschwitz left a very different impression.

Lt Col Cobley and Maj Fec, whose father had endured the horrors of a concentration camp in Russia in 1941, both laid wreaths at the Wall of Death, where thousands had died for the most trivial of crimes, from stumbling to sharing their food with fellow prisoners.

Sgt Mike Seagrave, from 3 Para, said he'd got a lot out of the exercise: "This has been a big year for us, with D-Day and

Arnhem, but it might not have meant so much if I hadn't met the Poles as well. They did so much for us during the war, and if it hadn't been for their help in many major battles from the Battle of Britain to the Normandy landings, none of us might be here today.

"And they're such nice guys too. They train hard and play hard - I can't wait for the day they come to Britain. I'd love the opportunity to host them, to buy them a beer, and show them how we live and do things."

"But it's been a thoroughly enjoyable and historic visit and I'm glad we got a chance to

experience some of the culture as well as do all that training," said Sig Paul Henderson from 216 (Para) Signals Squadron.

Before 5 Airborne Brigade left for home, the paras were presented with their Polish parachute wings by the commanding officer of the Polish Brigade.

"The future relationship of our soldiers and British soldiers is secure, and this is very good news for everybody," he said. With that began a long night of famous Polish vodka toasts.

Next year 6 Air Assault Brigade will visit Aldershot as part of the Exercise Valkyrie Venture reciprocal programme.



Above - Capt Sam Orwin (left), the 2iC and CSM Ronnie Convery make friends with a Polish boy

Left - A Ukrainian soldier tries out SA80 during the range day



Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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B Company Jocks await orders at Fort Whitehead

# Argylls savour 'peace dividend' in west Belfast

THERE IS an air of excitement on the streets of Northern Ireland that hasn't been felt for 25 years and it is being shared by soldier and civilian alike.

Its cause is the peace – however tentative – that has reigned since the Provisional IRA announced the cessation of military operations.

For 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who began their tour in the middle of the Republican heartland of west Belfast several months before the cease-fire,

the change in climate on the streets has been enormous.

The battalion's tactical area of responsibility encompassed some of the hard-line estates whose names are synonymous with the Troubles – Lower Falls, Turf Lodge, Ballymurphy, the Beechmounts and Andersonstown.

During the first four months of their tour the Argylls played a vigorous part in the campaign against terrorist activity to

create an environment in which the Royal Ulster Constabulary could carry out its duties.

The battalion, with an attached company from the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, worked in support of RUC neighbourhood police units responsible for policing the Grosvenor Road and Woodburn sub-divisions.

Their task was labour-intensive. For a policeman to patrol his beat safely, he had to be

accompanied by 16 fully-armed soldiers (a "multiple"), with mobile patrols in armoured vehicles available as back-up.

Over a 12-hour period, the Argylls would have up to 50 multiples operating across the TAOR, each carrying out four or five patrols of up to two hours duration in that period.

Lt Col Alan "AK" Miller, the commanding officer, explained: "It was quite common for us to surge in more troops to counter a par-

● Turn to next page

Report: Laurie Manton  
Pictures: Mike Weston





Peace means more time to devote efforts to charitable causes. Here, youngster at the Musgrave Park Hospital receive a cheque presented by the Argylls towards the running of the Mitre Gate Analysis Laboratory. It was handed over by WO1 (RSM) Connell Webb and Lt Col "AK" Miller

## Argylls in west Belfast

● Turn to next page

ticular threat or react to problems along the peace-line between Protestants and Catholics.

"Major vehicle checkpoint operations implemented in our area could last a week or more and my Jocks would end up working a 16 to 17-hour day as the norm."

The main threat against police and soldiers came from members of the Provisional IRA using grenades, mortars and rifles. Two attached soldiers received serious injuries in a mortar attack.

Troops also had to contend with attacks by a "yob" element of stone-throwing youths living on the estates. More than 120 personnel, including 75 Jocks, were injured by bricks thrown at top cover sentries in vehicles or at soldiers on foot patrol.

The announcement of an IRA cease-fire was greeted with euphoria, especially in west Belfast, and the Argylls immediately found themselves operating under intense media scrutiny.

"To say we were in the spotlight of the world's press would be an understatement. I would describe it as a floodlight," said Col Miller.



Commanding Officer, Lt Col Alan "AK" Miller

"You couldn't move anywhere in our TAOR without coming across a reporter, photographer or TV cameraman."

Residents, who have lived in fear for the past 25 years, are delighted by the Provisional IRA announcement. They remember only too vividly having their houses taken over by terrorists setting up attacks, their cars hi-jacked and their shops robbed ... and they have been murdered in considerable numbers.

The infamous Kelly's cross-road near Fort Whiterock is cited as an example of how everyday life is improving.

Before the cease-fire, rush hour at Kelly's might amount to three or four cars, and the nearby police station had the reputation of being the most attacked building in western Europe. Its security fence is full of holes, the legacy of countless bursts of machine-gun fire aimed at the base.

"Most people wouldn't have dreamed of using the cross-roads on the way home. Now you can spend 15 minutes stuck in the evening traffic jam," said Col Miller.

The battalion's change into its regimental head-dress instead of helmets and the gen-

eral reduction of military presence on the streets has been welcomed by the community. Changes brought in to create a lower profile for the Army include the halting of mobile patrols except to escort RUC vehicles. Even then, top cover sentries no longer stand up in the back of the vehicle with weapons raised. Instead, soldiers remain seated in the back of their armoured vehicles.

"Up until shortly after the cease-fire, we continued with mobile patrols in support of foot patrols to give ourselves a greater 'footprint' on the ground and to enable a swift response to incidents," explained Col Miller.

"These have now stopped and the comparative lack of 'green' vehicles on the streets is noticeable. There is no real need for them at the moment and I can't see the point of armoured vehicles chugging around the estates of west Belfast in the early hours waking people up."

There has also been a significant reduction in the number

of searches carried out and fewer vehicle checkpoints are in evidence.

Fewer people are being stopped and questioned in the street and the disconcerting practice of "scanning" - using rifle sights as binoculars - has been discouraged.

Although military activities



LCpl Scott Milroy puts the finishing touches to a regimental mural at North Howard Street Mill. This artistic end of tour tradition has been carried out by a generation of soldiers at Security Force bases throughout Northern Ireland since the Troubles began 25 years ago



Wearing Glengarries, an A Company multiple takes a stroll down the Falls Road. Just three months ago, these soldiers would have been carrying out tactical patrolling to avoid terrorist attack



Above - Playing a long Reveille for the GOC Northern Ireland to celebrate the regiment's Balaclava Day were Pipe Major Jim Motherwell, Cpl Andrew Warren, Ptes Scott Methren and Ronnie Toal and Cpl Billy Jordan



Left - A new perspective of life. Ptes Mac MacDonald and Benjy Bench enjoy the view from the back of an armoured patrol vehicle now that top cover sentry duty has been suspended

more manpower. That is not to say the "peace" hasn't paid dividends for the Jocks.

Pte Scot McCullen of SF Platoon believes the quality of life has improved.

"During the first half of our tour, the adrenalin ran quite high because you never knew what was coming next."

"We haven't stopped being alert, but things have got a lot easier now. We put out three-team multiples instead of four in some areas and we are doing stand-off patrols with the RUC when the police patrol some distance ahead of supporting troops."

Now the pipers of SF Platoon enjoy the occasional trip to a nearby barracks to practise. Before the cease-fire they were confined to the laundry room of their base.

There has also been a resurgence of interest in sport, and off-duty soldiers were able to gather in numbers to watch the Argylls play football against the King's Royal Hussars at a Security Force Base recently.

The final word belongs to Col Miller: "It has been a fascinating time to be in Northern Ireland. We arrived in helmets and left in Glengarries. The signs for the future are encouraging."



British troops find time to enjoy a football match between the Argylls and the King's Royal Hussars. The Jocks lost 2-1. Playing (left to right) are Pte Lee Irwin, KRH, Pte Kev McAuley and LCpl Tony Hill

have been scaling down, a complete withdrawal is not on the agenda.

Col Miller warned: "A threat remains. Terrorist splinter groups such as the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) are still in business, so violence could be back at the flick of a switch."

"It is important that we don't dismantle the Security Forces organisation until we get a clear indication from the Provisional IRA that they won't return to violence. All their weapons and explosives are still sitting out there somewhere."

The lessening of tension has

produced some reduction in the hours worked by the soldiers, but not as much as would have been possible if the Argylls had not been the first "light" infantry battalion to undertake a tour as Belfast roulement battalion (BRB), a tasking normally carried out by mechanised infantry units with



# Wanted: high ambitions

Report:  
Phil Wilcox  
Pictures:  
Mike Perring

ALTHOUGH they haven't yet had to resort to towing "Wanted" banners behind their helicopters as they fly over the Suffolk lanes, 653 Squadron, Army Air Corps is in need of pilots.

More specifically, in common with other units within the corps, the squadron – part of 3 Regiment AAC – is looking for NCO pilot recruits.

Until reeling to a light battlefield helicopter squadron under 24 Airmobile Brigade last year, 653 was an anti-tank squadron in support of 3 Armoured Division.

Its personnel have now settled in Wattisham, after a 15-year stint in Soest, Germany.

By April next year, they will have been joined by 4 Regiment AAC, making their bustling corner of Suffolk the premier Army aviation base within the British forces.

"The NCO recruits are of the most incredibly high quality: they are so important to us," said Maj Mark Betteridge, OC 653 Squadron.

A flier for seven years, the former infantryman from The

Royal Regiment of Wales has had personal experience of the recruitment process, describing himself as a "baby pilot, with infantry experience".

All Arms are represented in the Army Air Corps, from gunners and signallers to tankies and bandmen.

"The trouble is, they don't seem to be forthcoming at the moment. Either the regiments

are holding on to them – or the message isn't getting through," he explained.

Would-be applicants – who must have at least four years' service, have reached the rank of lance corporal and have received a recommendation for promotion to corporal – are given medical

and aptitude tests, fixed wing (Chipmunk) and rotary training.

Ground crew have to have two years' experience with the Army on the ground to be able to go for the medical and aptitude tests.

"The ground crew – who are often forgotten, despite the fact that many of them have high academic qualifications – the REME and all the rest of us are



Lt Col Nick Parker, CO  
3 Regiment AAC

## Regiment's battle group role

● 3 Regiment AAC, of which 653 Squadron is part, is one of two aviation regiments which, together with two infantry regiments and support elements, form battle groups within 24 Airmobile Brigade.

● Its main roles are reconnaissance, anti-armour operations, observation of fire, movement of men and material, command and control and casualty evacuation.

● 653 Sqn itself is one of three squadrons (the other two each have six Lynx attack helicopters and six Gazelles) and an aviation company (three rifle platoons and a Milan attack platoon) which – with support – make up the regiment's battle group.

● The squadron, with its 11 Mk 9 Lynx light battlefield helicopters, provides, among other tasks, airborne command posts to the commanding officer of 3 AAC's battle group and to the brigade commander.

● Its Wattisham Airfield base – until 1992 an active RAF station flying Phantoms – will, from April next year, also house 4 Regiment AAC and 7 Battalion REME, for which, among other refurbishments and construction, a huge hangar is currently being built.

● With 9 Regiment at Dishworth, that will increase the total of AAC regiments in the UK to three.

totally integrated," said Maj Betteridge.

Flying tours are generally of three years' duration from the recruit's first posting to an AAC unit.

During that time they are expected – and given every opportunity – to become an aircraft commander, with recommendation depending on progress both as soldier and pilot.

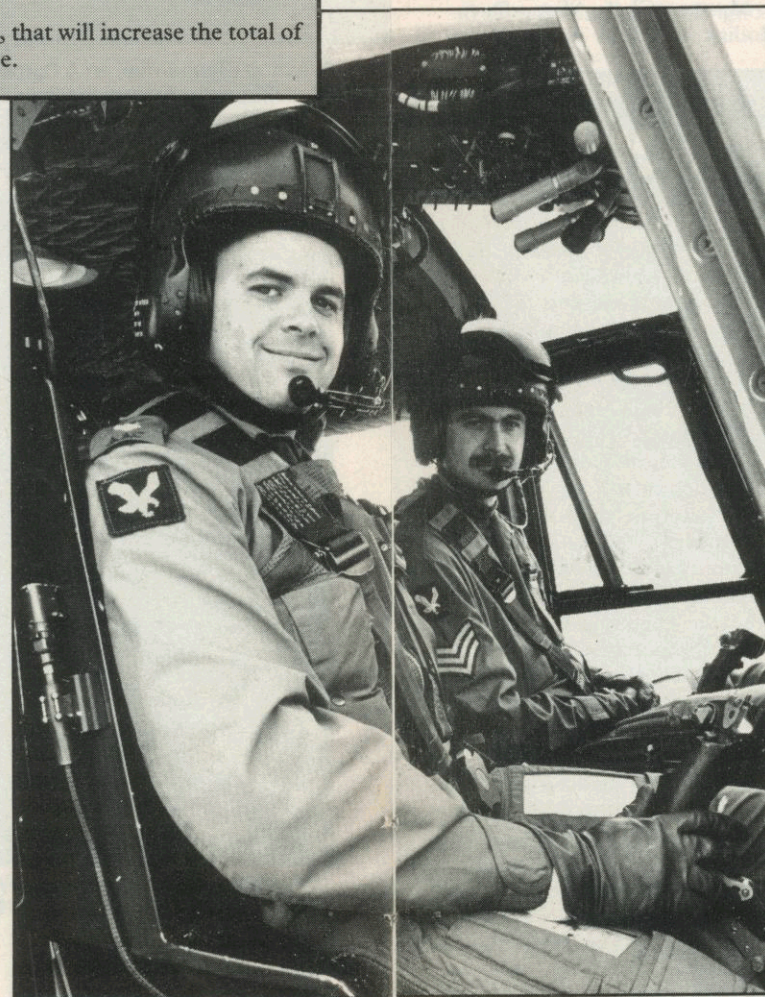
Recruits who have progressed to neither aircraft command nor sergeant at the end of the tour have the choice of a one-year extension or returning to their parent unit.

At the end of the further year, if they are clearly unsuitable to become an aircraft commander, they revert to non-flying duties with their own regiment or corps.

Successful recruits are eligible to transfer to the AAC if they wish.

But if they want to return to their unit for a period, they can subsequently re-apply for further flying tours in whatever rank they may have achieved.

"We want high calibre men," said Lt Col Nick Parker, CO 3 Regt. "Most who have a successful tour will want to go back to their parent Arm. We still need young officers to learn to fly: we hope that many will want to stay."



A former gunner, he had always wanted to fly, taking a course at the earliest opportunity and transferring to the AAC at captain level.

One of the squadron's more recent recruits is Bdr Simon

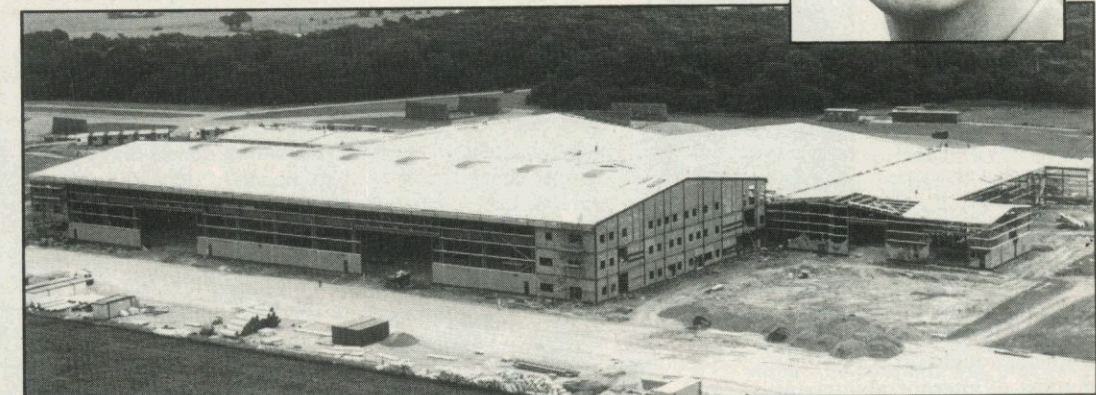


Above – A Gazelle, with newly-qualified recruit at the controls, flies over the Wattisham base

Left – Capt Nick Bather (aircraft commander) and Sgt Nick Lewis on board a Gazelle

Right – Bdr Simon Pearce

Below – The vast hangar being built for 7 Bn REME Workshop, soon to return from Germany to swell Wattisham's ranks



flying Gazelles. Now undergoing a Lynx conversion course, he told *Soldier*: "As a helicopter pilot, there is so much going on at the same time which you have to think about."

"It's like all the military training you have ever done rolled into one at the same time."

"The gunners only go to places that need artillery: in the Air Corps, helicopters are needed all the time, in peace and war."

Bdr Pearce, who had wanted to fly since he was a boy, had the added incentive when he

Having passed all the selection tests, he was accepted on to the Army Pilot's Course and recently completed his first year, having progressed to

squadron's A Flight, finished his pilot's course at the end of 1990, going straight into his Lynx conversion course and serving with 3 Regiment in Soest and Northern Ireland before passing the old-style aircraft commander's course and returning in that rank.

As a signals sergeant with 658 Squadron, he had applied for pilot selection four years ago and was delighted with the outcome.

"We try to encourage the younger members to go for it," he said. "It's well worth it."

"The training they get these days is very different, and in my opinion is producing soldiers of a much higher standard – which can only be good

for the Army Air Corps if they want to apply."

As Lt Col Parker says: "The operations side for an aviation soldier is a very exciting role to be involved in."

"We have some of the best equipment in the British Army and, with our rapid movement of men and material into the field, and our capability of operating for 48 hours without logistic re-inforcement, I do believe we are involved in the next stage forward for the Army."

● Details of application requirements for the AAC NCO pilot recruitment are contained in AGAI Chapter 43, available from Orderly Rooms.



All-important ground crew back-up from Cpl Jamie Ravenshear and Cpl Andy Holohan (653 REME Equipment Support Section) as they work on the hydraulics of a Lynx helicopter at Wattisham



# Gabriel sets agenda for UN operations

Report:  
Gordon Skilling  
Pictures:  
Terry Champion

AIRBORNE loggies in Rwanda have created a new template for British soldiers working with the United Nations.

Although British troops have made significant contributions to other UN operations, the 5 Airborne Brigade paras are the first British soldiers to have used the centralised UN supply system so extensively.

It took a conscious effort to switch from the British and Nato environment to the wider UN scene, said the commander, Lt Col Mike Wharmby, RLC.

Nato and the UN have different funding arrangements so it took the British contingent some weeks to establish procedures.

Without a previous file to draw on, they had to learn to ignore the frustrations of UN bureaucracy and make the system work by returning to the first principles of gathering information and acting on it.

"It was difficult, but it was very reassuring that it all succeeded," said Lt Col Wharmby.

Working across national boundaries was not difficult for soldiers brought up in a NATO context of interoperability and routine exchange of information.

British, Australians and Canadians are used to working together and the African countries in the UN force were overwhelmingly from the Commonwealth. Many were trained at Shrivenham or the British-inspired Zimbabwe Staff College and the common approach undoubtedly helped the success of the mission.

A military formation was essential for the task in Rwanda said Col Kieran O'Kelly, Deputy Chief of Staff at the UN headquarters.

"Contractors can only set up vehicles, accommodation and messing if the situation is



Cpl Alex Coker at work in the REME workshop at Kigali

stable, but in the aftermath of a bloody civil war there was no infrastructure to build upon," he said.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in Rwanda had a mass of accumulated experience from previous wars but did not have an overview of the whole picture.

Information was not available on the locations of all the camps, what roads were like, the nature of bridges still standing, or what water, sanitation, food or medical support existed.

Sections of engineers, medics and environmental health technicians had to find out for themselves so that help could be targeted where it was needed.

Initially, there was some exasperation because the military was clearly perceived as too pushy while the soldiers felt NGOs could be dilatory.

"We were both wrong," said Lt Col Alan Hawley, CO of 23 Parachute Field Ambulance.

"We had the same intention but a different timetable."

"What we did was not magic. It was the traditional military appreciation we do for

battlefield estimates, and it works."

The United Nations is not geared up to a military operation – it has no logistic support systems, agreed budget or sufficient personnel on the ground. A civil servant, Laurie English, was deployed at the outset to cut through red tape.

The British learned much from the Canadians with whom they shared the stadium at Kigali.

Canadian forces have long experience of deploying under UN budgets, and have a logistic support group to help them do it.

The formation from 5 Airborne Brigade proved ideal for this task. Humanitarian work was not what the paras expected but they rose to the occasion. They went straight from a field training exercise to

Rwanda.

Maj Iain James, OC 9 Parachute Field Squadron RE, was warned on the Monday, flew out on his recce on Wednesday, and the first leading elements of the pre-advance party deployed on the Sunday.

Even by Airborne standards his squadron was lightly equipped, with only three JCB excavators able to fit into a C130 Hercules.

Airborne engineers are mas-

ters of improvisation but the short notice brought its share of human problems.

Sgt Jim John of 63 Close Support Squadron left for Rwanda the day after his wedding, while LCpl Taff Lewis REME got to the church just in time before leaving – but in Wales instead of the Bahamas.

SSgt Brandon Smith of 10 Airborne Workshop had to leave his wife and four young daughters in a new quarter full of boxes shortly after a hectic return to UK complicated by the sudden death of his father-in-law.

The paras were generally well supported by the UN system.

Master Chef SSgt Dave Rollins at Kigali was able to

provide British menus although his counterpart with 23 PFA at Kitabi, SSgt Simon Jarman, had to make do with compo. UNHQ staff survived on four menus of almost outdated German compo until 18 French compo menus arrived.

The paras experienced one of the most satisfying, if at times frustrating, deployments. The horror of what they have experienced will need to be relegated to the back of the mind; soldiers will have to concentrate on the many positive contributions they have made to a devastated country.

They went in as pathfinders and showed how well an army can respond on the battlefields of disease, hunger and ignorance.



Cfn Rob Jones REME teaches Zambian soldiers the intricacies of keeping a fleet of vehicles on the road

## How ten soldiers improved the health of a nation

BUT FOR the efforts of a small team of British Army medical technicians, the work of UN soldiers and aid agencies in Rwanda would have been seriously undermined.

A ten-man environmental health team from Aldershot, commanded by Capt David Micciche, was the essential building brick for the whole operation because, without its specialist advice, refugees would have continued to die of debilitating diseases, and the health of soldiers could also have been at risk.

WO2 Roy Bedson said the team's first priority was not to improve the lot of the Rwandans, but to protect British soldiers who had to remain healthy to carry out their mission.

The country's ruined infrastructure had to be given a hard kick start and only a military force was capable of delivering it.

Administering the kick was sometimes an unpleasant task calling for special qualities among the soldiers involved. Disposing of decomposing corpses was just the first step.

Sewage disposal was a major



WO2 Roy Bedson and members of his environmental health team were confronted with some of the most unpleasant work on Op Gabriel but had probably the greatest measurable effect on health in Rwanda

issue for the military environmental health technicians although tracing the root cause of disease sometimes unearthed other problems. A major fly problem, for example, had resulted in dysentery caused by an abattoir or grave sited near water distribution points. In one instance a hospital ward had been built over a mass grave.

Solutions to many of the country's pressing health problems were blindingly

simple, but technicians often had an uphill struggle to change long-established habits. Primitive sanitation, acceptable when small numbers were involved, was a death warrant in the vast, teeming refugee camps.

Exceptional conditions required harsh words from the Army medics.

"If you used the diplomatic approach you would still be talking in a month's time," said WO1 Bedson.

The Army's bluntness did not always endear it to aid agencies, which had neither the infrastructure nor field experience to cope. Although well meaning, the efforts of some non-governmental agencies (NGOs) were unco-ordinated and they did not fully appreciate the extent of the main problems until soldiers created an effective organisation for them to work within.

The Army medics had to take a firm line when a health

education programme run by nuns was held in a building while typhoid and dysentery cases were treated in inadequate tents nearby.

It took someone with the necessary initiative to suggest moving the sick into the building and the nuns' classes into a tent.

"All theoretical qualifications went back in the box when we deployed in the field where the strength was practical field sanitation, water discipline and control of diseases," said WO2 Bedson.

"It doesn't matter how long in the tooth you are or how much bravado you show – some of the sights are not what you would see in Aldershot," he said.

Rwanda could hardly be a better training ground for the role of the Royal Army Medical Corps, he said.

As the Army becomes involved in more humanitarian work, environmental health will take on a higher profile. Technicians earn their extra pay. Without them, no one else would have been able to work safely in Rwanda's refugee camps.



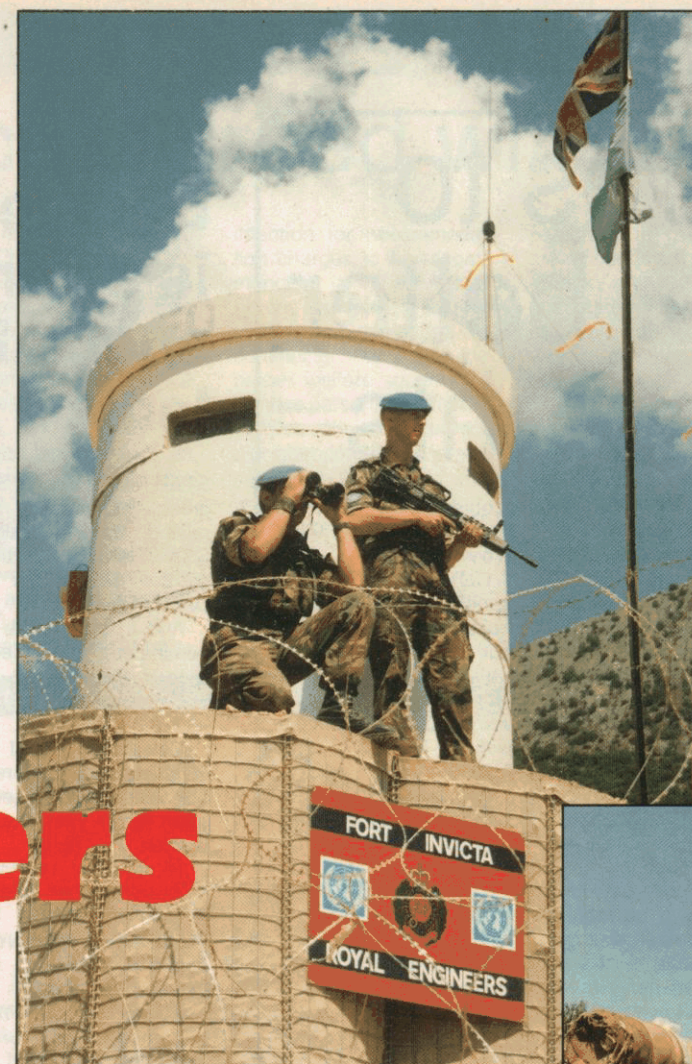


Light Dragoons soldiers enjoying duties at the "Spotted Dog" checkpoint: SSgt Dave Barnstaple, Tprs Barry Dickinson and Steve Atkinson, and LCpl Phil Pearson and LCpl Grant Isles (Canada)

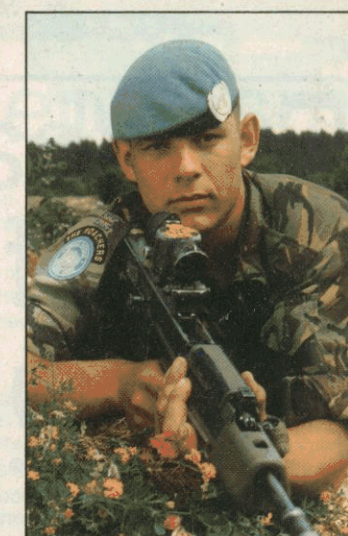


Above – LCpls Dave Little and Richard Stott check comms at the Tomislavgrad-Gornji Vakuf radio rebroadcast station

Left – Cpls Steve Simpson and Neil Davis of the Force Military Police Unit, Tomislavgrad take a break from policing duties at the Jaklici bridge



Cpl Alan Ruddock and Tpr Brian Howard on guard at Fort Invicta. The fort's defences were constructed by Royal Engineers



Above – Pte Terry Rundle of 2 R Anglian keeps watch near Gornji Vakuf

Below – Pte Danny Foote unwraps a 105mm howitzer at a weapons collection point in the hills beyond Gornji Vakuf



# Grapple enters fifth phase

BRITISH troops serving in central Bosnia have just completed a month-long rotation of personnel to mark the start of the fifth Op Grapple Tour, writes Laurie Manton.

More than 3,000 soldiers make up the British contingent in the 36-nation United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia. One in ten of them is a sapper.

The Royal Engineers have built, improved and widened more than 220km of road, assembled Bailey bridges and sunk boreholes to provide drinking water for troops.

British forces in the former Yugoslavia send more than 21,500 air mail letters each month to their families in Germany and the United Kingdom via the Army's Postal and Courier Service. Families responded by posting more than 13,000kg of parcels, packets and letters, equivalent to 13,200 mailbags a month.

As winter approaches, special measures have been taken to protect Service personnel working in extremes of weather.

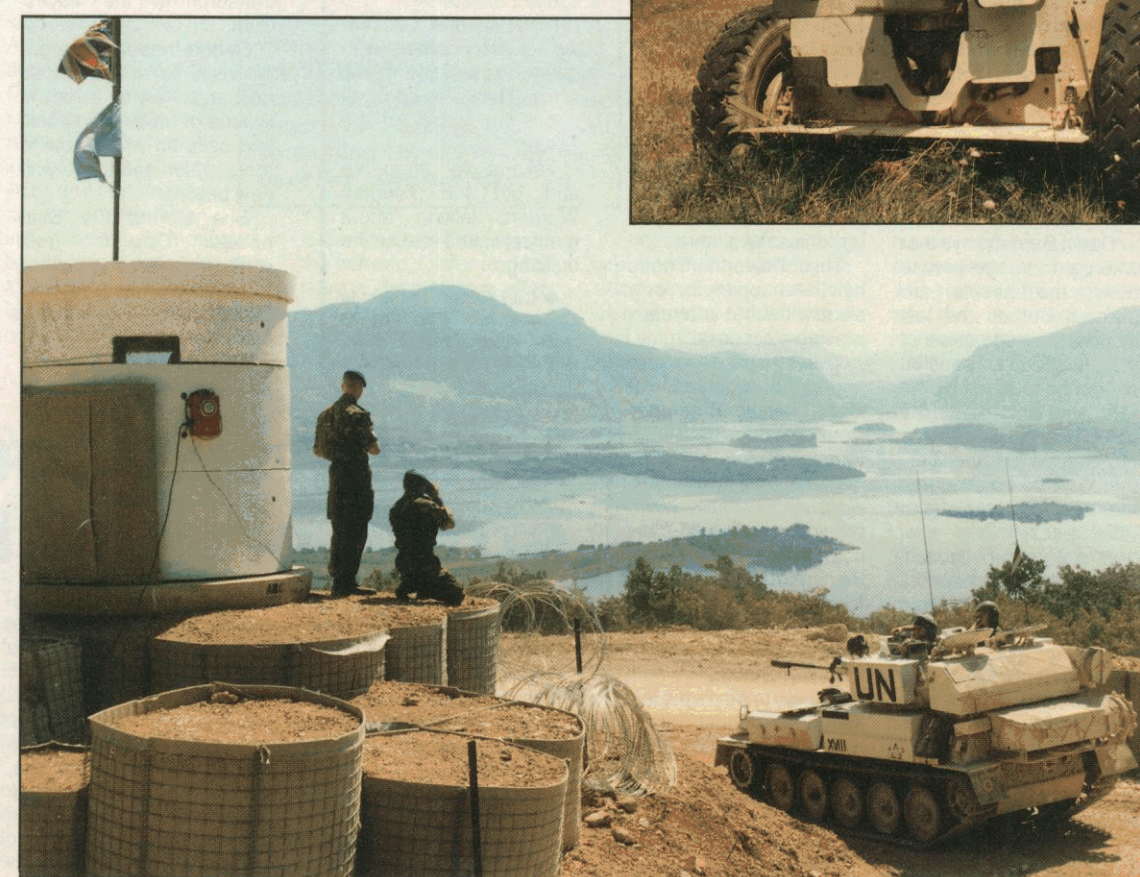
With a past minimum temperature of minus 28 degrees

recorded by British forces, the MoD is taking no chances.

Each Serviceman and woman has been issued with a full set of Arctic clothing including wind-proof smock and trousers, two-layer mittens, fleece shirts, face mask, socks and thermal overboots.

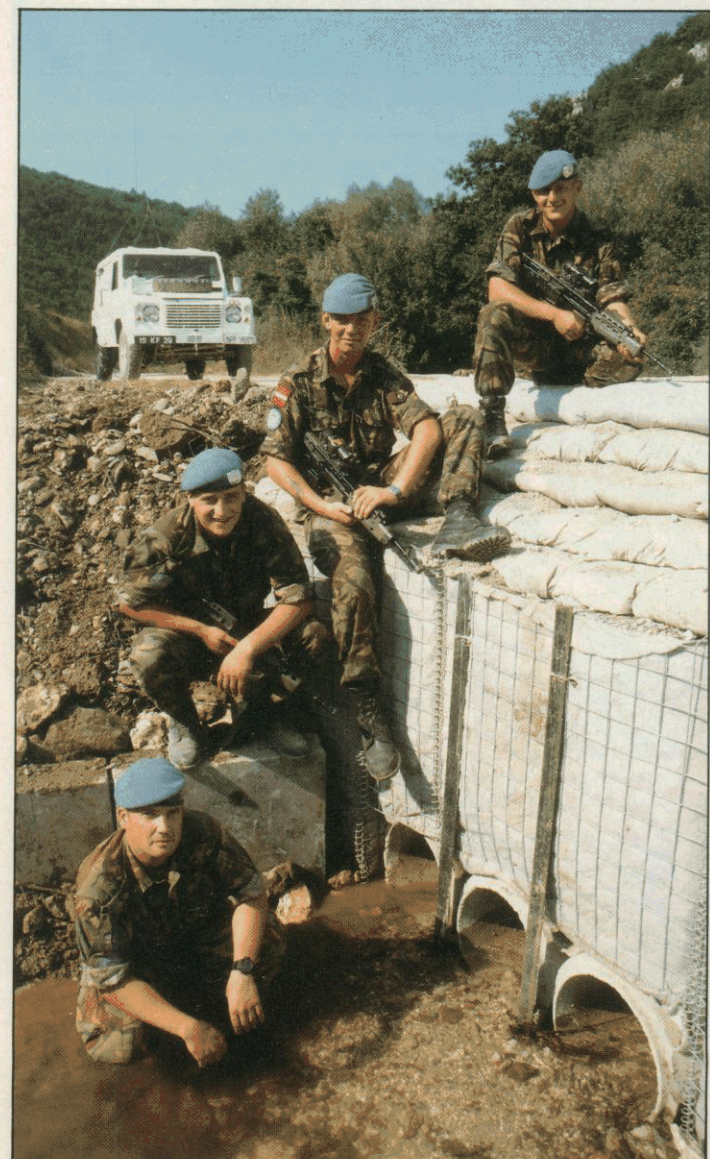
Major units that took part in Op Grapple 4 included the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and The Light Dragoons.

Pictures: Mike Perring



Above – British soldiers based at Fort Invicta enjoy the splendid view across Prozor Lake

Left – Interpreter Ned assists Capt Harry Chrisp and Cpl Alan Ruddock to question a farmer about banditry problems in the area



From left to right, Lt Matt Humphries, Spr Cavey McClellan and Ptes Dean Rowlands and Vince Bearpark inspect sapper handiwork at the rebuilt Voljice bridge



# Fairshares to press for better pension rights

EARLIER this year we told in these pages of Fairshares, the group which is campaigning for better financial rights for women affected by divorce. Founder Dawn Barnett tells me the group will be asking the Government for better pension rights, in particular, for women facing divorce.

This is an issue which affects women in both the Service and civilian environment but I believe Service wives are more likely to be caught in the trap.

When a woman with a good career marries a Serviceman she is likely to give up a good part of her working life. She may stop contributing to pension schemes and quite cheerfully and willingly risk sacrificing her own financial security.

If the relationship ends in divorce, particularly in later life, she can find herself in a difficult situation.

Dawn Barnett says that when a marriage breaks down the assets are divided. But as the law stands, the huge asset of the husband's pension cannot be touched by the wife. She also made the point that, in a Service marriage, it is more likely there will be no property, making it very difficult to reach a settlement.

Mrs Barnett believes it would help if both partners were better prepared before marriage. What we should be talking about, she says, is dignity.

It is often women in their middle years who are worst affected, facing a bleak future when they should be enjoying the fruits of a partnership.

You can contact Fairshares by writing to Joan Davies-Brown, 19 Sherfield, Winterbourne Dauntsey, Salisbury SP4 6HF or c/o me.

A book is being written about the life and times of Anne Armstrong MBE.

If you have a special memory of her the author would be grateful for an account of it. I'll pass it on.

In her work with the Forces, Anne came into contact with people in all walks of life. Almost everyone who met her has a tale to tell about her, ranging from the funny to the tragic.

Some of my favourite memories of her are of fleeting moments or chance remarks.

The Royal British Legion Training Centres at Ellesmere Port and Tidworth offer a tremendous range of courses. Ellesmere Port provides training in craft skills such as construction, brick-laying, carpentry and vehicle maintenance. Training in business management and information technology is also available.

The Tidworth Centre has been open for only six months but is already proving a success. The centres also undertake courses for local Training Enterprise Councils which train long-term unemployed.

The bulk of the centres' work is for the MoD, providing resettlement courses for those leaving the Services and courses for those wanting to keep their qualifications up to date.

Every Service person is entitled to the Individual Refund Scheme which makes available about £140 a year to those who wish to keep their skills up to date, including work towards an NVQ.

The training centres can provide a personal needs analysis and work out a training plan to help Service personnel

acquire qualifications best suited to help them in civvy street.

Col John Cockram, general manager of the training centres, points out that wives are very welcome. He says that a number of courses are being run in conjunction with FOCUS and TEMPO.

The other courses are also open to them, as are courses aimed at the long-term unemployed, for which many wives would qualify.

Finally, a word about the Tower of London. I visited a friend who lives there and was given a tour which included the new Jewel House. The Yeoman Warders are, of course, the stars.

I met several fascinating ex-Servicemen with tales to tell of life in the Army. They also know all about the history of the Tower.

Take a tip from me and get the Yeoman Warders talking about themselves as well as the buildings.

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

## Why Debbie is a very special lady

STARTING a Beaver Scout group, regimental fund-raising, running stalls at SSAFA fetes... it's all part of the service for Mrs Debbie Powazynski.

And it is why she was nominated the second winner of the Anne Armstrong Award at the 1994 FAW(G) conference.

Delegate's heard that Debbie's bubbly nature and boundless energy set her apart as a very special woman.

In addition to running a home - her husband is serving with 3 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC and they have two small children - she works most mornings as a freelance hairdresser around units in Paderborn Garrison and has for several years been a keen organiser of functions as both secretary and treasurer of the Wives' Club.

Debbie has made regular visits to wives whose husbands were away in Bosnia or on long courses, and calls on wives new to the garrison and those with new babies.

She started the Sennelager Beavers from scratch, renovating a place to meet, recruiting helpers and taking an active role in district meetings.

The group is so successful that there is now a wait-

LORD Henley, Defence Under Secretary, told the FAW(G) conference that Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind was "committed to giving the Armed Forces a period of stability".

But his expectation that the average length of interval spent by infantry units between emergency tours for the year starting April 1995 would be 24 months was greeted with considerable scepticism by wives in the audience.

Questions from the floor revealed a general belief

that such predictions were invariably over-optimistic.

He summarised the MoD's Housing Trust concept - designed to bring all MQs up to Grade 1 within five years - and spoke of the difficulties into which the study team led by Mr Mike Robinson had run.

"It became apparent that the model of the Trust on which we were working would not be considered to be in the private sector and any receipt obtained from the transfer of the MQ estate to the private sector

would not therefore accrue to the Defence Budget.

"This would also have had implications for the upgrade programme which was dependent on the injection of private finance into the transaction."

Lord Henley said the MoD had been working on a number of possible options to overcome the difficulties, and remained committed to the original objectives of improving the quality and management of the MQ estate.

It was still the MoD's

intention for accommodation charges to be recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

"We are committed to continuing to provide proper welfare support for Service personnel and their families. We will pay particular attention to this in any separation of housing and welfare functions," Lord Henley pledged.

"Sadly, I regret I cannot give any categorical assurances on the way ahead at this stage, but I can confirm that the interests of Service

personnel in general and the occupants of married quarters in particular will be at the forefront of our minds when we consider the advice on the possible options."

Speaking on the independent review being conducted by Mr Michael Bett, he deplored the "highly speculative and sensationalist" reporting of its work and assured wives that its purpose was not to cut costs but to ensure Army arrangements were sufficiently flexible and robust

to attract and retain people of the right quality into the next century.

He revealed that the impact of the Defence Costs Study was likely to reduce the overall size of the Army to 114,000 following the withdrawal from Hong Kong, about 2,000 fewer than envisaged under Options for Change.

He paid tribute to the professionalism, skill and dedication of Service personnel and to the tremendous support given by wives and families.

## FEDERATION OF ARMY WIVES (GERMANY) ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Debbie Powazynski

ing list. Debbie's husband is soon to be posted to Fallingbommel and she will be sorely missed by the community of Sennelager.

# We've got the right spirit

DESPITE low morale engendered by redundancy, erratic maintenance of married quarters and fragmentation of support services, *esprit de corps* among Army wives in Germany is stronger than ever, Federation of Army Wives (Germany) chairman Mrs Denise Chaganis told delegates to the sixth annual conference.

And it was reassuring, she said, to see how seriously wives' concerns were taken by those whose job it was to help.

Defence Under Secretary Lord Henley and Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, the Adjutant General, were among influential speakers at this year's conference.

A key address was given by Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson, GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division. Mrs

Chaganis told Gen Wilkes he had already earned the "FAW Campaign Medal" for attending last year's conference at Bielefeld.

In her opening speech she said the theme of the conference, Testing Times, "is not just an expression of how we as Army wives feel about the drawdown, Defence Costs Studies, the independent review, market testing of essential services and of increased separation; it is an indication of how most husbands feel now, in the middle of this long period of upheaval and seemingly constant change."

"The fear of redundancy

**"In any relationship it is necessary to have a certain amount of give and take. The men and women who are the Army give - when need be, give their lives - for their country."**

**"Those of us married to serving soldiers give our support to our husbands by coping while they are away. It would appear that our relationship has become very one-sided. Isn't it time the state is asked to give something back?" - Wife's question from the floor.**

is particularly draining for the married soldier and can have a destabilising effect on the whole family."

She said the effect of redundancy on a soldier

committed to a career in the Army was as devastating as being told by the wife he loves that she wants an amicable divorce within the year.

Other issues testing the endurance and tolerance of Army wives in Germany included the quartering budget, which appeared all too frequently to be "pillaged".

"It is impossible for the people who maintain our quarters to do their job efficiently if they cannot operate to a definitive budget."

"Important renovations are not being carried out because there is insufficient time to tender within that financial year, and as a result money is wasted on

unnecessary projects."

Mrs Chaganis said it was frustrating for wives to witness large sums of money being spent on quarters which were then handed back to the German government.

"As drawdown continues, we are finding that there are instances in Germany of support facilities closing down in garrisons before the soldiers and their families have left."

"We are also facing the problem of dormitory quartering areas where there is no regiment or unit of any description."

"These areas are used to house families from an assortment of regiments and stations, thus splintering the community and increasing the feeling of isolation."

## Emergency tours put strain on family life

MAJ GEN Roddy Cordy-Simpson, GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division, told the FAW conference that up to half the soldiers under his command were involved with emergency tours at any one time.

Because of 1 (UK) Division's high level of commitment, the normal situation was that 3,500 troops were deployed, the same number were preparing to deploy, while 3,500 had just returned and were recovering. "That is almost half my

division, some 10,000 troops, involved in emergency tours in one way or another, at any given time," said Gen Cordy-Simpson.

This was a situation which gave his soldiers variety and adventure, but which put "excessive and sometimes unbearable pressure on family life".

On the question of sub-standard quartering, the GOC said the matter was being addressed in London and extra money had been set aside in order

to reverse the situation.

When the drawdown is complete early next year, 1 (UK) Arm'd Div will have reduced from 13 garrisons to five.

Hohne, including Celle and Fallingbommel, will be home to 6,130 soldiers; Osnabrück (including Münster and Nienburg) 5,589; Herford (including Dortmund, Detmold, Hameln and Rinteln) 5,486; Gütersloh (including Bielefeld) 2,996; and Paderborn and Sennelager 4,313.

## BFG Health Service bids short-listed

FOUR contenders to provide health services for British Forces Germany have been short-listed, the FAW(G) conference was told by Lt Col Brian Semple, manager of the market testing project.

The four, from an initial 50 organisations which requested information about the project, include an in-house bid from Healthforce, a combination of Army Medical Services and SSAFA.

The three external contenders are BMI Healthcare, part of General Healthcare, in partnership with Bradford Community General Healthcare Trust;

Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Trust, London, in partnership with West Lambeth Community Care NHS Trust; and Synapse, a consortium made up of Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust, Independent British Hospitals and Lakeview Learning, a small health care teaching consultancy.

All four organisations are now working with the market testing project team to ensure their proposals will meet the MoD's requirement.

The project team is working to a deadline which requires it to have an agreed Statement of

Requirement by February.

Col Semple said he had accepted the FAW invitation to speak to the conference because he wanted to report directly to the people for whom health services were primarily provided and to give wives a further and final opportunity to say what they wanted from the health service in Germany.

Medical services in Germany were originally designed for operations but modified for peace. With BFG's clear mission to counter the Warsaw Pact threat, it was intended that families would be evacuated when operations were

imminent. As the boundary between peace and war became blurred, and troops based in Germany deployed elsewhere, so the need developed for both a permanent infrastructure health service and a mobile deployable medical service.

Since Operation Granby, when BMH Hannover closed because its staff were deployed on operations in the Gulf, patients in Fallingbommel, Hohne and Cele had had to travel much further afield to BMH Rinteln, now a permanent inconvenience.

Col Semple said he

thought the problem of distance was the key contributing factor to the increasing use by BFG families of German hospitals for routine causes.

"Last year some one third of BFG babies were borne in Krankenhaus, and in some garrisons the proportion was as high as 50 per cent."

The feasibility study defined the services to be market tested as all primary health care, community health care, including the SSAFA nursing service, dental services, secondary health care, ambulance services and medical supplies.



## Pride in the Mailed Fist emblem

HAVING served in the 20th Armoured Brigade and its predecessor, the 6th Armoured Division, as a National Serviceman during the late 1950s I was most interested in your feature (*Soldier*, August 8).

I well remember the pride we felt wearing the "Mailed Fist" on our BDs.

Main role of my unit was to supply the tanks with petrol, carrying 156 jerricans in the back of our Bedford QLs, which we later exchanged for Bedford RLs.

It is, however, sad that famous regiments such as the Royal Dragoons, 9th Lancers and Royal Hampshires no longer exist.

My personal rancour is with the new RLC, which has abolished the rank of driver. — **D Peterman (ex-Dvr 66 Coy RASC), Mill Hill.**

## Multi-national combats made wearer vanish!

IN HIS letter about green being better for combat clothing than DPM, D C Sage (*Soldier*, October 31) makes some interesting points on the subject of camouflage.

Up to a point, I share his thoughts about DPM (and indeed most other patterns) not breaking up a soldier's silhouette.

About a year ago, a colleague experimented by making a combat uniform out of several different camouflage patterns — UK DPM, French Lizard, Rhodesian, Belgian, US Para (the old Denison smock pattern) and a couple of others.

It looked absolutely ridiculous — one arm was British, the other French; one side of the jacket Belgian and the other side Rhodesian, and so on. But it rendered the wearer invisible at more than ten paces because

you could not see a "man-shape" of any one recognisable pattern and in any variation of background at least two thirds would always blend in with the one third which did not, being unrecognisable.

If all you can see is half a chest, a knee and one shoulder, you do not see a "man-shape".

For urban camouflage, one of the most effective things I ever saw in the rubble of a ruined village was a plain, drab poncho worn over all equipment.

When the wearer froze, I had the greatest difficulty in picking him out, even though I was watching him all the time.

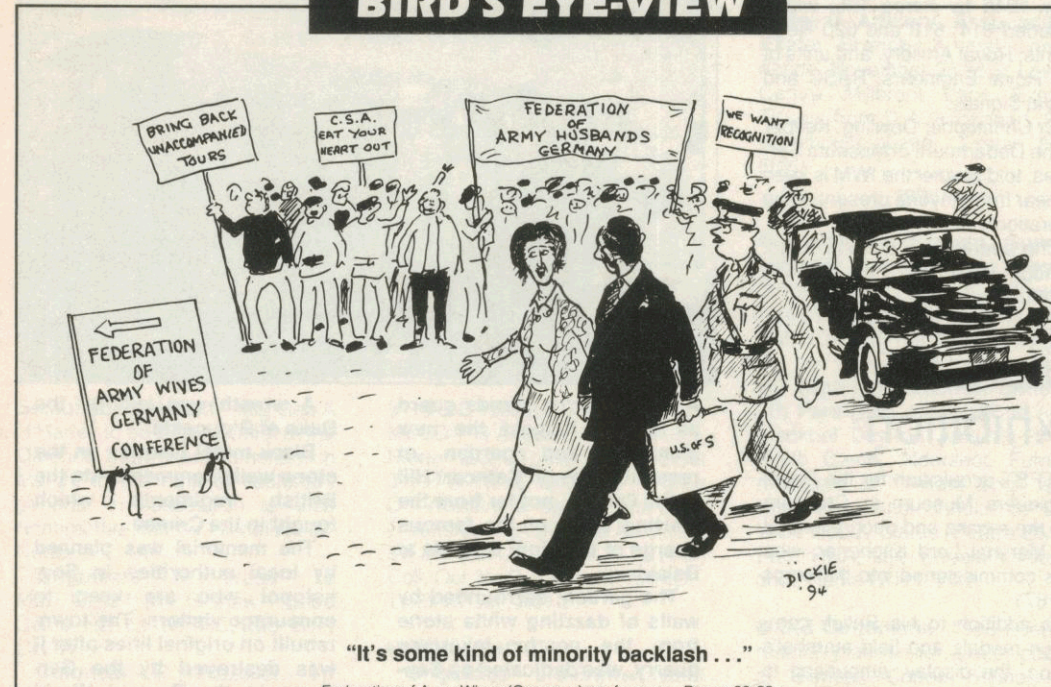
Some readers may recall the old Czech para camouflage pattern of bright green spots and lemon-yellow and black stripes — camouflage in a sweet-shop — but much to my surprise

and presumably because of the contrasts, I have never seen a more effective pattern for night operations, particularly in moonlight, because the "man-shape" disappears only a few feet away.

Most patterns can be very good or very poor, depending on the vegetation, the time of year, and so on. British DPM is not perfect but it is a good "all-rounder" — no terrain is all green, or all brown, not even the desert.

That said, I notice the Irish Army still wears the old British olive green uniform in the field and it still works with many backgrounds. To be honest, the best camouflage is still use of shadow, silence, care and good training, whatever one is wearing. — **Robert C Waddington, Bewdley, Worcs.**

### BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"It's some kind of minority backlash..."

Federation of Army Wives (Germany) conference — Pages 28-29

## Coverage 'shows bias to European theatre'

WITH reference to your coverage of the 50th anniversaries of the Battle of Monte Cassino, the Normandy Landings, "Operation Thursday" and Arnhem.

Although I think these events were worthy of coverage, space allotted to them as compared with your short articles on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Kohima (August 22 and September 5), suggests a Eurocentric bias in your reporting of this year's 50th anniversaries of Second World War engagements.

I would remind your readers that the Battles of Kohima and Imphal were the turning point of the Burma campaign.

I would suggest that if you had accorded the same coverage to the anniversary of the Battle of Kohima as you did to Monte Cassino, Normandy, "Operation Thursday" and Arnhem, you would have found that at the Kohima celebrations, there were many veterans with reminiscences

which are just as interesting as those of men who fought in Europe.

For most of the past nine years I have been researching the Imphal/Kohima Campaign and have written a book covering all aspects of the subject, which I had hoped would be published this year.

Unfortunately it has not been accepted by any specialist military publisher although many have published books about the Normandy landings and Arnhem, which could infer that XIV Army was indeed aptly called the "Forgotten Fourteenth". — **Nigel L Rylatt, Huddersfield.**

● Other readers have expressed appreciation that, unlike other sections of the media, we have NOT forgotten the non-European theatres of war 50 years ago. It would perhaps have been fairer had Mr Rylatt directed his indignation against the real culprits. It is also worth remembering that our book review pages often cover historical events in some depth. — **Editor**

### Scott and white feather

SIR Walter Scott wrote in his journal on April 15, 1829, when he was feeling unwell and had to buck himself up: "A bold countenance often carries off an indifferent cause, but no one will defend him who shows the white feather."

It looks as though the white feather may have been used to denote cowardice in the military before the author of *The Four Feathers* wrote his book, although I agree with Malcolm Cameron (Letters, July 11) that I have not read of such a custom in any military history. — **Alan Horsburgh, Dumbreck, Glasgow.**

● Queries about old films, which this correspondence covered, may be sent to Cinema-Television Veterans, 166 The Rocks Road, East Malling, Kent ME19 6AX. — **Editor**

## Suez medal refused on admin grounds?

REFERENCE the Prime Minister's letter to Col Newton (*Soldier*, September 19). It appears the main reason now for refusal to give a medal for Suez 1951-54 is an administrative one.

That the Honours and Decorations Committee has made a rule not to recognise service many years after the event is odd as it must have agreed to commemorative medals for service in Russia and Malta, and recently gave approval for the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal which acknowledges service back to 1969. — **D Atkinson, Halfmoon Bay, BC, Canada.**

## Difficult operation

JEREMY Alford's letter "Medals and the twaddle factor" (*Soldier*, March 7), with its examples of insignificant "awards" left me in disbelief.

Surely a more deserving medal should have been awarded for service during the 1951-54 Suez emergency.

I served with the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade during that period, when our operations consisted of cordon and search, patrols and internal security within the British-administered territory from Port Said to Port Suez, often under difficult conditions. — **Charles Wytcherley, Sydney, Australia.**

## SSM case still strong

WITH reference to the Suez Medal argument, the case for a Special Service Medal with Bars is strong and should be pursued with vigour.

Also, with so many wearing the National Service Medal, the Government should now ask the Queen to acknowledge it as official, to be worn with other medals. — **P W J Saunders (ex-Suez Vet 1953, 1956, Barchi, Libya), Richmond, N Yorkshire.**

## Why not make the Legion's medal official?

IT WAS good to see the article about the Royal British Legion (*Soldier*, October 31). Why doesn't the Government officially issue the National Service Medal struck by the Legion?

A bar could be added for the area of service.

The price charged for what is a commemorative medal is scandalous. An official issue would stop this farce. — **R S Stevens, Dover.**

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## SOLDIER to Soldier

### Were you an island liberator?

WERE YOU there when the Channel Islands were liberated at the end of the Second World War? If so, your memories could play a valuable part in next year's celebrations.

An exhibition about the German occupation of the islands is one of the events being planned by the

Imperial War Museum to mark the 50th anniversary of VE-Day.

The islands were liberated in May 1945 by Force 135, which included 614, 618 and 620 Regiments, Royal Artillery, and units of the Royal Engineers, RASC and Royal Signals.

Dr Christopher Dowling, Keeper of the Department of Museum Services, told *Soldier* the IWM is keen to hear from anyone present at the liberation.

The address is Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ (tel: 071-416 5000).

## Kitchener exhibition

LATEST acquisition for the Royal Engineers Museum in Chatham are the regalia and decorations of Fd Marshal Lord Kitchener, who was commissioned into the corps in 1871.

In addition to his British campaign medals and field marshal's baton, the display, amounting to more than 40 items, includes the regalia of his British orders and his numerous foreign awards.

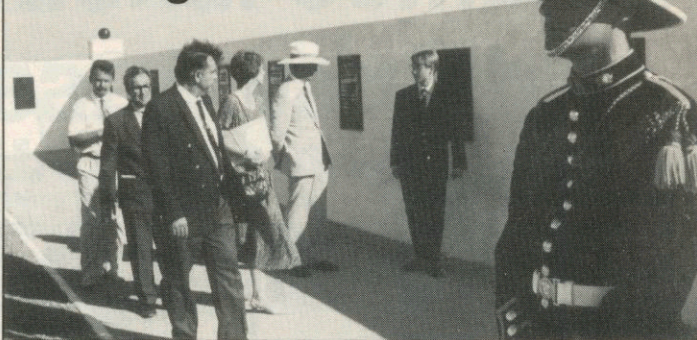
## Desert prints to help charity

DESERT Scorpions, a limited edition of 350 prints of an oil painting by Mike Roundot to mark the exceptional role of the Royal Corps of Transport, RAOC and REME during Operations Granby and Desert Storm, is available from Collectaire, 26 Cambridge Street, Norwich NR2 2BB.

Dominating the foreground of the prints – countersigned by Gen Sir Peter de la Billière and costing £59 each (including p&p) – are a DROPS vehicle from 12 Squadron RCT and a multiple launch rocket system from 39 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery.

The prints are being sold to raise money for the Airborne Initiative and Farm Africa charities.

## Crimea remembers the regiments



A Royal Marine stands guard as guests inspect the new memorial and garden of remembrance on Cathcart Hill in the Crimea, not far from the starting point of the famous charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava.

The garden, surrounded by walls of dazzling white stone from the nearby Inkerman quarry, was dedicated on September 15 in memory of British troops who were killed in action or died of disease during the Crimean War.

A wreath was laid by the Duke of Gloucester.

Black metal plaques on the stone walls commemorate the British regiments which fought in the Crimea.

The memorial was planned by local authorities in Sevastopol who are keen to encourage visitors. The town, rebuilt on original lines after it was destroyed by the Germans in the Second World War, has a military museum depicting the siege which formed the core of the war.



Mike Roundot's painting *Desert Scorpions*

## RLC 'covers' two centuries

This commemorative cover to mark two centuries of transport in the British Army (1794-1994) has been produced for the Royal Logistic Corps by WO1 (SSM) Jez Thompson at RHQ RLC, Deepcut.

The picture, depicting a Royal Waggon Train during the war in the Peninsula (1812), was painted by Johnny Jonas.

The covers bear a special British Forces Postal Services handstamp and are available in a number of forms. Limited editions have been signed by the Transport Minister or Chief of the Defence Staff, £15 each; the Chief of the General Staff, £10; the

Quartermaster General, £7.50; and the Director General Logistic Support (Army), £5.

Add 50p for postage and send your cheque, made out to RCL Association, to Project Officer, RHQ The RLC, Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6RW.

Proceeds will be given to Service charities.

## DIARY

**Now open:** The Right to Serve exhibition, history of women in the Army, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

1995

### FEBRUARY

**15, 16, 17:** Mountbatten Festival of Music featuring Massed Bands, Corps of Drums and Fanfare Trumpets of Royal Marines, Royal Albert Hall, in aid of Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and Service charities. Ticket enquiries on 0705 547205.

To include public events in this diary contact the Editor.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Senior appointment** – Maj Gen A H Harley to be Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Commitments), in March, in the rank of lieutenant general, in succession to Vice Admiral the Hon Sir Nicholas Hill-Norton.

**Brigadiers** – N F Wood – To MoD, Oct 24; M P S Shaw – To be Comd HQ 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, Oct 31.

**Colonels** – P R Rossiter – To be Comdt ASC, Oct 24; B J Hodgkiss – To MoD, Oct 31; M R Brocklebank – To 6 Dent Gp, Nov 25; J I Montgomery – To UK Sp Unit SHAPE, Nov 22.

**Lt Cols** – J O Anderson RADC – To 9 Dent Gp, Oct 6; L H Lodge RADC – To AMS Trg Gp, Oct 7; A D Thomson RAMC – To 1 Armd Fd Amb, Oct 5; P B G Cummings RLC – To MoD, Oct 24; T J Davis AGC(ALS) – To HQ BFHK, Oct 24; T R Hamilton-Baillie RGJ – To be CO 4 RGJ, Oct 29; J J Little RLC – To be CO 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Oct 24; R Milne AGC(APS) – To be Camp Comdt (AD), Oct 24; R J Morrison RLC – To HQ RLC Trg Cen and Deepcut Gar, Oct 26; P R Newton PWRR – To be CO 2 PWRR, Oct 24; I M Tait RE – To MoD, Oct 24.

A W Blackett, A and SH – To BMATT Zimbabwe, Oct 31; A R T Hazlerigg RLC – To HQ Wales and WDist, Nov 1; J L Kelly RHF – To MoD, Oct 31; R C B Nutting LD – To MoD, Oct 31; G L Powell AGC(PRO) – To HQ UKLF, Oct

31; J B C Prescott, R Anglian – To be CO 7 R Anglian, Oct 31; A T L Stone RLC – To HQ DA Avn, Oct 31; P W Wilde, Cheshire – To be CO Warminster Sp Unit, Oct 31; T O Jefferson RAMC – To AMD, Oct 31; J P Van Lare RAMC – To RAM Coll, Oct 31; R A Bencini RAMC – To RAM Coll, Nov 21.

### RETIREMENTS

**Brigadiers** – J S Brewer, late 2 GR, Nov 1; M A Browne, late RE PCS, Nov 1; W D Cantley, late RTR, Nov 1; C D Daukes, late 4/7 DG, Nov 1; J E Le Quesne, late REME, Nov 1; J M Macfarlane, late RAEC, Nov 1; A I Mackay, late RAEC, Nov 1; M W H Roberts, late R Signals, Nov 1; R G Silk, late WFR, Nov 1; T R Wright, late RE, Nov 1.

**Colonels** – J D Smith-Bingham, late RHG/D, Oct 29; J N B Stuart, late RE, Oct 28; A D Boulton, late RAPC, Nov 1; C N Brand, late RAPC, Nov 1; T R Bright, late RPC, Nov 1; A T Brookes-Webb, late RAPC, Nov 1; W J Chesshyre, late RE, Nov 1; D A J Corbin, late 4/7 DG, Nov 1; L C Edwards-Major, late RAEC, Nov 1; C B Fairweather, late KOSB, Nov 1; W G Harrison, late REME, Nov 1; P J Henderson, late RCT, Nov 1; D A Irvine, late RCT, Nov 1; T W Payne, late RAEC, Nov 1; J H Roberts, late R Signals, Nov 1; G Sechiari, late RAMC, Oct 9.

**Lt Cols** – M D Ahern RAMC, Oct 27; B F A Ghattas RAMC, Oct 28.

## MILITARIA

**History of 143rd Infantry Brigade:** Author commissioned to write history of the brigade wishes to hear from former members or relatives from First and Second World Wars or the period 1918-39. It was known as the Warwickshire Infantry Brigade on formation in 1908 until renamed and numbered in 1915. Contact Peter Caddick-Adams, Hurcott Manor Cottage, Hurcott Hall Farm, Hurcott, nr Kidderminster DY10 3PH (tel: 0562 863235).

**British Empire history:** Author Robin Neillands, commissioned to write history of the past 50 years of the British Empire, wishes to hear

tales from British Army personnel who served abroad, including India, Pakistan at independence, Palestine in the Mandate, Kenya during the Mau Mau troubles, Malaya, Cyprus, Aden, Borneo, Kuwait, Oman, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Hong Kong. Replies to 48 Beltran Road, London SW6 3AJ (tel: 071-371 7031).

**22nd Dragoons:** Brian Lacey, 30 Sentry Corner, Bideford, Devon EX39 4BP, is collating information on 22nd Dragoons, part of 79th Armd Div 1943-45, and wishes to hear from anyone with details or photographs.

## REUNIONS

● **Royal Artillery Association, Exeter Branch:** Annual dinner-dance, November 26 at St Loe's Centre, Millbrook Lane, Exeter. Tickets from D A Goodheart, 20a Burnthouse Lane, Exeter EX2 6BH.

1995

● **4 Coy Coldstream Guards 1950-55:** Third reunion dinner, Birmingham, April 8. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel: 0482 503649).

● **F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, 7th Para RHA** will celebrate Akhl Medkheil Day on April 28-29 in North Camp, Aldershot. Former members of "Yellow Dog" who wish to attend should contact WO2 Nobby Clarke, F Para Bty, 9 Para RHA, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2NQ.

● **Old Cottonians:** 1995 London reunion planned for former pupils of Bishops Cotton School, St Mark's Road, Bangalore, South

India. Details from Mrs Pat Mampin, 27 Osborne Court, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7QS (tel: 0983 292328).

● **Combined Services Association drumhead thanksgiving service:** Crewe, Cheshire, August 20. Organising secretary J G Davies, 6 Mavor Court, Flag Lane, Crewe CW1 3BL.

● **2nd Bn Coldstream Guards (Aden 1964-65):** Reunion for those who served in Aden to be held in London on September 15. Details from Maj F P Horsfall, Staff Superintendent, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW (tel: 071-219 3213 or 081-882 6072).

● **56 Signal Squadron (V) Eastbourne:** All ranks past and present, and wives, annual reunion dinner, October 14 (previously arranged for Oct 7). Details from PSAO, 56 Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN22 7NL.

## SEARCHLINE

● **Dreumel, Holland:** To mark the 50th anniversary of the village's liberation, the inhabitants of Dreumel want to trace 21 British soldiers billeted there in 1945. The names (and 50-year-old addresses) are: **Wilf Cottam** (Winfield Rd, Leeds); **Jack May** (Lynholmes, Matlock, Derbyshire); **unknown** of 74 Handfield St, Liverpool 5; **Jack Horton** (George St, Maidstone); **Byron L Spalding** (Terrace Rd, Carnoustie, Angus); **Thomas B Anderson** (Belmont Ave, Blackhall Rocks, W Hartlepool); **Norman Methie** (Lumley Rd, Redcar, Yorks); **Eric Proxy** (Springfield Cres, West Brom); **Stanley Wright** (Ashton Rd, Luton); **Donald Glover** (Pasture Rd, Baildon, Bradford); **S Bridge** (Tabley St, Pendleton, Salford); **Harry Fowler** (Railway Rd, Brinscall, nr Chorley, Lancs); **C Stark** (Locking Rd, Weston-super-Mare); **S F Loveridge** (Peabody Bldgs, Stamford St, London SE1); **H Descon** (Strand St, New Shilton, Co Durham); **Frederick Shipton** (St George's Flats, Bridgeway St, London); **R G C Brown** (Rockingham Rd, Yardley, Birmingham); **W Wright** (Arlington Rd, Warstock, Birmingham); **Charles Mount** (Greenbank St, Rutherglen, Glasgow); **Harry Cox** (St James Road, Eastbourne) and **William Burnett** (Potter Sqr, Sunderland). Contact J van Koolwijk, Hofhooistraat 2a, 6621 ZN Dreumel, Holland.

46. Replies to 140 Cressingham Road, Reading, Berks RG2 7LN.

● **E Bennett** wishes to contact former **156 D/R Section, 19th Air Formation Signals** personnel. Ring 0923 771832.

● **Tony Lyons**, The Post Office, Newton Tony, Salisbury SP4 0HF, wishes to hear from anyone who attended an **NBC Officers course** at Winterbourne Gunner in late 60s or early 70s, particularly the October 1969 course, and instructors.

● **RMP Association:** New branch to be formed in North Yorkshire. All interested parties please contact SSgt Steve Welsh on 0748 872855 or 872876.

● **SHAEF 1944-45:** If you wore the Flaming Sword flash of Supreme Headquarters, the British SHAEF Association wants you to make contact, particularly if you were at Reims on May 7, 1945. Contact Alan E Foot, 96 Chiltern Crescent, Earley, Reading RG6 1AN.

● **Recently formed 49th West Riding Division Association – The Polar Bear** – seeks new members. Contact the Secretary, H M Conn, 144 Woodman Road, Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5AL.

● **Water Wohl**, Vergarten Str 111/16/20, A-1020 Vienna, Austria (tel: 717116514) wishes to contact **Maj Harry Duncan Jones** who was a neighbour while serving in Vienna in 1955.

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Bow, Flower Food & Care Card

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## Edinburgh spectacular captured on video

SIXTY-minutes of splendour and spectacle from this year's record-breaking Edinburgh Tattoo have been released on video.

The 1994 tattoo attracted the highest recorded visitor numbers in the 45 years of the annual event and included the final public appearance of the The Gordon Highlanders

before their amalgamation with the Queen's Own Highlanders to form the British Army's newest regiment.

Featured on the video are contributions from the Massed Bands and Pipes and Drums of the Royal Air Force, Scottish Highland and country dancing, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, the Drums and Pipes

of the Gordons, the Highland Band of the Scottish Division, and the Royal Artillery's motor-cycle display team.

The Tobruk Memorial Pipes and Drums from Australia and Canada's Delta Police Pipe Band add an international flavour.

Tom Fleming, television host of countless State occa-

sions, provides a commentary to the BBC film which was produced under exclusive licence.

● **Edinburgh Military Tattoo** is available from the Tattoo Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB, price £13 for PAL version (UK, Europe, Australasia), £17 for NTSC version (USA, Canada, Japan) or video retailers.

## Heroes of Arnhem sang in defeat

DAVID Shepherd's memorable painting of the Arnhem bridge adorns the front cover of *Arnhem - The Battle Remembered*, one of several books published in this 50th anniversary year.

No one with any sort of military link will forget the catastrophe suffered by the heroic men of the 1st British Airborne Division.

"We underestimated the enemy. A very dangerous thing to do when fighting the Germans..." So wrote Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, commander XXX Corps, some time later.

Planning disagreements and personality clashes among the top brass were not least among the reasons for the failure of Arnhem.

Author Robert Jackson tells yet again the grim story, combining excerpts from letters from top-level commanders with facts and figures and recollections of those who took part.

He reiterates some of the well-known reasons for the failure of Arnhem, but the last word comes from Gen Sir John Hackett, commander 4th Parachute Brigade, who, lying injured, heard his captured men singing.

He writes: "After all they had endured they held high their pride and they sang." — JM

**Arnhem - The Battle Remembered** by Robert Jackson. Airlife, hardback, £19.95.

IT IS HARD to imagine 50,000 books about one man, but author Robin Neillands quotes that as the number produced about Napoleon.

Neillands adds in *Wellington and Napoleon - A Clash of Arms* that taking into account those of his battles, his love affairs, his politics, philosophy, campaigns, opponents and allies, that figure can just about be doubled.

Why then add to the pile? The author asks and answers his own question: because, he says, of a desire to learn more about Europe in those days and to "capture in one

## Emperor's legacy: a library

volume the developing struggle between Napoleon and the Duke".

He has certainly had a go at achieving that with his latest offering on this great military duo.

While Wellington's name takes precedence in the title, it is Napoleon, the little Cor-

sican, who seems to dominate throughout the narrative, suggesting, perhaps, that their names should have been transposed.

Either way this is an interesting and readable book and a fascinating tale of how Napoleon (the original European, perhaps?) and the Irish-born, Eton-educated Duke, by their victories and defeats in Europe, shaped the future of the continent. — JM

**Wellington and Napoleon - Clash of Arms** by Robin Neillands. John Murray, hardback, £19.99.

## From bucket seats to Jeeps and Jimmies

WITH THE prospect of war looming in the late 1930s, the major powers had to review their military vehicle requirements, which had been generally neglected since the First World War.

There have been many books about national policies concerning armoured vehicles in the between-the-wars period, but the subject of soft-skinned military transport has been a somewhat grey area of inaccurate analysis and conjecture.

Now, a new book by G N Georgano, *World War Two Military Vehicles: Transport and Halftracks*, is especially welcome as it surveys the vast array of vehicles produced for the armed forces of Britain and the British Commonwealth, Germany, United States, Soviet Union, France, Italy and Japan.

Nick Georgano does not simply offer a catalogue of

vehicles; there are fascinating accounts of production and purchasing policies in all the countries he covers.

Not surprisingly, it is pre-war Germany where we find some of the most interesting changes in policy, with a story that begins before the *Reichswehr* was transformed by the Nazi regime into the *Wehrmacht*.

Individual commands of the *Reichswehr* were responsible for the acquisition of their transport, which explains the wide diversity of chassis on which were built the most typical of German military vehicle bodies, the *kübelstzer* - 'bucket seat'.

The German policies between the wars may seem, in retrospect, to have been based on trial and error, but British military vehicle provision in the same period was even more haphazard. A few, very few, trucks and cars were bought for

military use but the small army did not need, nor could it maintain, anything other than a small fleet.

The purchase of vehicles for regular use by the Army was complicated by a cumbersome system whereby vehicles for the Royal Army Service Corps were ordered by the Quartermaster General, and those for other arms by the Master General of Ordnance.

It was not until spring 1939 that the Government, recognising the shortcomings of the system, set up the Ministry of Supply to co-ordinate production of military equipment of all kinds.

Writes the author: "The contribution of the United States' vehicle industry to the Allied war effort cannot be overestimated - not only did it provide mobility for American forces in all theatres of the war, but through the Lend-Lease

● **Turn to next page**



## Poor health and no wealth for VC heroes

BRITAIN declared war against Germany on August 4, 1914. Nineteen days later on August 23, two soldiers were listed for the Victoria Cross.

They were awarded for valour in the Mons area. By the end of the year a further 42 were won in France and Belgium by men of the British Expeditionary Force. Thirteen of the 46 were awarded posthumously, 11 to officers.

Gerald Gliddon, in a follow-up to his book on the men who won VCs on the Somme, tells in *VCs of the First World War - 1914* of the 46 men who, by their heroism and gallantry joined what is probably the most exclusive club in the world.

By the end of the war more than 630 soldiers were eligible for membership of that heroic

band with the award of the Army's highest decoration.

Those early medals to the Old Contemptibles average about one VC every three days which, strangely enough, was approximately the rate for this top award for the rest of the war.

Each of the 46 stories is a cameo, packed with information about the medal winners; where, when and how they won their awards, where they came from and what happened to them.

Each account is about heroism in extreme circumstances and assembled largely from official sources. Mr Gliddon, a skilled and knowledgeable writer, has produced an extremely readable book.

It is a must for those with an interest in the history of the VC and even more so for students of social history, since the award of the medal to survivors did not open the doors to prosperity, let alone health, as many died in poverty. - JM

**VCs of the First World War - 1914** by Gerald Gliddon. Alan Sutton, £16.99.

## A scrapbook of memories charts gunners' success

FORTUNATE indeed are those compilers of military histories and records with direct access to old comrades and regimental files.

Such an accumulator of military facts and figures is Owen Roberts, a former RA officer who, in *31st Field Regiment RA - A Record* has, by searching through newspaper cuttings, official records and not least the memories of old comrades, put together a descriptive catalogue of the regiment's wartime days.

While Mr Roberts claims authorship of the record - he makes it clear it is not an official history - he pays due thanks to all who helped with this venture.

The information he has gathered tells the story of the regiment from its formation in Egypt in 1936 to its disbandment in 1946 when it was given the first of many new titles. It is now known as 42nd Armoured Brigade RA of the 22nd Armoured Brigade RA - the Welsh Gunners.

Equipped with the legendary 25-pdr field gun, the regiment,

as part of the 4th Indian Division, gave a tremendous account of itself in Egypt, Eritrea and Libya - re-forming in Cyprus after being almost completely destroyed at Alem Hamza in the western desert - Tunisia, Palestine, Syria, Italy and Greece.

Mr Roberts tells the ten-year story of the regiment aided by numerous wartime news headlines, maps, sketches and photographs. The book charts the regiment's successes and setbacks and, while it is a proud story, it is more a scrapbook of memories which will especially please the 31st's Old Comrades Association - all 100 of them - who were among others who helped with the publication costs of this book.

They will be delighted to see such a record of their regiment's battles and exploits written up by one of their own. - JM

**31st Field Regiment RA - A Record.** Available from Mrs P Roberts, Publication Secretary, 33 Beech Drive, Brackley, Northants NN13 6JG. Price £7.50, plus £2 postage and packing.

## Bucket seats, Jeeps and Jimmies

● From page 35  
Programme vast numbers of ... vehicles were supplied to Great Britain and the USSR."

This military material output was all the more remarkable as up to the mid-1930s the US Army fleet was ancient. Hardly any new vehicles had been bought from the end of the First World War up to June 1929. Precisely 54 new trucks were purchased in ten years!

In 1931 the Quartermaster Corps began a policy of assembling their own standardised vehicles at Fort Holabird, Maryland. From 1935 slightly modified commercial models were bought but it was not until 1939 that a programme of vehicle types was laid down, leading to most of the familiar

American vehicles of the wartime years, such as the Jeep and the GMC 2½-ton "Jimmy".

Equally remarkable was the transformation of the Canadian motor industry in 1939 to meet the needs of the British armed forces.

The author gives us some stories of individual vehicles. For instance, he writes of one Austin K2 ambulance that fell into German hands after the evacuation of Dunkirk which later saw service on the Russian front and then found its way back to France where it was "recaptured" in August 1944. Montgomery saw that it was returned to the makers as a home-coming hero.

The book is profusely illustrated, both with black and

## You can't tell a book by its title . . .

WHILE the title *Some Letters From Burma - the Story of the 25th Dragoons at War* may not be exactly scintillating, it does conceal an otherwise interesting book.

Most of the letters were written by author Tom Grounds to his parents and various relatives and, for the most part, because of the blue pencil of the wartime censor, say little except to describe his social life while on leave in Calcutta and the suffering of local people

during the Bengal famine of 1943.

His letters are interspersed with accounts of the regiment's battles with the Japanese at Arakan during the first six months of 1943, followed by battle records of the regiment's A Squadron at Kalaw and Toungoo the following year.

In addition to his own letters he quotes from numerous sources, including Cecil Beaton - then a war photographer, later to become famous

for his portraits of the socially significant and for his friendship with film star Greta Garbo - Lord Louis Mountbatten, Winston Churchill and Brig H R C Frink, then CO of the regiment, who was affectionately known throughout the British cavalry as "Frinkie".

There are a number of maps and 25 photographs, many clear enough to identify those pictured (although this has not been done). There are also detailed and personal accounts

of the regiment's successes and setbacks in battles against the Japanese.

The book is not without humorous recollections such as the time the regiment adopted a baby elephant which became so friendly it tried to get into bed with its keeper! - JM

**Some Letters From Burma - the Story of the 25th Dragoons at War** by Tom Grounds. Parapress, hardback, £16.95.

## Wingate 'cover-up' fuels life-long quest by author

FRUSTRATION at the lack of official information led to Dennis Hawley writing *The Death of Wingate*. But it took more than 45 years for this discontent to manifest itself in this book.

While serving as a radio operator with a signals unit in Assam in 1947, Mr Hawley appears to have sensed a cover-up over the death of the Chin-di leader in an aircraft crash in 1944.

His interest was first aroused when he was detailed to help

recover the remains of the late major general and his companions from the aircraft's crash-site, about 100 miles from his unit's base.

Unfortunately for him his place on the team was cancelled, which only served to intensify his curiosity, especially when the recovery team on their return revealed nothing but the barest details of their pursuit and then only reluctantly.

From there on he determined to find out all he could about Maj Gen Orde Charles Wingate, who died at the age of 41. Over the years he acquired much information and in 1985 he decided on some even more serious research into the matter.

It was then his search became hindered by officialdom here and in the USA, since details of the crash were listed as classified.

But he persevered and in his book of 340 pages claims that although some "meagre remains" have been recovered and interred by the US authorities at Arlington - because the crew and the plane were American - the bulk of the remains of the aircraft's nine occupants lay buried several feet below the crash site.

While this book holds a good deal of interest, it appears that the whole purpose of the author's investigation and subsequent production is to instigate the total recovery of

Wingate and his companions, who included two civilian war correspondents, and give them a decent burial.

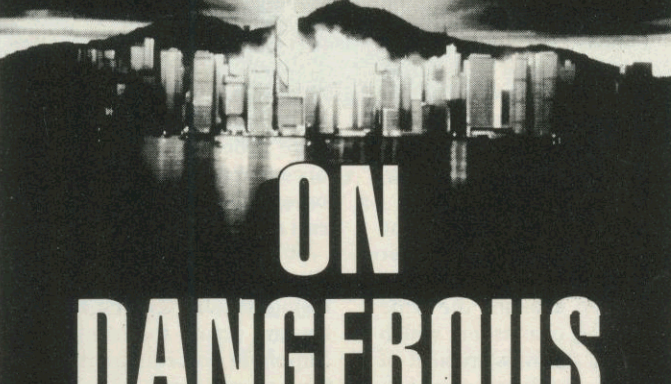
If that is really his quest, he

can only be wished the best of luck - JM

**The Death of Wingate** by Dennis Hawley. Merlin Books, hardback, £15.95.

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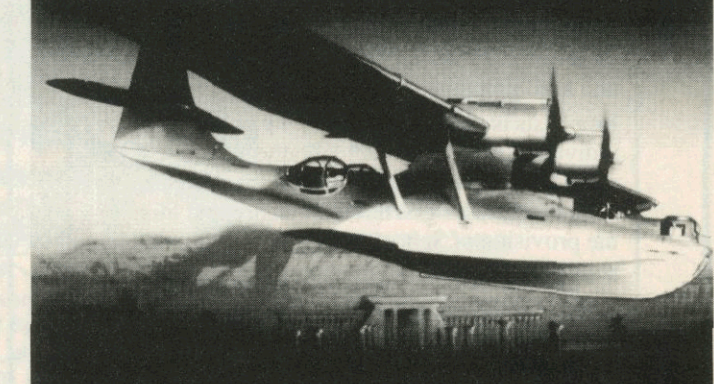
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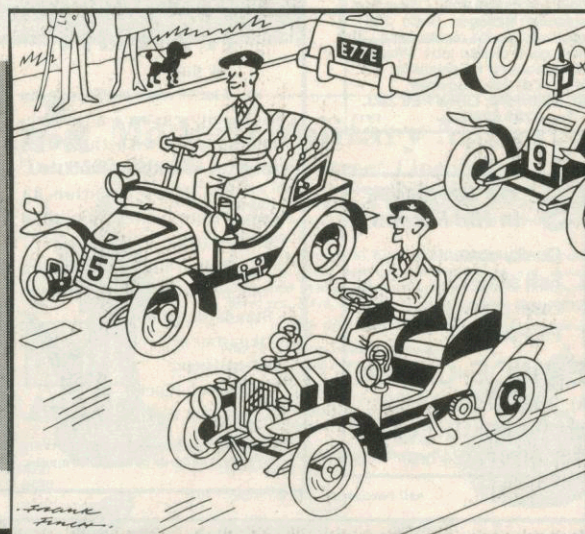
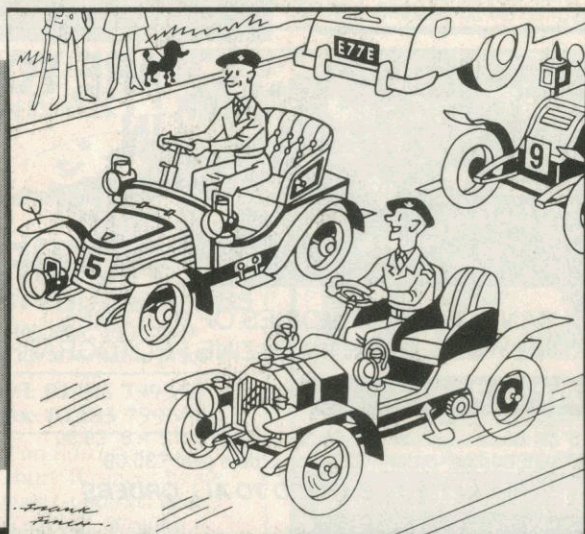
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Competition No 597 (October 17 issue): Congratulations to Mr A V Oliver, of Colchester, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr R W Geden, of Romford, Essex, and Mrs V A Constantine, of Westgate-on-Sea, Kent.



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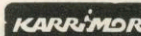
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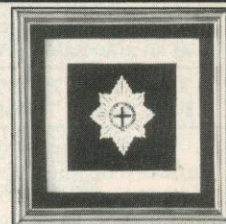
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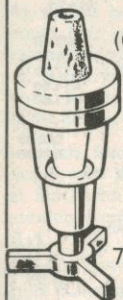
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**My name is Claire.** I'm 20, 5'9" with blonde hair and green eyes. My interests are music, travelling, pubs, clubs and having a laugh. Write to **P132** 24/94

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

**My name is Elaine.** I'm 34, 5'4", brown hair and blue eyes. Hobbies: reading, writing letters, walking, cooking, countryside, music and animals. Would like to hear from soldiers aged 30-39, single, tall with gsoh. **P120** 24-94

**Scottish female,** 29, looking for a friendly pen pal. I'm easy going, quiet (at first) with a mischievous sense of humour. I enjoy lots of things in life. **ALA. P121** 24-94

**Janet,** 27, 5'10", single mum of one child. Likes music, going out, quiet nights in. **GSOH.** Would like to write to someone aged 30+. Photo appreciated. **P122** 24-94

**Lady,** 45, divorced, 5'2", dark complexion, thoughtful and caring with gsoh. Would like to write to gentlemen of similar age and disposition. **P123** 24-94

**Hi, I'm Sammy,** 23, 5'8", divorced with a girl aged 18 months. Interests include keep fit and having a good laugh. I'd like to hear from any soldiers with gsoh. **ALA (photo appreciated).** **P124** 24-94

**Grumpy lady,** 25, dislikes going out, music, clubs and beer - but has a great sense of humour as you can see! So get writing, beer tokens welcome! **P125** 24-94

**Sharon,** 35, 5'5", slim with blue eyes and brown hair. Separated with two boys. Hobbies include: Cycling, step aerobics, walking, music and my children. Would like pen pals aged 30-45. **P126** 24-94

**Teresa,** early 40s, 5'7", slim and attractive. Enjoys walking, reading, swimming, cinema and quiet country pubs. Would like reliable pen pal, separated or divorced, aged 36-45 with gsoh. **P127** 24-94

**Yvonne,** 25, 5'10", slim, red/blonde hair and hazel/green eyes, gsoh. Interests: cinema, theatre, swimming, music, socialising, reading and writing to people. Seeks pen pals, 25+ with similar interests. Photo appreciated. **P128** 24-94

**Vikki,** 24, 5' with long hair and green eyes. Bubbly personality and a gsoh. I like pubs, cinema, driving and am game for a laugh. Would love to hear from soldiers 25+, home or abroad. **P129** 24-94

**Hi, I'm Julia,** 22, 5'3", slim, brown hair and hazel eyes. I enjoy pubs, clubs, films and music. I would like to hear from single, sincere soldiers - home or abroad. Photo appreciated. **P130** 24-94



**SOLDIER Magazine 1995 Calendar** – now available. Soldier Magazine celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 1995 and our calendar has a nostalgic look at the British Army over the past 50 years. The calendar costs just £5.50 UK/BFPO, £7 Europe and £8.50 overseas (airmail only). Send cheque or postal order, £ sterling only please, to: Soldier Calendar, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 06/95

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# The SOLDIER Calendar 1995



## 1995 CALENDAR

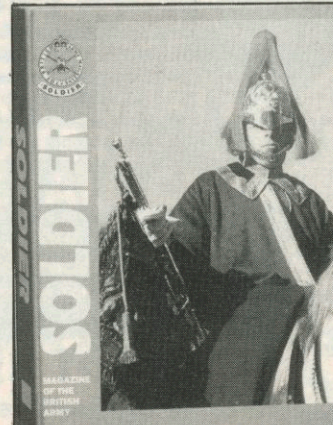
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# ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

**OCTOBER 29, 1994**

**Six-way tie for first prize (22 goals, £733.33 each)** Sgt E A Binnie, Colchester Det SIB; Col P C Cook, HQDT, Upavon; Capt A J Duncan, 5 AB Bde Log Bn, Aldershot; WO2 J M Gauld, 1 BW, Pirbright; LCpl S Greasley, 1 R Anglian, Colchester; Cpl E J Mason, 3 RSME Regt, Blackwater.

**Four-way tie for seventh prize (21 goals, £25 each)** LCpl A R Dunlop, 25 Engr Regt, BFPO 808; Cpl S D Gunn, 1 Para, Aldershot; Sgt K Sheldermine, 34 (N) Signal Regt (V), Middlesbrough; Cpl A Stern, UNFICYP Sp Regt, BFPO 567.

**NOVEMBER 5, 1994**

**First prize (18 goals, £2,000)** Sgt R J Perry, HQ LANDCENT, BFPO 115.

**16-way tie for second prize (17 goals, £156.25 each)** Sgt A M Clifford, 22 Fd Hosp RAMC, Aldershot; LCpl T S E E Duckett, 23 Para Fd Amb RAMC, Aldershot; LCpl S Elsom, 1 WG, Tern Hill; Cpl C S Evans, 3 Bn REME, BFPO 41; LCpl R V Lewis, 1 D and D, BFPO 16; WO2 J Loftus, HQ ARRC, BFPO 40; Sgt C Malyan, 7 Bn REME, BFPO 41; Cpl M M Marriner, 24 Armd Fd Amb RAMC, Catterick; WO2 C S Parsons, JSG NI, BFPO 825; WO2 P Peart, 8 Inf Bde HQ & Signal Sqn, BFPO 807; Maj N D S Pratchek, 522 Sqn RLC, Kineton; Sgt D Ryan, ACIO Stockport; Sgt A D Thorne, 1 Regt AAC BFPO 47; LCpl G Willey, ATR Pirbright; Maj R P Wilson, RMCS, Shrivenham; Lt Col S A J Young, RSA, Larkhill.

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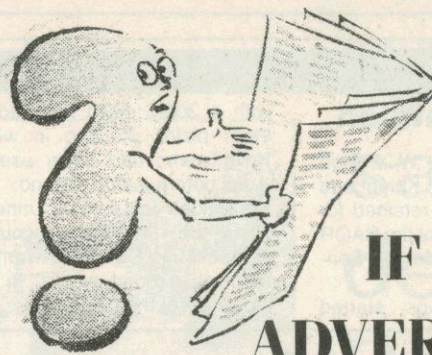
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## IN BRIEF

## Modern triathlon

A TEAM comprising WO2 Rob Coulthard, LCpl John Knight and LCpl Mark Marsden retained for 35 Engineer Regiment the BAOR modern triathlon title at Senelager last month.

The championships started

with a 300m swim followed by 9mm pistol shooting in which Knight, who had never used a pistol before, came second.

Marsden was the first runner to finish the 4km cross country course while Coulthard went on to finish second overall in the individual competition.

## Squash

British Forces Hong Kong brought their squash season to a close with a five-day tour to Singapore during which they beat Singapore Police 5-2, drew 6-6 with Singapore Cricket Club and the Tanglin Club, and were well

beaten by Singapore Squash Rackets Association.

Maj David Gagen, Capt Dave Smith, Sgt Ginge Whiteman, Lt (QGO) Santa Pun, Lt Col Ian Buckley, Maj Ian Lane, Capt Pat Coxen, Lt Col Peter Blundell, Maj Bill Mead and Phil Mallion represented BFHK.

# Gale-force Fusiliers storm home

HEAVY rain on the first day and a Force 7 gale on the second played havoc at the UK Army Inter-Unit golf finals at Whittington Heath Golf Club.

Three trophies were at stake during the two-day tournament sponsored by Naafi Financial Services, with the Army Challenge Cup the premier event and eight finalists whittled down from 60 original entries.

Format of the finals ensured that second round losers had a chance of winning one of the other trophies, the British India Golf Cup or the UDR Trophy.

Resounding victories were gained in the first round by 1 Gren Gds, who beat the Royal School of Artillery 17-4, and by Chester-based 2 RRF, bookies' favourites and UDR

Trophy holders, who defeated Comms and Sy Group, Loughborough, 25-1.

In closer matches, PMC Arborfield beat 3 R Irish and 3 Regt AAC got the better of HQ Wales and Western District.

In an exciting semi-final, Capt Michael Griffiths sank a 20ft putt at the last hole to secure an 8-7 win for the Grenadiers over Princess Marina College, while 2 RRF beat 3 Regt AAC in the other semi which ended in almost total darkness.

High winds the next day turned the 6,448-yard course into a real test, and RSA Larkhill rose to the occasion, scoring a match-winning 89 Stableford points to secure the UDR trophy.

An epic struggle between 3 R Irish and Wales and West



Capt Michael Griffiths, Gren Gds, drives off the first tee

for the British Army India Golf Cup ended level at nine holes each. At the first extra hole, Maj Gerry Eaton, who had won all nine holes for the Ulstermen, lost his touch to let in the Shrewsbury-based headquarters.

The final of the Challenge Cup was almost as close, individual honours going to CSgt Clint Goddard of 2 RRF. He was closely followed by teammate Pte Kevin Kelly and Capt Michael Griffiths of the Grenadier Guards.

Team honours followed the individual trend, the Fusiliers beating the Grenadiers 6-4 in a close match.

Interrupted only by two world wars, the Challenge Cup has been contested continuously since 1904. The victory by the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers ensures their name will appear on the splendid trophy for the first time.

They are likely to be a hard act to follow in the 1995 tournament at Catterick.

## Coaching the lady coaches...



Picture: Mike Perring

Army football captain SSgt Kevin Parker (27 Regt RLC), a qualified coach, pictured with the first all-female course run by the Army FA at Aldershot. The 20 women involved were taking the Football Association preliminary coaching award and will go on to promote the sport within their units.

There was a distinct improvement in football skills at Colchester during the second of the Army women's six-a-side District tournament.

Contested by Training Regiment and Depot

RLC and Duchess of Kent Barracks, the final was attended by Army FA secretary Maj Terry Knight and Director of Coaching QMSI Joey Roach who watched a thrilling game won 2-1 by the RLC.

Cpl Ally Shields and Cpl Wendy Amis scored for the Depot, with Cpl Steph Geeson replying. Mr Melvyn Lux of sponsors Mandrake Associates presented the trophies. Next District tournament was scheduled for Aldershot on November 23.

## Army turn it on against Amateurs

## AFA 1, Army 4

THE ARMY produced their best form of the season to demolish a useful Amateur Football Alliance side at Pottery Bar, writes Derrick Bly.

The Amateurs were fresh from convincing victories over both Oxford and Cambridge Universities and got their noses in front in the tenth minute.

Bradbury equalised in the 23rd minute after a neat build-up involving Higgins, newcomer George Russell (BW), Pat Russell and Johnson.

During the second half the Army turned on a vintage display of aggressive, controlled football which delighted coach Paul Holden.

A Johnson lob put the Army ahead in the 53rd minute and 20 minutes later they went further in front with a gem of a

goal. Pat Russell squared the ball to Higgins, whose first-time cross to the far post was headed home firmly by Bradbury.

Bambrook showed brilliant control to fire home the fourth from a 40-yard pass hit by the inspirational Higgins in mid-field. The return of Kevin Parkinson in the back four was also significant.

## James's brace denies Civil Service

## Civil Service 16, Army 16

THE ARMY and Civil Service drew 16-16 in a fast flowing and somewhat bruising encounter at Chiswick, writes Mark Beardsell.

Fortunes ebbed and flowed but a draw was probably a fair reflection of the play.

## Infantry 1, REME 0

A goal ten minutes from time by Cpl John Greechan (Hldrs) gave the Infantry victory over the REME at the Tidworth Oval in a highly competitive game.

Both sides displayed skill and commitment with the Infantry just about deserving their win on the overall balance of play.

The Army took the lead after five minutes with a Botting penalty from inside the Civil Service half.

Following a scrum just outside the Army 22, the Civil Service hit back with a fine try and conversion, then stretched their lead with a penalty. Fur-

## REME sailors defy Baltic gales

EIGHT Hallberg Rassy 29s from the British Kiel Yacht Club, sailed by crews from the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Signals, Royal Logistic Corps, REME, Army Air Corps, Royal Artillery, Foot Guards and RAF Germany took part in the Peugeot Export-sponsored Inter-Corps sail training week.

The outward race ended after 44 hours with the Royal Signallers arriving at Bornholm just ahead of the Kopenhagen-Bornholm ferry which kindly delayed its passage to allow the remainder of the fleet to finish.

Six yachts finished within half an hour of each other.

With the wind increasing in strength and following news of the Estonian ferry disaster in the Baltic, only a few hundred miles to the north-east, it was decided to delay the programme for 24 hours to allow the gales to abate.

Soon after the start of the return leg the wind increased and the committee boat, *Kranich*, had to make for Trelleborg in Sweden when her bilge pumps could no longer cope as she took in water.

Five other yachts had similar problems and sheltered behind the German island of Rugen, and two others retired, motor-ing back to Kiel.

The REME boat, skippered by Lt Col Chris Deacon, was the only one left in the race and sailed through to an empty BKYC jetty to finish first.

ther penalty exchanges left the home side 13-6 up at the break.

Flanker Capt Gareth James scored two tries in the second half to put the Army ahead for the first time since the opening minutes before another successful penalty by the Civil Service levelled the scores.

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# Legend Lillee gives as good as he takes

ARMY cricketers mixed with one of the game's legends during an Australia v The Rest match in Hong Kong.

Dennis Lillee's Australian team was given Capt Richard Greatorex (17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC) and WO2 Peter Willey (AGC, DSPS(A)) to make up the numbers, while Sgt Nick Palmer (AAC), Capt Tony Wilby (RE, RSME), Capt Ian Fielding (1 Kings) and Lt Paddy Logan (9 Regt AAC) played for The Rest.

Greatorex, captain of the Army side touring Hong Kong, gave Australia a good start with a hard-hit 25, while Palmer took three wickets and Logan two.

In reply, The Rest were 25-2 before Palmer (72) and Wilby (31) rescued them with a partnership of 122.

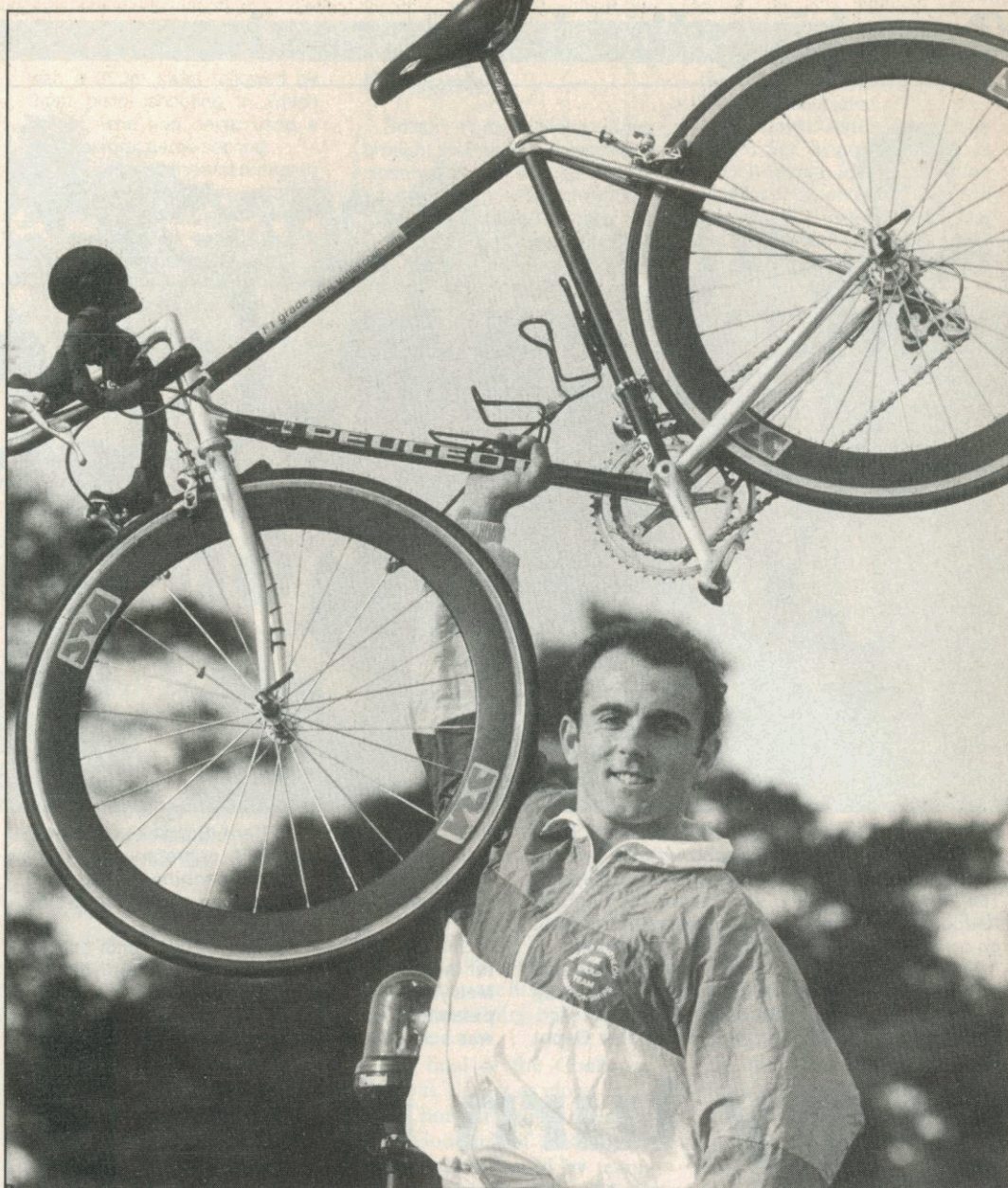
Lillee had been "detained" in a night club until the very early hours of the morning by the Army tourists, but still took five wickets.

In what could be their final tour to Hong Kong, the Army failed by one run to maintain an unbeaten record when they lost by one run to the Hong Kong President's XI.

Richard Greatorex led from the front with an innings of 92 as the Army chased the home side's 189 all out in 47 overs, but the innings fell away on his dismissal and the Army finished on 188 when their last man was run out off the last ball.

Logan (3-31), Palmer (2-23) and Pte David Matthews (17 Port and Maritime Regt) (3-18) were the main wicket-takers in the innings of the President's XI.

50



Picture: Mike Weston

International triathlete LCpl Stacey Robinson (28 Engr Regt) hopes a revolutionary new lightweight racing bicycle will help him break into the top echelons of the sport when he competes for Great Britain at the World Championships in New Zealand at the end of this month.

Stacey will be riding the 12lb bike developed with the help of the Defence Research Agency in Farnborough and made from a new composite metal which

## Light-ning fast

is reckoned to be stronger, lighter and more flexible than anything else on the market.

It is up to 6lb lighter than those of his competitors, and should allow Stacey to knock vital minutes off his times.

At Wellington he will take on the world's 800 best triathletes over a 40km cycle road race, a 1,500m sea swim

and a 10km cross-country run.

Also competing for GB in New Zealand will be TA soldier Pte Dai Richards of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

The new F1 Grade metal matrix composite has been developed for aircraft construction by Aerospace Metal Composites.

Against Hong Kong, the Army scored 195 in 48 overs and dismissed the opposition for 169. Greatorex was again in fine form, scoring 98, while off-spinner Capt James Carr-Smith (RDG) produced a tidy ten-over spell of 2-17 to peg Hong Kong back after they had made a good start.

Capt Jim Cotterill (3 RHA) weighed in with 3-27 and Logan took 2-28.

The Army beat Stragglers of Asia by 20 runs in a 35-over match, Cotterill scoring 98, Lt Chris Barker (3 RHA) 35 and Willey 39 not out in the Army's 225-6.

Kowloon Cricket Club were beaten by 95 runs in a 35-over match, Fielding (46), Lt Simon Mason (RGJ) (44) and Cotterill (43) pushing the score to 202. Capt David Richmond (1/52 Lowland) (4-6)

and Carr-Smith (2-25) did the damage in dismissing Kowloon for 107.

Ian Fielding smashed 154 not out in 109 minutes off just 86 balls in the Army's massive 300-7 against a Combined British Forces/Police team, and with Cotterill taking 6-19 and Lt Chris St George (Coldm Gds) 2-35, the tourists recorded victory by a crushing 140-run margin.



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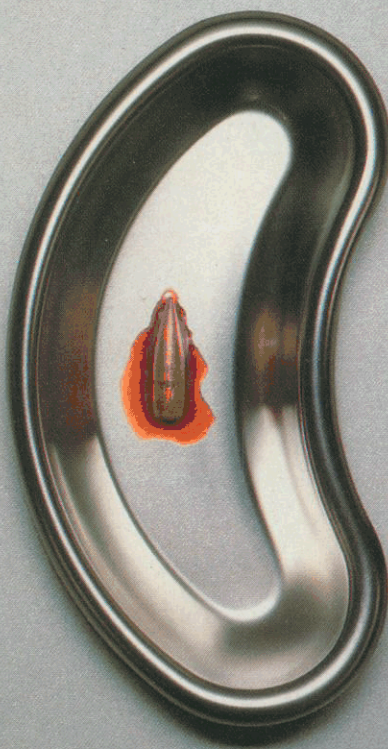
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## THE FORCE IN FORCES' INSURANCE



Speed of light: LCpl Stacey Robinson of 28 Engineer Regiment tests a Farnborough-developed lightweight "miracle" bicycle which he hopes will help him break into the world's élite triathletes. See full story in the sports pages.

Picture: Mike Perring



**SOLDIER**