

SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

APRIL 28 1997

80p

**3 RHA in
south Armagh**

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April 28, 1997 Vol 53/9

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Picture: Mike Weston

Bdr Richie Dulson, 3 RHA, signals to a helicopter in the skies above south Armagh.

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Army, Marines ready for Zaire dash

A TEAM of British Army technicians, medics, and planners has joined the Royal Marines of 539 Boat Squadron in Brazzaville, Congo.

The 67-strong force is to take charge in the event of an evacuation of the 260 British expatriates currently in Zaire.

In the wake of the declara-

tion of a state of emergency by President Mobutu, the Foreign Office has advised expatriates to leave the country.

The boats and hovercraft of the Marines would be used on the Congo river if the country slips further into chaos.

Elements of 30 Signal Regiment, 1 PWRR, 29 Regiment

RLC, 23 PFA, and 5 Airborne CSS Battalion RLC are on standby to whisk the ex-pats to safety.

Rebel leader Laurent Kabila claimed his troops were within 160 miles of Zaire's capital, Kinshasa, and would press on until the Mobutu government stood down.



Taking Courage: Second Lt Maynard Williams clears the wall on the assault course during the hotly-contested Courage Trophy military skills competition for Territorial Army units based in London District. The prestigious annual contest was won by an eight-man team from B Company, The

London Regiment. Edgware and Hornsey-based B Coy, up against 32 other teams from all over London, including the 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and 101 Engr Commandos, won most of the events outright. Tests included forced marches, night navigation, shooting and driving.

Soldiers rescue woman from sea

TWO soldiers plunged into the icy waters of Belfast Lough to rescue a young woman in danger of drowning.

Pte Kevin Sherwood (19) and LCpl Michael Bowen (21), both serving with 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC and based at Kinnegar, were returning to their base in the early hours of the morning when they saw the woman jump off rocks into the sea.

"She was obviously under the influence of alcohol and had decided to go for a swim," said Pte Sherwood. "We tried

to coax her to the shore without success, and it became apparent that she was in difficulty and couldn't return to the rocks."

Pte Sherwood dived in but the woman swam further into the lough. LCpl Bowen, who had alerted the RUC and medical services, waded in to help his colleague.

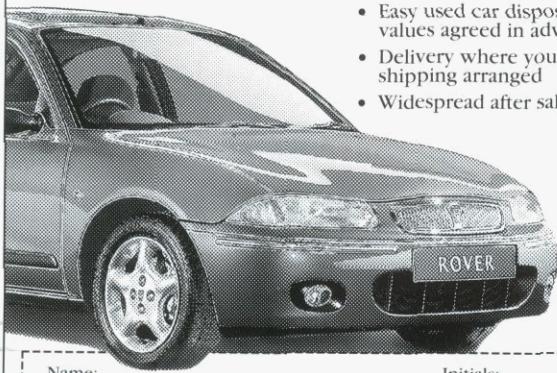
When the police and Coastguard reached the scene the

woman was carried across the rocks on a stretcher and kept warm until medical help arrived.

● In February, soldiers serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment saved the life of a man who attempted to burn himself to death outside their base at Fort Whiterock in west Belfast. He returned later to leave a box of chocolates as a gesture of thanks.

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Army on trial over equality

THE Ministry of Defence has been given a further year to make progress on improving racial equality within the Army, but faces a six-month review of the situation in September.

It has been told by the Commission for Racial Equality that if there is not clear progress in dealing with the issues over the next six months the CRE would "feel forced to consider invoking its statutory powers".

When the MoD agreed to implement a wide-ranging racial equality action plan in March last year the CRE withheld its non-discrimination notice for a year, and agreed to abandon it altogether if adequate progress was shown.

On March 25 the commission reported that it did not feel adequate progress had been made, primarily in areas which give a measure of the levels of commitment and willingness to change attitudes and practice.

• Last month the MoD accepted a report, commissioned by the department, which found that offensive language, behaviour and attitudes were a "significant feature" of life in the Army.

It's a fact

MORE than 800 foreign military personnel from 83 countries were training in the UK on March 1, 1997. The countries included Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, former Yugoslavia, Republic of Macedonia, Mozambique, Namibia, Oman, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Tonga, Ukraine, Uruguay, Yemen and Zimbabwe. — Parliamentary reply.



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

Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 2355 **Editor** John Elliott 2356 **Assistant Editors** Laurie Manton 2362, Phil Wilcox 2360
Graham Bound 2362 **Picture Editor** Terry Champion 2357 **Photographer** Mike Weston 2357 **Art Editor** Les Gwyer 2169 **Librarian**
Gerard Sutton 2351 **Advertising** 2352 **Accounts / Distribution** Janice Heal 2353 **Fax** 2358 **E-mail** solmag@mail.army.mod.uk



Southern Atlantic rendezvous: Lt Gen Christopher Wallace, Commander Joint Operations, meets Gurkhas during a four-day tour of military and Royal Air Force locations in the Falkland Islands. He flew to Goose Green and San Carlos Cemetery to pay his respects to the fallen, met members of

the Joint Communications Unit and called on A (Delhi) Company, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles. Gen Wallace is pictured with (from left) Rfn Bohat Gurung, Lt (QGO) Guptaman Gurung and Capt (QGO) Indra Gurung.

• Fifteen years on - next issue

Compensation system due for review, say MPs

IT IS time the compensation system for Service personnel injured on duty was "thoroughly re-examined", the Commons Defence Committee said last month.

In one of its last reports of the old Parliament — on the latest developments concerning Gulf War illnesses — the all-party committee also called for *ex gratia* compensation payments to be made to veterans who can prove health problems were caused exclusively by exposure to organophosphate (OP) pesticides.

In a third significant recommendation, the MPs said they believed "a good case" has been made for some ministerial responsibility for veterans' affairs.

While welcoming the setting-up of studies into the nature of the symptoms, the report called for officially-

funded research also into the causes of Gulf-related illnesses and for reports on significant similar work around the world to be made available to Parliament.

The MPs said they were curious as to why French forces in the Gulf, unlike British and American, had apparently avoided any long-term medical after-effects.

Their report added: "We find it incredible that the [UK] Services did not apparently know what quantities of which pesticides were taken to the Gulf, let alone used there, and that it has proved so difficult to establish these basic facts subsequently.

"If nothing else, this episode has revealed serious flaws in the areas of logistic support, record-keeping and environmental health during the Gulf War."

The committee asked for a full account to its successor committee or to the new Parliament by October 1, 1997 "of why Parliament was misled about the use of organophosphates in the Gulf and what action has been taken as a result, including the outcome of disciplinary and court martial proceedings."

It also called on the MoD to help make it easier for serving and former Service personnel to gain access to their medical records.

Bowman bid

A TENDER worth more than £1 billion to produce and support the Bowman combat radio system has been invited by the MoD from Archer, a joint venture company being formed by ITT UK Ltd, Siemens Plessey Systems and Racal.

Dunblane memorial created

ROYAL Engineers based in Osnabrück, Germany have built a memorial to the children killed in the Dunblane massacre.

It is sited in a local school.

Sappers from 3 Troop, 1 Field Squadron, part of 21 Engineer Regiment, were tasked to take on the project at Osnabrück's Derby School to mark the first anniversary of the tragedy.

They created a garden of remembrance centred on a five-tonne granite rock brought in from a nearby barracks.

Skyship 600 back in the air

FLYING trials for the Army's Skyship 600 began again in November and will continue until July, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a parliamentary written answer.

The envelope of the £2.6 million airship was ruptured during a masting operation at the Boscombe Down defence test site nearly two years ago.

Airmobile units on fire warning

NEARLY 500 troops were standing by to fight blazes in Essex following the announcement of strike action by the county fire service.

Twenty-eight Green Goddess tenders, maintained at a base in Staffordshire by the Home Office, had been sent to Colchester.

A composite company of 300 troops based on 24 Airmobile Brigade Combat Service Support Battalion RLC was receiving training from the

Defence Fire Service at Wattonham, and a further 200 soldiers were earmarked for administration and other support duties.

The composite company also involves personnel drawn from the Royal Scots Gurkha Rifle Company, 19 and 47 Regiments RA, 10 Regiment RLC and 210 Signal Squadron. The Royal Air Force has committed 85 airmen and eight fire and rescue units.

Welsh TA sappers mobilise

PART-TIME soldiers from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) joined 21 Engineer Regiment Group in Tomislavgrad, Bosnia to serve with a composite plant troop.

The 22 Welsh sappers were joined by ten soldiers from other Territorial Army units

around Britain, and one from the Royal Jersey Militia.

The team is led by Capt Louise Clark, a chartered civil engineer in civvy street. Another woman, Spr Georgina Rabbit of Walsall-based 143 Plant Squadron (M), is the troop's fitter.



What the papers have been saying

TWO retired generals led a delegation to Downing Street to press for the early release of two Scots Guardsmen Mark Wright and Jim Fisher, jailed for life for killing a Belfast man while on patrol. – *Independent*

■ Battle is joined at Pegasus Bridge in Normandy, where the Airborne Forces museum could be closed in a dispute with Arlette Gondrée, owner of the adjoining café, liberated by British troops in 1944. – *Times*

■ A 200-strong advance guard of the People's Liberation Army may arrive in Hong Kong this month to prepare for the entry of the main body of Chinese troops at midnight on June 30. – *Daily Telegraph*

■ US defence scientists have developed a smart bullet that can follow the twists and turns of its target. The 20mm cannon ammunition is designed for the US Air Force. – *Guardian*

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Rank		Daily rates	
		1/4/97	1/12/97
General	Level 3 (CDS only)	£ 351.70	£ 356.17
	Level 2	282.90	293.99
	Level 1	282.90	284.98
Lieutenant General	Level 3	209.59	217.81
	Level 2	209.59	212.68
	Level 1	209.59	211.14
Major General	Level 3	185.25	190.70
	Level 2	185.25	187.98
	Level 1	185.25	186.62

PAY OFFICERS – MAIN SCALE

Includes male & female officers of the R Irish (HSFT) serving on the revised financial terms of service introduced on 21/4/77 & officers of the R Irish (HSPT)

Rank	Service	Daily rates	
		1/4/97	1/12/97
2nd Lt (UC)	On Entry	£ 22.75	£ 22.98
	+1 year	26.12	26.38
	+2 years	29.32	29.62
	+3 years	32.01	32.33
2nd Lt (SSLC)	On commissioning	29.76	30.05
	After 9 months	31.79	32.10
2nd Lt Lt	On appointment	39.69	40.08
	+1 year	52.46	52.99
	+2 years	53.84	54.38
	+3 years	55.22	55.77
	+4 years	56.60	57.16
Capt	On appointment	57.98	58.55
	+1 year	66.85	67.56
	+2 years	68.65	69.39
	+3 years	70.45	71.22
	+4 years	72.25	73.05
	+5 years	74.06	74.88
	+6 years	75.86	76.71
	+7 years	77.66	78.54
Maj	On appointment	84.81	85.67
	+1 year	86.91	87.79
	+2 years	89.01	89.91
	+3 years	91.11	92.03
	+4 years	93.22	94.15
	+5 years	95.32	96.27
	+6 years	97.42	98.39
	+7 years	99.52	100.51
	+8 years	101.62	102.63
Special List Lt Col		117.13	118.49
Lt Col	On appointment/under 19 years service	119.32	120.86
	2/19 years in rank/service	122.46	124.04
	4/21 years in rank/service	125.60	127.22
	6/23 years in rank/service	128.74	130.40
Col	8/25 years in rank/service	131.88	133.58
	On appointment	138.69	140.47
	+2 years	142.34	144.17
	+4 years	145.98	147.87
	+6 years	149.63	151.57
Brig	+8 years	153.27	155.27
		170.04	172.41

PAY OFFICERS – REGULAR COMMISSION

(LATE ENTRY)

Includes officers of R Irish (HSFT) serving on revised financial terms of service introduced 21/4/77

	Daily rates	
	1/4/97	1/12/97
Captain	£	£
On appointment/commission	81.42	82.22
1 year	82.67	83.49
2 years	83.89	84.73
3 years	85.12	85.97
4 years	86.34	87.21
5 years	87.57	88.45
6 years	88.80	89.69
8 years	90.02	90.93

PAY OFFICERS – SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

Includes officers of R Irish (HSFT) serving on revised financial terms of service introduced 21/4/77

Daily rates effective from 1/4/97

	Years of soldier service from age 18		
	<12yrs	12-15yrs	15yrs+
Lieutenants & Captains only	£	£	£
On appointment/commission	73.82	77.62	81.42
1 year	75.73	79.53	82.67
2 years	77.62	81.42	83.89
3 years	79.53	82.67	85.12
4 years	81.42	83.89	86.34
5 years	82.67	85.12	87.57
6 years	83.89	86.34	88.80
8 years	85.12	87.57	90.02
10 years	86.34	88.80	90.02
12 years	87.57	90.02	90.02
14 years	88.80	90.02	90.02
16 years	90.02	90.02	90.02

Effective from 1/12/97

	Lieutenants & Captains only		
	On appointment/commission	74.53	78.38
1 year	76.45	80.30	83.49
2 years	78.38	82.22	84.73
3 years	80.30	83.49	85.97
4 years	82.22	84.73	87.21
5 years	83.49	85.97	88.45
6 years	84.73	87.21	89.69
8 years	85.97	88.45	90.93
10 years	87.21	89.69	90.93
12 years	88.45	90.93	90.93
14 years	89.69	90.93	90.93
16 years	90.93	90.93	90.93

PAY OFFICERS – ROYAL ARMY CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT

Rank	Service	Daily rates	
		1/4/97	1/12/97
Chaplains Classes 4 (Capt), 3 (Maj) and 2 (Lt Col)		£	£
On appointment		66.85	67.56
+2 years		71.74	72.53
+4 years		76.63	77.50
+6 years		81.52	82.47
+8 years		86.42	87.44
+10 years		91.31	92.41
+12 years		96.20	97.38
+14 years		101.09	102.35
+16 years		105.99	107.32
+18 years		110.88	112.29
+20 years		115.77	117.26
+22 years		120.66	122.23
+24 years		125.60	127.22
+26 years		130.49	132.19
Chaplains Class 1 (Col)			
On appointment/under 24 years service		125.60	127.22
2/24 years in rank/service		130.49	132.19
Principal Chaplain (Col)		138.69	140.47
Deputy Chaplain General (Brig)		145.98	147.87
Chaplain General (Maj Gen)		170.04	172.41

PAY VETERINARY OFFICERS

Rank	Service	Daily rates	
		1/4/97	1/12/97
Captain and Major		£	£
On appointment		66.85	67.56
+1 year		71.57	72.35
+3 years		76.30	77.14
+5 years		81.03	81.93
+7 years		85.76	86.72
+9 years		90.49	91.51
+11 years		95.22	96.27
+13 years		100.23	101.23
+15 years		105.19	106.24

continued on next page

Veterinary officers, continued from Page 7			
+17 years	110.16	111.25	
+19 years	115.12	116.26	
+21 years	120.08	121.28	
On appointment	123.94	125.54	
+2 years	127.91	129.56	
+4 years	131.88	133.58	
Colonel	On appointment	138.69	140.47
+2 years	142.34	144.17	
+4 years	145.98	147.87	
+6 years	149.63	151.57	
+8 years	153.27	155.27	
Brigadier		170.04	172.41

WO1	Band 6	67.85	68.15	68.60
	Band 7	74.52	74.82	75.27
	Band 4	59.97	60.27	60.72
	Band 5	64.91	65.21	65.66
	Band 6	71.67	71.97	72.42
	Band 7	78.32	78.62	79.07

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Daily rates effective from 1/4/97

Rank	Class	Band	A	B	C
Pte	4	Band 1	24.87	25.17	25.62
	3	Band 1	27.86	28.16	28.61
		Band 2	32.34	32.64	33.09
		Band 3	37.32	37.62	38.07
	2	Band 1	31.15	31.45	31.90
		Band 2	35.67	35.97	36.42
		Band 3	40.64	40.94	41.39
	1	Band 1	33.88	34.18	34.63
		Band 2	38.39	38.69	39.14
		Band 3	43.35	43.65	44.10
LCpl	3	Band 1	33.88	34.18	34.63
		Band 2	38.39	38.69	39.14
		Band 3	43.35	43.65	44.10
	2	Band 1	36.18	36.48	36.93
		Band 2	40.70	41.00	41.45
		Band 3	46.08	46.38	46.83
	1	Band 1	38.92	39.22	39.67
		Band 2	43.44	43.74	44.19
		Band 3	48.82	49.12	49.57
Cpl	2	Band 1	41.63	41.93	42.38
		Band 2	46.13	46.43	46.88
		Band 3	51.51	51.81	52.26
	1	Band 1	44.69	44.99	45.44
		Band 2	49.18	49.48	49.93
		Band 3	54.56	54.86	55.31
Sgt		Band 4	49.24	49.54	49.99
		Band 5	54.15	54.45	54.90
		Band 6	59.49	59.79	60.24
SSgt		Band 4	52.08	52.38	52.83
		Band 5	56.96	57.26	57.71
		Band 6	62.33	62.63	63.08
WO2		Band 7	68.79	69.09	69.54
		Band 4	55.68	55.98	56.43
		Band 5	60.58	60.88	61.33
		Band 6	67.18	67.48	67.93
		Band 7	73.78	74.08	74.53
WO1		Effective from 1/12/97			
Pte	4	Band 1	25.15	25.45	25.90
	3	Band 1	28.17	28.47	28.92
		Band 2	32.70	33.00	33.45
		Band 3	37.73	38.03	38.48
	2	Band 1	31.49	31.79	32.24
		Band 2	36.06	36.36	36.81
		Band 3	41.09	41.39	41.84
	1	Band 1	34.25	34.55	35.00
		Band 2	38.81	39.11	39.56
		Band 3	43.83	44.13	44.58
LCpl	3	Band 1	34.25	34.55	35.00
		Band 2	38.81	39.11	39.56
		Band 3	43.83	44.13	44.58
	2	Band 1	36.62	36.92	37.37
		Band 2	41.19	41.49	41.94
		Band 3	46.64	46.94	47.39
	1	Band 1	39.39	39.69	40.14
		Band 2	43.97	44.27	44.72
Cpl	2	Band 1	42.13	42.43	42.88
		Band 2	46.69	46.99	47.44
		Band 3	52.13	52.43	52.88
	1	Band 1	45.23	45.53	45.98
		Band 2	49.77	50.07	50.52
		Band 3	55.21	55.51	55.96
Sgt		Band 4	49.74	50.04	50.49
		Band 5	54.69	54.99	55.44
		Band 6	60.09	60.39	60.84
SSgt		Band 4	52.60	52.90	53.35
		Band 5	57.53	57.83	58.28
		Band 6	62.96	63.26	63.71
		Band 7	69.48	69.78	70.23
WO2		Band 4	56.24	56.54	56.99
		Band 5	61.19	61.49	61.94

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Junior 17 but under 17½	18.80 19.01
Junior 17½ in adult post	24.86 25.15

PAY OFFICER CADETS	
Rank	Daily rates
	1/4/97 1/12/97
	£ £
Officer Cadet on entry	27.85 28.13

PAY MILITARY PROVOST GUARD SERVICE		
Rank	Daily rates	
	1/4/97 1/12/97	
	£ £	
Pte	4	23.30 23.56
	1	31.74 32.09
LCpl	1	36.47 36.91
Cpl	1	41.88 42.38
Sgt		46.14 46.61
SSgt		48.81 49.29

PAY ROYAL IRISH SOLDIERS (HSFT)		
Soldiers enrolled on or after April 21, 1977 and soldiers enrolled before that date who opted to transfer to the revised financial terms of service		
Daily rates effective from 1/4/97		
Rank	A B C	
	£ £ £	
Pte B	19 and under	24.87 25.17 25.62
	20	24.87 25.17 25.62
	21 and over	24.87 25.17 25.62
Pte A		33.88 34.18 34.63
LCpl		38.92 39.22 39.67
Cpl		49.18 49.48 49.93
Sgt		54.15 54.45 54.90
SSgt		56.96 57.26 57.71
WO2		67.18 67.48 67.93
WO1		77.54 77.84 78.29
Effective from 1/12/97		
Pte B	19 and under	25.15 25.45 25.90
	20	25.15 25.45 25.90
	21 and over	25.15 25.45 25.90
Pte A		34.25 34.55 35.00
LCpl		39.39 39.69 40.14
Cpl		49.77 50.07 50.52
Sgt		54.69 54.99 55.44
SSgt		57.53 57.83 58.28
WO2		67.85 68.15 68.60
WO1		78.32 78.62 79.07

PAY LENGTH OF SERVICE INCREMENTS	

<

Parachutist
Effective from 1/12/97

	£	£
Qualified Parachutist	3.67	
Assistant Parachutist Jumping Instructor	5.27	3.95
SAS		
Effective 1/4/97		
	£	£
All officers and WO1	16.05	22.50
WO2/SSgt/Sgt	12.88	19.29
Cpl and below	10.47	16.85

	£	£
Effective 1/12/97		
	£	£
All officers and WO1	16.22	22.73
WO2/SSgt/Sgt	13.02	19.49
Cpl and below	10.57	17.03

	£	£
	Lower rate	Higher rate

	£	£
	1/4/97	1/12/97

	£	£
Divers (all ranks)	Category	
ACAD	1	2.76
UDS:Army	2	5.57
AAD	3	7.96
ADS	4	13.54
ADI	4	13.54

	£	£
Gurkha service		
Lt Col and above	5.25	5.25
Major	4.58	4.58
Capt	3.90	3.90
Lt/2nd Lt	3.30	3.30

	£	£
Lower rate	0.54	0.55
Higher rate	0.95	0.96

	£	£
Basic rate	2.74	

	£	£
Separation Allowance		
Within UK & NW Europe	3.10	

	£	£
Outside NW Europe or separated for more than 6 months in any 12 month period	4.00	

	£	£
Longer Separated Service Allowance		
Basic rate	4.00	
Middle rate	5.50	
Higher rate	7.50	

	£	£
Longer Service at Sea Bonus		
2 years but under 5 years	3.03	3.06
5 years but under 10 years	5.09	5.14
10 years and over	6.28	6.35

	£	£
Changes to Additional Pay consequent upon the introduction of LSSA		

	£	£
N Ireland	4.40	
N Ireland Resident Supplement (NIRS)		4.40
South Georgia	4.40	

Other minor forms of Additional Pay

	£	£
Work in unpleasant conditions		
Soldiers only	0.63	0.64

	£	£
Work of an objectionable nature		
All ranks	4.08	4.12
Higher rate	12.08	12.20

	£	£
Experimental		
All ranks per test	1.83	1.84

	£	£
Royal Logistic Corps, helicopter crews		
All ranks	3.33	3.36

	£	£
Special communications		
Sgts to WO1	7.69	7.77
Sigs to Cpl	5.78	5.84

	£	£
Special Forces communications		
Officers, Sgts & WOs	7.85	7.94
Cpls & below	6.73	6.80

	£	£
Air despatch		
Under Trg/Lower rate	3.33	3.36
Higher rate (after 4 years on preceding rate)	5.38	5.43

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

- Regular Army rent and rates rebates
- TA and Reserve Forces pay scales

CHARGES**ENTITLED CASUAL MEALS**

Effective from 1/4/97

Meal	Charge	VAT	Total
Breakfast	0.54	0.09	0.63
Main meal of the day (either midday or evening meal)	1.79	0.31	2.10
EITHER: Third meal (midday or evening meal)	1.25	0.22	1.47
OR: (high tea or supper) (late snack or light tea)	0.90	0.16	1.06
All meals in one day	3.58	0.62	4.20

Effective from 1/12/97

	£	£
Married unaccompanied officers/other ranks in marital status categories 1 and 2	2.28	2.30
Officers and other ranks in marital status categories 3, 4 and 5	3.10	3.13

PAYMENTS**MISSED MEALS**

Daily rates

1/4/97 1/12/97

	£	£
Breakfast	0.54	0.54
Main meal of the day (either midday or evening meal)	1.79	1.81
EITHER: Third meal (midday or evening meal)	1.25	1.27
OR: (high tea or supper) (late snack or light tea)	0.90	0.91
All meals in one day		

WAYNE'S NEW WORLD

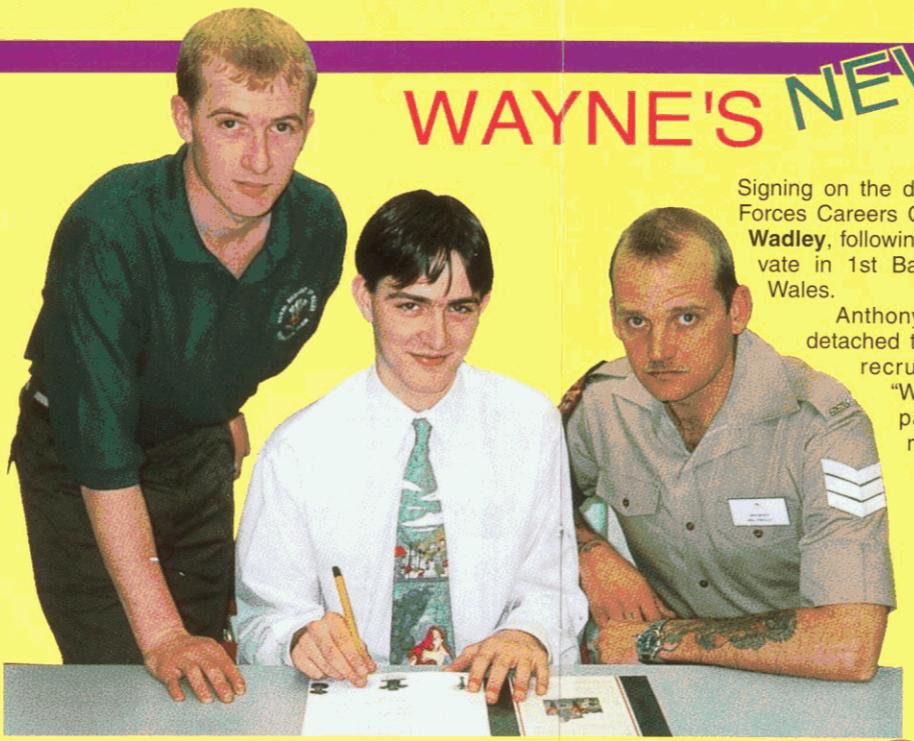


Brewery's Bosnian boost

Members of the Green Howards currently on a Bosnian tour will not go thirsty, if Theakston's Brewery – based just down the road from the regiment's headquarters in North Yorkshire – has anything to do with it.

The brewery had received a number of letters from the Howards, saying how much they miss traditional British beer when stationed overseas.

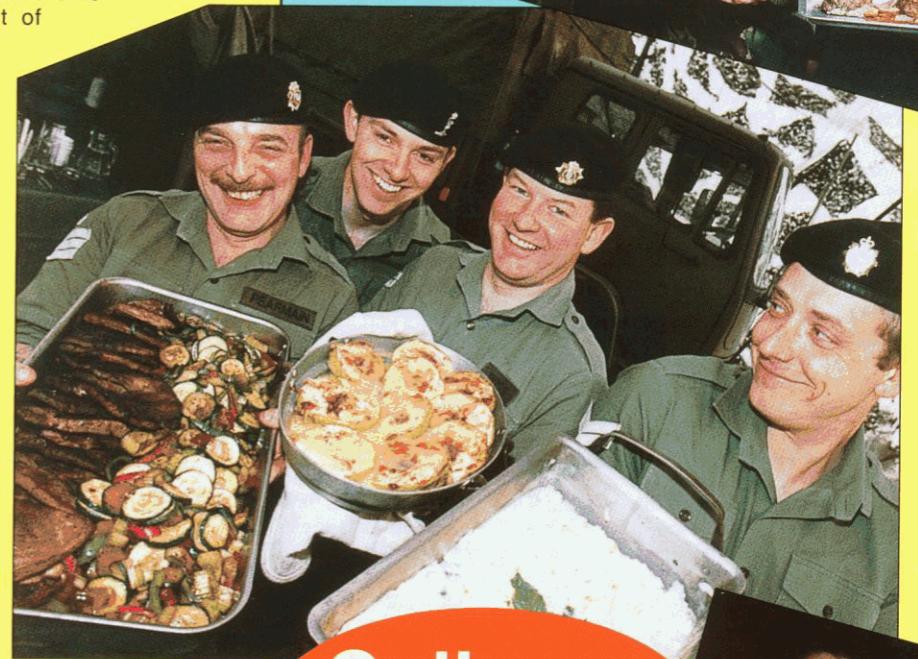
"Naturally we were delighted to be able to send some ale out to support our Servicemen in Bosnia," said Theakston head brewer **Hugh Curley**, seen with **Sgt Chris Fleming** and **Sgt Eddie Strickland** as they accepted the consignment. "I'm sure that this delivery will go some way to quenching their obvious thirst for the great British pint!"



Signing on the dotted enlistment line at the Armed Forces Careers Office in Newport is recruit **Wayne Wadley**, following his brother **Anthony** (left), a private in 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

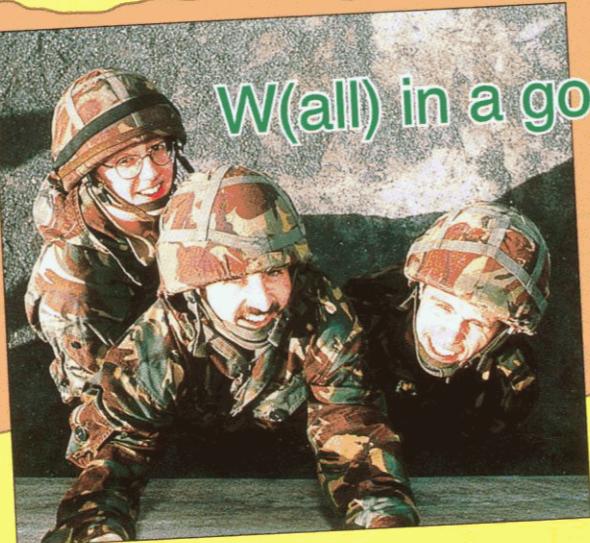
Anthony, currently on a three-month detached tour of duty with the regiment's recruiting team in Cardiff, said: "Wayne always wanted to join up, particularly after hearing of my enjoyable experiences in the Army since I enlisted in 1990."

With the brothers is Royal Regiment of Wales recruiting sergeant **Neil Presley**.



W(all) in a good cause

Preparing to tackle the assault course which formed part of the first Bradwell Bowl competition are (left to right) LCpl **Al Shaw**, Sgt **Joe Stanfield** and SSGt **Charlie Farley**. Held in Northern Ireland, the aim of the competition is "to bring together all the REME tradesmen who serve in Northern Ireland on an annual event in memory of WO1 (ASM) **Jim Bradwell** (killed in an IRA bomb blast at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, last October) and all those serving in Northern Ireland who, like Jim, do not go home." (See story and picture in Diary, Page 28).



PEOPLE



Onward Christian the soldier

Receiving his second accolade of the year is Cdt RSM **Christian Ivory** of Gwent ACF, as he is presented with his badge of rank at Monmouth Castle by Maj **Keith Down**, 2iC Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia).

Only the third RSM of the Gwent unit since the rank was established – and the second from the Monmouthshire detachment, Christian was recently made the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent's Army Cadet for 1997.

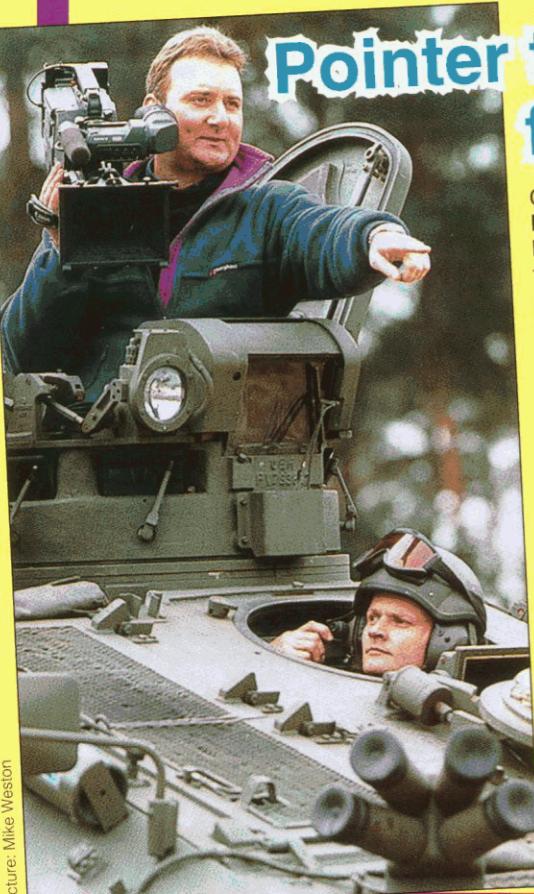
Culinary corner

Clearly happy with the win which they cooked up against other 143 Brigade Midland units in this year's Combat Caterer competition, held at Staffordshire's Swynnerton Training Camp, were (left to right) SSGt **Alan Pearmain** and Cpls **Matthew Bellamy**, **Ian Ross** and **Rod Powell**, of Redditch-based TA unit 37 Signal Regiment.

Their prize-winning offering of lamb cutlets in mushroom sauce sent them forward to the Army United Kingdom finals at Grantham on April 25-27.

Also with reason to celebrate were (top picture) LCpl **David Hankinson**, Cpl **Barrie McCourt**, Pte **Barrie Holliman**, and Sgt **Ralph Gill** of the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, who beat off opposition from other representatives from 42 (North West) Brigade in their regional heat of the competition held at Wootton Barracks. Winners for the second consecutive year of the brigade's TA cookery competition shield, they also go on to Grantham.

Another victor in the cookery stakes was **Shelly Campbell**. More used to preparing desserts for the past two years for between 150 and 300 soldiers at Kitchener Barracks in Chatham, she is pictured with the decorated gateau which won her a gold medal at the Kent Catering Festival.



Pointer to the future

Cameraman **Paul Hodgson-Hutton** in the turret of a CVRT at Minley, driven by Cpl **Tim Gibbs** of 63 Training Support Squadron RE.

He was filming ABLE, the Army's new bridging equipment, highlighted by the BBC programme *Tomorrow's World* this month when its capability of bridging over a 30ft wet gap with a crew of ten in three vehicles in 40 minutes was demonstrated.

The countess collects

Two slightly overdue Second World War medals were presented at the Adjutant General's Centre at Worthy Down to the Countess **Margaurite d'Auray**.

Joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) as a clerk in 1941, the countess, then Margaurite Whitbread, served until 1945. During her service, she married Canadian officer the Count d'Auray, who was serving in England with the Canadian Army, and subsequently returned to Canada, where she remained for 50 years.

It was her daughter, **Sally**, who lives in London, who realised that her mother was probably entitled to medals she had never received. All that has now been put right and, as a bonus, the countess not only met some of her successors at Worthy, but was also delighted to discover a flourishing ATS/WRAC regimental association, which she has joined.



Picture: Maj Joseph Bright

Changing times in new Europe

I HAVE just returned from a trip to Germany where two things struck me. First, how much things change and, secondly, how much they stay the same.

I visited a place where I had lived and worked with the Army some years ago. The regiment that had once dominated the town had left some time ago as a result of drawdown: their barracks is now a town facility serving the whole community. The school where I taught has been razed to the ground, the land is being used to build houses and flats, and the quarters have been renovated to provide housing for refugees and families from the former East Germany.

In conversation with some of the locals it was clear that the British had long since been consigned to distant memory. I had thought that there would have been a big economic impact but this had been offset by new plans and the influx of families from elsewhere.

Among Army families, things don't seem to have changed at all. Ask about the issues that concern them and you'll get the same range of answers you would have got ten years ago. People are worried about their medical services, their schools and their quarters. These days the worries are slightly different in detail but essentially the same.

The one area of concern which remains high on the list is the frequency and length of duration of separation for reasons of duty. For some, the long-promised reduction of time spent apart has come about; for others, it seems to be more difficult than ever.

Families do understand the need for training and duties away from home but it doesn't get any easier. The ways in which people cope are as various as ever and



Cari's column

the same tension exists between the old hands who claim they had a harder life and the younger spouses who seem less willing to accept compromises.

In some ways it's reassuring to find things so much the same. In others it's rather disturbing to find that we haven't moved on. Germany is changing and I think everyone who does get out of the British community to talk to their neighbours will be able to see the ways in which the people are facing up to the challenges of modern European life.

The small community that was once so dominated by the British Army has adapted itself to its new life with new attitudes and new enthusiasm.

They have not clung to out-dated attitudes and spent precious time complaining about the unfairness of life. To see the old barracks being so well-used was a cheering sight. It has created a whole new spirit about that part of town and brought the area into the main body of the community.

Perhaps the most poignant signal of change was the window of the office that used to belong to the RSM. In former times it was a dusty, bare expanse of glass through which he would watch the comings and goings at the main gate.

As I walked by I noticed that the window had been cleaned and dressed with a pair of curtains in a jaunty design. Attached to the glass was a spring scene with rabbits and daffodils painted by small children. The RSM would have been furious. I found it rather a good sign.

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

Designed to help

LINCOLNSHIRE-based house-builder Stamford Homes, which offers packages to Army personnel to buy new homes in the county and in Northamptonshire, is offering free design and decorating advice at the Rhine Army Summer Show (May 17-19). Designer Annette Kettle will be on hand to answer questions and give tips.

Good sports

A NEW arrangement between Naafi and British Sky Broadcasting means troops in Europe will be able to watch all three Sky sports channels – until now not legally possible.

Following an approach to BSkyB by Col Tom Blackford of the MoD's Service Personnel Policy Branch, Naafi clubs in Germany and Bosnia will benefit from free viewing cards.

Asked for the official point of view, Directorate Staff and Personnel Support (Army) told *Soldier*: "The current policy regarding cash payments to banking soldiers is that they are not to receive cash payments 'unless approved by the CO', in accordance with Manual of Army Pay Duties Chapter 3 Section 9 paragraph 03151.

"This procedure is checked annually by the SPS operational evaluation inspection."

Preferred method of family funding is by a bank allotment, since AFOBs are "expensive and labour-intensive", according to DSPS (A). A talking point for further correspondence, perhaps?



Disc Jocks

Getting an insight into how the British Forces Broadcasting Services studio at Lisburn operates was this group of soldiers' children, currently living in County Londonderry while their fathers, serving with the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, complete a two-year tour of duty. The youngsters, who also saw a live broadcast go out on air, were being given a treat by families' NCO Rab Cunningham to thank them for their hard work in helping to raise £500 for charity by playing in and organising football events.

Curb those cash advances – wife

THE somewhat aggrieved wife of a serving soldier has written on the topic of advances of pay.

"I think it is about time the Army reviewed its policy on AR (Acquittal Roll) payments. I am sure I am not the only wife to find less money at the month end," she tells *Soldier*.

AR payments – cash advances made to soldiers anywhere in the world – are normally deducted from the following month's pay.

"There should be a maximum percentage of earnings, with a limit of one or two payments a month, with exceptional cases counter-signed by senior officers," the wife suggests.

"Servicemen who take repeated AR payments should also be followed up," she adds. "The Army takes a stern view on soldiers who end up in debt, yet their current policy encourages it."

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Federation concern on families' medical care



RECENT changes have had a dramatic effect on life for families who accompany the serving soldier on a posting.

Medical provision is a case in point, according to Cherry Milne, Army Families Federation chairman.

"In Germany, we have seen the establishment of the Health Alliance, with the majority of secondary care provided by German hospitals. The initial concerns seem to have been allayed by the reality of the quality of care that is being given to patients," she told *Soldier*.

Published its report on the Defence Medical Services and the Army Families Federation was asked to submit written evidence.

Although the committee's report focused on the care and treatment of serving soldiers, mention was made of the loss of medical provision for families under the new arrangements.

Finding a doctor who will allow the family to register is one of the first hurdles which faces the mobile

Army family with each move, said Cherry Milne.

"Instances have been reported of doctors refusing to take on Army families as patients and this alarms us deeply.

"If hospital treatment is required then in all likelihood another posting will come round sooner than the consultant's appointment, and the process has to start all over again in another NHS region."

Ideally, she added, once a patient is on a waiting list, then he or she should be able to transfer to their new location, and new hospital, but maintain the same place on the list and not be penalised by choosing to remain together as a family unit.

"It is important to know just how much of an issue this is with families, so that representation can be made to Defence and Health Ministers," the federation chairman emphasised.

A very good egg-sample

SOLDIERS from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment delivered a special cargo to a cross-community school in Hillsborough, Northern Ireland, for children with special needs: four Land Rovers choc-full of easter eggs

The lads from 2 RTR, on a six-month tour of duty in the Province, raised the cash for the 255 eggs – one for every pupil at Beechlaw School.

"We patrol this area all the time, we like talking to the kids, and many of us have children of our own, so it seemed like the natural thing to do," said Cpl John Kneebone.

Head teacher Eric Gambol said he was "overwhelmed" by the soldiers' generosity.

French leave?

A MOBILE holiday home – a 30ft static caravan equipped for six people – owned by the AGC (SPS) is available for hire.

Situated at Les Marsouins, a three-star holiday park at Argelès-sur-Mer on the French Mediterranean coast close to the Spanish border, the home is open from April until September.

Bookings through the Chief clerk at SBS Branch HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, tel Herford Mil 3297.

Standard radio

BFBS Radio has been awarded International Standards Organisation (ISO) 9001 certification. It is the first time a UK broadcaster has received ISO recognition.

Baz Reilly of BFBS said: "ISO recognition endorses what our listeners know – that we continue to seek even better ways to improve our radio programming, and are dedicated to serving the members of the forces and their families around the world."

Great for business

WOULD-be business persons leaving the Army could pick up tips from fellow soldiers Alexander the Great and Napoleon, both featured in a new book.

Written by Ketan J Patel, a specialist in business transformation, *Who Knows Wins* takes examples from the likes of these two luminaries and other military strategists and warlords – including Genghis Khan – to "show how their principles can be used to succeed in the business of today".

It is published by Jordan Publishing Limited, ISBN 0 85308 209X, price £29.50.

Final delivery



An emotional moment for Anne Thompson, Hong Kong Island HIVE co-ordinator, as she prepares the last donation of toys for dispatch to the Home of Loving Faithfulness in Kwee Tung, New Territories, before the imminent departure of the British Garrison.

"Shortly after I took over the running of the HIVE a couple of years ago, one of the wives went on a

visit to the home (run by unpaid volunteers, who care for 20 severely handicapped children) and came back with such a lasting impression she asked us if there was anything that could be done to help," explained Anne, wife of Maj Gavin Thompson, Provost Marshal in Hong Kong.

"We've been donating unwanted toys and children's clothes from Service families ever since."

Where only the best will do

A PLATOON commander with 30 soldiers and four Warriors in a disputed Bosnian village, separated from the company commander . . . things about to turn very nasty . . . and a CNN vehicle coming into view . . .

The scene conjured up mental images of lead stories from countless news programmes over the past few years.

It is down to the young officer in charge. How will he cope with the threat of bullets about to fly, a foreign language being shouted at him, possibly complex rules of engagement, millions of pounds' worth of lethal equipment under his command?

Will he make the right decisions? Will he command effectively?

The questions are asked in a soft Scottish burr and with a gleam in the eye, but Brig Seymour Monro, a former commanding officer of the Queens' Own Highlanders and the latest President of the Regular Commissions Board (RCB), was deadly serious.

"At the RCB, we are in the business of selecting the potential officer. All my group leaders consider that scenario and ask themselves those questions whenever they assess the candidates. If young officers can handle these situations, then they should be able to deal with most of the more mundane peacetime problems."

The RCB three-day selection procedure is regarded throughout industry as one of the finest in the country. The first day of written tests, including an essay, general

Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne
Pictures: Terry Champion

Victoria Hospital and Number 111 Convalescent Depot.

At the end of the war it became one residency of several War Office selection boards for National Service officers and was subsequently chosen as the permanent home of the Regular Commissions Board.

The system has undergone some change since those early days, especially since Brig Ian McLaughlan wrote the Review Of the Potential Officer Selection System (ROPOSS) report in 1994 in which he recommended younger assessors. The basic concept of using the German Army's group testing system of contrived situations with observers looking on remains the same.

Maj Mark Norton, previously adjutant of 3 RHA and one of the 25 dedicated military staff at Leighton House, is an example of that change.

knowledge, mental aptitude, and a current affairs test using touch-screen computers which were introduced in May 1995, get the candidates into the correct frame of mind.

Over the following two days they are required to steel themselves to bare their innermost fears and passions through group discussions, exercise planning, presenting lectures, and co-ordinating command tasks.

Leighton House in Westbury, Wiltshire, is celebrating its 50th anniversary as the home of the RCB. Built in 1800 by cloth baron Thomas Phipps and later bought by local mill-owner William Laverton, the magnificent country house, stables, and 36-acre estate were purchased by the War

Department at the outbreak of the Second World War, becoming a hospice of the Royal Victoria Hospital and Number 111 Convalescent Depot.

Aged 30 and about to attend Senior Staff College at Camberley, he explained the new image of the RCB.

"In the Fifties the average age of a group leader was 45. Today it's 31. Consequently, the relationship between candidate and group leader has changed, from a father figure to a peer. In some cases we are only a few years older than the candidates and they quickly realise what you can achieve in an Army career in the Nineties."

"Bear in mind that we are looking for young men and women who, with training, will be able to command a platoon or troop on operations. That's no easy task and it requires someone special to get that job done."

There are 48 places for candidates on each board with selection boards being held over 46 weeks of the year. Most weeks are run at full capacity.

As a group leader Maj Norton will not know the background of any of the eight candidates in his group. This allows him to remain objective and impartial. Only the President of the Board knows the full picture and there is no collusion until the final boarding conference on the last day when



Brig Seymour Monro, President of the Board



the vice-presidents and education advisers join the group leader and deputy president of each group to discuss each candidate in meticulous detail.

The candidates have also changed over the years, from National Service officers entering the Regular Army in the Sixties and Seventies to young university graduates in the Eighties and Nineties, with 95 per cent of the recent intake coming through the gates as civilians having had little or no previous exposure to the military. There can also be a greater time lapse between passing RCB and attending Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, sometimes as long as two-and-a-half years.

First impressions count for everything.

Red Four, Rachel Alexander, aged 23, was not surprised at the cross-section of backgrounds she had found attending the RCB. "A national army reflects its society. I expected to meet young men and women from all walks of life here at Westbury. And yes, I'm enjoying every minute of it."

Results are posted to candidates the day after the board sits. An individual is either recommended for officer training or not.

Last year, of the 1,050 men tested, 53 per cent passed; of the 166 women, 61 per cent were put forward for training at RMA Sandhurst. But there are no quotas to fill. An individual reaching the standard goes forward, occasionally with a recommendation from the board education adviser for further instruction on a particular subject.

"Our young soldiers, whom we value so much, must always be led by the best, whom we select here for Sandhurst to train for command. Looking at their recent performance in the Gulf and Bosnia I think that our young men and women are doing a pretty good job," said Brig Monro.

Leighton House today combines the roles of being the Army's officer selection centre, providing the pre-briefing for the Main Board, the Main Board itself, the Army Scholarship Board, the Welbeck Board, advice to Territorial Commissioning Boards and the Army Legal Service Board.

Anyone who can impress those august bodies will certainly agree with Brig Monro. Only the best will do.



Home base: the imposing stable block at Westbury, which houses Regular Commissions Board offices and classrooms



Above – Hard going: command tasks require maximum effort

Left – Group Leaders: from left are Maj Richard Latham, 1 R Anglian, Maj Philip Arnold RLC, Maj Mark Norton 3 RHA and Maj Sally Morris AGC

Candidates are not in competition against each other and all are assessed against a common standard of suitability.

After finishing her individual obstacles and having just given her "lecturette", 23-year-old Victoria Holmes, a geography graduate from Swansea University, but known as Red Seven for the week, gave her reaction. "They really grill you during the interviews and that's something very few people have ever experienced."

"I am really impressed with how professional they are, but that's what you expect from the British Army and one of the reasons I want to be part of it."

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Final flight of the Chipmunk

ONE of the British Army's most famous aircraft, the De Havilland Chipmunk, has retired after half a century of loyal service. The remaining 21 Chipmunks in use with the Ministry of Defence took part in a final fly-past at the School of Army Aviation at Middle Wallop, Hampshire, on March 27.

They are to be replaced by the Slingsby Firefly, which has lower maintenance costs.

Almost all military pilots since the end of the Second World War have learned basic flying skills in the Chipmunk. Their number includes several members of the Royal Family.

A superb platform for teaching beginners to fly, the Chipmunk is held in universal affection in the flying community.

When the last undercarriage touched down on March 21, a chapter of military aviation history closed. Although one is to join the Army Air Corps' Historic Aircraft Flight based at Middle Wallop, most will be sold at auction.

'Wonderful aircraft'

Capt Roo Pennell, the last female pilot to train in the aircraft, said after the emotional final fly-past: "They are wonderful aircraft to fly. They are great fun and everyone will miss them."

A former instructor said the Chipmunk provided the AAC with a cheap and effective way of assessing attitudes and performances on an "easy-to-fly" aircraft. After cutting their teeth on the Chipmunk, most candidates passed the solo flying checks without trouble.

The veteran flying machines will be sold for between £8,000 and £15,000 each.

Following the maiden flight in Canada in 1946, 1,283 Chipmunks were built. Over the years, more than 4,000 Army pilots learned to fly in them. The Royal Navy and Royal Air Force pensioned off their Chipmunks last year.

● See also picture on back cover



Grounded: Army Air Corps Chipmunks pass over the airfield at Middle Wallop in a final salute

County honours Gurkhas

Lt Col Bijaykumar Rawat, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, accepts a vase on behalf of the Brigade of Gurkhas from Councillor Norman Best of Hampshire County Council.

The glass vase – engraved with the words: "In recognition of the long and valued friendship between the Brigade of Gurkhas and the people of Hampshire" – and a framed certificate of commendation, marked links between the county council and the Gurkhas stretching back nearly 26 years.

Hampshire's association with the brigade goes back to 1971, when the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles moved into Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Church Crookham.

As well as the vase and certificate, the council has also pledged a grant of £5,000 to the Gurkha Museum which opened in Winchester in 1989.

Cllr Best, who fought alongside the Gurkhas during the Second World War, said he hoped the brigade would long remain associated with the county of Hampshire.



From Wiltshire to wilderness

TIDWORTH-based soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, gave up home comforts and swapped the familiar training ground of Salisbury Plain for a more hostile and demanding environment.

The 140 soldiers have completed six weeks' jungle warfare training in Belize.

They were welcomed in central America with a briefing from members of the Royal Army Medical Corps on what lay ahead: a hot, humid climate with temperatures around 80 degrees and extreme humidity.

Chilling warnings were issued of hostile forces they might encounter in the jungle: scorpions "with a sting that feels like gunshot", rabies-carrying vampire bats, poisonous snakes such as the Jumping Tommy Goffer and the *Fer de Lance* (so-called because a bitten limb turns as hard as iron), ticks that lay eggs under the skin and tarantulas - "You could lose your arm if bitten by one," warned Sgt Alex Strong RAMC.

There were reported sightings of a crocodile and a jaguar, but the soldiers were assured of prompt treatment by the medical team on stand-by.

The party set off for the jungle equipped with machetes for self-defence; they are instructed not to cut down trees, as the intention was to leave the jungle as they found it.

The QLR soldiers slept in hammocks slung between trees, protected by mosquito nets. Survival skills were practised, including catching and cooking food, crossing rivers by making improvised rafts out of backpacks, tracking the enemy by looking for signs of disturbance, moving without detection and dealing with booby traps and ambushes.

"Wear lots of suncream and insect repellent and, above all, drink plenty of water,



Pte Steve Smith (foreground), QLR, is the first man ashore for 2 Section, 3 Platoon after a successful river crossing

ten litres a day, filtered and purified," advised Lt Mike Luedicke. Having joined the Army 18 months earlier, he had already undergone an intensive course in the primary jungle of Brunei and was now qualified as a chief jungle warfare instructor.

"Personal hygiene is crucial in these conditions," he told the 1 QLR soldiers. "Swim daily in the river to clean yourself and your clothes. The patrolling 'croc-watch' boat will protect you. Clothes dry in

no time in this heat. Sleep fully-clothed, but, before climbing into bed, give your bedding a good shake to evict any trespassers."

The British Army sends six infantry companies to Belize for jungle warfare training every year. Each takes its own instructors, chefs and administrative staff. Other support, such as accommodation when not in the jungle and medical treatment, is provided by the British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB), a popular two-year posting.

BATSUB shares its base, at Airport Camp, with the Belizean Defence Force.

For some members of the battalion this was their second time on Exercise Native Trail, having been on the first exercise of its type in 1994. They were keen to go back - even LCpl Ian Willis, who proudly displayed his "war wounds" - the scars left when maggots were removed from his feet.

But it was not all punishing . . . before leaving Belize, the soldiers had several days of adventurous training at the offshore island of St George's Caye, where they enjoyed sub-aqua diving, deep-sea fishing, sailing, windsurfing and snorkelling on the barrier reef, the second-longest living reef in the world and the longest in the western hemisphere.



Man overboard! QLR Assault Pioneers rehearse "man overboard" drills before acting as river safetymen for A Coy's river crossing exercise at Guacamallo Bridge, Belize

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Mixed memories of south Armagh

THE TOURIST guide book proudly proclaimed "... leisurely sightseeing combines wonderfully with discovering small towns and villages ... exploring is a joy."

For the men of C Battery, 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery in south Armagh the spectacular and gloriously green countryside was their place of work.

As the Brigade Ops Company, they could be dispatched to any point within the brigade's tactical area of operations (TAOR). Watching the patchwork quilt of fields and meadows flash beneath their helicopters, they knew that, once on the ground, route checks and extended searches would keep them busy for up to 24 hours at a stretch.

Not quite "leisurely" or the type of "exploring" the author of the guide book would have had in mind.

Sgt Angus McMillan has been in the Army for 19 years. He is on his fourth tour of the Province, this time as a multiple commander with C Bty. Twelve men operating as three teams of four soldiers constitute one "multiple".

After completing a route check on the main A4 road, he explained how experi-

Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne
Pictures: Mike Weston

enced soldiers with the regiment help newcomers to 3 RHA.

"We all do the pre-Northern Ireland training but the older hands make a point of looking after the new ones as soon as they arrive. We make sure they are carrying the right things, they know all the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), all the basics. They soon pick it up and after a few weeks you see the new soldiers are more than happy to talk to the locals at vehicle checkpoints."

Attached to the workshops as a Royal Logistic Corps storeman is 19-year-old Pte Daniel Hames. In his second year in the Army and on his first tour of Northern Ireland Pte Hames is the lead man in one of Sgt McMillan's multiples. The rolling emerald hills of south Armagh come under his watchful eye as his team patrol down a side lane in the rural setting beside the main A4 road.

They were due to be extracted by helicopter a few hours later. "It's been a good day's work," he said. "You have to stay

Sgt Angus McMillan leads his patrol in south Armagh. Inset – Pte Daniel Hames

switched on all the time, the situation demands it. I know I have learnt a lot as I am using new skills every day."

"I've really enjoyed this tour. I am working out here with the lads doing an important job. I have spoken to a lot of local people and they understand that what we are doing is essential."

Work is hard and the conditions vary according to season. Patrols were happy to see the sun appear and warm the chill spring air but, like thousands before them, happier to hear the steady rotor beat announcing the arrival of the Wessex which would lift them out to their temporary home at the Drumadd Barracks in Armagh. The Topcliffe-based gunners are the first non-Infantry regiment to be tasked with providing the Brigade Ops Company.

Last year C Bty, who had completed their pre-Bosnia training, were on their way to join 1 RHA at Sanski Most in Bosnia. They had loaded their formidable 155mm AS90 guns on to ships for the journey to the Croatian port of Split when they were selected for a short-notice reinforcement of the Province. The entire regiment was

● Turn to next page

Mixed memories

• From Page 21

tasked just ten weeks before the Northern Ireland deployment: BATUS was the next tour on the 3 RHA programme and training had already prepared the unit for the rigours of the Canadian training area. It proved to be time well spent.

Commanding officer Lt Col Matthew Sykes explained the set-up for his regiment in Northern Ireland. "We normally have four gun batteries, a headquarters battery and a workshop. For this role we have to work with three batteries and RHQ in Drumadd. J and N Batteries, having merged at Bessbrook Mill, are about twice the size of C Battery.

"Just being deployed here is of enormous benefit to the regiment. In our AS90 role we are attached to 19 Mechanised Brigade and as such the troops are attached to their respective battalions and not working together. The gunners have grown up very quickly during a hard tour during which they have had to cope with the death of LBdr Restorick."

On the evening of February 12, LBdr Stephen Restorick, serving with J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery, was murdered while on duty at a vehicle check point (VCP) in Bessbrook. The 23-year-old from Peterborough was described as an excellent young soldier from a very supportive family.

His loss was deeply felt by all in J Bty and the regiment. But rather than demoralising the gunners, his death served to strengthen their resolve. One said: "He was doing his job as a professional soldier and he would not want his death to prevent us from acting as professional soldiers. We are determined to carry on, to do our job to the very best of our abilities."

The words that appear on the Most Noble Order of the Garter and on the cap badge of the RHA – *Evil be to him who evil thinks* – seem most poignant.

Strength of resolve was also evident at Middletown where G Troop of D Bty were based close to the border with the Irish Republic. The discovery of a hastily-abandoned mortar and the pursuit of a terrorist suspect to the river by the RUC reminded the gunners that there was still a serious job to do.

Framework patrols, quick reaction force, and mounting guard at their base were all part of the normal working day.

LBdr Lee Rosser of C Bty was on the VCP near the base in Keady. "Be firm, be confident, be respectful. If you feel something is wrong then go with your instincts," he said. "When we are on patrol we make way for

people on the pavements. This is their town and I would expect the same if this was happening in my hometown."

It is this attitude that has also won over so many in the Middletown area. A recent cross-community pensioners' party was organised by the RUC and, for the first time, the Army were invited to attend. It was a great success.

"Before Christmas a patrol was working its way through the Sunday market when stall-holders gave us a huge box of decorations. We explained we would have to check it for security, but they

understood. Sweets . . . chocolates . . . we were given all sorts of stuff," explained Gnr Ross Colburn.

When a Jack Russell was in a road traffic accident a few years ago and had to have one of its back legs amputated, troops at the base nursed it back to health. Tripod is now five and a regular on patrols.

"When Tripod gets a bit tired of walking we pop him in one of the patrol sacks and give him a rest," explained Gnr Simon Ogley.

"He goes wherever we go and that includes in the Land Rovers on mobile patrol and in the helicopters. He's a part of the team."

He is also one of many dogs the gunners have taken to their hearts. Patch, Scruffy, and Scotchbride at Bessbrook are a few of the characters that have adopted 3 RHA during their tour.

Bessbrook Mill claims to be the busiest heliport in the world. Gazelles slide neatly into position alongside Lynx and Wessex aircraft on the landing zone.

The dark and cavernous former cotton mill is home to the officers and men of N (The Eagle Troop) Bty RHA and J (Sidi Rezegh) Bty RHA. The pride in their respec-

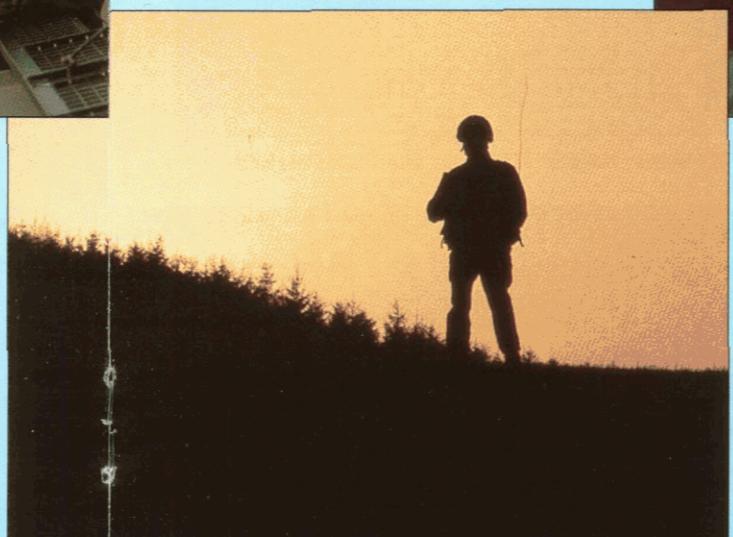


Above – End of a day's work. The Brigade Ops Company board their Wessex

Left – Gnr Simon Ogley, Tripod, and Gnr Ross Colburn

Right – Flying the flag. Bdr Bert Hall at Bessbrook Mill

Below – A Gunner from 3 RHA says goodbye to the rolling hills of south Armagh.



Checkpoint of remembrance at Bessbrook

tive histories had to take second place to practical considerations. The merger of the two to form a large N Bty is the cause of good-natured banter.

Capt John Tippett is on his seventh tour of the Province. "Northern Ireland is all about give and take," he said, "while we use permanent vehicle check-points (PVCPs) as one of the main interfaces with the public we try not to encroach unnecessarily.

"The murder of Stephen Restorick shocked all of us who knew him. Of the hundreds of cards and bunches of flowers that were sent, a lot were from Republican areas. The human aspect to the situation shone through and the people were touched. Local people are still bringing cakes and tea to the lads on duty at the checkpoints."

One of Stephen's former roommates, Gnr Dave Stratton, was on duty in the front sanger of a check-

point. "I'm covering my arcs, watching for suspicious vehicles. Anything doubtful and I advise my colleagues.

"They check it out and we take it from there. You get on with the job. You just have to make sure your eye is on the ball all the time. A guy drove over with some flowers and said he remembered Steve because he supported Peterborough and he made him laugh. He was like that."

A car approached and Gnr Stratton, whose eyes had never left his arcs, assessed

the vehicle and its occupants.

On the border there are a number of observation posts on towers which provide the security forces with an effective means of deterring and detecting movement of terrorist suspects. Closed-circuit television cameras monitor cars, vans and trucks to build a profile of life passing through the area.

Affectionately called The Submarine because of the long inter-connecting corridor and the red lights that line it, one of the towers provides a self-contained home. Perched on a green fold of land nearby is another towering look-out post seeking for specific activity on a wider range.

Bdr Peter McKenna explained: "Some of the locations have been targets for terrorist mortars and proxy bombs."

In the tower LBdr Will Moore was scouring the landscape and horizon with powerful Nikon binoculars. The job was demanding and required keen concentration. Wind whistled around outside the bullet-proof

glass as the sun set over the border look-out posts.

The soldiers of 3 RHA were finishing a gritty six-month tour with determination and a renewed sense of purpose. They had counted their losses and looked forward to their return to the United Kingdom and North Yorkshire.

"The regiment came together as a family during this tour," said Lt Col Sykes. "We will take away our own memories of the Province, but every individual has functioned as part of a team in the face of some difficult moments. I am very proud of each and every member of the regiment."

"Mr and Mrs Restorick have dedicated a

memorial stone at Bessbrook Mill and tributes are still coming in. The signs are that the majority of people in this country simply want to live peaceful lives."

The guide-book ended with a glowing tribute to the country that 3 RHA were leaving behind "... gloriously green, romantic countryside – an ancient land with a rich historical and cultural tradition and some of the friendliest people anywhere . . ."

In spite of everything, the gunners of 3 RHA would probably agree.



Spooky story emerges from Falklands fog

TIME blurs memories and sometimes the facts. Today, 15 years on, we tend to see the Falklands war as a limited conflict against an inferior enemy that Britain was bound to win.

Many of the books published since then have supported the idea. But Nigel West (the *nom de plume* of Rupert Allason), who specialises in intelligence issues, has written a detailed, and apparently well-sourced, book in which he makes it clear that the war was nearly lost before it began because the British intelligence services completely failed to anticipate the invasion.

This, according to the author, was not entirely the fault of the spooks. After all, they only work where their political masters have an interest, and, tragically, at that time no one in Westminster seemed to have any interest whatsoever in the South Atlantic.

But there was early redemption for the intelligence services. From the moment that Exocet burst onto the scene with the deadly attack on HMS *Sheffield*, it was appreciated that the Argentines' overwhelming priority was to acquire more of the missiles that could win the war.

To War with The Bays by Jack Merewood. Memories of a tank gunner, 1939-1945. He served with the Queen's Bays in France, North Africa and Italy, and was awarded the Military Medal after the Battle of the Mareth Line. Hardback, £16.95 (plus £1 postage), available from Maj A D Corfield, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road, Cardiff CF4 3YE, or the author, 16 Kestrel Bank, Netherton, Huddersfield HD4 7LD.

Through the Donkey's Ears by Jack Bevan. Second World War memories of a gunner, from young conscript to battle-hardened veteran in the cauldron of the Italy campaign. George Mann Books, paperback, £8.95.

Soldier in the Circus by Edward Lyle. Story of the author's five years as a prisoner of war after

the Secret Intelligence Service's priority had to be stopping them. According to West, MI5 hatched a brilliantly successful plot, involving arms dealers, fake companies and a globe-encircling wild-goose chase for the hapless Argentine agent who was tasked to obtain the vital weapons on the black market.

It is in this section of his otherwise gripping story that the narrative becomes confusing. West, fond of the labyrinthine complexities of East-West espionage, departs on wild

The Secret War for the Falklands: the SAS, MI6 and the War Whitehall Nearly Lost by Nigel West. Little Brown, hardback, £17.50.

tangents that trace the origins of various operators to Cold War and Northern Ireland operations. Fifteen pages of such detail are only slightly more interesting than the "so-and-so begat so-and-so" part of the book of Genesis.

The chapters relating the exploits of the SAS are another matter entirely. It was always well-known, of course, that the SAS had been up to something, and, again, it seemed likely that the Exocet threat was the centre of their attentions. But West claims that the regiment planned an aircraft-

borne raid on the Argentine base from where the Exocet raids were being launched.

The raid, apparently inspired by the famous Israeli attack on Entebbe, was, we are told, the cause of much dissension among the SAS soldiers, some of whom are reported to have said it would be a suicide mission.

Nevertheless, the troops were apparently ready to board their aircraft on Ascension Island when the mission was cancelled. It was feared that a reconnaissance group which had

already landed in Argentina had been compromised. In the arcane language of the business, the small force was required to "exfiltrate" itself through Argentina and into friendly Chile. Their escape is glossed over. Perhaps West does not know it, but there must be a good story there somewhere.

Chile played a vital part in the British victory. West alleges that British Canberra reconnaissance aircraft were painted in Chilean colours and operated from the south of the country. Suspicions were aroused

● Look out for exclusive Falklands features in *Soldier* next month

BOOKS IN BRIEF

being captured during the Defence of Calais in 1940. Serving with Queen Victoria's Rifles, he escaped several times from stalags in Germany and Poland. The Book Guild, hardback, £15.

One Up: A woman in action with the SAS by Sarah Ford. Account of the author's experiences on joining Special Forces to work with a covert unit in Northern Ireland. HarperCollins, hardback, £15.99.

A Hell of Way to Die by Derrick Wright. Account of the battle for Tarawa Atoll in the South Pacific, one of the most savage battles of the Second World War. Windrow & Greene, hardback, £20.

German Artillery of World War Two by Ian V Hogg. Comprehensive illustrated catalogue. Greenhill Books, hardback, £25.

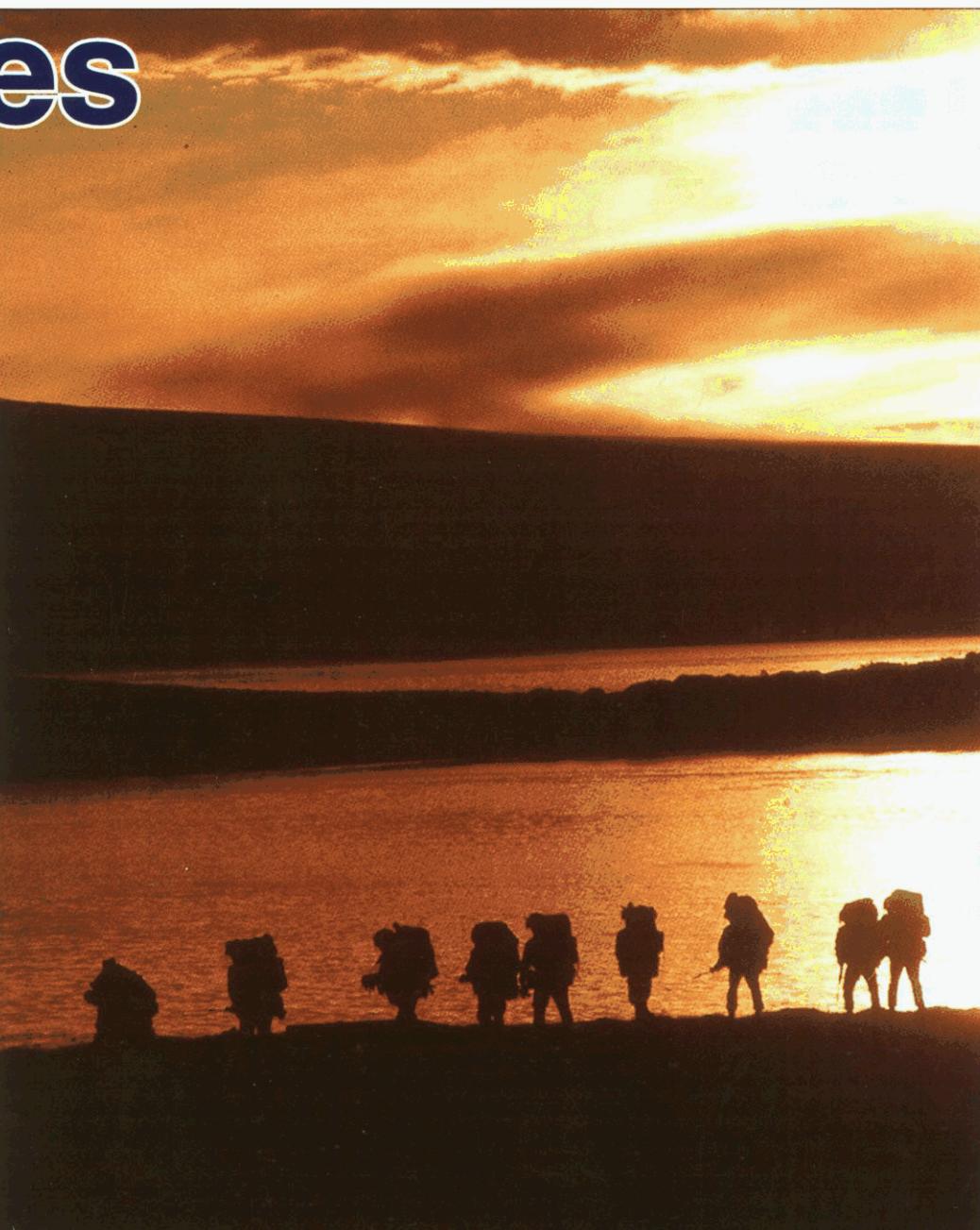
Dictionary of the British Empire and Commonwealth by Alan Palmer. A "mini-encyclopaedia" covering everything from politics to culture, religion to exploration, and defence to economics. John Murray, softback, £15.99.

True Stories of the Foreign Legion by Robin Hunter. Virgin Publishing, softback, £5.99.

Guns, Mortars & Rockets, by M P Manson. New, revised edition from the Brassey's Land Warfare "Into the 21st Century" series. Brassey's, hardback, £25.

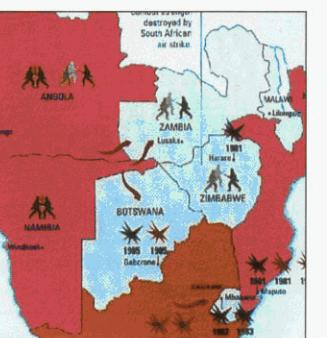
German Artillery of World War Two by Ian V Hogg. Comprehensive illustrated catalogue. Greenhill Books, hardback, £25.

German Automatic Weapons of World War II by Robert Bruce. Weapons in colour. Windrow & Greene, hardback, £24.95.



Soldiers of 5 Brigade move forward after going ashore at San Carlos during the Falklands war

Locating world's wars in colour



African conflicts: detail from *The State of War and Peace Atlas*

national Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), and this is the third edition produced by this organisation since 1983. He sets out, with full-colour graphics and figures, his

The State of War and Peace Atlas by Dan Smith. Penguin Reference, paperback, £10.99.

assessment of the state of the world today.

The section on the military world is split into six parts starting with the hardware information. Percentages follow, accompanied by maps and symbols.

We are told that more than 23 million people are in regular and irregular armed forces, including half a million women and 200,000 children under 15.

Moving on to finance, the author claims that military

spending costs everyone in the world today 145 US dollars per year; a total of 800 billion dollars.

But this staggering amount pales in comparison with 12 years ago when, with the Cold War still chilling the globe, it was 30 per cent more, he says.

(However, there were only 47 wars in progress in 1989, compared with 66 in 1992 and 55 in 1995.)

More money talk follows about market forces and the disclosure that world trade in large weapons is worth only half what it was in the mid-Eighties - it's now "only" a mind-boggling 22 billion dollars. - JM

Welsh Dragons without boots

FOR the 53rd Welsh Division, the Second World War began in earnest in June 1944 with D-Day and the invasion of Europe.

Until then they been based in Ulster ready to repel any possible invasion while training for the big event, as Patrick Delaforce graphically describes in *Red Crown & Dragon*.

Made up of three infantry brigades - the 71st, 158th, and 160th - the division's nine battalions were 1 Highland LI, 1 Ox and Bucks, 1 East Lancs, 4, 6, and 7 Royal Welch Fusiliers, 4 Welch Regt, 1/5 Welch Regt

Red Crown & Dragon by Patrick Delaforce. Spellmount, hardback, £16.95.

and 2 Monmouth Regt, with 1 Manchester Regt in support.

They fought non-stop for about a year in some of the toughest battles of the north-west European campaign, suffering 10,000 casualties.

Their record exemplifies the term "poor bloody infantry", for it was a hard and bitter time for the men of this, the only Welsh Division who took part in Overlord.

This book is a collection of memories from officers and men who took part in the battles of Le Cahier, Le Bon Repos, Evrechy, the Falaise Gap, the Antwerp and Lommel bridgeheads, and against the Panzers in the Ardennes, right through to the end in Hamburg.

Their accounts, in common with most battle stories, are a mix of sombre fact and hilarity, admirably linked by the author's easy-to-read narrative.

Training for D-Day was tough, as the East Lancs discovered. Street fighting, handling assault boats and swimming - if the boats were sunk the soldiers would have to swim across rivers - was high on their CO's list of demands. He even ordered marching barefoot to harden the feet ready for the invasion.

This book is recommended reading. - JM

Well moativated sappers

SOLDIERS from the British Army's only volunteer diving unit have carried out a unique underwater engineering project in the murky waters of Britain's longest water-filled medieval moat.

Territorial Army divers from 227 Amphibious Engineer Squadron teamed up with land-based colleagues from 127 (Sussex Yeomanry) Field Squadron RE to hone their skills in the unusual setting of the 13th century Michelham Priory in rural Sussex.

The soldiers helped to recover rare stones from the ancient building which had crumbled into the water. They also helped to gather information on the condition of the underwater foundations and ageing footbridges.

The Aldershot-based divers, whose more routine military tasks include demolition and underwater engineering, will play a key part in finding out what building work needs to be done to parts of the listed building hidden below the moat's silt-filled waters.

The priory and its mile-long moat, built to keep out troublesome peasants and marauding French pirates, needs continuous renovation work to keep it in good shape.

Thirty soldiers, all members of 78 Engineer Regiment, volunteered to help renovate the 750-year-old Priory and its 3m-deep moat because the range of land and water-based engineering jobs involved helps to meet their training needs.

SSgt Eric Ravilious, a TA diver and Reuters Project Engineer, said: "Visibility is zero and there is a lot of silt about so we are having to carry out all the work by touch. We've worked in some strange places but this is certainly one of the most unusual."

He said old facing stones found at the bottom of the moat would be cleaned up and used again to repair the facing of the building.

"It's a mutually beneficial arrangement; the Army gets to train in a real-life environment and the priory charity gets the benefit of our skills and manpower."

Maj Ken Watson, officer commanding 127 Sqn and a professional architect, said

Pictures: Chris Fletcher



Above - Sgt Ian Pickard (left) and Maj Ken Watson, OC Brighton-based 127 Sqn, with retrieved stones from Michelham Priory Moat, the longest water-filled medieval moat in the country. Material recovered will be used for future repair and renovation
Left - Sapper diver Kevin Burton clutches a medieval facing stone which he found at the bottom of the moat

his soldiers had been involved with projects at the priory since last summer. He added: "The projects here have been invaluable for training. We've carried out tasks as varied as building and waterproofing to carpentry, all skills that we would need in our wartime role."

Construction and bridge-building work, the mainstay of the sappers' 'wartime tasks', have also been practised at the priory, first founded in 1229 by monks known as the Black Canons.

Sgt Ian Pickard said: "One of the unusual things about working on such an old building is the fact we have to carry out any repairs using traditional materials. When it

came to bridge-building we had to fell trees and cut them into planks to make the decking. It requires a whole range of engineering skills as well as the ability to be flexible and improvise."

It is not the first time the priory, which is run by the Sussex Archaeological Society, has had links with the military. During the Second World War Canadian soldiers bound for the Dieppe Raid were stationed there, leaving maps of their plans to raid the French coast still drawn on the walls.



SSgt Eric Ravilious RE prepares to submerge

Not-so-Easy Riders

AN intrepid pack of cyclists is pedalling across the USA in an ambitious fund-raising effort.

All members of **Support Battalion, HQ Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC)** based in Rheindahlen, Germany, they set off from San Diego, California, on the West Coast on April 6, and hope to reach St Augustine, Florida, on the East Coast by May 12.

Led by 2nd Lt Bruce Hopkins, the five riders, plus a two-man support team, aim to ride 3,135 miles in just 30 days.

They hope to raise £3,000 to buy two specialised wheelchairs for Scope, formerly the Spastics Society.

All the cyclists are in the Royal Logistic Corps, with the exception of Pte Chris Savva, an RAMC medical technician. They recently completed a year-long tour in Bosnia in support of HQ ARRC.

Organiser Bruce Hopkins says all donations will be gratefully received.

□ □ □

WO2 Mark Elliott AGC (SPS) also has a marathon effort on his mind... five of them, in fact, including London, Belfast and Venice.

Mark, Superintendent Clerk with HQ 3 Infantry Brigade in Portadown, Northern Ireland, aims to raise £20,000 for the Children in Crisis charity.

□ □ □

WO2 Kojak Csernikovics "volunteered" and cajoled the entire RHQ and QM's Department of 1 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC at Sipovo Clothing Factory to "row" the distance from the Bosnian town to their home base of Hohne.

They clocked up 1,340km on two rowing machines in a shade over 51 hours, raising DM4,000 (£1,500) for the Drin Children's Institution at Fojnica.

□ □ □

Students have a well-deserved reputation for bizarre fund-raising stunts. In the best traditions, a group doing final training with the **Northumberland Universities OTC** completed a 73-mile egg-and-spoon race along Hadrian's Wall. The 26-hour trek, completed on snow, produced £5,000 for the Army



Coast-to-coast loggies: standing (from left) Pte Michael Hamson, Cpl Martyn Thomas (back-up team), Pte William Clark and 2nd Lt Bruce Hopkins; kneeling, LCpl Jodie Rushbrook (back-up team), Pte Chris Savva RAMC and Pte Kevin Foster, pictured before they left for their adventure, crossing America in 30 days

Benevolent Fund and the Calvert Trust, which provides adventure training for disabled children at Kielder Water.

□ □ □

Recently-retired Maj Robbie Calder inspired his Royal Military Police unit to raise cash to refurbish a school at Oborci in Bosnia. He was able to hand over a cheque for £413 on behalf of **174 Provost Company**, which Maj Calder commanded in former Yugoslavia.

While there they decided to

help two British nurses who had taken voluntary redundancy to work for Humanity at Heart, a UK-based charity.

□ □ □

Former Royal Green Jackets officer Nick Trustram Eve is donning sandals for a 670-mile walk along Britain's Roman roads to help **Combat Stress**, the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society. For much of the journey – from Richborough, Kent to Carlisle – he will be dressed as a Roman soldier.

Offers of support to Nick 01453 834144, or Colin Crawford, Combat Stress, Freepost SW19 1YY (tel 0181 543-6333).

□ □ □

Redruth cadets raised more than £1,095 for the National Coastwatch Institution with a long-distance swim sponsored by the **Army Careers Office, Redruth**. Organiser was Sgt Mike Smith RLC.

□ □ □

Soldiers of the **1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers**, based in Northern Ireland, collected £575 towards the fund-raising efforts of ten-year-old Alyn Ellis of Wrexham. Alyn,

who suffers from asthma, completed a sponsored swim to help Oswestry's Hope House Hospice for children.

Sgt Maj Brian Bloor travelled from 1 RWF's base at Dungannon to present the money to Alyn.

□ □ □

A cheque for £1,555 has been presented to the children's ward of Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey, by **ATR Pirbright**. It was raised by a Pirbright team which took part in an international marching competition in South Africa.

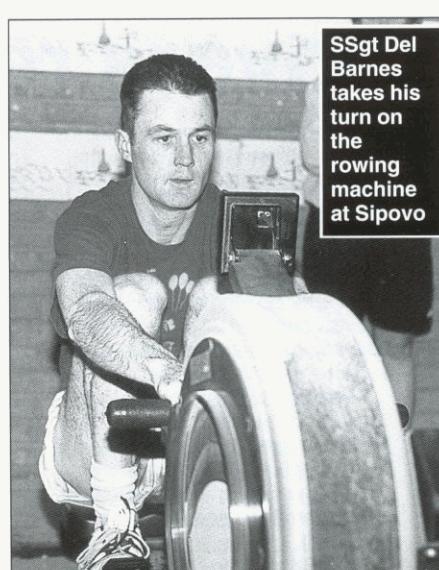
Led by Lt Dennis Mulholland and SSgt Dave Chessell, teams tabbed through the vineyards of Stellenbosch in a relay which lasted nearly 49 hours.

□ □ □

The **King's Regiment Museum**, due to open next year within the Museum of Liverpool Life, has benefited from fund-raising by Merseyside Army Cadet Force's No 4 Company. The cadets collected £1,000 towards the project.

□ □ □

The Association of Military Remembrance – better known as the **Khaki Chums** – has presented £1,000 to the National Army Museum.



Winsford's record of sacrifice

IT WAS said that no hamlet in Britain escaped unscathed the carnage of the First World War.

The impact of that observation resounds through *The Winsford Returns: A record of a town's service 1914-1920*, compiled by Alan Ravenscroft from original documents held in the Cheshire Record Office and now lodged in the library at Winsford, a town midway between Liverpool and Manchester.

Through its unadorned, unbroken lists of names, it tells the story of a rural community's agony. More than 180 Winsford men died in the Great War: alphabetically from Pte Thomas Acton, of consumption,

1916, to LCpl Thomas Yearsley, killed in action, 1917.

Names of the wounded stretch across 28 pages... victims of shrapnel, gas, barbed wire, hand grenade and shellfire... orderly columns of ordinary lives, blighted by war. And that from a town of just 8,000 souls (its population is now nearly 40,000).

They were Cheshire, Grenadiers, Royal Field Artillery, King's Liverpool, Loyal North Lancs, South Wales Borderers...

Priced £5.95 (plus 45 p & p), the book is available from Alan Ravenscroft, 109 Station Road, Cheshire CW7 3DE. All profits will go to Service charities.

Thiepval bomb widow returns to Province

MRS Pamela Bradwell, widow of bomb victim WO1 (AS) James Bradwell REME, has returned with their children to Northern Ireland for the first time since the death of her husband.

They made the emotional trip to be guests of honour at a REME competition dedicated to the memory of WO Bradwell, killed by an IRA bomb at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, last October. Mrs Bradwell presented a specially-crafted silver quaich (a cup of Celtic design) to the winners at Ballykinler.

The Bradwell Bowl was paid for by donations from Jim's friends and colleagues as a tribute to the Sunderland man who died from injuries sustained in the double bomb blast detonated without warning within the Army headquarters.

Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith, GOC Northern Ireland, also presented prizes and praised REME personnel for their work in the Province.

Hosted by James's unit, Mrs Bradwell and her children visited the Giant's Causeway and other tourist attractions before returning home.

When large sections of the British working population found their pay held up over Easter by a bank computer glitch, the Army had no problems.

Why? Because, the Service is behind the "technology curve" and does not use modems to transfer information to banks. It is still done by collating information on tapes which are then handed over to the bank.

A case of the tortoise getting there first...



Mrs Pamela Bradwell and her children, Rowena and Philip, pictured with the first winners of the Bradwell Bowl, a light aid detachment working in Belfast with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment

Final R Signals covers released

LAST two commemorative covers in an ambitious series from the new Royal Signals Museum have become available just weeks before it is to be re-opened.

Gen Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant General, who has agreed to unveil the extended and modernised museum at Blandford in late May, has signed a special version of one of the covers.

It depicts two aspects of Royal Signals involvement during the Falklands war: Sgt Mather MM, a member of an SAS surveillance team, at work; and the satellite ground terminal used by 30 Signal Regiment.

Gen Rose, who in 1982 was

commanding 22 Regiment SAS, negotiated the surrender of the Argentinian troops at Port Stanley.

Details of the series are available from the New Museum Project Officer, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

WAR correspondent Cornelius Ryan interviewed thousands of soldiers before he wrote his acclaimed accounts of D-Day, Berlin's fall and Operation Market-Garden. The first and last, *The Longest Day* and *A Bridge Too Far*, were turned into films which conveyed the momentous events



Picture: Doug Pratt

Coining it in: Regulars at the Railway in Ringwood, Hampshire, boosted Gurkha Welfare Trust funds with a donation of £800, which was handed over by Margaret and Ted Leigh, tenants of the Eldridge Pope pub. Pictured counting the cash are (from left) Sig Chandra Gurung, Eldridge Pope manager

Steve Best, Sig Sim Chochangi, landlord Ted Leigh and Sgt Shrichandra Gurung. Also there were WO2 Prem Bhattachan of the Royal School of Signals, Blandford, and Maj Carl Seppings.

Landlady Margaret's father served with the Gurkhas during the Second World War.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1947

STRANGE REQUEST
Please settle an argument: is it possible for an English soldier to become a naturalised German, and if so, how? – Pte J Baker RAMC, 25 British Military Hospital.

• Soldier trusts that this is an argument and nothing more. At present no one can become a German. When a German government is formed and recognised, application would have to be made to it. Presumably residential and other qualifications would have to be fulfilled. – Editor.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1972

BEST GUN IN WORLD
The Army's new 105mm towed light gun, said to be the best of its kind in the world, was unveiled at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill. Many countries have shown an interest in buying the gun.

REUNIONS

APTC Association (York branch): Annual meeting April 25; annual dinner May 16. Details: Capt (Retd) Rocky Holling on 01226 207046.

British Korean Veterans' Association welcomes new members at its stand at Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot, May 3-5.

Italy Star Association: Annual luncheon and parade, May 18, Westgate Hall, Canterbury. Details: Maurice Cheadle (01425 620578) or Graham Swain (01425 614884).

National Malaya and Borneo

CLOSURES

Herts and Beds Yeomanry: 86th, 105th, 135th and 191st Fd Regts RA, 53rd Heavy Regt, 79th HAA Regt and post-war successors. Reunion on June 7 at TA Centre, Marsh Road. Details from Ron Currell, 28 St Margaret's Close, Old Fletton, Peterborough PE2 9EA.

SEARCHLINE

L P Anderson has in his possession a First World War medal inscribed "53197 Cpl W J Bibby RAMC 1914-1919". He wishes to pass it on to a relative and may be contacted at 22 Field Way, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4UG.

Paul Simons, Windfall Films Ltd, 22-24 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HJ seeks eyewitness accounts of **heroic animals** of the World Wars. Examples are GI Joe, the pigeon which saved dozens of

British soldiers at Colviveccio, Italy, by running an urgent message to call off a bombing raid, and Blitz dogs that searched for survivors in the London ruins.

M O'Brien seeks ex-members of **ACC** and **City of London Fusiliers**. Replies to 12 Condon Road (South), Litherland, Liverpool L21 7GB (tel 0151 474-4759).

Helen Ducker seeks Service details of a relative, William Hen-

DATES

APRIL

(until May 18): Cornelius Ryan Archive exhibition, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

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

JUNE

4-5: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Household Division, Horse Guards, 9.30pm. Tickets on 0171 839-5323.

14: Queen's Birthday Parade, F Coy, Scots Guards, Horse Guards (Major General's Review, May 31; Colonel's Review, June 7).

21: Sherborne Military Tattoo, Sherborne Castle, Dorset, in aid of Poppy Appeal and Army Benevolent Fund. Includes displays by White Helmets, PWRR free-fall team, D and D Band, QGR Pipes and Drums, 9 Para Sqn RE, AAC helicopters.

28-29: Victorian Military Society celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, Chatham Historic Dockyard.

JULY

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

SEPTEMBER

6-7: Berwick Military Tattoo, The Barracks, Berwick-upon-Tweed. Proceeds to Service charities.

13-15: Military Survey 250th anniversary weekend, Hermitage.

OCTOBER

24: Royal British Legion Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance. Tickets: 01843 292882.

• Overlord military vehicle show, May 24-26, at Longmoor Camp, Hants, has been cancelled.

Cheshire Regiment Association: Birkenhead and District Branch's Sixth Oak Leaf Dinner, Port Sunlight, June 13. Tickets (£10) from Graham Ball on 0151 608-4524 or Geoff Hunt 0151 645-0434.

64 Signal Sqn (V), Sheffield: 30th birthday party on July 12 at Manor TA Centre, Hurlfield Road, Sheffield to celebrate anniversary of TA and squadron. Details from Kath Howse on 0114 2396979.

497, 976 and 981 ex-Royal Marines: 4th reunion at Royal Sailors' Home Club, Portsmouth, Aug 16 to mark 50th anniversary of formation. Details: P Wye, Petty-Pat, 349 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ.

derson Ducker, born Aug 9, 1889, at Rumburgh, Suffolk, lived at West Cramlington, Northumberland, and emigrated to Boston USA in 1925. He served in Israel during his time in the British Army. Replies to 19 Peth Head, Wooler, Northumberland NE71 6NE.

Ex-members of the Band of 8th KRI Hussars interested in a possible reunion in 1998 are asked to contact Colin Ridgers, 117 Vanner Road, Witney OX8 6LL.



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Three-year men 'looked down on'

DURING my three years with the 1st Bn the Duke of Wellington's Regiment we were the Spearhead battalion for Northern Ireland, although we did not serve there.

My service also included spells at Mill Hill and High Wycombe during Op Granby, as well as many exercises in the UK and overseas.

So why do people look down on us three-year men? We earned a pension (although I cannot get mine until I am 65). I was recorded as "Exemplary" on my service certificate, I was proud of being an Infantry soldier and I am still on Reserve.

Despite all this, we three-year men received no medal. I have a commemorative General Service Cross but I am not sure whether I can wear this with pride.

The same applies to National Servicemen such as my father, who served in the Coldstream Guards. He has a commemorative medal, but no pension.

If a medal were issued for three-year men, National Servicemen or non-combatants, most would be prepared to pay, with profits going to disabled ex-Servicemen, widows, or the Royal British Legion. — Yorkie (name and address supplied).

Points in Question and For the Record — next page

Boy, what a response!

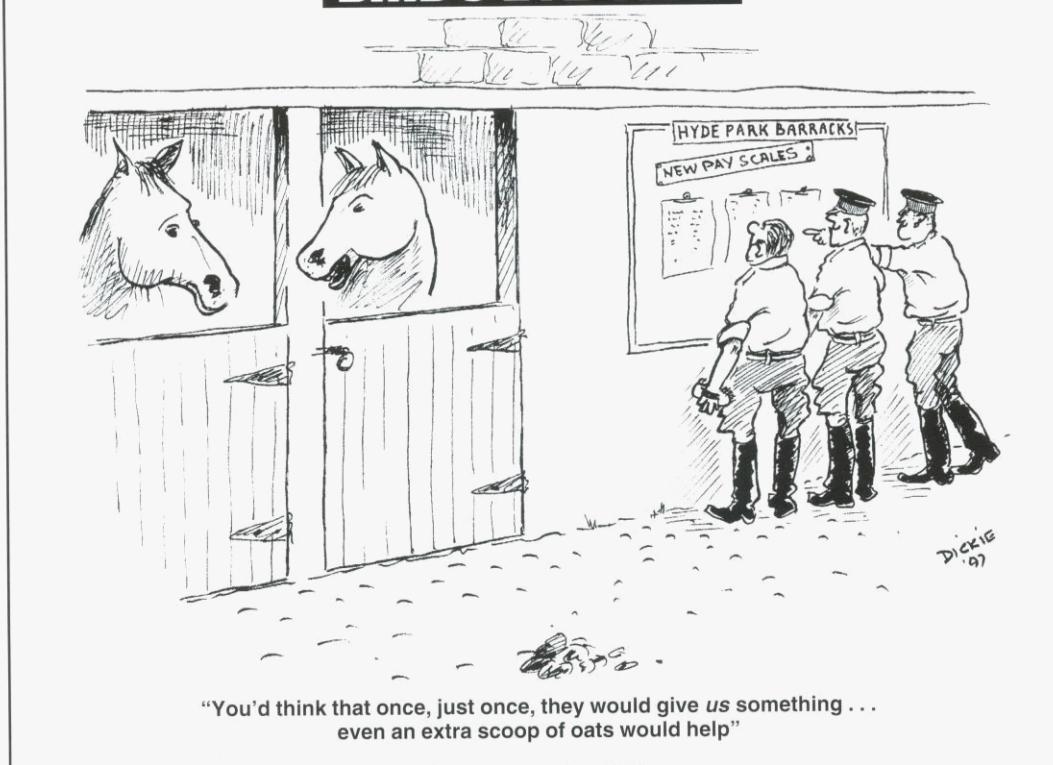
YOU recently published a Searchline request from me for information about boy-soldiering. The response was overwhelming.

I shall try to reply to all the kind "old-boy-soldiers" in due course but because I am undergoing hospital treatment I crave a little time to do so.

May I, through your magazine, thank all those concerned for their co-operation and information. — Bill Fort, Barton-on-Sea, Hants.

Soldier welcomes letters for publication from all readers, whatever their status. Letters must be brief, typed or written clearly and include the correspondent's name and address in block capitals, not necessarily for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to edit for length, clarity or style.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



New pay scales — Pages 7-11

Mitchell — patriot and humanitarian

I HAD the pleasure of soldiering with Colin Mitchell (Letters, March 3 and 31) when he joined the 8th Argylls in Italy in early 1945

During that time and later for some years in the then Palestine, I found him to be a dedicated soldier, if already somewhat unorthodox in his approach to military problems.

Our paths continued to cross and our correspondence continued until his untimely death at the age of 70. His patriotism took one back to the

early days of the First World War.

It is regrettable that his service in Aden-Crater was recognised only by an MID but this subject has been well chronicled.

He was a founder-member and chairman of the Halo Trust, a registered charity with the main object of lifting and making safe what must be hundreds of thousands of mines planted in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola and many other sectors.

This humanitarian mission was highlighted by Diana, Princess of Wales in her recent visit to Angola, during which time it was reported that some 6,000 unexploded shells and mines had been lifted by Halo in the previous 12 months — a soldier's task in time of war.

It seems a pity that some form of posthumous decoration could not be given to Lt Col (Retd) Mitchell for this humanitarian service. — Gordon Munro, Newcastle upon Tyne.

He made us proud to be British

I WAS sorry to learn of the death of Lt Col Colin Mitchell.

I served in Aden from 1965 to 1967 with the St John and Red Cross as a Services hospital welfare officer in my early twenties and was very aware of the strong feelings of the wounded soldiers as they talked about the 13 dead

British soldiers being dragged through the streets of Crater.

The situation in Crater was so bad that the troops had been ordered not to go in again. Lt Col Mitchell courageously disregarded these orders, took his battalion back into Crater, recovered the bodies of the British soldiers and resumed patrolling with hardly a shot fired on either side.

A few mornings later I heard the sound of bagpipes. I ran to my flat window in Nagi Build-

ings and saw, at the far end of Maalla Strait, Lt Col Mitchell marching in front of his Pipes and Drums followed by the whole battalion of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

He had marched from Crater and was on his way to the headquarters at Steamer Point. As he passed below our flat, my heart beat faster and I was proud to be British. We could now leave Aden holding our heads up. — Mrs Hazel York, Shrewsbury, Salop.

Final postcard in our series of 13 on the new regiments and corps of the British Army of the 1990s

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S CORPS

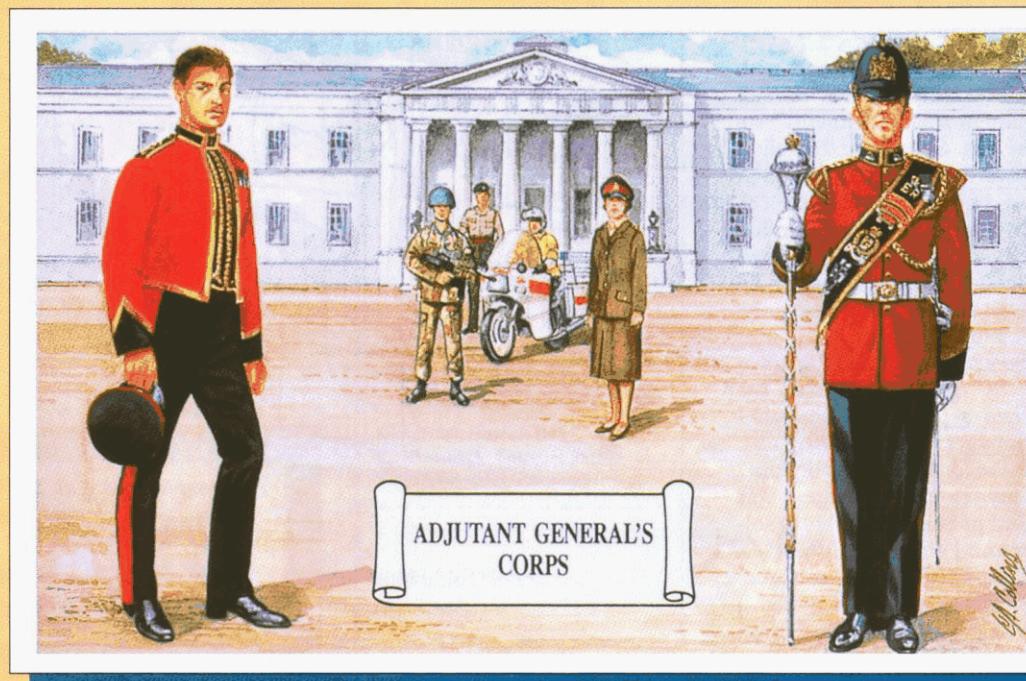
RESPONSIBILITY for managing the "people" side of the British Army rests with the Adjutant General's Corps (AGC), formed on April 6 1992.

Under its umbrella were drawn the functions of the Staff and Personnel Support Branch of the Royal Army Pay Corps; the staff clerks of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps; and elements, including the staff clerks, of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

A year later the branch was joined by the clerks of all arms and services in the Army. The Provost Branch derives from the Corps of Royal Military Police and the Military Provost Staff Corps; the Educational and Training Services Branch from the Royal Army Educational Corps; and the Army Legal Services Branch from the Army Legal Corps.

More than 6,500 strong, the AGC provides the Army with all the professional skills required to administer its servicemen and women, police them, educate them and provide their legal support.

It has officers and soldiers serving in every headquarters and almost every unit in the



Army. The corps motto is *Animo et fide*. – With resolution and fidelity.

The postcard illustrated here, reproduced from a watercolour painting by Christopher A Collins, shows:

- Officer: Mess dress.
- Drum major: Full dress.
- Different forms of corps dress.

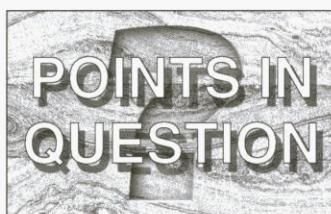
● Background: The Old Building, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

The high collar style of the officer's mess dress is based on that of the former Adjutant General's Department mess dress of the 1890s. The drum major wears the universal pattern blue cloth helmet with the AGC helmet plate. His

sash is fitted with two token drumsticks, and has on it the coat of arms of the City of Winchester.

The four figures who feature in the central display are: a soldier in combat dress; a soldier in shirt-sleeve order; a military police motor cyclist; and a female soldier in No 2 dress.

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



TA Efficiency Medal

IN thanking the correspondents who answered my question seeking explanation for the qualifications for the Efficiency Medal (Territorial), I should like to add that I enlisted in the TA as a "Territorial Soldier" at the age of 18 years two weeks, on August 30, 1940.

I am aware that the TA was embodied with the Regular Forces on September 3, 1939 but it was possible to enlist (rather than "volunteer") as a "TA soldier". I still have the attestation papers bearing my signature.

Young men like myself did enlist after the war started. So going back to my original question, having enlisted as a Territorial Soldier, after six years' service (which would count double)

Mr A E Tate, of Maidstone, sent us this drawing of a badge given to his father-in-law during the First World War by a fellow officer who had apparently served in the Chinese Regiment. The badge is 4cm high and 3cm wide, with a gun-metal finish, and he wonders whether readers can shed some light on its origins and those of the regiment in question.



shouldn't we also qualify for the TA Medal on a par with peacetime recruits?

I served in two Infantry regiments, a field regiment Royal Artillery and a Yeomanry regiment (Airborne Light Artillery). I landed in France by glider on D-Day, took part in the Battle of the Ardennes and later crossed the Rhine by glider, finishing my service in Germany in April, 1945.

After being posted to Palestine in September, 1945 I finished my Army service in late 1946. – F P O'Toole, Bexley Heath, Kent.

I AM fairly sure that for war service

to count towards the award of the TD/TEM it was necessary to re-enlist in the TA within six months of demobilisation or the re-formation of the TA.

It is not correct to say it was not possible to enlist in the TA after

For the record

BMH Rinteln

YOUR article "Final deliveries for BMH Rinteln" (Lifestyle, March 17) gives 1953 as the date when that unit opened.

That is incorrect as my eldest daughter was born there on June 2, 1949 and it was in being well

September 3, 1939. All volunteers, other than those joining on a Regular engagement were attested on Army Form E531A, which on the reverse stated that this was a "Notice to be given to a person at the time of his offering to join the Territorial Army, Duration Engagement".

After demobilisation in 1948 I re-enlisted in the TA, then into the Regular Army and finally back into the TA, into which I was ultimately commissioned.

My other-rank service between 1942 and 1948 was counted as half qualifying service towards the Territorial Decoration which I received in 1966. Had I not been commissioned it would have counted double towards the TEM. – A J Moore TD, Liverpool L23.

before then. In those days the mothers and those to be were required to stand to attention at their beds (medical condition allowing) during ward visits by senior medical staff. – I E Howe (formerly Coldstream Guards), Bristol.

COMPETITION 660

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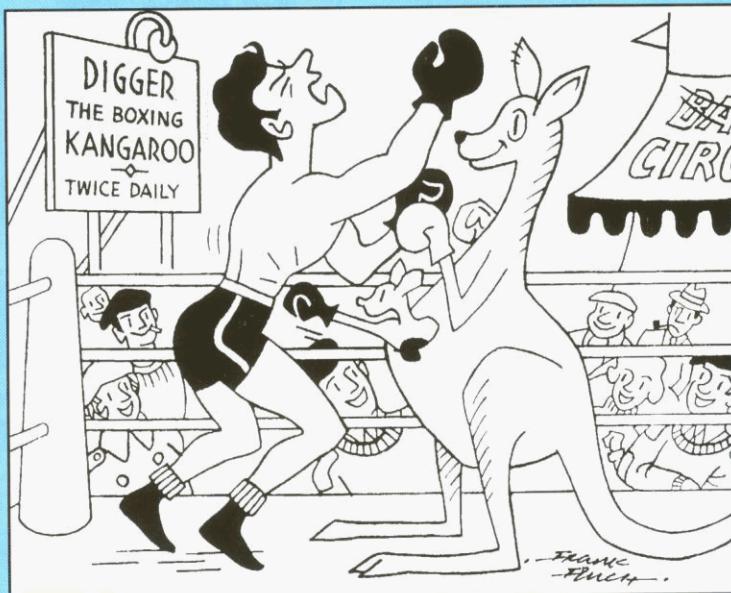
in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the June 9 issue.

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 657 (March 17 issue): First correct entry drawn was from Mr D O'Brien, of Fleet, Hants, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up LCpl Will Crask, of Northampton, and Sgt E R Chivers RLC, of Newcastle upon Tyne. The ten differences were: C in "Club" and figure 8/3 on scoreboard; batsman's left arm and pad strap; shadow, bottom left; line of tree trunk; right-hand bird; point of top stump; bail; wicket-keeper's shirt.



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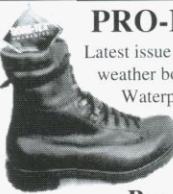
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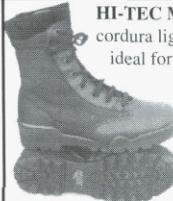
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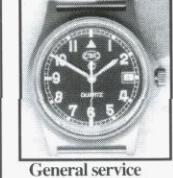
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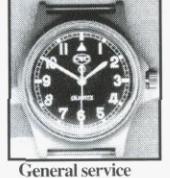
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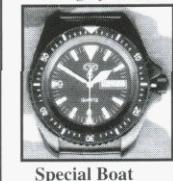
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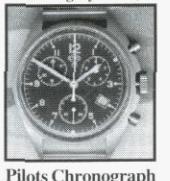
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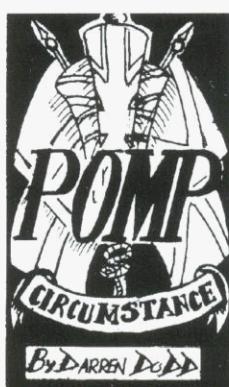
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MARCH 29, 1997

EIGHT-way tie for first prize (15 goals, £750 each):

Sgt MA Daffey, 7 Flt AAC, BFPO 11; SSgt J Goodman, ITC Catterick; WO1 PD Kinlan, 251 Fd Hosp (V), Sunderland; WO2 NG Marlow, HQ BRIGNEPAL, BFPO 4; WO2 JC McGowan, School of Health (G), BFPO 16; Rgr SJ Moran, 1 R Irish, Catterick; SSgt CJ Philips, BMH Rinteln, BFPO 31; Pte KA Watt, 34 Fd Hosp, Stronsall.

APRIL 05, 1997

EIGHT-way tie for first prize (16 goals £750 each):

Sgt MA Daffey, 7 Flt AAC, BFPO 11; SSgt J Goodman, ITC Catterick; WO1 PD Kinlan, 251 Fd Hosp (V), Sunderland; WO2 NG Marlow, HQ BRIGNEPAL, BFPO 4; WO2 JC McGowan, School of Health (G), BFPO 16; Rgr SJ Moran, 1 R Irish, Catterick; SSgt CJ Philips, BMH Rinteln, BFPO 31; Pte KA Watt, 34 Fd Hosp, Stronsall.

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Speedy Robbo takes on the world

HEADING for Switzerland on two wheels in June is Cpl Robbo Robinson of Tidworth-based 22 Engineer Regiment.

His selection to race for Great Britain at the world long-course duathlon championships in Zofingen comes as a direct result of his performance in the Guernsey powerman duathlon, which consists of a 10km run, a 60km cycle and a further 10km run to finish.

Due to a high pulse rate from a virus, Robinson ended up half-way down the 150-plus field after the first run.

Once on his hi-tech cycle (sponsored by the Defence Evaluation Research Agency), however, he produced a remarkable split of 1hr 32min for the stage, bringing him back into contention in the top 30 riders.

On the final run, Robinson stormed into the top 20 and

was in with a chance of ending among the first ten, but, with 3km to go, was reduced to a stumble, suffering from cramp and exhaustion.

Remarkably, he crossed the line third in his age group and 18th overall.

The Swiss event, regarded by some as the world's toughest multi-sport races, will consist of a 13km hill run, a 150km cycle in the Swiss Alps and a 30km fell run.



The indomitable Cpl Robbo Robinson with his DERA-sponsored cycle

Combined Services pay the penalty

CS U-21 17,
Harlequin Academy XV 24

IT WAS apparent from the kick-off that this was going to be a fiercely-contested rugby match, and the first ten minutes at the Stoop Memorial Ground were extremely frenetic, writes **Nick Cooke**.

Once the players had come to terms in identifying their own team-mates – both sides wore similar quartered shirts – the Servicemen were first on the scoresheet with a well-taken penalty after 15 minutes from Spr Peter Griffiths.

They went further ahead with an outstanding piece of individual play by Spr Bruno Green, who took the ball on the Harlequin ten-metres line and beat his opposite number before going around the full-back to score in the corner.

The Harlequins' development squad scored a well-taken try and levelled the scores with a penalty.

CS responded with a penalty five minutes later, but a powerful forward move by Harlequins ended with their No 8 crossing the line. On the stroke of half time, their right wing touched down to make it 18-11.

After the interval, front row

SAC Pete Bates, SAC Mat Mason and AC Mat Wilks, who had replaced Sig John Brown, provided a firm platform from which the Under 21s were able to release their backs.

Working frequently alongside local craftsmen, they were asked if they wanted to take part in a volleyball match against a team from Split. When the "thrown-together" Croatian team arrived, they turned out to be the 1995 Croatian champions...

Good running by Mne Richard Morgan (on for Mne Gareth Williams in the centre) led to a penalty which Griffiths converted. A powerful run through the centre by Spr Ben Hughes led to another penalty which Griffiths also

converted to close the gap to a single point.

Harlequins went up another gear, but were denied by firm tackling from Pte Doug Douglas and AEM Simon Greening. Two penalty kicks in the final five minutes stretched the Harlequins' lead.

Man of the match was Mne Nathan Evans, and CS U-21 colours were awarded to Pte Gavin McCarthy, AC Mat Wilks, Mid Steve Gilmore and Pte Doug Douglas.

CS U-21 47,
Millfield Old Boys 12

Following the narrow defeat against the Harlequin Acad-

emy XV, the CS U-21 team were determined to make amends against Millfield Old Boys.

Skipper Spr Ben Hughes, capitalising on Millfield's lack of preparation, crossed under the posts and Simon Greening converted. Then Mne Nathan Evans, linking well with Gnr Leyton Davies in the centre, scored a delightful try.

Two further tries by Gnr Davies and Mason stretched the scoreline to 28-0, with Greening maintaining a 100 per cent record with his conversions.

Combined Services made several changes in the second

half and the team lost continuity. Millfield capitalised with a well-worked try.

Pte Kristian Williams, who

had won a lot of line-out ball

in the first half, was replaced

by MID Paul Laidler, who

scored under the posts follow-

ing a powerful forward movement.

After Old Boys scored again, the Servicemen raised their game and Greening crossed for an excellent try. Spr Mat Chalmers stretched the lead with his conversion. SAC Jason Beattie rounded off the scoring with another try.

SAC Mat Mason won the man of the match award and CS U21 colours were presented to MID Paul Laidler, Gnr Leyton Davies, Fus Dean Jones and Pte K Williams.

Sappers' Croatian surprise

RESOURCES Troop 45 Field Support Squadron, based in Split as part of 39 Engineer Regiment Group currently deployed on Operation Lodestar, took on more than they bargained for in a sporting challenge.

Working frequently alongside local craftsmen, they were asked if they wanted to take part in a volleyball match against a team from Split.

When the "thrown-together" Croatian team arrived, they turned out to be the 1995 Croatian champions...

In front of a crowd of 150, most supporting the Croatians, the sappers lost 15-7, 15-6. It was not a bad effort considering the Split-based team have been playing together for more than four years.



The sappers pose with their Croatian opponents (numbered shirts)

A closely-fought final between 7 Signal Regiment and The Light Dragoons was won 3-1 by the signallers, who booked themselves a place in Army finals.



Pte Simon Yeo thwarts an ITC defender as he heads for goal during the Infantry Challenge Cup final

Cheshire squeeze

1 Cheshire 2,
ITC Catterick 1

WITH extra time looming, the 1st Battalion, 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment scrambled the ball over their opponents' goal-line in the 89th minute to win the Infantry Challenge Cup for a record fourth consecutive year and leave the team with grins as wide as the legendary feline from their home county.

The Army and infantry, as well as the Army youth team, were well-represented in both sides as the Cheshire faced a very capable ITC Catterick team at the Tidworth Oval.

With both sides trying to control the game, the first half was very much end-to-end stuff and produced no goals.

Early in the second half, with the Northern Ireland-based Cheshire having had most of the possession, Catterick took the lead against the run of play, scoring from the penalty spot.

Stepping up the pressure,

the 1st Battalion was rewarded with a 70th-minute equaliser from the left midfield by Cpl Steve Parsons before scoring the winner.

The team was well sup-

ported by members of the regiment, some of whom had flown from Ballykelly, where the battalion is stationed.

Known in the past more for their athletic prowess than their footballing skills, the Cheshire have made the competition a real team effort, with many other members of the battalion helping out when the footballers were required for full-time training.

The result made it all worthwhile, and the team are already relishing the prospect of making it five in a row next year.

Student marksmen shoot to the top

IN AN exciting and close-fought match, University of Wales OTC narrowly carried off the Edmunds Trophy in the final of the Land Command Regular and Territorial Army inter-unit small bore target rifle competition.

Only nine points separated the top four going into the last detail at the event, held at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon.

The next three places changed hands on the final detail, with only six points separating the teams, Southampton University OTC finally clinching third place, one point behind 3 PWO.

Individual high score (388)

was achieved by WOCdt Wyke (University of Wales OTC), three points more than the 1996 high score.

It was encouraging to see the improvement in the standard of shooting (five teams averaging over 90), as well as the increase in entries (64 to 77) and seven of the eight entitled divisions or districts being represented.

Special mention should go to the Lowlands (V), competing for the first time and at very short notice, who shot well

Women racers give mile a miss

THREE of the 11 units scheduled to take part in the Army road one-mile and 12-mile relay championships hosted by ATR Bassingbourn did not turn out, making the competition a limited affair, with no women milers or relay teams competing.

Winners of the 12-mile relay were HQ 4 Division (WO2 Pulleng, WO2 Davidson, Maj Bateson, Sgt McClean) in an overall time of 55min 31sec, with 216 Para Sig A (SSgt Buckley, SSgt Needham, WO2 Rollins, Sgt Oliver) second (56min 11sec).

Fastest individual relay time was 13min 23sec by Sgt Palmer (ATR Bassingbourn).

Cpl Martin (also Bassingbourn) won the Army individual one-mile road race championship in a time of 4min 57.69sec, followed by veteran SSgt Baker (ACIO Peterborough) in 5min 0.89sec.

Table tennis

THE ARMY women's table tennis team were runners-up to the Royal Navy in a storming final in the Inter-Services championships at Worthy Down. Third place went to the Royal Air Force.

(1,300) in the circumstances.

• A disappointing total of four teams took part in the final of the inter-command-division small-bore target rifle competition, held the previous day at the same venue. But shooting was of a high standard nevertheless, 4 Division winning with a score of 3,028 and team member Lt Tracey (RAMC, DMSTC) notching up highest individual score of the day (392 ex 400) and the only HPS of 100.

So near, so far

TRAINING for the Army squad leading up to the 1996-97 Inter-Services netball tournament – hosted by the Royal Navy at HMS *Sultan* – had gone well, and with an enthusiastic team, Army coach Monica Vaughan was confident the squad had enough talent to win for the first time in nine years, **writes Jenny King**.

First match, Army against RAF was fast and close: 12-12 at the first quarter, 22-22 at half-time, with Army shooters Cpl Claire Jeynes and LCpl Debbie Kimpton matching the RAF pair goal for goal.

By the third quarter the Army had a one-goal advantage at 34-33, but the RAF went on to win 49-42.

The second day started with the Army taking on the Navy. Again it was a close game, but the earlier match had taken its toll on some of the Army players and the Navy won 56-48.

Final game (RAF v Navy) saw the RAF coming out triumphant at 63-54, notching up yet another Inter-Services title.

Maj Gen Simon Lytle,



The Army netball players who competed at HMS *Sultan*

Director of the Army Sport Control Board, presented the Army team with their colours and year bars. Capt Karen Johnson (AGC) won the award for most improved player of the season and LCpl Chris Ward (AGC) was presented with the player of the tournament trophy.

Eight players from the Army squad were also selected for

the Combined Services squad to take part in the inter-counties tournament in Middlesbrough.

● Squad selection for next season takes place on September 13-14 at Maida Gymnasium, Aldershot. Players wishing to be considered should contact Capt Jenny King, ANA Secretary on 01780 782182.

CS victory is hot stuff

Com Svces 2, Brit Fire Svce 1

A STRONG British Fire Service team was beaten by the odd goal in three as the Combined Services football squad wound up their UK season at RAF Uxbridge.

This was a superb performance by Services, and augurs well for their forthcoming tour to Australia, **writes Derrick Bly**.

Retiring coach Sqn Ldr Nigel Quincey must have been delighted with his team's commitment and fast attacking football for the full 90 minutes.

Early on, Cpl 'Alfie' Alford (Army) set up SAC Chris McGuire (RAF), whose shot was saved. LPT Paul Willetts (RN) then let rip from fully 40 yards, just scraping the bar.

Services went ahead on eight minutes when a long throw-in from Willetts reached Cpl Gary Wotton (RAF) in attack and the big defender headed past the Fire Service 'keeper. After Cpl Wayne McHugh had cleared a Services attack,

another dangerous long throw from Willetts reached Tagg, who put his effort just over.

Tagg then spent the rest of the game in goal for Services, Cpl Macek (RAF) replacing him in midfield. Services went two-up in the 35th minute when McGuire and McHugh took over a move, started by POAEA Nigel Thwaites (RN), which ended with Alford beating the 'keeper.

As the half-time whistle approached, Tagg made an excellent one-handed save low to his left from a well-struck half volley from former Army and Combined Services player Simon Bambrook.

In the second period, with the Fire Service going on the offensive, both sides continued to play some fast, neat soccer.

As the visitors launched attack after attack, Cpl Lee Innes (Army) replaced Alford and within minutes McHugh had cleared off the line, with the CS defence under pressure.

Midway through the half, Bambrook reduced the arrears when the back four were a little static facing a left wing cross and the ex-Royal Signals player made no mistake.

Unfortunately, three minutes later, he was in the spotlight again – receiving a red card for a second bookable offence.

With Friendship like this . . .

Royal Navy 2, Army 1

A GRIPPING final game ended in an unexpected Army defeat by the Royal Navy in the Inter-Services hockey championships at Portsmouth.

James Boyce equalised for

the Army after the Navy had taken an eighth-minute lead, but five minutes into the second half Paul Friendship scored the winner.

Having beaten both teams, the RAF regained the Indian

UP AND COMING

Canoe

THE annual Army sprint and marathon canoe racing championships will be held over the weekend of July 19-20 on the River Wye at Monmouth, South Wales.

Units do not need specialist canoes or prior experience to take part in the novice classes, which use the plastic general purpose canoes on issue to most units. Sprint events take place over 500 and 1,000 metres, the marathon following the next day with varying distances of 8km to 20km.

Details from Maj D F Capps RLC, Ops 2, HQ Land, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 OAG, tel Salisbury Mil 3415 or 01722 433415; or SSgt J Ross RE, tel Hawley Mil 3373 or 01252 863373.

Cycling

THIS year's Army cycling festival, hosted by 158 Provost Company RMP, will be held in the Bulford area from July 9-15.

Entries, accompanied by cheque payable to the Army Cycling Union, should be sent to organiser WO2 Chris Biggs at 158 Provost Company RMP, Gordon Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9JZ, by May 23.

The Inter-Services 25-mile and 100-mile championships are both being promoted as open events for the 1997 season. Initiative for the former, at Northallerton on June 21, is being taken by RAF Leeming, North Yorks. Contact is CTech Andy Wond on 781 851 7582. He or Keith Murray (757 4271) will also advise on the 100-mile championship, which is amalgamated with the Shropshire 100 event.

Pentathlon

SANDHURST will be the venue for the Army modern pentathlon championships on June 14-15. Further information and entry details from AMPA secretary Capt Pete Smith (Arborfield Mil 2277) or chief coach SSgt Bernie Moss (Arborfield Mil 2214).

Army Trophy which they last won 12 years ago.

The Army women's team made amends for their male counterparts' defeat, beating the Royal Navy 5-2 to take the women's title.



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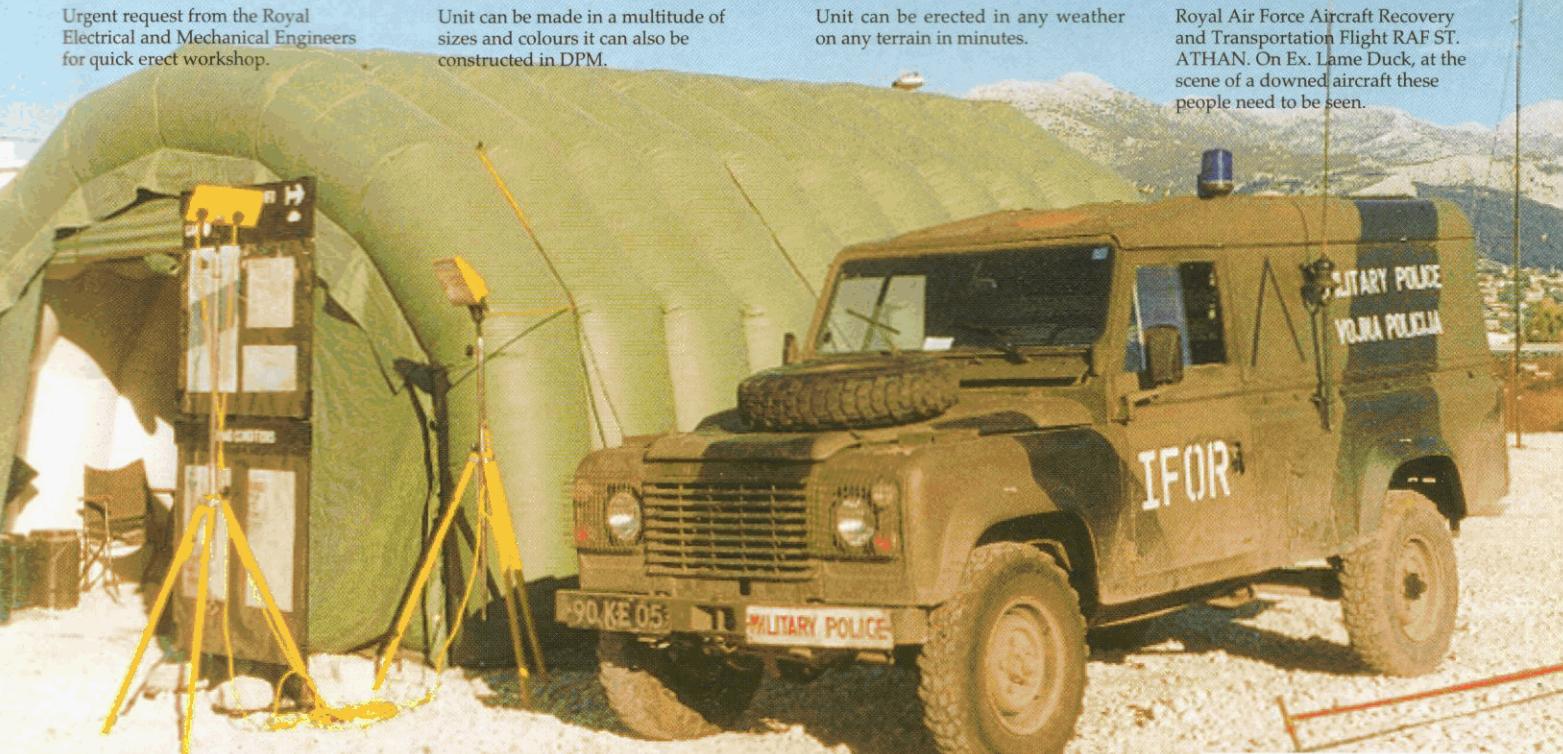
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SOLDIER



All aboard for the last flight: final checks before the emotional send-off of the famous Chipmunk aircraft in which generations of Army Air Corps pilots did their basic flying training. See story in Page 18.

Picture: Chris Fletcher

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