

# SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

OCTOBER 14 1996

60p

A photograph of a Challenger 2 tank. Two soldiers in green uniforms and helmets are visible on top of the tank. One soldier is standing behind the main gun, and another is partially visible in the foreground. The tank's main gun is pointed upwards. The background shows a blue sky with some clouds.

**Making its  
mark: new  
Challenger**

Polish-ed performance:  
7 Armd Bde on Ulan Eagle

1 RRW steps out  
on Public Duties

Exercise Cockfeather

62 KK 25



Bosnia. 1994. Authentic action as the SAS go in behind the lines.

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# GORDON STEVENS



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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

Oct 14, 1996 Vol 52/21

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Picture: Mike Weston

Cpl Colin MacIntyre and Tpr Alastair Gardner, Scots DG, scored six kills in 26 seconds in Challenger 2 while demonstrating its power to foreign military observers at the RAC Centre's range, Lulworth Cove

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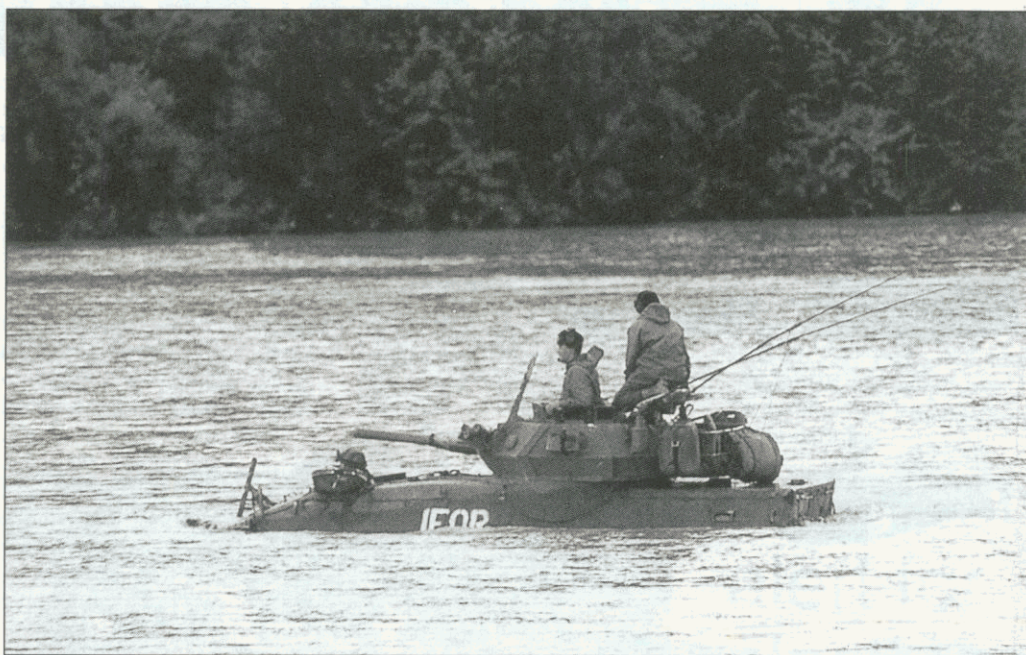
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## APC swept away by a tidal force



Three Canadian soldiers look on helplessly as their amphibious Cougar armoured personnel carrier is swept away by floodwaters near Sanski Most, Bosnia. British troops helped rescue them. Story in Page 5.

# MO estate sale makes £1.6 billion

**CONTRACTS** were exchanged between the Ministry of Defence and Annington Homes on September 24 for the sale of the Armed Forces' married quarters estate in England and Wales in a £1,662 million deal.

The company agreed to forgo for 25 years the contentious site exchange option which would have let the new owners propose housing "swaps" if they wished to secure vacant possession of particular sites.

"Site exchange seemed to be causing the greatest psychological problems, so we decided to ditch it," said former soldier Sir Thomas McPherson, Annington's chairman.

The estate comprises more than 57,000 married quarters, of which 2,400 are surplus and will pass to Annington for immediate use in the private sector. The remainder will be leased back to the MoD.

From the proceeds, £100 million will be used to upgrade MQs throughout the UK to grade one condition in five to seven years.

The companies involved with Anningtons in the sale have committed £430,000 to set up an independent charity, the Annington Trust, to fund and sponsor community activities and projects for the benefit of Service families, with Annington Homes making an annual donation to the trust.

### Discount schemes

Annington has also undertaken to provide schemes to assist Service personnel into home ownership by offering "attractively priced mortgages" and discount schemes for Service families buying homes from the company.

"I am delighted with this outcome," said Defence Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot.

"We have been working hard for a number of years to put

right the problems with Service housing, and the agreement establishes the right foundation for the future."

Service families would see the benefits as a massive programme of housing improvement, made possible by the sale, came on stream, he said.

"The new arrangements give us the flexibility we need to tackle the problem of empty MoD homes and concentrate on the quarters we need, not the quarters we don't," he added.

"Ministers have made plain all along that concluding the sale depended on achieving a deal which satisfied the interests of the Services, and a price which properly reflected the public interest. This agreement does both."

Completion is expected early in November.



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SC1 PART X1



## Bosnia EOD team blows huge British bomb

SOLDIERS from the 21 Field Squadron (EOD) RE serving with NATO's Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) disarmed a large British bomb at Bos Krupa in Bosnia.

The 500lb bomb, dropped during the Second World War, was taken to a field a few miles from the town and blown up in a controlled explosion.

Had it gone off the bomb would probably have destroyed Bos Krupa's main water supply

and reservoir. Local people think it was either dropped on German troops by a British bomber or jettisoned from an aircraft in trouble. It was found by a workman who hit it with his spade while digging a trench.

Sgt Tony Seccombe, who led the operation, said: "It was a very old weapon and there was no real way of telling what damage might have been caused when it was dropped.

Other factors we had to look at were the corrosion of the casing and the possible rotting of the explosives. Potentially it was very unstable and we took every precaution."

Maj Giles Brand, OC 21 Sqn, praised his men. "Sgt Seccombe and his team did a really excellent job, and by risking their lives they possibly saved the lives and property of the people of Bos Krupa."

● British bomb disposal

troops in Bosnia will be better protected from the millions of mines in the country thanks to the arrival of new Alvis 4 and Alvis 8 vehicles which feature V-shaped armoured hulls to deflect blast.

Six of the "mine-protected" vehicles, never used before by British troops, have been delivered to 21 Field Squadron (EOD) RE and will be used by 44 members of the unit based at Banja Luka.

## Cavalry is back in the saddle

ROYAL Armoured Corps soldiers from the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards have gone back to their roots and recruited two hill ponies to help them re-supply a remote Bosnian outpost – the first time they have used horses for more than 40 years.

The troops, who operate Challenger tanks in Bosnia, feared the ferocious Balkan winter would cut off their three-man signals team, so followed local example by obtaining two powerful little hill ponies to use as pack horses.

### BATTLE HONOURS

They hope Waterloo and Lucknow, named after regimental battle honours, will succeed where state-of-the-art helicopters and four-wheel drive vehicles have failed.

Sgt Maj Steve Jones said: "The problem is that we've got troops on top of the mountain, and although we can just about get to them in good weather, there is a good chance they will be cut off in the winter."

A small amount of rain on the steep track prevents vehicles getting to the top, and even in summer helicopters are frequently unable to deliver supplies because of dense cloud shrouding the mountain.



Sgt Maj Steve Jones and his men test their two pack horses on a hillside near Kijuc in Bosnia. They will use the ponies to re-supply a communications team located on top of a mountain near their base

## APC swamped by flood

BRITISH troops at Sanski Most in Bosnia leapt to the rescue when an amphibious armoured personnel carrier was caught in a vicious flood and sucked under a giant culvert.

The crew of three Canadians watched helplessly in their Cougar APC as floodwater swept them towards the culvert, smashing the vehicle into the bank and pulling it under. One man was hauled to safety from the riverbank and the other two were sucked into the

culvert and out the other side.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards anchored ropes to a British tank, leapt into the river and grabbed the shocked Canadians.

Sappers were waiting for the floodwater to subside before attempting to recover the APC. Floods have submerged huge areas, destroying homes, roads and valuable crops.

## RMPs on alert for elections

MILITARY police in Bosnia were on duty before dawn on September 14 to ensure roads between ethnic regions stayed open for travelling voters.

Members of 3 Regiment, Royal Military Police tripled their patrols in the mainly Serb city of Banja Luka, but the day passed off peacefully.

Capt Viv Buck, officer commanding the 50-strong RMP unit responsible for patrolling the town, said: "Our job was to monitor the area for restrictions on freedom of movement both on routes in the town and at polling stations."

### INTIMIDATION

A fear was that intimidation would stop people returning to their former towns to vote.

One of the busiest crossings on the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) was the British-manned checkpoint, code-named White Fang, on a key road between Serb-held Prijedor and Muslim Sanski Most.

Hundreds of voters crossed the line into Serb territory during the morning, but only after their buses had been checked for arms and ammunition by civilian police. They were escorted to polling stations to cast their votes.

Monitors later cast doubt on the validity of the elections following turnout figures of more than 100 per cent in places where a third of the electorate was believed not to have voted.



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# Charity run soldier dies from beating

A British soldier died in Frimley Park Hospital military unit after being savagely beaten by a Croatian mob in Split 12 days earlier.

Pte Simon Jeans RLC was attacked while relaxing with five friends after completing a charity half-marathon which raised £100,000 for children made homeless by the war.

He was stabilised in a local hospital before being evacuated

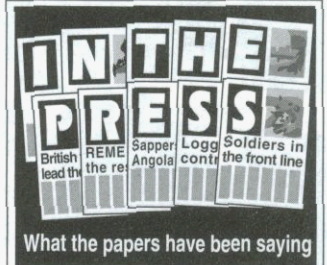
to the UK. Pte Jeans was with five colleagues, also from 7 Regiment RLC, who were returning to barracks when they were set upon by 30 Croat youths. Three other soldiers were seriously injured.

The group had been asked to leave a bar. As they returned to Divulje barracks they were attacked by youths armed with baseball bats and iron bars.

● An inquest at Newcastle

upon Tyne was told that Fus Gary Riches, 1 RRF, died in Bosnia last October from a bullet from his own rifle during "boisterous" horseplay.

Fus Edward Beddows was seriously wounded, and in March was arrested on suspicion of manslaughter. The Crown Prosecution Service ruled there was insufficient evidence for a prosecution. An open verdict was returned.



□ Gen Barry McCaffrey, a senior US commander during the Gulf War, said he feared as many as 24,000 of his troops may have been exposed to the nerve gas Sarin when US soldiers blew up an ammunition depot in southern Iraq shortly after the war ended. — *Guardian*

□ Actor David Groves, better known as Fus Joe Farrell in the hit TV series *Soldier Soldier*, has joined his local Territorial Army unit in Southfields, South-West London. — *Daily Mail*

□ Russia has warned against any move to deploy NATO military equipment in Eastern European countries expected to join the alliance before the end of the century. Stationing NATO's military infrastructure closer to the borders of Russia was "unacceptable" said Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov. — *Times*

□ France said it would not rejoin NATO's military wing unless the US kept its promise to give European partners greater independence within the alliance. — *Financial Times*



Picture: Mike Weston

Best in the world: Left to right are Sgt Billy Barrie, civilian instructor Phil Rosier, Sgt Mark Ablethorp, WO2 Garry Young, Sgt Paul Bayliss, Sgt Darren Lee and Sgt Tracey Sandy. The gun carriage centrepiece, created from margarine, was used in the competition. Missing is team manager Mike Allen, a civilian instructor

# Tasty work puts Army chefs on top of world

BRITISH Army chefs swept the board at the Culinary Olympics in Berlin and can now claim to be the Armed Forces world champions of cooking.

A team from the Army School of Catering in Aldershot produced mouth-water-

ing menus to beat off stiff international competition and win gold medals in both parts of the military section at the Culinary Olympics.

Their double success gave them outright victory over teams from the armies of Australia, Luxembourg, Belgium, the United States, Germany, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

To win their medals, the Aldershot squad produced meals in two separate categories.

In the first event they had to create seven different three-course meals, including a Christmas dinner, all served

cold with food a soldier might expect to eat on operations or exercises.

Second phase of the military competition was even more daunting: in just five hours the chefs had to cook and serve two menus for 200 diners using a German field kitchen.

"That was pretty tight," admitted team captain WO2 Garry Young. "But it was a proud moment when it was announced the team from Great Britain were the world champions and they raised the flag and played the National Anthem."

"This is the highest accolade Army caterers have ever won," he said.

# Expanding SSVC revamped

THE SSVC Group, whose international Army welfare services include BFBS radio and television, live entertainment, cinema and shops, has been restructured into two new complementary companies, Visua and TLI (Teleport London International).

From October 1, Visua will supply corporate communications services, including video and multimedia production, multimedia training courses, audio visual systems supply and installation and event management.

TLI, as part of the move to separate the flourishing group's commercial activity from its Forces welfare services, will provide satellite services, TV and production facilities and broadcast systems.

● See Lifestyle, Page 12.

## Speed of thought

Headquarters 3 (UK) Division assisted the Department of Transport with the launch of a "Kill Your Speed" campaign in South West England. Bulford Camp launched its own thought-provoking warning signs which were positioned on roads throughout the garrison area.





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## Gunners wade in to save drowning bullock

A FARMER in Co Antrim, Northern Ireland, praised troops serving at the Maze Prison after they prevented a bullock from drowning in the River Lagan near Lisburn.

Soldiers held the head of the trapped and exhausted steer above water until heavy lifting gear arrived to complete the rescue.

The soldiers were on a routine patrol about half a mile from their base at the prison when the farmer spotted them in the distance and raised the alarm.

He had tried unsuccessfully to pull the animal clear using heavy farm vehicles.

### KEPT CALM

The troops, serving with 14 (Cole's Kop) Battery, Royal Artillery, stayed with the bullock for about two hours to keep it calm, having radioed their base to send an Army recovery vehicle.

Not long afterwards the exhausted animal was safely back on dry land at Young's Bridge, Maze.

"When we heard the farmer's problem we dashed to the river to see what we could do," said patrol commander Bdr Andy McLaughlan.

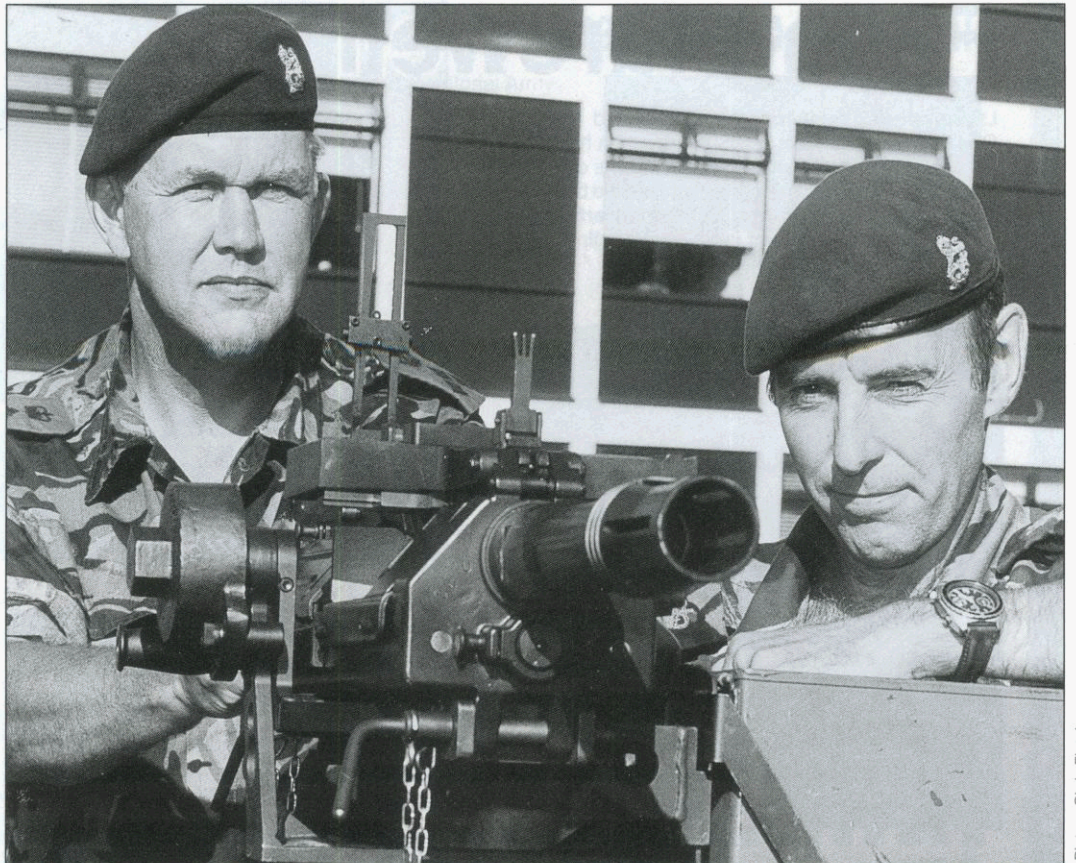
"The steer was obviously in a bad state. It fell over in the water several times through tiredness, and we were afraid it was going to drown.

"It was a race against time. My lads had to hold its head above water, which was really hard work. We're just glad it's all right."

The gunners are deployed as the Maze Prison Guard Force.

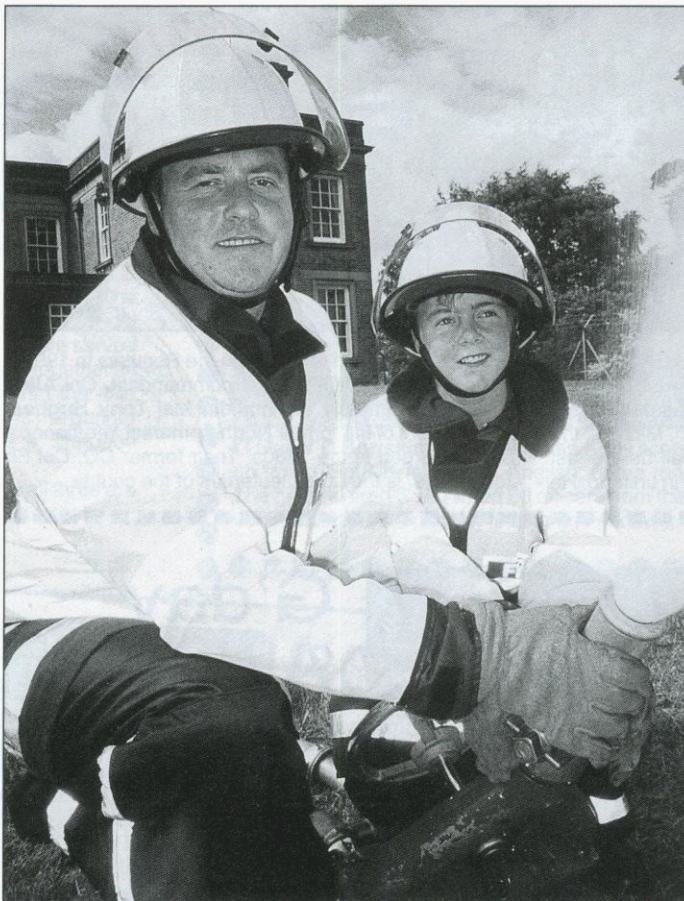
## Albanian package

AN MoD gift of three 4-ton trucks, combat clothing and vehicle parts has been delivered to Albania by soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment under a programme to make Albania a more effective contributor to international crisis management operations.



Picture Chris Fletcher

Joint force: the commanding officers of two élite brigades – airborne and Royal Marines – got together during a demonstration of ground forces' equipment and capabilities at 5 Airborne Brigade's headquarters in Aldershot. Brig Tony Milton (left), who commands 3 Commando Brigade, and Brig Graeme Lamb, of 5 Airborne Brigade, will work together in Britain's newly-formed Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF)



Sgt Robert Fuller and LCpl Claire Conway of 9 Regiment AAC train for firefighting duties in Derbyshire. Normally based at Dishforth Airfield in Yorkshire, 120 members of the unit manned Green Goddess fire engines during local industrial action by county fire services. The 9 Regiment personnel handed over to troops from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers based at Catterick

## Another good turn in Bosnia

GEN Sir Mike Walker, Commander ARRC, has formally opened the 200th completed ODA-IFOR project to be approved in the British area of operations in Bosnia.

Two opening ceremonies took place in the small town of Ostra Luka, the first at a refurbished primary school, and the second – and 200th – a rebuilt clinic.

British and Canadian troops have worked on a number of projects funded by the Overseas Development Administration, the aid wing of the British Government. Projects are identified and supervised by IFOR personnel and implemented by local contractors.

● In a reorganisation of peacekeeping forces in Bosnia following IFOR's initial commitment, Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson, Deputy Chief of Staff, HQ Land Command, will become deputy commander of Op Joint Endeavour in the rank of lieutenant general.



# Flying farewell

Lt Col **Alick Finlayson** (front) departed from The Queen's Royal Lancers at Osnabrück with his head in the clouds. The regiment said farewell to its commanding officer by giving him a glider flight piloted by Achmer Gliding Club chief instructor Sgt **Chris Hart**. Col Finlayson's next appointment is on the Directing Staff of the Staff College, Camberley.



## RECIPE FOR LIFE

Army apprentice **Andrew Hodgson** continued a family tradition when he signed up to become a trainee chef in the Royal Logistic Corps. Pictured with dad, Sgt **Paul Hodgson**, Andrew was one of 13 youngsters who were welcomed at the Preston Army Careers Office by recruiters Capt **Derek Atherton** and WO2 **Mike Smith**. Paul, who has been in the Army for 21 years, is himself working in a recruiting office, at Blackburn.

## Still going strong

Old soldiers don't fade away... at least when they are with Somerset's Army Cadet Force. Left to right are Maj **Paul Richardson**, Lt **Peter Vile**, Maj (QM) **Michael Sawyer**, and Capt (CAA) **John Barry-Tait**, pictured 30 years after they first served together in the Regulars.



Coincidence brought the four former members of the same Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry company together at an annual ACF camp in Staffordshire.

All four are officers in the Somerset Cadet Battalion, The Light Infantry (ACF) based at Taunton. Michael, the cadet quartermaster, reckons he may well be the last former Regular member of the old SLI still in uniform. He

enlisted in 1957 and retired from the Regulars in 1981. The Somerset ACF county commandant, Col **Allen Wise**, and company commander Maj **Tony Hughes**, are survivors of the former North Somerset Yeomanry, a TA unit purged in the 1960s. Their former CO, Col Sir **John Wills**, is the Lord Lieutenant of the county.



## Three for the Price of one

The King's Royal Hussars, currently providing the opposition force to British battlegroups training at Suffield in Canada, have three brothers on regimental duty. The Price boys - left to right, Cpl **Wayne** (26), 28-year-old LCpl **Kevin (Shaky)**, and Tpr **Robin** (22) - have served together all over the world. All three were together in Belfast in 1994. Wayne is a commander with the elite recon force at BATUS, Shaky operates and is the gunner in a Salamander tank and Robin drives a Sturgeon armoured personnel carrier.

Back at their permanent base in Germany all three are crewmen in Challenger, the Army's main battle tank.

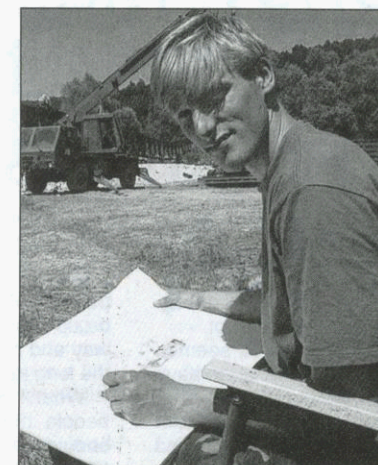


## Capital effort

Sgt **Christopher Bird** AGC has received a commendation from the City of London Police in recognition of his "professional ability, unstinting assistance and constant attention" provided to the City of London during planning for the complex and intricate operations to police the capital's commemorations which marked last year's 50th anniversaries of VE and VJ days.

## James was drawn to Bosnia

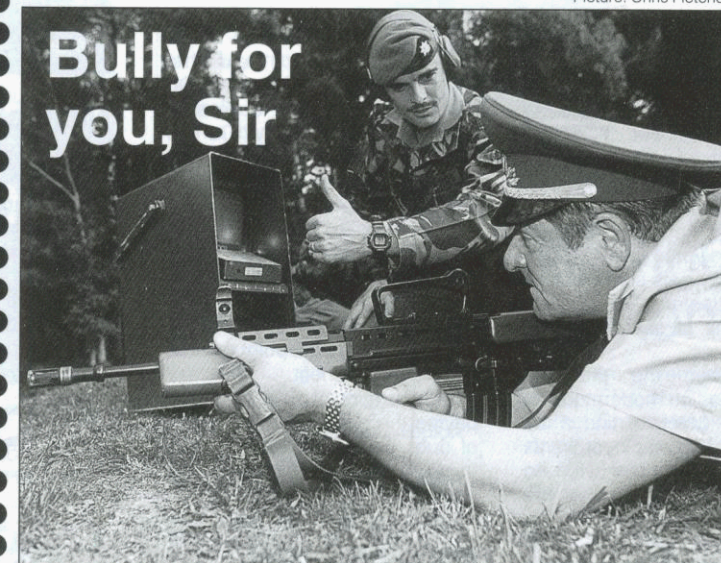
Territorial Army soldier Sig **James Beattie**, an art student at Camberwell Art College, puts his creative skills to use in Bosnia as an unofficial war artist. James found plenty of time to draw after volunteering for a six-month tour with NATO's Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in former Yugoslavia. He is serving with 68 Signal Squadron, 71 Signal Regiment, based at Lincoln's Inn, and attached to 1 Brigade Signal Squadron.



# PEOPLE

Picture: Chris Fletcher

## Bully for you, Sir



Lt Gen **V D Boriskin** of the Ukrainian Army scores a hit and earns a thumbs-up from CSgt **Chris Tate**, R Anglian, of the range staff at RMA Sandhurst. The general fired SA80 when 60 officers from the Ukrainian military academy visited Sandhurst on a fact-finding and goodwill mission.



## G'day Aldershot

Slouch hats and emu feathers are becoming increasingly familiar to troops around Aldershot. And all because four Australians and a New Zealander are serving with 4 Field Ambulance RAMC. The five from "Down Under" are halfway through an exchange tour. From left to right (back) are Kiwi Capt **Chris Mitchell**, Capt **Anne Brimson** and Sgt **Steve Anderson**, (front) Maj **Lisa McLean** and Sgt **Michael Clarke**.

## ROGER'S SWAN-SON

Football-mad recruiting staff at the Army Careers Office in Swansea have long enjoyed close links with Swansea City FC, and are main sponsors of the club's youth team. They also sponsor the shorts of first team regular **Kwame Ampadu** (left). But their interest reached new heights when 18-year-old **Craig Hailes** (right), son of senior recruiter WO2 **Roger Hailes** (centre), was given a trial with the Swans' reserves.

The Swans are always delighted to hear from their fans in the Services. Anyone who wants to make a musical dedication during the pre-match entertainment should write to Maj (Retd) **Reg Pike**, Programme Co-ordinator, Swansea City FC, Vetch Field, Swansea.





## Money, marriage . . . and the time for a serious talk

FOR MANY middle-aged women, who married soldier husbands when they were both young, divorce in later life can leave them emotionally and financially bankrupt.

In the beginning it all seemed so simple: it made sense to have a joint bank account because he was away so often. Posted out of the UK, the young wife would find that she couldn't pursue her career, so her financial contribution was minimal.

As the years passed, she would become a dependant in every sense of the word. Having no money, she would feel that she couldn't influence how "their" money was saved or spent. Savings would depend on her husband's prudence.

As the years ticked by she would make no contribution to pension or savings plans which might benefit her specifically. Then, as she turns 40, the bombshell hits her: he loves someone else and leaves.

She arrives back in the UK with no home of her own and no money. The divorce goes through and she finally gets some kind of financial settlement – not a great deal, but she is secure for the moment.

That's when the problems begin. She has no modern qualifications with which to find a job and, besides, no employer wants a 40-year-old woman with no experience. As she looks to the future she realises she has no pension other than the small State one, and little time to save for her future, even if she can find a job.

If you think my imagination is running away, let me say that this scenario is a *combination* of the experiences of *many* women of my acquaintance.

For them there is only practical advice to help them cope. But the moral, for younger women, is clear. When you decide to marry a soldier, take one very unromantic evening out of your courtship to discuss money.

Money, like sex and death, is one of the great British taboos. In fact, I think it's probably the least easy to talk about – and a *major factor in marital disharmony*.

Young women must take their financial life seriously. If the marriage lasts a lifetime, both partners will benefit from sensible planning. If it ends, then the vulnerable partner – usually the wife

– has some protection. This is not to say that I am urging young men and women to go out and get a pension plan. For some, this will tie up money in an unacceptable way and it may not profit them in the long run.

What I am suggesting is that people marrying into the Army should seek expert advice on financial planning.

So what are the factors to bear in mind? First, I suggest you get advice from a variety of sources. Try to find advisers who are independent – people who will not benefit from selling you a policy or plan. Or ask several advisers who make no secret of the fact that their company benefits. Don't agree to anything on the spot: take away the literature and compare benefits.

Make it clear what your needs are. Do you want access to your money? Do you want a plan that allows you to stop making contributions if you are not working? Do you like a risk, or would you prefer to have complete security?

Once you have the options, sit down with your prospective partner and talk about it . . . honestly. If you feel awkward, point out that you will both benefit.

A generation of older women is paying the price for their notions of duty, by being "wives of" and trusting in the institution of marriage. This was their "net".

No such net exists these days, and some would argue that society is the healthier for it.

When you decide to marry a soldier, you have to accept that one of you is going to spend long periods out of the workplace.

It makes sense to take your financial future seriously from the start. Those who need to heed this advice the most are young women. If you want more information about women and money management, drop me a line.

Finally, lest anyone about to get married into the Army thinks I'm the spectre at the feast, let me say I wish them the best of luck. While Army spouse might be the toughest job in the world, it's probably one of the most rewarding.

But no one should have to pay for the privilege.

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

## Aldershot centre helps Pioneers build for future

SIXTEEN soldiers from 522 Squadron, 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, became pioneers in the wider sense when they sharpened their artisan skills at the tri-Service Resettlement Centre, Aldershot.

They were the first group of Pioneers to take advantage of spare capacity at the centre to learn new construction trade and building maintenance

skills and update themselves on others.

Lt Col Mark Baker, CO 23 Pioneer Regt, said: "Although the Pioneers have always been asked to use artisan skills in operational areas, we have been receiving an increasing demand for these skills, especially in places such as Bosnia."

"For example, the buildings in an area that has been

bombed will have lost many staircases, so my troops are often asked to build new ones.

"Although we receive some training in artisan skills, this is a great opportunity for my soldiers to improve and learn new ones such as carpentry and joinery."

The 16 Pioneers who attended the four-week introductory course, which covers 13 skills

ranging from bricklaying to wiring and plastering, went through as a group, Lt Col David Bowman, the centre's commandant, explained.

This enabled their course, and future courses mooted for Pioneers, to be adapted to their special needs so as not to affect the centre's main customers – those about to leave the Services.

## Lot of bottle

Brig Alastair Duncan, Commander 19 Mechanised Brigade, does the honours at the opening of the Catterick Garrison region's first Army day nursery, aided and abetted by Mrs Annette Donovan, supervisor of the Dales Nursery, which is housed in a bungalow adjoining the garrison's Dales Club.

A recent new father himself, the brigadier was presented with the symbolic large baby bottle, held by the ribbons, as a keepsake . . .



### Naafi cheques in

□ A cheque for £30,000 from the Naafi will help Service families whose marriages have broken up.

The donation, contributed by Naafi's suppliers, will enable SSAFA to provide short-stay accommodation for separated families in a new development of 24 flats scheduled to be opened at Hatch End, North London, in November.

## SSVC welfare set for the future

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE-based SSVC will continue to provide a range of welfare services to the Forces under contract to the MoD following a restructuring.

From October 1, the group's welfare services will be separated from its fast-developing commercial activities.

The latter have been restructured into two new complementary companies, Teleport London International (TLI) and Visua.

SSVC's welfare services work will be underpinned by a five-year contract currently being negotiated with the government to provide radio and television services to Forces personnel worldwide.

For the next five years, as well as providing its usual programming for the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS), SSVC will also run Forces television – to be renamed BFBS TV.

The group will also maintain a sales and distribution operation, providing consumer products and video rental for military personnel through shops on overseas bases, and will run the 20 Forces cinemas, which attract annual audiences of more than 155,000.

Combined Services Entertainment (CSE), which sends out 40 overseas tours a year, will continue to provide entertainment to the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy from Belize to Bosnia.

David Crwys-Williams, SSVC managing director, commented: "SSVC was founded as a charitable organisation to provide services for the Armed Forces and their families while generating some income for Services charities. We are proud of our roots and 50 years of experience, and these welfare services show our commitment to that heritage."

## Special needs seminar

TOPICS including Service accommodation and activity holidays for people with disabilities will be covered at a one-day conference on special needs at Empress State Building in London on November 6.

Being held for the third time, the biennial SSAFA-sponsored seminar will include guest speakers from the Carers National Association,

RAF Headley Court Rehabilitation Unit and MoD policy branches.

Joint organiser the Queen Elizabeth Group, which deals with disability issues within the Services, will be launching a members' forum at the event.

Details on the seminar and forum from Jan Illingworth at SSAFA, tel 0171- 403 8783

## YMCA's listening ear in Split

INTERNATIONAL, all-ranks soldiers' homes have been set up in Split and Sarajevo by a group of charitable organisations including the YMCA.

The Young Men's Christian Association and other European charitable organisations already working with soldiers have joined up to form a multi-national group known as ECHOS – European Christian Home Organisations for the Services.

"This closer co-operation among several nations allows the opportunity to develop our work within today's multi-national military oper-

ations," said Ian Browning, director of YMCA Services in Herford, Germany. "The care being expressed by ECHOS is not only through physical and social well-being but, as it derives directly from the Christian faith, also spiritual needs."

The homes provide rare facilities in this war-ravaged region: meals and refreshments, a wide range of reading materials, video games, table tennis and a listening ear. In Sarajevo the home has a small chapel, where soldiers can take time to reflect and where regular services are held.

"Not only our customers benefit

from these services," said Ian Browning. "Our staff gain valuable experience on two fronts – working with their international colleagues and providing this much appreciated service in a difficult environment."

Having visited the theatre recently to see at first hand how the YMCA is helping the troops, Ian added: "My return trip allowed me to reflect on the difficult situation in which the soldiers operate and their appreciation of YMCA's contribution to their quality of life."

"This is a natural extension of YMCA's work with the Forces in Germany."

# Wives get a taste of the Army

WIVES and girlfriends of members of Larkhill-based United Kingdom Force Artillery, Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) aimed to discover what field soldiering is all about when they donned combat kit and joined up for a 24-hour military "exercise" on Salisbury Plain.

During the event, they lived under canvas, ate Army ration packs, cooked on infantry field stoves, carried out drills with 105mm guns and tried their skills at simulated rifle firing and artillery fire observation.

## Aussie Service families to reap budget benefits

AUSTRALIAN Service families with children will be thousands of dollars better off under proposed family tax initiatives announced in the country's recent Federal Budget.

"The changes (which are subject to legislation being introduced) will see a \$1,000 increase in the income tax-free threshold for one member of a couple, or a sole parent, for a dependent child up to 16 years where the family taxable income is less than \$70,000," said Col Bob Brown, Director of Defence Force Pay and Allowances.

"We wanted to show the girls the type of training their partners do during the year," said RSM David Lynch, "but we also wanted them to enjoy the event."

"So there were some light-hearted aspects to the weekend, including an end-of-exercise family barbecue – an opportunity for the girls to boast how easy it all was!"

Single-service personnel with a taxable income of less than \$35,000 who are covered by private health insurance will be among those who will be awarded government rebates from July next year.

## Charlie's in the final reckoning

LONG-time resident of Richmond's Royal Star and Garter Home, Charlie Hankins, has been nominated as a finalist in this year's Help the Aged Tunstall Golden Awards.

Charlie, 76, was put forward for the Outstanding Achievement category – one of five categories in the awards – for his fund-raising activities for the Home and other charities.

Despite being severely disabled, the former Black Watch, Royal Highland Regiment, soldier has raised more than £300,000.

Before now, he has hand-propelled his Second World War invalid carriage from Richmond to Worthing for people blinded in the war, propelled himself down the Thames, taken part in a marathon, undertaken tandem parachute jumps and sampled a sub-aqua dive in Loch Ness.

### Hart housing chance

□ Two and three bedroomed houses are available at Winchfield, Hampshire from early 1997. Applications are being accepted only from Servicemen and women with families who are on, or likely to be accepted for, the Hart District Council housing waiting list.



# Challenger 2 power on show as nations build bridges

LAYING a Challenger tank's gunsight on a BMP armoured fighting vehicle gave Col Yedygin, a former Soviet mechanised infantry commander, a slightly uncomfortable feeling.

But he fired . . . and destroyed the kind of vehicle he used to work in.

No real damage was done, because the BMP was on a screen and the Challenger's new L30 gun was part of the precision training facility at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre's range at Lulworth.

RSM Michael Everton of the Royal Tank Regiment could as easily have produced a Challenger, Warrior, Leopard or any other image as a target on the screen.

It did not really matter. The lesson was not in recognition, it was in mastering the Challenger 2 firing system.

As long as students locked-on properly with a simple dot aiming mark, fired their laser, then pressed the main armament firing button, the target would be destroyed and a satisfying if muffled "boom" would be heard, signifying a catastrophic kill.

It is easy to learn with the new training package, which gives virtual-reality scenarios on ranges, deserts, prairies, towns and central European countryside.

The Russian colonel was one of 38 international observers from 20 countries who attended a demonstration of Challenger 2 and a revolutionary new system for crossing rivers and other wide spaces.

All the visitors were impressed by what they saw during Operation Cray, arranged as one of the confidence-building measures set out in the Vienna Document.

Along with the Conventional Forces Europe (CFE) treaty and the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) agreement, the openness required by the Vienna Document is designed to foster trust and understanding by exchanging military information.

Any of the 52 signatories may visit each other's country to inspect equipment or observe exercises. There is also a requirement to demonstrate new kit, hence the facility to see Challenger 2 and "Bridging for the 90s" under the auspices of the



Interested parties: Maj Gen Christopher Elliott (centre), DG Individual Training, and military observers from 20 countries watch the Challenger 2 and BR90 in action on the Lulworth range

United Kingdom Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG).

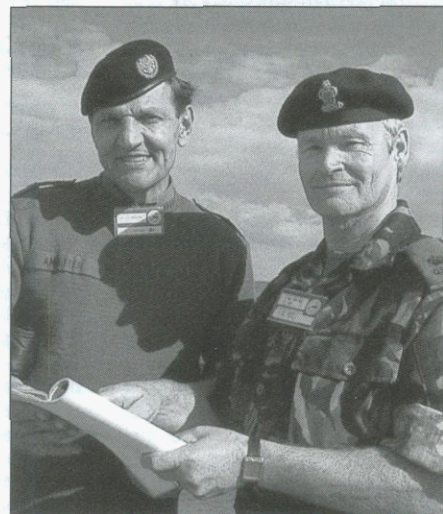
Challenger 2 gave a dramatic illustration of the power of the Army's new main battle tank. In 26 seconds, six separate targets were engaged and destroyed – quicker than an automatic loader, said Maj Geoffrey Vesey Holt of the RAC Centre.

The speed was due to LCpl Sam Boyd's immaculate loading of the three elements of the round; the success was due to a hunter-killer facility provided by the Canadian computer.

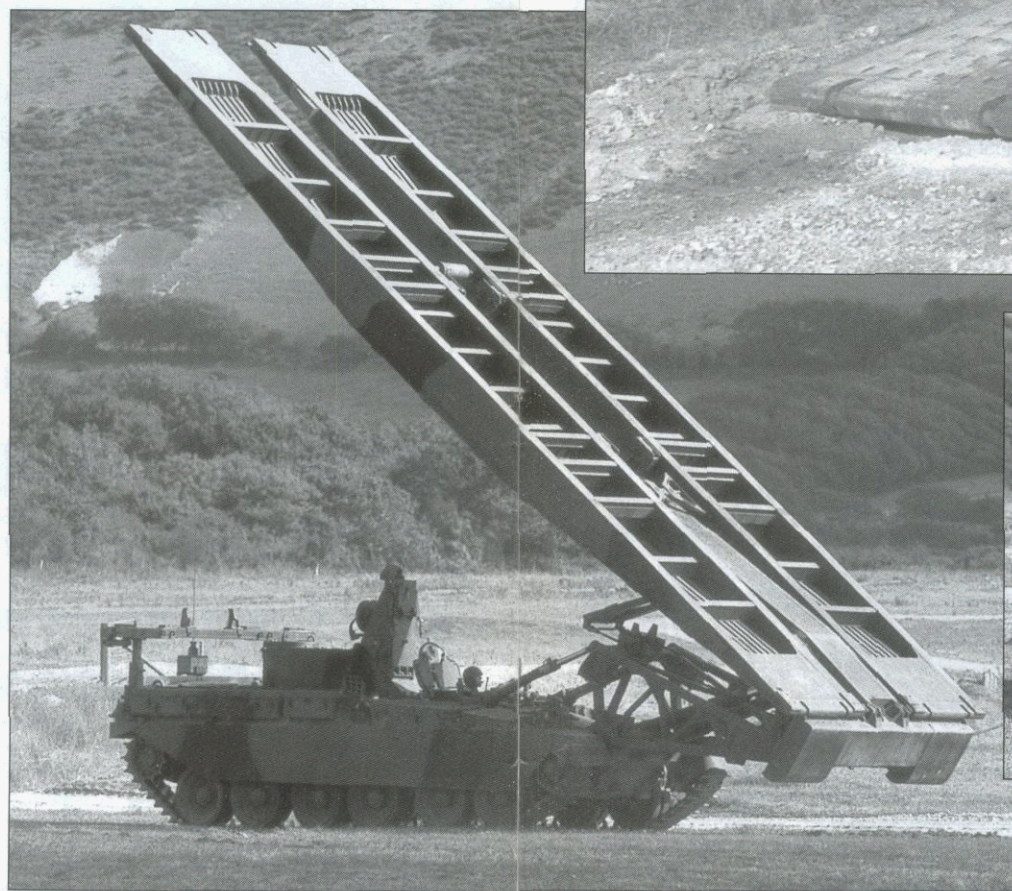
While the gunner, Tpr Martin Smith, was engaging one target, the commander, Cpl Colin MacIntyre, was lining up on the next target.

With the flick of a switch on his hand-controller the corporal moved gun and gunner onto his point of aim and could then either destroy the target or hand it over to the gunner while he searched for the next one.

"A series of trials have examined the areas of concern in the production tanks, which was mainly with the turrets," said Maj Vesey Holt. "The last trial appears to have identified and resolved those issues and the detailed contract negotiations are taking place."



As a warrant officer on exchange at Fort Knox in the USA, Maj Albert Hogg QRH (right), taught Austrian Col Ewald Angetter, then a captain, how to fire the M60 A3 gun. Maj Hogg now supervises gunnery instruction at Lulworth



Going up: A Chieftain AVLB launches the new Bridging for the Nineties system and (inset), the tank bridge transporter (TBT) vehicle delivers the No 10 bridge in "flatpack" mode

Challenger 2 is, not surprisingly, the most capable, lethal, mobile and best-protected tank the British Army has ever brought into service.

Observers from non-aligned countries commented that while other tanks might

be more heavily front-armoured, more mobile or boast more expensive components, Challenger 2 was the best all-round main battle tank they had seen.

No less exciting for the Royal Engineers was the demonstration of their new family



A potent combination: Challenger 2 rumbles over the Royal Engineers' versatile new close support bridging system during a confidence-building demonstration at the RAC Centre range

Support Bridging System early next year. Major innovation is that the general support system uses the same modular panels as the longer-span close support bridge.

Compared with the 26 seconds of a Challenger's six lethal rounds, the stately depositing of a bridge in three to five minutes may not seem dramatic, but the new AVLB can carry two of the new shorter-span versions.

With the same signature as the previous vehicle, it can provide double the bridging capacity to battle groups pressing forward.

"To my knowledge, no other army has the ability to mix close and general support bridging," said Maj Mark Sullivan, officer commanding the Royal Engineers Wing at the RAC Centre. "With a unique new wheeled tank bridge transporter able to follow and resupply the close support bridges wherever the battle groups go, the time taken in bridging will be cut by half."

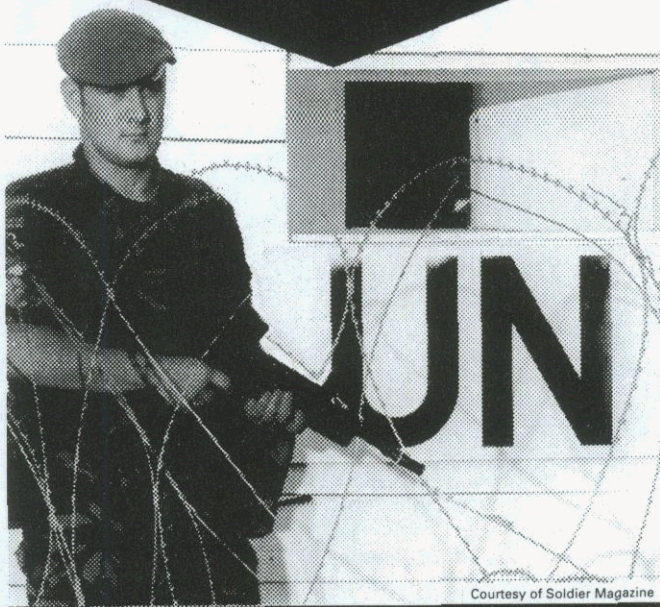
of Close Support Bridging systems for the Nineties. The equipment will replace all the Army's current armoured vehicle-launched bridges and has been designed to be launched and recovered by the Chieftain Armoured Vehicle Launcher Bridge (AVLB).

Capable of spanning larger gaps than the previous generation, the new bridges are being introduced to 22 and 32 Engineer Regiments and will be followed by a General

Report: Gordon Skilling  
Pictures: Mike Weston



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Courtesy of Soldier Magazine

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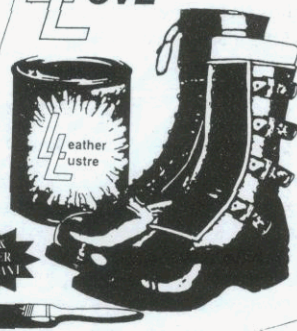
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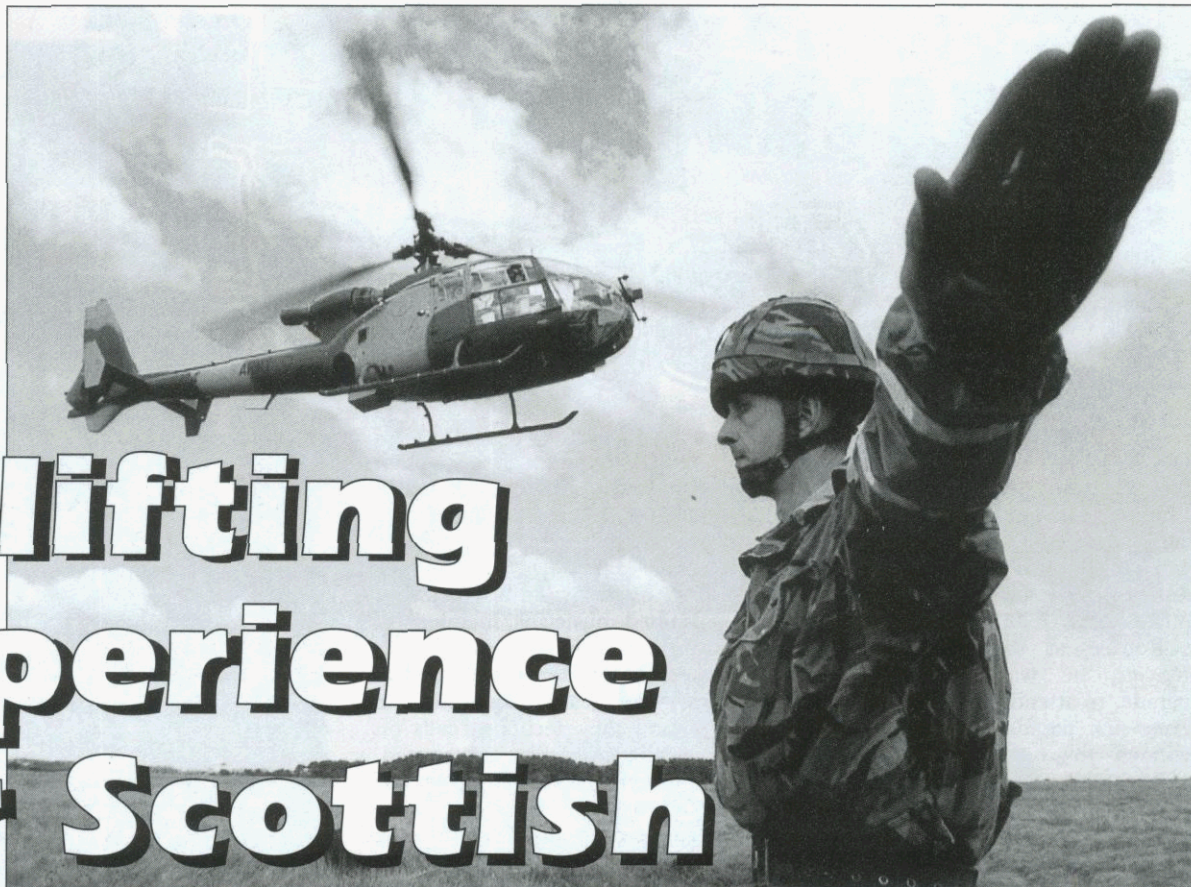
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Right – In safe hands: Helicopter handler Sgt Colin Denovan, of 117 (Highland) Plant Squadron, 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (V) – a member of The Black Watch (HQ Company) – guides one in for landing



# Uplifting experience for Scottish Terriers

HELICOPTER handling teams were thoroughly put to the test in an annual Army Headquarters Scotland exercise to ensure that their experience and qualifications were up to scratch.

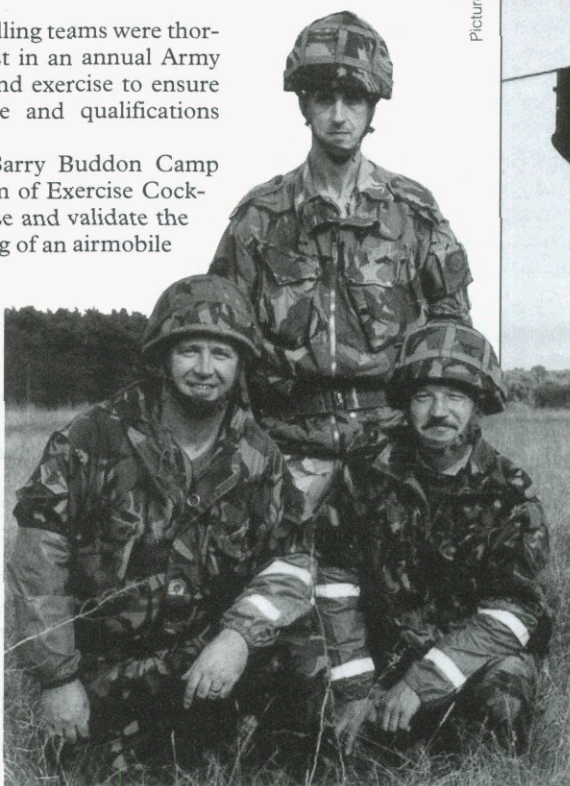
Taking place at Barry Buddon Camp near Dundee, the aim of Exercise Cockfeather was to practise and validate the teams in the mounting of an airmobile operation.

TA soldiers from The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, The Highlanders, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, The Black Watch and the Scottish Yeomanry participated.

Support was supplied by the Scottish Transport Regiment, 3 Flight, Army Air Corps (Volunteers) from RAF Leuchars and Chinook helicopters from RAF Odiham.

First phase of the exercise involved light-lift operations using Gazelle helicopters, with Pumas and Chinooks being used later to carry troops and heavy battlefield equipment.

Gazelles also provided top-cover air support, simulating battle zone operational



Pictures: Mark Owens



Left – We can handle it, say Sgt Colin Denovan (standing), Sgt Brian Kennedy and WO2 John Wilkinson as they pause during their validation exercise

Left – Striking silhouette: In the fading light at Barry Buddon, a truck is hoisted like a child's toy

"The only way to revalidate it is by doing the annual exercise in Scotland: if they don't, their validation is null and void."

Infantry troops were lifted by Puma and taken to another training area, the Chinook carrying out daytime lifts of both equipment and men and the Gazelles engaged in various battlefield roles throughout the day.

In the evening, the infantry were moved on, intermingled with lifts of four-tonners, Land Rovers with and without trailer attached, large crate boxes and a tractor.

"Everything seemed to go very well," said Lt Boyd.

"The helicopter lift was particularly successful, although it

probably took longer than expected because of the fading light."

Later, the helicopters had to pick up the kit again from where they had left it – and land it in complete darkness.

"It was quite an active evening, to say the least," Lt Boyd added.

requirements. "Handlers attend a two-week course at Brize Norton originally," explained Lt Amanda Boyd, 7th/8th (Volunteers) Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's), who was part of the team co-ordinating the infantry side of Cockfeather.



# Trumpeters ready! Sound!

ONCE upon a time every schoolboy knew that the sun never set on the British Empire. If he became a soldier he discovered there were few corners of that Empire wherein he was not summoned to his duties by the clangour of trumpet and bugle calls.

Roused at some ungodly hour by *Reveille*, he was bidden to parade, to attend orderly room, even sick parade – if a cavalryman or gunner – to groom his horse at stables.

At 2200 hours *Last Post* warned that he had only 15 minutes before lights out commanded him to douse the barrackroom butts and settle quietly into his cot for the night.

Today there cannot be many white-haired ex-soldiers whose lives were once regulated by trumpet or bugle. The official calls, or “sounds” as military parlance had it, boasted a venerable pedigree, dating from 1798 when the first regulatory manual was published.

Who actually composed those calls is unknown, but they were collated and “set into print” by a Trumpet Major James Hyde of the prestigious Westminster Light Horse Volunteers – a part-time unit which did not survive the Napoleonic wars.

It is said that many of the calls were based on ancient foreign originals: for instance the old Prussian *reveille* had much in common with the modern British version.

Successive editions of the *Manual of Trumpet and Bugle Sounds for the Army* (“Calls” after 1966) contained the music for 83 routine and field calls which both officers and soldiers were expected to recognise and act upon.

Routine calls were those sounded in camp and quarters – *Reveille*, Mess Call (or “Cook-house”), Orderly Room, Stables (for mounted corps), *Last Post* and the rest. Field calls, as their name implied, were those employed to direct manoeuvres, change of pace and so on in the field. Thus cavalrymen (and gunners) obeyed Mount, Dismount, Walk, March, Trot, Head Right, Wheel and numerous others. The brass trumpet, “Duty trumpet”, was the instrument employed by all mounted units – cavalry, gunners, RE, RASC – and had a compass of

ten notes, though only eight were used in the calls. The smaller (copper) bugle had only five notes, hence the simpler bugle calls.

Cavalry trumpeters were trained musicians, members of the band. On service one trumpeter was allotted to each squadron to sound the executive calls on the bugle which he also carried. In the Royal Artillery however, the trumpeters were boys, between 14 and 18, with little or no musical learning.

As a personal aside, I can reveal that in the 1930s I qualified as an RHA trumpeter, having learned the calls parrot-fashion from the Trumpet Major instructors at Woolwich. In the regiment we were dubbed “Badgies”, which had no relation to the crossed-trumpet badges on our sleeves, but was derived from the Hindustani *Baja wallah*, “Music wallah”. On attaining “man service” at 18, we handed over our instruments to a fresh-faced youngster from Woolwich and adopted the sterner pursuits of gunner, driver, signaller or whatever.

Infantry buglers were also drummers, under the drum major, and (except in rifle



Once every regiment and corps had its own “call” . . . trumpeters of the now disbanded WRAC pictured in 1989

regiments) were expected to perform on the fife, a simple high-pitched flute. Drum-and-fife bands were the earliest forms of military “bands”, dating from Elizabethan times, if not earlier. Shakespeare writes of “the spirit-stirring drum and the ear-piercing fife”.

Generations of trumpeters and buglers have set words to calls, and some of these mnemonics have passed into public folklore. We all know the tune to what the manual terms Men’s Meals: “O come to the cookhouse door, boys, come to the cookhouse door”. The words exactly fit the musical notation.

Similarly with the trumpet *Reveille*: “Rise soldiers rise, and-put-your-breeches-on.”

For Sick Parade the soldier’s grim humour came to the fore: “One-o-two, one-o-four, he’ll never go sick no more, the poor bugger-is-dead”.

How many doddery ex-buglers remember the tune for Officers’ Dinner? “Oh Officers’ wives have puddings and pies, sergeants’ wives get skilly”.

Thanks to television the public are familiar with the poignant notes of *Last Post* sounded at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day. But what of all the others?

The *Manual of Trumpet and Bugle Calls for the Army* contained not only the regulation routine and field calls, but the individual regimental calls for every regiment, from the Life Guards to the Army Catering Corps and the Women’s Royal Army Corps.

These “signature tunes”, if you like,

were to be sounded immediately before the routine calls in barracks, thus identifying the unit concerned. This was especially necessary when several regiments were quartered within earshot of each others’ trumpeters or buglers.

As with the routine calls there is no record of who devised them (was it regimental bandmasters?) but the earliest date from the 1830s and there was a tradition in the 7th Hussars that they were the brain-child of Lt Gen Sir Hussey Vivian, former CO of the 7th and later Inspector-General of Cavalry (1835-1840).

The venerable routine and field calls may now be obsolete. But at the discretion of commanding officers some may still be heard. In their St John’s Wood quarters soldiers of the King’s Troop RHA obey the trumpet’s summons to Stables, Watering Order, Feed and the rest, as did all gunners and cavalrymen in their far-flung stations of the Empire.

● As this article was being prepared for publication *Soldier* received the sad news of the death of the author at the age of 82.

John Brereton, who joined the Royal Horse Artillery as a boy trumpeter in 1932 and retired in the rank of major, was commissioned in 1940 and posted to the Indian 3rd Cavalry. Leading his squadron in the Malayan Campaign in 1941, he was captured by the Japanese and spent three-and-a-half years on the infamous Death Railway in Thailand.

Two further articles by John Brereton, a noted military historian, will be published in forthcoming issues: the second, just received from his widow Barbara, had been completed shortly before her husband’s death.



December 1948: The Royal Artillery Boys Battery



Student Musician Faye Pemberton tries the conductor’s rostrum for size at the opening of the new Kneller Hall bandstand

## Pride of Kneller

A NEW “Rock” has been inaugurated at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall in Twickenham.

After 60 years’ loyal service the old and much loved bandstand, which has been the proving ground for generations of directors of music and bandmasters, had to be replaced.

In 1930, Student Bandmaster Arthur Hibbert was given the task of designing a new concrete bandstand for the school. The previous wooden structure was showing the effects of the musicians’ habit of stealing bits of the structure as kindling for their barrack room stoves.

Royal Engineers started work on it in 1932 and the first concert was given on May 18, but by 1993, “Hibbert’s Rock” had deteriorated into an unsafe condition.

Funds were not immediately available and 250 props helped shore it up and enable the 1994 and 1995 summer concerts to take place.

When money eventually became available the Rock was demolished in 1995 to be replaced by a bandstand which is 85 per cent moveable and with a sound and lighting system designed using the most modern technology.

To commemorate the opening of the new bandstand, eminent composer Ray Steadman-Allen was commissioned to write a suitable piece of music for band and fanfare trumpets.

Entitled “Pride of Place”, it met with approval when it helped inaugurate the new bandstand in the presence of the Commandant, Col Tim Hoggarth, and Toby Jessel, MP for Twickenham.





Above – Cpl Dickie Hodgins of 2 RRF LAD REME hands over command to a Polish sapper to guide his Warrior 513 recovery vehicle onto the ferry

Left – Cpl Brian Wells, Tpr Mark Da-Nobrega and LCpl “Streaky” Bacon discuss their successful first crossing on a Polish PP 64 ferry

# Desert Rats test Polish waters

THE graceful white swan slowly recovered its poise and took a haughty look at the very big and ugly duckling which was suddenly sharing its territory.

The swan was flustered. So was the 60-ton Challenger main battle tank which had blundered into its pond and was clearly out of its depth.

Watching from a Gazelle helicopter, Brig David Montgomery saw the funny side of things.

He expected the unexpected when he took the Desert Rats of 7 Armoured Brigade into Poland for Exercise Ulan Eagle.

It was unexplored territory. Navigation would be difficult and things would go wrong. Just like the first skier on a downhill slope, he was taking it gently.

So was LCpl Steven “Streaky” Bacon of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment as he edged his Challenger – aptly named Nomad – on to a Polish PP64 ferry.

He had drawn the short straw in a fierce competition not to be the first tank on the ferry.

Two supporting companies of 140 Polish engineers each had three ferries capable of carrying 80 tons, but were used to carrying T72s, 20 tons lighter than the 62-ton Challenger.

Lt Artur Tymoczko of the 1st Polish Engineer Brigade never thought he would see a British main battle tank cross a Polish river on a Polish ferry when he joined up 12 years ago.

Nor did Maj Peter Cross, 2iC of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. As he clattered on to the ferry in his Warrior infantry fighting vehicle, he reflected on how he had only expected to see such vessels when they were being shelled by NATO forces.

Both LCpl Bacon and Cpl Dickie Hodgins, of 2 RRF LAD REME, who followed the major in his Warrior 513 recovery vehicle, said the Polish ferrying skills were the best they had encountered.

The crossing went swimmingly – not literally – with two small boats nosing the

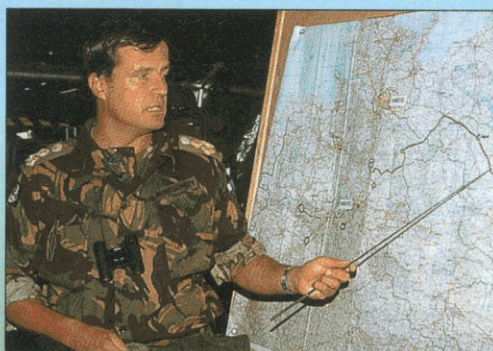
ponderous burden across the wide river quickly and efficiently.

And the warm welcome and lively interest of 23 English-speaking Polish liaison officers attached to the brigade added

spice, particularly for Brig Montgomery as he compared notes with a Polish brigadier whose Cold War battle plan had been to attack NATO’s front line between Hamburg and Hanover.

“It was our plan to stop them,” said Brig Montgomery.

He could not have imagined 24 years



Brig David Montgomery briefs on 7 Armd Bde’s long journey to Poland

ago when he joined the cavalry that he would be joking with a Polish brigadier about who would have won the battle.

It was also unbelievable to be invited into the prototype of the new Polish PT91 tank.

There was no shyness between former adversaries in discussing the recent past, he said, and it was amazing to him how the Poles saw their time in the Warsaw Pact as a blip in the two countries’ friendship.

“We were allies and after the events of 1989 we are again the best of friends,” said the brigadier.

Instead of meeting on the field of battle, Brits and Poles met on a gently undulating plain speckled with clear lakes and covered



Above – LCpl “Streaky” Bacon prepares to leave the Polish PP 64 pontoon ferry

Left – Challenger roars over areas once dominated by T 72s



taught us that you can’t move as fast as you think you can. We are used to training in the wide open prairies of Canada where you can go flat out and the only limit is your speed.

“In Poland, you really have to allow a huge fudge factor because when there are a lot of troops on the ground, Murphy’s Law operates.

“You can plan everything, and we have done several exercises moving troops here, there and everywhere on the map, and everything went all right.

“Murphy does not work like that. He is alive and kicking in Poland.”

Movement to and from Pomerania went smoothly and was easier, and cheaper, than going a third of the way round the world to Alberta.

The comparatively short road and rail move to Drawsko-Pomorski meant that as well as exercising the logistic chain, crews were able to drive their own vehicles, resulting in a remarkable increase in reliability. At BATUS crews operate vehicles serviced and driven hard by previous units.

“A base overhaul at BATUS is not the same because no two tanks are the same,” said LCpl Bacon. “You know the quirks of your own vehicle. You know how she drives and performs, it is your wagon, and you know you have to put the time in to maintain it.”

After setting up the infrastructure over

● Turn to next page

by dense woods broken by swathes of sandy heath where Warsaw Pact regiments used to practise their plan – now openly admitted – to attack through NATO.

Signs had been removed from canals and rivers built to exactly the same dimensions as canals and rivers on the way to the Rhine.

The Desert Rats had a wry smile at cut-out Challenger tank targets on the ranges.

Double the size of Soltau and slightly bigger than Salisbury Plain, the Drawsko-Pomorski training area gave outstanding value to 7 Armd Bde.

In the 400 sq km area there was a large strip of heathland much like Canada’s prairies, said Chief of Staff Maj Paul Holt.

This was the former Warsaw Pact training area, well scoured by large tank formations.

The woods and lakes meant that British armoured tactics proved in Canada had to be radically modified. Rapid movement over large tracts of unbroken countryside was no longer possible; battle groups were quickly swallowed up in the Polish forests.

“It is amazing the effect this terrain has on you,” said Brig Montgomery. “It has



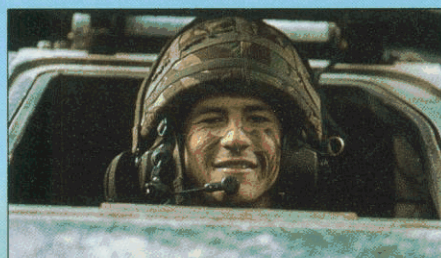


Fus Kenneth Smith (left) and LCpl John Stuart of 1 RHF are ready for any armour with their LAW 80 anti-tank weapon



Cpl Ian Wilson and 2 Section of 1 Platoon take up fire positions during 1 RHF's test exercise

## Unfamiliar battleground poses new challenges



Warrior driver Fus Patrick Doherty of 1 RHF is ready to move when the enemy arrives



Above – Grounded, but not for long: 2 RTR tankies leave their Challengers and prepare to take to the air in Puma helicopters  
Left – Jocks from 1 RHF's 1 Platoon debus from their Warrior infantry fighting vehicle

### ● From Page 21

four days, then moving in over another four days, units had six days to train under their own steam to complete a series of objectives such as covering assault obstacle crossings, fighting in woods and forests, and mastering the art of movement over the tricky terrain.

The brigade commander then put his 2 RTR and 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers battle groups through two 24-36 hour exercises.

They carried out their battle runs separately and without any flank play, before all the elements came together with the whole brigade working to one mission.

As 2 RRF has only recently converted to Warrior, it provided the enemy for both the test exercises and the brigade exercise while 35 Engineer Regiment Group ensured mobility or obstacles as required. Command elements of 40 Regiment, Royal Artillery (The Lowland Gunners) also deployed, with several pipers.

"The emphasis was on quick reaction, not slow, deliberate planning," said Maj Holt.

The need to practise the swift transition from one phase to another was not lost on Capt Nick Borton, adjutant of 1 RHF.

"The CO gives rapid orders over the radio, then company and platoon commanders have to be ready to change, plan quickly, and get onto another footing," he said.

"The key to armoured operations is deciding and acting quickly. Whoever can make his plan, decide what to do, tell everybody else what they have to do, and do it more quickly than the other side, is inevitably going to win," he declared.

As well as navigation, commanders had to come to terms with finding new routes, maintenance, route selection, getting through places and assessing the country, said Capt Borton.

Following in the Highland Light Infantry footsteps of his grandfather in both world wars, his father in the Cyprus emergency and his cousin, Lt Col Niall Campbell, the previous 2iC of 1 RHF, Capt Borton saw huge potential for training in Poland.

There was scope for battle groups and brigades in years to come by using live-firing and Tactical Engagement Simulation kit, he said.

Perhaps the greatest single benefit of training in Poland was that the area was completely new to the British soldiers.

"A squadron commander with 12 years'

experience and six in Germany knows every normal training area," said Deputy Chief of Staff Maj Jake Thackray. "But in Poland, he has to think it out."

Capt Ben Amponsam of 2 RTR was impressed by the new terrain.

"Even things as natural as road signs in Polish bring it home to you just how far away we are from our normal areas."

"In places it was a bit like Soltau and in others a bit like Salisbury Plain, but you realised you were in Poland when a Polish engineer armed with a Kalashnikov jumped out and guided you on to his ferry with flags. It was all very strange to see."

At the peak of their training, 2 RTR spent last year as the opposing force on the Canadian prairies at BATUS, but never encoun-

tered wooded and watered countryside.

"Water was not an issue. In Canada, a 'river' was a ditch with no water. We would have to ask whether it was in play. But now we come up against massive rivers and there is no question of driving through."

Tankies immediately noticed a difference between their tactics and those of the former Warsaw Pact.

"They charged along huge tank rides, using them as battle runs and never coming off them," said Capt Amponsam. "The Poles have been surprised at how we manoeuvre freely and are not concerned about staying on tracks."

Such freedom delighted commanders such as Cpl Brian Wells of F Squadron's command troop, who was allowed to use the

ground as he would in battle. "We tried not to cause damage, but we could go where we wanted," he said. "Another bonus was being able to use the natural foliage for camouflage, which is not permitted in Germany or the UK."

For the Jocks of the 1 RHF, fighting on foot in woods and forests was the same whichever country they were in.

Surrounded by pine trees, heather and lakes, LCpl Bertie Auld could easily have believed he was back in Grantown on Spey.

But the map told a different story to vehicle commanders such as Cpl Ian Wilson of A Company's 1 Platoon. He said trees were a challenge for those who had never worked in woods before, and a tactical night march without lights had been particularly hard.

Sappers of 35 Engineer Regiment were delighted to realise their own potential.

As well as carrying out combat engineering, sappers were called upon to erect a triple triple Bailey bridge to allow heavy vehicles to cross a river.

Three panels high and three panels wide and spanning 130 feet, it is the biggest bridge which can be built without piers.

Maj Chris Sloane, OC 37 Field Squadron, said: "As far as we are aware, a

triple triple has not been built in the past 20 years."

Training opportunities offered in Poland were impracticable in Germany or Britain, said Maj Bill Vickers, an American exchange officer who is 2iC of 35 Engineer Regiment. "We cannot do off-range demolitions or dig tank ditches, and when you emplace minefields you need a whole bunch of paperwork, co-ordination and approval from various authorities."

"As long as we use biodegradable mines there is no problem. We can even lay concrete mines if we clear up afterwards."

By and large the British Army's latest training area is well preserved. It means to keep it that way.

Next year the British plan to take a road sweeper to clear mud off public roads. Times have changed.

As LCpl Auld left the area, he took a last look at the sparkling lakes. He does not often have the chance to exercise in a nature park. No tanks had been left behind in the lakes or depths of the forest. The swans were at peace... and there were a lot of fish waiting to be caught.

Memo to 20 Armoured Brigade: take your fishing tackle on Ulan Eagle 97.





A contingent of Irish Guards and Royal Regiment of Wales soldiers on the march

# London Pride

WEARING their Northern Ireland General Service Medals with pride, regimental goat Taffy V and LCpl Lee Wilson, the Regimental Goat Major, led the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales as it marched into Buckingham Palace to start an 18-month tour of Public Duties in London.

Based on C Company, 1 RRW, the soldiers were accompanied by the Lucknow Band of the Prince of Wales's Division. In keeping with tradition, the Captain of the Guard on the first day was the commanding officer, Lt Col Robert Aitken.

Although the battalion completed a short period of "holiday relief" for a Public Duties battalion in 1980, the current tour is the first time it has taken responsibility for providing the Queen's Guard in its own right.

Duties for the soldiers include mounting guard at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.

The battalion began its high-profile role just a month after completing a two-year accompanied tour at Ballykelly in Northern Ireland.

According to the regimental signals officer, Capt Giles Watson, operational commitments in the Province made it difficult for the battalion to find time to practise.

"We had to introduce a rolling programme of drill sessions involving late-night or early-morning parades," he said.

After returning to the mainland and enjoying a short period of leave, the battalion formed up at Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow. The Welshmen will benefit from accommodation which has been extensively refurbished since the previous occupants, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, moved to Cyprus at the end of a Public Duties stint six months ago.

When its London tour finishes in March, 1998, 1 RRW will be on the move again – to Paderborn in Germany to retrain as a Warrior battalion.



Above – Marching behind the regimental goat, the Lucknow Band of the Prince of Wales's Division provides musical accompaniment

Below – Tourists outside Buckingham Palace watch 1 RRW arrive. A month earlier the battalion had completed a two-year tour in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland



The Irish Guards post incoming sentries



A 1 RRW NCO reads orders to the sentries



# Record of a cemetery

AN ITEM on these pages (Aug 16) concerning RA artefacts threatened by development in Malta prompted Ron Phillips to write in a similar vein about Crete.

He spent eight years researching the British Military Cemetery at Heraklion to make a permanent record of the graves and memorials "before they disappear under some hotel or housing complex".

The memorials are works of art in themselves, not to mention the cost to the men who erected them over the graves of their comrades, he says.



## From Army magazine, USA:

An unprecedented Defense Department study of 18,000 Gulf War veterans concluded that no single, common illness or disease (such as the oft-cited "Gulf War syndrome") could be identified. The findings were consistent with an earlier report by the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine.

## From Army newspaper, Australia:

Defence Minister Ian McLachlan has given the go-ahead for a restructuring of the Army that will transform current operating methods in preparation for the next century. There will be more mobility, surveillance, equipment and training.

## From An Cosantóir, magazine of the Irish Defence Force:

"Soldiers," said the chaplain, "the subject of my sermon today is liars. How many of you men have read the 69th Chapter of Matthew?" Nearly every soldier in the congregation held up his hand. "You are the men I want to preach to," said the chaplain. "There is no such chapter..." (From the June 1946 edition).

## From Armor, Bulletin of the US Armor Branch:

Nothing can take the place of thinking soldiers on the ground who understand how to use their equipment. Equipment may fail; but minds can improvise, make allowances and adjust. War is a contest in which the side with the wits and will to win will prevail. — Maj Gen Lon E Maggart, Commanding General US Army Armor Centre, writing on "smart" munitions and "push-button warfare".



Grime and graffiti: Ian Davidson at Aldershot's Heroes Shrine

# Memorial graffiti is 'insult' to heroes

A ONE-MAN campaign to refurbish Britain's many vandalised and unkempt war memorials has opened up a new front... in the heart of Army-held territory.

Former Royal Marine Ian Davidson was "absolutely disgusted" by what confronted him when he visited Heroes Shrine in Aldershot's Manor Park.

"It was the worst I have ever come across," said the Suez and Cyprus veteran. "I've seen some graffiti on memorials, but this is the first time I've encountered hardcore porn. It's disgraceful."

Heroes Shrine, unveiled in 1950 by the Duchess of Gloucester, is set in a sunken, walled rock garden, with plaques listing the names of pilots killed in the Battle

of Britain. The nose of the main feature — a figure of Christ — is broken, and the whole memorial is daubed with crude graffiti.

"Aldershot is a garrison town. What must the hundreds of ex-Servicemen who return here think," said Mr Davidson, who has begun a nation-wide campaign to restore every war memorial in Britain to an acceptable standard.

He is appealing for support from anyone — young or old — willing to tackle the grime and graffiti which he believes is an insult to men and women who died fighting for freedom and their country.

His Friends of War Memorials organisation can be contacted at 28 Sheaveshill Court, The Hyde, Colindale, London NW9 6BP.

# ... and while on the subject of statues

A TRIBUTE to the horse in war has been proposed for a sculpture yet to be commissioned for the vacant plinth in the north-west corner of Trafalgar Square.

Several ideas have been put forward for the millennium project, including Margaret Thatcher in a tank, the Queen Mother stroking Red Rum, suffragette Emily Pankhurst... and Mr Blobby!

Wiltshire-based equestrian sculptress Judy Boyt's ambitious

vision — each animal would be twice life-size — features military horses emerging in bas relief from the Square into three-dimensional figures at the top of the plinth.

Her proposal, from the ground upwards, depicts a private soldier's horse, head turned towards Whitehall; two mules carrying guns and ammunition up the steep steps of the monument; two heavy horses gamely pulling supplies or ambulances to the front; a wound-

## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1946

### PULLING UP PLUTO

The Pipe Line Under The Ocean (Pluto) — the secret source of fuel supplies for Europe's liberating armies — is being salvaged from the bed of the English Channel, where it has been embarrassing Post Office engineers. Lead inside Pluto, worth £50 a ton, will make roofing and plumbing for British homes. Plugged with wood, the pipe still contained petrol.

## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1971

### OFF THE AIR

"Auntie Leena", Mrs Leena Devaraj, and Lt Kishorkumar Gurang presented the last Gurkhali programme in Singapore before BFBS closed this popular feature after 18 years. The service has resumed in Hong Kong.

# RLC boats save lives

TWO lifeboats paid for by men and women of the Royal Logistic Corps and its predecessors have already responded to 35 emergency calls and saved ten lives.

In all, £55,000 has been raised in the past four years by 6 Ordnance Battalion RAOC and 12 Supply Regiment RLC, enough to pay for five D-class lifeboats. One of the driving forces behind the mammoth project was Sgt Mike Smith, now Army Careers Adviser at Redruth. All five lifeboats are, or will be, assigned to the West Country.

*Spirit of the RAOC* is based at Looe and *Spirit of the ACC*, launched in June, at Sennen Cove. Three more are to be commissioned for Torbay (*Spirit of the RPC*), St Ives (*Spirit of the RCT*) and Port Isaac (*Spirit of PCS RE*).

In attendance at Sennen Cove was Lt Col Mike Southworth, who, as CO of 12 Supply, lent considerable support to the fund-raising. He is now with the QMG's Department at Andover.

ed and battle-weary charger fighting its way to the top of the monument to join a gun carriage horse which has lost its harness and is leaping to freedom.

Anyone who wishes to add to the debate is invited to write to Prue Leith, Chairman, Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adam Street, London W2.

Noble military horse... or Mr Blobby? You might also care to air your views in *Soldier*.

# Pomp up the volume...

Look out for "Pomp and Circumstance", a brand-new fortnightly cartoon strip created exclusively for *Soldier* by 25-year-old RMP corporal Darren Dodd.

Starting in the next issue, he will be taking a light-hearted look at life in the British Army.

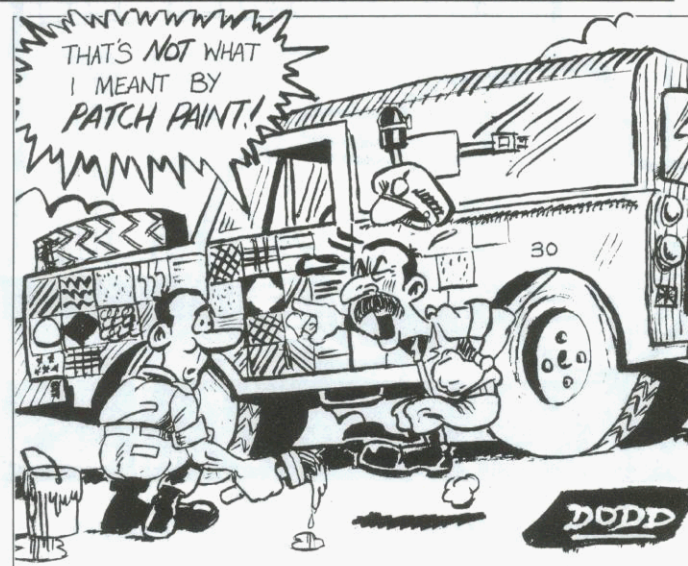
Currently serving with 176 Provost Company RMP in Londonderry, Darren works as a PT instructor in the gymnasium. He has civilian qualifications as a personal trainer and health and fitness instructor.

A soldier for eight years, Darren has been based at Osnabrück in Germany and at Aldershot.

He has been drawing for as long as he can remember, and



Darren Dodd



recently received a diploma for his cartooning and illustration work. When not drawing, Darren's hobbies and interests include running, football, boxing

and most physical and recreational activities. He hopes to make a career in illustration and design when he eventually leaves the Army.

## SEARCHLINE

News sought of WO (later Lt) **S T G Sunderland**, captured by the Japanese at Bandung, Java, on March 8, 1942, transferred to Changi PoW camp until October 1942, and thereafter to Kuching, where he was in charge of British other ranks until their release in September 1945. An Australian friend, Hugh Waring, wishes to make contact. Details to B G Hoare, 50 Woodside House, London SW19 7QN, who also wishes to learn WO Sunderland's arm of service and Army number.

Any former gunners of **36 Regiment, Royal Artillery** who have not signed up for the annual reunion dinner-dance at Norwich are invited to do so for the 1997 get-together. Name, rank, battery and station locations to Rick Adamson, 189 Vicarage Road, Blackrod, Bolton, Lancs BL6 5AA.

**The Polar Bear, 49th West Riding Division Association**, formed in September 1994, seeks members from those who served with 49 Div in Iceland, Norway and North-West Europe. Next trip, from October 22-29, is to Wuustwezel for the unveiling of a Polar Bear statue, Zetten, Arnhem, Nijmegen and Roosendaal. Annual meeting at Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, Nottingham on November 16. Details from H M Conn, 144 Woodman Road, Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5AL (tel 01277 201244).

Jan Stevenhaagen, born on May 4, 1946, is trying to trace her father, who she believes was a British soldier called Bill stationed at Hannover in 1945. Her mother's

name was Mary Stevenhaagen from Groningen in the Netherlands. Replies to Jan Stevenhaagen, Voermanstraat 11, 9742VA Groningen, The Netherlands.

Original edition (or colour copy) of **1946 New Year Calendar** commemorating the successful campaign in Europe sought. The cover depicted the charging white knight of the **8th Armoured Corps** against a sketch of the ruins of Kiel, and "1946" radiating from a sun rising behind the knight. Replies to Alan Moreton, 3050 Barclay Court, Tallahassee, Florida, 32308, USA, whose late father, Pte Albert Moreton, F Troop, 397 Bty, 121 Leicestershire Regt RA, created the image.

Researcher seeks details of memorials — outdoors as well as in workplaces, churches, schools and community centres — erected to soldiers, police and civilians killed in Northern Ireland since 1969. In particular town and village war memorials to which names have been added. Location, inscription, date of unveiling would be useful.

## REUNIONS

**Cheshire Regimental Association (Birkenhead and District Branch):** Annual social, RBL Club, Hesketh Hall, Port Sunlight, November 22. Tickets from Bill York, 60 The Channel, Burbo Way, Wallasey, Wirral (0151-630 2917).

**1997 Coldstream Guards:** 4 Company, 3rd Battalion (1950-55) is to hold its fifth reunion dinner in Birmingham on April 19. Details from

## CLOSURES

**Glen Parva Sergeants' Mess**, Wigston, Leicestershire is due to close on March 31 next year. Donors of presentations to the mess are asked to state their wishes for return or disposal. Items unclaimed by December 31 will be disposed of appropriately. Contact WO1 (SSM) R Mousley, RPO Leicester, 51 Saffron Road, South Wigston, Leicester (Chilwell Mil 3610; civ 0116 2759610).

Replies to Jane Leonard, Senior Research Fellow, The Queen's University of Belfast, 8 Fitzwilliam Street, Belfast BT9 6AW.

David P Calder, **ACC intake November 1967**, wishes to hear from former comrades Sgt Paddy O'Shea, Cpl Pete Hedges, Pte 24132477 Terry Comerford (ex-11 Sig Regt), Alan Todd from Spennymoor, "Tiger" Hilson from Corby, and Colin Aspinall from Halifax. Replies to 7 Ruby Street, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD22 7BL.

Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

**RHA Association (Trowbridge branch):** 50th branch reunion dinner takes place at the Civic Hall, Trowbridge, on March 22. Open to members and any gunner who has served, or is serving, with an RHA unit. Details from Dinner Secretary, 44 King Street, Melksham, Wilts SN12 6HF (01225 708223).

## DATES

### October

**22:** Royal Marines concert tribute to Sir Vivian Dunn, Beating Retreat, Guildhall, London, 7pm. Tickets (£50) on 01715 819385.

**29-Nov 2:** Nepti and Friends; Tiger Face painting and mini-exhibition, Gurkha Museum, Winchester (01962 842832).

**31:** Suez: 40th Anniversary, lecture by Maj Gen M W Walsh, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot. Tickets (£6) on 01252 349619.

### November

**3:** RBL (York) Festival of Remembrance, Barbican Centre, York. Tickets on 01904 656688.

**9-10:** Salisbury Militaria Society 25th annual exhibition, Red Lion Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury.

**16:** Band of RAF College Cranwell concert at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA (details: 01406 425550).

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

**Action Man in Aldershot!** The 12in-high plastic hero has his own special exhibition in Aldershot Military Museum until the end of October. Display compares the changes in AM's equipment with developments in full-size military hardware.

Researcher seeks family history of **Robert Henry Wynyard (1802-64)**, an officer in the 58th Foot appointed Lieutenant Governor of the province of New Ulster in New Zealand in 1851. He was the younger son of Lt Gen William Wynyard, equerry to George III. Replies to Ken C R Smith JP, 38 Doreen Crescent, Carole Park 4300, Queensland, Australia.

Philip Lloyd, 12 Howden Dike, Leven Park, Yarm, Yorkshire TS15 9UP, wishes to contact ex-members of **1690 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery RASC**, part of **103 Anti-Aircraft Brigade**.

Would direct descendants of **Capt C B Falls**, who was born in Dublin on March 2, 1888, and who died at Walton on Thames, April 23, 1971, please contact the Curator of The Royal Inniskillings Museum, The Castle, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh BT74 7BB, where they will learn something of interest.

Arnhem veteran W Rose, whose sister, LCpl Marie Rose, was killed with 20 other women when a train hit their truck while she was serving with **483/139 (M) HAA Regiment RA** at Heersemmolen in Belgium at the end of the Second World War, wishes to contact surviving members of the company and the driver of the truck. Replies to him at 16 Grosvenor Road, Paignton, Devon TQ4 5AY (01803 556836).

Mrs Babs Desmond seeks news of 23996325 Pte **Brian Desmond** who served in the Royal Pioneer Corps in the 1960s-early 1970s. Contact her on 0181-297 1389.



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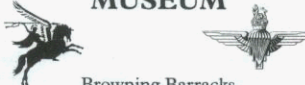
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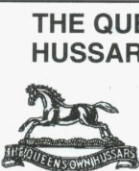


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## POINTS IN QUESTION

**Q: Why at the time of the  
Suez crisis in 1956 were  
tanks transported by private  
contractors and not the  
Army? (W G A Deeley, Aug  
19).**

**A:** The question shows that  
contracting out is nothing new.  
Civilian vehicles were hired to  
transport tanks as far back as  
the First World War. Most then  
travelled by train but where  
they had to be carried to places  
beyond railheads, or later  
where some tanks were too  
wide for rail transport, civilian  
contractors were the only  
option.

### First transporter

The first real military off-road  
tank recovery transporter, a  
Scammell, appeared in the  
early 1930s and no more were  
built until just before the  
Second World War. They were  
still regarded as recovery vehi-  
cles. The idea of using them to  
carry fit tanks to avoid track  
wear had not then caught on.

During the war larger Scam-  
mells and many other British-  
and US-built transporters came  
into use but most were urgently  
required in operational theat-  
res, both for transporting and  
recovery, so it remained neces-  
sary in the UK to use contrac-  
tors in many cases to move  
tanks from factories or docks to  
vehicle depots.

The civilian vehicle Con-  
struction and Use Regulations  
were often waived and many  
vehicles pressed into service  
were grossly overloaded. With  
the introduction of the original  
49-ton 11ft wide Centurion in  
1945, rail transport was ruled  
out as the tank's width was out-  
side the maximum for railside  
clearance.

### Postwar rundown

The postwar rundown of the  
Army left few regular tank  
transporter companies in the  
UK and once again major  
moves of tanks, as at the time  
of Suez, had to be shared  
between them and civilian con-  
tractors, some of whom owned  
ex-Army vehicles virtually iden-  
tical to those still being used by  
the RASC.

In more recent years, while  
the amount of tank movement  
has greatly reduced, so has the  
Army's transporting capacity,  
so contractors are still an  
important and economical part  
of the scene. — **Brian Baxter,**  
Deputy Curator, REME  
Museum, Arborfield, Berks.

## Sapper? No, a booty...

AN OLD Army colleague, Col  
"Tony" Lyons, visited our  
household last week and, to  
pass the time, I took him  
round Westhoughton market.

There we saw an elderly  
gentleman wearing the now  
old-fashioned red-and-blue  
striped tie of the Royal Engi-  
neers.

I went straight up to him  
and shook his hand. So did the  
Colonel, as we still do what we  
can to foster that *esprit de corps*.

The fellow looked bemused,  
especially when I said, 'Sap-  
pers, last war?' and pointed to  
his tie.

"No," he spluttered. "Car  
boot sale, last week!"

'Nuff said — we beat a hasty  
retreat. — **Chas Golder,**  
Bolton, Lancs.

☐ **FOR THE RECORD**  
— Please turn to Page 32

# Bandswomen could take any Regular post

IT IS incorrect to say that the  
Band of the Royal Logistic  
Corps is one of only four in the  
Army permitted to recruit  
females (Lifestyle, September  
16).

There are currently 39  
female musicians within the  
Corps of Army Music serving  
with the following bands or at  
phase 1 and 2 training:

The Highland Band of The  
Scottish Division; the Band of  
The Royal Irish Regiment; the  
Band of The Royal Logistic  
Corps; the Band of The Corps  
of Royal Electrical and  
Mechanical Engineers; the  
Band of The Adjutant Gen-  
eral's Corps.

In accordance with current  
MoD policy 17 female musi-  
cians due posting from the  
Royal Military School of

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"More third world immigrants... I tell you, Anton, it'll end in tears"

Desert Rats of 7 Arm'd Bde in Poland — Pages 20-23

## Ear, ear!

HAS THERE been a change in  
the wearing of jewellery when in  
uniform? I recently saw a lance  
corporal wearing an earring and  
I wondered if the rules had  
altered because there are so  
many women soldiers now. — **K  
Burgess,** Barnsley, Yorks.

● *Queen's Regulations state  
that no unauthorised ornament  
or emblem is to be worn in uni-  
form, apart from the traditional  
wedding, engagement or signet  
rings. Female soldiers are per-  
mitted one small "sleeper" or  
stud earring in each lobe. A  
male soldier may not wear an  
earring while in uniform. —  
Editor.*

## Mulroony's motley mixture

FURTHER to my letter on the  
geographical origins of the sol-  
diers of the 2nd Yorkshires who  
served in the Tirah campaign of  
1897-98 ("Cockney Tykes",  
June 24) I have since come  
across a particularly apt poem.

Entitled *Mulroony's Light  
Brigade*, and composed by Sgt  
W J Richardson, it was pub-  
lished in *The Green Howards  
Gazette* of April, 1900 and, with  
its references to Pathans, may  
well have been inspired by  
memories of the Tirah.

Alternatively, and perhaps  
more likely, as the author does  
not appear to have served in the  
Tirah, it may have been a  
response to the need to boost  
morale during the unsuccessful  
early days of the Boer War.

I draw your attention to the  
first four lines of the second  
stanza:

*"There were men from London  
city, and men from county Clare,  
Some from Scotland, some from  
Wales, in fact from everywhere;  
With 'Mac's' and 'O's' and  
'Jims' and 'Joes', Smiths, Robin-  
sons, and Browns, Of every grade  
and every trade, met brave Mul-  
roony's frowns..."*

It was obviously taken for  
granted by the author that a  
normal draft of recruits would  
comprise men from all over the  
British Isles and that they  
would all need "drilling". —  
**John S Sly,** Walton-on-  
Thames, Surrey.

*Soldier welcomes letters for pub-  
lication from all readers, whatever  
their status. They must be brief,  
typed or written clearly and  
include the correspondent's  
name and address in block capi-  
tals, not necessarily for publica-  
tion. Acceptance or rejection of a  
letter is the decision of the Editor,  
who reserves the right to amend  
them for length, clarity or style.*

# My mere presence earned medal

FOLLOWING my service in  
the Canal Zone I was sent to  
Malaya in the closing stages of  
that successful campaign  
against the communist terror-  
ists.

Although I engaged in more  
actual combat activity in the  
Canal Zone than in Malaya, I  
received the General Service  
Medal in the mail inscribed

"Malaya" on a clasp across the  
ribbon.

Presumably the only quali-  
fying criterion for the medal  
was my mere presence in  
Malaya.

The MoD should announce  
it will recognise the past ser-  
vice of Armed Forces person-  
nel in the former Canal Zone  
in the early 1950s with the

issuance of a GSM with clasp,  
possibly inscribed "Suez".

It should allow three years  
for qualified living applicants  
or their qualifying survivors to  
apply, its decision being final  
with respect to each applicant.

Then the 21st century will  
have arrived! — **Brian Sin-  
clair-Whitely,** Nashville,  
Tennessee.



## Gallipoli: facts and figures

DRAWING on war diaries, regimental histories and personal reminiscences, Ray Westlake recites in *British Regiments at Gallipoli* just which units took part in this disastrous campaign.

He lists every infantry battalion and yeomanry regiment involved in the ill-conceived

**British Regiments at Gallipoli** by Ray Westlake. Leo Cooper, hardback, £19.95.

attempt to open up a link with Russia which ended with huge losses and withdrawal.

This is a month-by-month account of each battalion's movements into the front line to engage the Turks and, in turn, their relief by another.

At times, the accounts give the impression that the whole affair of moving units to the front and replacing them with others was like a game of leapfrog which remained forever static.

## Humdinger of a debut disc by Minden Band

### ARRIVAL

Minden Band of the Queen's Division  
Conductor: Capt C R Meldrum

ODD to title a disc after a mere short fanfare unless, that is, it is to announce the arrival in the studio of a new band with something to say.

And say it they do, with panache, verve, and no little skill. In fact a humdinger of a programme. I rarely listen to every single note of a record (I get the message early), but out of sheer interest and enjoyment I did this time. Well, not all the marches.

The regimental quicksteps of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, of The Royal Fusiliers and of The Royal Anglians are followed by Capt Meldrum's *Pride on Parade*, *Queen's Division* by Don Pryce, and later two concert marches *Red Square Review* and the classic *The Spirit of Pageantry*. Nothing exceptional there, but played with a good weighty commitment.

Exceptions come with a clan-

gorous peal of *Bells*, written for a wedding by an I M McDougall of whom I unfortunately know nothing. Not a real bell in sight but the brass, with fine exploitation by the composer, create a paean of sound worthy of any bell-tower.

Another work new to me is the Cambridge Overture called *Bridges Over the Cam* by Derek Bourgeois who also wrote a famous piece for a wedding - his *Serenade*. There are tricky rhythmic similarities here, a fugal section,

### Rodney Bashford

and what seems to me a thematic sly dig at a Cambridge custom with the old song *It's June in January*.

Don't the May balls take place in June or thereabouts? All very pleasant stuff, with another winner from Bourgeois later, his *Rondo Grottesco* for tuba and band, uproarious, and also well played.

P B Smith was a bandmaster well known for his light music before emigrating to Germany; his *Gypsy Trumpeter* receives a welcome re-airing by Cpl Tucker.

Two short items almost forgotten in these days of a surfeit of light music are Bucalossi's *Grasshopper's Dance* and Liadov's *A Musical Snuff Box*. Many decades ago they were two of the very sparse repertory of short "comedy numbers" which alternated with the operatic medleys, rhapsodies, and overtures.

Marvellous to hear them again, especially as so well characterised here.

Another piece from Capt Meldrum, which with a *Reverie* by Jef Penders, gives a restful period before the big band plays seven tunes associated with *Tin Pan Alley*. A very lively session followed by another Barker arrangement of three *Symphonic Gershwin* tunes from *An American in Paris*, *Cuban Overture*, and *Rhapsody in Blue*.

A generous 77 minutes of a programme, well presented and well chosen. You too will enjoy it.

● Bandleader CD BNA 5124, cassette BND 65124 priced £12 and £7.60.

## This secret war was not all plain sailing

THERE were surely worse ways and worse places to spend the wartime years 1942-1944 than voyaging around the Aegean Islands in small boats.

But before you envy these men from several Allied services, remember it was a perilous job with danger lurking behind every rocky outcrop.

Several "freelance" navies operated around Greece and the Aegean, many of their activities all but forgotten.

The services of the Levant Schooner Flotilla, the Greek Sacred Company, and the Aegean Raiding Forces were needed by secret Allied organisations such as MI6 (Inter-Ser-

vices Liaison Department), M04 (Special Operations Executive) and MI9 (Escape Routes).

The sheer miscellany of agencies and services led to rivalry and threats to security, but the missions persisted and were generally successful.

It was an odd war with inexperienced navigators running aground on sandbanks, avoiding German and Italian patrols,

**War in the Islands: Undercover Operations in the Aegean 1942-4** by Adrian Seligman. Alan Sutton, hardback, £16.99.

or lying doggo during the day under camouflage netting in secluded coves.

Adrian Seligman's book *War in the Islands: Undercover Operations in the Aegean 1942-4* is a collection of stories from a time when Greeks were happy with the Allied cause, before the emergence of the Marxist movement, founded by Greek army officers to support the revolutionist EAM.

Seligman makes the book an anthology of personal experiences. "A fascinating tale it was too - about Greek skippers and crews who had escaped through the islands; others who had overpowered their German guards and sailed boldly down to Cyprus or Beirut, where they had left their boats and travelled to Cairo to join the Greek forces re-assembling there."

These boats, large and small, were fitted by the Royal Navy with more powerful engines for secret operations in the waters from where they hailed.

The Greek Sacred Company was a famous "death-or-glory" resistance unit that had twice before been formed when the country was in mortal danger and each time had been wiped out. In the Second World War it expected the same fate.

The situation worsened as the EAM communists began to get the upper hand over the German occupying forces. The EAM increasingly accused fellow Greeks they disliked of betrayal to the Gestapo, unless they became communists or joined the resistance.

Seamen of the Aegean witnessed horrifying incidents in this disturbed period. Working on the side of the Greeks against the fascist forces was not all sweetness and light.

*War in the Islands* is a highly readable true-life adventure with the added attraction of being about a little-known theatre of operations. - BJ



Soldiers of 100 Fd Sqn, R Mon RE (M), place demolition charges on a heavy girder overbridge this year

## Historic regiment shows its colours

### In brief

**Massacre at Malmédy** by Charles Whiting. Story of the bloody event of December 1944 and the involvement of Hitler's bodyguard regiment. Pen & Sword, paperback, £9.95.

**Vietnam: Conflict and Controversy** by Paul Elliott. A study in failure and why all politicians say "Never again..." Arms & Armour, hardback, £16.99.

**Hitler's Enforcers: Leaders of the German War Machine 1933-45** by James Lucas. Fifteen pen-portraits, including "Smiling Albert" (Kesselring), and the Desert Fox himself. Arms & Armour, hardback, £20.

**The American Arsenal** with introduction by Ian V Hogg. Second World War catalogue of arms and ammunition, Greenhill, hardback, £29.99.

**Killing Time** by Murray Smith. Story of international terrorism and spying by former paratrooper. Penguin paperback, £5.99.

**Act of Valour** by Emma Drummond. Former WRAC officer writes movingly of the Somme in third novel of saga. Simon & Schuster, hardback, £16.99.

IT ALL began around 1539, when an organised military force - known as the militia - was raised in the border county of Monmouthshire.

Although the shire is now known as Gwent, the original name is retained with pride by The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), the history of which is told in *Militiamen and Sappers*.

Since the regiment has been around for more than 450 years - possibly longer - its claim to be the oldest, and therefore the most senior, regiment in Britain's Reserve Army, is unlikely to be challenged.

Indeed, author Graham Watson states: "On the basis of longer and more consistent service to the Crown, the regiment has been adjudged to have seniority and precedence over the other major claimant to antiquity, the Honourable Artillery Company."

R Mon RE(M), which claims to be the only engineer regiment to troop its colour, this year celebrates 100 years of the double royal in its title.

The regiment now has 52 officers and 680 ORs and, with attached REME personnel, provides engineer support to

**Militiamen and Sappers: A History of The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia)**, by Graham Watson. Available from Brig J H Hooper, The Gables, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 3PA at £17.50 (in p&p). Cheques payable to: R Mon RE(M) History Fund.

NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

It has spread its wings outside the old county boundaries and comprises regimental HQ in Monmouth, which houses 101 (HQ) Sqn; 100 Fd Sqn in Cwmbran; 108 Fd Spt Sqn in Swansea; 143 Plant Sqn in Walsall; 225 Fd Sqn in Oldbury; and a REME workshop in Malpas.

This solid, detailed history, with 21 pages of illustrations, explores the regiment's relationship with the county of Monmouth, its part in the evolution of the Reserve forces, and its services in peace and war - often in unglamorous roles.

But perhaps most intriguing to readers with a wider interest in the Army is how and why it has been able to survive for so long to claim its unique place in British military tradition. - JM

## When gems came before soldiers' lives

FOR two troublesome years between 1946 and 1948 Cassino veteran Philip Brutton of the Welsh Guards was posted to Palestine as staff captain with the 1st Guards Brigade.

In *A Captain's Mandate 1946-1948* he tells of events leading up to the establishment there of a homeland for Jewish people.

His story is a reminder of terrorist bombs, mines and numerous British soldiers being killed. It was the daily norm.

Then, in an act of vicious revenge by the terrorist gang, Irgun, two sergeants were kid-

**A Captain's Mandate** by Philip Brutton. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.95.

napped and incarcerated in an airtight hole beneath a diamond factory. They were kept alive for 17 days by compressed air, before being murdered and their bodies booby-trapped with mines.

They had been captured by the gang - of which Menachem Begin, later to become prime minister of Israel, was an active member - as hostages for the lives of three convicted terrorists sentenced to death.

The three terrorists were hanged and the sergeants, both from a field security section, were murdered by the gang the same day, their bodies left hanging from a tree with a mine hidden to ensnare yet more soldiers.

A huge hunt had been conducted for the abducted men but it appears that the searching of premises used by the diamond trade was not allowed in case of theft.

In New York, screen-writer Ben Hecht made an infamous remark about having a holiday in his heart every time a British soldier died in Palestine. About a year later Britain relinquished the United Nations' mandate of 1920 and with it 28 years of trouble. - JM

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## Aldershot fanfares, flags and fireworks

FIREWORKS, flag-waving and fun are on the programme when Aldershot Garrison presents its own "Last Night of the Proms" for charity on November 8.

The spectacular musical event at the Maida Gymnasium, Queen's Avenue, starting at 8pm, is the brainchild of WO1(GSM) Joe Fairbairn, who is aiming to raise £6,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund, the Royal British Legion and

Grange Special School, Aldershot.

Tickets at £5 each are available from The Garrison Sergeant Major, Last Night of the Proms, HQ 5 AB Bde and Aldershot Garrison, Middle Hill, Aldershot GU11 1PP.

Send sae with cheque made payable to "Taylorplan Services Last Night Proms" - or call in. Further information on 01252 347036 or 349009 or 349029.

## LETTERS

For the record...

### Great Danes

FURTHER to the VC correspondence (Aug-Sept) another interesting fact about our most coveted award is that the only non-British or Irish subjects to win it were two Danes.

In the First World War the honour went to Capt Hansen of the Lincolnshire Regt (the VC is in the Lincolnshire Regimental Museum). Capt Hansen also served in the Second World War and became a brigadier.

In the Second World War Maj Lasson MC won the VC serving with the SBS in a commando raid in northern Italy on May 9, 1945 (after VE Day, of which they were unaware at the time).

His VC, with his other medals, are now in the Free Denmark Second World War Museum, Copenhagen. - David L Taylor, Canterbury, Kent.

### Londonderry

READERS were told in the article headed "Londonderry march passes without incident..." (Sept 2) that 1 Hldrs supported the RUC on the cityside of the River Foyle while for 1 Cheshire "their patch was on the so-called west bank of the Foyle, an area embracing the predominantly Protestant Waterside district..."

I wonder why the writer used the term "so-called west bank", especially when the Waterside is on the east bank of the Foyle.

It was The Highlanders who were operating on the west bank of the Foyle, which is where the

cityside is located. While the Cheshires are based at Ballykelly, this is in Co Londonderry and not Co Antrim as stated in the article.

Two other points need correcting. First, in spite of all that has been said and written, the Waterside is not predominantly Protestant but has a population split that is close to being 50-50 in terms of religious affiliation.

Second, the rioting in which The Highlanders supported the RUC in the wake of the Drumcree stand-off took place largely in the city centre and adjoining streets.

Very little rioting actually took place in the Bogside, the size of which appears to be infinitely variable depending on which source one reads. - Richard Doherty, Londonderry.

### Rorke's Drift

I WAS a little confused by the item (People, Sept 16) in which you say that the step grandfather of Capt Rob Dickinson, 1 RRW, served in the Zulu War of 1879.

I didn't realise the 24th Foot were taking them so young!

There were no soldiers called Morgan in the defence of Rorke's Drift, least of all a lieutenant colonel, unless of course Lts Chard and Bromhead didn't notice him.

A Pte William Morgan of the 24th was killed at Isandhlwana. - John Needham (Anglo Zulu War Research Society member), Morden, Surrey.

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else 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 November 25 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

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Competition No 644 (Sept 2 issue): First correct entry drawn was from Sig Theobald, of MND(SW) HQ & Sig Regt, Op Resolute, BFPO 538, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr L Jones, of Millom, Cumbria, and J W Pettigrew, of Sheffield, S Yorks.



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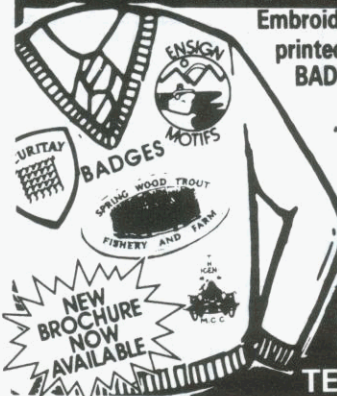
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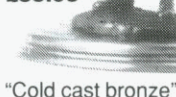
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SEPTEMBER 14, 1996

4-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £1,250 each):

Pte SS Collins, AGC Trg Centre; Worthy Down Maj PB Heath, RSA, Larkhill; WO2 DA Malin, 207 Fd Hosp (V), Manchester; Cpl MA Simpson, 14 Signal Regt (EW), Brawdy.

15-way tie for fifth prize (17 goals, £66.67 each):

Sgt HD Adams, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; Cpl PB Anders, 1 Kings, BFPO 58; Sgt IB Bartlett, MOD; SSgt AP Barton, 42 Svy Engr Gp, Hermitage; Maj S Graham, HQ 2 Div, York; Capt SJ Graham, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Sgt PM Lamont, 67 Signal Sqn (V), Stratford upon Avon; Cpl PJ Marsh, 25 Engr Regt, BFPO 808; LCpl GB Mason, 7 Tpt Regt RLC, BFPO 39; WO2 SR Morgan, RSA, Larkhill; Capt JH

Sibson, RMLY, Dudley; WO2 NG Spencer, Warminster Sp Unit.; Cfn MS Sweetman, 1 Kings, BFPO 58; Cpl MA Wilson, RDG, Tidworth.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1996

3-way tie for first prize (21 goals, £1,500 each):

Cpl CT Dean, KRH, BFPO 17; Sgt DEW Jones, 33 Engr Regt, Wimbish; Maj BH Sutherland, HQBF Hong Kong, BFPO 1

6-way tie for fourth prize (20 goals, £250 each):

Sgt RK Ayers, AFCO Brighon; Cpl Hariprasad Gurung, Pay & Docs Office, Sek Kong, BFPO 1; Sgt DJ Holbrook, HQ Dhekella Garrison, BFPO 58; Lt TH Marks, 9 R IRISH, BFPO 808; Lt C Munro, 2RTR, BFPO 38; Capt (QGO) Narain Gurung, RMA Sandhurst.

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# Faith, Hope . . . and parity

## Army 2, Prison Service 2

WITH ten minutes to go, and the Army team two goals down, their supporters could have been forgiven for writing them off against the Prison Service.

But in-form striker LCpl Bob Hope justified his coach's confidence in him by scoring twice in as many minutes to level the scores.

The experimental Army football squad did well to recover the deficit and force a hard-earned draw at Aldershot against a strong and physical Prison Service side, **writes Derrick Bly.**

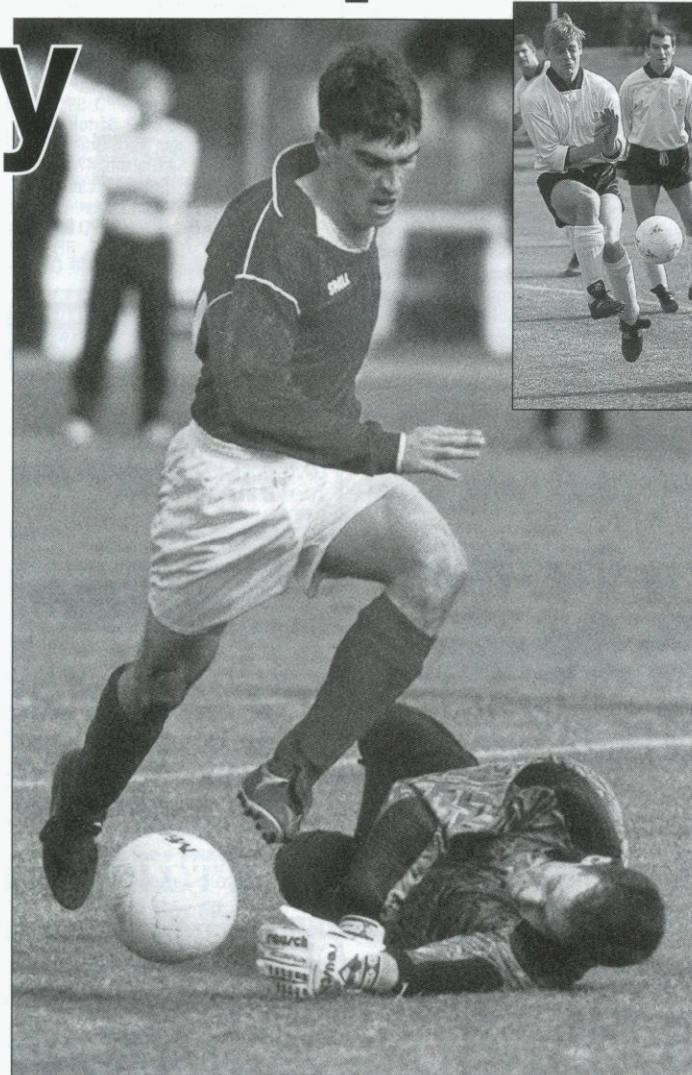
They had fallen a goal behind in just three minutes when their big No 9 Hooper forced the ball past Cfn Ian Elliott in the Army goal.

But the Army, whose starting line-up included LCpl George Russell, Pte Carl Lebane, Spr Finch and Pte Gary Russell, gave a good account of themselves during the first half.

In the 33rd minute, LCpl Bob Hope provided the opening for Cpl Wayne McHugh to see his drive tipped over by the 'keeper. Then, just before half-time, skipper WO2 Kev Parkins raced fully 40 yards only to pull his shot just wide.

After the break, SSgt Alan Higgins and LBdr Lee Black replaced Sig Joe Collins and Pte Carl Lebane and, ten minutes into the second half, Sig Johnstone replaced Cpl Wayne McHugh.

With 15 minutes remaining, the visitors hit a superb second goal which appeared to put the game out of the Army's reach.



Where there's Hope . . . two-goal hero LCpl Bob Hope eludes the visitors' goalkeeper as he scores his second and (inset) gives the opposition a hard time in the the Army's game against the Prison Service

Five minutes later, however, the Army pulled one back when substitute Bdr Lee Black fought hard to retain possession before finding Hope, whose right foot effort went into into the top corner.

Almost from the kick-off, a superb ball hit fully 30 yards by Cpl Zoldan reached Hope on the left and the in-form RLC striker controlled the ball well

before beating the advancing 'keeper.

### Army 2 Carshalton 4

The Army entertained ICIS Premier League side Carshalton in their third representative match of the season and, despite an excellent overall performance, lost 4-2.

Carshalton set a cracking pace which the Army team, with many new faces, did well to match in most departments.

After two early corners to the visitors, full back Pte Bolt pumped a long ball forward to Bdr Lee Black who found LCpl Bob Hope wide on the left. The RLC striker evaded a challenge and cleverly chipped the advancing 'keeper, only to clip the far post.

Carshalton went ahead in 17 minutes when 'keeper Pte Kevin Murray failed to gather

a long ball, but the Army pulled themselves level in the 35th minute when a crossfield ball from Sig Johnstone reached Black, whose low cross was slotted in by new-boy LCpl Paul Sibbring RAMC.

Carshalton went ahead on 38 minutes when big striker Williams headed over Murray from the edge of the penalty area.

The second half opened with a mix-up at the back for the Army and, in rescuing the situation, Sgt Paul Murgatroyd picked up a yellow card from referee WO2 Benold LI, who controlled the game well.

Carshalton went 3-1 up, but after substitute Pte Mills and LCpl Darren Glenister joined the action, the Army reduced the arrears when SSgt Alan Higgins picked out Hope and the in-form striker turned his man before beating the Carshalton 'keeper.

The Army enjoyed the better of the second-half advantages, and it was a clever break by the visitors when Martin finished off a four-man move that caught the Army defence out of position and gave substitute goalkeeper Cfn Ian Elliott no chance.

### AMS 0 Infantry 5

A goal from LCpl Jimmy Parke (IG) after 30 minutes was all that separated the two sides in an evenly-matched first half. However, after the interval the Infantry stepped up the pace and scored further goals - two apiece from Pte Gary Crowe (R Irish) and Cpl John Greechan (Hldrs).

The final score flattered the Infantry as their charitable defence had presented a gallant AMS with several chances which they failed to convert.

## Kineton go right way to win Poly title

COLD, blustery conditions did nothing to boost the times of Army runners competing in the Barclays Bank Polytechnic Marathon from Windsor to Chiswick. And neither did the fact that some of the front-runners were sent in the wrong direction.

But BAD Kineton overcame the weather to win the overall team prize in the civilian competition and success-

fully defend the Army Major Units team championship.

They were followed home by 2 Para and 1 Bn REME, with 1 BW in fourth, 16 Regt RA, in fifth, the RTR sixth and HCR seventh.

Winners of the Minor Units competition were 59 Cdo Regt, with ATR Pirbright second and DERA third.

Good form was shown by Capt Steve Lonnen (BAD

Kineton) and WO2 Lee Keily (208 Sig Sqn) who both produced fast times in the conditions. Lonnen recorded a 2hr 29min 34sec run to be the fastest Army finisher, with Keily just ten seconds behind.

Capt Dougie Brisco (208 Sig Sqn) was fastest veteran in 2hr 44min 15sec, followed by Maj Clive Osbourne (BAD Kineton) just over seven minutes behind.

## Army finishes first, and last, in Norfolk

AN ARMY select squad went close to winning the annual Round Norfolk Relay, organised by retired RCT officer Ian Vaughan-Arbuckle.

But a confused baton change late in the race resulted in the Army being disqualified after they had crossed the line first in what would have been a new course record of 19hr 25min 53sec.

The Army entry was co-ordinated by Capt Claire Vaughan-Arbuckle (Intelligence Corps), manager of the Army women's cross country team and daughter of the race director.

The 195-mile, 17-stage Round Norfolk Relay is the only timed long distance road relay on the UK athletics calendar. Stages vary from six to 20 miles and the race goes on through the night. Rules require a team of 17 including a minimum of three women, three over-40 veterans and three under-21 juniors.

Junior team manager Maj Jerry Heggarty, senior manager Capt Steve Lonnen and veterans manager Capt Terry Hall helped put the squad together.

British champion Sgt Kelly Holmes, ruled out from taking part by injury, wished the Army team well before starting the race at Kings Lynn. Maj Nick Bateson ran a strong first leg, handing over to Maj Clive Osbourne.

Third-leg runner Claire Vaughan-Arbuckle covered her six miles in a new senior female record of 40min 14sec, handing over to Sig



Round Norfolk Relay starter Sgt Kelly Holmes (centre) with Maj Nick Bateson (left) and race director Ian Vaughan-Arbuckle

Simon Kane. Maj Peter Marsh set a new veterans' record for his 11.85-mile stage, and Capt Fiona King bettered the record on her hilly 5.89-mile run. Excellent efforts by Cpl Paul Aston, Sgt Jeff Baker, Sig Steve Caddiwold, WO2 John Harden, LCpl Shaun Malone (who ran 20 miles at 2 o'clock in the morning), Sgt Dave Wright, Maj Graham Dobbs, reserve Pte Steve Chapman and OCdt Mark Genko put the Army team in contention.

But a misunderstanding on stage 15 resulted in Pte Lisa Yates taking the baton at the

wrong place. She handed on to LCpl Paul Harwood (who picked up a stage award and stage record) before anchor man Cpl Martin Kilbey crossed the line in first place.

But the earlier mix-up led to inevitable disqualification and disappointment. It was a fine performance, however, and Capt Vaughan-Arbuckle is anxious to put together another challenge for next year's race, scheduled for June 14-15. She can be contacted at the Joint Service Intelligence Organisation at Ashford, Kent (Ashford (728) 3452).

## Another title for Green Howards

CONTINUING their cricketing traditions by becoming the British Army (Germany) Major Units champions were 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, who beat 2 Bn REME in a low-scoring final in Osnabrück.

On a warm and overcast day, the REME side won the toss and put their opponents in to bat. They got off to a steady, if slow, start, but did not lose a wicket until 45 was on the board.

There was then a minor crisis, with three wickets going down in the space of a few overs, including the loss of Army batsmen Maj David O'Kelly and Capt Ian Wood, before the Green Howards staged a recovery with a fourth wicket stand of 68 between Cpl Chris Williamson and Pte Dave Arrowsmith. They took the score from 45 to 113.

### Flourish

There was the usual flourish at the end of the innings, during which four wickets fell for another 20 runs.

It had been predicted that 150 off 30 overs would be a good score on this large ground with a slow and damp outfield, and though 135-7 was short of the target, it gave the bowlers something to attack.

There was a stuttering start for 2 Bn who lost four early wickets to some fast and accurate bowling from Lt James Porter and Sgt Sid Ellis. Runs came in patches before the prized wicket of team captain Capt Nick Weller was taken.

The Green Howards pushed home their early advantage and, despite a seventh wicket stand of 25 between Sgt Paull and SSgt Hammonds, 2 Bn were bowled out for 97 in the 26th over.

Trophy and prizes were presented by BA (G) chairman and Osnabrück Garrison Commander Lt Col Malcolm Ingram.

1 Green Howards 135-7. 2 Bn REME 97. 1 Green Howards won by 38 runs.

## Squash centre on its way

A CENTRE of excellence for Army squash is being built in Aldershot and should be ready by April 1998. It will consist of five glass-backed courts.

With the men's, women's and veterans teams winning their competitions at the 1996 Inter-Services championships, it has been a successful season

for the Army. The Under-25s narrowly failed to take their title. And the Army open and veterans teams won promotion to the Berkshire League.

Next year's Inter-Corps tournament is to be split between ATR Winchester and Winchester Lawn Tennis and Squash Club.



# Diamond shines in the sky

THIRTY-FOUR pilots, ranging from two-star general to private soldier, assembled for the Joint Service paragliding championships at Kranzegg, Bavaria.

But it proved to be Sgt Billy Diamond's day. He flew home first in the open category and was a member of the Army team which carried off the overall Joint Service team award.

Other prizes at the event, hosted by the BFG Paragliding Club, Regal Wing, and sponsored by Firebird, included awards in the novice and intermediate disciplines and, within the main competition, Service awards competed for by the Army and the Royal Air Force.

The climate was a major



**Gleeful gliders:** The 1996 Army Joint Service paragliding champions. Left to right are Capt Jim Landon, Bdr Ginge Roberts, Sgt Bob Hope, LCpl Lee Hoyle, Adj Philippe Lafourcade, Sgt Billy Diamond, LCpl Simon Green and Maj Mike Wallis

influence over the ten days, with frontal systems producing "English weather".

Chief flying instructor Mick Maloney and Bill Morris of the British Hang and Paragliding Association brought the competition to a satisfactory conclusion, with all pilots flying six

tasks. These were designed to test pilots' skills in navigating to turn points, maintaining height by seeking thermal lifts and landing accurately.

Final task required the pilots to remain aloft for one hour.

Some were down in 15 minutes but, to prove it could be

done, Diamond and French Air Force guest pilot Adj Philippe Lafourcade flew the allotted time.

Ros Ayling from PRS Rinteln won the novice class by a point and was runner-up in the overall ladies competition.

All those who completed the competition were awarded the club pilot licence.

## JOINT SERVICE AWARDS

**Novice:** Ros Ayling, PRS Rinteln; **intermediate:** Capt Jim Landon RRF; **open:** Sgt Billy Diamond REME

**Army Team:** Sgt Bob Hope R Sigs (Capt); Sgt Billy Diamond REME; LCpl Lee Highe RRF; LCpl Simon Green R Sigs; Maj Mike Wallis R Sigs; LBdr Ginge Roberts RA; Capt Jim Landon RRF; Adj Philippe Lafourcade.

# Artillerymen make it a Universal success

A SIX-MAN team, consisting mainly of Royal Artillery officers, combined sailing and running skills to triumph in the Universal 500 race.

Yachts taking part in the event, held over a weekend, cover a distance of 350 miles, sailing from the River Hamble in Hampshire and back, via Swanage, Weymouth, Exmouth and Alderney.

Runners were put ashore at Swanage to run the 30-mile South Dorset coast path to Weymouth, where they rejoined the yachts.

At Lympstone, the runners tackled the Royal Marines' confidence-building course, a daunting enough task even if it were not five miles from the landing point.

The crew then raced to Alderney in the Channel Islands, where the runners completed the ten-mile round island route, re-embarking to race to the Isle of Wight to complete a further ten-mile run over Tennyson Down. The race culminated with a sprint across the Solent to the Hamble and a two-mile run to the finish.

A force nine gale in the Channel forced the fleet, including the Army team's yacht, *Blush*, to stop at Weymouth and go direct to

Alderney after making running repairs.

Out of a 21-strong field from the length and breadth of the UK, *Blush* was second in the sailing and first in the running, and ended as overall race winner on aggregate for both sailing and running.

Other accolades were: first (of five) Service entrants; second on the Channel handicap; fastest leg and new record for Alderney to the Isle of Wight (yachting); fastest leg and new record for the Isle of Wight run; and fastest leg on the run from Swanage to Weymouth.

Team members were the skipper Maj Jeremy Bleasdale RA, Malcolm Lissan (a civilian working for the Royal Ordnance), Bdr Simon Oatley (bosun), principal runners Capt Colin Dickson (SASC) and WO2 Terry Hazell, and runner-sailor Maj Simon Cox RA.

They have ambitious plans for next year's Universal 500



**Winning yacht *Blush*, which took the overall sailing-running race prize on aggregate**

race. "We are looking for a bigger and even faster yacht," said one member of the party.

Money raised by the winning team will go to support the John Muir Trust's conservation estate on the Isle of Skye.

## IN BRIEF

### Clay shooting

A BRITISH Army clay target shooting team travelled to Moscow last month to take part in a match with a team from the Russian Army.

A 15-man team, drawn from across the Army, was based on the current Inter-Services championship squad and led by Capt James Giggins RLC.

### Basketball

Thames Valley Tigers, currently in the top three of the English National Basketball League, have agreed to a £1 reduction in the entrance fee to home games for Service personnel carrying an identity card. The club plays at Bracknell Sports Centre. Details from Capt Dave Maw on Hawley Mil (726) 3370 or 01252 863370.

### Rounders

After a three-way tie for first place, 3 CS Regiment RLC were declared the winners of the Inter-Unit rounders final at SEAE Arborfield. They won on bonus points, with Rheindahlen Garrison and Arborfield Garrison losing out. Seven teams took part. Cpl Teri Bennett AGC was selected as the day's most outstanding player.

### Football

An Army football team is to tour Nepal from November 17-27. The team's campaign in the 1996-97 South West Counties Cup competition kicks off against Wiltshire at Aldershot on November 12, and the annual Army-Territorial Army match will be at Aldershot on December 1.

● Football reports – Page 40



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Where T80 tanks and BMP armoured fighting vehicles once prepared to attack NATO, Challenger and Warrior demonstrate their capability in the first large-scale British exercise in Poland. Story in Pages 20-23.

Picture: Terry Champion

