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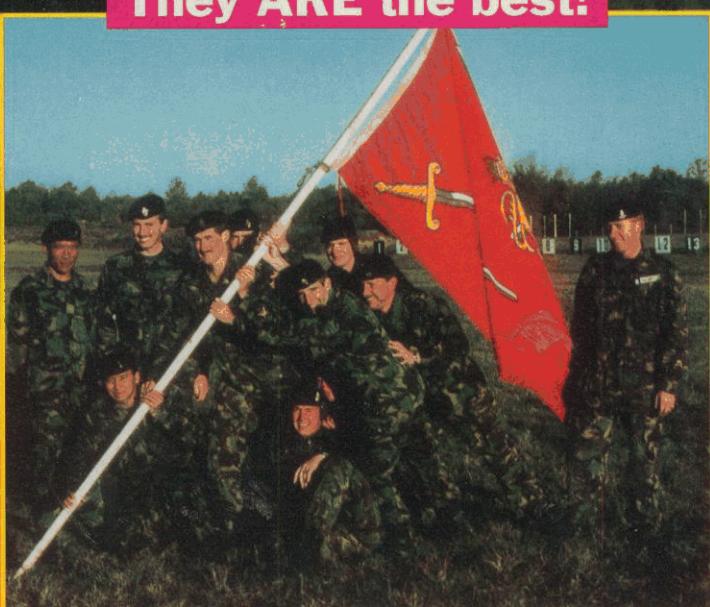


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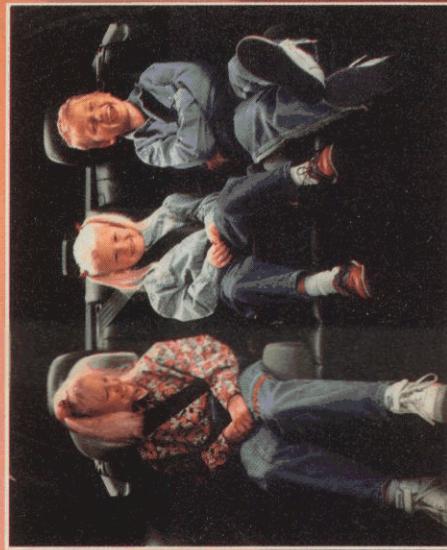
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

November 27, 1995
Vol 51/24

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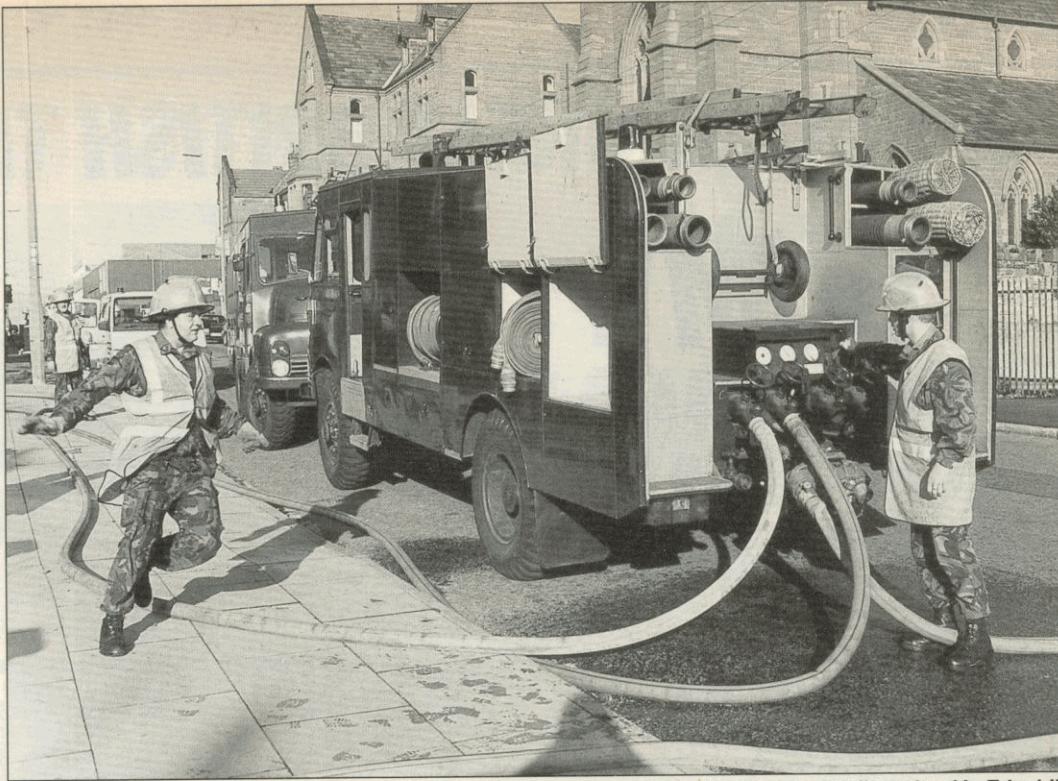
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COVER – SSgt Tony Masters takes aim during the Army Clay Pigeon Shooting Association's first Inter-Services competition. See story in Page 48. (Picture: Mike Perring). Inset: World champions. The Army rifle team celebrates in the USA. See Page 9.



Picture: Mike Perring

Army fireman averts tanker fire disaster

A WELSH Guardsman has been put forward for an award after averting disaster by driving a petrol tanker away from a dangerous fire he and his colleagues were tackling while providing emergency cover during industrial action by Fire Services on Merseyside.

Gdsm Lee Rogers was a member of one of three Green Goddess crews called to fight a huge blaze in a warehouse in Bootle. When the fire-fighting guardsmen arrived, 50-gallon oil and paint drums were exploding amid stacks of burning pallets, sending sheets of fire over a wide area. Flames were reaching 150ft into the air.

Gdsm Rogers, a member of the MT Platoon, immediately climbed into the tanker and drove it to safety.

He did not know at the time if the tanker was full or empty, but all involved in the incident were acutely aware of the risk and the additional danger posed by gas cylinders in an adjoining garage. It transpired

that the tanker was, in fact, full.

Divisional Fire Officer Peter Uttley told *Soldier* there was real danger of flames reaching the vehicle. One stack of pallets had already collapsed and he feared others would also go.

"The guardsmen bring credit to their regiment and the Army," he said. "It is possibly what the Army would expect of Gdsm Rogers, but I believe his actions were above and beyond what I considered to be his duty."

The incident took place during one of several stints by soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards covering for firemen taking part in a fourth 24-hour stoppage over job losses and annual leave.

(Pictures, details in next issue)

● After practising high-intensity warfare on Salisbury Plain during Exercise First Crusade, 1 (Mechanised) Brigade may have a humanitarian role to play in

former Yugoslavia. Full story and colour photographs – Pages 25-27.

● Armed Forces honours and awards – Page 29.

Bramley all clear

OPERATION Cornelius, the Army's search for First World War chemical weapons buried on the Bramley Training Area in Hampshire, has been completed a month ahead of schedule.

Sappers from 49 Field Squadron, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) at Wimbish began a survey and clearance operation on the site of the former ammunition depot in May.

The 250 rounds of ammunition recovered during the operation suspected of containing chemical agents have been sent to Porton Down for analysis and destruction.

Also uncovered were 1,500 rounds of conventional ammunition – ranging from 9.2-in naval shells to boxes of fuse components – and 5,000 smoke screen pots buried at the end of the First World War.

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Larkhill gunners stand by for Igman

LARKHILL-based gunners of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force have been training for possible deployment to Bosnia, where they would take over from 19 Regiment RA based on Mount Igman and at Gornji Vakuf.

The 400 soldiers are drawn from 19 Regiment's HQ 156 Battery and 19/5 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Battery, and 8 (Alma) Commando Battery of 29 Commando Regiment RA.

In Bosnia, UN vehicles now have an improved main supply route since Route Gull was opened. The road, from Doni Vakuf to Turbe, passes through territory once held by the Bosnian Serbs. A bridge had to be built at Komar by sappers from 5 Field Squadron, 38 Engineer Regiment, which has taken over as BRITENGBAT.

It is now possible for aid and military vehicles to drive on a metalled road all the way from the port of Split to Vitez in central Bosnia.

Snow arrived earlier than expected and Royal Engineers have begun a clearance operation in the mountains on the infamous Route Triangle, still used by some military vehicles.

Remembrance services were attended on Mount Igman by soldiers from 19 Regt RA, the Light Infantry and the RAMC, a Dutch mortar battery, and French Foreign Legion troops, and at Mostar by British and French troops serving with the Multinational Brigade HQ.

As *Soldier* went to press, it was revealed that a platoon from 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers had established a base in Bihać in the north-west of Bosnia. The town had been under seige by BSA forces for many months.

• Territorial Army and Regular Army reservists are to be given the opportunity to serve in Bosnia with the NATO Peace Implementation Force.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said 350 volunteers would be called for, mainly linguists, meteorologists, intelligence and public relations officers.



Larkhill-based ACE Mobile Force gunners in training on Salisbury Plain. They may deploy to Bosnia



Picture: Angus Beaton

Sgt Richie Butler enjoys a welcome-home hug from six-year-old son Matthew on the return of 662 Squadron AAC to Wattisham from Ploce. The squadron flew back from former Yugoslavia with the rest of 3 Regiment AAC on completing a three-month deployment in support of 24 Airmobile Brigade and the Allied Rapid Reaction Force

Green Line troops hurt

TWELVE British soldiers have been injured by stone-throwing demonstrators during three days of disturbances on the United Nations' Green Line in Cyprus.

A spokesman for the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) said injuries included a broken nose and a cracked wrist.

UNFICYP Chief of Staff

Maj David Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Hldrs, said troops from 29 Commando Regiment RA were "in fine fettle and showing remarkable restraint."

The United Nations is seeking the release of a Greek Cypriot National Guard soldier whose detention by authorities in the North sparked the riots.

Sennybridge unveils new battle ranges

ENHANCED range warden facilities and battle shooting ranges have been opened at Sennybridge Army Field Training Centre.

Early completion of the project meant that training facilities became available more quickly than anticipated, with 4,000 troops using the new battle ranges and trench systems during the first month.

Col Finlay MacLean, HQ Land, opened the facilities when he visited the new demonstration area with MoD personnel and representatives from builders Taylor Woodrow.

Homosexual appeal fails

AN APPEAL by four former Service personnel discharged for being homosexual has been rejected. The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, said their claim that the banning of homosexuality in the Armed Forces was irrational could not be substantiated. He also refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

An MOD study on homosexuality in the Forces, drawing on experience of other countries, will be made available to the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill to be put before Parliament next year.

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Reserves Bill: 500 have their say

MORE THAN 500 written responses have been received by the Ministry of Defence to its draft Reserve Forces Bill.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a written reply that the great majority of responses were supportive of the proposals.

A revised Bill taking account of many useful detailed observations would be introduced as soon as possible, he said.

As part of the Front Line First initiative, the MoD is considering the market-testing of its freight distribution service, which includes the transportation of weapons and ammunitions except in forward operating areas.

Answering a written question by Shadow Defence Secretary David Clark, the Armed Forces Minister said contractors were being invited to bid against existing military

organisations. "Private companies and manufacturers themselves already move ammunition and explosives on a regular basis," he said.

"Safety and security will be paramount considerations in the proposed market test."

An announcement about an order for field ambulances is expected to be made by early 1996.

A preliminary study is being made into the possibility of giving defence agency status to the Army's pay and personnel administration.

If the change goes ahead, organisations to be considered for

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

inclusion will be the Army Personnel Centre, which now also administers pensions and will be fully formed in Glasgow by mid-1997, and a substantial part of the Adjutant General's

Information Centre at Worthy Down, Winchester.

It was announced two years ago that the pay and personnel functions were being considered for the status.

A modification programme to render the MoD's Renault Broughton RB44 heavy utility trucks roadworthy was started in October.

About 50 vehicles are being modified each week and by October 30, 136 vehicles had been

made roadworthy, said Defence Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot.

There are no plans to disband, merge, or move any Territorial Army units in Northern Ireland in the next three years, it was stated in reply to a written question.

Between January 1, 1992 and January 1, 1995, 116 soldiers were killed on duty. In the same period 7,917 soldiers were injured, it was stated in a written reply.

The figures include all major and minor injuries requiring medical treatment which occurred during exercises, training and sport.

Medical staff serving in the Army, other than doctors and consultants, total 2,942, including 421 officers.

Gulf illness response 'inadequate' – MPs

ARMED Forces Minister Nicholas Soames has described as "unhelpful and disappointing" a Commons Defence Committee report critical of the Ministry of Defence for what it describes as a "hopelessly inadequate" response to evidence of serious illness among several hundred British Servicemen and women who served in the Gulf War.

The all-party committee says it was appalled by the MoD's reluctance to investigate the Gulf War syndrome and called for an inquiry into possible causes.

Although their report was unable to conclude that the syndrome existed, MPs described the MoD as "parsimonious, cavalier and insensitive" in its handling of veterans suffering from a range of ailments claimed to be caused by service in the Gulf.

It drew attention to the sharp contrast between the "compassion" shown by the United States government for its own sick troops, and the "scepticism, defensiveness and general torpor" shown by the MoD.

In America, where up to 30,000 troops have complained of chronic illness, £30 million had been spent by the adminis-

tration on research and treatment.

The report criticises the MoD's failure to obtain a licence for the use of nerve agent pre-treatment sets (NAPS) containing pyridostigmine bromide until two years after the end of the war.

It also urges improvements to training in biological warfare protection and emphasises that vaccinations should have been staggered in the Gulf to reduce the incidence of short-term side-effects.

Mr Soames said: "Everything that could be done for the veterans was already being done. We retain an open mind on this issue and we are certainly not complacent.

"We are anxious for the health of our Servicemen and women and we will continue to provide first-class care and attention for them.

"We know now the scale of Saddam Hussein's chemical and biological weapons programme. What would have happened if we had not provided this protection for our soldiers, sailors and airmen?"

The Ministry of Defence has two months in which to prepare a written response to the report, said a MoD spokesman.

It's a fact

COALITION forces suffered the loss of 223 personnel killed in action in the Gulf War. No reliable figures are available for Iraqi casualties. – Parliamentary answer.

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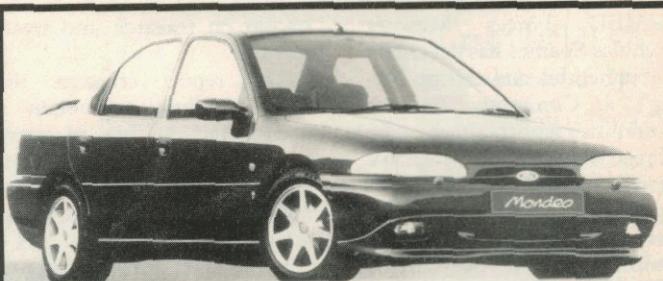
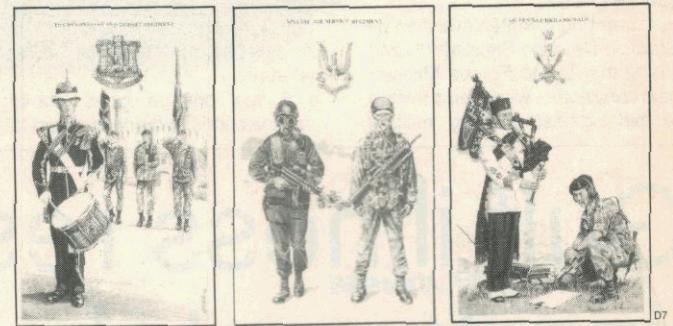
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Rifle team returns with world honours

BRITISH Army marksmen became world champions when they shot their way to victory at the international Service rifle team competition held in Arkansas.

The blue riband event of the US Armed Forces skill-at-arms meeting held at the US National Guard Marksmanship Training Centre was the culmination of a series of rifle matches.

The ten-man British Regular Army team beat off the best from the Australian, Canadian, German, Italian, US and South African forces, and the Territorial Army and Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Team captain and Army Rifle Association secretary Lt Col Paddy Chambers said: "We were 20 points behind going into the last event but we hauled back points on every detail, ending four ahead of the TA Rifle Association's A team and the US National Guard.

The accuracy of the soldiers and their standard-issue SA 80 weapons was particularly impressive as they had to use US ammunition, less accurate when fired in non-US rifles.

Maj Alwyn McLean, 4 R Irish, led the team to victory in other events, including the close quarter battle match.

A pistol team, headed by Lt Col Richard Hoole, R Signals, was less successful, although WO2 (QMSI) Tony Reece, SASC, from ITC Wales, did win a match and the overall performance was encouraging. The team, chosen and trained for the pistol events rather than drawn from the rifle squad, finished ahead of other British and foreign entries for the first time.



Picture: Terry Champion

Brig Paul Evans, Commander Royal Logistic Corps Training Group and Deepcut Garrison, discusses the print-out of scores with new recruit **Christian Warmsley**, who was among the first to use the Automatic Marking System (AMS), formal-

ly opened at Pirbright ranges. AMS is an electronic means of showing firers where they have hit or missed a target without them having to move from the firing point and without the need to employ markers in the butts.



Picture: Sgt Dave Bridges

A Challenger tank from the Queen's Royal Lancers reaches the bank of the Weser at Minden during a demonstration by Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment. As part of Exercise Neptune's Endeavour, the sappers showed techniques for getting heavy armour across using a floating bridge and, for almost the final time, the ageing M2 ferry. Scimitars from the

Light Dragoons, usually based in Höhne, also acted as the "cargo".

During the four-week exercise, the unit travelled hundreds of miles, bridging at seven different sites and completing more than 250 ferry crossings with the M2, which is due to be replaced next year by the new M3 bridging and ferrying equipment.

Amphibians go through paces

A DEMONSTRATION of ferrying operations and a "super quick build" bridge was put on by 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron as part of Exercise Neptune's Quest in Germany.

Sponsored by 28 Engineer Regiment, the exercise without troops was part of a Herford Garrison training and educa-

tion scheme for junior officers. The students also watched a combat engineer tractor demonstrate its amphibious capability and saw the M2D rig - operated in Germany only by 23 Sqn - in action.

After crossing the Weser in Mk5 assault boats, the students watched a ferry being constructed by 23 Sqn's Train-

ing Troop and a flotilla of M2 rigs rapidly put together a complete bridge.

More than 70 old comrades and wives from the German 74 Infantry Regiment were greeted by Lt Col Mungo Melvin, CO 28 Engr Regt, when they held their annual reunion and visited Bindon Barracks, Hameln.



What the papers have been saying

DSS officials are to cost proposals to force all councils to disregard war pensions when assessing housing and council tax benefits. The review of benefit rules is an attempt to relieve the plight of Britain's poorest old soldiers and war widows. - *Daily Telegraph*

■ Rail bosses are paying the Army to guard 300 railway carriages lying idle at CAD Kineton and BAD Longmarston - *Daily Mirror*

■ Defence officials are expected to give the go-ahead to the Home Secretary's plan to send young thugs to the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester. - *Daily Express*

■ A Gurkha has been accepted into the SAS for the first time. - *Sunday Times*

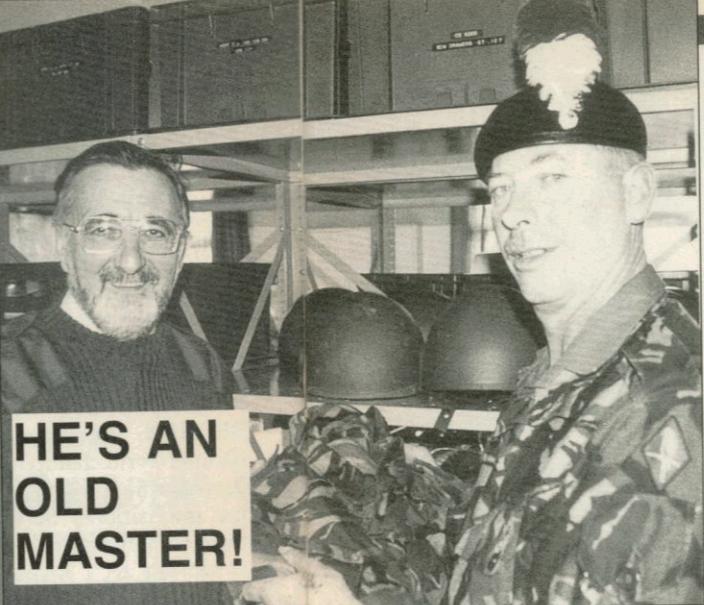
■ Military museums face a battle for survival in the next round of Defence cuts. - *Daily Mail*

■ Thanks to a 300-year-old Royal charter, soldiers of the Blues and Royals can have free burgers at a former pub in Hounslow, provided they are on horseback. The charter was imposed on the former Travellers Friend pub, now a McDonald's, during the reign of Charles II. - *Sun*

■ Under plans to reverse the manpower shortage, the junior leaders' scheme ended in 1992 will be revived. - *Daily Telegraph*

Medic's medal

Happy recipient of the prestigious Montefiore Medal, awarded to the officer who comes first in military surgery on the post-graduate medical officers' course at the Army's school of medicine at Ash Vale is Capt **Jo Mutimer**, RAMC. Jo, who took up her first appointment as a regimental medical officer when she joined the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards at Tern Hill, Shropshire earlier this year, was presented with the medal by Maj Gen **Frederick Mayes**, Director General Army Medical Services.



Many happy returns...

Cpl **Philip Main**'s first port of call, on his return to Northern Ireland after being seriously injured in a terrorist attack a month before the IRA cease-fire, was Army Headquarters.

Philip, of the Royal Military Police, met Lt Gen Sir **Roger Wheeler**, GOC Northern Ireland, before going on to Armagh to spend time with former colleagues. Diagnosed as quadriplegic, Philip, who has been attending the Duke of Connaught Wing in Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast, hopes to set up a desk-top publishing business from his home.



PEOPLE

End of holy orders?

The Rev **Robin Lavery** has attended his final camp as a TA padre, in central France. During his 25 years with the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Robin served with three Honorary Colonels and 11 of the 12 commanding officers. 40 Signals has had since its formation in the mid-1960s. He is also one of the few TA padres to have two bars on his Territorial medal, one for 12 years and the other for 18.



Lancers' lovely lolly

Gladly handing over a considerable sum to **Bill Griffiths** of the Rainbow House Children's Hospice, Walsall, is Sgt **Adrian Turner**, Queen's Royal Lancers. Bill acted as co-ordinator when QRL soldiers raised more than £3,000 for the hospice during their six-month UN tour in Cyprus.

Fund-raising events included a "fishathon", and Adrian even managed to sell a woolly hat to the UN Chief of Mission, no mean feat in a temperature of 36C.



It all adds up...

CSgt **Kev Dowling** of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (left) and Cpl **Andy Seager**, who transferred last year to the AGC from the Light Infantry, have both served 36 months of combined operational tours. To mark the achievement the pair, based at Gutersloh with HQ Combat Ser-

vice Support Group (Germany), were presented with the Accumulated Service Medal by Lt Gen **Hew Pike**, Deputy C-in-C Land.



Driving ...

Although LCpl **Dawn Gibson**, 2 RWW, was unlucky in her attempt to get to the Falklands with the TA, she found a ten-month posting to British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Canada a good alternative. There, she was driver to a member of the safety/control staff and attended the Bear Dawn adventurous training expedition.

... and walking

Also involved at BATUS was Capt **Guy Woodall** of 3 Armoured Engineering Squadron, who confesses to failing in one mission in Canada. He walked three miles across the prairie to celebrate his brother **William**'s birthday, only to find that he had gone to a briefing in his capacity as troop leader with 1 RTR's A Squadron



Well done, Anthony

Commodore **Sandy Backus**, Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, hands over a certificate of merit to Cpl **Anthony Atkinson**, 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers. Employed with the Field Squadron Repair of Airfield Operating Strips Troop while in the Falklands, he successfully commanded the plant on airfield damage repair tasks, and maintained vehicles and equipment, a job normally carried out by a senior NCO.

All in a day's work for Grapple sappers

BRITISH soldiers in Bosnia worked and slept more soundly thanks to sappers serving with the British Engineer Battalion (BRITENGBAT).

When troops on duty with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) came under increasing threat of attack by warring factions, the sappers moved swiftly to strengthen defensive positions and build hardened shelters.

Engineers deployed on Operation Grapple 6 have just completed their tour of duty in the United Nations' Sector South West.

Drawn from Nienburg-based 21 Engineer Regiment, the group built bridges, constructed camps, and maintained roads and tracks across central Bosnia.

"Part-way through our tour we had to take on considerably more responsibilities than we had originally planned for," said the regiment's 2iC, Maj Philip Naylor.

"Our 1st and 4th Field Squadrons and 7 HQ Squadron found themselves spread across the region, from Split to Tomislavgrad and at Gornji Vakuf, Vitez and the Maglaj finger. We also supported the Multinational Brigade when that deployed."

As the threat of attack heightened, priority was given to providing protection for UNPROFOR troops.

The sappers constructed extra COLPRO - collective protection - shelters, strengthened sangars at the entrances of British bases, and put up "cover from view" fences.

Meanwhile, the regiment continued its programme of renovation work at military bases and organised power, sanitation and water supplies.

BRITENGBAT also had to construct, repair and maintain main supply routes used by UNPROFOR and UNHCR.

"It's a bit like painting the Forth Bridge," said Maj Naylor, "once you reach one end, it's time to start at the other."

SSgt Brian van Cemphout



Sprs Des Clulow and Wayne Bye from Wimbish-based 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) encounter a strange-looking United Nations vehicle. The Wolf is designed to withstand a mine explosion. Its double-skinned hull is filled with water to deaden the shock wave, while the angled hull deflects the effect of blast.



WO2 Chris Christie visits the monument built by Royal Engineers in memory of Spr Barry Nicholas near Gornji Vakuf. A passing priest says a prayer before blessing the location.

was a member of 1 Field Squadron's plant troop based at Gornji Vakuf. He and his soldiers worked with civilian contractors on a stretch of road dubbed the Road of Peace.

"We prepared the base and the civilians laid an asphalt surface on top," he said.

The squadron's military

plant foreman, SSgt Taff Best, earned himself the nickname "Blaster" after leading several road-widening operations.

"My team drilled holes in the rocks and I packed them with explosives. We also blasted in two local quarries in exchange for a supply of grit."

Bosnia has a harsh winter

environment and the grit will be used to provide grip on ice-packed mountain roads.

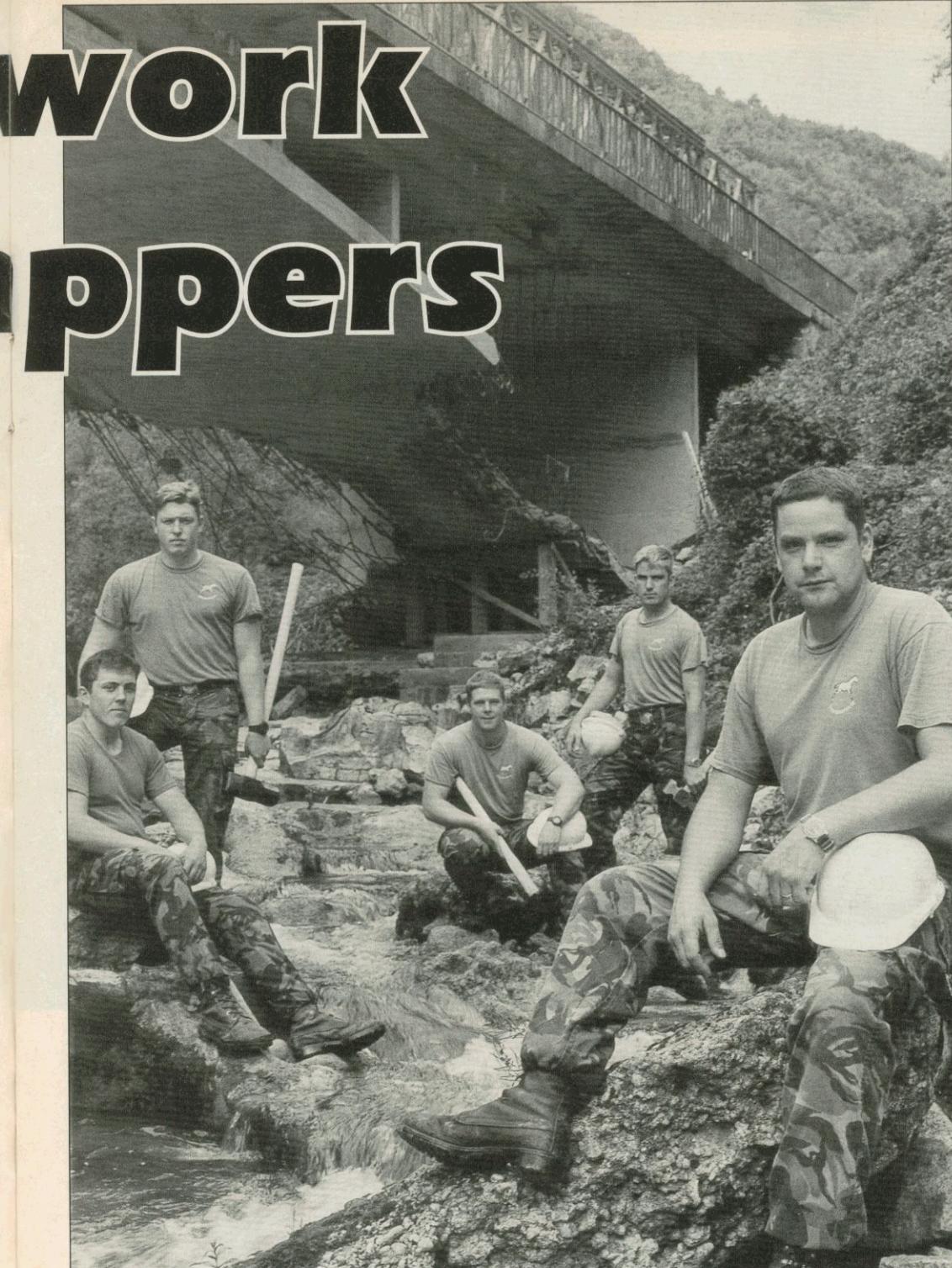
The 600-strong engineer group included several attached units.

Equipped with bridgelayers and AVREs, sappers from 6 Troop, 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron hardened shelters at Maglaj and Mount Igman before transferring for duties with Task Force Alpha.

Technical expertise was provided by 519 Specialist Team Royal Engineers from Chilwell which deployed a design cell to produce plans for bridge and base constructions.

Other teams in theatre include 522 STRE and 516 STRE, which administered bulk fuel installation at Ploce Dockyard Camp. Another specialist team - 521 - has been drilling wells to provide water at several bases.

A detachment of bomb disposal experts from 21 Field Squadron of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) remains in the theatre to provide a quick reaction team if troops or vehicles stray into minefields. Their job



Cpl 'H' Henderson (front) and his troop of Royal Engineers have been carrying out repairs to a mine-damaged bridge on Route Square between Prozor and Jablanica. Behind him (left to right) are Sprs Nick Andre, Ginge Peters, Dave Welsh and Smooch Liddle. The sappers, commanded by Lt Tom Clarke, placed a temporary Mabey Johnson girder bridge over the unsafe structure so that vehicles could go on using the road.

would be to clear a safe route through the minefield so that casualties and vehicles could be extracted.

The bomb disposal sappers

have been taking the message of mine awareness to UN military and civilian agencies. They have also held classes for Bosnian children who were at risk from unexploded ordnance and thousands of anti-personnel mines which litter the country.

Only if UN personnel are at risk in minefields do the British sappers intervene personally.

Information gathered on the ground by the engineers is used to make detailed maps

ing up loose mines. One boy lost both his legs after setting fire to an unexploded rocket.

The EOD detachment has been involved in monitoring the marking and clearance of minefields, offering advice to BiH and HVO troops who were "persuaded" to point out and remove their own minefields.

One of the regiment's final

duties was to renovate four memorials to British soldiers killed in the region. A mason in Split cut the stones and plinths and Resources Troop in Split constructed the wooden fences which now protect the sites.

Cpl Mick Dennis and C Section of 1 Troop, 1st Field Squadron RE laid the memorial stones, put up the fencing and laid a surround of gravel. BiH and HVO soldiers helped



SSgt Taff "Blaster" Best checks the surface of the "Road of Peace" near Gornji Vakuf before asphalt is laid. During Op Grapple 6, sappers maintained more than 140km of main supply routes, hauled 40,000 square metres of stone and supplied more than 2.3 million litres of water.



LCpl Neil Charlton watches as LCpl Sammy Parker guides a log into position. The two sappers from 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron helped construct shelters on Mount Igman.

by cutting back the grass and planting flowers.

The memorials are in memory of Cpl Barney Warburton and Spr Barry Nicholas, both of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Capt Steven Wormald of The Royal Anglian Regiment, and LCpl Wayne Edwards of The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

A day after the work had been done, the memorial was slightly damaged in an accident involving a civilian vehicle.

But the site was quickly restored by Sprs Ginge Hellen and Geordie Daft.



LCpl Martin Richardson (left) with Ptes Damien Wilson, Nicholas White, Guy Smith and Glyn Steel of 3 DWR

There's gold at the end of the Cambrian Patrol

FOUR teams struck gold in this year's Cambrian Patrol, the British Army's premier patrolling competition.

Top honours went to the 5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment; 48 Squadron, RAF Regiment; Bristol University Officer Training Corps and a team of Alpini soldiers from the Italian Julia Brigade.

Ten teams received certificates of merit, and 38 bronze and 25 silver medals were awarded.

The event is based on a long-range reconnaissance patrol, operating within a tactical setting in which teams' performances are monitored.

This year's exercise, based on a conventional United Nations patrol in Bosnia, took place over a ten-day period on the Sennybridge Training Area in Wales. Troops were put through their paces on some of the wildest and most beautiful terrain in the Cambrian Mountains.

Patrols had to break their mission to investigate and assist at a suspected civilian atrocity site and give first aid to casualties.

They also had to establish an observation post and conduct a close target reconnaissance (CTR) in Radnor Forest, identifying units, dispositions and vehicles.

The recovery stage was dif-

ferent for Regular and TA units. Regular patrols were lifted by Sea King helicopters and put down as a quick reaction force to investigate enemy infiltration, conducting a withdrawal in contact, while TA

soldiers were picked up by vehicle before carrying out an ambush at a suspected arms cache. Later, all the patrols were confronted by media men keen to learn about their recent operations. Individual soldiers were harassed by persistent reporters, TV camera crews and photographers trying to extract information. The media teams were portrayed by officers from the TA Pool of Public Information Officers who work in the world of television and newspapers.

The Cambrian Patrol places great emphasis on leadership and team spirit and is renowned for the physical and mental demands it makes.

Each patrol completing the course is assessed on points and awarded a certificate or medal on merit.

The challenge attracted more than 100 entries from Regular and Reserve teams from all over Britain, as well as America, Italy, Canada and the



Setting his sights high: This determined young soldier from the 4th/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers aimed to get an award from the Cambrian Patrol, the British Army's premier patrolling event



Above - Best foot forward. A patrol from the 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers moves forward to the start point of the final phase of the Cambrian Patrol

Left - A Cambrian patroller grabs rations to be shared with his team

Below - Leaving nothing to chance, Pte Rory Russell and Cpl Colin Johnson of 3 DWR check the route during the final phase of the patrol



Netherlands. Soldiers taking part carried loads of at least 70lb across 100km of rugged countryside. The event was supported by 160 (Wales) Brigade and associated patrol competition which began in the early 1970s as a long-distance



Navy helicopters were also used.

The patrol competition is the successor to the old Cambrian March and associated patrol competition which began in the early 1970s as a long-distance

skills tests were introduced. Two separate competitions emerged, one for Regular units, the other for the TA. In 1987 the competitive nature of the event was dropped and the event was re-titled the Cambrian Patrol.

Why OPFOR is unbeatable... almost

The best thing that's happened to the Army for years



WO2 Billy MacDonald grinned as his Land Rover bucked across the prairie.

Standing on the passenger seat and bracing himself against the cushioned rim of the hatch cut in the vehicle's roof, he ignored the violent motion, contentedly puffing his pipe, the gleam of battle in his eye.

He was in the middle of a company of armoured infantry bearing down on its enemy, and he was exultant.

"This year's Medicine Man exercises are the best thing that has happened to the British Army in years," he said. "It is great to see. I watch our soldiers moving up the gullies, stalking and taking out Challenger. Incredible."

A former instructor at Brecon, WO2 MacDonald of The Highlanders was an observer/controller during the Medicine Man exercises at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS).

This year, opposing forces (OPFOR) were introduced to confront the six battle groups being exercised, and all were using Tactical Engagement Simulation equipment (TES).

With TES equipment and computers to establish who killed whom and which side "won", the exercise battlefield was at last realistic.

Computer print-outs of engagements and photographs of formations' positions on a huge map brooked little argument at an after-action review following each "Mission".

WO2 MacDonald considered the OPFOR as probably the best trained unit in the Army. Its tactics and formations were designed to test battle groups to the utmost. Based on former Soviet and new British doctrine, OPFOR relied on speed of reaction and a clear understanding of commanders' intentions.

Almost without exception, it achieved its missions.

Two tank companies were available to OPFOR, each equipped with ten Salamanders - Scorpions with plastic drainpipes over their 76mm

Reports: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Terry Champion

dent of success. They also knew they had "lost" only one mission, a night attack in which the battle group benefited from the Challenger's Thermal Observation and Gunnery System (TOGS).

Csgt Steve Hall, until recently an instructor at Brecon, had had to adapt to the pace of battle as 2iC of OPFOR's infantry increment from the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards.

He finished instructing in March and found many lessons he taught did not apply in an OPFOR context. "We launch straight into attacks with the minimum preparation," he said.

Speed and flexibility characterised the OPFOR approach, said Capt Jeremy Baldwin, engineer commander: "Once you are in the battle it is every man for himself. Vehicle commanders earn their pay as they hunt out tanks and Warriors and destroy them."

He said there was no point in having a set plan, because it never survived the first contact with the enemy. "It is a case of



WO2 Billy MacDonald transfers data to his laptop

hit them and hit them hard," said Capt Baldwin. "It is partially based on Soviet shock action and it certainly works because the battle groups are very much in set formations and set pieces."

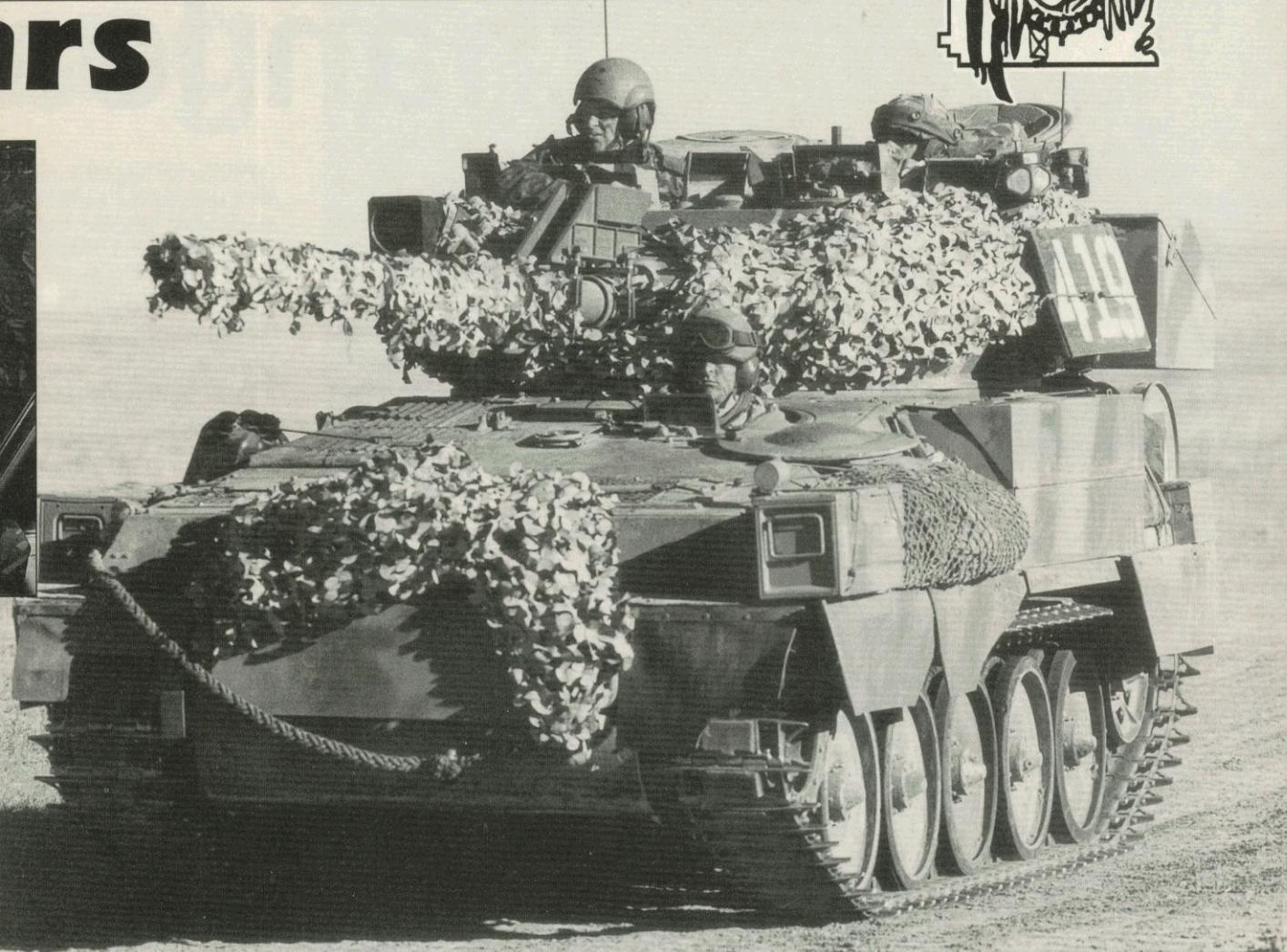
Capt Baldwin recalled that in a previous Medicine Man, the Queens Dragoon Guards and 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry put up a great fight because they were unconventional.

"A company commander shouted 'Company charge' over the radio net and 14 Warriors leapt at us. It was rather untidy but it was a swift movement and caught us on the hop for a while."

Commanders soon appreciated that engineering assets were vital and to be protected at all costs. On previous exercises, lip service was paid to the sappers, but at BATUS a mission could fail because engineering resources were destroyed.

The secret of OPFOR success lay in its rapid reactions and lightning thrusts hidden by folds of the prairie. It also had an inherent advantage because commanders had honed their tactics over previous exercises.

"We don't hang around," said Capt Ben Amponsah, 2iC of the OPFOR Infantry Company, "If the CO comes up with something we'll just go off



An OPFOR Salamander



Sgt John Kinnelly (left) and his OPFOR crew take tea and toast



OPFOR and 2 RTR commander Lt Col Nigel Aylwin-Foster, with Salamander and Sturgeon

and do it." One trick was to use slave order cards sparingly because of the time it took to decode them. Instead, they used their own brevity code with quick references for salient features.

"We have a really good relationship. They do their stuff and leave us to sort out the vehicle tactics," said Capt Amponsah. It was a new ball game for the tankies, who had to learn to take care of infantry, organise crews were the way forward, with the infantry more like

own driving so that there were no internal casualties.

The company commander (Maj Bob Gamble), vehicle commanders, drivers and gunners were provided by 2 RTR.

Capt Iain Macdonald, OC of the infantry increment of 60 Green Howards, felt dedicated crews were the way forward, with the infantry more like

panzer grenadiers. As OC recce for the Green Howards, Capt Macdonald was interested to see how OPFOR's strong combat recce, with two tanks, was often able to "kill" the battle group's recce assets.

"Unless the battle group has a commander who is prepared to go against the grain doctrinally, I don't think the battle group will win," he said.

The new-look Medicine Man exercises were a wonderful way to start his command of 2 RTR, said Lt Col Nigel Aylwin-Foster. He joined the regiment on August 1 and took over OPFOR two days later.

"I love Soltau dearly but it is impossible to manoeuvre with the freedom we have here."

"Without doubt it is the most effective training anybody could possibly want. It is early days and there are modifications and developments

● Turn to next page

When winning is less important than learning



TRY telling a squaddie he is not fighting to win and he will wonder if you are reading a different training manual.

But staff at BATUS are happier that a battle group commander should "lose" every battle and learn, than "win" and not learn.

This concept is impressed upon soldiers who arrive to train in the Medicine Man series of exercises in Canada.

Winning or losing was not important, but achieving the training objective was vital, said BATUS commander Col Nick Seymour, Scots DG, though he accepted not everybody believed this, particularly when 1 RTR squared up to 2 RTR in Medicine Man 5.

Certainly Maj Simon Allen, now a key member of the BATUS exercise control staff, was not worried that his own regiment was annihilating itself.

With 1 and 2 RTR locked in combat on the prairies of Alberta and inflicting unacceptable casualties on each other, Maj Allen was forcing the issue as the man responsible for controlling the carnage.

Exercises at BATUS are often drawn out far longer than the point at which battle groups would be pulled out of the line and replaced. This emphasises training objectives which have been agreed in advance.

Although an astute commander should realise when all is lost and the most sensible action is to disengage and save what forces he can, this is not an option available at BATUS.

"Inevitably there is a competitive spirit," said Lt Col Peter Gilchrist, CO of 1 RTR. "But winning is not the point, although we were quite pleased when the OPFOR had to gen-

erate a third company for the first time to achieve its mission."

In the Intelligence cell, Capt Steve Proctor and WO2 Sammy Sinclair found it particularly stimulating working against a live enemy which used active chemical agents.



Lt Col Peter Gilchrist, CO 1 RTR

The RAC was good at sending back consolidated situation reports, they said. The infantry had improved in this respect since working with the tanks.

The experience brought everybody back to basics, said 1 WFR's A Company commander Maj Barney Haugh, who had gained more grey hairs in the two weeks of TES established in UK, 1 WFR finished converting in early June, said Maj Haugh. "We have made mistakes and learned from them, and the battalion and brigade will benefit."

exercises than at any other time.

"If a soldier stands up or doesn't adopt a decent fire position he is going to get 'killed' and my combat power would quickly be eroded. Fieldcraft has once again come to the front."

The first Warrior battalion

"If I use the skyline I am going to be destroyed so I have to look at the ground and find the best way round it."



Instead of a notional threat WO2 Sammy Sinclair and Capt Steve Proctor of the Intelligence Cell have a live enemy and live chemicals to chart

action at all levels. It allows junior commanders initiative.

"The basic principles on which we operate are to find, fix and fight the enemy, destroy him, seek to manoeuvre and take the advantage of surprise and get within his decision cycle."

One of the concepts he stressed was how essential it was to meet the OPFOR mission no matter how many commanders were killed.

"None of our tactics are novel, and I can't think of anything we do that hasn't been used at some stage in the British Army.

"A lot of times I think battle

groups stick to what they know and therefore are not that adventurous. What we are doing is not taking new ideas, but trying out lots of different things."

A potent danger tank crews had to recognise was the clearly demonstrated punch of the infantry.

"Before TES, tanks could ignore the infantry, drive past

Putting the brigade commander's spin on the battle was 1 Mechanised Brigade Chief of Staff, Maj David Rutherford-Jones, Light Dragoons, who saw the essential elements for success as knowing the commander's mind, and being a gear higher than the opposition.

Tanks in the past tended to think they were invulnerable.

"We had become quite casual, but TES forces task commanders and soldiers to be realistic about their own low-level tactics.

"If I use the skyline I am going to be destroyed so I have to look at the ground and find the best way round it."

WO2 Iain Fleming, sergeant major of A Squadron, 1 RTR, found it scary watching waves of enemy vehicles attacking.

As the man responsible for casualty evacuation, WO2 Fleming was not happy with what he had available.

"We have 79 blokes and one ambulance which can take two stretchers and three sitting wounded," he said.

"I've never been to war except in the Gulf where it was a different kind of battle. We have to expect to take a lot of casualties, and it worries me because the system has been exposed here."

Although horrendous casualties would have been inflicted in the space of a few hours, Capt Peter McMullen, an Irish Guards observer/controller, detected the battle groups improving by leaps and bounds.

and vanish into the distance," said the CO.

"When I was 'killed' – for the first time in a mission and ironically by the CO of 1 RTR – I don't really think it made any difference because everybody knew what I was trying to achieve, and they achieved it."

A possible answer lay in the speed at which the OPFOR moved.

"On one occasion I was with ten tanks which drove through the battle group's Milan matrix. The only ones killed were those which slowed down. The ones that kept going flat out survived."

Col Aylwin-Foster said that during one mission he realised he was about to be outflanked

WO2 Iain Fleming, sergeant major of A Squadron, 1 RTR, found it scary watching waves of enemy vehicles attacking.

"In live firing, we can say 'You shouldn't do that' but with TES the OPFOR will have shot you, so you learn not to do it again," said the commander, Col Nick Seymour.

The secret was to work out what was going on and to decide what to do before the other side could assess and make his own decision.

"We have been reminded that hand-held anti-tank missiles can be devastating."

"We try to get inside their decision cycle, and generally speaking we succeed. That is why the OPFOR achieves its tasks all the time, because we act and react much quicker than they do."

"A few minutes can make the difference between success or failure. You have to make decisions in a vacuum because you never really know what the enemy is up to."

With the benefit of three months' training in which he has learned a huge amount,

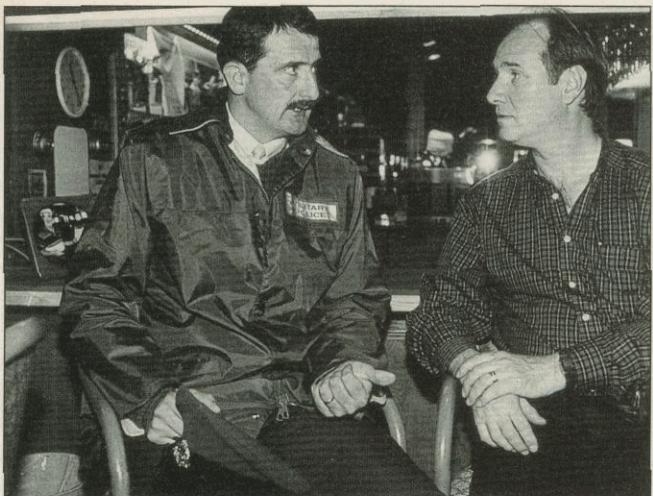
It is an easier death when soldiers know that control staff can regenerate them. At least BATUS they can benefit from the experience, and live to fight – and win – another day.

Col Aylwin-Foster looks forward to digesting the many lessons, then returning to BATUS with the first battle group of the 1996 season.

"Ironically, we will be facing the last battle group of the 1995 season, the King's Royal Hussars, who will be very keen to beat us."

"The BATUS staff also know us so we will have no leeway and can expect no excuses. We will have no friends here next year..."

19



WO1 Bris Lightowler and Barry Finkelman have a liaison meeting

Watching brief only for RMP

THE SQUADDIE slumped at his seat in Medicine Hat's "Sin Bin" night club presented a sad picture.

First night back from 22 days' hard exercise, paid good money for a drink and a ring-side seat to watch the dancer who was, well, dancing on stage – and the exhausted soldier was gently snoring.

But there was no need for the joint Royal Military Police and Medicine Hat Police patrol to become involved.

A steward gently roused the soldier and suggested a mate take him into the fresh air – without his drink.

Canada has draconian penalties for minor misdemeanours, Canadians are more likely to learn of close co-operation with their visitors. British staff at BATUS helped fill sandbags and build dykes when the Saskatchewan river flooded, and snipers were brought in to deflate a propane gas tank which was in danger of striking a bridge support. Army helicopters helped to search a remote area for graves.

WO1 Bris Lightowler and his seven RMP corporals provide what is almost an advice and assistance agency.

"We are not out to spoil their fun, but to look after their interests," he said. "On any one night 500 soldiers go into town. They are all young, have worked hard and are obviously out for a good time.

"I can honestly say that 98 per cent will have a good time, and that the people of Medicine Hat or Calgary will never be aware of them.

Friendship between the two forces, extending to invitations to barbecues at home, started when training began at BATUS in 1972.

Constable Rick Rawlins, ex-Royal Canadian Navy, is an old hand who appreciates what the Brits bring to the beat.

"These guys were in the Falklands and the Gulf War and bring a whole new world of experience to policemen stuck in one city," he said.

WO1 Lightowler has a remarkably effective working

Support staff keeps them wagons rollin'



Workshop OC Maj Paul Shewry

COVERED wagons still roll across the great plains of North America – trundling after British battle groups which exercise in Canada from April to October.

Early settlers needed their wagon trains; so do today's soldiers. It took a three-kilometre train to move Opposing Forces' vehicles the 2,000-odd miles from the East Coast to Alberta before the start of this exercise season.

Each battle group has a retinue of some 250 covered wagons, mostly Bedfords and Leyland Dafs today, but further behind is an ants' nest of activity which provides everything from fuel to replacement Challengers.

This essential support for the battle groups and OPFOR is provided by five sub-units.

Support is also extended to the training staff at Wainwright farther north in Alberta.

Restrictions in the United Kingdom on the use of Royal Engineers equipment such as the minefield-busting Giant

Viper do not apply in Canada, so it can be employed to spectacular effect.

The sappers also lead a range services support group. As well as simulation explosive charges to represent artillery and mortars, the sappers prepare and operate all the mechanical targetry on 1,300 units spread across the Block.

A composite supply depot managed by 105 Squadron Royal Logistic Corps holds 26,000 separate categories of item headings. Along with 900 vehicles and their ancillary equipment there are 300 types of ammunition, ranging from SA80 5.56mm rounds to Milan rounds costing £13,000 each.

The BATUS Workshop REME provides second-line support to the battle groups and OPFOR, with first and second line support offered to safety vehicles. During the previous winter repair period the workshop completed more than 100 hours per man of repair a month, as against the REME average of 35 hours.

The Quartermaster Technical department provides technical services through a first line unit repair store and a unit support store, while the BATUS Support Unit covers families, housing, welfare, medical catering and transport facilities.

Keeping vehicles from Land Rovers to AS90s on the road is the task of the Workshop, and it is a huge task.

The whole range of A vehicles appears on its books, and



SSgt Dave Emery (second from the right) and his hard-worked REME Redtop fitters

soldiers specialise across the board. It is unusual to see an AS90 parked next to a Challenger in Europe, but not at BATUS, where OC Maj Paul Shewry's fitters have to be masters of almost every skill.

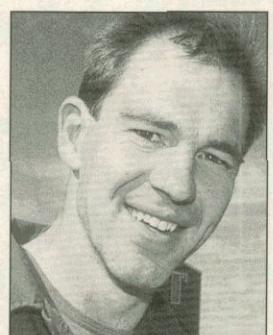
With 130 summer staff and 180 in winter, it is a large workshop, and most of the soldiers will do more work in six months than they would in two years back in their own units.

Soldiers have more responsibility at a lower rank than in most other workshops and are not dogged by regular guard and fatigue duties.

Vehicles are as hard worked as the men. A tank in Germany will be base overhauled every ten years. In BATUS it is every two years because tanks do in one year what would normally be done in five.

Hardest worked of all are the redtops and their fitters. It is vital to keep the safety vehicles on the road because if they break down the whole exercise could grind to a halt.

SSgt Dave Emery from Osnabrück supervises work on the 160 safety vehicles, which have increased from 120 last year and 100 the previous year.



Cpl Rob Browne, whose dust filter modification greatly reduced the engine wear of Leyland Daf trucks

"A normal RLC fitter section may deal with 60 vehicles so this is the hardest working fitter section in the Army," he said.

"We have prop shafts at right angles, chassis completely cracked and axles cracked in half, and we are repairing stuff we would never touch unless in a war situation," said SSgt Emery.

Rough terrain on the prairie means vehicles regularly smash the front axle and steering assembly.

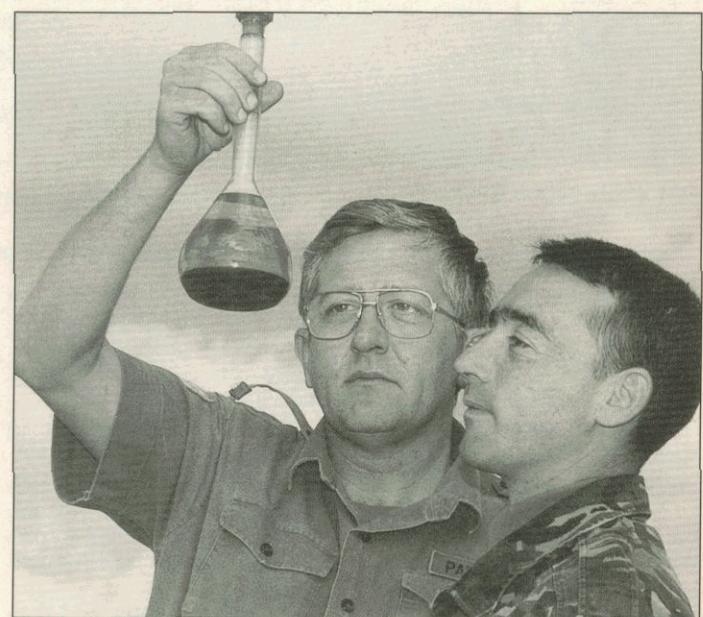
The Workshop successfully fought for under-body armour suggested by a quartermaster

last year and now saves tax payers a fortune in spares and time. Whereas 17 different axles were needed last year, only three were required by the last exercise this year.

Cpl Rob Browne modified the air cleaner on the Leyland Daf 4-ton truck and greatly increased engine life span. Prairie dust is a fine talcum powder which reaches places other dusts can't.

The RLC's 105 (BATUS) Squadron has also eased the burden on the public purse.

For legal reasons, the ammunition depot is run by



SSgt David Parr and Cpl Jim McCormick inspect a sample of sludge formed at the bottom of a vehicle's fuel tank by the fine prairie dust

Canadians; 2,400 tons valued at £32 million are issued in spring and autumn tranches, with each battle group requiring 300 tons for its Med Man exercise.

Sorting empty cases from live round was a tedious business before a unique machine was introduced. It handles 134 kg in less than a day with an error of one live round in four million. The task used to keep three men busy for a week.

Another expensive but cost-effective investment was a massive drive-through wash-down. Vehicles are not allowed into the Force Maintenance Area until they have been properly cleaned and two-day long queues would build up.

"Time is very precious at the end of an exercise with so much maintenance and servicing before handing over to the next battle group, but the drive-through quickly pays for itself in soldiers' time," said squadron OC Maj Martin Shilston.

"It used to take 43 hours for one battle group to pass through; it now takes 14 hours, including the OPFOR and redtop vehicles."

The "natives" are friendly, and civilian staff provide an essential element of the work force. Many are ex-Service men now settled in Canada, who know the score and provide continuity to keep the latter-day wagons moving safely across the prairies.

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Maj Paddy Redding, OC D Coy, 2 RGR, briefs his company headquarters while waiting for a helicopter to take them forward for an attack

Land Command in Brunei for first time

SCORPIONS, swamps and dense jungle were the real challenge when the British Army's newest headquarters exercised in its farthest outpost.

The battalion and garrison level field training exercise, code named Ulu Rajah, took place in Brunei, the first time the Wilton-based HQ Land Command has exercised troops there since assuming command earlier this year.

Involved were HQ Land, Land Command troops, Brunei Garrison and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles. Ulu Rajah ranged over a number of phases, escalating from a battalion call-out and local defence to evacuation operations and a live-firing package.

Air and sea elements of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) also took part, providing helicopter and fast assault boat support.

Brig Andrew Cumming, Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations), led the HQ Land team, with just three staff to "play" the brigade headquarters. They were assisted by five umpires from the United Kingdom and a small team from 29 Commando Regiment RA and 36 Engineer Regiment to represent gunner and sapper units.



A soldier from 2 RGR stands guard as a Bell 212 helicopter from 7 Flight, AAC approaches a jungle landing point during Ulu Rajah

JHQ was set up in Sittang Camp, about 40km from the 2 RGR barracks in Seria and 60km from the exercise area. Final phase of the exercise was a battalion-strength attack on an enemy force dropped by parachute close to the coast. RBAF fast assault boats were

used to move two companies up the river and the attack went in at dawn following a live-firing night defensive battle.

British High Commissioner Ivan Callan watched the final assault on the RBAF range complex. "The element of co-operation with the Royal



Brig Andrew Cumming, the exercise director

Brunei Armed Forces is most important," he said. "I hope this co-operation will grow."

Brig Cumming was satisfied with the results. "With the garrison now under command of HQ Land, this was a good opportunity to put the battalion and the garrison through their paces.

"It went extremely well. It was multi-phased, starting with a non-combatant evacuation operation to get the families out, followed by a joint theatre plan for the reinforcement of the garrison by an ad hoc force from the UK," he said.

"The exercise then moved into the jungle to destroy the enemy, followed by the live-firing exercise.

"My lasting impression of the exercise was that behind every bush was a Gurkha, and behind every Gurkha an enormous smile – and they are still smiling."

From *Soldier*, November 10, 1945

Fuse that thwarted Hitler

THERE are people alive today who almost certainly owe a debt of gratitude to the late Dr William Butement.

While Hitler's flying bombs killed and wounded thousands of Londoners and inhabitants of the South

East, more would have suffered had it not been for the 40-year-old "boffin" from New Zealand.

Then assistant director of scientific research at the Ministry of

Supply, William Butement, and a team of scientists, invented and perfected Britain's key secret weapon, the radio proximity fuse.

It beat the flying bombs, saved Allied fleets from disaster against suicide bombers in the Pacific, and played a crucial part in repelling the German Ardennes offensive in December 1944.

According to *Soldier*'s John Grove, writing in the November 10, 1945 issue, the radio fuse was second in importance to the discovery of the atomic bomb.

It revolutionised anti-aircraft gunnery, giving guns a precision seven times greater than that obtained with the standard clockwork fuse shell.

As long as the new "radio" shell passed within a certain predetermined distance of the target, the projectile would explode.

Co-developers of the fuse included Dr E S Shire and Dr A F G Thomson.

Dr Butement went on to become chief scientist at Woomera, the rocket-testing range in Australia. He was awarded the CBE in 1959 and died in 1990 at the age of 86.

Sorry, chum!

Letter to the Editor from the same edition:



Can you supply original copies of the picture of Cherry Richards in *Soldier* No 13? — Fus W Bradley, PI/3, Sub-Sec D, GHQ, 2 Ech.

• No. Soldier can only supply original photographs in very exceptional circumstances. — Ed.

Cherry Richards



Members of 105 Regiment Royal Artillery who completed the ADCIS DED course at Knook Camp

Gunners keep their eyes on the sky



Battery recce driver LBdr Allan Dorward and Battery Command Post's Bdr Roddy Sutherland, both of 212 Bty, come to terms with new ADCIS computers fitted into the Saxon vehicles

SOLDIERS from 105th Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers) trained with the Army's new Air Defence Command and Information System (ADCIS) computer system as part of their annual camp.

They are among the first Terriers to be equipped with ADCIS: the only Regular Army unit currently with the system is 47 Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Overlapping training with Liverpool's 103 Regiment ensured that 105 are now on a par with their Regular counterparts in converting to the system.

Training was split between two locations — ADCIS at Larkhill and nearby Knook Camp, and Penhally in Wales. There, other soldiers comple-

ed the ten-day course to allow them to fire the the regiment's Javelin anti-aircraft missile.

At Larkhill, the mysteries of the main processor were explained to the gunners during an intensive two-week course.

A core element of the ADCIS system, the computer processors are mounted in Saxon vehicles, which recently replaced Land Rovers within the regiment.

The other main component of ADCIS

is the data entry device (DED), the complexities of which were explained to detachment sergeants and their 2iCs at Knook Camp.

Time and resources were also devoted to the REME LAD, which undertook maintenance training for the Saxons.

Maj Jim Kinloch said: "With the arrival of ADCIS, our air defence capability is brought into the 20th century, and provides us with a system whereby the transfer and updating of equipment is very quick.

"This enables us to use our missiles much more effectively than was the case previously, when communications were by encoded signal and radios."



Cfn Gerry Dawson, who serves with the REME LAD, checks out the Saxon suspension

EX FIRST CRUSADE



Woofer's Warriors stand ready for the enemy

Crusaders leap the last hurdle

CHALLENGERS, Chieftains, Warriors and Saxons joined battle on Salisbury Plain at the end of last month as 1 (Mechanised) Brigade practised high intensity brigade and battle group operations.

About 8,000 soldiers and 1,200 vehicles took part in Exercise First Crusade at the culmination of Tidworth-based 1 (Mech) Bde's training year.

The brigade comprises 1st Royal Tank Regiment with Chieftain and the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters in Warrior, with the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment in Saxon. All three units had recently sharpened their battle drills in Alberta, 1 RTR and 1 WFR exercising together

at BATUS and 1 QLR training at Wainwright.

Support was provided by the HQ and Signal Squadron; 1 RHA; 10 Bty, 47 Regt RA; 22 Engr Regt; 21 Bde Spt Sqn RLC; 16 Armd Fd Amb; 3 and 15 Fd Wkspes REME; and the brigade provost unit.

Opposing the brigade was 3 RGR, who have one company in the Falkland Islands, a squadron of Challenger tanks from 1 QRH, a recce squadron from the Household Cavalry Regiment, a 9 Regiment AAC squadron, and F Company, 1 SG.

Exercise control was provided by 5 Airborne Brigade which also carried out parachute drops and provided four

Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Weston

eight-man damage control teams which, because of the good weather, had little to do.

Although the exercise was fast moving, safety consciousness was high, particularly in relation to drivers getting enough sleep. There was no live firing and strenuous efforts were made to keep local residents informed of activity.

More than 300 vehicles of the Brigade Support Group made a very successful night move.

First five days were devoted to battle group operations involving attack and support helicopters and fixed wing assets.

The second half of First Crusade allowed brigade commander Brig Brian Plummer to step back from control and be exercised by 3 (UK) Division. His brigade staff had to make sense of the chaos.

Brig Plummer said this year's exercise was significantly bigger than the 1994 First Crusade.

Although focused on the brigade effort, Brig Plummer said he was conscious it was the endeavours of individual soldiers and sub units that made the operation work.

"The soldier on the ground is certainly as important and in some places more important



Brig Plummer

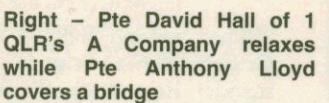
● Turn to next page



Saxons of 1 QLR move to counter an airborne landing



Above - Pte Monk Gale on the DZ with 1 Para's A Company marker



Right - Pte David Hall of 1 QLR's A Company relaxes while Pte Anthony Lloyd covers a bridge

From Page 25

than the brigade commander," he said. "It is very much team work. If the soldier hasn't the right tools at the right time and doesn't know what he has to do then the plan doesn't work."

Training of the three major units in Alberta had clearly paid off, he said. It had showed up weak points in the organisation and emphasised the need for a simple plan if it was going to survive.

Gurkhas from 3 RGR and the Scots Guards' F Company, who two days later would



be on guard at Buckingham Palace, bore the brunt of the brigade attack.

The two Gurkhas and Scots Guards had worked together in Belize and Kenya before First Crusade, said LSgt Paul Barry.

Although many of the troops had experience of tactical engagement simulation exercises, on First Crusade they were in the hands of umpires who decided who died and who lived.

As the section tumbled from the back of the Warrior the first two soldiers were shot by the Gurkhas and knocked out by the umpire.

It took some time before the remainder were able to reach the trench and clear it with a grenade.

As the final attacks were successfully completed the latter-day crusaders could be pleased



Challengers and Warriors work together to defeat the enemy



at a good battle.

"The enemy was soundly defeated and many lessons were learned in the process," said 3 Div Chief of Staff, Col Andrew Ritchie.

"First Crusade was highly



Above - Bdr Roger Essex and LBdr Andy Booth of 10 (Assaye) AD Bty

Left - Lt Tony Royce of C Company, 1 QLR awaits developments

successful and achieved the objectives laid down by the GOC. These opportunities do not occur often given the constraints of training areas and other operational commitments."

Having proved themselves at high intensity conflict, the brigade may have to focus on humanitarian work if it is required to deploy to Bosnia on Operation Grapple. It is a strong possibility.

our deployable brigades in a high state of readiness for future operations."

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Rgr Tom Ferris trains for the Cambrian Patrol team in the rugged island terrain



CSgt Trevor Martin has a few pointers for Rgr Ginger McLernon

Turtle success for Rangers

THIRTY-FIVE soldiers from the 4th/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers were the fifth and final Territorial Army unit to visit Ascension Island this year.

They took part in the last of the annual Turtle Reef exercises, shortened from the orig-

inal four weeks to gear it towards the TA.

Used as a staging post for forces on their way to the Falklands War in 1982, Ascension Island is currently a Royal Air Force re-fuelling outpost for Tristars on their way to Mount Pleasant, where 4/5 Rangers provided the first TA rifle platoon for the reinforced infantry company based there last year.

About a third of the soldiers on Turtle Reef 5 had served in that platoon.

Both terrain and climate on Ascension pose severe challenges to the infantry soldier, since the island is composed almost entirely of rugged volcanic rock and the weather is long distances.

SIGNALLERS' FRENCH CONNECTION

MEN and women of the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) have been training alongside their French Regular counterparts to hone their soldiering skills – and become familiar with equipment which is breaking new ground in battlefield communications.

Exercise Merlin Stone, near La Courtine in the Limousin area, was designed to task the 250 Territorial Army soldiers from Northern Ireland with providing the different types of communications required by battlefield commanders or those in charge of international human relief missions.

The volunteers of 40 Signals provide TA back-up to the globetrotting Regulars of 30 Signal Regiment, responsible for the British Army's worldwide deployment communications.

Although 40 Signals regularly trains abroad for its NATO role, this was the first time it had exercised in France.

The terrain proved ideal in testing

the soldiers' skills of achieving remarkable results over difficult terrain and long distances.

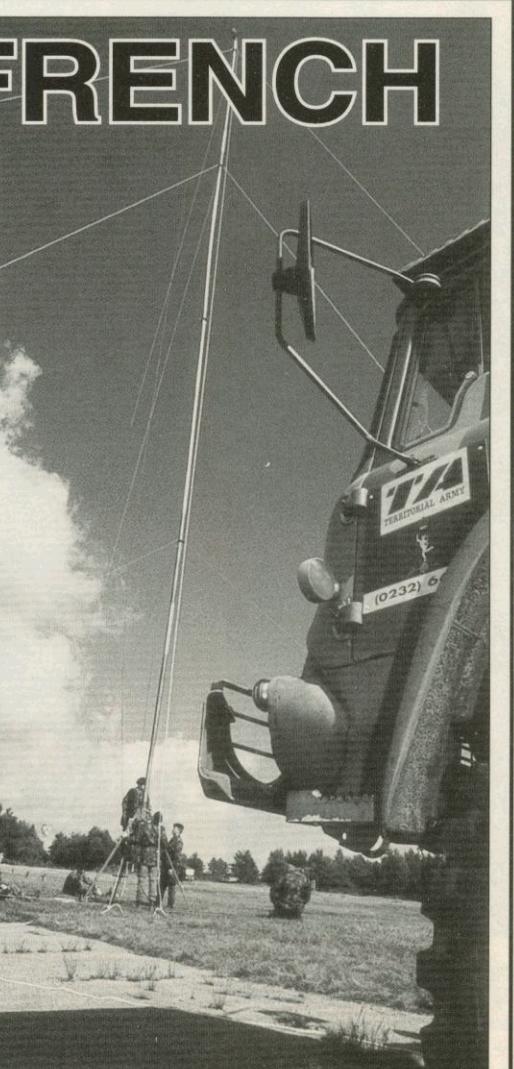
From the wooded hills overlooking the training camp at La Courtine, members of the regiment established a full battlefield network. They also used newly-issued high frequency transceivers to bounce messages off the ionosphere, impressing the French signalers in the process.

With its regimental headquarters at Clonavon Park, Belfast, the regiment has squadrons located in Newtowndrums (85th (Ulster) Sig Sqn) and Limavady (69 Squadron). The latter, "transferred" from 32 Signal Regiment in Scotland in April, is the regiment's newest element. Based at Clonavon Park are an HQ Squadron and 66th (City of Belfast) Sig Sqn.

Soldiers from the regiment helped test hi-tech equipment before it was sent to Bosnia.



Cpl Michael Armstrong helps Sig Gillian Seymour with her camouflage make-up during the 40 Signals' exercise



Members of 40th (Ulster) Signals Regiment fine-tune their new 100ft high-frequency antennae during Exercise Merlin Stone

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Portland EOD bomb hero awarded QGM

CAPT Michael Lobb RE, who defused a massive unexploded bomb on the island of Portland, Dorset, in March, has been awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal. His two-day ordeal was completed in the glare of television cameras.

His award is one of dozens for service in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Rwanda.

Capt Lobb was duty bomb disposal officer for 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) based at Wimbish when the 1,100lb German Second World War bomb was detected buried under a disused football pitch.

For service in Northern Ireland

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Soldiers from the regiment gained a healthy respect for the professionalism of the RAF, who were excellent hosts.

resulting from traffic accidents on the main supply routes.

Incidents regularly led to UN drivers being held at gunpoint, and WO2 Lewis displayed great moral and physical courage in single-handedly introducing a fair system of recompense that was decisive in giving the peacekeepers long-term freedom of movement.



Capt Michael Lobb RE

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QCVS: Capt MJ Abbott PWRR; Maj CEI Beattie RGJ; Maj SA Bird, QGM, BEM, Kings Own Border; Maj CCS Booth LI; Maj GJ Cary, R Signals; Capt EJR Chamberlain LI; Maj JH De Haldevang SG; Sgt HL Elliott AGC(PRO); Col TM Fitzalan Howard, late SG; Capt AJ Gale RLC; Maj TJ Gammons RRF. WO1 AF Gibb RLC; Lt Col DCN Giles AGC(PRO); Capt AHF Gordon AAC; Cpl TEJ Graham, R Irish; Maj NG Thorold KRH; Maj MT Griffiths, Kings Own Border; Maj MI Hanlon, R Irish; Capt DH Jackson, R Irish; Lt PG Jackson SG; Capt HRDJ Joynson KRH; Csgt NC MacGregor KOSB; Lt GM McCrindle, R Signals; Maj MJ McFrederick, R Irish.

Csgt A McKenzie, A and SH; Pte KA McMillan, Para; Lt Col AKM Miller, OBE, A and SH; Capt KA Miller, Int Corps; Maj AF Morrow, R Irish; Maj DM Nield RWF; Cpl SD Orchard, Para; Capt MB O'Reilly, R Irish; Csgt RJ Palmer, R Irish; Sgt R Parkhill, R Irish; Maj D Parsonage, Kings Own Border; Maj BS Price RLC; Capt JA Scott, A and SH; Cpl PJ Shephard AGC(PRO).

Lt Col ARD Shirreff KRH; Maj IW Smith, MBE, Para; Maj JRM Stanton, Kings Own Border; Pte L Thompson, R Irish; Capt MR Tierney KOSB; Col MD Webb, OBE, late AAC; Lt Col TFL Weeks, OBE, LI; Sgt KJ White, Int Corps; Maj MW Wischhusen RRF; Sgt AR Worrall AGC(PRO).

For service in former Yugoslavia

OBE: Lt Col PE O'R-B Davidson-Houston RGBW; Lt Col JSM Edwards MBE, RHF.

MBE: Capt AJ Colart RE; Maj FDF Drury RGBW; WO2 PP Lewis LG; Sgt JM Mackie REME; Maj RJC Maxwell RLC; WO2 C Sumner RGBW; Capt RM Wilson BEM, RE.

MID: Cpl S Bell RHF; LCpl CR Edwards RGBW; Cpl DD Lewis RGBW; Cpl MJ Linker RGBW; Cpl WJ McGavin REME.

QCB: Maj SG Donaldson RA; LCpl J Hopkins RLC.

QCVS: Capt JD Bagshaw, Coldm Gds; Maj DAJ Brown RGBW; Capt JC Collier RGBW; Capt JC Dixon AGC(PS); LCpl JE Flux REME; Brig RDS Gordon CBE, late 17/21 LI; Csgt SA Hanson RGBW; Cpl DC Jones RE; Lt Col MH Lewington RLC; Lt Col IR Liles MBE, RRF; WO2 DA McGinnis RE; SSgt VA Pridden RLC; Cpl PA Rendell RE; Capt RG Robertson RHF; Capt NJP Sharples REME.

For service in Rwanda

QCB: Lt Col M Cuthbert-Brown AGC(PRO).

Recruits will return – but they must be looked after

SOMEWHERE in the depths of the Ministry of Defence there must be a group of men and women having difficulty biting back the words "We told you so".

It seems that there will have to be an increased recruitment effort if shortfalls in manpower are to be made up. This must be music to the ears of those who warned that cuts were going too deep and too fast.

Everyone will have had a different experience of Service life but my letters reflect a tension that wasn't present before Options for Change.

People are genuinely worried. They wonder what is going to be cut next.

Those stationed overseas increasingly feel out on a limb. There is concern among families in Germany



Cari's column

wished their precious young hadn't had to go to Bosnia. In between are the soldiers – male and female – working in trades and learning new skills and wondering what the future holds for them. Would they recommend the life? It depends on who you ask.

Some hadn't heard the information, of course, but their reaction might not have been so extreme in a more stable climate.

But these are concerns which remain "in house", so why is Service life proving less attractive?

It can't be an image problem. Never have there been so many documentaries and dramas on television. *Soldier, Soldier*, for example, is a well-written, well-researched and realistic portrayal of Army life. Viewers have taken the characters to their hearts.

Is it the way in which Army life is promoted? One much-used phrase calls the Army the "best-trained workforce" in Britain.

There is no doubt it.

Anyone employing an ex-soldier doesn't just get the benefit of a better-than-average training. He also gets a person who knows the meaning of loyalty, initiative and grace under pressure.

That may well be attractive from the employers' point of view but would it tempt a potential recruit? It's unlikely. It's easy to get on-the-job training now. Companies have caught on to the benefits of developing employees' abilities.

Army adverts emphasise leadership and responsibility, challenge and adventure. It might attract those already considering this kind of life but it won't persuade young people I've met for whom these are outmoded concepts.

Research shows that youngsters are motivated by different ideas. We are told the young increasingly see themselves as European rather than British. They think that "Queen and Country" belong in the past.

There is evidence that they are concerned about the environment and world peace in a more practical way than their parents. So why aren't they attracted to the kind of peacekeeping role which is clearly on show in Bosnia?

The sad fact is that many young people of today aren't attracted to notions of service, duty or group identity. They have not been exposed to them at school.

When I left teaching I had grown tired of being told off for involving my children in team games, in competitive sports, and in periods of silent working. Individualism was king.

I believe that what we are seeing now is the result of that philosophy. It is unfortunate that it came when a change in world politics gave the Government a chance to cut costs. But the tide is turning. The National Curriculum has brought order to learning. Teachers are being scrutinised for their effectiveness.

There is talk that the Army must be ready for them. Policy-makers must be willing to take seriously the concerns of families.

There should be rewards for those trying to build a career in the Army rather than just putting in the time. There must be sensible provision for medical care overseas. And there must be well-maintained, secure housing for those who want or need it.

Unless the people who join the Army feel valued and cared for, all the efforts put into recruitment will be dissipated in an atmosphere of disappointment and disillusionment.

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



Picture: Terry Champion

FAW (GERMANY) 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tell us why, say wives

ARMY wives in Germany wanted to hear from the decision-makers the reasons behind the less palatable decisions that they had to live with.

In her opening address to the seventh annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives (Germany) at Herford, chairman Mrs Denise Chaganis said the theme "Reason and Reality" reflected the mood of many wives in Germany.

Many wanted to question the reasons behind some decisions and all had to face up to the reality of simply getting on with life despite the difficulties.

Stressing that the FAW always tried to be a voice of

reason, Mrs Chaganis said some of today's realities were "pretty stark": changes in healthcare, closure of schools, greater commuting distances, even shorter time between operational tours and the knock-on effect in the home when husbands returned.

Maj Gen Scott Grant, Commander HQ UKSC(G), told delegates that the reorganisation of the Army and manpower reductions were nearly completed and went on to outline the new garrison structure in Germany.

He assured wives of a smooth transition to the new medical arrangements and underlined the role of parents in the new worldwide schools agency.

Bosnia withdrawal an option

EARL Howe told the FAW conference that the government would not hesitate to withdraw Op Grapple troops if the dangers became too great.

Other points from the speech were:

● It was acknowledged that new policies had meant turbulent times, but with a smaller, more stable army

had come the recognition for an investment in people.

● A definitive statement would be made in the spring on the Bett Review of pay, conditions of service, career and manpower structures.

● The Under-Secretary recognised that the target of an average 24-month interval between operational tours had not been possible

in the 1990s although it had been policy since 1974.

● Child benefit could be paid direct into a UK account or through the husband's pay. The Child Support Agency recognised that a wife of a Serviceman overseas could be classified as a habitual resident of the UK and could therefore seek support from a former hus-

band. Only cases where the parent with care was receiving social security benefit would be processed at present. Non-benefit cases will be dealt with in April.

● Improved opportunities for those wanting to pursue careers in education would be available. With the Return to Learn schemes in secondary schools and the

launch of the Open University Post-Graduate Certificate course, dependants could pursue their careers in BFG.

● Work on the transfer of the married quarters estate to the private sector would take full account of the operational, security and welfare requirements of personnel and families.

Question to Earl Howe:
You were clear as to unemployment benefit (UB) being paid in Germany. Where do wives returning from Germany and leaving full-time jobs stand when claiming UB?

Earl Howe: A person's national insurance contribution is geared to ability to pay a social insurance scheme, so it is unlikely that all conditions applying to payment of unemployment benefit in those circumstances would be satisfied.

Question: Where is the justification for Northern Ireland pay continuing while those serving in Bosnia receive little or nothing for hardship? The Bosnia allowance is a UN incidental daily allowance of £1; NI pay is £4.13.

Earl Howe: This question is very much in our minds at the moment. I understand that feelings run high on this point. It is seen to be unfair and it is something ministers are looking at. I hope we can say more in a short while.

It's a fact

Service men and women can buy surplus married quarters at a 30 per cent discount as long as the property is retained for five years. — Parliamentary reply.

Q and A

Question: The UK-produced brochure on claiming unemployment benefit given to families before they arrive in Germany is "double Dutch" to many young wives. Their benefit office tells them to sort it out in Germany, but when they arrive in Germany they have seven days to claim or they lose out because they have not applied in the UK.

(Mrs Chaganis intervened to say there was no doubt some DSS offices in the UK were not giving Service personnel the support they deserved. She said many wives arriving from Scotland and Northern Ireland were able to claim, while those from predominantly garrison towns were not given proper information.)

Earl Howe: I will take that back with me; I am very concerned to hear that. It isn't right that people are losing out in the maze of regulations.

Tidworth is tidier – thanks to garrison's Poop Patrol



Keeping it clean: Armed with scoops, small spades, buckets and bin bags, overalls and protective gloves, these intrepid soldiers and their wives have been trying their best, with others, to ensure that the highways and byways around Tidworth Garrison are kept clear of dog faeces.

From left to right they are Pte Matt Williams and wife Val, Cpl Mac Farmer with wife Sarah and campaign organiser Chrissie McCammon with her husband

Sgt Kevin McCammon. All are from 1 WFR. As a pet-owner herself, Chrissie says she is fully aware of the danger to children which dog-fouling can cause in passing on toxocarisis.

With the approval of the local dog warden and environmental officer, she has spearheaded a campaign in the area to enlighten Army families.

Collection of waste following the group's clearing patrols is made free of charge by the local council.

MQ transfer news soon

NEWS on the transfer of ownership of the married quarters estate to the private sector is expected "before the end of the year", Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a Commons written reply on November 2.

MEASURES are being taken to reduce an acute shortage of anaesthetists in the Regular Armed Forces.

By April 1, when the reorganisation of the Defence Medical Services will be largely complete, 95 anaesthetists will be needed, 31 more than are now serving.

The situation regarding surgeons is healthier, with 117 serving, one more than required from April 1.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a Commons written answer on November 2: "The shortfall in anaesthetists is being addressed."

The new agency being launched on April 1 to provide secondary health care for the Armed Forces will maintain 750 beds in the UK for Servicemen and women.

The beds will be provided at the core military hospital at Haslar, to Catterick, and to the MoD hospital units, including that at Frimley Park.

So glad you dropped in

One of two under the auspices of the Aldershot Childcare Centre, the new centre is in Union Buildings, Hospital Hill. The other is in the Methodist Church in Herrett Street. Both are open during the week from 9.30 to 11.30.

Contact the drop-in centre through Debbie Chick on 01252 315049.

Bid to ease op theatre shortfall

as well as at the three MoD hospital units – Frimley Park, Surrey; Peterborough; and Derriford, Plymouth.

Mr R G Smith, former head of Lincolnshire Health Authority, has been appointed chief executive designate of the Armed Forces Secondary Care Agency.

Defence Under-Secretary Earl Howe, announcing details of the agency, touched on the concerns of families when he said: "The health care of dependants is the prime responsibility of the NHS, although they may receive treatment at Service medical facilities, subject to spare capacity being available."

● With the Cambridge at Aldershot on course for closure by next April, hospital services are being transferred to Haslar, to Catterick, and to the MoD hospital units, including that at Frimley Park.

Never forget El Alamein

LACK of publicity regarding the 53rd anniversary of El Alamein on October 10 really surprised me. We were young men, fighting a war so far away from home to stop the Afrika Korps getting their hands on Egypt.

I was among fresh troops embarking on our first action when we were moved into the front line, with the Aussies to our right and the New Zealanders to our left.

I shall never forget the night of the battle, with a barrage of 800 guns, barbed wire, and mines in their thousands.

It took us 12 days to break through their defences. It was the turning point of the war and must never be forgotten. — **William McMillan, The Princess Louise Scottish Hospital, Erskine Hospital, Bishopston, Renfrewshire.**

● Armistice Day was commemorated by British Paras at El Alamein on November 11. — **Editor.**

D-DAY DODGERS?

*'We are the D-Day Dodgers, out in Italy
Always drinking vino, always on the spree
Eighth Army skivers and the Yanks
We live in Rome and dodge the tanks
We are the D-Day Dodgers,
The boys whom D-Day dodged'*

NOW FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS REALLY LIKE

The Italian Campaign of 1943-45 was no picnic for the British Army. A determined enemy and hostile terrain led to some of the most bitter fighting of the Second World War. The National Army Museum's latest Special Exhibition tells the story of this often overlooked campaign, with vehicles, artillery pieces, film, photographs and reconstructions of campaign life.

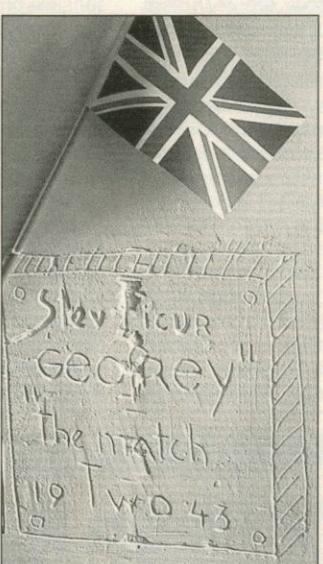


National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 (Closed 24-26 Dec, 1 Jan)

D-Day Dodgers: The British Army in Italy 1943-45
Until 21 January 1996 10.00am to 5.30pm

Admission Free

Was this carved by a man in hiding?



The carving at Thieville, decorated with a Union Flag

engraving was found. I cannot help thinking it is the work of a man in hiding wanting to occupy his time, but he cannot write his real name and uses a code — "Geofrey" is in inverted commas.

It is in a building owned by a famous French novelist, Michel Bataille, and his wife Marie Claude, a sculptress. I have just driven there to see it and it is more thrilling than even I expected.

The graffiti, 24cm square, is engraved in the embrasure of a small window in a thick wall, in a hay loft on the first floor of a 15th century farm building at Thieville, 2km from St Pierre Sur Dives, not far from Lisieux. The window overlooks the church 100 metres away.

From my experiences of such writings, it is the type of

work prisoners did in their cells because it is deeply and lovingly carved and obviously took a long time.

The farm was occupied by the Germans at the time but the landlady lived at the other end of the building, where the

For me this is our most exciting find of the war period. Perhaps a reader can offer a key to the message. — **Mme Jacqueline Wurmlinger, Friends of Graffiti, Fontaine, Normandy.**

Trouble in triplicate



Training in triplicate: the inseparable Kirby triplets receive Bren gun instruction after their National Service call-up. From the Daily Mail, July 28, 1953

ARMY twins were the subject of speculation by Maj (Retd) I A D Gordon (letters, October 30).

I have a cutting from the *Daily Mail* of July 28, 1953 with a picture of the Kirby triplets, of Stratford, east London, who were conscripted together, given consecutive Service numbers and, I understand, served in the RAOC. Can anyone remember them?

Imagine the potential for confusion if these identical brothers completed their two-year obligation together.

"And just who the (blank) are you, lad? Kirby 101, Kirby

102 or Kirby 103?" The stuff of which CSMs' nightmares are made. — **Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



• 1 (Mechanised) Brigade exercise on Salisbury Plain — Pages 25-27

Sixties mutineers cheered for good old compo rations

ON THE subject of mutinies (*Soldier*, Oct 2 and Nov 13), I experienced one involving French food in May 1966 while serving as a cook sergeant at Larzac Training Area near Montpelier.

There was a "down-tools"

GAELIC SLOGAN

IN THE feature on The Highlanders' new badge (September 18) you include the comment that the regiment's motto, *Cuidich'n Righ*, "remains the only Gaelic slogan used by the Regular Army".

This is not so. The Royal Irish Regiment also has a Gaelic motto, *Faugh A Balagh!* (Clear the Way!).

However, The Highlanders' motto is borne on the cap-badge and in this respect it is the sole Gaelic example so carried in the Regular Army. — **Richard Doherty, Londonderry.**

and refusal to carry on working as the advance party for the camp because the troops were sick to death of being fed in French Army messes.

When their pay ran out after buying their meals in local cafés they had had enough. The advance party officer had to contact Rhine Army HQ, who had to persuade the French authorities to allow us to have the facilities to feed ourselves.

Apparently our local catering contracts were not due to start for some time.

An example to follow

I READ with interest that £600,000 is to be given by a Korean conglomerate to the British Korean Veterans' Association. Can we hope this will herald a new age where countries will wish to make a contribution to welfare funds, now that they have had time to reflect on the sacrifices we made and the benefits they consequently received?

It would indeed be a gracious act if a Middle Eastern state were to acknowledge in this way our presence on the Suez Canal, when we kept open an international waterway and provided stability to the whole of that volatile area. — **Harry Whitehead, Keighley, W Yorks.**

Who will keep up these graves?

IN RECENT editions of *Soldier* there have been items on renovating and repairing war memorials, but what of our military graves' headstones?

One of my interests is the architecture of the surviving Saxon churches and during my travels I come across British Armed Forces and Merchant Navy graves as well as those of Commonwealth personnel who died in Britain in the two world wars.

They are not like the horrendous war cemeteries across Europe. Sometimes there are ten or more graves and in some churchyards only one.

I have yet to find one to complain about and this year noted that many had a Royal British Legion cross and poppy from Remembrance Sunday 1994.

You reported last year on the cuts in funding for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Who will continue to maintain these graves and is money available? — **SMI Kevin Hyland, London Irish Rifles Cadet Company, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea.**

Tank trap

YOU referred to "AMX 10 light tanks from the 1st Cavalry Regiment of the French Foreign Legion" (October 2).

There are two vehicles designated AMX-10. One is the GIAT AMX-10 P, which is an MICV and usually carries eight infantrymen or a variety of weapon systems such as HOT anti-tank missiles.

The other is a six-wheel vehicle, the AMX-10 RC, which is equipped with skid-steering and armed with a 105 mm gun, and which is — to use the original term — a heavy armoured car.

Neither is a "tank", light or otherwise. — **R C Waddington, Bewdley, Worcs.**

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Welsh invade North East

THE changing role of the modern Army was highlighted at the annual camp for 160 (Wales) Brigade.

Involved were North Wales-based 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, from the south of the Principality and, for good measure, members of Shropshire-based 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards to represent some opposition.

"Until fairly recently, our brigade camp would have consisted of one of the battalions being in a static position and the other battalion attacking it," said Lt Col Nick Beard, CO 3 RWF.

"This time, we were involved in a very realistic exercise - Western Dragon - given added spice because it is exactly what our Regular 1st Battalion was facing up to recently in the former Yugoslavia."

During the second week, the two battalions operated in the vast Kielder Forest, tasked to protect a United Nations humanitarian aid supply route.

Blocking their path was a militia army, in the shape of the Welsh Guardsmen, which had a vested interest in stemming the flow of aid.

The impenetrable forests of the Kielder, with single track mud and shale roads criss-crossing each other - difficult enough in normal conditions - proved a problem for the Welsh volunteers when heavy rain threatened to wash away track edges.

Long grass camouflaged drainage ditches at the roadside, and the heavy recovery vehicle from Swansea-based 223 Squadron, 157 Transport Regiment RLC, was soon busily engaged in extricating bogged-in vehicles.

Just as in Bosnia, a vital task



Rugby team line-up are (back row, from left) Pte Mike Quinn, Cpl Roger Jones, LCpl Nick Morris, Pte Richard Jones; (front) LCpl Robert Rees, Pte Kevin Lewis, Pte David John and Cpl Nigel Pollard. Kevin Lewis, David John and Richard Jones, who play for the Seven Sisters club, have helped turn 2 RRW into one of the best rugby teams in the TA



Sgt Keith McBurney, 3 RWF, explains arcs of fire for the general purpose machine-gun in support fire role to Cpl John Hough at Otterburn

was strengthening the roads, and particularly bridges, enabling the heavy vehicles of the convoys to pass in safety.

Once the two routes, with 2 RRW just below Kielder Reservoir and 3 RWF further south, had been established, the engineers from Midlands-based 107 Field Squadron, 75 Regiment RE were quickly in action, building medium and heavy girder bridges over swollen streams.

The camp was a "valuable

culmination" of the training year, said Lt Col Martin Davies, CO 2 RRW.

"We practised our ambush and convoy drills and posting of sentries, and the Kielder exercise put into practice what we learned during our first week battalion phase."

There was a fine balance to make between exercising realistically and keeping the troops occupied, he added. "If it were for real, such as in Bosnia-Herzegovina, it would



Preventing Lt Stewart Stirling, 2 RRW, the first convoy leader to be stopped by an "enemy" roadblock in the exercise, from making any further progress are (left) Gdsmn Lee Farrar and Gdsmn Tim Wilcox, both from 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards

be over a protracted period, but as we only had a short time, there was the requirement to get a lot of points into the exercise."

"Next year, 2 RRW takes on a new role within NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), so this sort of exercise, particularly within the scenario of the role the Army is carrying out now, is very important," said Lt Col Davies.

From Salut, monthly magazine of the South African Defence Force: "We are not the only force preparing for the new century, adapting to the new strategic environment or providing adequate defence capabilities with ever diminishing resources."

"There are apparently many other military forces which are 'down-sizing', 'right-sizing', rationalising, integrating or re-structuring; we have much to learn from such experiences."

"We, the SANDF, on the other hand, have our own peculiar set of circumstances and have been pleasantly surprised by the interest generated by our approach towards transition and transformation."

"After some 25 to 30 years of

virtual isolation we are now considered to be a full and equal member of the international military community."

"It is comforting to learn that there is genuine interest in and concern for our problems and an overwhelming willingness on the part of fellow soldiers to assist us in finding solutions." — Maj Gen Marius Oelschig, SANDF.

From Army newspaper (Australia): A more rational pay structure for other ranks in the Australian Defence Forces was

WORLD WATCH

An occasional series on what other armies' journals are saying

a 24-hour period. CWO Jay Stokes jumped 331 times to beat the previous record of 301.

From An Cosantóir Review 1995, Irish Defence Forces: "The traditional argument that women are the weaker sex physi-

callly, and as such incapable of performing the more robust tasks normally assigned to male soldiers, is no longer sustainable in general terms."

"For one thing it fails to take due cognisance of the technological advances that have taken place in modern weapons systems."

"... The admission of women to combat support roles comes close to *de facto* acceptance of women in combat." — Capt Michael Dillon.

"Graffiti for the day: An innuendo is not an Italian suppository". — Quoted by Father Colm Savage as a footnote to a column on tending the sick in *Connect*, the newsletter of the Irish defence community.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Museum plea for missing history

THE Army Physical Training Corps Museum in Aldershot is asking for details of the corps' post-Second World War years to be submitted urgently, for inclusion in new displays.

As part of recent improvements, the museum has produced six exhibition boards, funded by the corps association's old and bold.

Text and photographs on the boards cover the APTC's history from its foundation in 1860 as the Army Gymnastic staff to 1945.

Joint curators Lt Col (Retd) Alec Forbes and former QMSI Jim Pearson are anxious for contributions from corps members who served during the past 50 years.

They particularly want details of life in the Palestine Canal Zone, Korea, Aden, the Falklands, the Gulf, and former Yugoslavia. Photographs are essential.

They also want to hear about



Picture: Mike Weston

Joint APTC Museum curators Lt Col (Retd) Alec Forbes (left) and former QMSI Jim Pearson with one of the current exhibition boards



Recruiting staff from Devon and Cornwall line up with Lt Col David Rowe, DCRLS (South West) (back row, third left)

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Recruiters' challenge

PUPILS from 20 schools in Devon and Cornwall descended on HMS *Raleigh* in Cornwall on two consecutive days to take part in a competition organised by Exeter-based Army Schools Liaison Officer Maj Alistair Harvey RA.

Aim of the programme, in which recruiting staff from both counties were involved, was to give teachers and children an idea of life in the Army.

The ten events in the competition, which included command tasks and "grenade" throwing,

were organised in such a way that the team captains had to show leadership qualities, and team members were tested both mentally and physically.

It was also an ideal opportunity for the recruiting staff allocated to each group of two or three schools to talk to pupils and teachers about Army careers.

Soldiers and officers from 29 Cdo Regt RA, 1 D and D Army Youth Team, 4 D and D, 6 LI and 211 (Wessex) Fd Hosp helped to keep the event running smoothly.



Picture: Mike Perrin

Commercial success

Maj Charles Page of the Directorate of Army Recruiting (centre) pictured at the GLR radio studios in London, where he accepted an award for advertisement of the week from the station's Dave McGrath (right).

On the left are Belinda Huckle and Jeremy Pyne of Saatchi and Saatchi who devised the television recruiting commercial for the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. In tandem with a newspaper campaign, it is aimed at attracting 705 more entrants to Sandhurst. Also in the picture is GLR presenter Fiona Glover. The advert, filmed in Kenya and shown on ITV and Channel 4, will be repeated in January.

DIARY

Until January 21: D-Day Dodgers exhibition, British Army in Italy 1943-45, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

1996

February 28: Dedication service for those killed in the Gulf War, St Paul's Cathedral.

May

11-12: Army centenary international military culinary competition and open day, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, 1000.

June

5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by massed bands of Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130.

15: Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards. Colour trooped by 1 IG (rehearsals June 1 and 8).

July

9-20: Royal Tournament, Earls Court.

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

REUNIONS

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (London Branch): Christmas party, December 10, at Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London. Details from Brian Kemp, Woldcroft, 8 Hornchurch Hill, Whyteleafe, Surrey CR3 0DA (tel 0181-660 4392).

1996

16 Signal Regiment: Anyone who served in the regiment in the 1960s is asked to contact Chris Bartlett who is arranging a reunion. SAE for details to 45 Whitehouse Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5SR.

Cornwall School, Dortmund: Reunion arranged for July. Details from Sharon Selman (née Stephenson) on 01622 743100.

RE Rowing Club: The 150th anniversary of the club will be

(755) 2749; civ 01244 352749).

46 Talavera Battery RA/HQ Battery, 32 Regt RA: Reunion July 27 at Larkhill to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of Talavera. Details from WO2 (BSM) D Hill, 46 Talavera Bty RA, Roberts Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8QU (tel 01980 675752).

Stalag XIB PoWs/7th Armd Div: Reunion planned at Fallingbostel in September to coincide with a drive by the Military Vehicle Trust to retrace the route taken by 7th Armoured Division in the Second World War. Details from 24538669, LCpl A L Hone, Rat Re-trace, 16 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC, BFPO 38.

SEARCHLINE

Ex-pupils 1983-88 of Queens-Windsor School, Rheindahlen sought for reunion. If you knew Rachel Tucker (née Aylen), Susan Gallagher, Niki Duncan, Rachel Reid, Zoe Simpson (née Pybus) or Anita Gabbles, please contact Susan on 01737 210568 or Rachel Tucker on 01621 785174.

Task Force Bravo Signal Troop 1978-81 (Höhne Garrison): Reunion planned at Union Jack Club, London, on April 27. Contact Sgt Graham Perch, 28 CTT, Fox Barracks, Liverpool Road, Chester CH2 4BU (tel military

129 (Dragon) Battery RA: The battery, believed to be the only one in the Royal Regiment not to

have a commemorative painting, is seeking donations from ex-

marked by a reunion lunch on July 5 at Henley Royal Regatta. For further details, contact Lt Col J M Heron, 73 Engineer Regiment (V), T A Centre, Wigman Road, Bilborough, Nottingham NG8 3HY (tel 0115 9293924 or 9291477).

Cornwall School, Dortmund: Reunion arranged for July. Details from Sharon Selman (née Stephenson) on 01622 743100.

RE Rowing Club: The 150th anniversary of the club will be

members to rectify this. Cheques payable to "CBA 40th Regt RA" should be sent to The Battery Captain, 129 (Dragon) Battery RA, 40th Regiment RA, BFPO 30.

New branch of the British Korean Veterans' Association meets at the Royal British Legion, Virginia Water, second Sunday of every month. Details from secretary Terry Adkins on 01483 768791 or Ted Beevor on 0181-841 2775.

Korean veterans are asked to

recall a burial at sea from a trooper on the Korea run in about 1953. Does the name **Cpl A H Maskell** and the circumstances of his death come to mind, and where on the route did the burial take place? To which regiment did he belong? Replies to R Barker, R Signals (V), T A Centre, 28 Bedford Road, Kempston, Beds MK42 8AJ (tel 01234 262451).

Contact sought with anyone who knew the late **Jock Anderson**, Australian Army, 2/7th Bn, at E351 Heinrichsthal, Czechoslovakia 1942-45. He was a PoW and the only Australian in E351, which was a small working party from Stalag VIIIB. Contact his son-in-law, John Ram, in Australia c/o 57 Norwich Close, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 7SJ.

John and Ann Charge, at one time stationed in Inverness, Scotland, are asked to contact Mrs Julie Beverley, 18 Birch Grove, Townville, Castleford, West Yorkshire, who has lost their address.

S Davis, 16 Peddar's Close, Ixworth, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 2HA, wishes to contact **Linden Milne**.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier: M J Lance — To MoD, Oct 30.

Colonels: R I Talbot — To HQ UNFICYP, Nov 2; K McG Stephens — To DKMH, Nov 1; J G W Feggeter — To HQ AMS TA, Nov 25.

Lt Cols: J M Heron RE — To be CO 73 Engr Regt, Oct 23; J P R Hilton RA — To BMM Kuwait, Oct 24; C H Jackman RLC — To BAD Longtown, Oct 23; G D Lilley RLC — To MoD, Oct 23; R G Medley RLC — To DBDHQ, Oct 23; A K M Miller, A and SH — To CATC, Oct 23; E J Tomlinson REME — To RA Ranges Hebrides, Oct 23.

Retirements
Brigadiers: R McC Jones, late REME, Nov 1; R H T Kirby, late RAOC, Nov 1; L J R Nash, late 9/12 L, Nov 1; M S Rutter-Jerome,

J A Athill RGJ — To BMM Kuwait, Oct 30; T G Inshaw, R Signals — To be CO 9 Sig Regt (Radio), Nov 2; P C Marsh RE — To be CO 64 CRE, Oct 30; M C McCabe RE — To HQ Land Command, Oct 31; S W G Suchanek KRH — To be CO Armd Trials and Dev Unit, Nov 1; G J Whitty RE — To HQ Land Command, Oct 30; Bijaykumar Rawat RGR — To be CO 3 RGR, Oct 30.

Brigadiers: R G Jones, late REME, Nov 1; R H T Kirby, late RAOC, Nov 1; L J R Nash, late 9/12 L, Nov 1; M S Rutter-Jerome,

late RA, Nov 1; D B W Webb-Carter, late IG, Nov 5; J G Williams, late LI, Nov 1.

Colonels: A G Platt, late REME, Oct 24; B A Duncan, late RTR, Nov 6; M F Gibson, late RS, Nov 4; J C Gunnell, late RRF, Nov 1; C M Joint, late PWRR, Nov 1; M H Kefford, late 7 GR, Nov 1; G Kerr, late RA, Nov 1; G M Mansell-Ward, late RLC, Nov 1; J C H Moorhouse, late RE, Nov 1; C McA Pyman, late Scots DG, Nov 1; J N G Starmer-Smith, late RA, Nov 1; J M Weatherly, late RLC, Nov 1; M D Webb, late AAC, Nov 1.

VJ events on screen

THIS YEAR'S poignant and memorable events in London marking the 50th anniversary of VJ Day can now be seen again in a two-hour video being sold for charity.

Coverage includes the Service of Remembrance and Commitment at Buckingham Palace; the veterans' march-past and Tribute and Promise procession; the royal visit to the Veterans' Centre; fly-pasts and fireworks; Beating Retreat on Horseguards Parade; and Sunset Ceremony at the Palace.

Videos

Evolutions Television, commissioned by the Ministry of Defence to make the video, is retailing it at £9.99 (including p and p) with all proceeds going to Tribute and Promise, the umbrella charity benefiting many organisations involved in caring for the wartime generation.

Cheques made payable to "Evolutions VJ Account" should be forwarded to PO Box 2201, London W1A 1UZ.

Other videos on release include: **The Great War**. Four more videos in this series: **Vol 3, Breaking the Stalemate**, featuring 70 minutes of film of lesser-known conflicts; **Vol 4, The Tide Turns**, telling how the Americans tipped the balance; **Vol 5, Revolution**, with 92 minutes of film on the war in 1917 and early 1918; and finally, **Vol 6, Victory Without Peace**, showing how the Germans came close to winning in 1918. DD Video, £12.99 each.

The Vietnam War: Vol 2, The Elusive Enemy. Viet Cong strategy and tactics and American efforts to combat them. DD Video, £12.99.

Spies – Scandals of the Cold War. True stories of KGB operations in Britain, with archive footage, interviews and reconstructions. DD Video, 64 min, £12.99.

Spies at War. Allied intelligence operations against the Nazis told through archive footage and reconstructions. DD Video, 86 min, £12.99.

Crusade in the Pacific. Completion of a trilogy on the land, sea and air operations. **Vol 2, New Guinea to the Marianas** and **Vol 3, Bloody Nose Ridge to the Fall of Japan**, each with almost three-and-a-half hours of authentic footage. DD Video, £14.99 each.

● Military video specialists DD Video have released their 1995-96 winter catalogue. For a free copy contact DD Video at 5 Churchill Court, 58 Station Road, North Harrow, Middlesex HA2 7SA (tel: 0181-863 8819). Add £1 p & p for each video ordered direct from makers.

Airs and Gracie's

JUST ONE more disc for the year of celebrations for VE and VJ days – and unlike the two reviewed recently we do have Dame Vera tunes, barrack-room ballads, and *Lili Marlene*.

The Canadians fought mainly in Europe so the music reflects their personal memories of the Second World War. And being the Canadian Forces' band, tribute is paid to all three Services. All the arrangements are very effective and begin with an *Air Force Overture* which introduces bits of the *Dam Busters March, RAF March Past* and the *Airman's Prayer*.

A *Vera Lynn Medley* oddly includes the Gracie Fields song, *Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me*

Canada Remembers. Central Band of the Canadian Forces. Conductor: Maj D Bouchard. Band-leader BNA 5105, Sound & Picture Co, PO Box 177, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5FE. CD £12, cassette £7.60.

Music/Rodney Bashford

Goodbye, but maybe she did sing it during my enforced absence as a guest of A Hitler Esq.

Bless 'em All medley has eight tunes and *Normandy Landing* medley has no fewer than 15, many of which are British regimental marches. *Salute to the Big Bands* includes five tunes popular at the time, with Glenn Miller to the marches *Je Me Souviens*, *Canada Overseas*, and *Athene*.

An overture *The Seven Seas* pays tribute to the sailors with mention of nine tunes of maritime significance and leads to a solemn finale of *Nightfall in Camp*, three hymn tunes, *God Save The Queen*, and *O Canada*.

He crossed hell-hole and lived



Charles Blackmore

FOLLOWING the fundamental rule that a good intro is essential if a reader's interest is to be held, Charles Blackmore's opening chapter is absolutely compelling.

Not for him a chronological start across one of the earth's largest and worst hell-holes – although this follows as it must – but a description of the death of his party's largest camel after 700 miles and two months of trekking across a dead, dangerous and unknown Chinese desert area.

It is gripping, emotional stuff and the sight of the camel being killed in ritualistic fashion because it was too injured to carry on had a tremendous effect upon him.

He wanted to end the animal's suffering immediately, but the camel handlers said no. It had to be done at dawn, with a knife and facing Mecca.

A recently retired Royal Green Jackets major and an admirer of T E Lawrence and Wilfred Thesiger among other famous explorers and adventurers, he once spent two months re-tracing Lawrence's routes around the Arabian deserts.

It was these factors, and what he describes as the boredom of a year-long course at the Royal

The Worst Desert on Earth by Charles Blackmore. John Murray, £16.99.

Military College of Science at Shrivenham, that drove him to find a desert which, so far as he knew, had never been crossed.

He found it in the College library in an atlas showing a blank, oval-shaped space. It was the Taklamakan, which translates as: "Go in and you won't come out".

It met his needs precisely: an adventure to push him to the limit, but demanding expert planning to ensure success.

This is his epic story with stunning photographs. And an excellent account it is, too. – JM

In brief

Arnhem 1944: The Airborne Battle by Martin Middlebrook. Now in paperback, the historian's masterly swan-song, commended by Gen Sir John Hackett as "without question the best book on the Market Garden operation". Penguin, £9.99.

Modern Tanks, text by Chris Foss. Detailed pocket reference book on the latest military vehicles, worldwide. Collins Gem / Janes, paperback, £3.99. Also **Aircraft of World War II**, Collins Gem / Janes, £3.99.

The Great Commanders by Phil Grabsky. Paperback reissue of the TV series companion. Boxtree, £12.99.

Polished stories

In At The Finish by J G Smith. Minerva Press, paperback, £7.99.

EX-TROOPER Smith J G, 14435355 – "Smudger" to his pals in C Squadron, 141 Regiment RAC (The Buffs) – spins some good yarns in his memoirs of the last 11 months of the Second World War.

His recollections of the events of 50 years ago are written, staccato-style, as cameos. Almost every paragraph is a complete story in itself.

He has recorded his memories from July 1944 to May 1945 of a five-man tank crew's war from Normandy to Germany.

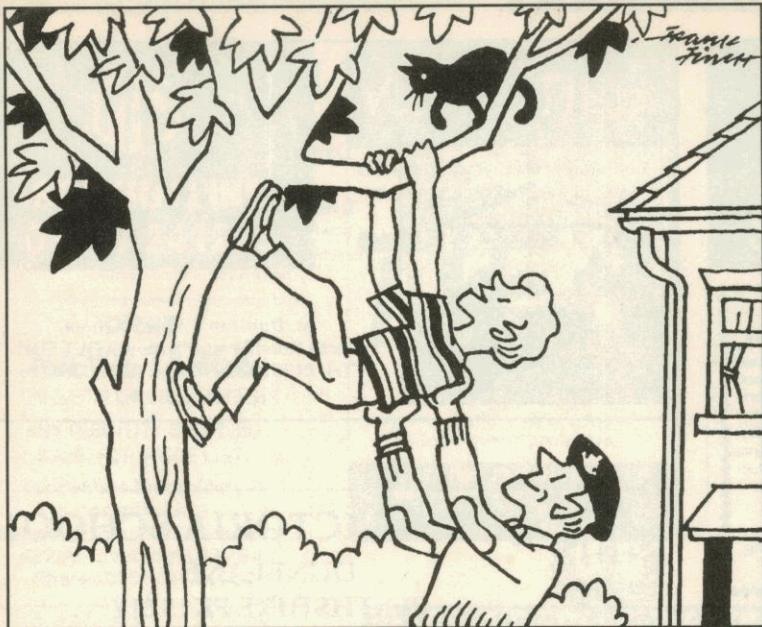
And good reading they make, particularly if you have been inside a Churchill, especially the flame-thrower version, a Cromwell or Sherman.

One of his longer stories – about 300 words – concerns the new colonel who, on introducing himself to the regiment, said he was a professional soldier but did not necessarily believe in spit and polish. "Bullshit," he called it.

But Smudger and his pals soon realised the officer's ideas of this basic Army requirement did not coincide with theirs. Among other things, he wanted all grease nipples to be polished and all surfaces free of dust.

However, "Smudger" and his mates survived – despite the combined demands of the colonel and the enemy. – JM

Pre-Christmas review section in next issue



COMPETITION 625

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These pictures are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the bottom picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 625, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by December 15. Do not include anything

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 January 22, 1996 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition 622: Congratulations to Spr Elton, of 3 Tp, 48 Fd Sqn (Air Sp), 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach Barracks, Cambridgeshire, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr Dennis Thewlis, of Kendal, Cumbria, and Mr Harold Tomlinson, of Halifax, W Yorks.



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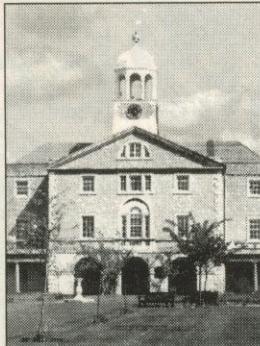


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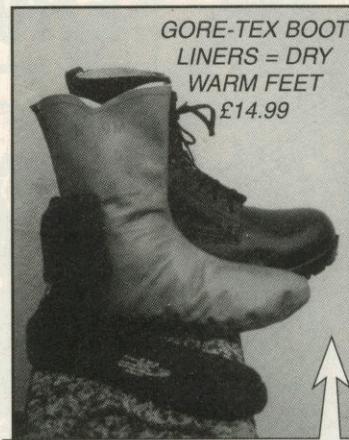
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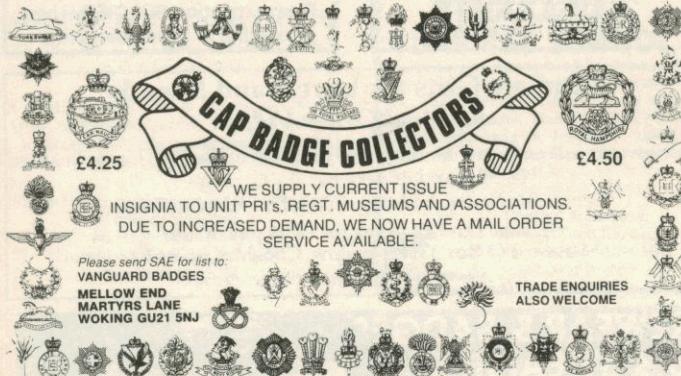
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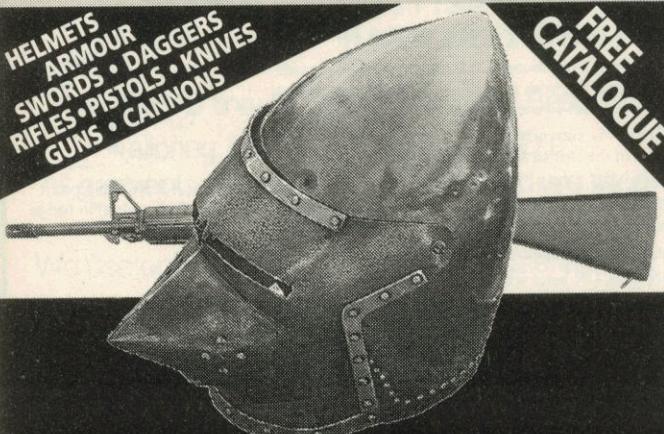
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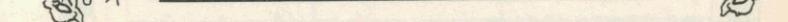
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OCTOBER 28, 1995

First prize (24 goals, £2,500) Cpl S J Haight,

The Light Dragoons, BFPO 30.

Five-way tie for second prize (23 goals, £640

each) Cpl P J Gray, 7 Para RHA, Aldershot;

Maj L M Hayward, BOD Donnington; LCpl

G P Hull, NI ADU RAVC, BFPO 806; WO1 H

R Roberts, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Maj R

A Winchester, 1 RHA, Tidworth.

Six-way tie for seventh prize (22 goals, £50

each) Sgt J W Blackmore, RMP Trg

Centre, Chichester; Cpl M Brennan, 1

RGBW, BFPO 53; Sgt S H Dryburgh, ITC

Catterick; Sgt K Jackson, AAC Centre,

Middle Wallop; Maj R J Turnbull, HQ

Catterick Garrison; Capt R A Young, HQ

ARRC, BFPO 40.

21-way tie for fifth prize (19 goals, £47.62)

LCpl T B Baines, 1 D and D, BFPO 22;

LCpl M N Bleese, 1 QLR, Tidworth; Ssgt

S E Booth, 9 Signal Regt (Radio), BFPO

59; Capt R A Coveney, 220 Fd Sqn (EOD)

(V), Heston; Cpl W R Dixon, 35 Engr

Regt, BFPO 31; Sgt P A Ellison, 1 (UK)

ADSR, BFPO 15; Brig G A Ewer, MoD D

Log Ops; Sgt P D Gifford, UK Force Arty

AMF (L), Larkhill; Maj M R Good, The

Light Dragoons, BFPO 30; Tpr D Gray,

The Light Dragoons, BFPO 30; Maj C P

Groves, 12 Regt RA Wksp REME, BFPO

16; WO2 N J Hancock, 3 Bn REME, BFPO

22; Sgt M W Hughes, MoD DCTS JW/EX;

Sgt J J Joyce, ATDU, Bovington; Ldr V

S Kirkpatrick, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich;

WO2 D E Lloyd, RPO Leicester; Sgt P W

Matthews, Warminster Sp Unit; WO1 D A

Metcalfe, 2 Bn REME, BFPO 38; Maj D P

Neary, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE, Plymouth;

Sgt K J M Neary, 23 Pnr Regt RLC,

Bicester; LCpl J D Sharp, ASTC Kiel,

BFPO 108.

NOVEMBER 4, 1995

First prize (21 goals, £2,500) Cpl S S

Bangsund, QDG, BFPO 16.

Three-way tie for second prize (20 goals,

£833.33 each) Sgt J Millyard, AFCO

Preston; Sgt A J O'Brien, RDG, BFPO 22;

Cpl J C Quantock, 1 PWO, Warminster.

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D3

IN BRIEF
Orienteers do it in the dark

MORE than half the starters in the inaugural British Army (Germany) night orienteering championships failed to complete the course or were disqualified.

Staged in woods near RAF Bruggen, courses over 4km, 6km and 8km proved very testing for runners guided only by their hand-held torches or miners' headlights. Control markers were unlit.

First to finish in the three classes were WO1 Crosby (RASU), Lt Col Leigh (RASU) and Sig Watson (220 Sig Sqn).

Pistol matches

THE Army and Royal Navy made a much closer competition of the annual Inter-Services target pistol centre fire and standard pistol matches at Bisley Camp, but could not prevent the Royal Air Force from winning for the sixth successive year.

On the following day a Combined Services team narrowly lost to Great Britain in both centre fire and standard pistol competitions.

Lt Col Alan Glasby (RLC) won the Army small bore target rifle championships by a single point from Capt Cameron Ferguson (REME) after a shoot-off at Ash Ranges. Maj Peter Underhill (D and D) won the ARA Bronze Jewel.

Capt Nick Bates QRL

CAPT Nick Bates, skipper of *Redcoat III*, the Army's premier offshore racing yacht, is a member of the Queen's Royal Lancers. He was incorrectly attributed to the QLR on the back cover caption (October 30 issue).

REME half marathon

SPR Rankin (65 Park Sqn RE) won the REME (Germany) half marathon in a time of 1hr 13min 27sec.

First REME runner to finish the course, which was organised by 32 Engr Regt Wksp at Höhne Garrison, was Sgt Coughan (12 Regt RA Wksp). The REME Major Unit team title was won by 32 Engr Regt Wksp for the third consecutive year, with 12 Regt RA Wksp taking the Minor Unit honours.

RAC Centre all square

RAC Centre cricketers, led by Brig Andrew Gadsby, DRAC, levelled their series against Wareham Police with a 17-run win.

Army sets the cat among clay pigeons

BARELY three months after its formation, the Army Clay Pigeon Shooting Association team conquered a high-quality Inter-Services field on the Bocking shooting ground at Braintree, Essex.

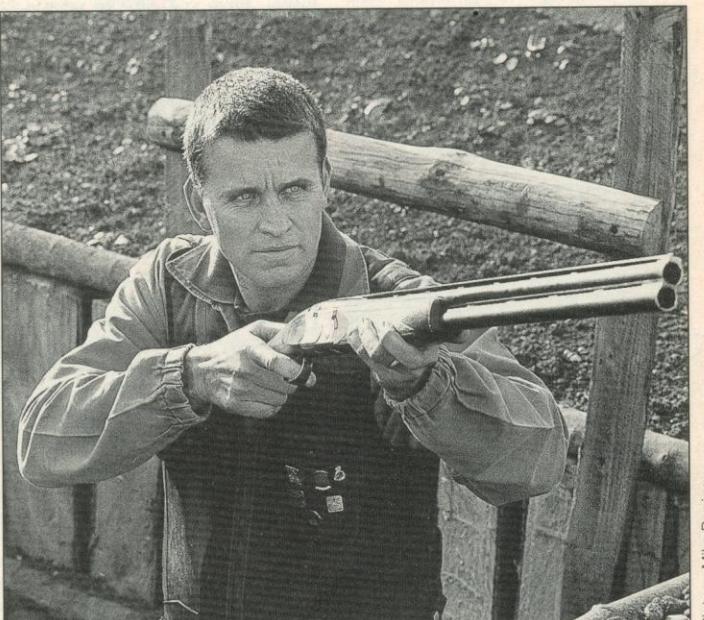
In addition to the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, the Police and the Fire Brigade were also involved.

The Army team of 15 was chosen from a 35-strong squad of officers and soldiers, including 12 from the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service battalions.

ACPSA secretary Capt James Giggins (RLC) and WO1 Steve Butcher (RLC) led the Army challenge.

WO1 Gordon Lumsden (Scotland), Cpl Ian Caldwell (Ireland) and Pte Andrew Lipton (Northern Ireland) were among several internationals taking part.

CSjt Darrell White (1 LI) finished the day as high gun (top scorer) on 83, with SSgt



High gun CSjt Darrell White (1 LI), who returned the best overall score

the Army's top five. The team scored 397, comfortably ahead of the Police on 375, the RAF (362), Fire Services (356) and the Royal Navy (292).

Football barmy



Pte Kevin Lockley comes under pressure from young footballers of St Vincent's Primary School during a competition organised by the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch at Girdwood Barracks, Belfast.

Army units based in Northern Ireland have become deeply involved in organising football opportunities for youngsters. One junior challenge competition arranged by the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment at Ballykinler attracted teams from 40 schools throughout the country.

Many leading coaches in Northern Ireland believe the encouragement given by the Army, and the extensive facilities available on military bases, could give young players the impetus to reach the highest levels of the sport.

Brian Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, was among the first to praise the Army's interest in junior soccer.

Belfast children took part in a competition run by the Irish Guards on their floodlit artificial pitch at Palace Barracks in Holywood.



The long and the short of it. Army super-heavyweight Spr Danny Watts squares up to Pte Peter Charlton, the first light-flyweight in the Army squad. Behind them are coach RSM Tom O'Connor, centre, and main contenders (from left) LCpl Peter Williams, LCpl Andy Hudson, Pte Billy Bessey, Pte Darren Dugan, Cpl Chris Bessey, LBdr Vinny Jones, Cpl Vinny Powell, and LCpl Jason Gardner

Picture: Mike Perring

Lucky 13?

ALTHOUGH the British amateur boxing schedule leading up to next summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta City means there will be no traditional Inter-Service team championship this winter, the title will go to whoever wins the most divisions at the CSBA individual finals at HMS Nelson in Portsmouth on December 5-6.

Success in the Royal Navy's boxing headquarters would give the Army a 13th consecutive team crown, and coach RSM Tom O'Connor (1 Kings) believes he has the material to achieve just that, writes John Elliott.

His 25-strong squad, now in training at Aldershot, covers every weight, including for the first time a light-flyweight. Until 21-year-old Pte Peter Charlton (1 PWRR) weighed in, the Army had been unable to find anyone small enough to meet the 48kg limit.

At the other end of the scale, England representative Spr Danny Watts (36 Engr Regt) will be doing the business at super-heavyweight. Between the two extremes, coach O'Connor has a wealth of

experience, including internationals Cpl Vinny Powell (lightweight, 3 RSME), Cpl Chris Bessey (light-middle, 27 Regt RLC), and Scotsman LCpl Jason Gardner (welter, Int Corps).

Combined Services champions back this season include LBdr Vinny Jones (light-heavy, 32 Regt RA), Cpl Jeff Ollerhead (middle, 1 Kings), Pte Kevin Bennett (light-welter, 7 Tpt Regt RLC), and Pte Darren Dugan (feather, 1 PWRR).

Others pushing for "first team" honours will include heavyweight Pte Billy Bessey (serving with brother Chris in 27 Regt RLC), light-welterweight LCpl Peter Williams (1

Kings), and flyweight LCpl Andy Hudson (3 UK Div HQ and Sig Regt).

Among the newcomers to the squad are two promising Royal Irishmen, LCpl Darren Boyd and Rgr Jim McCarron, and two very strong lads from 1 Para, Ptes Pete Gillespie and Danny Campbell.

O'Connor, starting his final season before leaving the Army in April, has a number of opportunities to see his less-experienced lads in action, including a novices match against the Navy at Basingstoke this month, and what is sure to be a hard-fought night against the Royal Marines, also at novice level, at the London Marriott on December 11.

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experience, including internationals Cpl Vinny Powell (lightweight, 3 RSME), Cpl Chris Bessey (light-middle, 27 Regt RLC), and Scotsman LCpl Jason Gardner (welter, Int Corps).

Cpl Kev Bownes (243 Sig Sqn) set two personal bests on his way to a 285kg total in the 67.5kg class, while Sgt Jason Legister (4 Regt RA) lifted

425kg to win the 82.5kg division ahead of Pte Jim McCormick and Sgt Bill O'Lywn (9 R Irish).

Outstanding performance of the day came from LBdr Brendan Jeynes (14 Regt RA) who lifted a total of 600kg on home ground, well ahead of closest rival Pte Joe Rogan (9 R Irish).

Sgt Morland on Herford Mil 3367 or c/o TM Troop, 1 (UK) ADSR, BFPO 15 can provide details on the sport.

Trounced by strong Alliance

Army 2, AFA 5

AMATEUR Football Alliance took advantage of the absence of several leading Army players at the Military Stadium, Aldershot to trounce the Service 2-5, their best result for years, writes Derrick Bly.

With SSgt Kevin Parkins, Sig Barney Bambrook, SSgt John Scott, LCpl Jim Strouts and Pte Steve Bowey missing, assistant coach QMSI Pat Russell was forced to make positional changes. LCpl Heath Tyson (RDG) made his debut.

Sgt Tony Wright and Pte Steve Yeo both went close before the AFA scored twice in a minute, the second from the penalty spot.

After the visitors had scored a third in the 28th minute, LCpl Joe Collins pulled one back for the Army. Two minutes later the Alliance restored their three-goal advantage.

Five minutes into the second half the Army fell further behind. Cpl Andy Woodall scored with a tremendous drive and Collins had a chance to further reduce the deficit from the penalty spot, but pulled his shot wide.

It was not the best preparation for important representative games to come against Essex and Dorset.

REME 6, Infantry 2

An Infantry side containing eight changes from their previous game could not match a strong REME team which produced fast-flowing football and deadly finishing to give them a well-deserved victory.

Cfn Woody Woodall (2), Sgt Bob Corner (2), Sgt Tony Wright and LCpl Shuggy Shaw scored for REME while Cpl John Greechan (Hldrs) and Pte Sammy McFadden (R Irish) replied for the Infantry.

Power men in action at Larkhill

The 100kg class was decided by the last lift, Bdr Greg Slocombe failing narrowly to pull a 250kg deadlift to overtake the 525kg built up by Sgt Tony Morland (1 (UK) ADSR).

Sgt Morland on Herford Mil 3367 or c/o TM Troop, 1 (UK) ADSR, BFPO 15 can provide details on the sport.

Lottery delight for Gurkha

LCPL Jaybahadur Marden, serving with 2 RGR in Brunei, has something to celebrate. He became the first Gurkha to win a prize in the Army Sports Lottery when his numbers came up in the October 21 draw.

Gurkhas became eligible for the lottery several months ago following the move of their Pay and Records from Hong Kong to Exeter.

While British members of Gurkha units have won a few prizes, LCpl Jaybahadur's share of the second prize on October 21 netted him precisely £833.33 and put him in the lottery's record books.

Gurkhas wanting to join the lottery should use AF 09666 (Gurkha). Currently there are 8,000 people in the draw, with £6,000 to be won every week. Since it started, more than 1,300 winners have received £550,000.

In the past two years the Army Sports Lottery has paid out £250,000 in grants to individuals, units and associations.

Broadly speaking, the lottery helps activities and projects that do not qualify for grants from other sources, including public and welfare funds and the Nuffield Trust.

Recent large grants include £5,000 towards the Royal Signals' USA rugby tour, £3,000 for an Army badminton trip to Hong Kong, and £3,600 towards a REME cricket tour of Zimbabwe.

● Latest results – Page 47



Picture: Terry Champion

Winter started for these soldiers at the end of September, and they could hardly wait. As members of the four BATUS ice hockey teams they have succumbed to Canada's national sport.

Each department at Suffield has its own squad of 16. The Workshop team is the Oilers, HQ has the Sharks, 105 (BATUS) Sqn RLC has the Chieftains

and the Army Air Corps are, of course, the Flyers. The teams are coached by Canadians playing for the Suffield base, and the best players from each side form the BATUS Lions team. Ready for the ice are ATpr Jeff Johnston (Flyers), LCpl Stephen Rudd (Chieftains), Cpl Paul Ogden (Sharks) and LCpl Alister Muirhead (Oilers).

Army X in Cyprus final

A BRITISH Army (Germany) side performed brilliantly to reach the final of the Cyprus international ten-man rugby competition.

Having disposed of a Welsh side based on the RRW (TA), and the REME (UK) in pool matches, the Army team rose to the occasion against Fiji, winning a superb contest 17-5.

That result put them into the

● Army doctor Capt Rob Wainwright, the second row forward, has succeeded Gavin Hastings as the captain of Scotland.

final against the pre-tournament favourites, a Scotland Select Ten containing British Lion Peter Wright, Scotland caps David McIvor, Shade Munroe and Derek Stark, four A caps and two junior interna-

tionals. Although first to score, the Army players eventually lost 21-45 in a match played with a pace and commitment rarely seen in Cyprus.

Cpl Zak Fazakerley and LSgt Steve Berryman were outstanding for the British Army (Germany) squad in a competition involving 24 teams from England, Scotland, Fiji, and Israel.

Where are they now?

British Army rugby players who took on the 1945-46 New Zealand Army team are sought for a reunion when the current Kiwi military XV meets the Army at Aldershot on December 13. Fourteen of the '45 tourists will be there. Several, including Fred Allen, Johnny Smith, Bob Scott and Johnny Simpson, went on to become All Blacks.

If you played in that match 50 years ago, ring Maj Bob Peedle on 0171-218 5262 (fax 0171-218 4888), or write to him at MoD RFC4, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 4SS.

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Cpl Neil McInnes and Constable Rick Rawlins on joint patrol outside the "Sin Bin" night club in Medicine Hat, a favoured haunt of soldiers after training at BATUS. The remarkably good relations with Canadians and the excellent training are featured on Pages 16-21.

Picture: Terry Champion



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