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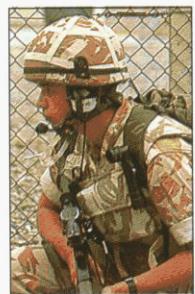
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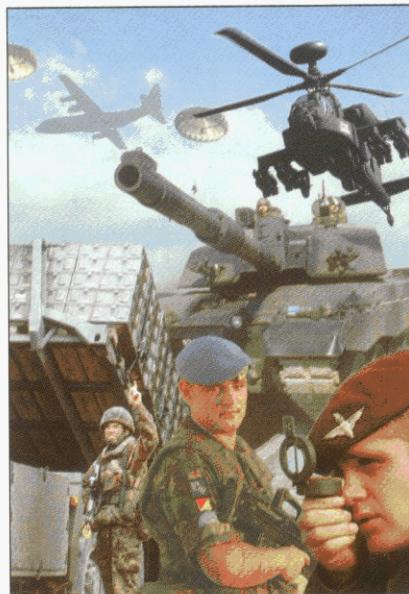
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4-7 COVER STORY

The long-awaited Strategic Defence Review was announced last month. Main strands of the review, the details, and the reaction are contained in Pages 4, 5 and 7, in a special four-page section in the middle of this magazine, and in the Vox Pop feature on Page 70.

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SOLDIER
to soldier

Not the
unkindest
cuts of all

IT will be of small consolation to those TA units which feel the sword of Damocles hanging over their heads, but the SDR cuts are nowhere near as dramatic as those of 1968 when 87 infantry-type units were devastated.

In an extraordinary demonstration of loyalty, men carried on for months without pay or allowances.

Brig Richard Holmes, lecturer, TV personality and Director of Reserve Forces, who experienced the '68 cuts, had a sense of history repeating itself. "When you have been through the Somme, Passchendaele doesn't seem so bad," was his rather dry comment.

White right, too

WHERE would we be without boffins to keep us at the cutting edge of military technology? But there's still room for the bloke with a brainwave, as this story from the front line reveals. Challenger 2 was nearing completion and a few ordinary soldiers were allowed to poke around.

"Excellent . . . marvellous" came the feedback as the boffins glowed with pride. Then a quiet non-commissioned voice threw a minor spanner in the works.

"Does it have to be green inside?" it asked. "I know tanks have always been green on the inside, but, well, it's a bit dull."

Seems the humble soldier had noticed that a lighter colour – brilliant white, he suggested – would make the tank appear lighter and more roomy. Easier to keep clean, too. Made sense really, and, to the boffins' credit, they recognised it.

Capability, flexibility and stability

Bigger Army to help ease overstretch

Reports: Chris Horrocks and Karen Moseley

FLEXIBILITY is the key to the radical changes triggered by the year-long Strategic Defence Review – with the Services given enhanced capability to react quickly to international flashpoints.

The “balanced and affordable” review, billed as “Modern Forces for the Modern World”, also set out to help solve the problems of undermanning and overstretch. The report has been welcomed by Service chiefs as offering the Forces a period of stability unprecedented in recent times.

To ease the chronic problem of overstretch and bolster its support services, the Army will get an extra 3,300 soldiers, while re-shaped armoured and mechanised brigades will contribute to improved mobility of forces.

Among enhanced frontline capabilities, a sixth deployable brigade will increase the Army’s flexibility as well as help tackle overstretch. Three regiments will return from Germany to the UK – 2,500 troops and “some tanks” – but for economic, military and political reasons 90 per cent of our force there will remain.

AIR CAVALRY

A new powerful and highly-mobile air manoeuvre brigade, or “air cavalry”, will include the Apache attack helicopter and the Parachute Regiment.

There is a debit side, however. As a direct result of the end of the Cold War, fewer Territorial Army troops are considered necessary to defend the UK – hence the widely-predicted cut in TA numbers from 56,000 to 40,000.

Announcing the review decisions, Defence Secretary George Robertson said he was determined the TA should become more relevant, usable and integrated with the rest of the Forces and despite the cuts in numbers would be given “a real heavyweight role in our nation’s defences and called-up more frequently in times of crisis”.

Other changes to come include “revitalisation” of the Defence Medical Services, education and operational welfare initiatives, a common annual leave entitlement for all Army ranks, better single accommodation, and a unit for veterans with a staff of serving and ex-serving advisers. A task force for families will

It's better all round

“FROM the beginning I regarded SDR as an opportunity, not a threat,” Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, said in an interview with *Soldier* after the review decisions were announced.

“I needed a larger Army, and I needed it to be reorganised in such a way so that we could have a Bosnia-type operation running at the same time as we sent a war-fighting brigade somewhere else.”

Gen Wheeler said there were three main factors in the review which were particularly good news for the Army. The first was the formation of the sixth deployable brigade, which he said was a vital part of the formation readiness cycle and would lead to a much clearer training plot.

The extra mechanised brigade would mean tank regiments were properly established with the right number of people, and had an additional reconnaissance and NBC capability. It will result in a three-year cycle of high-intensity training, being held in readiness and then being deployed.

The second was the increase in manpower by an extra 3,300 soldiers. These will consist of logistic troops such as engineers, signallers and air defence, who will form a second line of communications to help ease the pressure of deployments to Bosnia.

The third was the formation of the air assault brigade. Bringing the Apache attack helicopter and the parachute battal-

ions together will produce an easily air-transportable force with the Apache as its means of transport and firepower.

“This Review should improve the life of soldiers,” Gen Wheeler said. “Because the formation readiness cycle means they will lead a better-planned life – there will always be emergencies which will disrupt that – but the whole purpose of the sixth deployable brigade was to get the planning for our training and deployment on war-fighting better balanced than it is at the moment.

“We have always cared about soldiers – the soldiers and their families is what the Army is composed of – but by reorganising ourselves we will be able to do it better. We have always felt that man-management is the key to the way the Army operates.”

Gen Wheeler acknowledged there was still some uncertainty over the reorganisation of the Royal Armoured Corps, the Parachute Regiment and the TA. He said that there was still a lot of work to be done on the implementation plan, where the details will be looked at.

“We could not embark on that work until SDR had been agreed and the money had been allocated,” he explained. “The implementation will be over the next two or three years, but the answer to which unit moves where should be clear by Christmas.

“We have to look at the current arms plot and make changes which prevent as much turbulence and disruption as possible.”

address problems associated with the Army’s mobile lifestyle, such as access to healthcare and school places.

The review emphasises an integrated or joint-Service approach, with a single battlefield helicopter command, a joint force of RN and RAF Harrier jets, a four-star Chief of Defence Logistics and a new “spearhead” pool of joint rapid-reaction forces, using four heavy-lift aircraft.

The Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, said the chiefs of staff considered that SDR was “a very good outcome” – being the package actually recommended by them in March.

“We believe it is balanced; it realigns our forces in a post-Cold War world. We believe that although there are some very challenging targets there, that the programme laid out is an affordable one.

“And the fact that now we have a three-year settlement is enormously important to us. It gives us the kind of stability that we haven’t had before and will be very well received by Servicemen and Service-women.”

By 2001-2002, he said, defence spend-

ing would have increased by £747m compared with this year – a reduction in real terms, allowing for one-off asset sales, of £685m, or about three per cent in the defence budget. The three-year settlement would bring a “new stability to our defence planning”.

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TA reductions are ‘a cruel necessity’

THE TERRITORIAL Army of the 21st century will be smaller with an emphasis on readily-deployable and usable specialists. But it will be at least three months before the TA learns the details of its fate and the consultation process is concluded.

Announcing the proposals, Armed Forces Minister John Reid said: “What I want to do, and what the Army wants to do, is take them off the substitutes’ bench and put them on the playing field in a far more important role than they have had before.”

● Turn to Page 7

At a glance

Major elements of the review as they affect the Army are:

- Enhancements in joint capabilities
 - Joint rapid reaction forces
 - Joint battlefield helicopter command
 - Joint Army/RAF ground-based air defence organisation
 - Deployable joint force headquarters
 - Joint defence centre
 - New strategic lift assets

Modernisations

- Extra deployable armoured and mechanised brigade (from five to six)
- Conversion of 5 Airborne Brigade to a mechanised brigade
- Conversion of 24 Airmobile Brigade into a new air manoeuvre brigade
- Extra 3,300 soldiers
- Larger, but fewer, tank regiments
- Reducing TA numbers required to defend UK (from 56,000 to 40,000)
- Better TA deployability and “usability”
- New TA mobilisation centre
- Better air transport fleet

Plugging the gaps

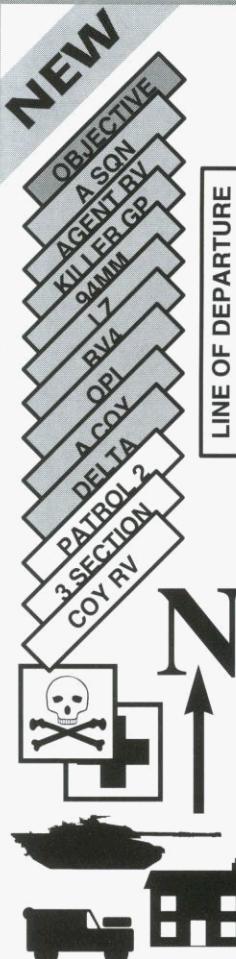
- Improvements to Defence Medical Services
- Logistic enhancements
- Improved NBC defences

Caring for people and society

- Correction of undermanning
- “Learning Forces” education initiative
- Better operational welfare provision
- New task force for families
- Veterans’ advice unit
- More funds for cadets

Savings

- Smart procurement
- New four-star Chief of Defence Logistics
- Single defence transport and movements organisation
- New joint defence storage and distribution agency
- Merged explosive storage processing and distribution
- Disposal of excess defence estate



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Strategic Defence Review

Paras and Apaches 'will lead the world'

BRITAIN will lead the world with the new air assault brigade in which The Parachute Regiment will team up with the Apache helicopters of the Army Air Corps.

That is the firm belief of the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie – who is also convinced there will be a role for parachuting in future operations.

"We have, with the entry into service of the Apache helicopter, the opportunity to put together a force which will lead the world."

"It will be a really effective force. I don't know any other country which will have



Gen Guthrie

something quite so good, so it is a very exciting role. We do, however, think there is still a role for parachuting."

Gen Guthrie emphasised the new flexibility of the British armed forces by comparing past and future. The forces of nearly every country had been structured very largely on what was thought would happen in the Cold War, he said.

"We in those days expected the enemy to come to us. We were most likely in the Army's case to fight on the Hanover Plain and in the Navy's case in the North Atlantic and the Norwegian Sea.

"That's no longer likely to happen now – it's far more likely that we will be fighting in a place we had never thought of and therefore our priorities have changed."

In the past, he said, Britain had been able to react quickly to trouble overseas but not always with the right troops. The Services of the future would be structured and equipped for the modern world.

"With this kind of force we will be able to choose the kind of Servicemen and women, and equipment, that go to sort out a particular problem. And we will have people at a higher state of readiness throughout the Services."

"They'll be able to react very much more quickly – and with more punch."

TA cuts 'a cruel necessity'

• From Page 5

Dr Reid said the review had been foreign-policy led. This meant that criteria used for the past 50 years – the threat of a full-scale war against Russia – was no longer relevant and there was no need for fully-formed units to be called up in their traditional role. Instead, greater importance will be placed on the expertise of those who provide logistic back-up and the TA must be able to provide both formed units and individual reinforcements.

"The TA must not be left languishing as a creature shaped by yesterday's world," he said. "It needs new relevance and usability."

"We now want to call the TA up at a level of conflict much less than a war against Russia – perhaps in Bosnia, perhaps in the Gulf. We are therefore making them more feasible and relevant than any government has for the past half-century."

He said that ministers acknowledged the important community role the TA had in society, and because of this, although the foreign policy analysis suggested that Britain's part-time Army could feasibly be cut down to 7,000, a military "footprint" was needed across the country.

Brig Richard Holmes, Director of Reserve Forces, said at the announcement: "I think things need to change and I am supportive of what has happened. There has been a very wide consultation process, but the results are going to be stark as far as the infantry and yeomanry are concerned, and it is inevitable that there will be unhappiness."

"We must now get on. To many people this may be cruel, but to paraphrase Cromwell's reported comment on the execution of Charles I, 'It is a cruel necessity.'

The review also announced that TA soldiers will in future be trained to operate equipment such as Challenger, AS90 and Rapier. They will continue to be

Also in this issue:

- No rush on TA cuts – Page 11
- Barracks listed – Page 13
- Challenger 2 – Pages 16-17
- What the papers say – Page 26
- SDR supplement – centre pages
- Mailbag – Page 63
- Soldiers' views – Page 70

encouraged to volunteer for Bosnia. The Reserve Forces Act 1996 will enable the Army compulsorily to call-out a significant proportion of the TA to meet a divi-

sional sized war-fighting deployment, and TA medical forces as part of brigade-level deployments.

It is inevitable that TA centres will be closed around the country, but Dr Reid promised there would be "sufficient physical back-up". Cadets are assured of getting more money, at least £1 million, and where a TA centre is affected by the review, alternative arrangements will be made to provide for the cadets.

The 14 Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Associations (TAVRAs) will reduce to 12, so coming in line with the Army's regional command structure. Funding for the TA and Army Cadet Force executive functions will be delegated through the appropriate local Divisional/District Commander.

Measures 'restore balance'

"WE can look upon the outcome of the SDR very positively," Gen Sir Alex Harley, the Adjutant General, told *Soldier*. "Those who believe the UK has a significant part to play in the world will see a clear commitment to a strategic ability to conduct operations across the full spectrum of conflict. For the Army, it is exciting to be expanding again – and in such contrast to the cuts and amalgamations of recent years."

After operations, the Army's top priority would be to reach its new manning levels as soon as possible, he said.

"This is a task to be taken on enthusiastically. There will be pressures while we carry out some of the reorganisations; but I am confident that the SDR's Policy for People – together with the Army's new Human Resources Strategy Action Plan – will guide us through these pressures."



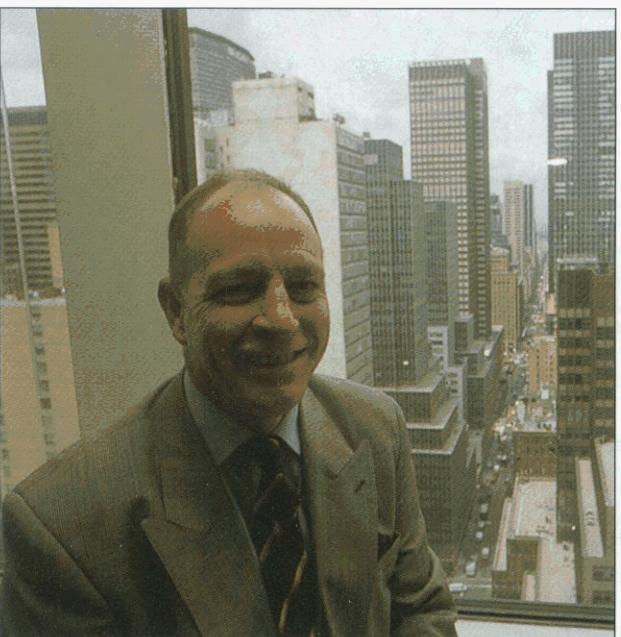
Gen Harley

The review brought good news about conditions of service, Gen Harley said, including better provision for personal development (education and training), easier access to transferable civilian qualifications, and improvements to operational welfare. There would also be a common leave allowance of six weeks for all ranks and a commitment to improve single living accommodation.

"For our families, a Service Families Task Force will be established to work with other Government departments to sort out some of the problems our families have on moving – registration with doctors, dentists and schools, for example, and a Job Seekers' Allowance."

"Anyone reading the review can see that it sets out to restore the balance between commitments and individuals."

People, places, events



One-man band: Col George Young, who works for the UK Mission to the United Nations in New York

UK MA to UN in NY

FROM his office high above the streets of Manhattan, Col George Young can see the United Nations Headquarters through a forest of cement and glass, writes Karen Moseley.

As military adviser for the UK Mission to the United Nations, much of his time is spent in the vast UN building on the banks of New York's East River. He is responsible for advising Her Majesty's Ambassador, the UK permanent representative to the UN, Sir John Weston, on all matters involving British forces.

The war in the Balkans was the trigger for Col Young's job being created, and since then UN operations in Croatia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Angola have become increasingly dangerous and complex. Seven British military staff work in the UN Secretariat and Col Young is their point of contact into official British channels.

"My post is another source of information for the Foreign Office in London and the Ambassador, by using my contacts in the UN Secretariat and colleagues in other countries' missions," explained Col Young. "My core business is concerned with peacekeeping and in dealing with other members of the Security Council. One of the great initiatives at the moment is to help Africa undertake its own peacekeeping."

Britain is one of 185 member states in the UN, but as one of only 15 members of the Security Council it has considerable leverage.

● Next issue: Our men in Washington

Photographers ... ENTRIES for the 1998 Army Photographic Competition have to be in by October 1. Entry forms are available from Media Ops staff or DPR(A), MoD Main Building. ● Entries for the 1998 Northern Ireland tri-Service photographic competition close on September 14. Project officer is Capt Tim Bell on Lisburn Mil 42548.

... please note

Drumcree troops win public praise

SERVICE personnel involved in the massive security operation surrounding the stand-off of Orangemen at Drumcree have received the personal thanks of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for their bravery, determination and flexibility.

In a message to Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith, GOC NI, Mo Mowlam wrote: "I would appreciate if you would pass on my thanks to the soldiers under your command. In speaking to numerous members of the public

● Drumcree – Pages 14-15

there has not been one complaint about the Army during the recent disturbances.

"I have also visited a number of RUC stations and, without prompting, the policemen and women praised the support and flexibility of their Army colleagues.

"I send my own thanks and those of my ministers for their bravery and determination in recent difficult times."

There was more praise for the men on the ground from the Commander of 3 Brigade, Brig Roger Brunt. He praised the professionalism of his troops throughout the stand-off.

TENSION EASED

Meanwhile, as tension eased, the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment returned to its barracks in Aldershot after eight days reinforcing Security Forces in the province.

Soldiers of The Royal Irish Regiment shared the security burden with their General Service counterparts during the Drumcree disturbances, with annual leave severely restricted as they expanded their tactical areas of operational responsibility (TAOR) in support of the RUC.

Mahon Barracks, Portadown – home of 3 R Irish and just a few miles from Drumcree – was turned into the Brigade's Forward Mounting Base and the battalion became heavily involved in the logistical infrastruc-

ture and support, becoming responsible for rations, stores and equipment.

It retained tactical responsibility for its original area less the immediate Drumcree area, and handled more than 170 incidents in a three-week period involving hijackings, finds of petrol, blast and pipe bombs, and 12 arrests.

Meanwhile 8 R Irish was involved in the recovery of a 1,400lb republican bomb on the road between Moy and Armagh. And 5 R Irish, with the

largest TAOR, played a key role in keeping main routes open, especially those affecting Larne Harbour.

Their southern neighbours, 9 R Irish, logged 78 vehicle hijackings in the first week and came under frequent blast, petrol and paint-bomb attacks, as well as a shooting attack in the loyalist estate of Rathcoole. They made a number of arrests and recovered weapons in this and subsequent attacks.

Maj Steve Harvey said: "The green fleet is now a pink, yellow and white fleet, such was the intensity of paint-bomb attacks."

In Belfast, extensive civil unrest resulted in hijackings and street disturbances which kept 7 R Irish busy throughout the period. The battalion was responsible for supporting the RUC over the second contentious parade of the week, at the Ormeau Road in Belfast, with nine companies – seven under command – and all the logistic support that such an operation entailed.

● Fears for the well-being of an elderly farmer sparked an extensive search in the Roscor area of Belleek, Northern Ireland. Soldiers from the 4 R Irish eventually found him collapsed in a water-filled ditch. He was later said to be making a good recovery. Soldiers from 8 R Irish helped to rescue a farmer trapped in a tractor accident near Keady.

IN BRIEF

TIDWORTH-based 1 Regiment RHA took over in the British sector of Bosnia as part of the Stabilisation Force last month. In all, 464 personnel, including soldiers from 19 Regiment RA, 16 Regiment RNZA, reservists and TA members, deployed with 18 AS90 guns to Glamoc, Sanski Most, Sipovo, Jajce and Banja Luka. The regiment, commanded by Lt Col Andrew Gregory, is on its second tour.

● Rfn Paul Delaney of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets survived a 4,500ft fall when his parachute failed to open properly during an exercise in Canada. He sustained a fractured pelvis and broken legs.

● Sappers from 34 Field Squadron (Air Support), part of 12 (AS) Engineer Brigade, prepared the ground for the



Safe and more or less sound: Capt Justin Featherstone, left, and Sgt Martin Spooner, who were injured during an abortive attempt to climb North America's highest mountain.

They were members of a ten-man expedition to Mt McKinley, Alaska, organised by The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Team leader Capt Featherstone fractured his leg in a fall high on the mountain and Sgt Spooner damaged ankle tendons in trying to stop others falling.

A high-altitude Lama helicopter eventually reached the injured climbers

trapped near the summit for four days in temperatures down to minus 30C.

While seven members of the expedition flew back to Britain days after the rescue, Cpl Carl Bougourd, who had severe frostbite to his toes, and LCpl Steve Brown, who sustained a head wound and frostbite, remained in Alaska for further treatment. Sgt Gary Keep, another member of the team, stayed with them.

Aim of the expedition was to make the first ascent of McKinley followed by a canoe passage to sea level at Cook Inlet via 50 miles of rapids.

UK and USA to develop battlefield recce vehicle

BRITAIN is to collaborate with the United States to develop a battlefield reconnaissance vehicle as part of an integrated programme to provide a network of information-gathering systems for the Army of the future.

In parallel, Britain is conducting studies into the use of unmanned air vehicles (UAVs) for battlefield reconnaissance and discussing possible collaboration with the US.

The UK element of the Armoured Scout and Reconnaissance Vehicle (ASRV) programme is known as TRACER – Tactical Reconnaissance

Armoured Combat Equipment Requirement. The US requirement is called the Future Scout and Cavalry System (FSCS).

Dressing down for SFOR

SOLDIERS serving with SFOR have been ordered to wear civilian clothes when flying out through Split airport. The measure, to reduce the impact on the Croatian tourism industry, does not apply to inbound troops. But beach wear and T-shirts with offensive slogans are not considered suitable.

Rapid moves by Paras

MORE than 3,500 troops from 5 Airborne Brigade and the RAF played out a rapid deployment exercise across Norfolk and Salisbury Plain last month. Pegasus Anvil also involved Territorial Army soldiers from 10 Para jumping at Otterburn, Northumberland, and 100 troops making a dawn jump on Dartmoor.

In the final phase on Salisbury Plain, helicopters took part in a brigade strong attack.

Engineers Most Royal



The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps of Royal Engineers, visited 42 Survey Engineer Group at Hermitage, Berkshire at the end of June. She is escorted by Brig Phil Wildman, left, Director of Military Survey. It was the Queen's first visit to the corps since 1993 and Hermitage was chosen because last year the surveyors celebrated their 250th anniversary and the Royal Accolade was granted to the School of Military Survey.

Biker is blast from past



When dressed in a 1940s Army dispatch rider's smock and astride a genuine Second World War motorbike, Company Sergeant Major WO2 Sid Sinar is a figure from the past as he motors around the Dhekelia HQ of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in Cyprus. The CSM does his rounds on the BSA 500cc bike, which he spent nine years restoring.

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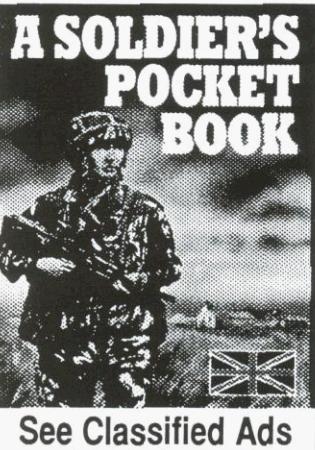
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People, places, events

TA remains 'vital asset' for defence – Minister

ARMED Forces Minister John Reid told Territorial Army soldiers that he would not be rushed into deciding where the cuts must fall following the Strategic Defence Review, **writes Anthony Stone**.

Speaking at the Reserve Forces Experience, a spectacular display held at Minley Training Area, which showcased the versatility and skills of the Reserves, he said: "The Territorial Army remains a vital asset for defence and in the future it is going to be more integrated, relevant and usable than it has been in the past.

"The reason that there has been a delay is that we want to do this correctly, with full consultation with the Territorial Army, rather than just impose something on them from the centre."

Reserve units from all over the country took part in Exercise Forward Together – the biggest display of its kind ever staged.

An estimated 6,000 visitors enjoyed the three-day event which involved 1,500 Reservists in displays and demonstrations of the whole range of TA military skills.

Dr Reid spent time talking with officers and men, some of whom might be out of a job in September. Nevertheless, the Armed Forces Minister was in bullish mood.

He said the way to condemn the TA to irrelevance was not to change it, not to adapt it, not to modify it in the post-Cold War period.

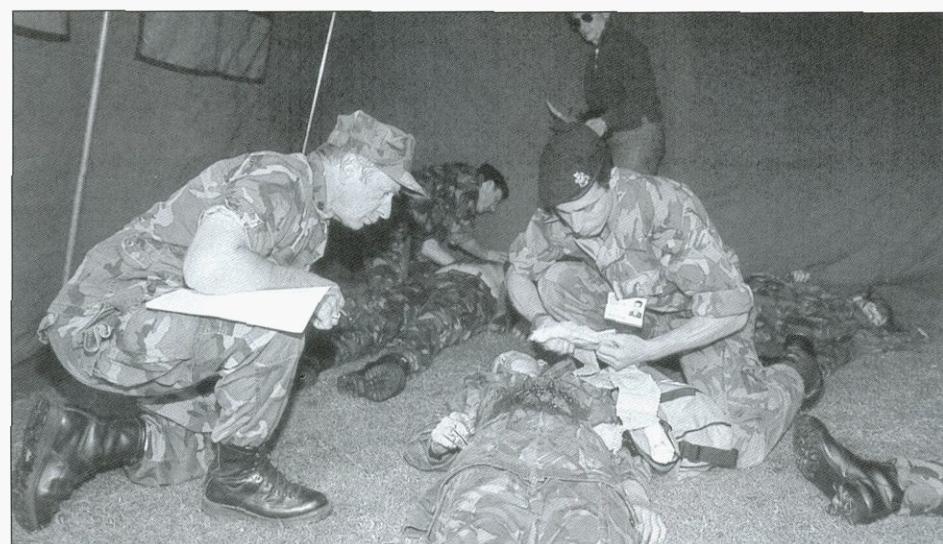
RELEVANT

"What we have done is to try to strengthen the Territorial Army by making it more relevant to the future in terms of the force configuration and by changing our planning assumptions so that, for the first time for half a century, the Government is prepared to call the Territorial Army up at a lower level of conflict than a full-scale war with Russia.

"That has always been the previous planning assumption. If we had stuck to that the Territorial Army would never have been called up."



Dr John Reid



Picture: Mike Weston

International rescue: Delegates to the CIOR military skills competition are put through their first aid paces with a fake casualty. Meanwhile, two Territorial Army soldiers faced the real thing

Real emergency overshadows Reserves' contest

WHILE delegates to the military skills competition held during the meeting of the Confederation of Interallied Reserve Officers prepared for a first aid exercise, two British reservists on the CIOR staff were plunged into the real thing, **writes Graham Bound**.

SSgt Daz Fanshaw, a TA permanent staff instructor, and TA combat medical technician Cpl Lynn Hailey were among the first on the scene of a multi-car crash in which two people were killed and others seriously injured. The two soldiers gave first aid, helped to move the wreckage and gently carried a man with suspected spinal injuries to an ambulance. Later, they rescued an injured and confused man who had wandered away from the scene.

Compared with this drama, the mock scenes of combat injury being staged by the international band of reserve officers at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, seemed tame. But the real-life event undoubtedly reminded the reservists that their life-saving skills can very easily be put to the ultimate test.

Life-saving was just one skill exercised during the CIOR 98 military competition, which ran simultaneously with the organisation's annual conference at Brighton in July.

From their temporary base at Aldershot, 54 three-man teams from 15 North American and European nations also competed over land and water obstacle course, struggled for supremacy on the rifle range (all using the British SA80 rifle), and, in the

week's main event, tested map-reading skills and fitness in an orienteering exercise.

Most member-nations of the CIOR, which marked its 50th anniversary last year, are members of NATO. But this year, for the first time, the "Partnership for Peace" nations, Finland, Austria, Bulgaria and Switzerland, were also admitted. Member nations take it in turn to host both the annual meeting and the competition.

Leading the group of British hosts was Maj Jerry Levine of The Black Watch. After almost six months of detailed planning, he led a team of more than 200 administrators, clerks, weapons experts and catering staff, who made sure the event went off without a hitch. It was, he said, very satisfying work. "And, because we put the emphasis on having fun, you make a lot of good friends."

RANSOM DEMAND

Friendships were briefly strained when a group of American reservists "kidnapped" the French talisman, a large fluorescent ball which, in the fashion of a dunce's cap, had to be carried by the team member who committed the silliest mistake on any day. The Americans insisted that, as a ransom, the French should sing the Brazilian national anthem – on the day of the World Cup final. The French soldiers did so, and *le boule* was returned. But, as history records, they had the last very loud laugh.

British veterans' teams finished first and second in the main competition.

People, places, events



A Warrior of 2 RGJ stands watch over the headquarters of the SFOR detachment in Titov Drvar

RGJ on spot . . .

JUST hours after they arrived in Bosnia, a company from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets was sent to the town of Titov Drvar in the aftermath of rioting by the Croat community protesting at the resettlement of some 180 Serbian families by international refugee agencies.

During the trouble, recently-refurbished flats were wrecked, vehicles burned and the International Police Task Force forced to flee.

The Greenjackets and a platoon from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Rifles moved in to reduce tension and to protect property and the few families who decided to return.

... as dogs of war restore the peace

TWO British Army war dogs have joined the Canadian Army in Bosnia to help stem the outbreak of inter-ethnic disturbances in Titov Drvar.

It is the first time war dogs have been used by Canadian Forces on peace operations and the decision had to be ratified by the Canadian Parliament.

Cpl Danny Morgan took the two dogs to Titov Drvar and trained the Canadians on site. Handler Pte Rodney Watters of 1 Royal Canadian Regiment said: "If a crowd gathers, the appearance of me with my dog, King, is enough to disperse them without fuss."



LCpl Neil Wigman, left, of 2 RGJ, with Canadian Pte Rodney Watters

Hotshot scores bullseye

Sharpshooter LCpl Wendy Nicholls has become the first woman to reach the Army 100, the Service's premier shooting competition. Firing an SA80, Wendy, of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, finished 71st at Bisley.

It was tough to keep up with the men," she told *Soldier*. Her commitment paid off and she hopes her performance will be an incentive to other Service females.

Picture: Mike Weston



Surfing soldiers bring swimmer back from dead

SWIFT action by British soldiers saved the life of a 16-stone Czech woman who got into difficulties swimming off the Adriatic island of Brac and "died" four times.

Mrs Eva Necasova, 62, and her husband, Jan, were in the bay outside their hotel when she started to drown. Soldiers windsurfing nearby heard his cries for help and sped to the scene.

QMSI Nigel Breckell, APTC, and serving with 35 Engineer Regiment, was one of the first to reach the couple and with the help of other soldiers pulled them into a safety boat.

WO Breckell gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to Mrs Necasova, who had stopped breathing.

HEART STOPPED

Cpl Andrew Fielder, from 2 Close Support Regiment RLC, who was piloting a second safety boat, helped in the rescue and Army medic Cpl Sally Townsley, of 5 Field Ambulance RAMC, arrived to join the team.

The woman's heart stopped beating twice before they reached the beach, but both times she was revived by heart massage in the cramped bottom of the inflatable launch, which was bouncing on the waves.

Her heart stopped again as she was lifted by seven men out of the boat.

WO1 Michael Stott, APTC, organised the recovery and journey to the island's port.

Mrs Necasova suffered another heart attack in the hotel van used to take her on the 45-minute trip over steep, twisting mountain roads to the port but WO Breckell and Cpl Townsley again brought her round with a combination of chest compression and mouth-to-mouth.

"Every time the van braked," said Cpl Townsley, "we would go flying down one end while trying to hold on to Eva, making sure at the same time that she had oxygen and a pulse."

Emergency services took her by high-speed launch from the island to hospital in Split, where she was later taken off the danger list and said to be making a good recovery.

WO Stott is chief instructor at the Brac adventurous training centre which provides five-day breaks for soldiers serving with NATO's Stabilisation Force in Bosnia.

He said: "We had procedures in place in case one of our soldiers had a problem. The incident proved a good test and we shall see if we can improve them further."

Picture: Jim Gallagher



Saviours and saved: Army live-savers, from left, QMSI Nigel Breckell, WO1 Michael Stott, Czech tourist Mr Jan Necasova, Cpl Sally Townsley and Cpl Andrew Fielder

IN BRIEF

THE Master Gunner St James's Park, Fd Marshal Lord Vincent, visited 26 Regiment RA's locations during a whistlestop tour of Bosnia. He also opened the International Police Task Force station at Glamoc.

● Thirty years of Army links with More-

ton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire, came to an end on July 24 when the "bomb squad" of 721 Squadron, part of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment RLC, moved out. The squadron has relocated to the Base Vehicle Depot at Ashchurch and Moreton will cease to be a military base. It is to be used by civilian organisations.



Gunned from 269 West Riding Battery in action during Exercise Ardent Ground

Ardent gunners on target at Otterburn

TROOPS from Belgium, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, the USA and the UK converged on the Otterburn training area in Northumberland for an exercise initially planned to take place at Capo Teulada in Sardinia.

But the Ardent Ground exercise for 2,000 Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) (AMF(L)) artillery element troops was too large for the Sardinian range and had to be transferred to Otterburn.

Heavy rain reduced visibility at times but did not prevent mass live

● Old shell cases, grenades and mortar parts are being cleared by a 33 Regiment RE team from a former industrial site at Chasetown near Lichfield.

● Banbury, Oxfordshire, has conferred its Freedom on 5 (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars) Squadron.

Every drop counts



British sappers help to relieve Cyprus' worst water shortage for 30 years. Although users are constantly reminded to save as much of the precious stuff as possible, and consumption on British bases has been cut by 30 per cent, the situation has remained critical.

Wells drilled by Chilwell-based 521 Specialist Team RE have gone some way to relieving the pressure on the British bases. The wells are backed-up by a desalination plant installed in Happy Valley near the Akrotiri base. Under the leadership of the appropriately-named **Capt Mick Waters**, the British engineers worked up to 14 hours a day on the projects.

The little-known unit of professional drillers brought fresh water to troops serving in Bosnia last year and may soon turn their attentions to Belize.

Historic barracks will be protected

IT WOULD never have occurred to Private Tommy Atkins and his fellow barrack-room lawyers to describe the often austere and forbidding buildings in which he was obliged to spend so much of his time as "wonderful".

English Heritage, the Ministry of Defence and Heritage Secretary Tony Banks take a different view – so much so that following a survey, more than 100 "triumphs of military construction" dating from 1600 to 1914 have been added to the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. These barrack buildings and other military structures have been given various degrees of development protection.

The announcement on July 8 was timely, coinciding with the publication of the White Paper on the Strategic Defence Review, which includes a proposal to sell off unwanted military assets.

● Feature – Pages 18-19

Behind the barricades

Confrontation at Drumcree

Child deaths changed mood

THE Drumcree stand-off between Orangemen and Security Forces, which had dominated the news for more than a week, was overtaken by the petrol bomb killing of three children at their home in Ballymoney, Co Antrim.

Release of police video footage of a loyalist gunman firing at Security Forces was believed to be responsible for starting the trickle of law-abiding Orangemen away from Drumcree. As news of the killings spread, the trickle turned into a flood.

Suddenly, at 0400 on the Sunday morning of the Twelfth, after another night of escalating violence at Drumcree, observers detected a change in mood as Northern Ireland began to absorb the horror of the deaths of Richard (11), Mark (9) and Jason (7) Quinn, when a petrol bomb was thrown into their home.

Police statistics revealed there had been 2,133 public disorder incidents across the province between 0600 on July 4 to 0600 on July 12. Seventy police officers were injured and 254 people arrested. There were 598 attacks on SF members, including 19 shooting incidents and 44 blast bombings. Some 621 petrol bombs were thrown, and 2,237 recovered. A total of 176 vehicles were hijacked and 453 damaged. Up to 130 houses were damaged and 155 attacked. More than 750 plastic baton rounds were fired by police.

Reports: Graham Bardgett

THE Scots Guards took the military lead as the huge police-led security operation at Drumcree, Portadown began, but were joined by the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, flown in from the mainland, and the East Tyrone-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales as the stand-off escalated.

They formed left and right flank formations at the barricades just yards from Drumcree Parish Church to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary uphold the ruling of the Parades Commission that Orangemen should not march down the Garvagh Road.

Reinforcements from the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, the UK Stand-by Battalion, were also flown in from the mainland as the confrontation sparked off sporadic violence throughout Northern Ireland, with police and soldiers coming under gun, petrol bomb and blast bomb attack.

The massive operation at Drumcree also involved soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders.

Units of the Royal Engineers, the Royal Logistic Corps and EOD teams joined members of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment at the Mahon Road police and Army base in Portadown, headquarters of 3 Infantry Brigade.

The deployment of purpose-built steel containers filled with concrete lifted by



Army DROPS vehicles was a key factor in the security operation. It was backed up by the laying of barbed wire fencing to form the barricades on the Orangemen's intended route back from Drumcree Church to the Catholic-Nationalist Garvagh Road area.

Additional Saxon vehicles, low-loaders and other equipment were deployed in the province and the number of troops was increased to about 17,000 with the arrival of 1 Kings from Wootton Barracks, Blackpool and 1 Para from Aldershot.



Picture: Sgt Paul Taylor AHSNI

Eyeball-to-eyeball: Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Scots Guards repair barbed wire fencing at Drumcree on the fifth day of the stand-off. Much of the violence took place at night

Front-line diary

AS the stand-off at Drumcree split into a second week, with the threat of violence over the July 12 weekend, the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment was moved into the front-line barricades near Drumcree Church.

This diary of one day at Drumcree is compiled from the reports of officers on the scene.

July 10

1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment:

1 Para took over on the outer and inner cordon at 0600, with elements moving in by helicopter and road. They arrived to find the pressure from Orangemen and supporters building up. Overnight, elements of the battalion were subjected to fireworks and a variety of other missiles. Four police officers were injured in a nail bomb attack on the front line.

1st Battalion, Scots Guards:

Scots Guards continue to hold the centre of the line at the obstacles and barricades near Drumcree Church. They were faced during the night by an angry mob of Orangemen attempting to breach the wire and march

down the Garvagh Road. With the support of police and neighbouring battalions, the break-out was stopped.

1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders:

The Argylls are holding the left side of the wire in conjunction with the Scots Guards. It is hard to estimate numbers but the police put the figure at anything up to 20,000. While the majority are peaceful, they bring with them an element intent on violence. About 2,000 made repeated attempts to breach the wire obstacle in the Argyll's area with no major success. Battalion suffers no casualties.

1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment:

During the biggest confrontation so far on the wire, men from the Cheshire were moved forward to reinforce the obstacles, where they held the line against a concerted effort by several hundred Orangemen to break through. In Portadown the situation along the interface at the bottom of Obins Street and Garvagh Road is getting more tense. The battalion has had no injuries.

Loggies' best-laid plans give troops quality food

ADVANCE planning for the potentially explosive situation at Drumcree provided contingency arrangements for virtually every eventuality as Headquarters Northern Ireland again faced up to its biggest operational commitment in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

A huge police and military operation was planned in detail months before the marching season began, with extra Saxon armoured protective vehicles brought in to ensure the troops' flexibility of move-

ment. Heavy plant, including Terex diggers to remove burning obstacles and DROPS vehicles to position huge ready-use barriers made of steel containers filled with concrete, were deployed to Portadown's main security force base at Mahon Road.

In the week before the march, kilometres of triple concertina wire were loaded on to Leyland 4-tonne trucks ready to be deployed. Helicopter landing and re-fuelling sites for Chinooks, Pumas and Lynx

were made ready. Tonnes of canned and refrigerated food were transported in, as were row after row of tents and enough field catering equipment to keep 40 chefs busy. Dozens of temporary toilets and shower units completed the sophisticated logistical support operation.

Maj Colin Riddell, in charge of logistics at Mahon Road, said: "I am focused on getting the troops fed as well as looking after administrative arrangements. I have concerns about what happens on the

ground, but really we have to make sure the boys are looked after properly.

"We always have to legislate for the worst-case scenario and in a siege environment we have to ensure that we are self-sufficient. One of the key problems is actually getting food to the troops when they require it and at a high standard."

Evening menus for troops at Drumcree ranged from roasts to rump and braised steak, cottage pie to pasta bake and beefburgers, and pork schnitzel to lasagne.

ONE of the most remarkable aspects of the Drumcree stand-off was the massive crowd-control obstacle, or CCO to accord it its military nomenclature.

Conceived by the design cell at 25 Engineer Regiment and built by 43 Field Support Squadron RE, the CCO was made available for the marching season last year, but used for the first time at Drumcree last month.

It took the sappers six hours to put the pre-fabricated concrete-filled DROPS con-

ainers in place on the road and 15 hours to complete the operation by "enhancing" a ditch using excavators and setting up other obstacles around Portadown.

"It was a large operation, but we were very happy with the way it went," said Capt Peter Cartmill, ops officer of 33 Field Squadron, which erected the CCO.

He said attempts had been made to blow the top off the obstacle with gas bottles, but it had stood up well to "a fair amount of aggravation".

Hunter-killer

Weighing in at 64 brutal tonnes, the fearsome bulk of Challenger 2 promises to make its presence felt in the Army – and on anyone foolish enough to take it on – well into the next century. The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, the first unit to be equipped with the new super tank, gave *Soldier* an exclusive preview

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE ARMY'S latest and arguably its most fearsome weapon has arrived. True, it is a little late – manufacturers Vickers had to put their thinking caps back on when an early version failed to meet the Army's requirements – but by all accounts it has been worth the wait.

Certainly no one could be happier with what they irreverently call "their new toy" than the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

At their Fallingbostel base in Germany and back in the UK, the Scots DG spent

several years conducting trials with Vickers – "testing it to death" as the regiment put it – and preparing for the arrival of its 38-strong fleet. When on January 29 this year the first of the plastic-wrapped juggernauts was eased off its low-loader, there was a palpable sense of excitement.

Even now, six months into conversion training, and with mud and chipped paint replacing the bubble-wrap, crews continue to enthuse about the machines.

The regiment's CO, Lt Col Andrew Phillips, who commands his own tank, works as hard as any NCO or trooper to become accustomed to it. He points out that a mere four per cent of the new tank's components are derived from Challenger 1. "It might have been wise to give the tank a completely different name," he said, before rattling off (with a speed approaching the firing rate of a Challenger 2 chain gun) an impressive list of virtues.

"It is a very, very fightable machine," enthused the CO. "Lots of thought has gone into its armour, including protection from the air. And we have greater speed which increases protection. What's more we don't have to blow everyone up. Sometimes we'll just have to turn up and they'll lose the will to fight."

Some enemies may, however, need a little persuasion from offensive features such as "hunter-killer", the dual targeting system which allows gunners and commanders to operate independently, engaging targets

It would be all to easy to rely totally on the tank's modern equipment, but auxiliary systems give crews vital security. If all else fails, old-fashioned optical sights are available. And power can be supplied by a smaller auxiliary engine, batteries or even old-fashioned elbow grease.

Other developments seem almost whimsical by comparison, but they make the crews' work easier and more efficient. Track tensioning, which once involved back-breaking labour by an entire crew, can now be accomplished by the driver alone from within the hull.

In a trick which will be the envy of mil-

ment to track the next target and log it into the range computer.

By merely punching a button, the commander can bring the huge 120mm barrel to bear on the new target, hand it over to the gunner for destruction and begin the process again. Using hunter-killer, a good crew can squeeze off 20 rounds a minute from the almost perfectly stabilised gun.

Some enemies may, however, need a little persuasion from offensive features such as "hunter-killer", the dual targeting system which allows gunners and commanders to operate independently, engaging targets

almost as if they are being delivered on a conveyor belt. While a gunner is locked on to one target, his boss can be using identical equip-

lions of ordinary motorists, fuel pumps can be reversed so that the tank can roll into a service station, insert its integral hose into the diesel tanks and suck up the fuel. No credit cards are needed, but this is strictly a wartime, last-resort measure.

To squadron commander Maj Chris Brannigan the impressive new kit means that the regiment is able to achieve more with less. Traditional tactics are, therefore, being reassessed.

LEARNING CURVE

"We are still finding out what all the ramifications are," he said while taking a break from a 72-hour exercise on the ranges near Fallingbostel. "But it is clear that the whole crew does not now need to be tied into the same task."

The ramifications have been more immediately obvious for the REME support unit. According to LCpl Ross Carter, a control equipment technician, the hunter-killer unit is particularly demanding.

Both LCpl Carter and his colleague, fitter Cpl Andrew Pembroke, rely on laptop computers for diagnostic work. "We just plug them in and they tell us where to look for a problem," explained Cpl Pembroke.

He pointed out that the main engine – all 1,200 BHP and 12 cylinders of it – is also "managed" by integral computer systems. So efficiently are the engines controlled that after 2,000 hours of use the Scots DG vehicles have burned only four litres of oil.

The superficial differences between Challenger 2 and its predecessor are fewer than might be expected. The longer turret, a lump at the base of the gun barrel housing the new thermal imager and a differently-shaped "skirt" over the tracks do give the game away, but within the hull changes are very obvious.

The tank remains cramped of course – that will always be the tank crews' lot – but packed in around the huge breach and dual hunter-killer controls is an air-

conditioning and heating system which greatly improves crew comfort. This feature is especially appreciated during NBC training when the tank can be fully sealed and yet remain comfortable. Vickers and the MoD apparently appreciate that a happy tank is an efficient tank.

The crews are still becoming accustomed to their new equipment and feeling their way towards full operability. Exercises have not yet tested them and their evolving tactics, but those trials will come next year when the regiment deploys to the BATUS ranges in Canada for a month of manoeuvres against mock enemy forces.

Meanwhile, the crews who form the vanguard of the new Challenger 2 force, which will eventually be 386-strong, are adjusting to the unfamiliar reality of having little or nothing to grumble about.

Cpl Kenneth Thompson, a trainer and gunner, speaks for many of his colleagues when he says these are times to be relished. "It was worth waiting for."



Training: high-tech snakes and ladders

TRAINING aids for Challenger 2 are as revolutionary and sophisticated as the tank itself. Working with computer-driven simulators similar to those used by aircraft pilots, the crews go through six weeks of initial training.

Not until he has passed 63 levels of training will a crewman be able to touch the real thing. Fail any one of the levels and a trainee may be returned to the lowest grade. "It's a bit like snakes and ladders," said one trainer.

Commanders and gunners, the vital "hunter-killer" team, train jointly in three turret simulators, reacting to computer-generated graphics and information relayed from the battlefield. The simulators can work together for group training. Only the smell of cordite is missing from this supremely realistic training.



Snakes and ladders training: Aircraft-standard simulators are as sophisticated as the tanks

almost as if they are being delivered on a conveyor belt. While a gunner is locked on to one target, his boss can be using identical equipment to track the next target and log it into the range computer.

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In a trick which will be the envy of mil-

Powerful "new toy": Challenger 2's resemblance to its forebear is purely superficial

Barracks put on the heritage map

As a nation we have not always cherished our most historic military buildings. But times are changing and now, as English Heritage publishes a book on the subject, more than 100 British barracks have been 'listed'

Report: Maj Gerry Bartlett

BRITAIN'S barracks, described as "sort of discipline factories for soldiers", are an important but sorely neglected part of the nation's social, political and military history.

They are enduring examples of soldiers' living and working conditions for centuries, bearing tangible witness to our military and cultural heritage.

British Barracks 1600-1914 – Their Architecture and Role in Society, an authoritative new book born of pioneering research by English Heritage in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence, establishes the historical importance of these buildings for the first time. It draws upon experiences of those who lived and worked within their forbidding walls.

And as a direct result of this first "thematic study" of the defence heritage, more than 100 barracks from Cornwall to Berwick-on-Tweed have been listed as buildings of special architectural or historical importance.

They bear witness to domestic instability as much as the threat of foreign invasion and some are now very rare. The last surviving pair of singularly unwelcoming brick huts at Aldershot provide poignant examples of the living conditions of thousands of soldiers from 19th century volunteers to post-war Servicemen.

In a joint foreword, the chairman of English Heritage, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, and Under Secretary of State for Defence John Spellar say that while many barracks have a history of unbroken military use, others are in the process of being transferred to new occupiers. Publication of this book now is particularly relevant, they say, in the light of changes facing the defence estate.

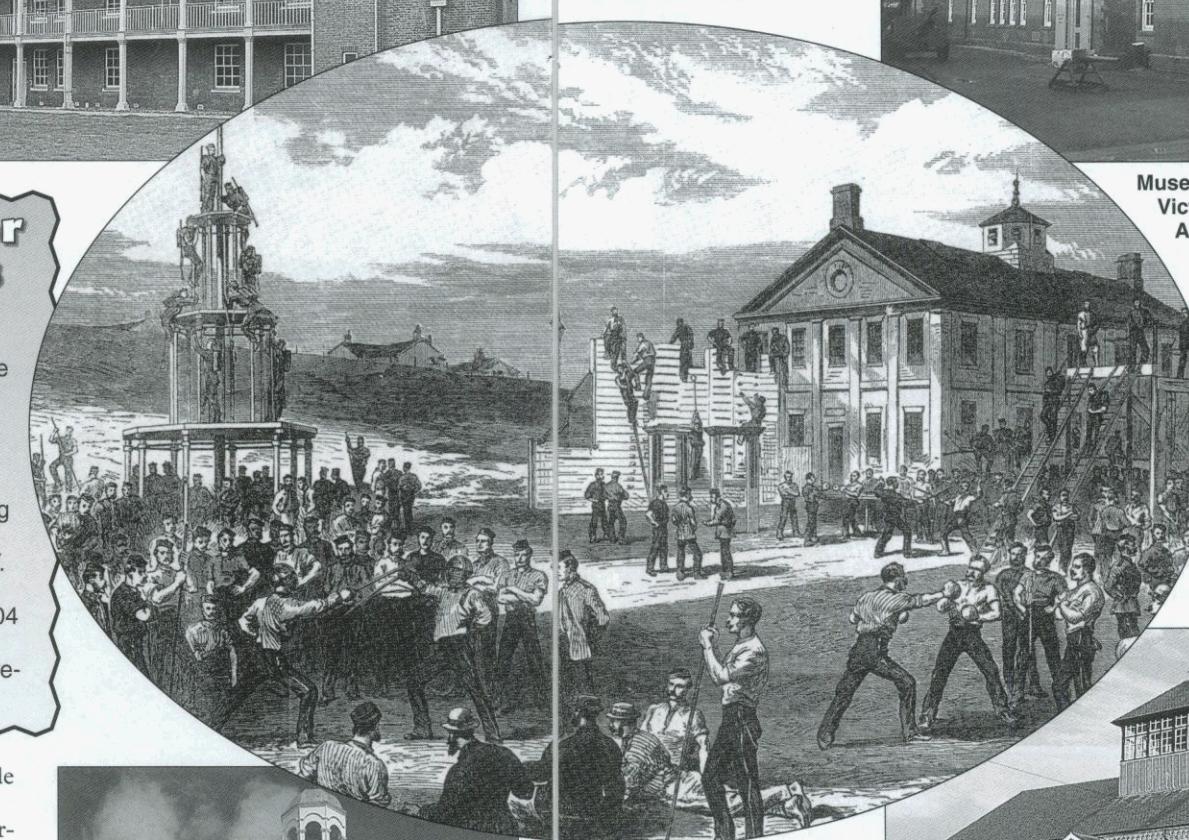
"The public is increasingly drawn to military buildings and the distinguished service traditions they embody," the foreword says. "We believe that this book will generate a greater interest and understanding of military barracks and help to



Design for living, 1860s style: The model married quarters, left, at Hounslow, built along similar lines to the artisan housing of the period, with lavatories at each end of the covered veranda

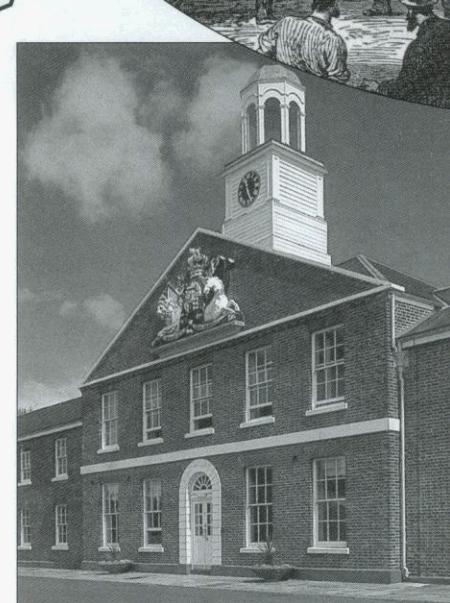


Museum piece: One of two surviving Victorian huts to have survived Aldershot's 1960s clearance. They now house the Aldershot Military Museum

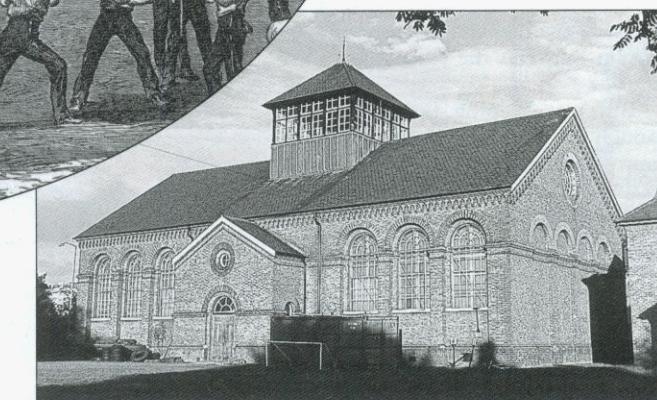


Gym, but not as we know it: The first Army gymnasium, left, was also at Aldershot. Typical sports and exercises of the period are shown in this engraving

Keeping fit to fight: Brompton Gym, below, designed for the Army by the fitness pioneer Archibald MacLaren and built in the early 1860s, is still in use



Call to arms: Wyvern Artillery Barracks, Exeter, left, with its Coade stone royal coat of arms on the central officers' quarters



ers who encouraged schools, libraries, sports halls and married quarters.

The squalid life of women married to soldiers and forced to exist in a barely-screened "corner" of a barrack room with little or no privacy has a section of its own. The position of women was little improved in the early years of the Army's gradual move into permanent quarters – under the "corner system" married soldiers inhabited a lightly-screened end of the barrack room where every aspect of family life took place short of childbirth.

Old soldiers told (apparently with some relish) in the 1890s how they had seen "a pure girl brought straight from the marriage service to the barrack room corner,

The book explores for the first time the whole range of activities experienced by officers, men and their families who lived and worked within forbidding barrack walls – from drill and punishments on the square to the impact of Victorian reform-

How conservation sites are chosen

CHANGES to Britain's Armed Forces have led to a reassessment of the Ministry of Defence's real estate and the historic buildings in its care and ownership.

In 1993, *Deserted Bastions*, an exhibition mounted by SAVE Britain's Heritage, highlighted the losses of valuable, historic military buildings and the threatened condition of many more.

Increasing national awareness of what was becoming known as the "defence heritage" led to realisation that the long neglect of sites such as barracks provided no basis for judging which, if any, were of historical significance.

LISTING STUDY

These circumstances prompted English Heritage's Listing Team to commission "thematic studies" of various categories of site, starting with barracks. As a result, all new recommendations for the protection of the best and most representative examples are now based on a thorough understanding of a previously unexplored subject.

The principal reason for preserving some barracks is to protect the unique way in which they illustrate particular aspects of national history.

The foremost principle underlying selection of barracks for listing was to find the most complete examples from the main phases of development, reflecting the principal Armed Forces branches – the infantry, cavalry, marines, artillery, engineers, and the Navy after it moved into barracks at the end of the 19th century.

DOMESTIC BARRACKS

For example, the architecturally plain buildings at Hounslow Barracks have considerable historic importance as the only surviving example of England's first domestic barracks – ordered by Pitt the Younger in some secrecy at the time of the French Revolution.

Other sites, whose military role saw greater variation, have been altered more extensively. Incredibly, almost nothing survives of either the permanent or temporary barracks at Aldershot, the "Home of the British Army" for more than a century.

In the past, demolition of important groups, such as the mid-18th century Marines barracks at Chatham, Kent, had proceeded without thought as to their historic value or potential re-use.

The prospects for the future are much more secure. Far greater care is now exercised in the repair and adaptation of Britain's military heritage.

Island of adventure

Opportunity knocks for Light Infantry

"CYPRUS is a perfect base for adventurous training, and if a battalion comes here and doesn't take advantage of it, they must be mad." Maj Ralph Arundell of D Coy, 1 LI, based at the Western Sovereign Base Area, does not mince his words, but his attitude accurately sums up the Light Infantry's attitude to a tour on the island.

The 550 men of the 1st Battalion, stationed at the Akrotiri Sovereign Base Area, have conducted an average of one expedition a month. Soldiers with a head for heights have been climbing in Jordan, the Himalayas and the Alps, while those who preferred to get their feet wet have been involved in ocean sailing expeditions across the Mediterranean and taken sea kayaks around the coast of Cyprus.

"We will run 772 adventurous training course places this year," explained Maj Arundell, adding that the battalion's goal is to give every soldier at least five days of such activity during the year.

MORALE

The dare-devil activities are considered an important means of maintaining morale among men who face a heavy and repetitive work-load of guard duties, patrolling and training. The four companies are responsible for protecting the main base area itself as well as the mountain-top communication sites and, since the departure from Cyprus of the RAF Regiment, the Akrotiri air base. It is a demanding programme, complicated by the need to shoe-horn in occasional company-strength operational tours to the Falklands and training missions to the Middle East. Recently companies have exercised in Egypt and Jordan.

"It's not as if the boys aren't busy enough here," said Maj Arundell, warming to his favourite theme. "But we do have some wonderful opportunities, and it would be a shame to miss them, wouldn't it?"



Maj Ralph Arundell: Cyprus is the perfect base for adventure

Poachers on watch

'Taut drum' emerges from a busy mix of operations and sport

Reports: Graham Bound

Pictures: Mike Weston

THE SOLDIERS of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment make no bones about the benefits of serving on the island of Cyprus, where they have been since February this year.

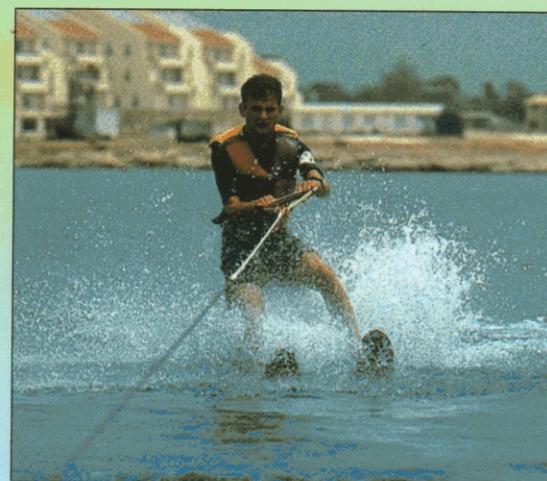
Even their CO, Lt Col Simon Porter, is disarmingly open about it. "This is the posting of a lifetime," he told *Soldier* in his sunny office overlooking the regiment's immaculately tidy parade ground in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (SBA).

"It's the biggest free swimming pool in the world out there," grins the CO, indicating the nearby sandy bay on which the Poachers – the nickname in which the regiment revels – have set up their own beach club. "And we are making the best of it."

It would, however, be a huge mistake to think that this posting is a holiday. There are very real operational demands, complicated by a higher-than-normal level of tension between the Greek and Turkish factions.

"But just keeping busy is not good enough," explains the colonel. "Fulfilment is what it is all about. For that reason, all soldiers who can be spared from operational or training duties are encouraged to enjoy the beach-based facilities."

Here the Poachers' Adventure Training Team (ATT) lead 40 men from one or more of the companies every day in



Play hard: Rapid sea action

what the unit calls "organised recreation": mainly water-skiing (the Poachers brought their own speedboat from the UK), canoeing and windsurfing. Parascending and scuba diving are planned.

It all helps to sugar the bitter pill of curfew, which has to be taken by all soldiers every night. Cyprus is, of course, perceived by many to be a hotbed of unruly military behaviour, and the press is never slow to pick up an unsavoury story. As a precaution, the nearby holiday hot-spot of Ayia Napa is out-of-bounds after 10 o'clock at night and both Limassol and Larnaca are barred after midnight.

Fortunately, demanding operation duties, training and ATT-led sports leave most of the 625 Poachers with little time to curse the curfews.

DUTIES

Companies rotate fortnightly between two levels of training as well as standby and operational duties. The training companies are left as free as possible to polish up their skills and enjoy the ATT activities, while the brunt of the defensive work is taken on by Ops Company.

The troops watch over Turkish and Greek Cypriot military movements and keep an eye open for smugglers and even, ironically, real poachers. "Generally," said one forthright soldier, "we remind those who watch that this is British territory."

Demanding particular attention is the defence of the mysterious communications facility at Ayos Nikolaos ("Aya Nick" in soldier-speak). Not much can be said about this maze of spiky antennae and huge white dishes which protrude blister-like into the area beyond the SBA perimeter. But its defence against possible terrorist attack and espionage is vital. A platoon is on constant 24-hour standby within the facility and elements of the force can be in action within a minute.

"It's a bit weird," said Lt Jason Sparks, who commanded the Aya Nick platoon during *Soldier*'s visit. "We'll never get to know what goes on in here, but we still have to protect it."



Work hard: Rapid reaction

At another key point, a small group of soldiers mans a busy checkpoint known as Black Night. They filter vehicles into the UN-patrolled buffer zone and from there into Turkish-controlled territory.

"We control passes, warn tourists that Greek and British authority does not

apply in the Turkish zone and log all personal and vehicle details," explained Cpl Neil Frost, one of the Black Night guards. He added wryly: "A lot of tourists come down the road, see the signs and turn back."

There is no doubt that these operational duties, the demands of training and the need to give soldiers time to enjoy the

sunshine island, stretch the resources of the Royal Anglians. But Lt Col Porter welcomes this. The pressures bring a better disciplined and motivated force. The CO sums it up with a colourful image: "We need to be taut," he says, "because a tight drum beats better."

Cyprus maritime troop – Page 22

Loggy with his own little fleet

Going to sea with the RLC

WHEN alarm bells again sounded in the Arabian Gulf a few months ago, the aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible* was prepared for a possible mission against Iraq. Press attention turned to the ship as she steamed across the Mediterranean. But few people realised that a tiny fleet of much smaller water craft, this time crewed by soldiers, was also involved.

As *Invincible* approached Cyprus, the boats operated by the 20 soldiers of 417 Maritime Troop RLC based at Akrotiri were mobilised to lend the carrier a hand, **writes Graham Bound**.

For several long and hot days the skippers and boat handlers, with a few civilian helpers, shuttled to and from *Invincible*, exchanging personnel and delivering mail, spare parts and longed-for fresh food. The landing craft and patrol boats fussed around the carrier like devoted sheepdogs.

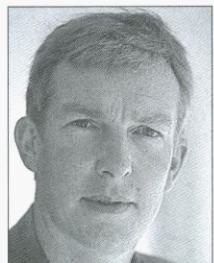
GULF WAR

This time the threatened crisis blew over quickly, but it reminded unit OC WO1 Nick Lyon that once, during a previous Cyprus tour, he was involved in a much larger operation: supporting the fleet of ships bound for the Gulf War.

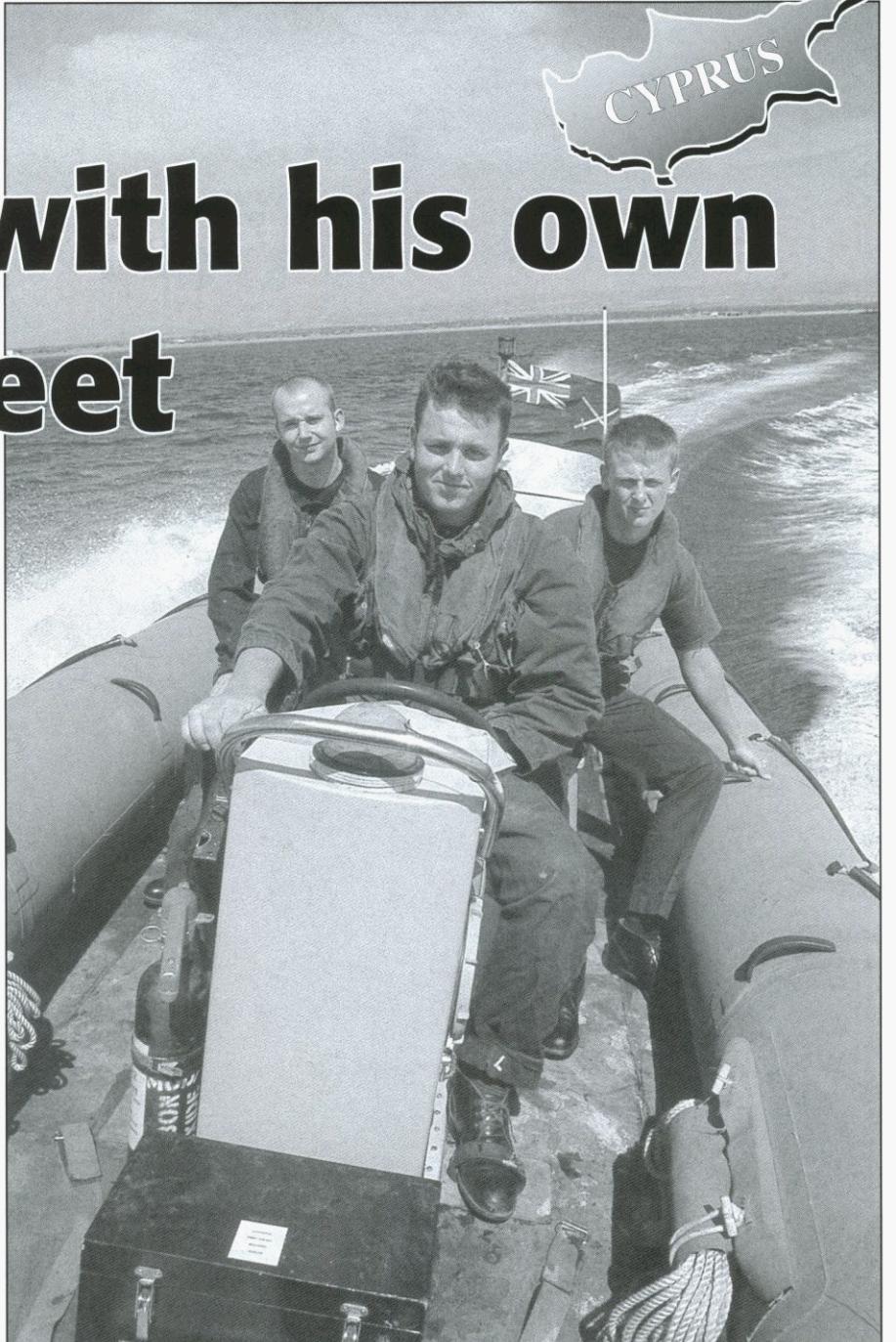
Cyprus was then the linchpin for naval operations and the Port Squadron found itself involved in a huge logistical operation. The seaborne-logistics carried, among other things, thousands of bombs to and from the freighters and warships. "The RAF eventually dropped them," said WO1 Lyon, "but we made sure they got to the right place." With a tinge of regret he added: "It was an incredibly busy time for us, but people didn't understand the logistic support that went into that action."

The "Maritime Army" or "blue jobs" as these specialists are sometimes known, often have to remind themselves that they really are soldiers. They wear blue uniforms similar to sailors and most of the men in the unit, including WO1 Lyon, have spent their entire Army careers working in boats. Sometimes it is even easier to communicate with their Royal Navy colleagues than with fellow soldiers. "We speak the same language," said WO1

Pictures: Mike Weston



WO1 Nick Lyon: The loggy who runs his own little navy



Soldiers of the sea: Cpl Jon Wilsher at the controls of a Maritime Troop rigid-hull inflatable, with crewmen Pte Del Huskie (left) and LCpl Jamie Redler, cutting a dash off Cyprus

Lyon. "Some soldiers don't understand us at all well."

Sensibly, the commander of the large Royal Logistics unit in Cyprus recognises that maritime work is a whole different world. He has appointed WO1 Lyon as his special adviser on maritime matters. Nick also regularly advises the staff at HQ British Forces Cyprus.

Although small by naval standards, WO1 Lyon's boats have considerable lifting power. Moored at the dedicated dock below the squadron's cliff-top HQ are two beefy landing craft (LCLs), *Akyab* and *Andalsues*. Each weighs 200 tonnes when empty and is capable of carrying a company of armed soldiers or up to 96 tonnes of cargo.

Even greater lifting capacity is provided

by an ungainly-looking but capacious Mexiflote motorised barge, while a clutch of patrol launches and inflatable boats is used for light transport and fast patrol work.

One way or another the famous beaches of Cyprus play an important part in the lives of the Port Troop. The LCLs, packed with infantry from the two resident battalions, are frequently deployed to practise amphibious landings and evacuations. The fast launches are used to check for swimmers in the potentially dangerous areas near ranges, and twice a year the boats are used to lay or remove the long lines of red buoys which mark safe swimming areas.

Baywatch it ain't – for one thing the red swimsuits are missing. But Nick Lyon doesn't deny that running his own little fleet from the sunshine island is a plum job. It is, as he says, "... a great view from the office".

Exercise report

Under fire

British battalions experience a 'power projection platform' in Washington State

Report: Tim Zillessen

AFTER more than three years away from the battlefield, the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders have undergone six weeks of intensive training under live fire.

With operational duties having kept the Catterick-based Highlanders in Northern Ireland and elsewhere during the past few years, the north-western United States provided an ideal location for new commanding officer Lt Col Mark Dodson to test the mettle of his officers and soldiers.

He took charge of the battalion just two days before the troops flew to Fort Lewis, Washington State, a "power projection platform" for Pacific-area operations by the United States Army and home to more than 20,000 US soldiers in 1 Corps.

His baptism of fire was made even more challenging by the fact that four of his company commanders had also just taken up their postings. In addition, many of the Highlanders were experiencing their first taste of live-fire training after an extensive stint in Northern Ireland.

TESTING CONDITIONS

Fort Lewis offers 115 live ammunition training areas over an area of 86,000 acres of forest, mountains and coastline and is complimented by the massive Yakima Training Centre which stretches for 320,000 acres.

The size of the ranges allowed the group to fire more than 400,000 rounds of ammunition, 1,200 mortar bombs, hundreds of grenades and 24 Milan anti-tank missiles during the six-week exercise involving in all about 750 troops.

Maj Frank Philip, the 2iC, said: "The competition for the use of range facilities in the UK is intense, but at Fort Lewis we were afforded the freedom and space to exploit invaluable training techniques which are vital to an infantry regiment such as ours. Not only did it help to pro-

Picture: Cpl Bobby Nelson



Night firing: A mortar crew from 1 Hldrs makes use of the wide open spaces at Fort Lewis

duce highly competent soldiers for the field of battle but it was a crucial tool in raising the levels of morale and camaraderie between the troops."

Because of operational commitments it was, he said, the first time since the regiment formed in 1994 that it had been able to hone its skills in the field.

Co-operation with the Americans was first-class as usual, with Exercise Trumpet Dance, now in its 15th consecutive year, providing training space unequalled in the UK.

The aircraft of 4 Regiment AAC were able to fly with the support of three US Cobra combat helicopters and two Kiowra helicopters from the 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment (Attack) based in Hawaii.

"To be able to take advantage of the Cobra and Kiowra helicopters enhanced the realism of the exercise," said Maj Philip, "and was a real bonus as well as showing the great willingness of the

American and British services to work in harmony."

Lt Col Dodson said: "It was the perfect opportunity to get to know my team and put them under pressure. It was mentally and physically taxing but I think the battalion came on in leaps and bounds during those few weeks of intensive training with the added experience of working under live-firing conditions.

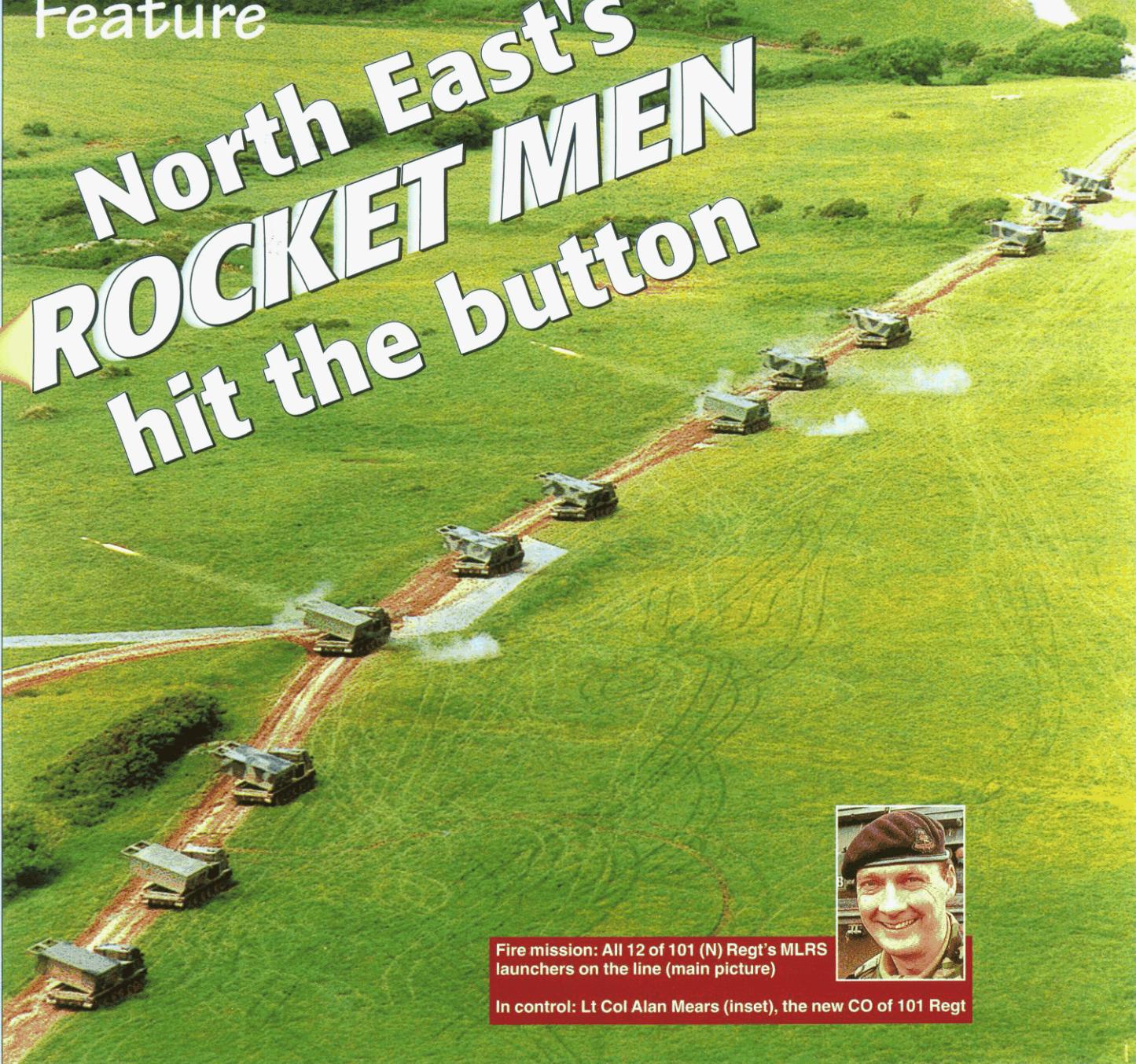
"The exercise was exactly what we are in the job for and the opportunities offered at Fort Lewis were the best training any soldier could have."

In the limited amount of rest and recreation available, many of the Highlanders enjoyed some of the best skiing in the United States and for some there were trips to Las Vegas, Vancouver, or Toronto.

A second Scottish regiment, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, followed the Highlanders to Fort Lewis for the next in the Trumpet Dance series of exercises.

Feature

North East's ROCKET MEN hit the button



Fire mission: All 12 of 101 (N) Regt's MLRS launchers on the line (main picture)

In control: Lt Col Alan Mears (inset), the new CO of 101 Regt

THREE part-time soldiers from the North East earned a mention in the footnotes of Territorial Army history when they fired the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) at Castlemartin ranges on the Welsh coast.

They were members of 101 Regiment RA (V) – the Northumbrian Gunners – the first and only TA unit to receive the Royal Artillery's latest and most lethal weapon system.

The Terriers fired reduced-range practice rockets across the training area following months of training on MLRS, which had its baptism of fire during the Gulf War.

Sgt Paul Nisbett from Jarrow gave the orders for crew members LBdr Richard Young, from South Shields, and Bdr Derek Jones, from Walker, to fire the rocket.

"We were batten down in the launcher and were unaware that we were the first to fire," said Sgt Nisbett. "It was only when we got back to the hide after the

Northumbrian Gunners try MLRS for size

firing that someone told us we had made history."

It was a memorable start for new commanding officer, Lt Col Alan Mears, who had just joined the regiment. He is, however, no stranger to 101, having been its adjutant in the 1980s.

"There is no doubt that the high point of the camp was getting the first rocket down the range, which we did seven minutes after the range opened," he said.

"We are more advanced in our ability to command and control than we expected to be and that bodes well for the future. This is key equipment within the Army's

Order of Battle. It is not just to be stored or played with . . . we are an integral part of 1 Artillery Brigade, which in turn contributes to the NATO forces structure.

"If we had another scenario like the Gulf War I would expect this regiment to be sending out formed detachments."

WO2 Anthony Storey, one of the team responsible for MLRS training, said: "They started in January and with hard work have managed to convert to MLRS in only 14 days' training. After passing theory and practical tests, the detachment commanders have to fire at least one rocket to be qualified."

Sgt Michael Coates said his soldiers were a bit overawed when they first received the equipment but had now proved they could use it. "I felt a great sense of achievement when our first rocket went off . . . it is a great step forward for the regiment."

"The rocket system is a totally different concept to the old field howitzer FH70 guns we used to have."

From Westminster to Wapping

A monthly digest of what's being said in Parliament and the Press

PM petitioned on Gulf War illness

TWO organisations have asked the Prime Minister for a public inquiry to be held into Gulf veterans' illnesses.

One request came in a petition delivered to No 10 Downing Street by the National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association. The other, in a letter from the Secretary General of the Royal British Legion, followed a resolution approved at this year's annual conference.

Defence Minister Lord Gilbert said in a written answer on July 14 that the Government would carefully consider their requests.

Meanwhile, the MoD is to provide £75,000 to fund a three-year independent review of worldwide published research relating to Gulf veterans' illnesses.

The study, announced by Armed Forces Minister John Reid on June 29, will be carried out by a team led by Prof Glyn Lewis at the University of Wales in Cardiff.

The Government is already funding two major epidemiological studies into the health of Gulf veterans and their families, one of which involves contacting all 53,000 people who served in the theatre, plus a similar number of people serving at the time who did not deploy there.

Three other studies are being carried out,

one funded by the United States Defense Department with British co-operation.

Other points from Parliament:

MLRS update: Britain is to take part in a joint programme to develop a new guided rocket for the Multiple Launch Rocket System.

The new weapon, expected to be developed with the US, France, Germany and Italy – the UK's partners in the original highly-successful MLRS programme – will have a greater range and accuracy than that now in use.

Garrison strength: As at May 31, 1998, about 23,800 posts were directly administered or associated with the Army garrison in Germany.

This figure excludes the various NATO headquarters and other posts distinct from the garrisons, but includes those troops who are based in Germany and deployed elsewhere, such as the former Yugoslavia. Cost of the forces in 1997-98 was £1,139 million.

Bigger Army: Strength of the British Army has gone up by 1,500 since May 1, 1997, Armed Forces Minister John Reid told the Commons on July 20.



How the Press saw the Strategic Defence Review

□ Britain has finally turned its back on the old Soviet threat to gear up for a major new role on the world stage. – *Daily Mail*

□ It is an exercise in words rather than a reorganisation or a rationalisation. It has the virtue, nonetheless, of sparing the Forces serious financial cuts. – John Keegan, *Daily Telegraph*

□ Some will be dismayed that Labour still wants Britain to punch above its weight and stay so close to the world's only superpower, risking becoming, in the words of one critic, "America's Gurkhas". – *Guardian*

□ The review gives Britain the best of both worlds. There has been a small cut in costs but not at the expense of our fighting prowess. – *Sun*

□ The outcome for the Army is mixed. Its armoured capability is reduced by the removal of some tanks and troops from Germany, although arguably reorganisation will make it more effective. The greatest relief will come from the commitment to increase the size to deal with overstretch. – *Financial Times*



□ Five airborne stand-off radar (ASTOR) spy planes that can track enemy tanks from 200 miles away are to be ordered in the autumn for the Army and Royal Air Force. The decision to go ahead with the £750 million programme was taken during the review. – *The Times*

□ There are likely to be campaigns to preserve some of the Territorial Army units. John Maples, the Tory spokesman on defence, said 172 TA centres would be closed. – *Independent*

□ The impact of cutting the budget in real terms by £915 million-a-year by 2001-2002 will be cushioned only if Mr Robertson succeeds in selling off all the unwanted assets that have caused problems for all his predecessors. – *The Times*

Guardsman: mercy plea to the Queen

THE QUEEN was asked by the House of Lords on July 20 to exercise her Prerogative of Mercy to release Scots Guardsman Mark Wright and James Fisher from their life sentence for the shooting of a Belfast teenager.

Use of this rare, centuries-old royal power is exercised on the advice of her ministers. Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam, who had already promised to review the case after a strong campaign on the guardsmen's behalf and a June debate in the Lords, is expected to make an announcement later this month.

The guardsmen have already served six years of their sentence. Former Chief of the Defence Staff Field Marshal Lord Bramall said the men had been carrying out their duty but had made a "tragic split-second error of judgement".

Challenger 2 deadline: All 386 Challenger 2 tanks on order are expected to be delivered to British armoured regiments by February 2002.

Training areas: Salisbury Plain training area contains 38,000 hectares of land, of which up to 80 per cent can be available for military training. The figures for Otterburn training area are 23,000 hectares and 95 per cent availability.

Other topics

□ Britain's Armed Forces are its greatest source of national pride, according to a study of patriotism to be published in the United States. The National Opinion Research Centre at the University of Chicago says that the British rank their military above everything. Its sports achievements give the country the least cause to feel good about itself. – *Guardian*

□ Former RMP staff sergeant Andy Mudd (pictured with his wife, Maggie), who lost both his legs in an IRA car bomb blast in Colchester in 1989, has been awarded £819,000 from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board after a six-year battle for a "decent" sum. He was initially awarded £115,000. – *Daily Mail*



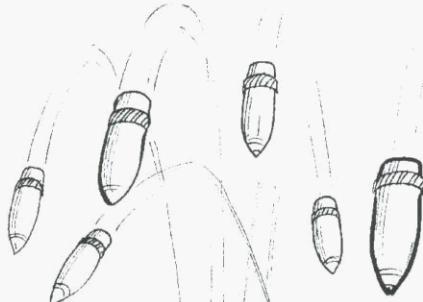
□ Military scientists have developed an "acoustic cannon" which uses sound rather than bullets. It has been designed as a non-lethal weapon for use against hostile crowds but a lethal version is also on the cards. – *Daily Mail*

Chuckle with Chip

"There are always a couple of minor problems when the Gurkhas take over a position from the Guards!"



"I must admit I don't have a warm fuzzy feeling about this!"



Getting exercised



"He's incredibly brave...
Unfortunately he's also incredibly stupid!"



"From zero, sir... have you heard the old joke about
'Six rounds in the air, where would you like them?'"



Honour of the Colours

Major event brings together the airborne family

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion

WHEN the three Regular battalions of The Parachute Regiment received their new Colours from the hand of their Colonel-in-Chief, the Prince of Wales, it was an event which brought together what many who wear the red beret call "the airborne family".

Mixing happily among the almost 1,000 serving airborne troops, who were either on parade, jumping from Hercules aircraft in thrilling parachute displays or helping to run this major event, were proud family members and thousands of old soldiers; some of them men who were among the first to serve in the regiment when it was formed in 1942.

Members of "the family" had converged on Aldershot on June 19 from all over Britain, in a few cases from overseas, to share in the presentation of new Colours, a rare and solemn ceremony which takes place in any regiment approximately every 25 years.

NEW HONOURS

For the airborne forces, this was no simple renewal of a faded and worn regimental symbol. Stitched carefully to the new Colours of 2 and 3 Para are their most recent battle honours, Mount Longdon, Goose Green and Wireless Ridge in the Falklands, where soldiers from both battalions won Victoria Crosses.

Families and old-timers watched proudly as the three battalions of young Paras conducted their dignified and stirring ceremony, first surrendering their six old Colours – a Queen's Colour and a regimental Colour for each battalion – and then forming a hollow square as the new Colours were unsheathed and laid on the regimental drums for consecration.

Perhaps aware that some civilians watching the ceremony might not fully appreciate the significance, the Prince of Wales spoke generously and eloquently about the symbolic banners. "The regimental Colour is for many the physical manifestation of the regiment's history and honour in battle," he said. "The Colours presented today are the traditional symbol of a soldier's loyalty.



Pictures: Terry Champion

Proud Paras on parade: The six new Colours are trooped before the Prince of Wales and Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith

"The qualities which they represent and call for – service, dedication, self-sacrifice and bravery – are qualities which those serving in The Parachute Regiment possess in abundance."

Significantly, because many on the parade ground were aware that the Strategic Defence Review has been considering possible changes to the make-up and role of Britain's airborne forces, Prince Charles went on to say: "I know that the battalions will carry these Colours with confidence and fighting spirit into the 21st century."

The regiment's Colonel Commandant,

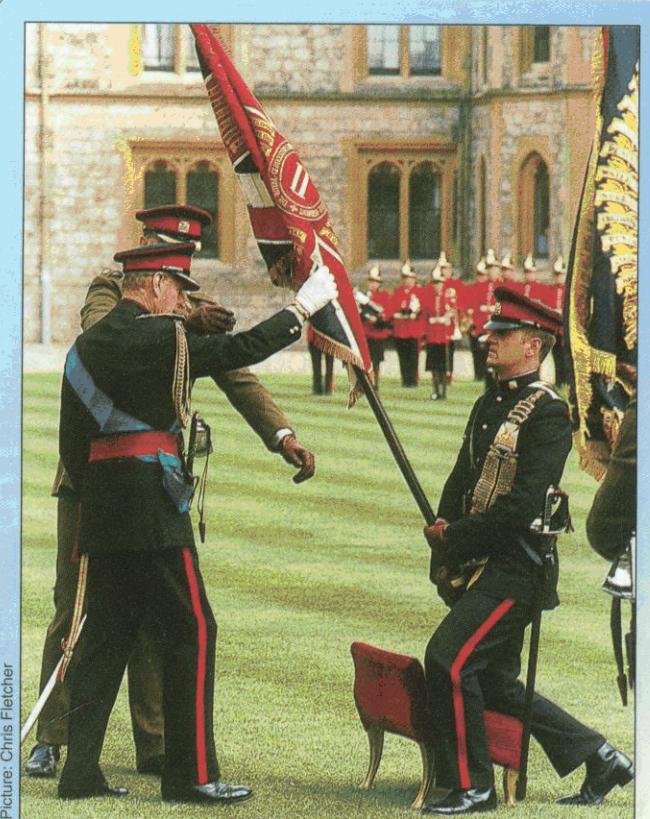
Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith, responded by reaffirming the loyalty of his soldiers. "Whenever the need arises, the regiment shall be ready and proud to take its place in the vanguard of battle, in the service of the Crown. The honour of the Colours will always be upheld and I charge every member of the regiment to fulfil that duty in war and peace."

As the Colour parties marched off and the 800 men on parade prepared to march past their two most senior officers, one-time Para sergeant Richard Nebel, who had travelled to Aldershot from his retirement home in Cyprus, summed up the event. "These new Colours are the heart, the spirit of why we serve," he said. "To see this pageantry today

instils a great sense of loyalty and pride."

But what will become of the old Colours, which although now redundant and faded are still steeped in Para pride? One young serving Para said they should stay in Aldershot. "It's home," he explained simply. But others hope to give the old symbols a new resting place which is at least equally appropriate. Falkland islanders have offered to display them in their cathedral in Stanley as a memorial to the men who died in the islands. And some soldiers approve of the idea.

No decision has yet been made, but whatever happens, Paras old and young can be sure their precious Colours, even the old ones, will continue to be cared for lovingly.



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Over to you: Fd Marshal the Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of 2 RGBW, presents the Colours at Windsor Castle

Royal appointment for the M4 Rifles

TERRITORIAL Army soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment were presented with new Colours by the Duke of Edinburgh at Windsor Castle.

Troops marched through the town and into the castle grounds where they were inspected by the Duke, their Colonel-in-Chief, who was wearing the uniform of a field marshal.

The old Colours were

marched off and the new consecrated by the Chaplain General before being presented, the Queen's Colour to Lt Paul Wood, the regimental Colour to Lt Andrew Ciarelli-Parenzi.

Nicknamed the M4 Rifles, 2 RGBW was formed in October 1995 following the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Wessex Regiment, and has units based at Reading, Devizes, Bristol, Gloucester, Swindon, Cheltenham and Cinderford.



The airborne family turns out in force. With men of C (Ghurka) Coy 2 Para in attendance, Paras from the Second World War to the present day joined friends in a 9,000-strong audience

Caring for the carers

All too often we forget about the carers in our society. Here are three case histories. If you would like to share a problem or offer advice of your own, write to Cari c/o Soldier, or BFBS, BFPO 786.

Dear Cari, MY husband served in the Army for more than 20 years and has always been fit and active. Now he is affected by a long-term illness and I've had to give up my job to look after him. At first his old friends were very helpful, but they've got their own lives and I don't see them as often as I did. Financially it's a struggle, but we are managing. It's just that I feel very lonely. I still love my husband but he isn't the same man I married and I feel guilty when I get cross with him. – Mrs A (UK).

Cari replies: Being a long-term carer is an exhausting and emotionally draining job. When you've had to give up your own job to take on the task it means that you're cut off from all the usual support of friends and colleagues and your world seems to close in on you. Admitting you need help is the first step to getting it.

The obvious sources of support are, of course, the Royal British Legion (your local branch will be listed in the phone book) and SSAFA Forces Help. Both offer practical help as well as a bit of old-fashioned comradeship.

You might like to contact the Carers National Association, which for more than ten years has offered help and support as well as campaigning for the rights of carers. The CNA has an advice line staffed by experts in many areas. In the UK the number is 0345 573 369 and calls are charged at the local rate. Or write to the CNA at 20-25 Glasshouse Yard, London EC1A 4JS.

Other issues

THE new Forces Railcard introduced on July 1 is available at a cost of £2, unlike the one it replaces which was free to individuals. Another difference is that the new version is valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

Service personnel joining the Services

Dear Cari, My 25-year-old son has been medically discharged from the Army and is going to have to look for a suitable job. He's restricted in what he can do and is getting depressed about it. I think he believes his useful life is over. He says he's on the scrapheap. He was always one for a challenge, but the fight seems to have gone out of him. – Mrs C (UK).

Cari replies: Get in touch with the Royal British Legion Vocational Assessment Team, which offers career counselling, psychometric testing, CV preparation and coaching with interview techniques, as well as computer access to current vacancies nationwide. The other benefit is that it being the RBL, your son will deal with people who understand Service life.

Write to Patricia Wheeler at Vocational Assessment, RBL Industries, RBL Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NL or call on 01622 712 202.

On a personal note, do keep on talking to your son. You know he's not on the scrapheap but this is how he feels at the moment. Don't dismiss his feelings. Talk through his worries with him and break them down into manageable concerns. Perhaps he is worried about being able to live independently, so look into local housing for people with special needs.

Once he faces his troubles one by one, your son will be able to develop more confidence in his future.

It's thought that people who care for relatives on a full-time basis at home save the country around £34 billion a year. Many of these carers get little help and support and live lives of quiet dedication.

The introduction of the Carers Advice Line is very welcome. In a small way, relatives of ex-Service people have an advantage in being able to use organisations such as the Royal British Legion and SSAFA Forces Help. Between them they offer a comprehensive range of services which can be of benefit to the person affected by

Dear Cari, I've often heard you talking on *Counterpoint* about personal budgeting. My husband has another family from his first marriage and we've just had a baby. No matter how hard I try, I can't cope and the debts are getting worse. I just can't see how to cut down our spending. – Mrs L (BFG).

Cari replies: I know it's very galling to hear people like me pontificating about managing your money when the bills are mounting up but you're already doing something that many people don't do until it's almost too late.

You are facing a potential problem before it becomes frighteningly out of control. First of all, contact the Money Management Council at PO Box 77, Hertford, Herts SG14 2HW and ask for Factsheet No 7, which will give you a good start in preparing a plan for the future.

It also gives you a template for setting out all your outgoings against your income.

Next, don't panic. Don't try to pay off everything in one go. Plan to keep your outgoings down to a minimum while devising a plan to get what you owe paid off steadily and regularly. If your debts are truly unmanageable talk to a professional who will not charge you for their time. Someone like your bank manager. Your responsible attitude to your family finances will be respected by everyone you deal with.

ill health or disability and to their carers. Other organisations can help with specific needs. The problem is that finding them often means a long search and the smaller groups get overlooked. Wouldn't it be really helpful if there could be one point of contact for all ex-Service people, say

a department at the Ministry of Defence which could provide a full list of all the associations, charities and Government departments offering help for people in specific situations?

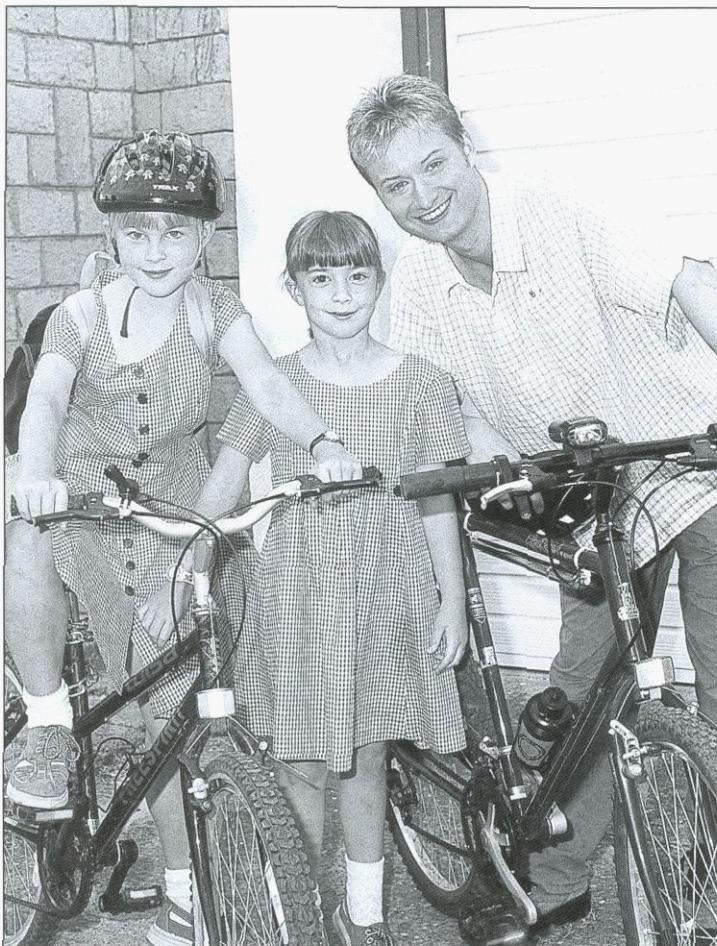
● Cari Roberts presents *Counterpoint* on BFBS Radio.



Cari Roberts

Cari comments

NVQs for TA combat medical technicians have been pioneered by **202 (Midlands) Field Hospital RAMC (V)**. The two-year modular programme was the brainchild of Lt Debbie Haynes, QARANC (V), NVQ development officer at Coventry University's School of Health and Social Sciences.



Jessica: star of *Blue Peter*

Young Jessica Lyon, left, was the centre of attention when presenter Stuart Miles and a BBC *Blue Peter* film team arrived at her home at RAF Akrotiri to compile a report on life in Cyprus. Jessica and sister Hannah, centre, are the daughters of WO1 Nick and Elizabeth Lyons.

The film crew joined the family for breakfast and followed Jessica as she cycled to Akrotiri Primary School, where she joined her classmates for a trip to Kouris Dam.

Nick commands 417 Maritime Troop, based at the Akrotiri Mole and possibly the only operational harbour facility at an RAF station, while Elizabeth is a leader at a local playgroup.

Chance of a home

SINGLE, homeless, young ex-Service people in London are to be targeted by a charity committed to breaking the "vicious circle" of deprivation experienced by those without a place to live.

The Homeless Fund has been given a Lottery grant to manage a dispersed housing project for single young homeless people who have served in the Armed Forces. The Home Base project also involves the Central and Cecil Housing

Trust (CCHT), which will provide furnished flats from its housing stock in the St John's Wood area.

Individuals, who must agree to work actively with a community worker towards developing citizenship skills and reintegrating into society, will be given assured short-hold tenancies of six months within schemes operated by the CCHT.

Initial enquiries should be made to Edward Thorneycroft on 01428 682658.

What TECs can do for you

YOU may have heard of TECs and wondered what they had to do with the Army.

Training Enterprise Councils, to give them their full title, are private companies working for the benefit of local people and businesses. There are 79 in England and Wales, 24 Local Enterprise Companies (LECs) in Scotland and the Training and Employment Agency in Northern Ireland all providing high-quality advice and training.

TECs up and down the country are helping the Army become a recognised Investor in People. Many soldiers have completed or are working on a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ). TECs are working with the Army to provide these modern apprenticeships, which offer high-quality training in a trade to a level three NVQ (broadly equal to two A levels) and qualifications in the key skills of numbers, literacy, working with others, improving learning skills and IT. The

Army Foundation College is also receiving support from TECs for its trade training in information technology.

TECs are now in the background throughout an Army career, working in partnership with local colleges and Army careers offices to provide pre-recruit training courses. These include fitness work, IT, trade courses and practical skills such as the Bronze Medallion life-saving award and first aid certificates. They include adventure training.

CAREER'S END

TECs are also there at the end of a career in the Army – at whatever age and with whatever skills. As they work closely with the local community, TECs are aware of employment trends in their areas and work closely with the Employment and Career Services to help people train to get the right job. They also work with Army resettlement providers.

TECs can be useful to families. Young

people between 16 and 24 can benefit from career advice and paid training in the workplace. The modern apprenticeship and national traineeships are available in many areas of work. Programmes are also available for those over 25 who wish to retrain or improve skills before returning to civvy street. A call to a local TEC will uncover many opportunities.

To help overcome some of the problems that prevent many people realising their full potential, TECs support after-school clubs and childcare facilities. They also help people with learning or physical disabilities.

For more information on TECs telephone the TEC National Council on 0181 735 0010 and ask for details of the one nearest you.

For information on TEC partnerships with the British Army, contact Alison Miles, the TEC/Army Liaison Officer, on Upavon (734) 8731.

Service leavers in **Dunbartonshire** can take advantage of a jobs initiative until March 31. It includes cash grants for prospective employers, personal development plans and help with CVs. Contact Marion Paterson, Alba Training Ltd, Building 1, Unit D2, Templeton Business Centre, Glasgow G40 1DA (0141 550 3880).

Applications for **Winston Churchill Traveling Fellowships** for 1999 are being considered. Open to all British citizens, they are available for periods overseas of between four and eight weeks. Details from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR (0171 584 9315).

The **Royal Regiment of Fusiliers**, in partnership with Northumberland Training and Enterprise Council and Rathbone Community Industry, has launched an initiative to help unemployed youngsters make themselves more employable. The first youngsters spent a week with the Fusiliers at Stainton Camp.

Secrets of the soil

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Mike Weston

SALISBURY Plain Training Area is an archaeologist's playground. No other place in Britain has so many ancient monuments in such a concentrated area.

They are all the more remarkable because they have virtually become fossilised since the Army took ownership of SPTA at the end of the 19th century and the land was protected from intensive farming. The actual buildings no longer exist, but their platforms and roads were covered with soil and leaves over the centuries and now survive as earthworks.

"The Army has become the custodian of the remains," Ian Barnes, the archaeologist for SPTA, explained. "The Plain has the highest concentration of burial mounds in Europe. They have been there for nigh on 3,000 years and those are the main things soldiers will see when they are on exercise."

Signs with a star and shovel warn troops not to dig in certain areas. There are 301 scheduled monuments on SPTA which are protected by Ian and the Training Area Estate Management Team. Trees are planted to divert vehicles away from archaeological sites and Ian repairs any damage caused by erosion.

RICH HERITAGE

Unlikely as it may seem, snail shells and mole hills hold some of the strongest clues to its rich archaeological heritage.

A prehistoric mollusc examined under a microscope can tell not only whether trees or crops grew on the spot where it was found, but also give indications of the society which lived there, how it failed, and whether there was efficient farming at the time.

"Snails can tell you a lot about a landscape," Ian said. "They are important environmental indicators, as are charcoal and seeds. One small animal bone can tell you what the animal husbandry was like, what sort of people were around, how old it was when it died, and carbon dating will tell you how long ago it lived."

The mole hills have practical rather than scientific value. Ian kicked a fresh pile of soil with his foot to see if any shreds of pottery or coins had been pushed up to the surface when the mole came up for air. It was thanks to a mole hill in Scotland that the remains of a lost ancient town were found.

Before any construction can take place

Soldiers exercising on Salisbury Plain might not realise they are sharing the place with the bodies of ancient warriors and farmers

on SPTA an environmental impact assessment is carried out. One has been done to the north of Knock Camp at Willis's Barn Field where a military road is to be built. A section has been excavated and its contents examined. A few sherds of pottery and flints were found from the late Neolithic and early Bronze ages, but the real interest was a 6,000-year-old pit.

"This pit was built here at about the same time as the last bit of Stonehenge," Vaughan Birbeck of Wessex Archaeology said. "It is a jigsaw, intelligence gathering. We will take about half out to see the strata,

the insects, charcoal and snails. The samples will be carried back in ten-litre bags and run through finer and finer sieves, then sorted by hand and tweezers and examined under a microscope. The species will be identified and counted and we can then build up a graph from the top to bottom of the pit showing how the environment has changed."

The earliest known sites are Neolithic (4,000-2,000 BC). The people in those days would bury their dead in communal graves – huge mounds known as long barrows. There are 27 of these on SPTA, clearly visible, the largest of which is at Tilshead Lodge on SPTA West.

A Neolithic body was found near a long barrow at Hotel Crossing west of Tilshead when a water pipeline was being laid.

The southern range road was moved so it would not be disturbed.

It is best to leave the dead

where they are; they have been put there for a specific reason," Ian said. "The dead have rights as well and have to be treated with respect. If they are in danger we will excavate them and then rebury them. At the end of the day it is still a person, and 4,000 years isn't really very long in the great scheme of things."

The tradition of burial mounds continued through to the Bronze Age (2,000-800 BC), and although there were communal graves – there is a huge Bronze Age barrow to the left of A Range at Bulford which holds the remains of 40 to 50 bodies – individual mounds, known as bowl barrows, became more common. There are more than 500 of these across SPTA and although the ditches have virtually disappeared, the grassy mounds are still obvious.

When they were first built they were gleaming white mounds of chalk that could be seen for miles, surrounded by a three-foot ditch. Inside were buried the remains of a body in a decorated urn placed upside down. They were often accompanied by a Bronze axe or the person's belongings.

The Bronze Age linear ditch systems can also still be seen. These are five-mile ditches which were used as ranch boundaries for cattle and sheep. The people lived in small compounds in conical houses made of timber frames with wattle-and-daub walls.

The houses in the Iron Age period (800 BC-AD 43) were much the same, only larger. There were settlements all over the plain which tended to be enclosed, probably against animals such as wolves. The villages were surrounded by cultivated fields and beyond that were the shepherds.

It was during this time that the series of hill forts were constructed. These huge earthworks at Knock, Scratchbury, Battlesbury, Bratton, Castlebury and Sidbury, were indications of the wealth and power of the

Ancient highway: Archaeologists, right, painstakingly clear an area where a new road is to be built. A 4,000 year old pit has been found on the site

Cutting-edge technology: Just a stone to the untrained eye, but this flint, below, was used as a knife by Neolithic man



local tribes. "The expenditure on the hill forts would have been equal to that on a Trident submarine or aircraft carrier today," Ian said. "They took a huge effort to build, but were taken fairly quickly by the Romans and then abandoned. They may have been tribal capitals, but Battlesbury and Scratchbury are too close together. They may have been for defence or used as storage for grain."

The last civilisation to use Salisbury Plain was the Romans (43-410 AD). One of their largest settlements is situated on the artillery impact area at Charlton Down. There are 11 major Roman remains surviving as earthworks, and the outline of the streets and house platforms can be clearly seen.

ARMY CORN

The Roman economy was geared towards producing a massive amount of corn to feed the army and much of it was grown on Salisbury Plain. Large villages grew up, usually controlled by the estate owners who lived in villas.

The skeleton of a Roman was found north of Breach Hill. Archaeologists could tell he had been buried in a coffin because of nails found close by and the fact that his feet had fallen over – if he had been buried in soil his feet would have remained upright. He too was left undisturbed in his resting place.

"The Romans virtually had everything we have except electricity," Ian explained. "When they left in the 5th century the

Saxons invaded. They had a feudal medieval society, and also by that time the climate had deteriorated, and the Plain became colder. It was abandoned, the economy collapsed and the villages were deserted. The Saxons moved into the valleys where towns like Warminster and Westbury were formed."

The Plain keeps its mysteries hidden and there are many unanswered questions about what has been found. One of the strangest is Chisenbury Midden in the North of SPTA. This was obviously an ancient festering pile of dung, but there were also signs of good-quality pottery and animals with butchery marks. Why take all that rubbish up a hill and why is there so much pottery?

Another mystery is Robin Hood's Ball, a Neolithic camp that consisted of two circular concentric ditches to let people through. Pottery and seashells from Cornwall have been found there, as well as polished stone axes from the Lake District. What was the reason?

The Plain does not give up its secrets easily, but the Army and Ian are content that many of them stay hidden for another 4,000 years.



Whiting's writings

Interview: Carl Shilleto

AS A 16-year-old schoolboy in 1943, Charles Whiting knew it was time to go. "To use the phrase of the gangster movies of my time," he remarks ruefully, "this place can't hold me." The place was York. That summer, when Britain's wartime luck seemed at last to have changed for the better, young Whiting was alone in his grammar school sixth form "with a conchie".

"He was a nice enough bloke, if I remember rightly, full of the milk of human kindness. The only thing was he didn't want to go and fight for the right to exercise his beliefs."

After a brief argument between the two boys one day, Whiting locked him out on the form balcony, forgot about him and the poor unfortunate was not remembered until the following morning. An "unpleasant discussion" followed with the "beak" and Whiting decided to join the Army. "There was only one catch. I was well below the official age for joining up."

Army forms were smudged and a mother in tears was soothed as she signed them. That winter Whiting found himself, "still wet behind the ears, a member of the Reconnaissance Corps."

LIKED DISCIPLINE

"I liked it in the Army right from the start. I liked the discipline, the knowledge that you knew exactly where you stood, the precision, if you like, of military life. It was the only time in a long life (Whiting is 72 this year) I've known that kind of order."

Whiting still liked the Army when he went to the front, still under age. He went through the campaign in the Low Countries and Germany with the 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Reconnaissance Regiment right up to the last battle of Montgomery's British Liberation Army (BLA).

"It took us seven days to cover 20 miles and later the so-called US military historians said it was a walkover. They should bloody well have been there."

In 1948 Whiting was demobbed. He didn't want to go. "But the old mob had vanished. I didn't want to start again with the new one. Besides, I had visions of decades of bull and barrack square soldiering before me."

He had got it wrong. Two years later he was called up for Korea as an infantryman. But by now he was a student at the University of Cologne "and an old bloke. I

With more than 200 books to his name(s), this former British Army private turned associate professor is the world's most prolific military author

was already 24. I had to get cracking. They'd have to win Korea without me." He stayed in Cologne.

In 1953 he wrote his first novel *The Frat*

Wagon, ("don't ask about the title; it's too complicated") while still at university. "I took a pin, pricked a page in an author's guide and sent it, though I didn't know it then, to one of the leading publishers in the country, Jonathan Cape. 'Come by next

titles of the 1944-45 campaign, on the fringes of which he had taken part.

"But I wanted to do it differently from the typical military historians of that time. They were not going to be books about strategy or the comings and goings of the top brass. They were going to be the accounts seen from the worm's eye point of view, from that of the ordinary squaddie. What it was like to sleep, eat, live – perhaps die – in a muddy hole. How you lived off compositions and what you could scrounge. How you kept warm and, if you



After the action: Charles Whiting, centre left, leans on a captured Nazi flag. The photograph was taken in Germany in the spring of 1945

time you're in town,' Cape wrote me. I was there next morning at nine hammering at his door in Russell Square. I was a writer."

But there was a long haul in front of him before he could achieve his aim of becoming a full-time one. He lived abroad for the next 30 years in half-a-dozen countries, working in German chemical factories, US fashion companies, newspapers, magazines (including *Soldier* for about six years in the late 1960s), universities – as an associate professor and lecturer – and a long spell with the US Army.

That was back in Belgium more than a quarter of a century ago. Now he's back in York, where he was born. He jests that he has "come home to snuff it". But Whiting is still writing at a pace that would put many authors half his age to shame.

His "tumbledown memorial", as he so modestly puts it, is more akin to monolith: 58 non-fiction books and 142 works of fiction. Added to the seven new titles published this year this takes his collective works past the 200 mark (a fact he was humbly unaware of) and makes him the world's most prolific writer of military books.

DONATED ROYALTIES

His consideration for the Serviceman lies not just in words. The royalties from his latest book, *Skorzeny**, have been donated to St Dunstan's, which cares for those blinded in the service of their country. It is a gesture he shrugs off as "helping a few of the old boys".

He has just finished "re-discovering a

forgotten piece of recent British Military history". That is the part that Montgomery's XXX Corps played in the supposed all-American Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. "For political reasons it was all hushed up at the time, even by our own people," Whiting says.

"The Americans' top brass had been caught with their knickers down by the surprise German attack in the Belgian Ardennes. Panic at the top, big bug-out at the bottom. But remember this, thousands of young Yanks fought it out to the very last at great loss, though the American brass wanted that forgotten too. They wanted Patton relieving the 'battered bastards of Bastogne' (the US 101st Airborne Division), preferably on a white charger, I suppose. Incidentally, he never did relieve it on time, and anyway Bastogne wasn't ever completely surrounded."

MONTY'S COMMAND

According to Whiting, Montgomery took over secretly. For two long critical weeks, he commanded most of the US troops in the Ardennes. Then he put his own XXX Corps of nearly 90,000 men in to stop the Germans, if they ever made it that far, on the River Meuse. If they crossed the river there was nothing to stop them reaching Paris and the Channel. And the whole course of the war would have been changed.

"Of course US military historians made a dog's dinner of it afterwards. The Brits had drunk tea on the Meuse and just waited. It wasn't like that at all. Battalions went up beyond the Meuse and in a matter of 36 to 48 hours suffered horrific casualties. The East Lancs lost more than a quarter of their strength in a day. The 13th Para virtually 40 per cent."

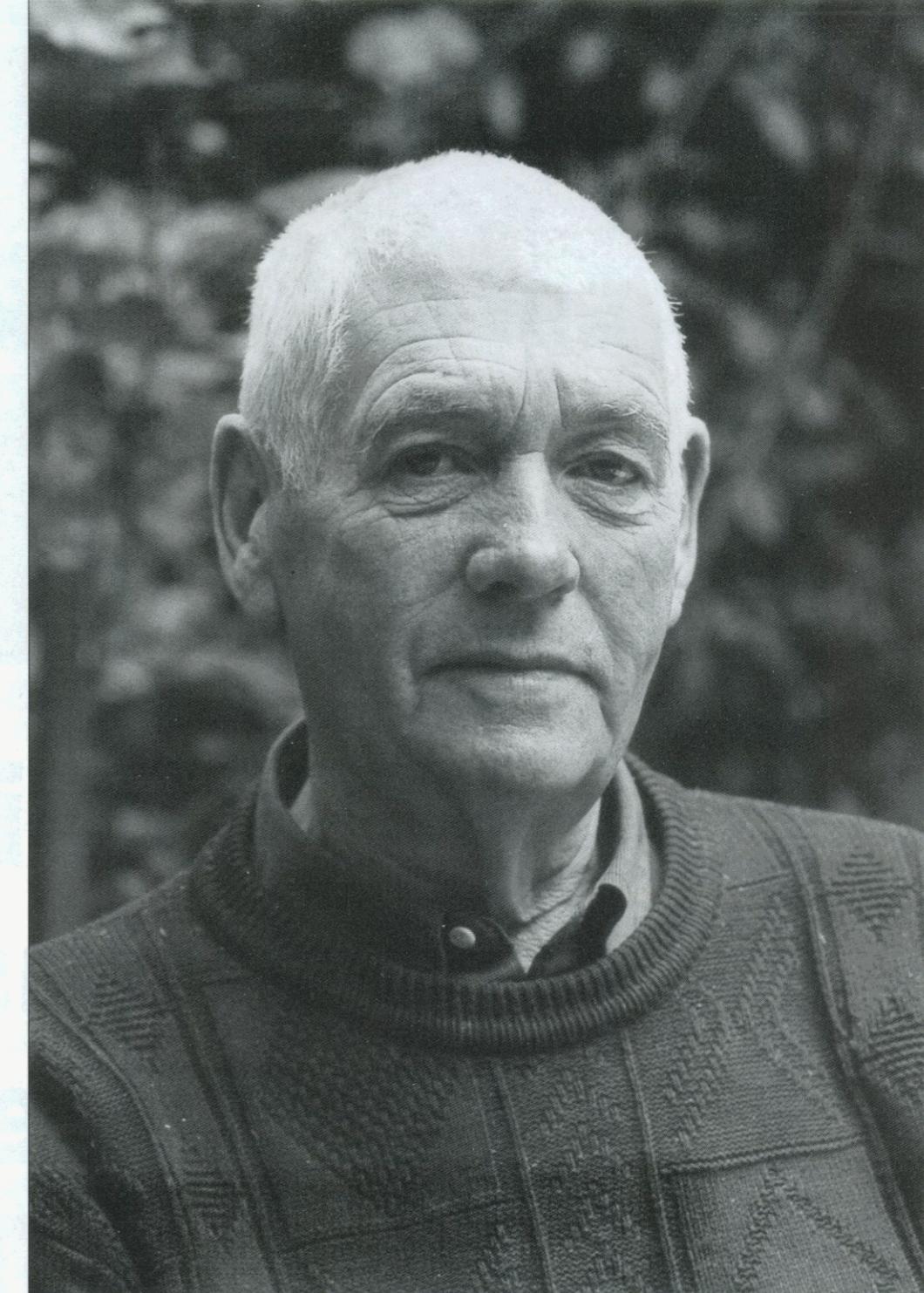
The whole affair, he says, had to be hushed up to save more bad blood between the British and American leadership. "So XXX Corps quietly tiptoed away, still drinking China tea presumably, as if they had never even been there and went to fight in the Ruhr and Rhineland. That I've tried to correct in my humble way**."

What next? More Kesslers, perhaps?

Shaking his crew-cut white head he replies. "No, Leo has hung up his Schmeisser. Now he sits at home, toys with his Iron Cross and probably gets drunk by midday on suds and sauce . . . beer and schnapps to you."

What then?

"Korea."



Back home: Charles Whiting in the garden of his home in York

Why Korea?

"It's obvious, isn't it? Another forgotten British Army. All those chaps from Z Reserve (the reserve to which I belonged and never honoured), who never came back. I've got to erect another tumbledown memorial."

A final question, Mr Whiting. The British Army today. What do you think of it?

For a man who always seems in a great hurry, always has a smile on his face and can find a humorous quip for any question, Charles Whiting apparently gives the question some serious consideration.

"They look good. They look professional, especially the NCOs. I attained the dizzy height of sergeant myself at 18 and always have a good word for the sergeants. But they've got a tough row to hoe. At the mercy of the political feather-mERCHANTS in Parliament all the time."

He paused reflectively and one could imagine he might be thinking of his own days as a young soldier in Monty's BLA – Burma Looms Ahead, as the squaddies cynically nicknamed it.

"All that time ago, when we'd be on parade, raising a dust-storm of blanco every time we slapped our equipment, the old drill sergeant would snarl at us: 'Bags o' swank. Remember who you are . . . bash on regardless'."

"That's the Army – Kate Karney we used to call it in Cockney rhyming slang – for me then, now and forever. Bags of Swank now . . . Remember who you are . . . bash on regardless."

"Bash on regardless. Good luck, lads."

**Skorzeny* by Charles Whiting is published by Leo Cooper/Pen & Sword at £12.99.

***The Battle of the Bulge: Britain's untold story* by Charles Whiting will be published by Sutton Publishing Ltd in Oct at £18.99.

Streets steeped in history of bitter conflict

Pictures: Mike Weston
Report: Graham Bound

NICOSIA is a paradox. On the one hand this ancient city is a vibrant centre for the thriving Cyprus tourist industry, where friendly and apparently relaxed locals mingle with their visitors in pavement cafés and bars. On the other, it is one of the most highly-militarised urban areas in the world, a potential flash-point for renewed fighting between people who have not forgotten the civil war of 24 years ago. It is a history which continues to rumble ominously in the island.

But conflict is nothing new in Cyprus. To a large extent it has made Nicosia the fascinating city it is today. Since its founding almost 2,400 years ago Nicosia has been fought over and ruled by most of the civilisations and empires which, at one time or another, dominated the eastern Mediterranean. Venetians, Ottomans, the Greeks and Turks (of course), and even the British have all marched through the streets, leaving evidence of their tenure.

However the city's most striking landmark is a recent and ugly one. The ceasefire or Green Line marks the point where fighting stopped when peace was re-established after the Turkish invasion of 1974.

JAGGED SWATHE

It cuts a jagged swathe across the city, dissecting streets and creating a ghostly and decaying buffer zone, across which nervous Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot troops still watch each other. Between them the United Nations force, British troops among them, patrols.

No resident can cross from one side to the other, although visitors may do so if they care to endure the rituals of Turkish and Greek bureaucracy. On each side of the border crossings, the barbed wire-topped walls are emblazoned with propaganda condemning the other ethnic group for supposed atrocities.

The Greek side of the city, where some 75 per cent of Nicosia's inhabitants live, appears more prosperous than the Turkish sector. Many prestigious and expensive European designer shops are here and they are often packed with tourists.

Across the Green Line, the visitor finds another world. Less wealthy it may be, but the Turkish sector's markets and bazaars are a fascinating feast of colours and aromas. Such great cultural variety is both the charm and the downfall of Nicosia, which Cypriots themselves describe sadly as the world's last divided city.



Last orders: Bottles of beer stand on tables in Otto's Bar, where they have been since 1974. British soldiers patrolling the buffer zone look in

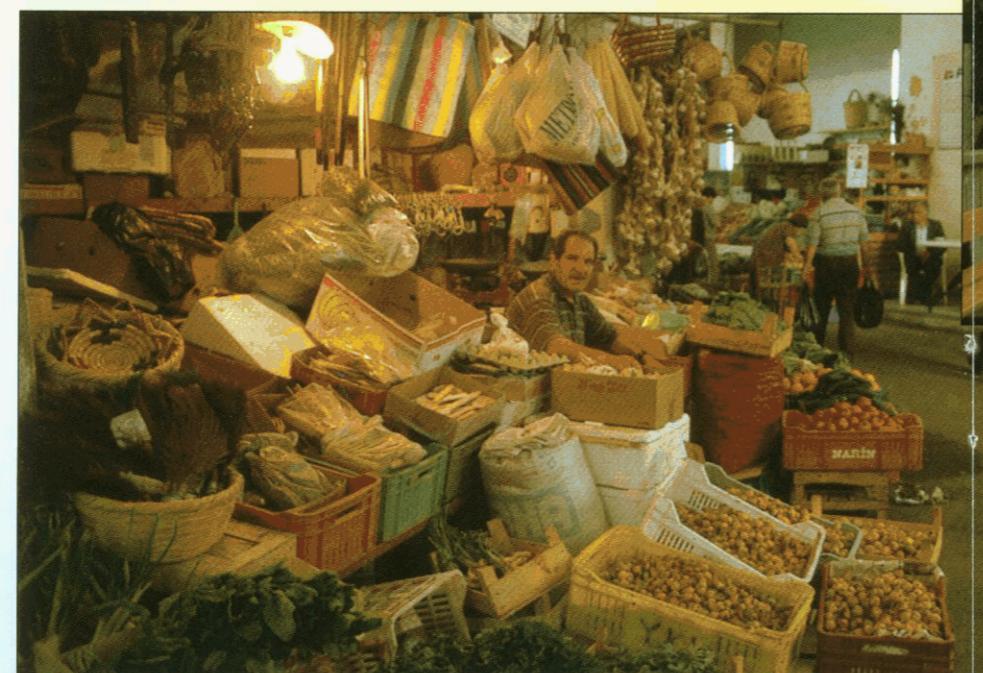


Deserted: Once handsome buildings stand eerily empty and decaying in the Green Line buffer zone



Lingering agony: After 24 years, Greek mothers, left, of men and women who disappeared during the war continue to protest at the Green Line, demanding information about their missing children

Nicosia – the last divided city



No change: In the Turkish-controlled sector an ancient covered market trades in fruit, herbs, vegetables and meat as it has done for centuries. Nicosia was founded about 2,400 years ago



Note from the past: Visitors who look carefully can find such reminders of British administration as this old post-box. The royal crest still adorns the front



Forbidden border: Crossing from the Greek side to the Turkish, above. No problem for foreigners, but impossible for Cypriots

Danger without: Reminder, left, of a recent war and continued tension



Uniform approach: Life goes on in Nicosia, one of the most militarised cities in the world. These camera-struck Turkish soldiers queue at a cash machine

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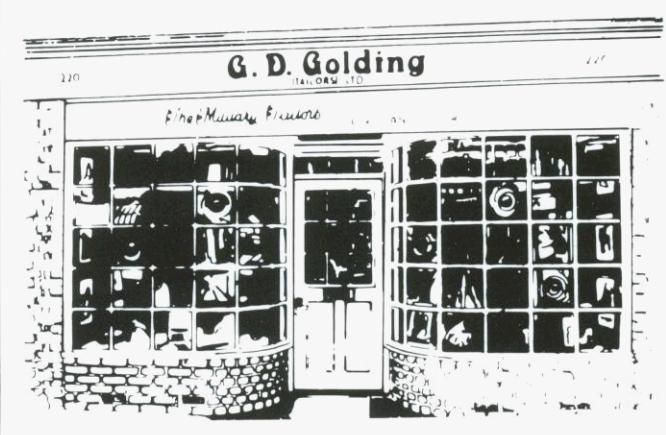
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Warrior 2000 breaks the mould

Reports: John Elliott

FROM a distance it looks like Warrior. Closer up, there is still a comforting similarity. This, however, is not the Warrior armoured fighting vehicle beloved of British Army infantrymen.

This is Warrior 2000, the one-off prototype unveiled by GKN Defence at its Telford headquarters a month ago and now being trialled by the fastidious Swiss. Look again and you notice that the hull is less cluttered than the MoD Warrior, that it appears to be sleeker and bigger.

You are right. The aluminium armour hull has smooth exterior surfaces and other improvements to enhance its stealth characteristics. New Warrior boasts the fruits of more than a decade of technological advances over the British Army's first-generation version.

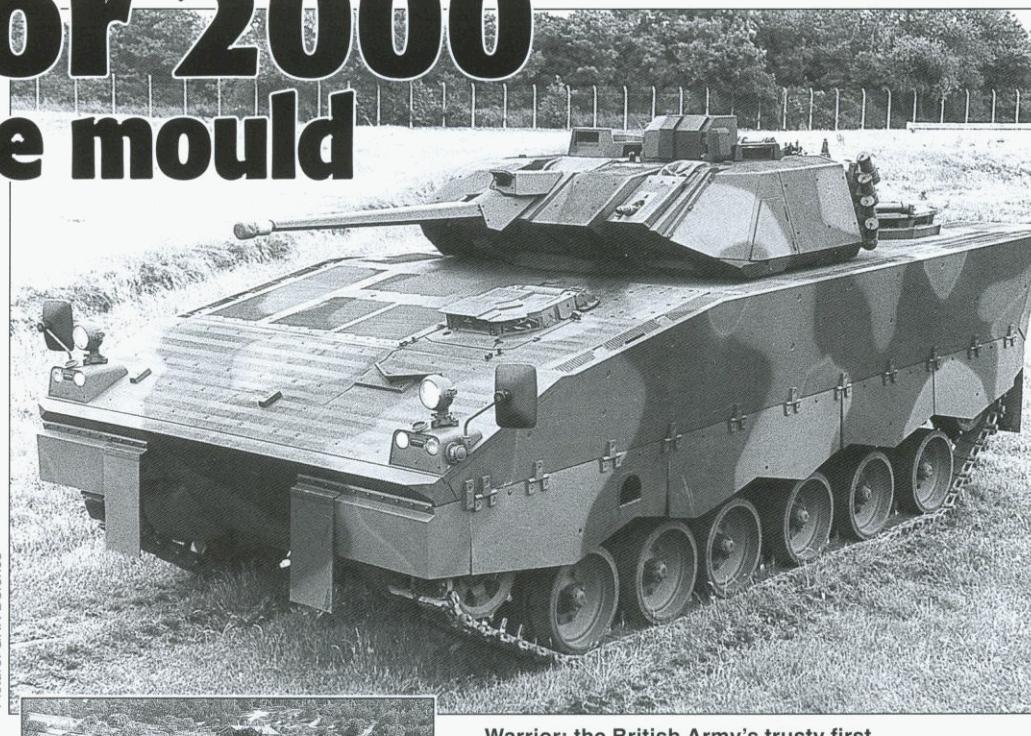
Since it came into service in 1989 – in time to win its spurs in battle in the Gulf – Warrior has established an enviable reputation. An upgraded version, known as Desert Warrior, was built for Kuwait.

The Telford prototype, the only one in existence, is now being evaluated under the Swiss Army's SPz 2000 armoured infantry fighting vehicle programme. It is fitted with a 30mm Boeing Bushmaster 2 fully-stabilised cannon and coaxial 7.5mm machine-gun.

Spaced armour provides protection against direct fire from ammunition up to 30mm armour-piercing fin-stabilised rounds. Protection against rocket-propelled rounds can be provided by bolting on special armour packs.

The vehicle has a rear ramp giving

Picture: GKN Defence



Warrior: the British Army's trusty first generation vehicle, left, contrasts with the sleeker lines of Warrior 2000, above

a lens above the gun barrel allows soldiers – previously cut off from the battle until they disembarked – to see what is happening ahead of the vehicle.

A turret built by California-based GM Delco turns electronically – and with far less noise than the hydraulic version – and the double-pin track is said to provide quieter running.

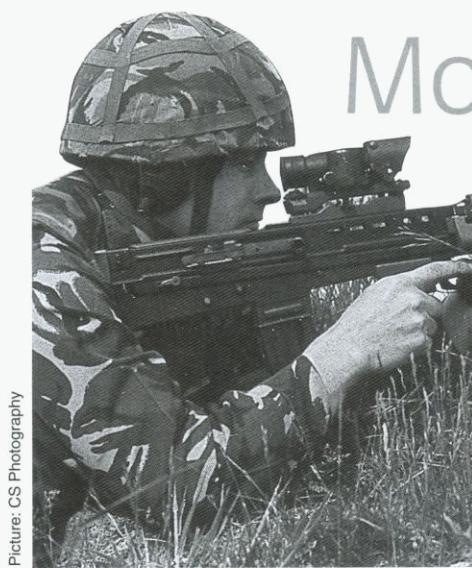
Engine power has been increased to 650hp, with modifications which reduce both its thermal and acoustic signature.

Warrior 2000 variants on the drawing-board include repair, repair and recovery, command, artillery support, reconnaissance, ambulance, mortar and other utility roles.

access to an interior in which more modifications and upgrades become obvious. There is more space – and more comfortable seating – for the driver, gunner, vehicle commander and section of seven troops.

The infantry commander has his own cupola blistered on to the rear cabin so he can stand up to see what is going on, while a flat-screen video display linked to

More punch for infantry



On target: the new Grenade, Rifle Launched, HE Anti-Pers L85A1

BRITISH soldiers are to be issued with one of the most effective rifle grenades in the world. It is said to be far more accurate than the small number of ageing rifle grenades currently available to the infantry.

The £7m deal, negotiated by the MoD's Procurement Executive, gives the Army a rifle grenade capable of consistently hitting a target the size of an average house window from a distance of 150m.

Just 320mm long, the weapon is designed to slot over the muzzle of a SA80 rifle. Aimed by using a specially

developed integral sight attachment, the grenade is propelled towards the target by the power of a fired bullet.

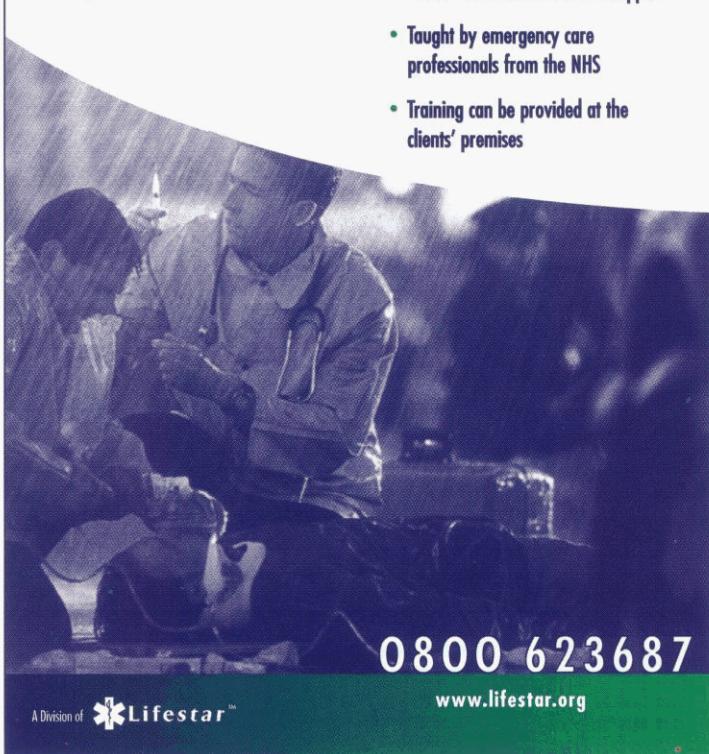
Officially designated the Grenade, Rifle Launched, HE Anti-Pers L85A1, the weapon has been bought from IMI along with inert field-firing training grenades and training kits. It will allow troops to put down quick, accurate, high explosive fire while manoeuvring for an assault.

The original sighting system was found to be insufficiently accurate or robust, but further work involving the Infantry Trials and Development Unit and Ring Sights Ltd of Bordon, Hants, resulted in a sight which is three times more accurate than the original specification.



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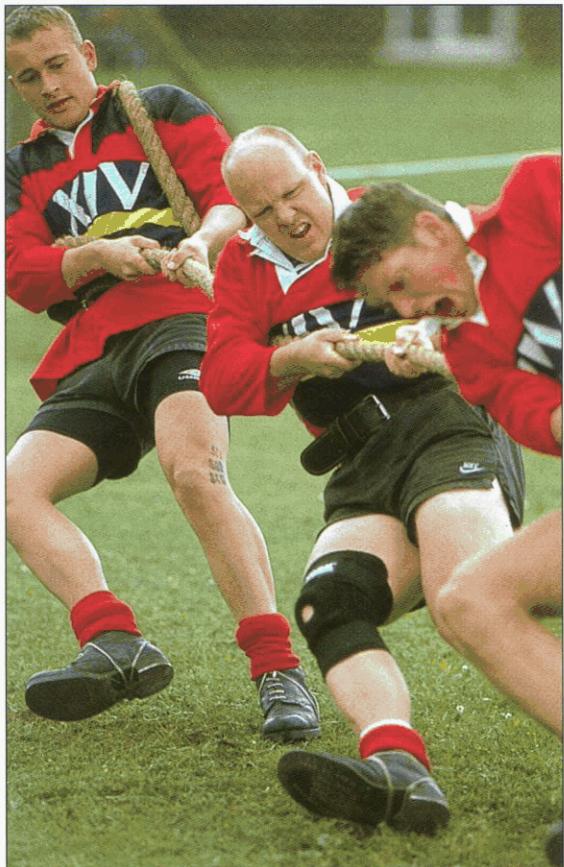
TUG OF WAR



Pictures: Terry Champion

Heave-ho: Soldiers from 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC, left, get some advice from their coach, WO2 Pete Symes, in the match against 5 Regt RA, right. They were digging their heels in during competition in the 600kg class at the Land Command tug-of-war championships

Pulling power



GO on, put your backs into it! Soldiers take the strain during the Land Command tug-of-war championships at South Cerney. The team from 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC were runners-up in the 600kg class, being pipped at the post by 14 Regt RA from Larkhill. But the port and maritime specialists went one better in the Inter-Services championships when they beat the RAF.

Army tug-of-war secretary Maj (Retd) Dick Field told *Soldier* the sport has never been stronger. With the advent of women's events introduced last year, interest in this ancient form of competition has reached new levels.

"A lot of people get into it because you don't have to have an eye for a ball," he said.

"Give me the guys who can't play rugby, football or whatever and I'll get them involved in tug of war. It gives you what you most look for in a soldier.

"It's finished up a brilliant season. It really has been a marvellous year and tug of war as a sport is getting bigger and bigger."

Eight new teams turned out this season and six women's teams competed in the Army finals at Larkhill. The weather was typical of most of the summer: sun, torrential rain, hail, followed by more rain.

Land Command tug-of-war championships: results

Men's 560kg – 1, 5 Regt RA; 2, 14 Regt RA. **600kg** – 1, 14 Regt RA; 2, 17 Regt RLC. **640kg** – 1, 17 Regt RLC; 2, 5 Regt RA. **680kg** – 1, 17 Regt RLC; 2, 1 RHA. **Women's 520kg** – 1, 29 Regt RLC; 2, 14 Sig Regt. **560kg** – 1, 14 Sig Regt; 2, 29 Regt RLC.

Army tug of war finals

Men's 560kg – 1, 5 Regt RA; 2, 14 Regt RA. **600kg** – 1, 4 R Irish; 2, 17 Regt RLC. **640kg** – 1, 4 R Irish; 2, 40 Regt RA. **680kg** – 1, 4 R Irish; 2, 1 RHA.

Women's 520kg – 1, 4 Fd Amb; 2, 11 Sig Regt. **560kg** – 1, 11 Sig Regt; 2, 4 Fd Amb.

Army Plate competition

1, 19 Regt RA; 2, 15 Regt RLC.

Inter-Service championships

Men's 560kg – 1, 5 Regt RA; 2, 14 Regt RA. **600kg** – 1, 17 Regt RLC; 2, RAF.

640kg – 1, 4 R Irish; 2, 40 Regt RA.

680kg – 1, 40 Regt RA; 2, 4 R Irish.

Laid back: Soldiers from 14 Regt RA take the strain

Sport

SHORTS

Fired up for action

TOP guns from the police saw off fierce challenges during the Inter-Services clay target competition at the West London Shooting School, which also saw the Fire Service in action. The final scores were Police 458, RAF 435, Army 434, Fire Service 429 and the Royal Navy 385. Highest scorer in the Army team was Maj Gary Batemen.

Disabled games

THE race is on to raise funds for the World Ex-Services Wheelchair and Amputee Games which takes place at Portsmouth from September 2-11, 1999. The launch of the games takes place at the Tower of London on September 2 this year. If you can help raise some of the costs of £275,000 please contact Geoff Winchcombe, Event Officer, 30 Cheraton Close, Nythe Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 3NR.

MTB squad call-up

WO2 Colin Dennis (R Signals) wants to hear from serious mountain bike enthusiasts who would be interested in starting an Army MTB squad. If things go according to plan he hopes to hold a series of high-profile races for the 1998-1999 season and would like to attract sponsorship. "As you can see I have my work cut out, but my first step must be to find out where the MTB gladiators are and what their race record is like," he said. To find out more contact Dennis on 01722 330595.

Titled retained

THE Army retained the women's team trophy and the men came close runners-up at the Inter-Services badminton championships hosted by the Royal Navy at HMS *Drake*. Notable performances included a superb effort from OCdt Gillian Shaw and LCpl Ginty Rigg, who defeated the Royal Air Force to win the women's doubles. WO2 Chris Sturdy and Cpl Steve Pengelly also played a close game against the RN. The final scores were Army 27, RAF 39 and RN 11.

Injuries strike

INJURIES hit the Army team at the Inter-Services athletic championships at RAF Cosford, with many athletes doubling up on events. Sgt Martin Blade won three gold medals, taking the 400m and helping both relay teams to victory. LCpl Carmen Michalska and Pte Donita Benjamin, both of whom helped the women's team to victory, also won three gold medals apiece. The men took second place behind the RAF.

POLO



Up for it: Maj Gen Arthur Denaro, left, beats Argentine Lt Col J A Uriburu to the ball

Nail-biting finish

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Iain Burns

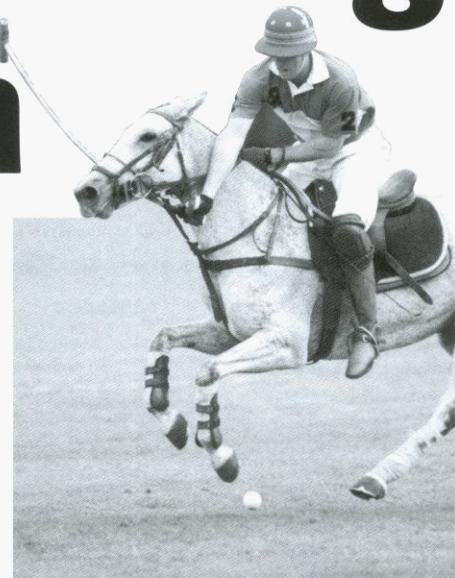
FAST and furious play made for the most exciting finish to the Rundle Cup that Tidworth Polo Club has seen for years.

With the Royal Navy and Army teams drawn at two goals each, it was anybody's game until the dying few seconds of extra time in the final chukka. The Army laid siege to their opposition's goal with gusto, but as the final bell rang the Navy team, which included the Prince of Wales, managed to score and emerge as the final victors. The Navy has been unbeaten since 1994.

The match delighted a record crowd who had already watched the British Combined Services Polo Association team decisively beat the visiting Argentine Army team by 6-3.

The match, for the Indian Cavalry Officers' Association Trophy, was the final one of four played at different grounds in the south of England during July. The Chapple Cup was presented to the CSA team as overall winners, with three victories and a draw.

The visit of the Argentine team followed a tour by the CSA team to South America last September, when the two countries met for the first time on the polo field since the Falklands War.



Decisive victory: Argentine on the back foot

"One should never underestimate the diplomatic importance of these visits," said Maj Mark Cann, honorary secretary of the CSA.

"There is definitely a warming in the relationship between Britain and Argentina and encounters like these can only improve matters even more."

Members of the Army team: Maj Stuart Cowen, RHG/D; OCdt Nick Cowley, UOTC; Capt Nick Hunter, KRH; Maj Jamie Hayward, SG.

Members of the CSA team: Maj Johnny Dunford, RRW; Maj Gen Arthur Denaro; Capt Tim Verdon, RWxY; Capt Tom Moon, LD.



They're off: Trailwalker (UK) Challenge raises money for Gurkha ex-Servicemen in Nepal

Challenge time

MORE than 600 runners and walkers accepted the Gurkhas' Trailwalker (UK) Challenge. This non-stop charity team event took them along 100 kilometres of the picturesque South Downs Way from Petersfield to Brighton.

Maj Gavin Grant of the Queen's Gurkha Signals Regiment, which has been organising Trailwalker since its inception in Hong Kong in 1981, said: "It is a challenging event that demands physical stamina and mental determination."

It was won by a team from the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment in a time of nine hours 52 minutes. They were followed closely by teams from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles and the Royal Marines, who were overtaken with just a few kilometres to go.

Trailwalker (UK) is an annual event to raise funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, a charity which alleviates hardship among Gurkha ex-Servicemen in Nepal and their families.

ROWING

Elite pair pull into racing fast stream

THE women's élite coxless pair of Capt Caroline Kirman and Lt Kate Templeton are having an outstanding season, winning a string of internationally-recognised events.

During a recent Army rowing skills course to prepare crews to compete against the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force at the Joint Services regatta, the Army pair took a break from coaching to compete in Belgium at Ghent international regatta.

The Army was the dominant force over the five-lane 2,000m course, leading from the start to win the coxless pairs event. Their second victory of the weekend occurred as Kirman and Templeton sat as the stern pair of the Thames Rowing Club crew, beating leading crews from Holland, Belgium, Ireland and Scotland in the women's élite eights.

They added the Redgrave open coxless pairs title at the 11th Henley Women's Regatta to their list of wins. The 1,500m race, held over two days on the world famous course, upstream from Temple Island to the Remenham Club, is the premier rowing event for women in the United Kingdom.



Capt Caroline Kirman left, and Lt Kate Templeton, right, receive the Redgrave Trophy from Steve Redgrave and his wife Ann

Posting the fastest time in their semi-final against Hereford Rowing Club, the Army pair faced Nottinghamshire County Rowing Association in the final. The Notts County crew established a $\frac{3}{4}$ -length lead at the end of Temple Island.

Unfazed by their opposition's early lead, the Army pair pushed hard at the 500m mark. The sizeable crowd in the enclosures was treated to a display of power rowing, as the Army pulled through the Notts pair, winning by $1\frac{1}{4}$ lengths.

Olympic gold medallist Steve Redgrave and his wife Ann, who sponsored the coxless pairs event, presented the trophy.

SHORTS

Blistering pace

NINE soldiers from 7 Para RHA and Workshop REME earned themselves a few shandies after completing a toe-blistering 87.3km when they took part in the Comrades Marathon in South Africa. The event, held to commemorate fallen South African Servicemen, was first run in 1921. The runners started at sea-level in Durban and climbed 850 metres to Pietermaritzburg. A field of 15,500 started, with about half finishing between $10\frac{1}{2}$ and 11 hours later. The best time from 7 Para RHA and Workshop REME was nine hours and nine minutes. WO1 ASM Ken Caunter (REME) told *Soldier*: "We were not prepared for the heat and were stopping at feeding stations every 2km. But we have all got the taste for it now and I would like to do another one."

Hot favourites

REIGNING rugby league corps champions and hot favourites for this year's Lawson Cup, the Royal Engineers notched up a 40-12 win against newcomers AMS at Chatham. AMS picked up the pace in their second game against REME at Aldershot. Despite finishing the first half 10-10, AMS, who seem to be improving all the time, were eventually overcome 20-36.

Uphill struggle

MEMBERS of Guterslöh-based 2 CS Regt RLC travelled to the UK to take part in the Cheviot 2000, a 25-mile race over the Northumbrian hills. The team of WO2 Shaun Butler, SSgt Kenny Young and Cpl GB Greenbury completed the course in 4hr 56 min, 13 minutes faster than they managed the previous year when they came second.

Water-ski date

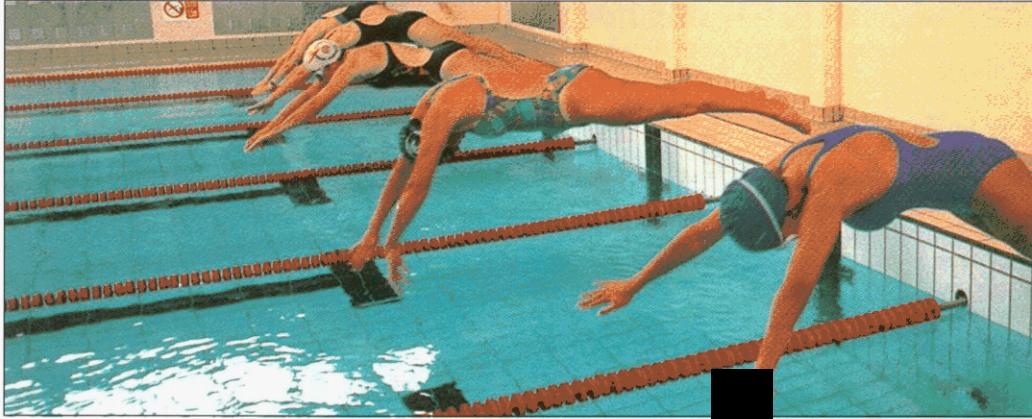
The British Army Water-ski Association is holding its annual competition between September 14 and 18 at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham. The competition is open to serving personnel of any standard. Contact Capt Gavin Whitehead AAC at 660 Sqn AAC, Defence Helicopter Flying School, RAF Shawbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4DZ. Telephone (01939) 250351 ext 7478/7262 or 781 531 7478/7262. Closing date for entries is September 1.

Chain reaction

SIXTEEN members of B (Somme) Company, 6/7 PWRR joined 27,000 competitors for the annual 58-mile London-to-Brighton cycle ride. The event was sponsored by the British Heart Foundation, for which the company raised £500.

SWIMMING

Making waves



Pictures: Terry Champion

In at the deep end: In-form Pte Rachel Sherrington, right, dominated the women's events at the Army swimming championships



FORMER junior international Pte Rachel Sherrington left the opposition in her wake, winning five events at the Army senior swimming championships at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

A good competition saw some impressive performances, including a Commonwealth Games qualifying time from Maj Richard MacNamee.

There is no doubt Army swimming is buoy-

Results :

800 freestyle men, Cfn Burke (SEAE); 200 freestyle women, Pte Sherrington (27 Tpt Regt); 200 freestyle men, OCdt Morgan (RMAS); 200 breaststroke women, ATpr Canham, (1 Regt AAC); 200 breaststroke men, Capt Stephens (QDG); 100 backstroke women, Pte Sherrington (27 Tpt Regt); 100 backstroke men, Gdsm Gaunt (1 Gren Gds); 100 butterfly women, Pte Sherrington (27 Tpt Regt); 100 butterfly men, Gdsm Mount (1 Gren Gds); 100

ant at the moment. Maj Richard Sippe, Army swimming team manager, told *Soldier*: "It is getting better and better.

"The quality of swimming has improved dramatically over the past two years. We have implemented a five-year cycle and this is the fourth year.

"The sport is gaining more and more in popularity and the commanding officers are being very supportive."

breaststroke women, ATpr Canham (1 Regt AAC); 100 breaststroke men, Maj MacNamee (1 SG); 100 freestyle women, Pte Sherrington (27 Tpt Regt); 100 freestyle men, Sgt Walker (17 CTT); 4 x 33 individual medley women, Pte Sherrington (27 Tpt Regt), 4 x 66 individual medley men, Pte Gibbons (SEAE); 400 freestyle men Cfn Burke (SEAE); 1 length short sprint women, Lt Hairsine (ATR Pirbright); 2 lengths short sprint men, Gdsm Gaunt (1 Gren Gds).

TRIATHLON

Cycling proves the toughest test

NO ONE was really expecting to see clear water between the leading competitors in the Army triathlon championships after the river section. But that was probably because they were swimming in the Thames at Windsor and Eton, and the high levels of rain meant a faster current than normal. This produced slow times with the first four swimmers out in 23 minutes, led by Cpl Phil Jenkins, of RE CVHQ, with a gap of four minutes to the next competitor.

The bicycle course led the field out towards Maidenhead before returning through Windsor Great Park. It was there

that WO2 Stu Dinwoodie (580 Amb Sqn RLC) used his strength to pull away, opening up a lead of a couple of minutes, which he was never to relinquish.

Further down the field the battle for the team prizes was unfolding with a head-to-head between 7 Battalion REME and 3 Para for the major unit title, and ATR Bassingbourn and JSCSC for the minor unit title. In both instances it was not clear who had won until the results were published.

The female competition was another triumph for Sgt Sonia Hurst (SEME), who has remained the best female triath-

lete in the Army for the past six years.

The 10km run was staged over a three-lap circuit through the streets of Windsor. Dinwoodie was to extend his lead by another couple of minutes, but a fast-finishing Sgt Russell Clash (Hldrs) overtook a tiring Cpl Jenkins to finish second, while WO1 Alun Roberts (SEAE) ran well to finish fourth overall and claim the veterans' title.

The major unit prize was claimed by 3 Para, thanks to the two fastest runs of the day by Maj Dave Warner and Lt Simon Fawcett, while ATR Bassingbourn managed to forge ahead of JSCSC.

CRICKET

Bowling blitz

STRAIGHT bowling and keen fielding by Middlesex U19s restricted the Army to 197 on a slow pitch at Aldershot.

Although not a huge total, the batsmen worked hard for their runs and once LCpl Martin Hutton had taken three for four in four overs, a victory looked on.

Maj James Cotterill's outstanding figures of ten overs, five maidens for ten runs frustrated the batsmen and allowed 2nd Lt Charlie Phillips, in only his second game for the Army, to take five wickets.

Army 197-8 (50 overs). **Middlesex** U19 94 (42 overs). Army won by 103 runs.

Frail Army batting condemned the home side to a heavy 60-run defeat in a 50-over match against a strong British Police side at Aldershot. The Army did well in the first half, restricting the policemen to 164-9, but collapsed to 104 all out in just 44 overs.

Once skipper Capt Chris St George had been dismissed, the Army batsmen never looked like making a game of it.

British Police 164-9. **Army** 104. British Police won by 60 runs.

At the Parks: **Oxford University** 278-7 dec and 318-3 dec. **Combined Services** 448 (Capt C St George 170, Sgt G Lumb RAF 76, Mne S Needham 75). Match drawn.

At US Portsmouth: **MCC** 220-6 dec (57 overs). **Combined Services** 207-6 (53 overs) (Sgt G Lumb 69). Match drawn.

At Shenley Park: **Combined Services** 186 (46 overs). **English Cricket Board U-19s** 187-5 (50 overs). ECB U-19 won by 5 wickets.



Maj Cotterill

ANGLING

Tales from the riverbank

SSGT Karl Weaver, of 216 Para Sig Sqn, led a six-man Army team in the House of Hardy international fly fishing championships at Bowl Water, Kent. This is the most prestigious event of the year for fly fishing teams, with more than 500 clubs from all over Europe participating. The team's success has paved the way for a place in the national finals, the first time the Army has qualified in the 17 years of the competition.

SOLDIERS from all over the south west of England came together at Willow Park, Aldershot for the 3 (UK) Div inter-group angling championships. Sgt Gerry Blunt (REME) from 7 Regt AAC was one of the first called into action and landed a 3lb 8oz tench to open his account. After five hours of fishing in overcast conditions, Cpl Shaun Stockley (158 Pro Coy RMP) tipped the scales with an overall and section-winning total bag of 30lb 11oz. The other section winners were Sgt Gerry Blunt and Cpl Ivan Oakley (R Sigs) with bags of 20lb 4oz and 16lb 11oz respectively.

THE regimental fly fishing team of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards travelled to Rutland Water to compete in the fly fishing championships for the first time for many years. The team consisted of



Strike one: Sgt Gerry Blunt with his tench

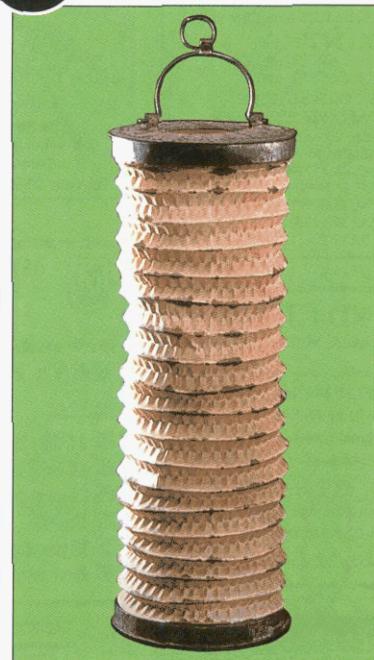
Sgt Rick Prichard (captain), Tpr Wayne Jones and Tpr Ian Evans, with able support from Tpr Steve Packer. The Welsh Cavalry came away as the Army team champions with a combined weight of just under 14lb. Jones was runner-up in the individual championships and also took a prize for the biggest fish, a brown trout of 5lb 8oz. He has also been selected to represent the Army.

Treasures of the National Army Museum



2

Florence Nightingale's Lantern, c1855



Lamp of the Lady

FLORENCE Nightingale, the famous Lady of the Lamp, is believed to have used this locally-made lantern at the base hospital at Scutari during the Crimean War.

Displayed with it at the National Army Museum is a statuette showing the great nursing reformer helping a wounded soldier.

Florence Nightingale's orders and jewellery are also on display – including the Order of Merit 1907, the Royal Red Cross 1st Class 1883 and a diamond bracelet given to her by the Sultan of Turkey in 1856.

QUEEN'S ESTEEM

Especially significant is a gold-enamelled brooch designed by Prince Albert and given to her by Queen Victoria. It is inscribed "To Miss Florence Nightingale, as a mark of esteem and gratitude for her devotion towards the Queen's brave soldiers, 1855".

The lantern is on display in "The Right To Serve" Exhibition and the orders and jewellery can be seen in "The Victorian Soldier" Gallery at the museum.

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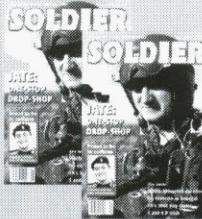
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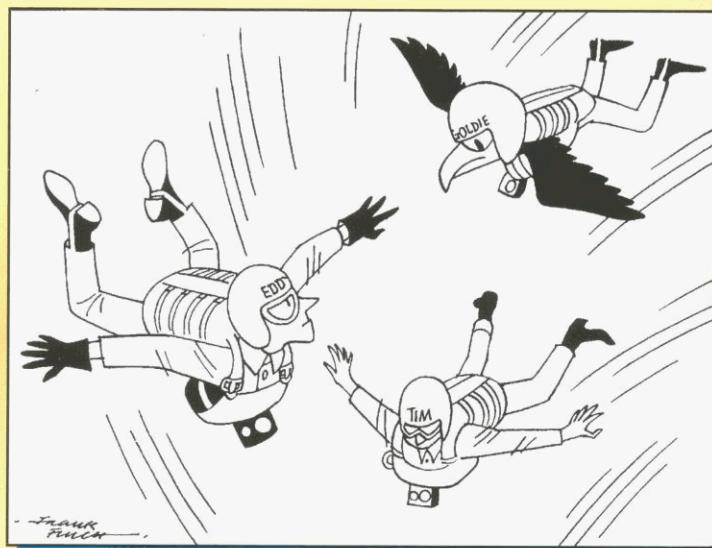
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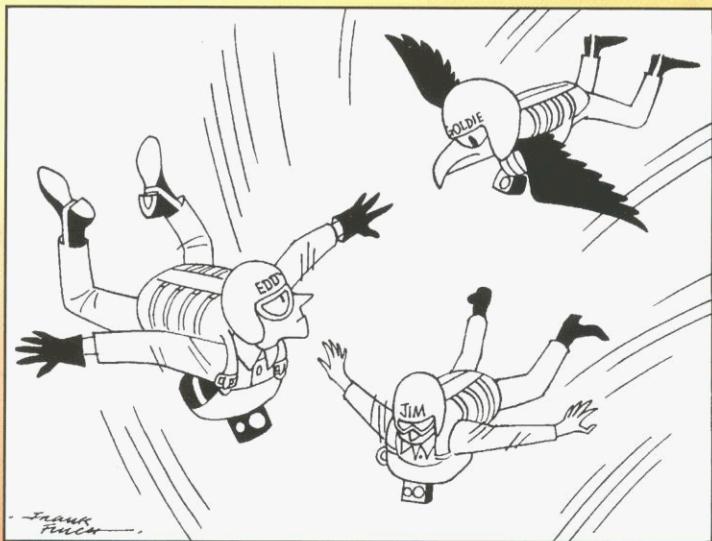
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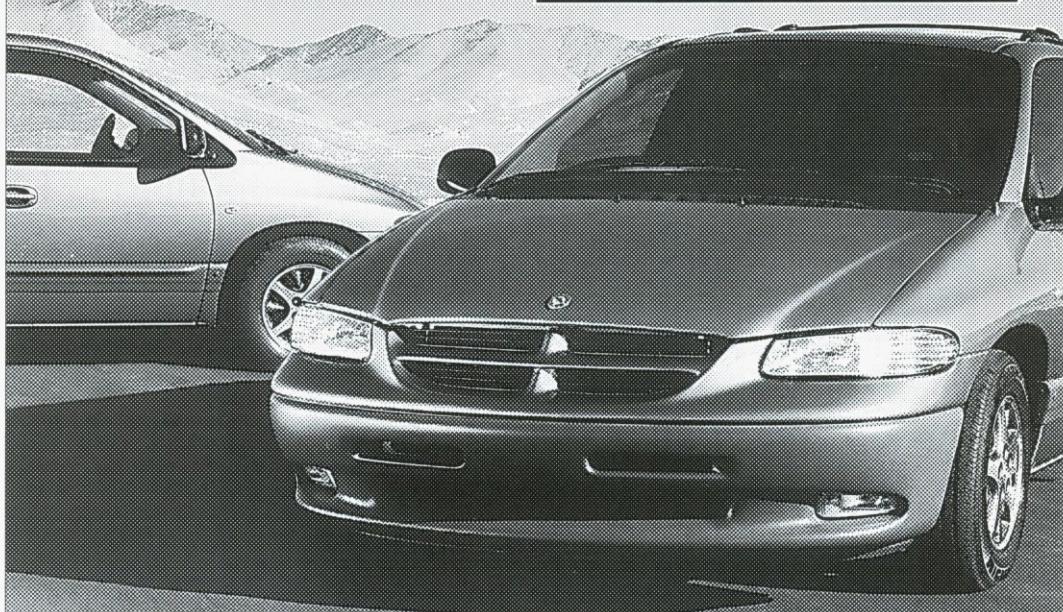
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Julie, 30, 5'4" (nearly), with brown hair and medium build. Likes socialising, music, the cinema, reading, cooking and generally relaxing and enjoying life. Seeking pen pals, 28-35. **P298** 08/98

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Gill, 5'4", a blonde ex-model with green eyes. Enjoys clubs, pubs, fast cars, horse-riding, animals and uniforms. House and car owner. Seeking pen pals 30+. Photo appreciated. **P302** 08/98

Sharon, 33, 5'3", with dark brown hair and eyes and GSOH. Interests include the cinema, reading and going out on the town. Seeking pen pals, 30-40, with GSOH. **P303** 08/98

Gwyneth, 24-year-old widow from Carmarthenshire with three children. Would like to contact any pen pals from three years ago and would welcome new pals, 20-32. **P304** 08/98

Joan, 52". Interests include walking, reading and sport and would like to correspond with pen pals of any age. **P305** 08/98

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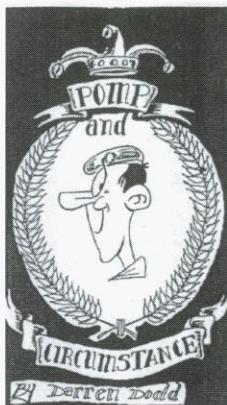
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JUNE 20, 1998

First prize (468 runs, £3,200): Cpl DM Bailey, Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray.
Second prize: (451 runs, £1,600): WO2 PP Storrs, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln.
Third prize (428 runs, £1,200): Maj DF Capps, RMCS, Shruivenham.
Fourth prize (425 runs, £900): Sgt TM O'Leary, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh.
Fifth prize (424 runs, £600): ND Webster, PCD RLC, Mill Hill.
Sixth prize (406 runs, £400): Sgt HI Grant, AFCO, Glasgow.
Seventh prize (401 runs, £300): WO2 J Langhorn, 3 R Irish.
Eighth prize (400 runs, £200): Cpl AW Thomson, 1 RHF, Fallingbostel.
Ninth prize (398 runs, £100): LCpl ID Brown, 3 RSME Regt, Minley.

JUNE 27, 1998

First prize (599 runs, £3,200): LCpl JM Ashforth-Patton, 2 RTR, Fallingbostel.
Second prize (554 runs, £1,600): WO2 AM Smart, 9 Sup Regt TLC, Chippenham.
Third prize (534 runs, £1,200): Maj BC Anderson, MMM Kuwait.
Fourth prize (530 runs, £900): Sgt SMB Heugh, Blood Sup Unit, Aldershot.
Fifth prize (528 runs, £600): Capt DE Hall, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn.
Sixth prize (508 runs, £400): Cpl MP Hird, JCU.

Seventh prize (505 runs, £300): Maj CJC Kett, AFCO Norwich.
Two-way tie for eighth prize (504 runs, £150): Lt Col JP Edmonson-Jones, PJHQ, Northwood; WO2 A Gannon, HQ 52 Lowland Bde, Edinburgh.

JULY 4, 1998

First prize (354 runs, £3,200): ATPr GWW Woodhouse, 2 Trg Regt AAC, Middle Wallop.
Second prize (353 runs, £1,600): Cpl DS Jackson, 9 R Irish.

Two-way tie for third prize (345 runs, £1,050): Capt FJR Grounds, 1 R Anglian, Cambridge; Cpl PR Hutchinson, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gütersloh.

Fifth prize (340 runs, £600): Maj NG Campbell, HQ 49(E) Bde, Chilwell.

Two-way tie for sixth prize (327 runs, £350): SSgt C Hydes, Scots DG, Fallingbostel; WO2 R Paterson, 1 DWR, Hounslow.

Eighth (319 runs, £200): LCpl IS Gourley, 7 R Irish.

Ninth prize (318 runs, £100): SSgt BJ Marley, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham.

JULY 11, 1998

First prize (342 runs, £3,200): LCpl HR Williams, QDG, Sennelager.
Second prize (341 runs, £1,600): Cpl DJ Oliver, SEAE, Arborfield.
Third prize (326 runs, £1,200): Lt Col TP O'Connor, SEME, Bordon.

Fourth prize (319 runs, £900): Maj NJ Bateson, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot.

Fifth prize (314 runs, £600): CSgt DI Bradbury, School of Infantry, Warminster.

Sixth prize (310 runs, £400): WO2 NR Mullings, SHAPE.

Four-way tie for seventh prize (303 runs, £150 each): Cpl AJ Barlow, 2 Signal Regt, York; Sgt SJ Heddersham, 1 WFR, Tidworth; WO2 M Moore, HQ London District; Capt LA Wood, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich.

JULY 18, 1998

First prize (437 runs, £3,200): Cpl LR Williams, HQ 1 Recce Bde, Netheravon.

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Third prize (417 runs, £1,200): WO1 RG Hughes, 1 Bn REME, Osnabrück.

Two-way tie for fourth prize (414 runs, £750): Sgt E Bloomfield, 3 R Irish; Cpl JG James, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham.

Sixth prize (409 runs, £400): Sgt (name withheld), HQ Hereford Garrison.

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Eighth prize (388 runs, £200): Maj GM Woods, AGC Trg Centre, Worthy Down.

Ninth prize (386 runs, £100): LCpl DL Hart, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn.

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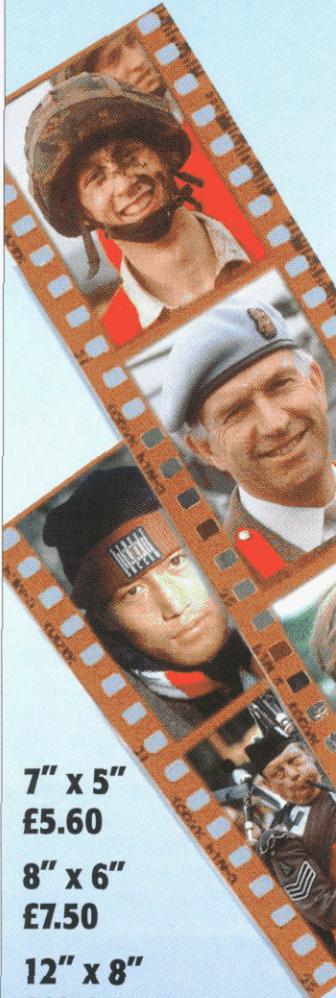
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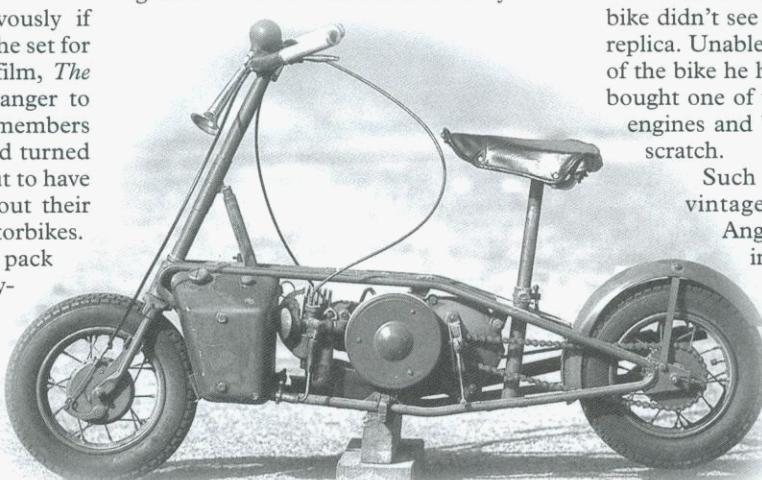
SATURDAY afternoon, and the people of the tiny Wiltshire village of Corsham, near Chippenham, were enjoying an unusually warm day. In the pub, pints were being raised to lips, while on the green, ducks dabbled in a muddy pond and children chased a ball. It was a chocolate-box idyll about to be shattered.

A distant and ominous throb of multiple four-stroke engines increased to a throaty roar as a convoy of vintage military motorbikes rumbled past a solitary Morris Minor and ground to a halt by the pub.

The regulars wondered nervously if their pretty village had become the set for a sequel to that seminal biker film, *The Wild One*. But there was no danger to village maidens. The bikers, all members of the Military Vehicle Trust, had turned out not to terrorise Corsham, but to have a quiet pint and tell *Soldier* about their passion for restored military motorbikes.

The unofficial leader of the pack was Chris Orchard. The softly-spoken author of a respected book on Second World War motor cycles was more the Mild One than the Wild One, but the imposing presence of his huge German Zundapp KS750 bike and sidecar outfit gave him an air of authority.

Chris found the 1943-vintage



The Excelsior Welbike is little, but it went to war with the paras

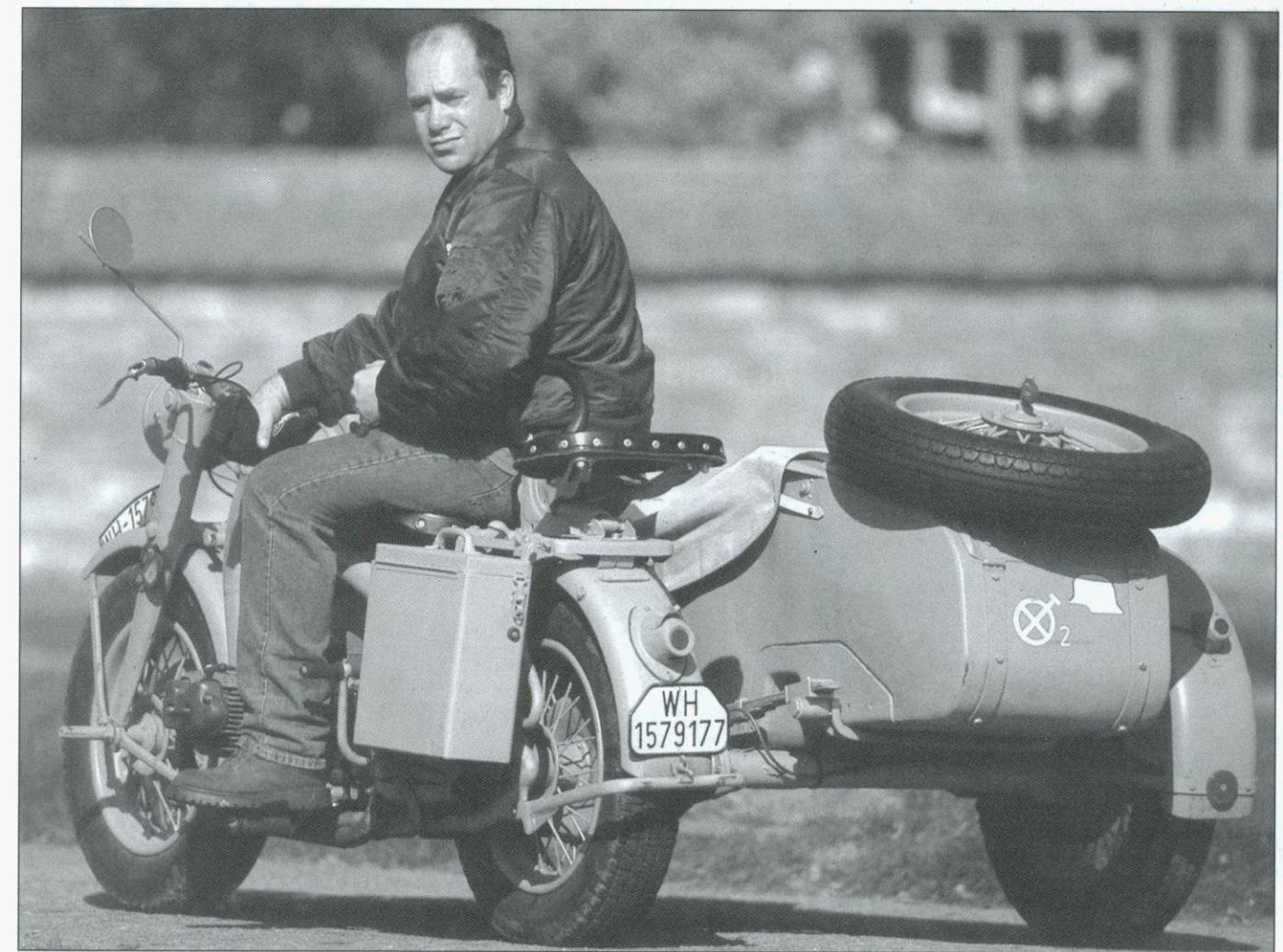
was years ahead of its time. Just look at these hydraulic brakes and the reverse gear..."

From astride the Zundapp, one could look down on the smallest battle bike. Also the property of Chris Orchard, the Excelsior Welbike is a tiny machine developed during the war for use by British airborne forces. Powered by Villiers engines, Welbikes were folded into special containers and parachuted into action.

But Chris readily admits that his little bike didn't see any action. It is, in fact, a replica. Unable to find an original model of the bike he had set his heart on, Chris bought one of the quite common Villiers engines and built everything else from scratch.

Such dedication is typical of vintage bike collectors. Brian Anger, a carpenter and joiner in real life, is another driven man. He had ridden into Corsham astride a fine example of that great British marque, Triumph.

Brian's 500cc TRW is one of the bikes which kept British Army despatch riders in business from 1952 to 1964.



Leader of the pack. Chris Orchard astride his Zundapp

The TRW is solidly reliable, with the emphasis on solid. Although, by the early Sixties, civilian motorcyclists were enjoying feather-bed comfort, the austere post-war Army decreed that the TRW should have no rear suspension. But then Army trousers had plenty of room for padding.

How much had it cost to fix up the TRW? "Better not to ask," said Brian, "but a lot more than its market value of about £1,500."

All eyes looked admiringly at the Matchless 350cc G3L belonging to Chris Hawkings. This machine, like most of the other battle bikes, might have had a story to tell, but only the original paint work had given any clue to its history.

The sandy colour scheme suggested that it had seen service in the Western

Desert. The "L" in the military designation of the Matchless stood for lightweight, but like all old military bikes (even the Harley Davidson V-twins which were introduced when the Triumph factory was bombed by the Luftwaffe) it is heavy and under-powered compared to today's machines. A modern 100cc bike can generate as much power as the Matchless.

Who cares? Certainly not the battle-bikers. Their machines are steeped in proud military and motor-cycling history and keeping that heritage alive is all that matters.

The enthusiasts all insisted that restoring military bikes is within the reach of almost anyone with reasonable mechanical skills. But Chris Orchard advises the beginner against taking on a first project

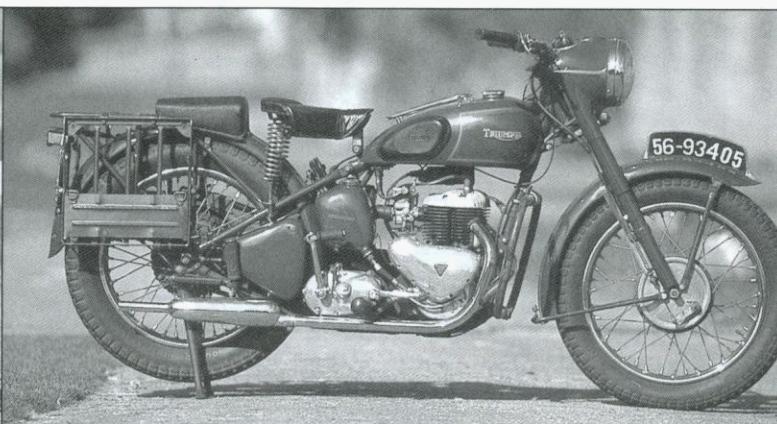
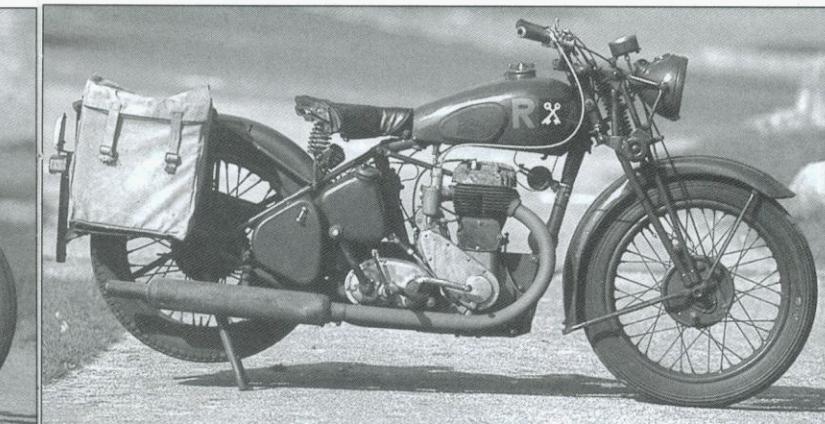
as difficult as his Zundapp. A relatively common machine like a 350cc BSA B40, which was the standard British Army bike well into the 1970s, is an ideal first project. An old "Beezer" might be in a box of bits, but it is likely to cost only a few hundred pounds and spares are plentiful.

But he advises, "don't worry if, when you've got the bike running, it has the odd dent or some scratched paintwork. After all, if it was in perfect condition, it wouldn't be a soldier's bike. Just get on it and ride."

And that was the battle-bikers' cue to boot their machines into life and go, leaving Corsham to the pub regulars, the children and the decidedly unwarlike Morris Minor.



Battle bikes on parade: A 1942 350cc Royal Enfield WD/CO 350cc Matchless G3L, veteran of the desert war 500cc BSA M20, a wartime stalwart introduced in 1938 500cc Triumph TRW, in service into the 60s



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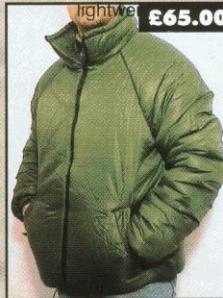
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"OVER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE SERVICES"

Romeo, O Romeo

ALFA Romeo's brilliantly-engineered 156 is a beacon of achievement in a grey world of Teutonic and oriental boredom, writes **Syd Taylor**.

This is an Italian car conceived to stir the emotions and every facet of its character bears the hallmark of greatness.

Lean, lithe and timelessly elegant, its shape promises speed and excitement plus crowd-pulling presence. But all the design flair in the world cannot make up for shortcomings in other crucial areas, so the 156's appeal is backed by commonsense virtues.

That beautiful body is as efficient as it is practical, housing a spacious cabin which gives top priority to practical motoring needs, yet the car still cuts the air efficiently with a drag coefficient of only 0.31. Add to this the build integrity you now expect from Alfa Romeo and you appreciate how the 156 makes no compromises and yet you never forget that it is a driver's car with a sporting heritage.

RELAXING

Travelling in the new 156 is a relaxing experience. Throughout the interior, top-quality materials absorb even the slightest noise. Leather upholstery fitted to the test-car as part of Sport Pack 3 gives that impressive feeling of luxury. The seats are ideally contoured for perfect ergonomics and for body support in fast bends, offering a wide range of adjustments, and the leather-covered steering wheel can be altered for reach so that the car really adapts to the driver and not vice-versa.

An array of features makes the interior a real joy, with a splendid audio system, electric windows and electrically-operated and heated mirrors. Other features include anthermic glazing, an alarm and immobiliser, remote central locking, a driver's airbag and power steering.

Externally, front fog lights are set stylishly into the air dam and alloy wheels with central Alfa Romeo badges further



Road test: Alfa Romeo 156 2.5 V6 24v

ENGINE Front transverse 2,492cc V6 fuel-injected; 190 bhp at 6300 rpm, 163 lb.ft. at 5000 rpm.

TRANSMISSION Six-speed manual FWD.

Tech Spec

STEERING Power, rack-and-pinion.

BRAKES Discs front and rear, ABS standard.

KERB WEIGHT 1320kg.

PERFORMANCE Maximum speed 142 mph; 0-62 mph in 7.3 sec.

MPG Combined - 25 mpg.

PRICE AS TESTED £23,739 on the road.

enhance the dramatic looks. Counteracting all this grace and beauty, though, is the unfortunate positioning of the front number-plate, which is set off-centre on the bumper – akin to putting a label on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel – but then, on reflection, where else could it be sited?

The 156 power choice includes 1.8 or 2.0 litre Twin Spark engines or the sophisticated and super-smooth light alloy 24-valve V6 tested here, which delivers 190 bhp – but this is a car about passion and feel and not just numbers.

With that sentiment in mind it is

impossible not to fall in love with this Alfa, which will top 140 mph and reach 62 mph in just over seven seconds, yet it is capable of returning a combined fuel consumption figure of nearly 25 mpg. Press the “fly-by-wire” throttle in any gear and you get instant acceleration as the revs rise with seemingly endless relish. It just gets faster and faster until it reaches the red line and then you snick the gear lever as fast as you like and the engine tone drops just barely, so delightfully close are the six ratios. All this is backed up by mid-range thrust and perfect “round-town” manners and handling is beautifully balanced. There's a superb ride quality, too, with bumps soaked up in a way that shames many rivals.

Alfa Romeo's new 156 is a landmark car that looks more coupé than traditional four-door. It's an aesthetic triumph which confirms Alfa as a leader of design as well as technical innovation, combining art and technology to perfection and offering the perfect balance of emotion and common sense.

It is one of the most exciting cars in mainstream production – but then, that is no less than we would expect of Alfa Romeo.

Here's the catch



DRUG dealers, burglary gangs and joy-riders have a race on their hands with the introduction soon by Humberside Police Vehicle Crime Unit of two 150 mph observe-and-pursuit cars.

Two all-wheel-drive Subaru Impreza Turbo vehicles have been specially modified by Banbury-based Prodrive, the same company behind Colin McRae's FIA World Rally Championship Impreza.

Mailbag

Free-range bandoleers

AFTER a 40-year gap I have started reading *Soldier* again – quite different from the one I knew, but eminently readable.

Your “Vox Pop” (May) on time spent on the range by the support corps made me smile.

During my service I was officer-in-charge of my unit's rifle teams, both full-bore (.303) and small-bore (.22). Our complaints in the early 1950s were exactly the same as they are now – insufficient range time and nowhere near enough ammunition to train a team properly for district competitions.

On one memorable day I took the full-bore team to the local ranges for a practice shoot with our pitiful supply of ammunition. The day before our range allocation a TA unit had been shooting and there, neatly laid-out on the firing point, were several hundred bandoleers of .303. I realised that my duty was to report the find but instead my team had a wonderful training shoot that day.

Unfortunately we never won the competition. I did manage to win 5s (75p) on the “pool-bull”. Is that still done? I have dropped several hints to TA officers I know that I would love to try the SA80 but they have fallen on stony ground. – **Alex Diamant (ex-Royal Fusiliers and RAPC), Leicester.**

‘Hard’ life at Mons

I READ with interest Tony Skidmore's letter (June) about Eaton Hall, near Chester, in which he referred to its use as an officer cadet school until the mid-1960s. I thought Eaton Hall officer cadet school closed in 1957.

The letter also mentioned Mons OCS. When I was posted from 3 RHA to the signal section of the RA wing there in 1959 I expected life to be hard, but the reverse was true. As staff members we had virtually no duties – the cadets did it all for us! – **I R Donald, Halstead, Essex.**

EATON Hall was used for convalescence during the Second World War. Your interview with the Duke of Westminster (May), reminded me of my time there in 1940 after suffering a bomb injury. – **H F Tomlinson (ex-sapper), Halifax.**

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection (see Page 52) will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing! ● Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

National Lottery could fund this 1939-45 roll of honour

I FIND it astonishing and sad that no national roll of honour exists for those men and women who gave their lives in the Second World War. Within three years of the end of the First World War the War Office published detailed lists of the Servicemen killed during that terrible conflict. *Soldiers Died in the Great War* was issued in 80 parts, listing each man by number, rank and name, regiment or corps, date and place of death, point of enlistment, and details of service in other units.

It was a wonderful tribute to those who died and is still very much a source of

Prize letter

information for researchers (and, I understand, soon to be issued on a CD Rom). How sad that well over 50 years after the Second World War, no such record exists.

Records of the dead of the 1939-45 war at the MoD are not even computerised and, I gather, there are no plans to issue anything resembling *Soldiers Died in the Great War*. It has been said that money is the problem. May I suggest that such a project would be worthy of lottery money. Perhaps this letter will be read on the right desks in MoD. – **Lt Col (Retd) W A Lyons, Salisbury, Wilts.**

Right man, but the wrong day

WHILE my grand-daughter was waiting for an interview to join the Dorset TA she picked up the December 1997 issue of *Soldier*. To her amazement she saw me in a photograph of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment taken in Minden, Germany 47 years ago. I am now 82 years of age.

In the picture, I was the WO2 right-hand man in the front rank. However, it wasn't the Gallipoli Day parade – a battle honour which was celebrated on April 25 – as stated in the caption, but the Minden Day Trooping of the Colour on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the regiment, which was formed in 1702.

The parade ended with an all-ranks ball in the gymnasium.

I joined the regiment in 1931 at the age of 15 and served with the 1st Battalion man and boy for 29 years, being discharged in 1960. My father, incidentally, was wounded while wading ashore at Gallipoli. – **R A Langley, Milborne Port, Dorset.**

● Although the error in the caption was spotted and corrected in a subsequent issue, Mr Langley's letter gives us an excuse to use his picture again.

Write us a prize letter



Right-hand man: WO2 Langley

Proud to be a veteran

I ENJOYED the splendid photographs you sent me of myself – and others – at the Cenotaph on July 1 (see Page 69). I feel very proud of having been a First World War veteran and to know that I did my training at the Salamanca Barracks in Aldershot in 1914. – **Robert Burns, ex-Cameron Hldr, Wokingham, Berks.**

● An interview with Mr Burns, 102, will appear in a special First World War 80th anniversary feature in the November issue.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"Roughly translated, it says: 'Danger, 12th Legion training area, slings and arrows firing'."

Secrets of the soil – see Pages 32-33

Use this chance to save TA units

THE CUTS in the Territorial Army as proposed under the Strategic Defence Review will probably decimate the reserve combat arms and thereby jeopardise the British Army's ability to sustain a pro-

No charge on honour

GLASGOW is known as "no mean city" and this is reflected by free entry into museums and other public places. Edinburgh, however, charges for entrance to places of public interest, including the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle. Admittedly, the £5 charge at the drawbridge pays for admission to other apartments, but I feel it should be made clear that no charge is made for honouring our war dead. — **Charles Meacher, ex-RE, Keighley, W Yorks.**

Lourdes fed by miracle spring

IN an otherwise excellent report on the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes by Karen Moseley there is one small error. The baths are supplied by water from a miraculous spring pointed out to St Bernadette by Our Lady in 1858 and do not "... hold the water from the river next to the Grotto".

This is most important and is the

tracted conflict. Modern warfare devours men, machines and money at an alarming rate. No army can function without adequate reserves of all three.

Considerable effort and time is required to produce trained soldiers. They cannot be simply plucked from thin air at a moment of crisis — which always occurs when least expected.

The TA units proposed for disbandment are due to be announced in three months' time. A small window of opportunity still remains open for all those with the future of the British Army at heart to lobby their MPs, and anybody else concerned, to reconsider the proposals.

Make good use of this opportunity. Support your local TA. — **R A Hamilton, Southport.**

reason many people believe the water has healing powers. The river is simply that, a river.

Thank you for a wonderful article and the many happy memories it revived for me personally. — **J Gregory, Altringham, Cheshire.**

● *J Gregory is absolutely right.*

PS . . .

Another bit of slang

THAT bit of Midland's slang "Owmoneyonussis?" (July) brought back memories. We had an Ilkeston lad in our unit (he said he came from Ilson) who told me that at an early age his mother taught him to say "shintin". When the rent man came tapping on the door, his mother would hide behind the curtains and push him out to tell him: "Shintin!" — Len Oliver, Colchester, Essex.

Settled out of court

WHEN my uncle was serving in Egypt in the early Fifties tennis balls were in short supply. So much so that he took to looking after them himself. He told the Orderly Room sergeant to put a notice on Part One Orders to this effect:

"Personnel wanting to play tennis will draw necessary equipment from the Sports Store but balls from the RSM's office. After the game, bats and nets will be returned to stores and balls to the RSM."

I had two uncles serving in Suez and they both said they could not understand why they did not get a medal as other, lesser, campaigns seemed to get one. — Stephen Osbaldeston, Riddings, Derbyshire.

Medal mentions

AS Editor of *Medal News*, I can only welcome the letter from Colin Hole (July) about the wearing of medals and encourage you to mention *Medal News* favourably in your columns. May I point out, together with several others I expect, that the figure you gave on Page 67 of 57,000 killed on July 1, 1916 should have been killed and wounded. About 20,000 were killed, which is bad enough. — John S Sly, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

AT an old comrades' event I noticed a veteran wearing a medal ribbon bar with 1939-45, F and G, Defence and War awards. Many veterans are without their actual medals, because to replace them would be beyond their means. Should this form of wearing entitlements be accepted? — K V G Moore, Bacton, Norfolk.

The wrong company

THE RASC company mentioned in "Twelve years of jungle bashing" (July) was 3 Company RASC and not No 2 Coy. This is the first time in more than 50 years of reading *Soldier* that I have written concerning an error (apart from April Fool spoofs!). — John Statham (Maj, long retired), Launceston, Cornwall.

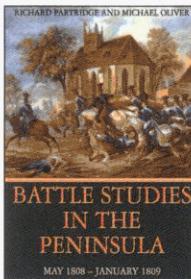
Military bearing

THE Duke of York's Royal Military School still maintains a strong military tradition, which failed to come over in your article (June). It still boasts an excellent band and drums and performs well on ceremonial occasions when the students wear uniform. — J V Lewis (ex-RQMS RE and former pupil), Longfield, Kent.

Books

Wargamers' view of Peninsula battles

RESEARCH by two wargamers, Richard Partridge and Mike Oliver, has resulted in a detailed appraisal of the Spanish and French forces who



BATTLE STUDIES
IN THE
PENINSULA

MAY 1808 – JANUARY 1809

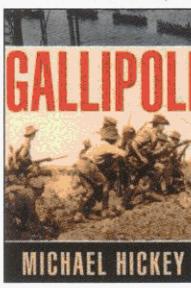
took part in six battles of the Peninsula War between May 1808 and January 1909. **Battle Studies in the**

Peninsula (Constable, hardback, £25) includes notes on historical background, topography and commanding generals as well as maps and diagrams and battle notes for wargamers and re-enactment groups.

Unfortunate heroes of Gallipoli carnage

GALLIPOLI'S unfortunate fighting men were, in the rueful words of one, "beaten by our own leaders".

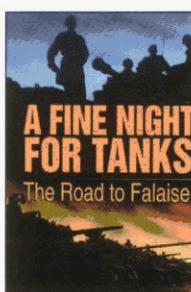
In his exhaustive 1995 study to mark the 80th anniversary, Col Michael Hickey traced the roots of the catastrophe to the remoteness of



war leaders in London, the incompetence of the commanders on the spot, and the inadequacy of resources. But there was plenty of heroism on the ground and the whole story is told vividly in **Gallipoli**, now published in a 363-page paperback by John Murray at £15.99.

Belated publicity for Falaise operation

KEN TOUT, best-selling author of *Tank!*, argues that "Totalize 1", the Second World War operation



to close the Falaise Gap in which he took part as an NCO, was the finest feat of Allied armoured action in both world wars. He also claims it as being the

least studied and publicised. Using some particularly evocative personal accounts to embellish his pacy and edifying narrative, he rectifies both anomalies with **A Fine Night for Tanks: The Road to Falaise** (Sutton, hardback, £18.99).

Chariot of fire was a storming success

FEARLESS men with steel-blue eyes and square jaws . . . courageous and good-looking, with an iron resolve . . . tall, dark, highly-motivated and determined . . . charismatic, talented, gifted and immensely charming . . .

Descriptions taken from a romantic novel? Not at all – these fulsome adjectives and others are sprinkled throughout the pages of *Storming St Nazaire*, the story of the men who took part in Operation Chariot 56 years ago.

Flattering though these personal assessments are, they appear somewhat superfluous when you consider that author James G Dorrian's real mission is to tell the all-too-truth story of the Combined-Ops raid on the French port in March, 1942.

Of a total force of 600, 160 soldiers and sailors died in the operation, 200 were wounded or captured and five VCs were awarded.

The plan was to blow up the St Nazaire dock, the only one on the Atlantic coast large enough to house the German battleship *Tirpitz*, by ramming it with an old destroyer

Storming St Nazaire by James G Dorrian. Leo Cooper, Pen & Sword, hardback, £19.95.

packed with explosives. This daring, almost suicidal, scheme was headed by Lord Louis Mountbatten, a cousin of the King and a man of "good looks and potent charm with the determination of a lion, the patience of a saint and the skills of an accomplished politician".

The plan involved transporting teams of demolition experts of the Special Service Brigade from 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 12 Commandos across the Channel in a flotilla of 18 little ships and the old US destroyer *Buchanan*, renamed HMS *Campbeltown*.

COMPLEX AFFAIR

Packed into the ship's bows were 10,000lb of "ammonal" (could the author have meant amatol, a mix of ammonium nitrate and TNT?). The whole lot went up about three hours after ramming the dock gate, demolishing the massive outer concrete structure.

Job of the specialist commando was to destroy the

dock-operating machinery while men from 2 Commando held off the port's defenders. Lt Col Charles Newman, CO of 2 Commando and leader of the raiding party, is quoted as describing the plan as an "enormously complex affair".

Just as complicated is this book – although, to be fair, it must have been a nightmare unravelling the story of one of the most daring cross-Channel raids of the war in which such a large proportion of the participants were wiped out.

It is not clear whether the exploit was officially considered a success but the demolition of the outer gates to the dock which once housed the French luxury liner *Normandie* certainly denied the *Tirpitz* access to a repair bolt-hole and to the Atlantic, so keeping the battleship away from Allied shipping.

Since that was the objective of the raid – and many had described the mission as "impossible" – the only logical conclusion is that despite the huge human toll, success with great honour was theirs. The award of five VCs in one action tells its own story. –JM

In brief

Memorable Days: Normandy 1944 and 1994 by John Shaw. Then-and-now memoir of a conscript who, aged 20, stepped from the wreckage of a glider on to Normandy soil as a private in the 12th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment. The story goes full circle on his return 50 years later to his D-Day battlefields. Avon Books, hardback, £12.95.

Body Horror by John Taylor. Are we too squeamish for newspaper photographs of dead and dying people? Are these shocking images the only way to tell the truth, be it from battlefield, natural catastrophe or murder scene? Latest from The Critical Image series. Manchester University Press, hardback £45, softback £15.99.

The Imperial Game, edited by Brian Stoddart and Keith A P Sandiford. Where the British flag went – and with it the British Army – so too went cricket. Six essays on cricket as a cultural phenomenon in continents in which Britain once exercised power. From the Studies in Imperialism series. Manchester University Press, hardback, £40.

The Jena Campaign 1806 by Col F N Maude. Description, detailed analysis, fold-out maps and diagrams of Napoleon Bonaparte's total defeat of the Prussian Army at Jena and Auerstadt, some of the most dramatic actions of the Napoleonic Wars. From the Napoleonic Library series. Greenhill Books, hardback, £19.50.

Conversations with Wellington by Earl Stanhope. The author secretly took notes of profound and gossipy dialogues spanning 20 years, providing a unique insight into the mind of the great soldier-statesman. First published 110 years ago. Out this month as a Prion Lost Treasures paperback at £10.

Discovering Battlefields of England and Scotland by John Kinross. Latest edition of the well-established guide covers 69 battles from King Alfred's defeat of the Danes at Ashdown in 871 to Culloden in 1746 and includes three not previously mentioned – Myton, Hedgeley Moor and Nantwich. Shire Publications, Princes Risborough, Bucks, paperback, £7.99.



Sartorially striking: Officers and men of the Royal Fencible Highland Regiment of Foot, 1794-1802, taken from F Glenn Thompson's *The Uniforms of 1798-1803* (Four Courts Press, Dublin, hardback £24.95, softback £14.95) which covers the arms and uniforms on the Irish scene during and after the 1798 rebellion

Brotherhood linked by thread of valour

THEY are all dead now, those recipients of Victoria Crosses awarded for acts of gallantry at Passchendaele, a battle chiefly remembered for the profligate waste of human life.

Linked by the common thread of valour, this band ranged from a 19-year-old Canadian private to a brigadier-general, the first of that rank to be awarded a VC.

They were not all model soldiers: one is described by Stephen Snelling in this book as "probably one of the most unruly individuals ever to don a uniform".

This was Pte Cecil "Hoodoo" Kinross, a company runner in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry who, on October 30, 1917 at Furst Farm, knocked out a German machine-gun post single-handed. He survived the war and lived until 1957.

Another VC with a less than exemplary record was Pte Thomas Whitham of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards

VCs of the First World War: Passchendaele 1917 by Stephen Snelling. Sutton Publishing, hardback, £19.99.

who was under sentence of 56 days' No 1 Field Punishment when, on the line of the Ypres-Staden railway, he captured a German machine-gun and its crew. Whitham died in 1924 in extreme poverty. He was 36.

Taking random examples, LSgt Jack Mooney and Pte Thomas Woodcock of the 2nd Irish Guards won their VCs at Ney Copse against a force of Wurtenburg Sturmtruppen clad in body armour.

LOST HIS STRIPES

Mooney lost his stripes in 1918 for going AWOL but maintained links with the regiment until his death in 1980, aged 85.

LSgt John Harold Rhodes of the 3rd Grenadier Guards was the most decorated NCO in the regiment's history. Already the holder of the

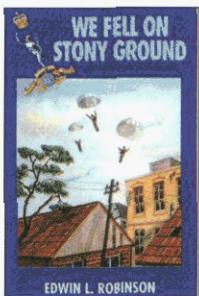
DCM and Bar for gallantry at Ypres and Givenchy, he won his VC near Houthulst Forest on October 9, 1917 when he captured a German pillbox. Mortally wounded at Cambrai, he died without knowing of his award.

The gains from almost four months of deadly struggle were lost in just three days in the German spring offensive of 1918. A conservative estimate of casualties in the 1917 Passchendaele campaign, officially known as the Third Battle of Ypres, is a quarter of a million men. One wonders just how many acts of valour, other than the 61 recognised by the award of the Victoria Cross, went unseen.

Snelling's book is the latest in the series on VCs in the First World War. Companion volumes are: *VCs of Gallipoli* (same author), *VCs of the Western Front 1914*, *VCs of the Western Front 1915*, *The Air VCs*, *VCs of the Somme*, and *The Spring Offensive 1918*. - BJ

Signals 'spy' who ended up in Colditz

WORKING for the Inter-Services Liaison Department after serving with Montgomery at El Alamein, Sgt Edwin Robinson of the Royal Signals parachuted into Yugoslavia, was captured as an unwitting and reluctant spy by the Gestapo and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner, partly in Colditz. He was lucky to escape the firing squad and his memories of the filth, deprivations and indignities of captivity are brought to life in *We Fell On Stony Ground* (The Book Guild, hardback, £12.95).

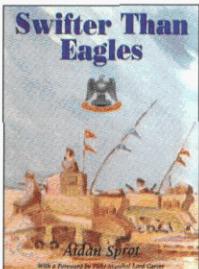


Fresh view – from desert to Baltic

TWO points initially distinguish Lt Col Aidan Sprot's Second World War memoirs, *Swifter Than Eagles*

(The Pentland Press, hardback, £16) –

he penned them in 1947 while they were still fresh in his mind, thus giving them a certain reliability of detail, and they tell the story from the Western Desert to the Baltic through the eyes of a junior officer in The Royal Scots Greys who was very much at the centre of things as an intelligence officer, recce troop leader and adjutant. All profits go to the Regimental Trust of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

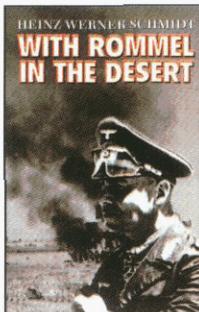


Victory and defeat with the Desert Fox

HEINZ Werner Schmidt was a 25-year-old student when he was sent to the staff of a little-known commander in North Africa.

With Rommel in the Desert (Constable, softback, £9.99) is his story of the events leading to defeat in the battle for Africa. Lt Schmidt feasted on Naafi

"blessings" at the capture of Tobruk, survived El Alamein, and returned to Germany to be married two days before the fall of Tunis and the beginning of the end.



Bulletin board

REUNIONS

Staffordshire Regiment: Annual reunion on Sept 12 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (sae please).

Coldstream Guards (pre-1949): A reunion for those who joined the regiment before 1949 is to be held at Windsor on Sept 25. For details send sae to Peter Horsfall, 222 Leigh Hunt Drive, Southgate, London N14 6DS.

Tal Handaq School, Malta (1947-78): Third reunion of RN School Tal Handaq will be held in Bicester, Oxford on Sept 26. Past staff and pupils welcome. Details from Viv Daly on 01752 894846.

● BRITISH Army units have been asked to search for any material relating to Operation Granby, the Gulf War operation, and to forward it to the MoD's Op Granby Archive situated at the Hayes Records Office, Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex (tel 0181 573 3831). Check first with the archive if the material is classified or sensitive.

4th Regiment RA: All ranks reunion, Royal Hotel, Walsall, Oct 3. Details from Pete Lazell on 0171 341 5278 or 01902 570942.

Combined Irish Regiments OCA: Quarterly meeting and AGM, Oct 3, in London. Membership details on receipt of sae at 51 Fakenham Road, Beetley, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4BT. Serving members heartily welcome.

120 Light Battery, Royal Artillery (Oct 1951-Feb 1955): All ranks who served in Korea invited to reunion at Cranfield University, May 25-26, 1999. Details from David Drinkwater on 01330 860351.

6 Boys Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Beverley (1950-55): Reunion of ex-boys to be held in Beverley or York in 2000. Ring Ray Toyne on 01904 765137 or Tony Hull on 01202 770261.

Arborfield (Army) Apprentices, Intakes 50A and 50B: 50th anniversary reunion planned for Oct 2000. Contact Clem Clements on 01604 712128 or Tom Lennox on 01423 865225.



Baroness Thatcher revives memories of 1982 with two veterans at the Airborne Forces' Falklands War reunion at Browning Barracks, Aldershot. She is talking to Terry Peck, centre, an islander who gave valuable information and help to the Pathfinder Platoon during their reconnaissance missions and was hunted by Argentine forces. He hid in the hills surrounding Stanley to escape capture. She also met Denzil Connick, right, then a lance corporal with 3 Para who, 16 years before to the day, had a leg blown off by a shell during the battle for Mount Longdon.

Picture: Chris Fletcher

SEARCHLINE

Woolwich Polytechnic students who served their country during the world wars sought by University of Greenwich to attend the dedication on Nov 11 of a plaque commemorating the 60 students and staff of Woolwich Polytechnic who gave their lives during 1914-18. Families of those who fell also sought. Contact Martyn Stephenson, University of Greenwich, PR Unit, Southwood Site, Avery Hill Road, Eltham, London SE9 2UG (0181 331 9691).

Anyone who has news of **Leonard Ball**, who joined the Parachute Brigade in 1939 and was still serving in 1953, or his family, is asked to contact the Chief Clerk at 73 Engineer Regiment (V), TA Centre, Wigman Road, Bilborough, Nottingham NG8 3HY (0115 9293924), who wishes to return personal documents. Mr Ball lived at one time in the Nottingham area.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers: R N Coleman – To Director Command and Control DCIS(A), June 15; J G Kerr – To Service Attaché Beijing, June 15.

Colonels: R P M Austin – To CO Army Legal Aid NW Europe, June 15; A V Malkin – To Chief of Concepts Branch, HQ AFCENT, June 22; A F Davidson – To Service Attaché, Prague, June 29; R N Wertheim – To Colonel Trg, HQ RAC, June 29.

Lieutenant Colonels: A Bridges RLC – To HQ 1(UK) Armd Div, July 27; R W Parkinson AGC – To DS Sec, June 3; C J Whittaker, R Signals – To BLO DISA USA, Aug 3; P G M Callan RLC – To FMOD Bonn, May 25; J S Campbell RLC – To HQ Land, June 1; N R Davies, Para – To JSCSC, Aug 31; R J C Eaton RDG – To DGD&D, Apr 1; R J J Ellis, R Signals – To PMSP, July 30; J A Forrest RLC – To UNFICYP, Sept 7; K F Gordon AGC – To RCDS, Aug 17.

J S H Johnson, R Signals – To HQ Land,

Edward Kelly seeks news of old comrade **Len Abbott**, with whom he served in 2 Troop, 48 Field Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment at Hameln and Nienburg, Germany, in 1950-52. Replies to 42 Odo Road, Dover, Kent CT17 0DW (01304 210482).

The WOs' and Sgts' Mess, 14 Regiment RA, seeks medals, memorabilia, photos, film and video for a history room devoted to "The Boys Regiment", also known as the Junior Leaders Regiment RA. Enquires and contributions to Sgt M G Hargreaves, 34 Seringapatam Bty RA, Stirring Barracks, Larkhill, Wilts SP4, 8QT.

Pte T C Phillips seeks news of **Cpl Brian Parkinson**, who served with The Green Howards and was based in Chester in 1975-

May 27; N B Josling RLC – To HQ ARRC, Nov 16; R S T Laden RLC – To HQ LISA, May 27; C M Lavender RGBW – To HQ SFOR, Aug 13; A D Mason, Para – To HQ AG, May 14; P W Middlemiss KOSB – To GE Gen Staff, May 29; M C Parish, Kings – To DASD, Sept 21; A J Peters REME – To DGES(A), Sept 7; J A Poole-Warren RGJ – To DA Oslo, Aug 8; N J Yeoell, R Signals – To DMO, July 27.

R D Boden AGC – To ACDS (Overseas), Nov 2; A P W Campbell, A and SH – To MS4 APC, Aug 25; I M Dowdeswell RA – To DPol (ICS), July 20.

Retirements

Brigadiers: N A Mackereth, late AGC (SPS), June 30; R W Trigger, late Para, June 30.

Colonels: T R Bradwell, late RE, June 24; R A Bencini, late RAMC, July 5; N B Muir, late Int Corps, June 29; R R P Prichard, late Para, June 30.

76. Replies to W1030370, Pte T C Phillips, G3 Training Clerk, HQ 8 Inf Bde, Londonderry, BFPO 807.

M L Emm would like to hear from anyone who served with his father, **Walter Leslie Emm**, during the Second World War. He landed in North Africa and served with 10 Fd Amb before being captured in April 1943. His Italian PoW ship was abandoned in Tunis Bay and he was released. Saw action at Monte Cassino and was sent to Greece at end of war. Replies to 9 Silverthorne Close, The Willows, Colchester, Essex CO2 8QB (01206 514411 or (office) 0171 560 6707).

Author and TV producer seeks interviews for new book, *The Faces of Death*. If you have combat experience and have thoughts about the fears of being under fire or of losing comrades and are willing to share them, obtain permission from your CO in accordance with QRs. Contact Michael Waterhouse on 01892 521373 or fax 01892 541399, or e-mail Tessaw@netcomuk.co.uk

News sought of **Kevin Cooney**, last known serving with 1 RTR at Tidworth, by old friend Andrew Escott, Villa 23, Novotel, 201 Baise Road, Shanghai 200231, China.

● **Group Travel Bureau** is offering organisers of old comrades' associations the chance to "try before you buy" on a heavily-discounted trip to Caen and the Normandy landing sites and battlefields. The tour, from September 11-13, costs £59, departing from Portsmouth on the new high-speed catamaran to Cherbourg. The price includes ferry crossings, accommodation and excursions. Details from Joseph Robinson on 01752 204309.

Like father, like son

We rarely record presentations of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, but there seemed to be a good case to make an exception when SSgt John Kerr was given his. There was a distinct element of *déjà vu* about the ceremony as the Princess Royal pinned the LS and GC Medal on the chest of SSgt Kerr, pictured above, during a visit to 3 Close Support and 4 General Support Regiments RLC at Abingdon.

Twenty-five years ago she performed the same ceremony for John's father, also John, right, a warrant officer then with the 14th/20th King's Hussars.

And there was another "double" for the Princess when she presented LS and GC Medals to the RSMs of the two regiments, Paul Snape of 3 CS and Christopher Johnson of 4 GS. Because of operational commitments, it was the first time for two years their two units have been together.



Korean tribute boosts 'forgotten war' veterans

SOUTH Korea's gratitude to British Servicemen who took part in the Korean War 48 years ago is expressed in an open letter to all branches of the British Korean Veterans Association.

Written by Chun Yong Taek, Minister of National Defence, Republic of Korea, on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, it says: "The people and the Armed Forces of Korea will forever cherish the sacrifices made by the participants from our allied countries for travelling great distance to risk their lives."

A copy of Chun Yong Taek's letter was sent to *Soldier* by Doreen Stevens, secretary of the BKVA's Ely and District branch, which meets at the Castle Lodge Hotel in Ely on the third Saturday of each month. It is one of more than 100 branches of the association throughout the UK.

□ A reception for The London Regiment was hosted by the Lord Mayor of London last month to mark the unveiling of an heraldic plaque to commemorate the granting of the status of Privileged Regiment to the Londons.

□ **Sennybridge field training centre has been recognised for its contribution to conservation by winning the MoD's Sanctuary Award for 1997. It recognises the setting up of a conservation centre on the training area with access to the public.**

Have you a story to tell?

COMBAT Stress remind us that entries for their 1998 short story competition close on November 11. Appropriately for Armistice Day, themes for the competition are Remembrance, Combat Stress and My War.

Manuscripts of no more than 1,000 words should be accompanied by a donation of at least £5 plus £1 to cover admin and should be sent to the Secretary, Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RL.

Last year's event, also sponsored by the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, attracted more than 700 entries, many of which have been published in *Peace & War 1997*, a hardback anthology.

MUSIC/Gordon Turner

Very best of Britain from Horse Guards



TROOPING the Colour is the most famous military parade in Britain, attracting thousands of spectators from home and abroad every year both to the event itself and to the dress rehearsals.

Part of the attraction is the sense of tradition and continuity, and the music played on the occasion reflects that awareness of history: massed bands of the Household Division have trooped past in slow time to *Les Huguenots* almost every year since 1869. I say "almost" because in 1936 *Aida* was used at the request of Edward VIII.

This year there was another innovation with the first appearance of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, riding past to the Royal Artillery's *Slow March*. The complete parade is available on a CD entitled *Trooping the Colour* (Droit Music TRCD 981).

Taking advantage of the stands and seating erected for the Trooping, the massed bands of the Household Division carried out a Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade in early June. They were followed a week later by the massed bands of the Royal Artillery, featuring both Regular and Territorial musicians. The Household Division made a studio recording of their programme – *Beating Retreat* (Droit Music TRCD 982) – but the gunners unfortunately did not.

MORE BEATLES

A more recent addition to the cultural tradition of Britain was made by the Beatles in the Sixties. Many of their compositions have become part of the standard military band repertoire, a development initiated by the Irish Guards and their legendary Director of Music, Maj Jiggs Jaeger.

Their album *Marching With The Beatles* broke new ground and, with the Beatles' popularity now at its highest point since the Sixties, it is appropriate that the present band should have re-recorded the programme with a few additions. It is issued under the same title, *Marching With The Beatles* (Bandleader BNA 5144).

In contrast, *Marching For Scotland* (Bandleader BNA 5145) is a programme of music mainly from the Highland Band of the Scottish Division and the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders. Included are Robert Farnon's concert piece *From The Highlands*, and a new work, *The Sands of Kuwait*, composed by Cpl Gordon Mackenzie of the Queen's Own Highlanders in memory of soldiers of his regiment who died in the Gulf War.

If you have any problems obtaining recordings mentioned here, or any queries about military music, please write to me c/o *Soldier*.

Diary And . . .

TIM Wakefield, late of the Welsh Guards and son of the last British commanding officer of the Poona Horse, tells us that Col Guptal Bal, CO of India's most famous cavalry regiment, was guest of honour at the Cavalry Club, London, for the 50th and final Poona Horse Regimental Association luncheon. Col Bal told the former British officers: "We will never forget your part in the regiment." He said their traditions were maintained by the Poona Horse and had resulted in the regiment being awarded, by the Indian Army Board, the unique title Bravest of the Brave. Its 16 battle honours include the Somme and it has four VCs and two Param Vir Chakra, the Indian VC.

Few units in the British Army have more than one soldier eligible to wear the Army 100 badge for shooting. Support Battalion HQ ARRC has five who boast the distinctive flash which indicates they have qualified for the Queen's Medal competition. They are Maj Norman Minty RGBW, LCpl Simon Armstrong SG and WO2 Gaz Ashcroft, SSgt Dave Sinclair and LCpl Stu Southworth of the RLC.

Just what the doctors ordered! In the field of excruciating puns, the breezy masthead on the quarterly magazine of the Defence Secondary Care Agency takes some beating. Its supremely confident title is *SutureSelf*.

Nine members of 59 Movement Control Squadron RLC based at South Cerney presented a cheque for £900 which will pay for the lectern in the proposed Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College, near Reading. Members of the unit, which reformed during the conflict in 1981, ran a marathon to raise the money.

A cherished silver cup for marksmanship has been returned to its regimental home in York after almost half a century. Former Squadron Quartermaster Sgt George Cowley (92), pictured, last winner of the trophy, joined troops from the Queen's Own Yeomanry's Y Squadron at their open day to hand back the Cpl Rigby Cup. He won it in 1949 and 1950 for shooting over distances of 100, 200 and 300 yards. His regiment, the Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons, fought at Alamein and in the Syrian campaign.



DATES

AUGUST

7-29: Edinburgh Tattoo. Tickets and enquiries on 0131 225 4783.
29-31: Military Vehicle Trust's fifth classic military vehicle show, Tilbury Fort, Essex.

SEPTEMBER

5-6: Berwick Military Tattoo. Tickets on 01289 307427, credit cards 01289 307113.
19: Minley Show, Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Camberley.

Budding friendship

In-Pensioner SSgt Francis Chippett, ex-RAMC, receives from Pte Rachael Elliott a rose created to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Called Faithful – from the corps motto, Faithful in Adversity – it is a compact cherry red floribunda.



Colchester units turn out on day of parades

COLCHESTER wore its military heart on its sleeve last month when three of the garrison's resident units celebrated important milestones with parades.

The Military Corrective Training Centre and 156 Provost Company RMP marched through the town to exercise the Freedoms granted in April, while the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment celebrated its 40th anniversary with a birthday parade at Roman Barracks.

Gen Sir Christopher Wallace, Deputy Colonel Commandant of the Adjutant General's Corps, took the salute of the Freedom parade outside the Town Hall.

Meanwhile, guests at Roman Barracks, who included many former members of the QOGTR, were treated to a 90-minute ceremony involving the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the 170 Gurkhas currently stationed at Colchester.

Sixteen new recruits were sworn in, declaring their allegiance to the Queen in the Kasam Khane ceremony.

The regiment's HQ moved to Colchester from Hong Kong in 1994. It shares Roman Barracks with 10 Transport Regiment RLC.



Getting to know you: Gnr Matthew Midwinter meets Brimstone, a Bateleur eagle, at Dartmoor Wildlife Park before heading off to Zimbabwe with five other soldiers from Plymouth-based 29 Commando Regiment RA. They will take part in a six-week ecological study involving the tracking, capturing and electronic tagging of leopards.

Sponsored by the Royal Geographic Society, the long-term project will address concerns over the perceived decline in leopard numbers. The military contribution is being led by Lt Graham Mathieson. They will work in the one-million acre Save Valley conservancy.

Dartmoor Wildlife Park owner Ellis Daw, who has several jaguars, lions, tigers and cougars – but no leopards – passed on tips about big cats to the commando gunners.

Nature note: the magnificent Bateleur eagle, which boasts a 5ft wingspan, is a native of Zimbabwe.

OCTOBER

31: Concert by Waterloo Band, 5 RGJ (V), in aid of the Poppy Appeal, at Garrison Theatre, Bicester (tickets 01865 553151).

NOVEMBER

20-21: Army Arts Society annual exhibition, Medieval Hall, Salisbury.

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



Tribute across the generations: Among those paying homage at the Whitehall Cenotaph to the heroism and sacrifice of those who died on the Somme in 1916 were, from left, Sgt Eric Skentleberry, of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea; Countess Mountbatten of Burma, patron of Friends of War Memorials; Jamie Stevenson; and Somme survivor Pte Robert Burns, 102

Children pay homage to victims of Somme

SCORES of schoolchildren took part in a ceremony at the Whitehall Cenotaph on July 1 to commemorate the start of the Battle of the Somme in 1916 in which tens of thousands of Commonwealth and Allied troops were slaughtered.

The children were led from Horse Guards Parade by Countess Mountbatten of Burma and Mr Winston Churchill, grandson of the former Prime Minister.

German and Jewish children were among the youngsters, who laid sprigs of living laurels, and Jamie Stevenson, a Scot whose great-grandfather died at the

Somme and who was given the privilege of laying a wreath, was able to meet a man who actually took part as a private – 102-year-old Robert Burns.

The event, which is planned to become annual, was organised by the charity Friends of War Memorials, founded by Ian Davidson to protect rolls of honour from neglect and vandalism.

• Canadian soldiers from the First World War who are buried in the Shorncliffe Military Cemetery at Folkestone were remembered by 300 Kent children in a ceremony on July 1 to mark Canada Day.

Each of the boys and girls laid a posy on a soldier's grave, watched by Folkestone's mayor, Cllr Peter Gane, the commander of the Dover-Shorncliffe Garrison, Brig David Godsall, and representatives of the Canadian High Commission and old comrades' associations.

Moscow concert helps orphans

ABOUT £60,000 was raised for Russian military orphans at a sell-out charity concert organised by Moscow diplomats led by the British Military Attaché.

Among the guests of honour in the Moscow Tchaikovsky Concert Hall were the Russian Defence Minister, Marshal Sergeyev, the Commander of Strategic Rocket Forces, Col Gen Yakovlev, and his US counterpart, Gen Eugene Habiger.

The money raised is being distributed by the attachés and the Russian Association of Servicemen's Wives direct to the mothers and guardians of 50 orphans.

Col Robin Greenham, British Military Attaché and chairman of the organising committee, told *Soldier* the Corps of Military Attachés was proud to be associated with such a worthy cause and it was planned to repeat the event.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1948

DEATH VALLEY

Before pulling out of Palestine, the British Army turned the Wadi Falah, a deep gorge in the hills near Haifa, into a valley of death. Faced with the problem of large numbers of unserviceable fighting vehicles which would have cost too much to ship home, and which for political reasons could not be sold to Jews or Arabs, the Army decided to push the lot into the wadi. Gellingite and flame-thrower liquid finished the job.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1973

NEW AND DEADLY

The lance is one of the oldest weapons in name but the newest "version" provides the very latest in artillery weapon systems. The Lance guided missile has been ordered from America for the British Army to replace its present Honest John missile system.

• • • finally

FOURTEEN sappers of 20 Field Squadron RE explored their unit roots when they visited Fremantle Prison during an adventurous training trip to Australia. Their unit formed at Woolwich nearly 150 years ago as 20 Company of the Royal Sappers and Miners. It moved to Fremantle in 1850 to construct prisons, dredge the Swan River and survey the town. The Oz links live on in the unit badge . . . it depicts a kangaroo with ball and chain.

Former Regular soldier and regimental boxer **Norman Wisdom** welcomed 30 Army cadets from Barrow to his home in the Isle of Man during their cycle ride for charity. The 84-year-old comedian cracked jokes and enthralled the cadets, who are affiliated to The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, with his funny walks.

Col George Wallis, pictured, is held in such high esteem in Chesterfield, Derbyshire that the local Territorial Army barracks have been named in his honour by 575 Field Squadron, part of 73 Engineer Regiment. Col Wallis, 82, saw

action during the Second World War, commanded both the squadron and the regiment, and is a former deputy commander of 22 Engineer Group. He was Chief Engineer for the Army's Yorkshire District, Honorary Colonel to the newly-formed 73 Engr Regt and in 1979 became Derbyshire's Deputy Lord Lieutenant. Col Wallis's service sword, given to him by his soldier-father, will be passed to all future OCs of 575 Fd Sqn.



The name of an NCO who died in the First World War is to be added to the village war memorial in Langham, Rutland, 50 years after it was omitted in error. Sgt Ernest Knott, who died at Bazentin-le-Petit Wood on July 14, 1916 when a shell burst above him, appeared in the roll of honour but was left off the memorial. He served with the 9th Leicestershire Regiment.

Ten disabled children from near Chernobyl, Belarus, site of the nuclear power plant disaster of 1986, were shown 200 horses of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment at Hyde Park Barracks during a month-long holiday in England organised by a church group.

Sgt Watchman III, whose death was reported in the July edition of *Soldier*, was laid to rest alongside the remains of his predecessors in King Edward's Square opposite Burton's Town Hall. The much-loved – and much-photographed – Staffordshire bull terrier mascot of The Staffordshire Regiment was seen on his way by members of the regiment, the band of the 3rd Battalion and civic heads from East Staffordshire District Council.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

What do you think of the Strategic Defence Review?

The Strategic Defence Review has been a year in the making and at last the Army has found out what the future holds. We asked soldiers at HQ Land Command for their immediate views after it was announced.

WO2 Tad Morrissey, AGC

I'm pleased about the increase in manpower, but by the same token, considering we are undermanned at the moment – and that's after a good recruiting year – I would be interested to know where they are going to get them from. I'm also pleased they are going to look at pay structures and job evaluations; that might encourage more people to join up.



Maj David Lowles, RA

It looks very heartening. We now have a logically structured force to meet the commitments we have. I think the Army, and particularly the gunners, have done well and we are probably now the most powerful artillery in the world.



WO1 Roddy Park, REME

The constant tinkering and reorganisation in the past has really upset me. The REME has been very severely stretched on the manpower front, but I'm more confident that things might improve now. I understand REME



should get another 800 individuals. I just hope now that these plans are properly

followed through and there is not too much delay.

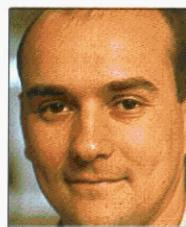


Maj Jamie Blackett, Coldrm Gds

"I really hope this will give us a period of stability, so we all know where we stand over the next decade. It is really important to end ten years of uncertainty. Time will tell.

Sgt Daniel Wallace, RLC

I like the idea of six brigades, all with their own logistic and support element. It is tidying up the Army and making sure it's not pick-and-mix and robbing Peter to pay Paul all the time. I think it's a good concept.



Maj Niall Greenwood, RA

I think we will come out of it a stronger Army. The sixth deployable brigade means that units will no longer be hit by operational duty at such short notice and turbulence will be reduced. The reduction in the size of the TA, however, is a bitter pill to swallow.



Maj Jeremy Morris, RLC

I was hoping to see a balanced, fully manned, equipped and trained regular tri-Service capability emerge from SDR. On the surface it looks very good, but I suspect this is the start of more change



Interviews: Karen Moseley Pictures: Mike Weston



and a second round of negotiations driven by the Treasury. I particularly like the idea of two fixed-wing aircraft carriers which will have an effect on the Army in joint operations.

Sgt Louise Woolley, RLC

My initial reaction was "Oh no, something else is going to be cut," but actually I thought it was OK. We will be getting more manning for the RLC squadrons, and having 24 months between tours is good. Money is being put into resources we need.



Maj Alistair Rule, Cheshire

SDR leaves us better placed to carry out our commitments, and introduces more stability into our training and readiness cycle. The sixth deployable brigade gives us two divisions with three deployable brigades each, and that is good news. My big concern is on the TA side. Because our Army is so small, our links with the community over the decades have lessened, and the vast majority of people out there don't know what we do.

Capt Bruce Pennell, RLC

Equipment and manning don't come from thin air, but it is heartening to see a balancing act between what we needed and what we are actually getting. I do feel that some of the sacred cows, such as tri-Service logistics, have been too sacred to be slain. But it is long overdue and very welcome.



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COMING SOON

- Our men in Washington
- Smallest army in the world
- Interview with Chay Blyth



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