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BRITISH  
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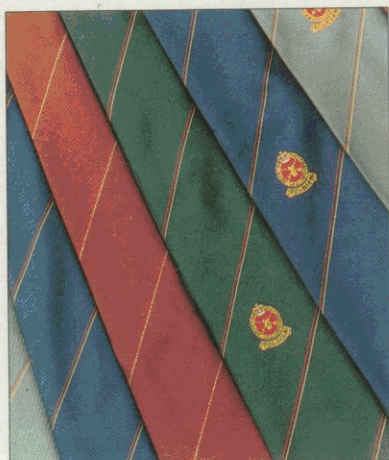
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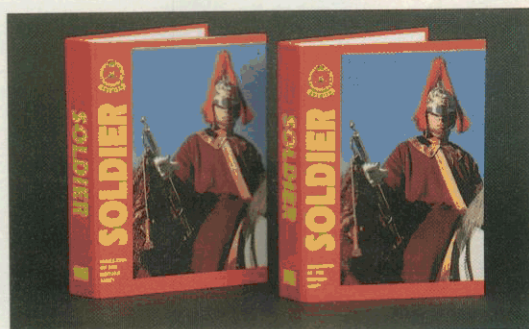
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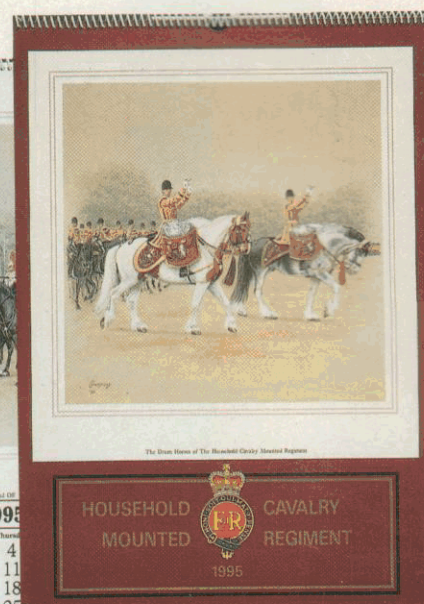
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**August 22, 1994**  
**Vol 50/17**

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**FRONT COVER:** (Main picture)  
Spr Smudge Smith of 23  
Amphibious Engineer Squad-  
ron operates the ramps on an  
M2 rig sailing down the River  
Weser at Hameln. See feature  
on 28 Engineer Regiment in  
Pages 25-28. Inset - The first  
of the Army's new Challenger  
2 main battle tanks. See Pages  
12-13. (Pictures: Mike Weston.)

● Former Chief of the Defence Staff  
Lord Carver calls for an end to  
civilianisation, privatisation and  
market testing in the Armed Forces.  
*Page 5.*

● Gen Sir Michael Rose tells *Soldier*  
of a change of emphasis for UN troops  
in Bosnia. *Page 7.*

● Maternity wear for the Services ...

a wardrobe of footwear for every  
occasion ... uniforms for the new  
millennium. Read how, more than  
ever, the "feelgood factor" is  
influencing those who produce your  
kit. *Pages 29-31.*

● Homelessness and the ex-Service  
community: the MoD's Resettlement  
Director writes to set the record  
straight. *Letters, Pages 34-35.*



Picture: Mike Weston

Part of an advance team from 23 Parachute Brigade Field Ambulance prepare to leave at Aldershot. Left  
to right: Maj Mark Trevillyan RADC, SSgt Gerry Smith, Capt David Micciche, Capt Julian Woodhouse

# Paras tackle Rwanda - in peaceful mode

ALDERSHOT-based 5 Air-  
borne Brigade was at the fore-  
front of the UK's contribution  
to Operation Gabriel, the  
United Nations refugee relief  
operation, as soldiers flew out  
this month to Rwanda, **writes**  
**Phil Wilcox.**

Men who, days earlier, had  
been exercising on Salisbury  
Plain in their rapid reaction  
role, prior to taking block  
leave, found themselves being  
deployed (for an expected  
three months) to the disease-  
ridden African state.

Maj Mark Trevillyan  
RADC, part of a six-man pre-  
advance party, which included  
a doctor and an RQMS, said:  
"Our priority is to establish a  
good water source for the  
troops coming in.

"If they start going down with

disease, it will be wasting time."

Members of 9 Parachute  
Squadron, Royal Engineers and  
23 Parachute Field Ambulance  
as well as elements of 5 Air-  
borne's Logistic Battalion, 10  
Airborne Workshops, REME  
and the Royal Logistic Corps' 63  
Airborne Close Support  
and 82 Airborne General Sup-  
port Squadrons were among  
those who flew out to start  
forming a 600-strong team.

The sappers from 9 Para will  
be providing water and carry-  
ing out road repairs, while the  
medics will be deployed at  
Ruhengeri, away from the  
main base in Kigali.

Their objective will be to  
endeavour to persuade the  
thousands of refugees to come  
back into Rwanda by providing  
medical assistance *en route.*

Main task for 10 Airborne  
Wksp will be to provide main-  
tenance support for the dilapi-  
dated vehicle fleet of the  
United Nations' Assistance  
Mission in Rwanda  
(UNAMIR).

At the brigade's Logistics  
Battalion's base, 5,600 bottles  
of spring water, 800 one-man  
ration packs, tentage for 60  
men, barbed wire to protect  
the food, and large quantities  
of diesel fuel (petrol is in short  
supply in Rwanda) for  
despatch with the advance par-  
ties were quickly and efficiently  
prepared.

Elsewhere, ten soldiers were  
undertaking a mobile bathing  
course at 5 Trg Regt RLC in  
Grantham in preparation for  
their essential contribution in

● Turn to Page 5



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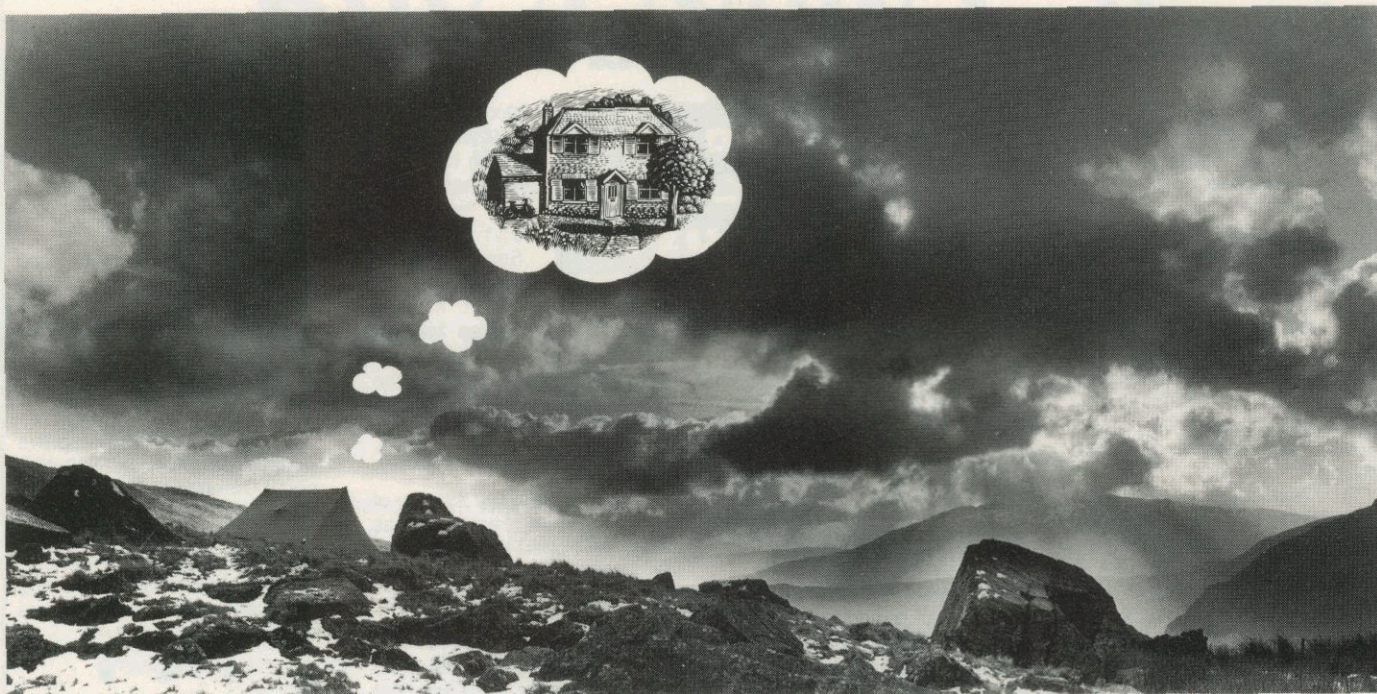
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# Soldier killed in Bosnia ambush

A SOLDIER from 7 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, was killed in an ambush near Sarajevo.

Cpl Philip Bottomley, who was shot in the chest, was travelling in a ten-vehicle aid

convoy which came under heavy machine-gun fire from Bosnian Serbs while on a re-supply mission to Gorazde from the British contingent's base at Vitez.

He was the seventh British

soldier to die on Operation Grapple.

A petrol tanker was blown up in the ambush and two trucks were left burning.

The convoy, made up of seven logistics vehicles and

three from the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, was inside the ten-mile Nato exclusion zone at the time.

Another British soldier and a Bosnian civilian were also injured in the attack.

# Tasking switch for Grapple troops

FOLLOWING the UN-brokered local peace agreement between Bosnian Croats and Muslims in central Bosnia earlier this summer, aid convoys have been able to move along most routes without military escorts, **writes Laurie Manton.**

As a result, UN troops have been able to switch their attention to more pressing tasks.

Gen Sir Michael Rose, head of UNPROFOR's Bosnia-Herzegovina Command, told *Soldier*: "With aid convoys moving without assistance from us, it seemed sensible to transfer our main effort away from convoy protection duties

to try to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to stop fighting. Many of our soldiers are now manning the confrontation lines between the Serb Army and the joint Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat force."

In some areas the ceasefire is uncertain.

"In Sarajevo, there are five battalions of French troops deployed. There is 72km of confrontation line around the city with firing across it all the time," said Gen Rose. "The 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in a minority enclave at Gorazde is doing a particularly fine job. There are two companies and a



Picture: Mike Perring

**Soldier to Soldier: Gen Rose tells writer Laurie Manton about the switch of emphasis for UN troops in Bosnia.**

battalion headquarters in the area."

There has also been a change of emphasis north of the main Army base at Vitez, with British troops having taken up positions throughout the

Maglaj finger. The Light Dragoons and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment are now also at Zepce, Maglaj and Jelah.

The two units also provide a presence at a number of joint HVO/BiH police checkpoints and man observation posts overlooking the front line.

Gen Rose said the Light Dragoons had opened up the area and that the UN had ensured it remained open.

"That is peacekeeping. If you see an opportunity, you take it. You do not let the warring parties go back on an agreement. We are now getting ready for a possible peace agreement between the Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims. It will come in the end, but it might take a bit longer to reach agreement.

"At that point, we would have to take charge of whole areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina and transfer them from the Bosnian Serbs to the Bosnian Government, and create new lines of demarcation.

"We would be very busy for a while and have to implement confidence-building measures to make sure the peace lasts."

# RMP 'posse' takes on the bandits

SINCE relative peace came to central Bosnia, the Force Military Police Unit (FMPU) commanded by Capt Richard Tallis has taken on a new role of combating an outbreak of lawlessness along the humanitarian aid convoy routes.

Unable to settle down to normal life, some former fighters from the ethnic conflicts have turned to crime to finance their extravagant life styles.

They hijack trucks loaded with food and supplies, and rob at gunpoint civilians travelling in cars on the remote roads across the mountains and hills giving access to the Lasva Valley. Aid drivers have been dragged from their cabs and beaten.

Now the Royal Military Police has joined forces with

the local civil police to provide a Wild West solution to the problem.

Twice a day, a small posse of vehicles sets off to travel the aid routes in a bid to round up the troublemakers. Each anti-bandit patrol is accompanied by the RMPs in their white-painted United Nations Land Rovers.

The patrols face another problem while on patrol. Their route takes them over "Bonbon hill" where dozens of children gather, imploring passing drivers to throw them sweets.

Toddlers have been crushed under the wheels of the juggernauts while dashing to pick up

handfuls of sweets thrown from the cabs of vehicles by compassionate drivers.

The order went out to be less charitable. British and other troops have been barred from giving sweets to children on convoy routes such as the Royal Engineers-maintained main supply road Route Diamond.

"We strictly adhere to the order," said RMP patrol commander, Cpl Hayley Wiltshire. "It is not worth risking the life of a child."

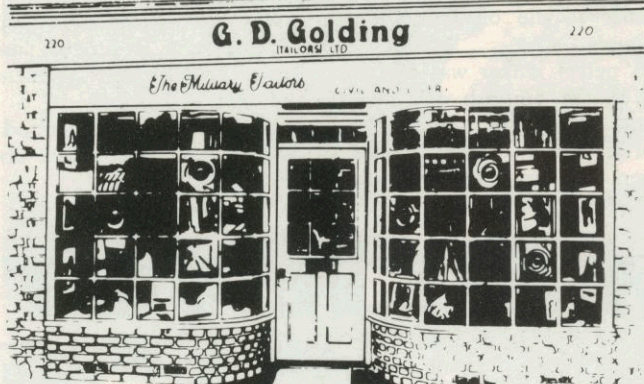
Not all children react favourably to the "no sweets" rule. Moments after she had

● Turn to Page 9



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# NEWSLINE

## TA in French 'mercy' exercise

### LIBERTY BELL IS 4 KINGS OWN BORDER 'FIRST'

SOLDIERS from the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, claim to be the first Territorial Army infantry battalion to take part in Exercise Liberty Bell in France.

The two-week exercise held at La Courtine in the Creuse region, initially saw 360 participants from Cumbria and Lancashire undertaking their annual tests on aspects such as marksmanship, fitness and first aid.

Moving on to the main part of the exercise – based on a peacemaking operation in an area of the world where ethnic problems might exist – the men and women cleared and secured supply routes so that humanitarian aid could be delivered to a besieged town.

The battalion, apart from dealing with diversions such as armed attacks and refugees, also used the exercise to train 40 new recruits, some of whom had only been in the regiment for two weeks.



A patrol from D Company, 4 Kings Own Border, taking part in Exercise Liberty Bell in France, prepares to move out to secure the supply routes needed for safe passage of humanitarian aid. From left (back row) Pte Jackie McCallum, Cpl Tony Eglin, Pte Gillian Rumney, Cpl Anthony Murphy; (front) Ptes Paul McConaghy, David Grieves, James Fowler, Clive Evans

### MEDICS GIVEN 3 PER CENT

MEDICAL and dental officers up to the rank of colonel have been given a three per cent pay increase.

The rise is being implemented in full and backdated to April 1, 1994 because their pay is closely linked with their counterparts in the NHS. It follows the Government's acceptance of the Armed

Forces Pay Review Body's recommendation, published on July 29.

For brigadiers the Review Body links its recommendations also with combatant officers so the Government had decided that their award should be staged – with 2.7 per cent backdated to April 1 and the balance from January 1, 1995.



## RMP 'posse' and Bosnia bandits

● From Page 7

spoken to *Soldier*, the side window of Cpl Wiltshire's Land Rover was smashed by a stone, which struck close to a passenger, Cpl Rick Stevens. He escaped injury in the incident.

The local police intervened, but no action could be taken. The children were too young. Two days previously, the windscreen of an RMP vehicle was shattered by a rock.

No bandits were seen on this patrol, but there have been significant successes. A number

of criminals have been apprehended, and stolen goods and cars returned to their owners. Since the anti-bandit patrols started, the level of incidents has dropped.

The 34-strong military police unit deployed on Operation Grapple has been drawn from 111 Provost Company based at Hohne and Fallingbommel in Germany, and supplemented by two SIB personnel from Colchester and Hounslow.

The Force Military Police Unit provides route control and carries out liaison and escort tasks within the British Army's area of responsibility in the former Republic of Yugoslavia. It maintains detachments at Vitez, Gornji Vakuf, Tomislavgrad and Split. A sub-det is based at Zepce.

Left – Cpl Rick Stevens looks out through the gap occupied minutes earlier by his Land Rover's side window, demolished by a stone thrown by a child. The missile narrowly missed injuring him

MORE OP GRAPPLE – PAGES 14-15





## General approval for cadets

Getting cadet life in his sights at Frimley Park, Surrey, was Gulf War leader Gen Sir **Peter de la Billière**, a long-time supporter of the cadet movement. Showing the general – who claims that “joining the Army Cadet Force prevented him from becoming a teenage tearaway” – how to operate the small arms weapon effect system at the Cadet Training Centre is LCpl **James Richards**, a cadet with The Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment.



## Return to the Rock

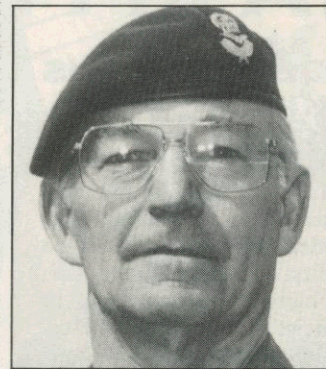
“That’s my old Regiment,” says former Black Watch soldier **Robert Manzie**, as he prepares to join Forfar-based B (Black Watch) Company, 1st Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers on Exercise Marble Tor in Gibraltar. Robert, who was stationed on the Rock with the regiment’s 4th Battalion for two-and-a-half years during the Second World War, was hoping to find two things during his stay. The tunnel, among the ones which he helped to dig, which has his name on it – and Gibraltar’s Scottish memorial. He was the soldier who posed for the sculpture...



Before making his farewells as Director General of the Adjutant General's Corps, Maj Gen **Robin Grist** couldn't resist taking up the baton and leading the AG Corps Band in a few impromptu numbers. The band had earlier surprised him on his final day at Worthy Down – where he had been DG since the formation of the corps in April 1992 – by appearing from the skies in a Chinook helicopter.

## One man's band...

## So long, John



Former TA Brevet Lt Col **John Hayton**, who has retired from the Royal Auxiliary Air Force as a Wing Commander, reckons his 42 years with both Services to be something of a record – but says he will no doubt be proved wrong! Before swapping roles several years ago, John had served in The Wiltshire Regiment, the Buffs, The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and The Royal Anglian Regiment, of whose 5th Battalion he was second-in-command.



Getting used to Territorial Army ways is **Shon Wood**, fresh from his demanding recruit's course at Grantham. A member of the Romford Terriers of 124 (Havering) Petroleum Squadron RLC (V), Shon has now joined his dad, **John**, a lance corporal vehicle fitter in the squadron's light aid detachment, who helps to keep the unit's vehicles on the road.

## Atten-SHON!

## LAST OF THE LINE



Moment of history for Lt (Queen's Gurkha Officer) **Tej Bahadur Gurung** as he is presented with the Queen's Commission by **Prince Philip**, Colonel-in-Chief of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, with the help of Maj (QGO) **Hangsaraj Magar** and Lt Col **David Willis**, 7 GR commandant. The lieutenant was the last to receive a commission in 7 GR before it was officially re-named as the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles last month.

## IAIN'S LEADING ROLE

The Territorial Army, says chartered building surveyor **Iain McNeil**, has “encouraged him to improve himself... as part of a team or as the team leader.” All of which no doubt came in useful when he found himself being filmed in action on Stamford training area as part of an MoD promotional video – released last month – aimed at getting and keeping employers' support for volunteers for all three Services' reserve organisations.



## BOVINGTON'S NEW BOSS

In the brief periods of relaxation between the busy jobs of commanding the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington and co-ordinating all RAC training, Brig **Andrew Gadsby**, late RTR says he has one main ambition. He is hoping to complete the light aircraft he is building. The brigadier took over from Brig **Tony Wells**, who recently left the Army after 34 years.



## PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE



## Next stop Hong Kong!

Sweet and sour feelings for Director of Infantry Maj Gen **Bryan Dutton** as he prepares to leave his headquarters at Warminster, Wiltshire, in appropriate fashion to take up his post as the last General Officer Commanding Hong Kong. Personal rickshaw driver to the general – who has been succeeded by Maj Gen **Ray Pett**, late Kings Own Border – for the day was Capt **Tim House**, Devon and Dorsets.



# New Challenger takes a public bow

WITH A flourish of military trumpets, the first of just under 400 Challenger 2 tanks currently on order was formally handed over to Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind at the Vickers Defence Systems factory in Leeds on July 25.

Initial recipients of the latest item of British Army hardware are The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, one of whose crews, in a nippy manoeuvre, took over the vehicle from the civvies who had driven it on to the display area.

The tank being handed over was the first production vehicle of a £520m MoD order placed three years ago for 127 Challenger 2 tanks and 13 Challenger driver training tanks.

A £1.1 billion order for

Vickers for a further 259 Challenger 2s – which were developed in response to a requirement to replace the Army's Chieftain main battle tanks – was placed by the government last month.

Although the hull and automotives of the new tank are based on Challenger 1 – which performed so effectively in the Gulf – it incorporates more than 150 improvements aimed at increased maintainability and reliability. Challenger 2's turret is totally new.

Reliability growth trials for the new vehicle – which is being manufactured at both of Vickers' identical factories in Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne – were successfully completed in May.

The trials, says the company, form part of the overall contract for the tank and are designed to ensure that every system and component of Challenger 2 meets stringent standards of performance and reliability before it enters service.

A team of Vickers trials engineers worked side-by-side for two years with the MoD's Bovington-based Armoured Trials and Development Unit.

Mr Rifkind, who later spoke to the Challenger's crew, said the tank would enable the Army to respond to the "unpredictable challenges" of the future.

The new tank, Vickers' chief executive Sir Colin Chandler was at pains to point out, was "not simply a piece of metal-bashing by the company".

Its designers and engineers had created a tank "which would be decisive in any future land battle".

Vickers had had the foresight to rationalise its business so that it was in the best shape to respond to change, he said.

"That change was based on the ending of the Cold War and on the emergence of new types of conflict such as we saw in the Gulf and are witnessing in Bosnia today."

It was also based on the need to ensure that the British Army had the best equipment and in-service support, he added.

The logistic support programme, which represents a quarter of the value of the project, is in place, Sir Colin said.

It would ensure that Challenger 2 would give the Army maximum availability throughout its Service life.

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards – who, as well as the crew, sent along the regiment's pipes and drums, and two Lancers from its HQ Squadron's Motor Transport section to give a memorable welcome to its new acquisition – will take possession of the vehicles when the Guards move to Germany from Catterick next year.



Words: Phil Wilcox  
Pictures: Mike Weston

Below – Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's one of the 13 (turret-less) Challenger driver training tanks currently being manufactured by Vickers for the British Army

Above – New turret, new drivers as Challenger 2 shows its paces

Right – Handover day for the latest piece of Army hardware at Vickers' Leeds factory



## CHALLENGER 2 FACTS

### FIREPOWER

Main Armament: 120mm L30 tank gun  
Ammunition: 50 projectiles (APFSDS, HESH, Smoke)  
Secondary Armament: Co-axial Machine Gun; 7.62mm Chain Gun; 7.62mm GPMG turret mounted

### CREW

Commander; gunner; loader; driver

### PROTECTION

Chobham armour; smoke dischargers

### POWER TRAIN

Engine: CV12TCA 12 cylinder, capacity 26.1 litres  
Auxiliary engine: Perkins 4.108 4-stroke diesel  
Gearbox: TN54 epicyclic; 6 forward gears, 2 reverse

### SPEED

Cross-country: (average) 40km/h; Road: 56km/h

### DIMENSIONS

Length: (gun forward) 11.55m; height to turret roof 2.49m; width 3.52m



"That's our new baby!", says the first Challenger 2 crew from the Scots DG. Left to right are 2nd Lt Hugh Martin, LCpl Tom Stroud, Tpr Kenny Thomson and Cpl Kevin Stevely. Keeping guard in the background are LCpls Scott MacLeod and Darren Huggill from the regiment's HQ Squadron MT



# Happy campers – thanks to 32 Fd Sqn sappers

IT IS amazing what you can do with a bit of tape, some wire and a little ingenuity. Just ask the men of 2 Troop, 32 Field Squadron RE based at Bugojno in Bosnia.

The sappers, from Ripon-based 38 Engineer Regiment, arrived in theatre in mid-March and are now halfway through their tour.

Their first major assignment was to create a long-term camp out of a disused and malodorous

shoe-making plant at Bugojno.

Fortunately, the smell improved after rotting leather dumped in the car park had been removed by civilians who were "paid" in diesel by LCpl "JJ" Balanda, the POD (petrol, oil, diesel) operator, whose uncompromising approach earned him the nickname "Al Capone" from contractors.

Sappers from 11 Squadron had carried out limited works

in the short time available to them, but 2 Troop had to complete the task.

Early efforts were aimed at providing basic amenities, "hardening" the camp and making an adequate car park.

Cpl Nigel Tully and operators laid stone and compacted it, releasing considerable congestion throughout the rest of the camp. Regular shelling made the provision of adequate protection paramount and this was constructed by field sections led by Cpls Stew Brunton, Geoff Hyton, Leonard Thomas and Mick Weddell.

Official stores were hard to come by, so the sappers frequently turned to local resources, completing the hardening within six weeks.

LCpls George Campbell and Lee Warrington made inroads into the plumbing, improvising as they went along with wire, tape and cannibalised parts. They also cleared the sewage system, which was blocked with unmentionable waste.

Until mains water was "negotiated" with Muslim and HVO commanders, potable water was provided by a water purification unit manned by LCpl Paul Newcombe and Sprs Geordie Dent and Mark Atkins.

LCpls Andy Braun and Sean Northey and Spr Darren Brookes installed power to buildings and when the other two had to return to the UK, Spr Brookes frequently worked late into the night to upgrade the system and ensure all parts of the factory had electricity.

Spr Andrew Fowler, the resident 2 Tp fitter, helped in the process and proved to be indispensable.

As well as building the camp, the engineers were given other tasks, including the clearing of a minefield to allow access to a stranded Saxon.

A section under SSgt Carr



Plant operators Spr Len Diggins and Spr Rob Wolfe at Bugojno

cleared a path without any problems, but decided to blow one mine in situ. A "sympathetic" detonation by two other mines resulted in a large crater and a ruptured water main. Ironically, the water had been turned on only a day or so earlier following a local dispute, but the damage was quickly repaired and mains water restored.

A section from 2 Tp provided support to 1 DWR at Gorazde, working on the site of a football pitch to set up a camp and make it operational. They were helped considerably by 40 French engineers.

## Nice try by Bosnia Baa Baas

THE BRITISH Army "Baa Baas" met the Bosnian RFU in the middle of a fragile ceasefire between the Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats in the British area of operations.

At the invitation of the Bosnian Rugby Football Union, an aptly named team drawn from British Forces serving in the former Yugoslavia – the British Army Barbarians – was challenged to play against the Celik Club at a stadium in Zenica in

central Bosnia. Both teams were led on to the pitch by a drummer of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, one of several units providing players. Others came from The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, The Light Dragoons and the Royal Engineers of

5 Field Squadron.

The tactical kicking of Cpl Phil Barr was outstanding and his quick feed of the ball to his centres eventually led to a try in the final minutes from right wing Sgt Ian Stringer.

The conversion proved a trial of diplomacy, with the British and Bosnian touch judges failing to agree if the ball passed through the posts. A final score of 6-4 in the Bosnians' favour showed that diplomacy won.

In the third half, at a local hotel, the Bosnian team proved that rugby songs were not the total preserve of English speaking sides, although they may have lost something in the translation.

This was the fourth game between British battalions and the Zenica side during the past two years. The series rests at 2-2. The president of the Bosnian RFU issued a challenge for a fifth game.



Action from the match at Zenica

## Poachers save villagers from giant landslip

MEMBERS of A Company, The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, have saved the inhabitants of an entire Bosnian village from the effects of a massive landslide.

One of the first on the scene was Maj Richard Kemp, officer commanding A Company.

"We were motoring from our base in Zepce when the driver noticed a number of children at the side of the road obviously in a state of distress," he said. "We diverted to the village of Oglavac and soon realised that a landslide had begun. It was moving fairly fast and was about to engulf some of the houses."

Ptes Robert Myall, the driver of the Land Rover, and "BJ" Jennings, a passenger, risked burial by the landslide when they went through every house to clear people out or warning them of the danger.

A quick reaction force of two Warrior armoured vehicles was scrambled from the Poachers' base to help.

One of the drivers, Pte Des Hulse, explained that he was told to put his foot down and get there as fast as possible.

The soldiers worked into the early hours of the morning, trying to move all the inhabitants and their possessions to a safe area. One of the last people to be saved was a young paralysed girl. She was found in a house completely alone.

The Warriors' commander, Lt Ralph Wooddisse, said: "When we arrived, the landslide was within ten metres of the higher houses in the village."

"We managed to clear all the buildings and could hear the gradual encroachment of the landslide as it crashed through the windows of the houses at the top of the slope. There was also the sound of trees being pushed over and falling rubble as the houses were smashed."

The incident had begun ten days before when a man-made reservoir at the top of the hill above the village had drained in less than 24 hours. It is believed that deep wells in the area contributed to this drainage of water into the thick clay-based soil, which is prone

to sliding when saturated.

At the outbreak of the war the village was inhabited by Bosnian Serbs. They left when the fighting began and Bosnian Muslim refugees from Dobojo, a Serb-held town, moved in. They have now lost nearly everything.

Once the Poachers had moved the occupants, they set about diverting traffic from the main road which passes the village and is the main supply route for aid convoys to the Maglaj area.

During the night the landslide finally pushed through the village, destroying everything in its path. It crossed the main road and very nearly blocked the River Bosna, one of the larger rivers in the area.

The main aid route to the north west was blocked by a 30m-high wall of earth and the river itself was constricted. There was dangerous erosion of the river bank which carried the only other road through the valley and had become the main diversion around the wall of earth.

It was essential that the normal flow of both river and traffic was restored to prevent further disasters and sappers from 5 Field Squadron RE were called in to help.

They used more than 200kg of high explosive to blast the earth out of the way and let the river run a more natural course.

Lt Alex Howard RE explained how the landslide was determined to disrupt their efforts. "On the second night, because the mud was still so mobile, all our work was ruined when a further 500,000 cubic metres of earth came down and it looked as though the alternative route would be destroyed."

The sappers then used an existing railway tunnel as a road by taking out the rails and reinforced the other bank to keep the initial by-pass open.

The combined effort from the British Army gave rise to the highest tribute from a local official who said "the men who carried out the evacuation should all be treated as kings".



Improving camp security at Bugojno are (from left) Spr George Dent, Cpl Stew Brunton and LCpl Ibbo Ibbotson



Members of 2 Tp, 32 Fd Sqn relax in their accommodation area at Bugojno where they constructed a long-term camp



# THE NEW WAR HORSES

by Brian Jewell

WHEN WAR broke out on August 4, 1914, there was something of a patriotic stampede of car owners to give up their prized possessions for the war effort.

Not only were British subjects at home infected with the fever: similar gestures were made in the dominions and colonies.

An Indian maharajah, for example, donated his magnificent Rolls Royce, a teak and aluminium "torpedo" body mounted on a colonial-type chassis. The car was shipped to Europe early in the war expressly for use by the British Expeditionary Force in France.

It was not exclusively from the Empire that cars arrived: another example of the illustrious marque, its coachwork in natural timber, was presented by its Chilean owner to the War Office. This car was allocated to a lucky signals officer who, on one occasion under fire, escaped by speeding over Flanders mud.

Although initially offered the car as a gift, the Admiralty purchased a Barker-bodied Rolls for use by the First Sea Lord. The vendor was an Abergavenny owner and it is recorded that the coachwork was blue and the black leather upholstery edged with white. Such details are rarely found in case histories of military cars!

Several hundred Rolls Royce cars were used by the Armed Forces during the war. Many were equipped as light trucks (known in those days as "tenders") and others as armoured cars, some continuing in service for many years after the war.

Fd Marshal Sir John French, the first commander of the BEF in France, used a 30hp Maudslay car, which already had a history – it had been used to carry King George V and Queen Mary when they attended pre-war manoeuvres.

Earl Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, favoured a Delauney-Belleville with bright yellow paintwork, a car known to every London policeman who was expected to hold up the traffic and let Kitchener pass unhindered.

Kitchener was noted for being an arrogant and irritable passenger; a story in circulation at the time relates that a policeman in Whitehall had the audacity to hold up the yellow car to permit some pedestrians to cross the road.

"Knock the bloody fool down," shouted Kitchener to his driver – and probably meant it!

Shortly before his death in 1916 aboard HMS *Hampshire*, Kitchener ordered a Rolls Royce. Breaking his rule about yellow cars, this time he specified

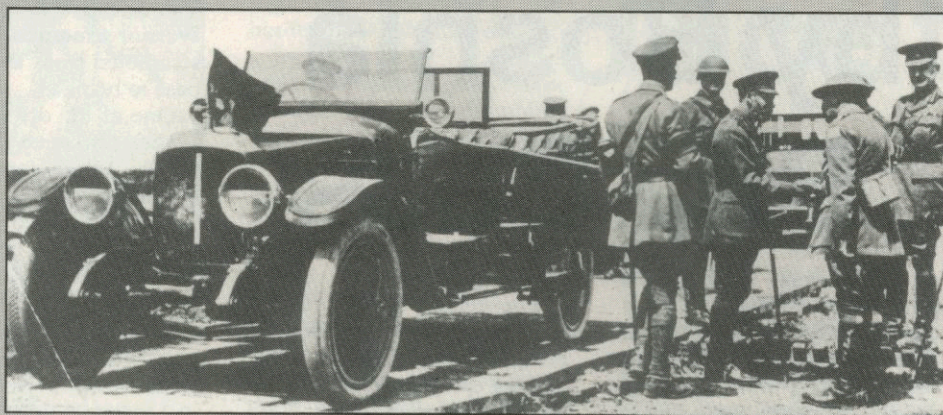


Gen John J "Black Jack" Pershing, seen here in what appears to be Calais, preferred a Cadillac V8 to the noisy and hard-riding Locomobiles assigned to his HQ



Searchlight cars at the Renault factory at Billancourt (Seine). This photograph was taken in 1917 but Renault had been fitting searchlight and signal lights for military purposes from as early as 1900

## STAFF CARS IN THE GREAT WAR



King George V on a visit to the Canadian front at Vimy Ridge in 1917. The Royal Standard flies from the jackstaff of a Vauxhall D-Type 25 hp staff car



Lord Kitchener and Lord Birdwood in a Sunbeam T 12/16 hp staff car at Mudros Base on the island of Limnos during the Gallipoli campaign

green paint with black lining. It was this car that was delivered to David Lloyd George when he took office as Prime Minister.

The experience of supplying military cars to Russia in pre-war years was to prove useful to the Vauxhall Motor Company, whose D-Type staff car, derived from the sporting C-Type "Prince Henry", was to become one of two standardised War Office vehicles to fill military requirements.

During the war Vauxhall built nearly 2,000 D-Types. They were to be found in all theatres of war. The ground-clearance under the rear axle was about 9in, an important factor that contributed to the car's acceptance as a standard army vehicle.

D-Types gained some remarkable achievements. One car for instance, made several return journeys between Salonika and Santa Quaranto on the Adriatic, a run that involved crossing four mountain ranges in Greece and Albania.

The other standardised British Army staff car of the Great War was the Sunbeam T 12/16 hp, which was produced by both the Sunbeam Motor Car Company and the Rover Company. Ambulance bodies were also fitted to the same chassis when the vehicle was known as the Model S.

The Royal Flying Corps, by its nature, was a particularly individualistic arm of service. In 1913 the RFC had been allocated six new Crossley 20/25

hp cars and they obviously suited the corps, as Crossleys, known as "Squadron four-seaters", were destined to be the standard staff cars for the RFC and later the RAF throughout and well after the First World War. The same manufacturers also provided the service with load-carrying tenders.

In the early stages of the war most staff cars used by the War Office in London were operated from the Isleworth Motor Pool. Among the varied makes on the Pool's strength were Model T Ford, Rolls Royce, Sunbeam, Straker-Squire, Daimler, Humber, Austin, Vinot, Alda Panhard and Renault, which must have caused nightmares for the mechanics servicing the motley fleet.

An ex-motor pool driver once told this writer: "The car that all drivers wanted, apart of course from the Rolls Royce – which was for generals only – was the Sunbeam, a car much in advance of its time."

"Overseas, every vehicle reflected the rank of the officer to whom it was allocated; lowest being the Model T Ford, which to my mind was the best all-round car the Army ever had."

United States entry in the war brought unfamiliar makes of staff cars to the roads of Britain and the Continent. Twelve Locomobile cars were purchased for the American Expeditionary Force and shipped to France to provide transport for US general officers. Two Locomobiles were assigned to General

Pershing's headquarters for his personal use but he appears not to have liked them, preferring a Cadillac V8, of which about 1,500 are believed to have been shipped off to the Allied Expeditionary Force.

As a military modification, the Locomobiles were fitted with twin rear-wheels and steel-studded tyres – an innovation of the time – which made for a bumpy ride and caused disagreeable noise on the road.

Eventually Pershing refused to use the Locomobiles. However, after the war, two of the batch of 12 were returned to the States, where they were demilitarised to give a softer ride. This was much more to General Pershing's liking and he used both the cars for travelling to and from his office in the Old Munitions Building on Constitution Avenue, Washington.

One of these Locomobiles, now housed in the Ordnance Museum at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, is believed to have survived in US Army service for many years and there is some evidence that it may have been on issue to the 503 Parachute Battalion at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1942.

If true, this might well be a record for long service. It may support the claim that they built cars to last in those days!

Brian Jewell is the author of *Staff Cars in the Great War*, due for publication in September.





Boating weather: LCpl Dave Smith and Spr Adam Fitzsimmons, both of Birkenhead-based 107 Fd Sqn, enjoy watersmanship training

## Hot work for TA sappers

SCORCHING weather provided near perfect conditions for 75 Engineer Regiment's annual camp at Wyke Regis on the south coast.

The sun blazed down relentlessly on more than 300 members of the Manchester-based TA unit as they completed their annual two week commitment.

The courses camp was aimed at maintaining a structured career profile for all soldiers by upgrading employment qualifications during this concentrated period. This included combat engineer, MT, signals, plant and squadron training as well as officer training and a senior NCO cadre.

The tented camp at Wyke Regis, which hardly seems to



Lt Col Nick Williams, CO 75 Engr Regt

have changed since it was built, provided a suitable backdrop for a packed programme of course training, adventure training, socialising and not a little sun bathing.



The senior NCOs' cadre, led by Capt Manny Coen, marches past the saluting officer

Russian Special Forces uniform revealed . . .

# White Knights dressed in blue

MILITARIA enthusiasts and Russia-watchers in general are showing great interest in the "Byelaya Noch" (the White Knight), the new Russian "urban" camouflage uniform for Special Forces, writes Paul Lewis.

It was seen, very briefly, on October 4, 1993 when world television cameras showed the defenders of the Russian White House being led into captivity by a handful of men wearing a new and distinctively different camouflage uniform.

Several Russian Special Force Units were involved in the brief but very bloody fire-fight inside the Parliament of the Russian Federation, but a particular group stood out from the rest.

Who were they? And what was the mystery of their unique uniform?

The camouflage, known as "White Knight", is a radical departure from standard Russian camouflage - being predominantly blue. It is a base grey colour overprinted with "amoeba" shapes of air force blue, sky blue, and dark blue.

A great deal of effort has been made to give these blue colours a subdued shade.

It is a special camouflage designed for fighting in predominantly urban areas.

The idea is not new. Research undertaken some years ago showed that predominantly blue colours, particularly when viewed under street lighting, make the most effective camouflage in urban areas. However, in practice its use has been restricted to a few élite paramilitary police units in the Middle East.

Imitating Western practice, the four-piece uniform is designed to carry the complete kit needed for urban counter-insurgency combat. Made of an unproofed heavy-weight cotton, it consists of combat vest, shirt, trousers

and steel grey face-covering balaclava to hide the identity of the wearer.

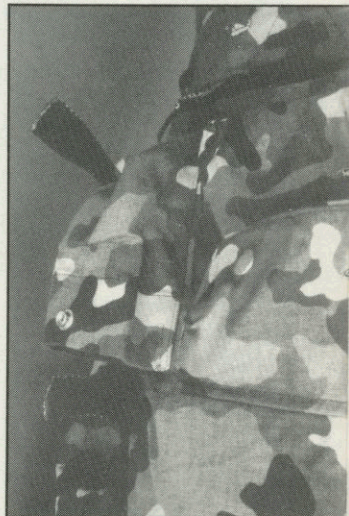
The shirt is a standard military design with two breast, and two, typically Russian, arm pockets; all fastened by velcro.

A colourful unit badge can be instantly detached from the left shoulder pocket. Typical of Special Forces the world over, no provision is made for badges of rank.

The high-waisted trousers, however, are not a standard item. The knees have detachable waterproof padding sections, the right leg a long truncheon pocket secured with two heavy duty press studs, the left leg a pocket for a spare AK magazine.

A large back pocket on the right side is complemented by two large "bellows" hip pockets. All fasten using velcro squares.

The combat vest has an amazing collection of pockets utilising both velcro and press studs closure. The vest itself fastens at the front using four press studs and is adjusted for fit at the sides using three blue plastic buckles. Despite the best effort to produce subdued shades of camouflage, all the press studs on



The missing flap, removed by a bayonet in Moscow's White House



Russian Special Forces arm badge

the vest are made of a shiny chrome.

At the front on each side is a pocket for a spare AK magazine, both pointing slightly downwards.

On the right are a pair of typical grenade pouches, above them what appears to be a torch pocket. On the left is an angled pouch containing fabric loops for shotgun shells. Above that are two angled downward pockets. One appears to be a small pistol pouch, the other very similar to the torch-shaped pouch on the top right.

On the shoulder is a field dressing pocket.

There is a large utility pocket across the back, and two water bottle-sized pouches at the side. The flap on the left pocket is missing, removed by one of the rebels inside the Parliament Building using a sharpened AK47 bayonet.

Apparently, after a brief struggle, the wearer of the uniform disarmed his assailant, stunned him with a blow to the neck, and fastened his wrists behind his back using flexi-cuffs. It turned out he had captured the key commander in defence of the White House.



Byelaya Noch: the White Knight urban camouflage uniform used by Russian Special Forces

Who was this Special Forces trooper?

The detachable arm badge gives the answer. It declares in Russian over the new Russian Federation Flag: "Special Forces Internal Ministry Troops".

These soldiers, under the direct control of the ministry of internal affairs, usually referred to as MVD troops,

have a wide-ranging role in what was the former Soviet Union, the word "Special Forces" having a much wider usage than that in the West.

However, these particular "White Knight" warriors are believed to belong to a secret counter-terrorist unit exclusively recruited from members of élite Russian combat units such as naval infantry,

paratroopers, and Spetsnaz (Special Forces proper).

They are selected for their aggression and combat record.

A high percentage are believed to be "Afghansti" (veterans of the Afghan war).

Since October 4 last year, nothing more has been seen of the "White Knights" of the MVD.



## Just the ticket for drivers

ARMY drivers about to leave the Service have taken advantage of a 28-day residential course at Midland Red (North) bus company's training school in Cannock.

A link-up between the Army in the West Midlands and Midland Red resulted in the course becoming available to soldiers nearing the end of their engagements.

They receive training in a wide range of skills and take their PSV driving test at the end of it.

Unlike other schemes, the Army-Midland Red course guarantees career counselling and a job interview in addition to first-class training. The job interview is with Midland Red or another company in the British Bus Group.

All soldiers leaving the Army with a clean driving licence may apply for a free driving assessment which they must pass before joining the scheme.

The first recruits passed out in front of Brig Ronnie Silk, commander 143 (West Midlands) Brigade and Midland Red directors Mr Richard Bowler and Mr Keith Rodgerson.

Anyone interested in learning more about the scheme should contact 7 Resettlement Team on Shrewsbury Military 2364 or 0743 262364.

## Managing very well!

FUNDING for management training for Service personnel looking to start a new career in industry has been secured from the European Social Fund.

It was obtained by East Anglia Armed Forces Resettlement Advice Centre in partnership with the Anglia Business School.

Successful candidates will gain a post graduate certificate in management, a nationally recognised certificate which satisfies the academic entry criteria for a range of diploma-level courses.

Service personnel wanting more details should ring SSgt James Prentice on Colchester Mil 2896 or Colchester (0206) 782896 to make arrangements for a briefing.

Six modules are scheduled between October 5 and December 16 and the

courses will be located at East Anglia Resettlement Centre, Colchester Garrison.

All units should have received a package of details on the courses. Further packs can be obtained from SSgt Prentice.

The resettlement centre has just completed a similar series of Euro-funded modules in hotel and catering training.

Organised in conjunction with the Hotel and Catering Training Company (HCTC), the programme resulted in 12 Service personnel receiving free vocational training at the centre.

They were presented with HCTC certificates in supervisory management by Brig Tony Calder.

One of the trainees described the HCTC training programme as effective, flexible and confidence-building.

## Financial planning for wives

A FINANCIAL planning information pack designed especially for Service wives has been launched by the Armed Forces Financial Advisory Services (AFFAS).

Savings, pensions, tax advice, mortgages, family protection and resettlement

counselling are among the topics covered in a "user-friendly" style that avoids jargon.

The pack also offers a free financial health check and a special help line: 0532 459077.



Brig Tony Calder (right) presents an HCTC certificate to Sgt John Rowlands, a chef with 10 Tpt Regt RLC

THE WAR Widows' Association of Great Britain is to hold a thanksgiving service in St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, on June 20 next year.

The association, which recently succeeded in its campaign to have the war pensions of British widows of New Zealand Servicemen – and some Northern Ireland widows – substantially increased, is keen to welcome new members.

## War widows give thanks

It works on behalf of all war widows, whether they are active or "sleeping" members.

Organisations can find out more about the registered charity from Helen Rosbottom, 17 The Earl's Croft, Coventry CV3 5ES.

## FOR FAMILIES Payouts to be curbed

NEW guidelines laid down by the Employment Appeal Tribunal could mean smaller compensation payments for former Servicewomen dismissed because they became pregnant.

The cases still to be decided – possibly as many as 2,000 – will be assessed on the percentage chance of the women returning to work, not on an "all or nothing" balance of probability.

It is believed the ruling will mean fewer six-figure "jackpot" awards and more payments of between £10,000 and £20,000.

There were fears the eventual bill could rise to many millions of pounds. So far the MoD has had to pay out about £15.5m for 2,150 claims – an average of about £7,200.

The tribunal commented that the women, who lost

their jobs between 1978 and 1990, had been entitled to compensation only because of subsequent judgements by the European courts.

Ruling on the MoD appeal against very large compensation payments, the tribunal said the awards were "manifestly excessive" and "wrong in principle".

In 1991 the MoD conceded its policy of dismissing Servicewomen in their 16th week of pregnancy had been illegal under European law since 1978, opening the floodgates to claims for compensation from 5,700 women who had left the Services to have children.

The highest compensation award so far, made to a former naval nursing supervisor, was for £400,000.

## Somerset field officer hits road

FIRST task for newly appointed Royal British Legion Somerset county field officer Maj David Watson was to set up a recruiting caravan – a job for which he is well qualified.

David was until recently recruiting officer for the Prince of Wales's Division.

The Somerset and Avon South RBL roadshow was made possible by the generosity of Natocars of Bridgwater and Castle Cary Caravans and is progressing well.

David, who can be contacted on 0278 446711, is particularly keen to hear from younger people willing to take on the essential tasks of helping the RBL look after the ex-Service community.

Cari Roberts

## ← COUNTERPOINT →

## BSA gives our families choice

SO, IT is reported, boarding School Allowance is under scrutiny again. About 10,000 Service families take advantage of BSA to send their children to schools in the UK.

The reasons for doing so are those that crop up around every dinner table at some point or other. One of the most often cited is that of stability.

Service families are on the move much more than their civilian counterparts and some parents say that they wish their children to attend one school for the whole of their later education so they don't have to leave in the middle of exam preparation or disrupt course work.

Some parents feel that continuity also gives children the chance to form long-lasting friendships.

Other parents feel that children benefit from being with the family and seeing different places as postings arise, so they send their children to the nearest SCEA school.

The point is that, at the moment, parents have a choice. The review of forces manpower, career and pay structures, currently being undertaken under the control of Michael Bett,

has put BSA in the spotlight because it is said to be comparing arrangements for the Services with those made in the world of industry and commerce.

It has been suggested in some quarters (though denied in others) that Mr Bett might be considering axing or, at least, reducing BSA for those posted overseas.

Already the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) has sounded a warning: "Our concern is that any tampering or reduction in the Boarding School Allowance will have a disproportionate effect on the Service families least able to pay the fees."

ISIS has a point. Last time BSA was reduced – in 1988 – 70 per cent of children withdrawn from independent schools came from NCOs' and other ranks' families.

If BSA is axed, or even substantially reduced, an

element of choice will be removed from a large section of the community.

And, if the Bett review is supposed to compare the Service and the civilian world, someone might like to point out that many multinational companies and British companies with offices overseas offer substantial help with school fees for their workers' children. And they're not risking their lives at the behest of the civilian population.

I've had some interesting reactions to the suggestion of a department for veterans' affairs.

Speaking on *Counterpoint*, Christopher Lee, a defence analyst of some experience and repute, said that he didn't think it would happen but the airing of the argument was useful as it kept ex-Service affairs on people's minds.

He, and others, also made the point that putting such a department in the MoD was fraught with problems. Funding was less likely to be a problem if the idea was incorporated into another department, such as the DHS.

One person also said that the use of the word "veterans" was a bad idea since it conjured up images of brave old men rather than brave young ones.

Another said it was unnecessary as the charities all do a very good job and liaise effectively as things stand.

I still think it's a good idea.

One issue never very far from people's minds is that of children's safety.

The NSPCC has produced an excellent leaflet called *Out Alone*. It deals with all the ways in which

everyone – not just parents – can keep children safe.

When asked about their children being out alone, parents say their greatest worries are the risk of them being molested, dangers related to traffic and the immaturity of their offspring.

The charity says that "children have the right to safety and protection wherever they are and this is everyone's responsibility. Parents and carers can start teaching children simple safety rules from a young age. And anyone who sees a child in distress should take immediate action to help."

But how to take action? The leaflet offers practical advice and many of the suggestions would work equally well wherever you are.

In fact, it could be argued that letting young children out of your sight while you're abroad is even more hazardous than at home.

If you'd like a copy of *Out Alone*, write to the NSPCC at 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH.

You can contact Cari at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o Soldier.

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THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA





Fus Andrea Potts (left) proves that she can match the lads in combat as she and Fus Harry Brolly, Allen Crawford and Cpl Peter Hendry charge into battle



A soldier from 1/52 Lowland alert during the attack



Pte John Edmiston pipes the company into action

# Cyprus hots up with 1/52 Lowland

DAWN had just broken over the village of Paramali on the south coast of Cyprus when the silence was shattered by the skirl of the pipes and the sound of gunfire.

Men of 1st Battalion, 52nd Lowland Volunteers swept in from the south-east and engaged the enemy in house and street clearance operations. Their progress was swift and within an hour the village was taken.

The attack was the culmination of 1/52 Lowland's two-week exercise on the holiday island. They were taking part in Exercise Lion Star, which is designed to train and test the soldiers at section, platoon and company level in everything from live firing, ambush drills, helicopter operations and night patrols to survival in the field and first aid.

Highlight of the exercise was the final dawn assault on Paramali – a deserted village used by the army for training purposes – by the entire company.

"The company has performed really well during our two weeks in Cyprus, and today's dawn attack was a huge success," said Lt Col Paul Middlemiss, commanding officer of 1/52 Lowland.

"Since the Territorial Army normally only train together in the evenings and at weekends, I saw this as an ideal opportunity for them to get a real taste of life in the field, and I'm sure this has enhanced their perception of what the Army's about.

"I've definitely noticed a greater sense of team work and



Cpl Stephen Crangle (left), Pte Russell Morrison and Robert Nicol after Paramali was taken

confidence since their arrival."

Despite their busy schedule, 1/52 Lowland was determined that D-Day should not be forgotten, and they marked the occasion by undertaking their own D-Day landing. They practised a beach landing on June 6, when the entire company went ashore from a landing craft on Melanda beach on the south of the island.

The sunny climes of Cyprus can be deceptive and among the company's main enemies

were the searing heat and arid landscape. These might well have taken their toll on the soldiers, were it not for the extensive physical training programmes in their own units in Glasgow and Ayrshire which left them extremely fit and robust.

The 100-strong "company" which participated in the exercise was drawn from elements of all the companies in the battalion.

"Unlike the Regular Army,

where a company detailed to deploy to an area moves automatically as one unit, in the Territorial Army it all depends on the availability of the volunteers," said Capt Ken Kenyon, company administration officer. "There were a great many who would have liked to come on this exercise, but were prevented by prior commitments, such as job or family."

The company operated out of Radio Sonde Camp, part of Episkopi Garrison on the

island's south coast. The camp provided an excellent dry training area for the troops, and was also conveniently located close to Tunnel Beach, Happy Valley, where the company participated in adventurous training, another important part of the exercise.

"Adventure training activities are an integral part of the exercise," said Capt Kevin Connor, whose task it was to organise the events. "They are important because they give the soldiers the chance to try their hand at sporting activities they would not normally experience at home, and this in turn builds their confidence."

Adventure training pursuits included paragliding, water skiing, canoeing, windsurfing, snorkelling and dinghy sailing.

Lt Col Middlemiss said: "With the increasing demands made on the TA in support of the Armed Forces, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that elements of my battalion could, one day, be back in Cyprus, but wearing blue berets this time rather than the normal tam-o'-shanter."

"I have certainly volunteered them for UN duties on the island."

Words: Lesley Edgar  
Pictures: Cpl Brian Gamble  
RLC, HQ BF Cyprus



Lt Derek McSorley receives instructions to advance during the assault



At last, a chance to relax. Members of 1/52 Lowland are all smiles at the thought of trying out their canoeing skills. Back row (left to right): Fus John Ferguson, Cpl Brad Bradford, and Mike Johnson. Front row: OCdt John Allan, Fus Kenny McGill and Fus Chick Lynch



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# SOLDIER



'Leaving the Army was a big step for me.  
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easier'

## Wavell's ger

IT HAS taken 52  
years for an im-  
partial assess-  
ment of Britain's first  
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disputable that the  
seeds of Sir  
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Commander in the  
Middle East were  
sown in

**'The competitions are fun  
and always worth entering.  
I sent in an observation  
test and won £50!'**

## Room for a few more in Normandy

SO MANY veterans are planning to return to Normandy for 1941: A Study in Genera-ship by Harold E. Raugh Jr. published by Brassey's, hardback, £32.50. Most local hoteliers have filled their books for the week of June 6.

From Rouen to Bayeux the message is the same: the accommodation left for groups. But according to Andrea Daly, who owns a Bayeux and mobile home for smaller parties. They are offering service dation-finding service D-Day Logement, charge £5 a person, and can be contacted at The Black Swan Mill, B. 14401 Bayeux CEDEX, France (tel: (010 33)

**'I lost contact with a  
bunch of good mates  
I served with during World  
War 2 - I couldn't believe  
it when Searchline got us  
back in touch!'**

## CENOTAPH CEREMONY

DETACHMENTS of the Household Cavalry, Royal Artillery, Foot Guards, women's regiments and the Territorial Force formed the east side of a square round the Cenotaph for the Remembrance service attended by November 1st.



Cpl Sparks Cpl B

g a plastic b  
ed a vicious  
in the man's n  
pt him alive until an  
lance arrived.  
The man lost six p  
blood but survived to  
assault charged with  
murder.



Smaller but busier – that's 28 Engineer Regiment. Writer **Gordon Skilling** and photographer **Mike Weston** found out why...

ALTHOUGH 28 Engineer Regiment in Hameln is being severely whittled down, its workload seems to have increased.

In Bindon Barracks the regiment has one of the best locations in the British Army, only a short walk from the picturesque centre of the famous rat-catcher town, where the children annually stage the Pied Piper story for tourists.

The great River Weser is on its doorstep for training but the regiment's traditional role, as the Army's specialist amphibious engineers, diminished in 1992. Only one squadron now carries out that task, though a new and challenging dimension was added with the regiment operating forward with armoured recce regiments.

From being one of the largest regiments, 28 Engr Regt is becoming one of the smallest. Average size is 650, but 28 Engr Regt is reducing from an original strength of 823 to 479.

The Regiment comprises 64 HQ Squadron, 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron, 12 Field Squadron, 65 Field Park Squadron and 522 Specialist Team RE scattered among several sites.

In war the regiment would take on two field squadrons from 35 Engr Regt, also in Hameln, as well as 21 Fld Sqn EOD from 33 Engr Regt in UK.

The regiment could rely on a Continental TA unit for support with 410 Plant Troop V, and was starting to recruit a second, 412 Amphibious Engineering Troop, to give a third troop with a river-crossing capability, when the announcement that the Continental TA would be disbanded was made in late June.

With drawdown, 12 Fld Sqn is disappearing and by October 1 will have effectively disbanded, though the number will remain and transfer to 25 Engineer Regiment in Northern Ireland as 12 HQ Squadron.

The single regular amphibious squadron remaining in the Army is 23 Amph Engr Sqn, known as "The Black Horse" from the teams of equine assistance used when it formed as a field company in 1855. This sign is stencilled on the pon-



Rig commander Cpl Alan Scott with Sprs Phil Proctor, Ric Davis, Jock Gale, Paul Dunn, Jonathan Cole and LCpl Brian Dudds

# LEAN, MEAN ENGINEERING MACHINE

derous M2 wet support bridge rigs.

When *Soldier* last visited two years ago, the regiment was looking forward to the new M3 rigs arriving. If a political decision is taken this could happen in 1996-97.

The M3s, far bigger and more capable, are powered by marine jets instead of propellers and only two are needed

to ferry a main battle tank instead of five M2s. Numbers went up to 245 when the two amphibious squadrons merged, but then dropped again to 170 men since the new rig requires a crew of three instead of four. These men still operate the same 41 old rigs.

A two-week course converts a combat engineer into a basic amphibious engineer crew-

man. Further courses are required to become pilot, driver or commander.

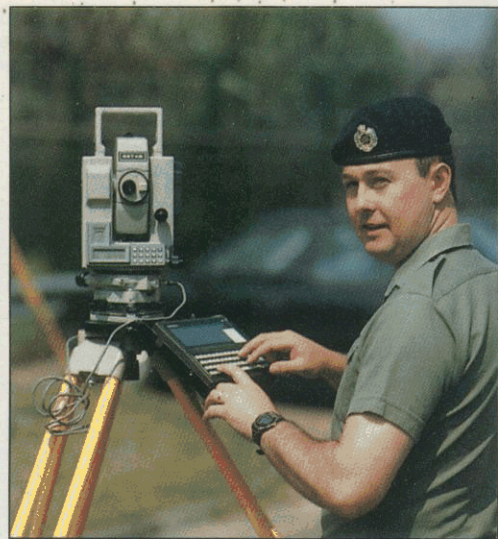
WO2 Steve Follows, however, was excused. He had never been an M2 "rigger" and now that he has taken over as squadron sergeant major, he admires their skill from a safe distance on land, where he exercises his administrative skills.

Both 12 Fd Sqn and 23 Amph Sqn spent six months away from their normal role

● Turn to Page 28

● More pictures – Page 26-27





Sgt John Hicking of the specialist team



LCpl John Robson and Spr Paul Jones in the Int/NBC cell



Above - The Army's cross country champions put their best feet forward

Below - 64 HQ Squadron lines up after a rolling replenishment demonstration



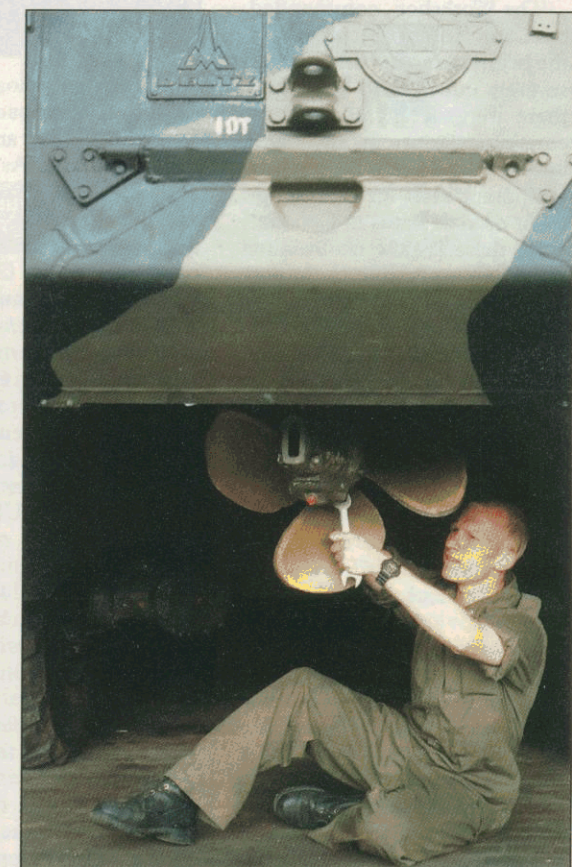
# 28 Engineer Regiment



Above and left - M2 rigs on the River Wear  
Right - LCpl Dale Heyes of 23 Fitter Section



Below - Spr Tosh McShane shows the strain as he helps construct a medium girder bridge during the JNCOs cadre





# Lean and mean

● From Page 25

with back-to-back tours of Northern Ireland. Some of those returning were back for a day then told to prepare for a tour in Bosnia in November.

Training for Bosnia will mean that the regiment will not be able to repeat the excellent exercise it had on the Rhine at Speyer, near Heidelberg, two years ago.

Being in Northern Ireland was a valuable experience for many sappers, said Maj Graham Hannington, OC 23 Amph Engr Sqn. They operated in a search and construction role with 8 Infantry Brigade based in HMP Maze.

"It was great fun and the boys really enjoyed it, sometimes working in half sections 180 miles apart 100 miles from their base," he said.

As well as mortar hardening upgrades and defensive works, many sappers went on patrol with the Infantry. Cpls Steve Morrison and Chris Lloyd were among those complemented.

Any fears that skills would have been lost were dispelled as soon as the lads went back on the water, said the OC.

"My concern at the moment is keeping these old ladies on the road with reduced levels of manpower," he said. "Most of the lads on the river are younger than the rigs, and the workload is getting higher and higher to keep the rigs going."

The Workshop, commanded by Capt Helena Bacon, bears the brunt of repairs but is being severely cut. Of her 152 men there are generally 40 away on emergency tours at any time, and she has also to provide temporary staff for the equipment used at Batus in Canada.

As there is now no training squadron, a training troop was formed in April which also trained TA amphibious units.

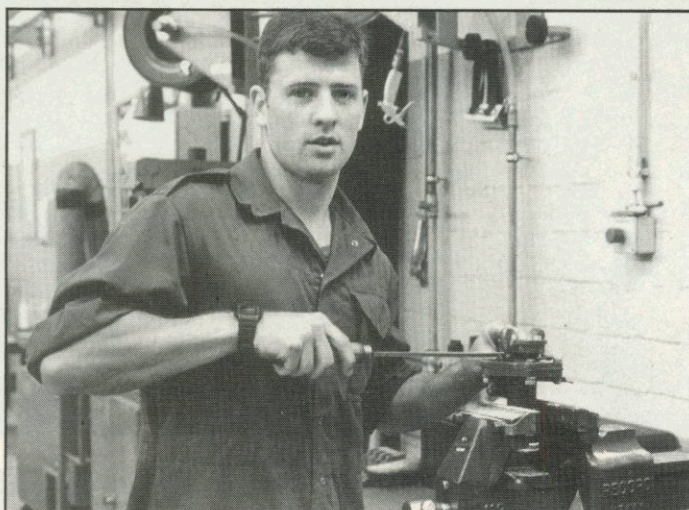
Only the best trained and motivated junior soldiers could hope to attend a regimental JNCO cadre, far less be one of the lucky five out of 58 who would be promoted. By the final phase of a five-day exercise with very little sleep they were "chinstrapped". This was when the real leaders shone through.

"A sapper is very fortunate just to get on a cadre because they are so few and far between now," said Capt John Astle. "The cadre is very physical and of 58 who started only 24 were left competing for the extra stripe."

Drawdown in Germany cre-



**Above – Sprs Andrew Macklin, Stewart Kemp and Billy Floyd of 64 HQ Squadron practise a rolling replenishment**



**Left – LCpl Des Hutton spends most of his free time training for the triathlon**

ated a large workload of equipment to be backloaded through Maj Phil Naylor and 65 Field Park Squadron. As the theatre engineer resource unit, it holds the engineering equipment required on behalf of all sappers working in Germany, as well as repairing and manufacturing equipment.

It has a detachment in Sennelager but that in Hamm, near Dortmund, used to hold much Harrier equipment for field deployments, and 2,000 tons of stores went first to Hameln then back to the UK. A similar amount was redistributed internally.

The work of 40 Engineer Group at Willich was also taken on when that closed.

Independent until reorganised two years ago, the squadron keenly feels the extra losses involved in the new manpower levels.

"We have lost the resource units but not the field units they have to support, so the

workload has not dropped," said Maj Naylor.

If the squadron stopped taking on new work, it would still have 12 months' work in the painting and sign-making department, and 14 months' work in the welding bay.

He has a large civilian component of 150 in addition to 100 military, who tend to be senior or very experienced and provide the management.

The specialist team, the only one of its kind in Germany, has to provide the design element and supervise construction of any new building by the Royal Engineers, and has a full range of design tradesmen from clerks of works to chartered engineers.

Before drawdown it was involved in new builds such as a community centre from a green field site in Sennelager, a Warrior range or medical and dental centres at JHQ and Bielefeld. Work now centres on renovating barracks for relocat-

ed units. Checking whether soil at Gütersloh could support scaffolding for temporary seating for the Army rugby final was also an important task, particularly in view of the sporting achievements of the regiment.

Last year it won the Army major units cross country cup, pipping 3 Para by one point, and last year shone in the Army triathlon.

Training for someone like LCpl Des Hutton, a Combined Services swimmer, involves two hours in the morning, plus lunch time and the evening. In converting to the triathlon he cycles 200 miles, runs 40 and swims 15 every week.

With his wife expecting a baby, he was having to reschedule his programme.

It is as winners of the Army Challenge Cup in football for a record five consecutive years that 28 Engr Regt has made its biggest mark. Other units watch its shrinking size and wonder whether the quality will also go down.

They should beware. Ten of the star players are in the squadron which is not going to Bosnia or Northern Ireland, and the sappers point out that even when fielding a squadron team in Northern Ireland, they still won the major units league.





THE Tri-Service Defence Clothing and Textiles Authority (DCTA) is due to become an agency in October.

Formed in April, the authority is responsible for placing on the shelf the best clothing and kit available to the British Armed Forces and other UK government organisations.

The DCTA recently took on the responsibility for the procurement of Army-only general stores, covering anything from nuts and bolts and spanners to field cookers.

Talking to *Soldier* at the authority's Andover headquarters, which includes a business and finance department, agency chief executive designate Brig Richard Kirby said: "We are a unique organisation. No other part of British industry offers anything quite the same."

One of the principal things which the authority does is to give people a package that makes them feel good, he pointed out.

"If a soldier, for example, is turned out well, it's good for morale."

The brigadier is currently involved in the eventual co-location of scientific and technical staff, commodity and equipment managers, contracts and financial control divisions as the DCTA sets out to show the Army can hold its own in the world of commerce.

"For the future, customer satisfaction will be paramount," he said.

Neil Wilson tests zip pockets on a speculative future uniform research project

# Comfort for the troops

THE SOLDIER steps gingerly into the minefield.

His giant boots, cushioned by featherweight soles nine inches thick, spread the weight of his 14-stone frame so he does not detonate the anti-personnel mines he is walking across.

He reaches the far side of the minefield unharmed...

Fantasy or science fiction? No, it's just another project under examination by staff at the Science and Technology Division of the Defence Clothing and Textiles Authority.

Better known by its former title of SCRDE (Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment), the tri-Service unit based at Colchester is responsible for providing Britain's Armed Forces with all their clothing and non-weapons related stores. Excep-

Words: Laurie Manton  
Pictures: Terry Champion

tions are aircrew and diving suits, which are developed elsewhere.

The authority's research and development work covers the whole range of clothing and textiles, from Arctic mitts to dummy tanks and nuclear flash protection to lightweight body armour.

Only serving soldier at the Science and Technology Division is military liaison officer Lt Col Andrew Fisher, who told *Soldier*: "We can develop anything from hospital beds to skis and sleds, as well as 'tribal' items such as embellishments to uniforms and lanyards.

"Although uniform projects tend to be on a small scale, there are many of them. Some

ceremonial uniform items, such as breast plates for the Household Cavalry, are very expensive and our staff are always looking for opportunities to move away from traditional materials to others that are cheaper and which can be more easily made up.

"The field of military clothing is very complex, and each area, be it combat clothing, NBC kit or boots, requires a high level of expertise."

It can be difficult to maintain a balance between keeping the soldier dry and protecting him from the threat of nuclear, biological or chemical warfare and ballistics, and at the same time not impair his performance.

Ideas for new equipment come from users or through advances in technology. There has been considerable progress

● Turn to Page 30



# Footwear for every occasion

● From Page 29

in fabrics in recent years, particularly in the field of ballistic protection.

"We could protect a soldier from head to toe against shell and shot, but he would be so unwieldy, he would fall over and need a crane to lift him back to his feet," said Col Fisher. "It is like the EOD protection suit, which provides a high level of protection but which is hard to work in."

The S and T Division produced combat body armour worn by British troops in the Gulf War and designed to reduce fragmentation wounds caused by shell splinters. Now an internal security version, fitted with removable front and rear armoured plates to give high-level protection for the area of the heart, has been produced.

This system is available in Bosnia, where a British soldier complained that his level of protection was less than that of his United Nations counterparts who were wearing commercially-produced armour.

"How, the soldiers of other nations manage to soldier in it, I do not know," said Col Fisher. "We had a set here and I tried it out myself. It is extremely uncomfortable and weighs five times more than ours."

"In ours, soldiers can do the things they are meant to do... shoot, run, lie down and operate their equipment."

Of vital importance to any

soldier are his feet. If his boots are uncomfortable and cause blisters, his efficiency will be reduced.

"Boots cause us some of our biggest headaches because everyone's preference is different," said Col Fisher.

"There could well be an argument for recommending the best and saying 'Right chaps, here's £50... go and buy your own.' Whatever we do with footwear, there is always someone who feels his own selection is better."

"In the past, we have tried to produce one boot to cover every terrain from the Arctic to the desert, but it just doesn't work. Now we are moving towards a policy of giving a soldier a whole wardrobe of footwear so he has the boots and shoes to suit any task."

Many soldiers were keen, he said, to have a boot with an integral moisture vapour permeable (MVP) lining. There would be benefits in doing this, but there were also severe disadvantages.

"Once such a boot gets wet inside, either through sweating or water splashing in over the top, it cannot be dried out in the field and the wearer could end up with trench foot."

"The lining is hot and if you have to wear it all the time it will make your feet sweat unnecessarily. And if you damage either the liner or the boot, you have to replace the whole item, which is expensive."

"This is why we still favour a

good leather boot, still the best option, with a removable MVP sock, which you don't have to wear all the time. You just put them on when you need them."

"If they get wet, you can take them out and dry them," he said.

Changes in the perceived threat to Britain and a continuing contribution to UN operations mean the Army has to be able to deploy rapidly anywhere in the world.

The Combat Soldier '95 layered clothing system, currently under trial, will give the soldier a range of clothing to serve him anywhere from the Gulf to the Arctic.

From the skin outwards, troops have a choice of T-shirt in summer or a zipped roll-neck Norwegian shirt in winter. Over this will be worn a lightweight combat suit which can be topped with either a furpile liner or Gore-Tex "stash-away" jacket and trousers.

The outfit is completed by a new quick-drying, windproof field jacket that incorporates a number of innovative ideas. The mid-thigh length jacket with taped buttons is made of rip-stop material to increase durability. It carries a concealed hood and has map pockets.

An MVP lining for combat jackets was suggested, but although it would breathe, the physiological load placed on a soldier would be much greater than that of a simple cotton jacket.

"If a soldier needs only to keep himself dry or windproof for 30 per cent of the time, why place an extra load on him for the other 70 per cent," said Col Fisher.

"This is why we have the field jacket in a windproof material, and a separate wind and waterproof stashaway jacket which soldiers can put on or take off as required."

"We are trying to reduce the load all the time so the soldier only has to wear something when it is necessary. We reckon Combat Soldier 95, when it comes into service, will be the best kit in the world."

"In my 25 years of Army service, I have never seen anything like it before. It is very good."

The development team began with a cradle-to-grave concept. The S and T Division introduced a team approach to product-management and appealed to the chain of command for an all-enveloping solution rather than the piece-



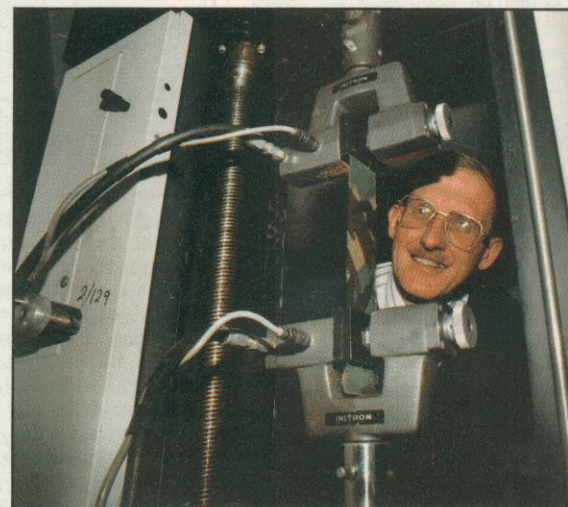
Rob Barkham clamps a target of bullet-proof material on the indoor ballistic range



Above - Andrew Hodgson uses computer-generated imagery to model a futuristic combat helmet

Right - Lt Col Andrew Fisher takes a closer look at one of several machines designed to test the durability of fabrics used in combat uniforms

Left - Keith Collins and John Clark have been constructing a cover for general purpose machine-guns



Gareth Davies, head of the heavy textiles section holds a type of bergen for issue to the support services. Its straps are covered to prevent snagging inside vehicles

meal development of the past. The division is very keen to continue this approach.

A mid-life reappraisal of the system should lead naturally to Combat Soldier 2005.

CS 2005 is still in the research phase, but for the midlife update, scientists have already identified improvements in materials and ballistic protection and how to achieve a reduction in weight.

Said Col Fisher: "We have introduced a new boot and sleeping bag policy, and we are now moving forward in a more coherent way than in the past. We are looking at the man as a basic system."

"Instead of hanging things on him until he can only just stagger around the battlefield, we have to look upon him as the primary system and how we can enhance his capabilities."

Obviously clothing and equipment play a major part.

"When more combat clothing such as combat body armour is issued, it is important to make sure it fits and the right size ranges are available."

"For example, the range of clothing has had to be expanded to take account of the fact that some females are very small."

A separate part of the division deals with camouflage, concealment and deception. It designs the disruptive pattern material (DPM) used in combat clothing and patterned cam nets. Infra-red reflection has also been countered.

Now the scientists are looking ahead to future battlefields and the need to counter the major threats of radar and thermal imaging. Before new clothing can be brought into

service, extensive field trials are carried out. With CS 95, 2,000 troops have been involved in the trials.

Scientists, although expert in their particular fields, are not entirely sure how the items are used by troops. They design an item and take account of any feedback.

"We had great discussions over the taped buttons on the new field jackets," said Col Fisher. "Soldiers complained that they got caught in camouflage nets."

"In the past, the buttons would have been ripped off. Now the soldiers are being left hanging in the air."

"Staff did consider putting covers over the buttons, but that left the problem of not being able to undo them when wearing gloves."

"On balance, we decided

they would have to take a chance of getting hung up in the camouflage nets, because soldiers spend less time with nets than opening and closing their pockets."

The garment design and development section is responsible for all types of uniform clothing worn by men and women across the three Services. A current project involves producing a maternity uniform for the Armed Forces.

"Our biggest difficulty has been identifying suitable volunteers in advance of setting a date for the trials," explained Mr Neil Wilson.

As scope for battlefield technology increases, one area of protection - the eyes - is being researched with some urgency.

The human eye is particularly vulnerable to the laser beams

used widely for target-ranging. Exposure to lasers can lead to serious damage of the retina. Systems which will offer protection are being worked on.

The importance of safety goggles for protecting eyes from metal splinters and flying debris is well known, and their use in a combat environment has considerable possibilities.

Eye injuries make up a greater percentage of disabling injuries in modern warfare than before and ballistic protective goggles are being developed.

With the Science and Technology Division's research behind them, the soldiers of the future can rest assured that not only will they march into battle in more comfortable uniform, but they will be far better protected than their predecessors.



## SOLDIER to Soldier

### Fashion on the ration

OLD CLOTHES wanted! The Imperial War Museum is on the look-out for examples of Forties garments for a special wartime fashion show to mark next year's 50th anniversary of VE Day.

Women's dresses, suits, shoes, hats, jewellery and accessories dating from the late 1930s to the late 1940s are needed, as are examples of children's clothes and men's outfits.

Clothes with stories attached to them will be particularly welcome – for example, the jacket or dress made out of the living room curtains, or the sweater knitted during long hours in the air raid shelter.

Further details from Christopher Dowling on 071-416 5310.

### Search for woman engineer

NOMINATIONS for the 1994 young woman engineer of the year are being sought by the Institution of Electronics and Electrical Incorporated Engineers (IEEIE).

Qualified electronic and electrical engineers under the age of 30 are eligible and the winner will receive a cheque for £750 and a silver rose bowl at a ceremony in January.

There is also a prize for the runner-up and one for the most promising young entrant not sufficiently experienced to qualify for the main award.

Entry forms from the IEEIE, Savoy Hill House, Savoy Hill, London WC2R 0BS (tel: 071-836 3357).

### Publish and be proud...

THEY SAY there is a book in everyone – but not all have the ability, discipline or sheer determination to write one and get it published.

In July we told how Mrs Constance Peach, of Reading, had laboured painstakingly to write down the experiences of her late Life Guard husband and their life together.

Now comes the story of a Second World War soldier's daughter from Chorley, Lancs, who with her husband in their first



## BERET PROUD DOG

It's not every canine who can boast that they are the proud possessor of a well-earned UN medal and blue beret. But 11-month-old "Private Stevie Alsation" has come a long way since he was adopted as an abandoned mongrel by dog-loving British soldiers in the former Yugoslavia.

These days, duly bathed, shampooed and injected regularly, he is no mere mascot, proving his worth on guard duty at the British Army Signals Headquarters at Divulje Barracks near Split.

Members of the Pioneer Detachment of the Royal Logistic Corps, his current "masters", are hoping that their successors will take equally good care of him when they return from Croatia.

Picture: HQ UKLF Mobile News Team

such venture has published her father's autobiography ten years after he first started committing his memories to paper.

It was on the 40th anniversary of D-Day in 1984 that Mrs Caroline Donalds was inspired to ask her father, Leslie Price, to start writing, especially about his time with the East and South Lancashire Regiments in Western Europe.

Aided by intensive research, she and her husband Andrew, with his historical knowledge, turned the original manuscript into a chronological sequence. Her mother, Joan, contributed to her husband's project by proof-reading the text.

The finished work, *Reflections of War, Peace and Remembrance* (ACD Desktop Publishing) is a 134-page quality softback which will appeal to all who shared Leslie's experiences as well as those with a general interest in the

Second World War. Copies at £7.40 plus £1.25 postage can be obtained by telephoning Caroline or Andrew Donalds on 0257 272574.

### Gulf medals presented

THE GULF War medals of Spr Adrian Morris, who died in February as a result of a traffic accident, have been presented to his mother by the commanding officer of Nottingham-based 73 Engineer Regiment (V), Lt Col Bill Bailey.

Spr Morris was a member of the squad that broke the medium girder bridge building world record in 1991.

A formal presentation of the medals was made in the officers' mess.

## REUNIONS

● **1 Tp, 3 Fd Sqn RE (1989-93):** Anyone who served with 1 Tp between 1989 and 1993, especially in the Gulf War and Bosnia, is asked to contact Sgt Jason Till for details of a proposed reunion. ACIO Cambridge (tel: Camb Mil 765 5030 or 0223 301673).

● **The Light Dragoons Regimental Association:** Second annual reunion dinner-dance, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, September 10. Details from Regimental Secretary, HHQ The Light Dragoons, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE2 4NP (tel: 091-239 3140/3141).

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

● **East Midland Universities OTC Association:** First reunion takes place on October 7 at the Tower of London. Former members of EMU and Nottingham University OTCs are asked to contact the Secretary, TA Centre, Broadgate Beeston, Notts NG9 2HF (tel: 0602 255932).

● **Air Despatch:** Tenth annual Air Despatch reunion takes place on October 8-9 at the Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney. This reunion will have the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem as its theme and will include a drumhead service of commemoration on Sunday, October 9. Former air despatchers who would like to attend should contact WO2 (SSM) P Lovell, 47 Air Despatch Squadron RLC, RAF Lyneham, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 4PZ (tel: Lyneham Mil 6515

or 0249 890381 ext 6515).

● **5 Kings/2 T Force Unit OCA:** Annual meeting takes place at Stoke on Trent on October 25. Details from Hon Secretary, 15 Wedgewood Road, Barlaston, Stoke on Trent ST12 9BB.

● **Small Arms School Corps** and ex-permanent staff, Small Arms Wing, Hythe, grand reunion, Hythe, November 11-13. Details from Fred Gray, Blaenblodau, Dryslwyn, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA32 8RN (tel: 0558 668719).

● **71 Signal Regt LAD REME:** 25th anniversary reunion, TA Centre, Bexleyheath, December 10. Details from SSgt Pallett, LAD REME 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt, Phoenix House, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7QQ (tel: 0322 529225).

## CLOSURES

● **The British Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Gun Club Hill Barracks, Kowloon** will close on October 31. Anyone who has presented property to the mess is asked to contact WO1 (SSM) K G M Adderley c/o APDO, Gun Club Hill Barracks, Kowloon, BFPO 1 (tel: Hong Kong 7322200).

● **British Forces Belize** are drawing down by September. Units or individuals who made presentations to any mess and who require their return are asked to contact units concerned. Packaging and postage to be paid for by unit/individual. Items not claimed by July 31 will be transferred to British Army Training Support Unit, Belize, which is setting up.

## Forgotten Army remembers

FOUR hundred Far East veterans and their wives gathered at York over the last weekend of July to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the pivotal Battle of Kohima.

Dubbed the "forgotten army" because their achievements were so often overshadowed by events nearer home – particularly the D-Day landings – their fortitude and heroism at Kohima proved to be the turning point of the Burma campaign.

The battle marked the end of the Japanese advance into India and was the first significant defeat inflicted by the British soldiers on

the Japanese. Before Kohima they had never lost, after it they never won.

York later became the headquarters of the 2nd Division, from which troops who had endured years of bitter fighting in the Far East were drawn. The Division was part of Gen Slim's 14th Army, and his son, Viscount Slim, attended the commemoration service at York Minster on July 31.

Later the veterans laid wreaths at the Kohima memorial in the Minster gardens before marching past the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, a former commander of the 2nd Division.

Also present was another former commander of the Division, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, now chief of the General Staff.

● **The Kohima Museum** in Imphal Barracks has received official accredited museum status.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Brigadiers** – J G Reith – To MoD, July 20; A Fisher – To Be Dir Catering (A) MoD, Aug 1.

**Colonels** – A W Merrick – To HQ AFCENT, July 18; J R Brown – To DMSD, Aug 1; I S Creamer – To 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, Aug 12; J R Barnes – To HQ ARRC, July 29; J R Hawkins – To DRA, July 25; V J Nicholls – To be Commander SPS HQ UKLF, July 25; R M H Phillip – To CMH, July 25; T P B Hoggarth – To be Comdt HQ A Music, Aug 1; J C L King – To BDS Washington, Aug 1; S G Middleton – To be CO AC Branch REME, Aug 1; D J Ross – To RMAS, Aug 1.

**Lt Col** – S P Cowlam RLC – To be CO 10 Tpt Regt RLC, July 18; P W Middlemiss KOSB – To HQ LANDCENT, July 19; R L Scott-Bowden RS – To be CO 1 RS, July 19; R M Venning RGR – To School of Inf (Warminster) HQ, July 18; R J R West, R Signals – To SHAPE, July 18; A W Russ, R Signals – To be CO 14 Sig Regt (EW), July 20.

**MC Best RAMC** – To 5 Armd Fd Amb, Aug 3; K L Cogbill RAMC – To Primary Health and Dental Care Svcs(G), Aug 1; S J Isher-

wood RADC – To 5 Dent Gp, Aug 4; D S C Gamble RAMC – To BMH Rinteln, Aug 12. D G Bailey RACHD – To HQ EDIST, July 27; C Burt LI – To AWE Aldermaston, July 28; J R Price RACHD – To HQ BF Cyprus, July 28; O D A Smith, Cheshire – To CATC, July 25; D R D'A Willis RGR – To HQ LANDCENT, July 25.

**N Q W Beer QRH** – To be CO QRH, Aug 1; A N Bellamy QRH – To ARFPS (BAE), Aug 2; P J Cable RACHD – To Pool of Chaplains UK, Aug 4; J F Crompton RE – To MoD, Aug 2; T G B Fish, R Signals – To R Signals MRO, Aug 2; A H Johnstone, R Signals – To be CO 15 Sig Regt, Aug 1; A Poole RACHD – To Pool of Chaplains UK, Aug 2; R M M Sykes RA – To be CO 3 RHA, Aug 1; R M Thurston, R Signals – To Royal Sch of Signals, Aug 1; C P Donaghy, R Signals – To HQ Wales R and L Staff, Aug 1.

### RETIREMENTS

**Brigadier** – A F Gordon, late RA, Aug 7.

**Colonels** – C J Constable, late RCT, July 25; M E Mulhern ARRC, late QARANC, Aug 6; L J Master-

## DIARY

### AUGUST

14-15: Army Careers/ESCA U-15 county cricket finals, Aldershot.

### SEPTEMBER

5-11: Farnborough International Airshow.

10-11: First Berwick Military Tattoo in aid of SSAFA, Berwick-Upon-Tweed, 8pm. Tickets from 0289 304493/330733.

18: Winchester Military Society militaria exhibition and fair, The Guildhall, Winchester.

### NOVEMBER

17-19: Army Arts Society Festival, Rheindahlen (entry forms from HIVES).

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

## In a pickle on Somme

JUST before his battalion was due to go over the top in one of the diversionary actions to the north of the Battle of the Somme, the CO of the 2nd/6th Birmingham Territorials was called urgently to the telephone.

It turned out to be an inquiry about how many stone pickle jars had been returned to store in the previous month.

This bizarre sidelight on one of the most tragic episodes in history is told in *More About Birmingham in the First World War*, by J P Lethbridge (Newgate Press), which contains much archival detail about the TA's role in the conflict.

A tenth of the proceeds of the 80-page paperback will go to the Army Benevolent Fund and other

military charities. The book's predecessor last year has raised more than £100 for various good causes. The latest costs £4.95, delivery inclusive, from the author at 245 St Margaret's Road, Ward End, Birmingham B8 2DY.

## Arnhem places still available

NEXT MONTH the 50th anniversary of one of the most daring operations of the Second World War – Operation Market Garden – is commemorated. It involved a massive force of American, Polish and British soldiers landed by parachute and gliders in Holland near Eindhoven, Nijmegen and Arnhem.

British troops from the 1st Airborne Division put up a spirited

fight at Arnhem for several days, but were eventually forced to withdraw across the Rhine. The Allies suffered heavy casualties.

## PILGRIMAGES

● A memorial to **RASC Air Despatchers** who lost their lives while attempting to re-supply Airborne Forces at Arnhem in September 1944 will be unveiled and dedicated at 1600 hours by Gen Sir John Hackett on Sunday, September 18 (not November 18 as previously stated). Location of the memorial is 200m from the entrance to Oosterbeek Cemetery. Details from Maj W M Carlisle RLC on RAF Lyneham 6515 or 0249 890381 ext 6515.

## SEARCHLINE

● **RMP Association (Birmingham Central Branch):** This new West Midlands Branch meets every month at the United Serviceman's Club, Gough Street, Birmingham. Details from Hon Secretary John Oliver, 46 St Mary's Road, Harbourne, Birmingham B17 0HA (tel: 021-427 8008).

● Anyone who remembers **Pte Arthur (Dusty) Miller**, 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regt, killed in Normandy and buried at Ranville, is asked to contact his daughter, Mrs K Clarke, 37 Stradbroke Avenue, St George, Bristol BS5 8PJ (tel: 0272 478616).

● R Williams wishes to hear from **David William Graham Gilmour** who served at Munster, Germany (1970-71) and Tidworth (July-August 1972). Replies to P O Box 218, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3FE.

fight at Arnhem for several days, but were eventually forced to withdraw across the Rhine. The Allies suffered heavy casualties.

Commemorative events to mark the anniversary include a parachute drop by British paratroopers, a march past at Arnhem Town Hall, and a major memorial service at the Oosterbeek war cemetery, where local children traditionally lay flowers on the graves.

A Hull-based company still has seats available on coach tours timed to coincide with the anniversary events. Readers wishing to book seats on the tours should contact tour director, Barry Matthews, immediately on 0482 804409 or fax their requirements to 0482 80917. Further details can be obtained by writing to Galina International Battlefield Tours, 711 Beverley High Road, Hull HU6 7JN.



## RGBW badge: RSM's view

AS THE last RSM of the Glosters and now proudly the first RSM of 1 RGBW, I find it disappointing that while Mr H L King can state his expertise in British cap badges he shows a remarkable lack of understanding for the sensitivities involved in their design (*Soldier*, July 11, August 8).

Soldiers, very old and very new, from both former regiments along with civilian art experts and other independent parties, assisted and advised on the design of the FRONT badge now proudly worn by many.

Had Mr King given his views prior to a final decision being made I might have sympathised in some way. Still, the best boxers have always sat outside the ring. — **WO1 I J Wood, RSM The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, Catterick.**

## No Indians with Chindits

CONGRATULATIONS on the excellent article and photographs commemorating the Chindit operations.

It may seem churlish to point out a mistake but British, Gurkhas and West Africans (Nigerians) marched with the Special Forces into Burma but no Indian troops.

Wingate had his reasons, I'm told, but I will not elaborate in this short letter. — **Brig (Retd) E D Smith, Sidmouth, Devon.**

## We need a proper defence review

AS PART of Front Line First it was announced that a Joint Rapid Deployment Force is to be formed for intervention world-wide. On the surface this appears to be marvellous. The reality is somewhat different.

The commando, airborne and airmobile units allocated to the new force are already tasked for roles in Europe with

## HOW A REGIMENTAL BADGE IS CREATED

From Sir Conrad Swan  
Garter Principal King of Arms

WITH REGARD to the correspondence about the 1 RGBW head-dress badge, it occurs to me that it will interest your readers to know the procedure by which a regimental badge comes into existence.

At the outset a regiment chooses the design for its own badge. In the case of an amal-

gamated regiment, agreement will be reached by the two or more regiments concerned.

The agreed design is then sent to the Inspector of Regimental Colours to ensure one thing and one thing only: that the proposed badge is heraldically technically correct. He is not required to give his personal opinion of the design submitted.

If found technically correct,

the Inspector then has a painting of the badge prepared at the College of Arms, which is submitted to Her Majesty the Queen for her approval.

The manufacture of the badge is the responsibility of the Director of Clothing and Textiles.

I am authorised by the directorate to say that the new anodized aluminium badges have been interpreted and at

every stage of their manufacture the regiment concerned is consulted.

I was pleased to note that your correspondent [Hugh L. King July 11] takes an interest in these important matters. — **Conrad Swan, Garter Principal King of Arms, Inspector of Regimental Colours, College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BT.**

## Truth about homelessness among ex-Service people

THE report on homeless ex-Servicemen and women, *Falling Out*, commissioned by the housing charity Crisis, alleges that people who have left the Armed Forces are more likely than their civilian counterparts to:

- Sleep rough;
- Spend longer in temporary accommodation;
- Have been homeless for many years;
- Have difficulty in settling into the civilian world;
- Find the quality of advice and help available to them to be low.

It also calls for empty MoD housing stock to be used to provide accommodation for these homeless people.

These are claims that are, apparently, supported by statistical evidence and personal accounts, and they need to be examined closely.

Of course, there are people in all walks of life who find themselves without a roof over their heads for a wide variety of

reasons, and who need help.

Some of these people will have served in the Armed Forces. But more than four-and-a-half million people who are still living have served in the Armed Forces, not including National Service, and that is a very large number out of which to interview just 73 (of whom 21 per cent had been in the Merchant Navy).

Half the interviewees had left the forces more than 20 years ago, while only 15 per cent had left within the last ten years.

A quarter of the interviewees were over 60 years old, while only 40 per cent were under 50. This is hardly representative of the vast majority of Service leavers today!

A large majority of those interviewed said that they had not wanted any help to find a home. Sadly, it seems that almost all homeless ex-Service people had a home when they left the Service, but then lost it due to divorce, death or other

personal circumstances.

Another claim in the report is that homeless ex-Service people have less help available to them than others in the community.

This could not be further from the truth, which is that, as well as all the civilian agencies and charities, an ill or homeless ex-Service person has a number of Service charities willing and able to help.

Among these is The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres where Crisis took the BBC to find a homeless ex-Serviceman for a programme about the report.

It must be remembered that there are many people and organisations which would like to get their hands on empty quarters.

But many of these houses are waiting for occupants, being refurbished or, in some cases, are providing temporary accommodation for families waiting to move elsewhere. Some are in places where there are few job opportunities, and only a very few can provide rooms for single people.

In any case, no employer can possibly provide guaranteed housing for life for all its former employees.

This is the real picture, and it is very different from the one presented by Crisis. Only a very few of the 30,000 people who leave the Services each year ever suffer homelessness. For those who do, the Service charities, which are hardly mentioned in the report, are ready to help.

Enough is enough. The Government cannot continue to squeeze a quart from a pint pot by heaping additional burdens on its dwindling and overstretched armed forces.

A proper defence review should be held to determine long-term aims with any commitments matched to the men and material available. — **R A Hamilton, Stockport.**

The streets of Britain are not filled with destitute, recent ex-Servicemen; our leavers are far too able and successful for that to be the case. — **Brig Gage Williams, Director Resettlement, Ministry of Defence.**

## Who would warrant this paper snub?

I AM A WO2 in the Royal Artillery and I was recently called down to my documents office in order to sign for my Royal Warrant. This is a document that I had looked forward to receiving, which, after all, is not held by everybody and takes some years of service to acquire.

At first sight of these so-called warrants, my colleagues and I thought that there must have been some mistake and we had received copies of the real documents that were soon to follow.

The piece of paper that I held in my hand was of poor quality, the text was produced on a computer with a distinctly dodgy printer ribbon and the seal that was, in years gone by, embossed, was merely printed upon the paper as though it had been stamped. In short, it was a disappointment and a let down.

We immediately asked our



"Yes, yes... now it's only the tea... but before we know it it'll be the chocolate biscuits... and, what next I ask? Just how can we keep Defence costs under control with such pressures, Mrs Higgins?"

documents clerk to ring the Royal Artillery Manning and Records Office and ask if these really were the "Royal Warrants" that we had been expecting. We were informed that they were now the standard warrant for warrant officers promoted after October 1992 and were produced on computers by MoD.

My colleagues and I were outraged that we should be given such a poor piece of paper which is supposedly a "Royal Warrant" issued to us by the Secretary of State for Defence on behalf of the Queen.

At first it may seem a little churlish that I should be complaining about what is essentially just a piece of paper. Let me put it into perspective. If I, as a warrant officer of a JNCO leadership course, were asked to produce a certificate for those participating and could not do better than the quality

of this new warrant then I would probably receive a kick up the backside, and deserve it!

I have seen soldiers receive a better quality certificate for a basic canoeing or driving course and every year thousands of school leavers walk away with certificates of education that put this warrant to shame.

The MoD expects the best from warrant officers, and rightly so, therefore isn't it reasonable for us to expect a better symbol of our rank and achievement than this sorry excuse for a Royal Warrant?

If any other warrant officers feel the same as I do, please make a noise about it or write to me.

I would also be interested to find out what the other corps feel about this issue. — **WO2 (SMIG) A J Kerby, Projects Wing, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts.**

## Tribute to TA's 'old and bold'

LT COL Charles Jackman, commanding officer of 5 Territorial Army Training Regiment RLC, believes the days of the "old and bold" spending their last few years looking after the TA are a thing of the past (*Soldier*, July 25).

But without the hard work and time put in by the "old and bold", the Territorial Service he has inherited might not have been so professional.

I did my 22 and spent some 17 years with 5 and 7 Royal Anglians and then the Army Catering Corps CVHQ before I retired.

I met and served with many dedicated men and women who gave a lot to the Reserve Services after a Regular career and I know that those who will follow on will also give of their best.

Good luck to them all and their oft-forgotten families who support them in their Volunteer work. — **Ken Wilson, Leicester.**

## Old soldier's seven up

YOUR article about Maj Ken Smith's seven cap badges (*People*, July 25) prompts me to write with my own record.

I served in seven regiments or corps — Suffolks Oct 1940–Oct 1942; R Tanks Oct 42–Oct 43; Wiltshire Oct 43–Jan 44; 1/5 Queens Jan 44–Oct 45; 4 KLSI Oct 45–Jan 47; 1 Norfolk Jan 47–Nov 47; RASC Jan 48–Dec 62.

During that time I wore six different types of headdress — the side cap, black beret (RTR), large khaki beret, small khaki beret, blue beret and No 1 peak cap.

I had two numbers: on joining in 1940 a regimental number, 5835361, and on re-enlisting in 1948 an Army number 21183113.

I was demobbed as an infantry sergeant in November 1947, joined the RASC as a private in January 1948 and retired as a WO2 (SQMS) in December 1962. — **A T Webb, Colchester.**



## Bizarre truth about Rudolph Hess

HITLER's deputy, Rudolph Hess, flew to this country in May 1941 to negotiate a peace plan with the British Government.

But instead of talking to the top people of the day he became a PoW and then, as a war criminal, was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Nuremberg Trials. He died in Spandau prison, Berlin, in 1987, aged 93.

How he died became a matter of fierce argument, with some claiming he was murdered, but the official version is that he killed himself with a piece of wire flex in his garden summer house in Spandau.

Whatever the truth, Lt Col (Retd) Tony Le Tissier, who was the last British governor of the prison, firmly rejects in *Farewell to Spandau* any suggestion that Hess died in any way other than by his own hand. He also confirms that the dead man was Hess and not an impostor, as was also claimed.

This is a bizarre story about an extraordinary man who spent half of his life in captivity, the last 20 years as the sole prisoner in Spandau (which was eventually demolished to become a shopping centre).

And it cost a fortune to keep him there. The bill for 1986, the last full year of operation, was DM1,410,000, plus the four powers' costs of providing governors, interpreters, wardens and guards.

Hess was an expensive item which, had the Russians had their way at Nuremberg, would never have been incurred. They wanted him hanged along with other Nazi war criminals, but were outvoted.

In Spandau, Hess, according to former RMP officer Le Tissier, "was probably receiving far more care and attention than the majority of people of his own age and... he was still able to maintain his personal dignity." - JM

**Farewell to Spandau** by Tony Le Tissier. Ashford, Buchan & Enright, hardback, £14.95.

## MPs wore red berets at Arnhem

THE 1st Airborne Division Provost Company, Corps of Military Police, existed for about 1,000 days - about the same time it took authors Jack Turnbull and John Hamblett to research and produce *The Pegasus Patrol*.

Their story, never related in

this form before, tells of a company of Redcaps who swapped their familiar scarlet peaked headgear for the red berets of the 1st Airborne Division to take part in the battle for Arnhem almost 50 years ago.

Their role in Operation Market Garden was to guard

prisoners in the town's main police station. But such were the circumstances of that ill-fated battle that they were forced into the roles of infantrymen. The 71 military coppers, armed only with Sten guns and pistols, found themselves defending the station

against battle-hardened SS troops - and not old men and boys as they had been led to believe. They lasted just two days before being overrun.

A few escaped and survived and it is their stories that Turnbull and Hamblett, both ex-Redcaps, have collated with

archive material and company photographs for this book.

Arnhem was not the company's only battleground. It served with the 1st Airborne in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Norway and Denmark.

Individual heroism shown by the MPs who fought alongside

the Red Berets shines throughout this book. - JM

**The Pegasus Patrol** by Jack Turnbull and John Hamblett. Available from J. Turnbull, 15 Dale Road, Marple, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 6EZ. Price £9.99 plus £1.50.

# Hero of the River Kwai

## Spicy story of sex and soldiers

OLIVER Cromwell showed how to form an efficient fighting force when he created his New Model Army for the larger campaigns of the Civil War.

After the Restoration, Charles II, aided by General George Monck, Duke of Albermarle, built on Cromwell's ideas and established a small standing force, which was the beginning of the modern British Army, later to expand under James II and William III.

*Redcoats and Courtesans*, while not a history of the Army, does tell of its beginnings and of the political plotting and manipulation, through sexual diplomacy, by the mistresses of the leaders of the day.

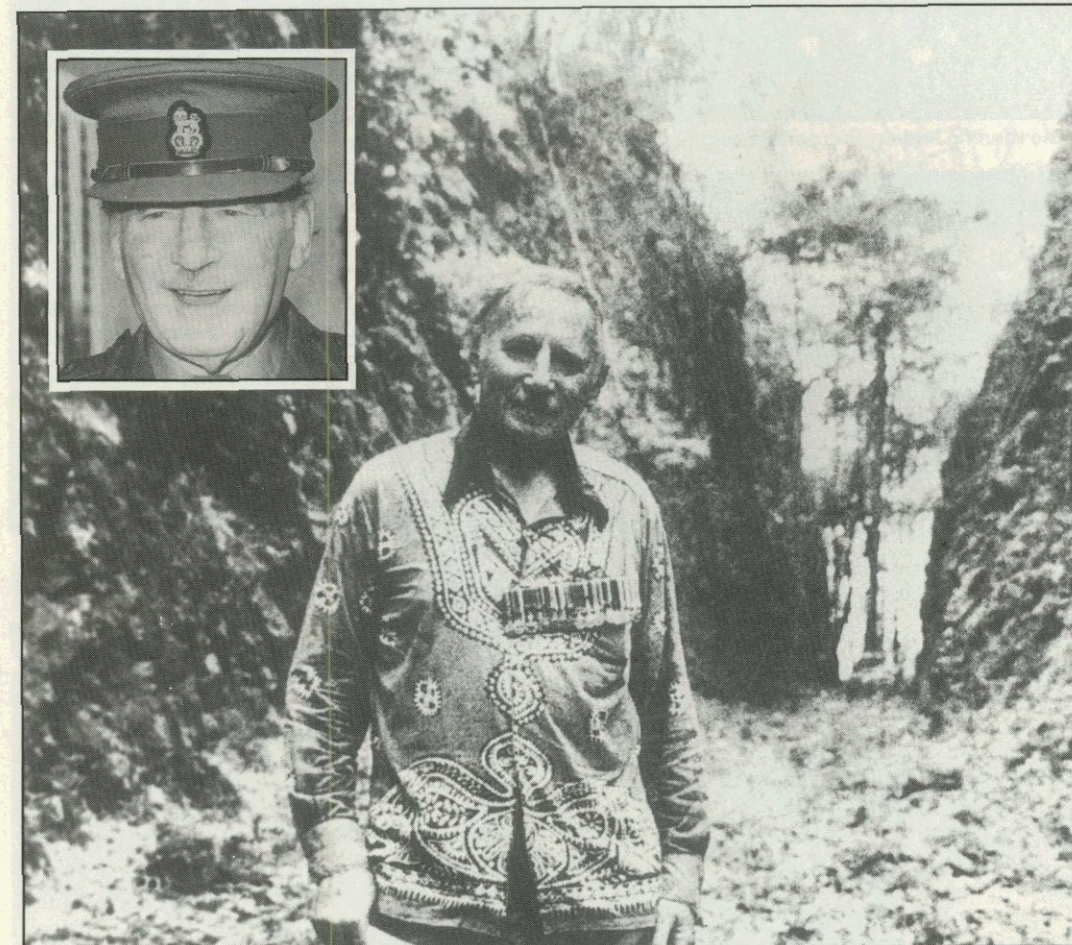
Until James II the Army was a force of about 6,000 paid for by the King for his protection. But between 1661 and 1681 a number of new regiments were formed including the Life Guards, the Royal Horse Guards (Blues), the Grenadiers and Coldstream, and the Scots Dragoons, so creating the basis of a standing army.

By the time of the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 another 40 or so regiments had been formed under James and William III.

According to author Noel St John Williams, a former Regular Army officer of the Sherwood Foresters, the Army of today owes James a debt of gratitude, since he expanded his force at a tremendous rate from 1685 to 1688, setting it on a really firm base.

Col Williams spins a good, spicy yarn throughout, creating a readable story even for those with minimal interest. - JM

**Redcoats and Courtesans** by Noel St John Williams. Brassey's, hardback, £17.95.



'Weary' Dunlop on his return on Anzac Day 1991 to the notorious Hellfire Pass, where the Railway of Death once ran. Inset: On Anzac Day 1993, the year of his death. Pictures from *Weary*

in much-needed drugs for Weary's hospitals - and batteries for the clandestine "canaries" (wireless sets). Had he been rumbled, he would certainly have been beheaded. After the war Boon Pong was appointed MBE, at Weary's instigation.

It was the American atom-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that saved Weary and his skin-and-bone fellow prisoners from almost certain death. The Japs had promised that if there were any Allied attempt to invade and release them they would be massacred by the machine-gun posts set up around the camps.

"Oh incredible day!" scribbled Weary in his diary on August 15, 1945, when the Jap commandant saluted and said "You are in charge now."

Evacuated to Australia, honoured with a knighthood in 1969, Weary never forgot those who had endured the horrors of the jungle camps, dedicating himself to their welfare for the rest of his life.

He became President of the Scottish Far Eastern Prisoners of War Association, and Honorary Fellow of the Imperial College and of the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh).

When he died in July 1993 (just short of his 86th birthday)

with numerous ex-PoWs in England and Australia. The result makes absorbing, and at times horrifying, reading.

But why "Weary"? We learn that he was thus dubbed by his fellow medical students in Melbourne when his surname was linked with Dunlop tyres - by extension, "tires"! A less apt nickname for the athletic, rugger-playing youth could not have been devised, yet it stuck for the rest of his life.

After graduating FRCS in London, on the outbreak of war he was commissioned captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps and served in Palestine, Greece, Crete and North Africa. In 1942 he was posted to Java, to be captured on the Japanese invasion.

Shipped to Singapore and thence to the jungle camps along the River Kwai, he then displayed the heroic qualities

which earned him the devotion of all who knew him, and even esteem from his captors.

Though frequently smitten with malaria, dysentery and jungle ulcers, he organised and administered the makeshift "hospital" camps and performed operations with incredibly primitive resources.

Periodically he was savagely beaten up by the Japanese for refusing to allow sick and maimed PoWs to be sent out on working parties.

On one occasion he came close to a barbarous execution. Bound to a tree, he was faced by four grinning Korean guards with fixed bayonets. The Jap officer gave him 30 seconds to reveal the whereabouts of a secret wireless set.

He remained silent, vowing that he would not cry out when the bayonets plunged into him. Then at the last moment the officer ordered him to be untied. "You must suffer more punishment before you die."

He did, confined in a tiny cage where he could only squat cross-legged. With typical unpredictability, on release he was given a glass of beer and a cigarette by the same officer. "Kurnel Dunroppo" was respected as "No 1 Doctor".

Among Weary's patients was a Maj E W Swanton, later to become well known as *The Daily Telegraph's* cricket correspondent. And there was the talented young artist named Jack Chalker, gunner in the Royal Artillery, who was recruited by Weary to depict the stark details of operations, flesh-devouring ulcers and amputations. Chalker's own book, *Burma Railway Artist*, was recently reviewed in these columns (*Soldier*, May 16).

Due tribute is paid to the courageous Thai merchant, Boon Pong, who under cover of ferrying up supplies (for Japs as well as prisoners) smuggled

## War of words

other events, he probably saw more of the war than most of those engaged in the actual fighting.

His story is a straightforward, yet exciting account of a reporter at war, interspersed with amusing recollections, newspaper cuttings and letters.

Brought up in a strict chapel household, he initially harboured pacifist tendencies, but life as a "warco" obviously changed those early inclinations. At least he was able to console himself with the thought that he didn't have to fire a gun. - JM

**War Correspondent** by Michael Moynihan. Leo Cooper, hardback, £14.95.

MICHAEL Moynihan's *War Correspondent* tells of his reporting experiences with the Army, Navy and Air Force in the 1939-45 war.

Moynihan was sent by his editor to fly with the RAF. He was medically Grade Three. Not fit enough to fight, but fit enough to fly.

A staffer on the old *News Chronicle*, his military experience, until this appointment, was limited to a spell in the Home Guard, but this move, made just before D-Day, gave him the distinction of being the youngest British war correspondent of the time.

He was accredited to the 2nd Tactical Air Force, the American 9th Army during the Battle of the Bulge and the British Pacific Fleet.

Since he flew on bombing raids, covered the battle of Arnhem from the air and filed the first despatch from Hiroshima, among many



## Runners and riders give Spandau a Rosy feeling

**EXERCISE** Running Rose – a run-and-cycle ride by soldiers from the **1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment** from Germany to Lancashire – was given an amicable send-off when letters of friendship from the battalion's six Freedom towns in Lancashire were handed to Spandau's Bürgermeister, Sigurd Hauff, by Maj Neil Urquhart.

To mark the occasion – at which reciprocal letters were received by the soldiers to deliver to the Lancashire towns – a cheque for charity, raised by **B Company**, and a bandstand banner were presented by the battalion's commanding officer, Lt Col Grahame Flood.



The running and cycling parties with Sigurd Hauff before they set out from Spandau

## Yeomanry show they are in peak condition

AS part of their 200th anniversary Year of the Yeomanry fund-raising activities, organisers from **307 (South Notts Hussars Yeomanry) Battery, The Royal Horse Artillery**, staged a new event which looks set to have Territorial Army units battling for honours in years to come.

The Fast Rock Challenge is a 24-hour scramble to the top of the UK's three highest mountains.

Six teams from all over the country set off on a gruelling 20km trek from Fort William and over Ben Nevis, followed by an "agonising" 10km trek over England's Scafell Pike.

Final stage – the most difficult part – was a race over Snowdon and on to Caernarvon.

More than £5,000 should eventually be raised for the Macmillan cancer relief charity by the race, won by Nottingham A team in an overall time of just under eight hours, followed by Fife-based C



Squadron, The Scottish Yeomanry, who finished in 9hr 24min, and Nottingham B.

Other units taking part were 201 Battery, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Yeomanry, HQ Battery, 100 Regiment, Royal Artillery and 94 Berkshire Yeomanry Signal Squadron.

Throwing down the gauntlet, Sgt Maj Mike O'Driscoll, of the 307 SNH – who master-minded the event – said: "Next

year we hope to run the event again on July 8 and 9. We challenge any TA unit to try and take the trophy from us."

On an "enjoyable and yet slightly poignant occasion", the Wives' Club of **1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders** raised £2,700 in aid of the Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital by holding a charity weekend at the battalion's

Taking a short cut down from the observation platform of Blackpool's newly-painted "golden" tower in the name of charity were 42 people, including 29 soldiers from the 4th Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, joined by four Regulars. Apart from swelling the coffers of the Army Benevolent Fund by more than £3,000 for its 50th anniversary appeal, the 280ft descent served as both an ideal recruiting opportunity and a chance for the volunteers to do some "high profile" adventure training

Dreghorn barracks. The fund-raising spree – attended by some of the nurses from the hospital – included a tug-of-war between the wives and the nurses (won by the wives), an assault course competition (which the nurses won), a bed push and a children's swim.

Sadly, this was the last time the QO Hldrs Wives' Club will organise anything as a group prior to the amalgamation of the regiment with the Gordons in September.

A party of 12 children from the Variety Club Children's Charity were the guests of the **Defence Animal Centre**, Melton Mowbray, where they watched a number of dog handlers – including some from the Services and the MoD police – tackle an arduous 6km cross-country obstacle course.

The party, escorted by Sgt "Trish" Clegg, also saw the Royal Army Veterinary Corps dog display team in action and Equine Division putting mili-

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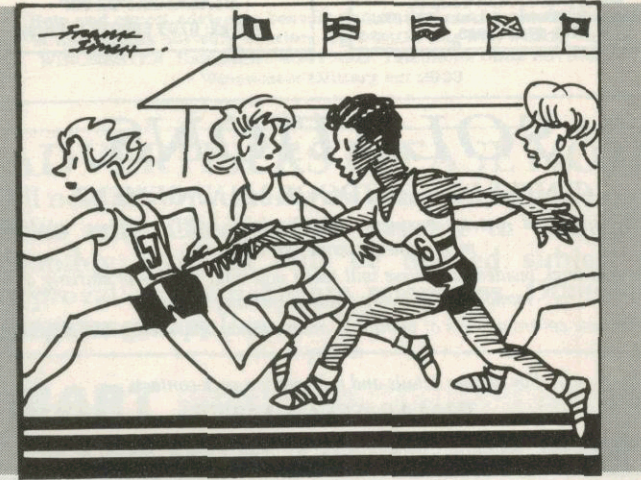
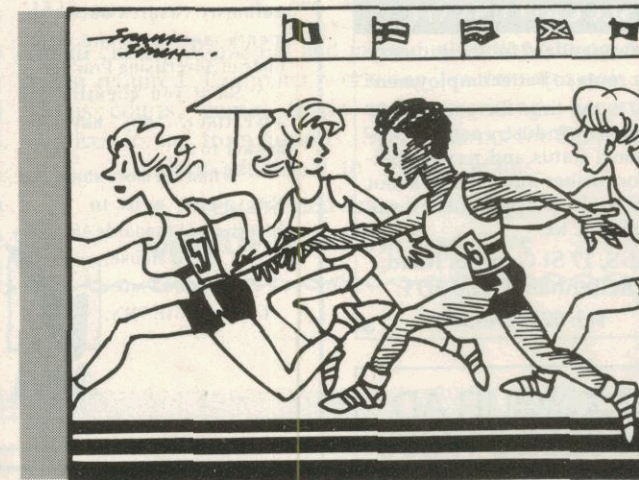
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The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 593, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by September 9. Do not include anything

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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the October 3 issue.



Competition No 590: Congratulations to Mrs J Field, of Margate, Kent, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs E Walton, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, and Mrs J Yates, of Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

## Posties take the strain



It's uphill work for members of the Postal and Courier Depot, Royal Logistic Corps, as they pull a 7 ton truck along part of the route from RAF Northolt the 15 miles to the military airport at Waterbeach. But it was all in the cause of charity – in their case almost £1,000 for the Northwich Park Hospital Children's Appeal. There was one hitch: police advised against ending the trip at their Mill Hill base

tary horses through their paces.

Roger Mellie's Men – alias Sgt Duncan Ledger, LCpls Graham Eggleton and Shane Cumberlin and Cpl Steve Jones – from the **College of Military Education and Training Services (METS)** at Wilton Park were first home in the annual charity stretcher race through Beaconsfield,

Bucks. The 49 teams ran between the town's eight pubs to raise money for a new St John Ambulance HQ.

Members of Hameln-based **Support Troop, 37 Field Squadron, 35 Engineer Regiment**, led Cpl "Nellie" Nelson, lent a hand to a local forest manager by re-laying and upgrading a forest track.

The project, which involved using graders and other equipment to completely transform more than 700m of track, proved invaluable training for the sappers as well as providing an excellent example of Anglo-German co-operation.

More than 100 green-minded boy and girl cadets from the **Derbyshire Cadet**

**Battalion's D Company** helped to clear a six-mile stretch of the River Derwent. Divided into three working parties, they treated the two-day task as a military operation, under the leadership of company commander Capt Anne-Marie Porter-Parr.

Proving that Naafi patrons have hearts of gold are the British Servicemen and women from around the world who recently enabled Naafi to hand over more than £21,000 raised this year for sick children.

The common link for these magnanimous souls is the purchase of the Variety Club Children's Charity "gold hearts" from Naafi shops as far apart as the Falklands and Hong Kong.

A 12-man team from **259 Signal Squadron** ran from Episkopi to Dhekelia in a record time of 7hr 4min 50sec, amassing £100 for Limassol's Saint Stefanos Home in the process. Maj Gary Mason from Episkopi Garrison handed over the cheque.



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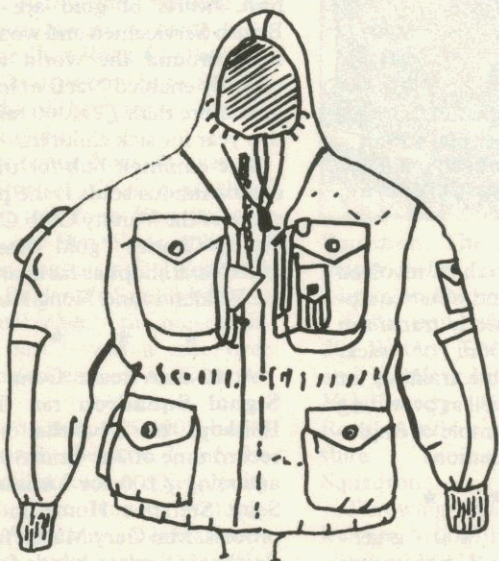


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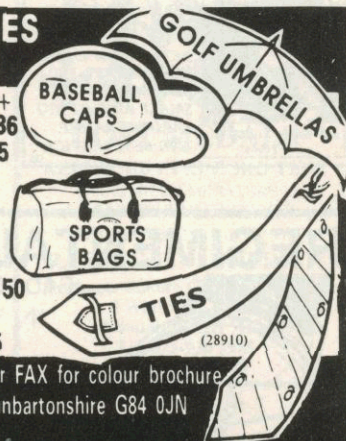
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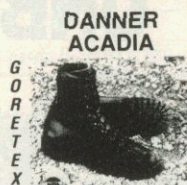
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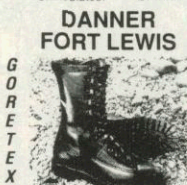


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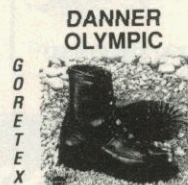
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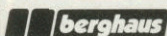
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**REPLIES.** To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY** written in the **TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8"x4" and should only contain a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and **large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.**

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**Geordie lass, 27, 5'7"**, brown hair and blue eyes. Likes swimming, walking, cinema, pubs, clubs, craftwork and animals. Would like pen pal 25-35 with good sense of humour. **P01**

17/94

**Donna, 26**, blonde hair, blue eyes, divorced with two young children. Many interests and hobbies. Seeks male soldier pen friends, 28-40, to put humour back into life. Photo appreciated. **P02**

17/94

**Nicola, 23, 5'4"** with blonde hair. Interests include: travelling, music and horse-riding. I have my own house and enjoy receiving letters. If you're 25-30 write today. **P03**

17/94

**Debbie, 26, 5'** with ginger and blonde hair. I have three children and would love to hear from soldiers anywhere. **P04**

17/94

**Slim, attractive**, stylish redhead, very young 45. I'm divorced with two children and would like to write to an officer, home or abroad. Photo appreciated - returned. **ALA. P05**

17/94

**Hi there soldier boy.** I'm Debbie, 21 and a very lively, cuddly brunette. I work as a care assistant and like dancing, travelling and eating out. **P06**

17/94

**Natalie, 22, 5'2"** with brown eyes and long, curly brown hair. I like going out and having a good time. I'd love to have a soldier to write to, photo please. **P07**

17/94

**I'm Sarah, 5'6"**, long hair and blue eyes. I'm feeling a bit lonely at the moment so I'd like someone to cheer me up. I love travelling and foreign foods. **P08**

17/94

**Attractive lady, 27, 5'8"**, single, dark hair and big blue eyes. Is there a single soldier out there who would like letters from me? **P09**

17/94

**I'm Suzanne, 5'**, slim, with fair hair and blue eyes. I'm a single, young looking 31-year-old secretary. I'm a compulsive writer looking for pen friends. I like sports, music, theatre and cinema. **ALA. P10**

17/94

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17/94

**Sam, 18, 5'4"**, brown hair and blue eyes. I'm a fun loving football fan who also likes music and has a good sense of humour. If you're single and 19-24 write today. Photo appreciated. **P12**

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**Michelle, 25, 5'2"**, blue eyes and brown hair. I like cinema, theatre, eating out, reading, travelling and making new friends. I'd like pen pals any age, anywhere. **P14**

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**Andrea, 24, 5'4"**, slim with brown hair. I'm a single, quiet person and my interests include: step aerobics, swimming, walking, cinema, travel abroad and reading. I would like pen pals 27-35. **ALA. P15**

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## Notices

### CHARITY COMMISSION

Charities of the Former 9th (Territorial) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment (Royal Sussex)

Scheme for the amendment of a previous Scheme

Ref: RLB-150709-SC (RB 270)

The Charity Commissioners have made an order establishing a Scheme for this and other purposes. Copies can be obtained by written request to the Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting reference above, and may be seen at that address or within one month from today at 2 Ryecroft Meadow, Mannings Heath, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 6JN.

D7

### CHARITY COMMISSION

Charities for the benefit of the 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, the former York and Lancaster Regiment and other former units

Ref: RLB-138176-SC-RB38

The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales propose to make an Order establishing a Scheme for this and other purposes. Any objection to the proposed Scheme or suggestions for modifying it should be sent in writing within one month from the date of this notice to the Secretary, Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the reference above.

Copies of the proposed Scheme will be supplied on written request to the Charity Commissioners (quoting the reference above) and may also be seen at their office or at the following address: RHQ, The York & Lancaster Regiment, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield S10 3EU.

D7

### CHARITY COMMISSION

Brandwood Trust

Scheme for the regulation of the Charity

Ref: NR-220433A/1-SC

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this Charity. Copies can be obtained from them at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL (Ref: NR-220433A/1-SC).

D7

### CHARITY COMMISSION

3rd and 4th Battalions, The Royal Regiment of Wales

Scheme for the amalgamation of the Charities  
Ref: RLB-155836-SC (RB 307371)

The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales give notice that they have made an Order establishing a Scheme for this and other purposes.

Copies of the Scheme will be supplied on written request to the Secretary, Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL (quoting the reference above) and may also be seen at that address or at the following address: Regimental Administrative Office, 2 RRW, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE.

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## Hong Kong whitewash for champion Ginge

SGT Ginge Whiteman retained his British Forces Hong Kong squash title by defeating WO Tim Webb of the Royal Navy in the final at the Hong Kong SRA Centre.

The two met in the final last year with the same result.

What was already likely to be a warm competition became even more so when the air conditioning plant broke down.

In the first match, Cpl Vince Wong (HKMSC) caused a surprise by beating RAF wife Mrs Eunice Bond, the fourth seed and a Hong Kong representative player. Wong lost 3-0 to Whiteman in the semi-finals

### REPEAT WIN OVER HIS NAVY RIVAL

scoring only two points.

In fact, Whiteman did not drop a single point in his first two matches. The other seeded players – Webb and Sgt Niermal (QG Sigs) – both reached the semis, the former winning 3-1.

Defending champion Tim Webb and Mrs Bond contested the final of the veterans' competition, with the former winning in straight games.

Having been eliminated in the first round of the open competition, Eunice Bond was also eligible for the plate event. She reached the final against Cpl Amrit (QG Sigs) but had to retire when trailing 2-0 because of dehydration. The match took place only ten minutes after her veterans' final and was her seventh match of the championships.

● The Army Inter-Corps squash tournament will be at Sindlesham on November 28-30 and the Army individual championships at Winchester on January 25-27.

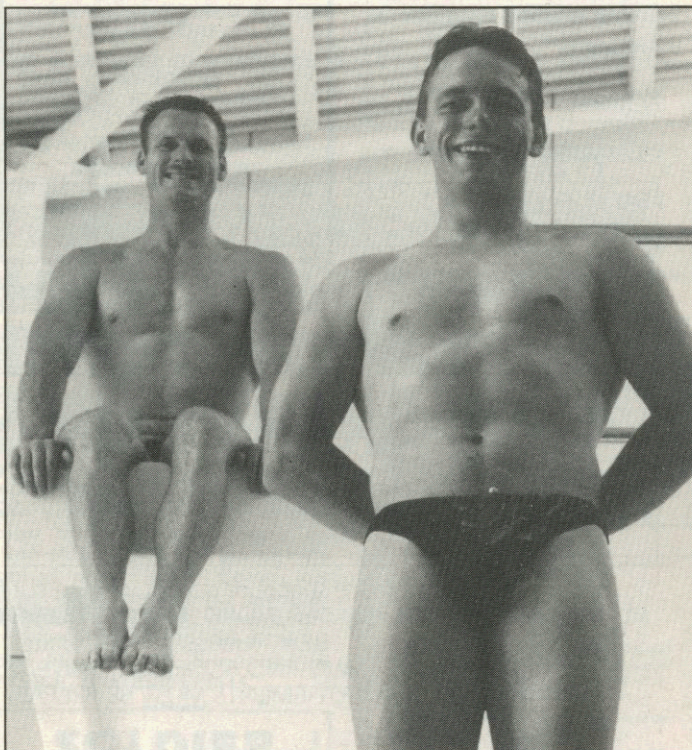
### Squash gets sponsorship cash boost

A MAJOR drive to promote Army squash at grass roots level has received a considerable boost with the news that Charles Russell (Solicitors) of Swindon are to provide sponsorship worth £5,000.

And by taking advantage of the government's Sports-match scheme, the ASRA will be able to double the sponsorship to £10,000.



WO2 Mike Kempson



Army diving champions Sgt (SI) Amos Greenfield and ATpr Neil Wilson, who took up the sport just four years ago

go out at the top. His record is impressive: 17 men's Inter-Services diving championships in 22 years and 13 for the

Army women. Waiting in the wings to take over after the Inter-Services is Sgt Greenfield.

## Sappers on top form in water

MAJOR unit champions at the Army team swimming championships staged at Sandhurst and Guildford were 21 Engr Regt, with 22 Engr Regt second and RMAS third.

The minor honours went to 22 Fd Hosp RAMC, with 280 (UK) Sig Sqn second and Cambridge Military Hospital third.

RMA Sandhurst won the women's competition ahead of Arborfield Garrison and Women's Services, Northern Ireland.

The water polo competition was won by 36 Engr Regt, the UK champions. They beat 7 Sig Regt 10-8 in the semi-finals and 3 RSME Regt 19-4 in the final.

#### Individual winners

##### Men:

100m freestyle – Pte Harvey (22 Fd Hosp) 52.40sec. 100m backstroke – Spr Smith (22 Engr) 1min 3.20sec. 100m breaststroke – Lt Martin (22 Engr) 1:10.80. 100m butterfly – Spr Smith (22 Engr) 58.51sec.

200m freestyle – Spr Smith (22 Engr) 1:57.43. 200m breaststroke – LCpl Morgan (21 Engr) 2:36.87. 400m freestyle – Spr Smith (22 Engr) 4:06.71. 800m freestyle – Spr Smith (22 Engr) 8:10.56.

4x66 ind medley – Spr Smith (22 Engr) 3:04.11. Short sprint – Pte Harvey (22 Fd Hosp) 33.14sec.

##### Women:

100m freestyle – Sig Fursman (241 Sig Sqn) 1:06.20. 100m breaststroke – OCdt Bassingham (RMAS) 1:12.57 (new record). 100m backstroke – Sig Mason (251 Sig Sqn) 1:08.84. 100m butterfly – Capt McLay (RMAS) 1:14.44.

200yds freestyle – SSgt Watts (3 Dent Gp) 2:34.21. 200yds breaststroke – OCdt Bassingham (RMAS) 2:39.41 (new record).

4x33 ind medley – OCdt Bassingham (RMAS) 1:35.19. Short sprint – Sig Fursman (241 Sig Sqn) 18.58.

### Referees' course at Arborfield

A BASIC football referee course is being held at SEE Arborfield from September 19-22. A few places are still available. Details from SSgt M Beverley on Didcot Mil (723) 3216.

## NI loggies win Cheviot fell climb

A THREE-MAN team from 21 Logistic Support Regiment RLC based in Northern Ireland won the 1994 Northumberland Cheviot 2000 fell race, the first Army unit to do so since the annual 22-mile event was first run over the 2,000ft-high Cheviots in 1986.

More than 40 Army teams were among the 159 entries from the police, Regular and Territorial Armies.

Despite starting well back in the field, a breakaway group from 21 Log Spt Regt (Capt Alistair Hornsby, SSgt Kenny Young and Cpl Toddy Todd), 2 RRF, ITN Ousten and ATR

Bassingbourn, overhauled the front-runners, with the loggies crossing the line first after catching Warwickshire Police team with a mile to go.

The loggies finished in 4hr 48min, just six minutes outside the course record. Last year 21 Log Spt Regt were fourth.



Col Robin Field-Smith presents the Army Cup tennis trophy to Lt Col Peter Prentis, RSU team captain

## Wood leads vets' national challenge as illness strikes

INJURY prevented Lt Col Glen Grant from defending his 800m and 1,500m veteran titles at the British championships at Bedford, while illness destroyed Sgt Bill Bailey's hopes in the 5,000m.

Six Army athletes took part, the most successful being Capt Jim Wood (3 CTT) who narrowly missed a silver medal in the 1,500m but went away with a well deserved bronze.

SSgt Betty Gash (RMAS), new to veteran ranks, ran very well to finish fourth in the women's 5,000m. She is the Southern Counties W35 1,500m champion.

Sgt Jeff Baker (ACIO Peterborough) finished a creditable seventh in a high class M40 5,000m, posting a vets' personal best in sweltering heat. Capt Peter Marsh (SDP En Div), despite feeling off-colour, ran into tenth position in the same

race.

Another newcomer, Capt Tony Fryer (HQ RC TG Centre), tackled the 3,000m steeplechase for the first time and gained a creditable sixth place.

Capt Terry Hall (HQ London District) had a busy weekend, producing good results in all his events. He was fifth in the high jump, long jump and triple jump, and seventh in the 110m hurdles and the 400m hurdles.

Overall standard of the championships was extremely high and the achievements of the Army veterans should not be underestimated.

Any track or field athlete (men 40 plus, women 30 plus) interested in future events should contact team manager Capt Terry Hall on London District Mil (763) 8712 or fax 8820.

## RSU keep cup

RHEINDAHLEN Support Unit (RSU) retained the Army Cup for the Command Inter-Units team tennis competition, beating 24 Tpt and Mov Regiment RLC in the final played in the military complex last month.

The match was the culmination in a series of knockout games beginning at garrison level in February. The competition was sponsored by Coca Cola.

Under a blistering sun, RSU won all three rounds involving three doubles pairs.

Col Robin Field-Smith, chairman of Army (G) lawn tennis, presented the trophy to Lt Col Peter Prentis, captain of the RSU team.

Next date in the tennis diary is the UKSC (G) championships at Rheindahlen from September 3-8. Entry forms are available from Army (G) Tennis 94, HQ UKSC (G), BFPO 140.

# Wilson's wizard diving triumph

NEWCOMER ATpr Neil Wilson and Sig (SI) Amos Greenfield won the Army 3m springboard and 5m highboard championships respectively at Guildford.

Wilson, serving with 4 Regt AAC at Detmold, was delighted with his score of 278.98 points, having taken up the sport just four years ago.

He pipped 1993 champion Lt Christiaan Munro (2 RTR) into second place by 1.9 points. Amos, stationed with Comms and Sy Gp (UK), took third in the springboard with 274.85 points and WO2 (QMSI) Mike Kempson (5 TA Trg Regt RLC) was fourth on 272.45.

Wilson will be representing the Army at the Inter-Services championships at HMS Temeraire, Portsmouth.

His long-term goal is to join a civilian club when his unit returns to the UK early next year, allowing him to train regularly and compete at county level.

Amos will be looking for his second Inter-Services winner's medal off the highboard at Portsmouth after taking the

Army title by a clear 14 points from Munro who was second, third-placed Wilson and Kempson in fourth.

Cpl Amanda Davies (14 Fd Regt RA) again dominated the women's competition, winning the springboard by 30 points from Lt Susie Griffin (3 AEC). Louise Bond of BAD Kineton was a further four points behind.

Amanda Davies's victory on the highboard was equally impressive, with another 30-point margin over Griffin, the current Inter-Services springboard champion.

The intermediate competition was poorly supported, but credit must go to Pte Phil Minns (BAD Kineton) for putting together five different dives in a short time to win the event.

The Army divers have been training hard at Guildford's Spectrum Centre under coach Mike Kempson who is confident of repeating last year's clean sweep at the Inter-Services in Portsmouth.

Mike, a member of the squad since 1971 and now in his last year as coach, wants to



# Hang glider pilots regroup for the future

SEVENTY pilots from far and wide travelled to South Wales for five days of hard flying in the 1994 Inter-Services hang gliding championships.

While the novice and intermediate pilots flew relatively simple tasks, the open class pilots had to contend with seven tasks ranging from a 24km ridge race with photographic turn points, to a 57km race to goal.

Despite weather conditions varying from good to diabolical, the 30 top pilots flew more than 800km in strong and gusty conditions, logging over 300 hours in the air.

The Army's challenge was severely restricted by the loss through redundancy of most of its experienced pilots. Nineteen were fielded in all, four of whom competed in the open category.

Despite the best efforts of the novices and intermediates, the Army failed to defend the title and the top honours went to the RAF.

Lt Shawn Worthington (REME, RMCS) was second overall in the novice class and SSgt Phil Freeman (REME, HQ Gurkha Inf Bde) won the intermediate championship outright, results which

promised much for the future of Army hang gliding. Best placed Army pilot in the open class was Maj Adrian Hicks (RE, HQ 30 Engr Bde) who was 12th overall.

Lt Rob Schwab RN took the Inter-Services individual open honours and received his trophy from Maj Gen Geoff Field, Engineer-in-Chief and president of the Joint Services and Army Hang Gliding Associations.

The Army team prize was again won by REME which has maintained a consistently high profile in the sport.

For details of hang and para

gliding courses at the Joint Services centre ring Crickhowell Mil 3245 or see JSP 419 and DCI JS 34/94.

## Army winners:

**Novice** – Lt Shawn Worthington (REME, RMCS), 2nd overall; 2, LCpl Matt Beer (REME, 9 Regt AAC Wksp REME), 5th equal; 3, Sgt Paul Crampton (RLC, 11 EOD Regt RLC) 5th equal.

**Intermediate** – 1, SSgt Phil Freeman (REME, HQ 48 Gurkha Inf Bde), 1st overall; 2, Maj Chris Lewis-Cooper (AGC, HQ D and T), 7th; Lt Paul Wood (2 Para), 12th.

**Open** – 1, Maj Adrian Hicks (RE, 30 Engr Bde), 12th; 2, Sgt Mark Lewis (REME, 9 Regt AAC Wksp REME), 13th; 3, CSgt Ron Phillips (RRF, JSHGC), 16th.

## County win is a tonic

THE ARMY went into the Inter-Services tournament at Aldershot with the best possible confidence-booster – a win over Kent 2nd XI at Woolwich on July 22.

It was a result which means the Army has, in the past two seasons defeated the second teams of all four counties on its fixture list.

Having been told Kent were putting out a young and inexperienced side, the hosts were surprised when Alan Igglesdon and D J Spencer turned up at Woolwich.

Kent won the toss and batted on a hot, muggy day. After Gdsm Ian Redfern had made the breakthrough, the slow bowlers took charge and the army surpassed themselves in the field.

Pte David Matthews's figures of 1-7 from 11 overs speak for themselves and Capt James Carr-Smith, in his first game for the full Army side, produced a spell of 4-30 from 11 overs.

Good support bowling was provided by Capt Jim Cotterill (1-14) and Lt Christopher St George (2-11).

Chasing a modest 115, the Army were never really in trouble. St George batted confidently for his unbeaten 46 to guide the Army home by five wickets.

## League trio meet Gary's GB stars



Three players from the newly-formed Army rugby league squad met the Great Britain league team during a squad session at Catterick. The GB players were there to do a bit of team-spirit building with P Company of The Parachute Regiment. Pictured (front, from left) are LCpl Chris Brown (38 Engr Regt), LCpl Guy Milner (Scots DG) and LCpl Jimmy McWhirter (3 DSR). Behind them are internationals Alan Tait of Leeds, Bobby Goulding of St Helens and the

much-capped Gary Schofield of Leeds.

The fledgling Army team have already beaten the Royal Air Force 26-22, and the new Army league consists of 16 teams so far and about 400 players. Enthusiasts may play both league and union without jeopardising their amateur status. A big test faces the Army when they take on the French Army on October 21 in London the day before Great Britain plays Australia at Wembley.

Kent 2nd 115 (Carr Smith 4-30, St George 2-11). Army 119-5 (St George 46, Redfern 19). Army won by 5 wickets.

Combined Services drew their two-day fixture against

England Under 19 at Aldershot. Greatorex and Beeston (RAF) put on 77 and at the end of the first day the Services had a lead of 49 which they extended to 232. The U-19s replied

with 176-5 in 57 overs.

The Royal Navy were due to play the Royal Air Force on August 8, with the Army playing the losers next day and the winners on the final day.



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Ready for take-off is Maj Adrian Hicks RE of HQ 30 Engr Bde. He flew through the air with the greatest of ease at Blorengie in South Wales to become the Army hang gliding champion. Report in sports pages.

Pictures: James McMenemy