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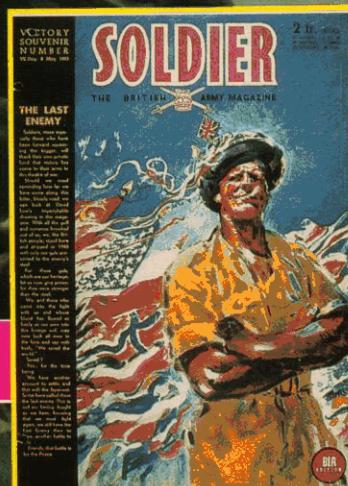
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VE Day - 50 years on

Also inside: Bett Review details

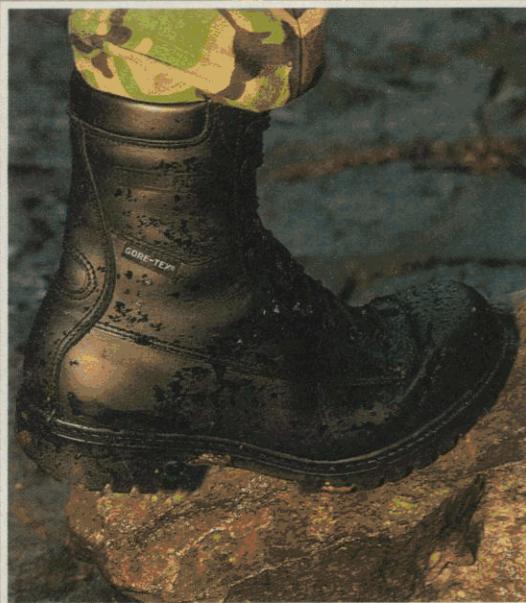


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**MAY 1, 1995**  
**Vol 51/9**

## CONTENTS

- 5 News
- 8 People
- 11 Bett Review
- 15 Grapple rescue
- 16 Grapple people
- 18 Establishment Committee
- 20 TES on exercise
- 23 Portland bomb
- 25 *Soldier's VE Day issue*
- 29 Otterburn proposals
- 30 Eden Camp
- 32 Lifestyle
- 34 Your letters
- 36 Briefings
- 38 Reviews
- 39 HOAY competition
- 48 Sport

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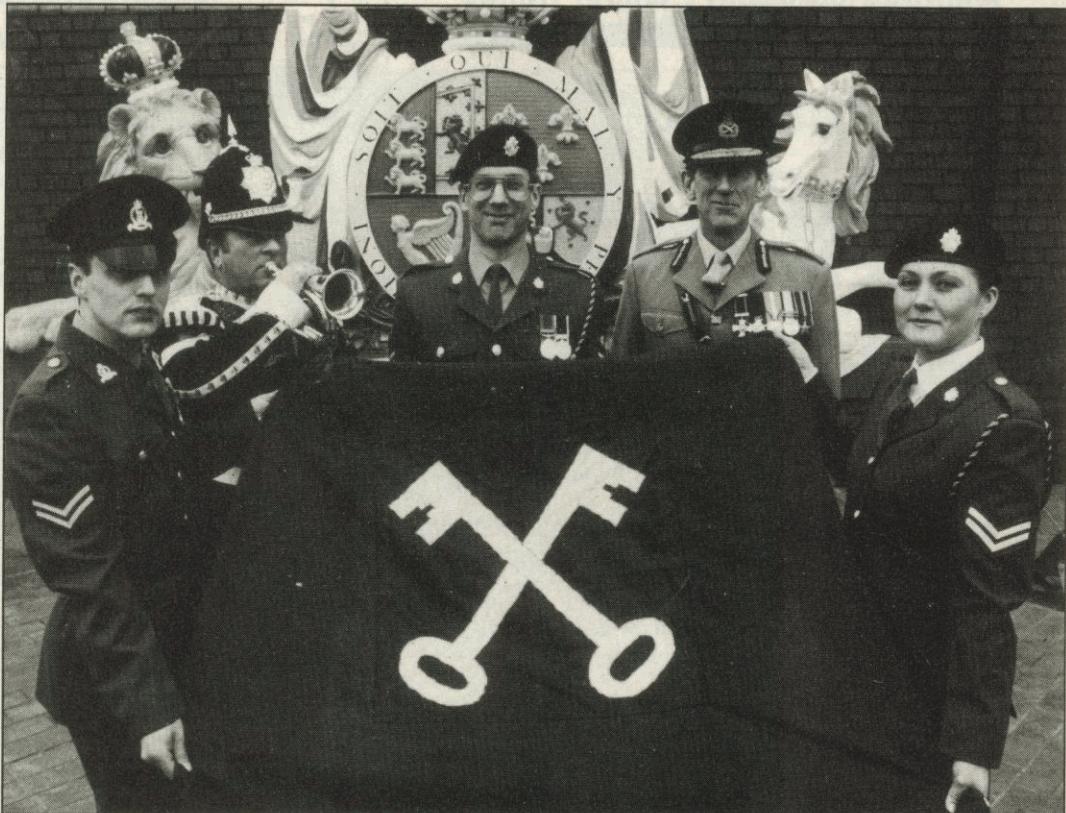
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**FRONT COVER: (Main picture)**  
Sgt Taff Gardner, Scots Guards, is ready for the first exercise using the new Tactical Engagement Simulation equipment at Copehill Down FIBUA village on Salisbury Plain. See Pages 20-21 (Picture: Mike Weston). **Inset:** The front cover of *Soldier's VE Day souvenir issue*, dated May 8, 1945. See "The day the guns fell silent" - Pages 25-27.

# Return of the Crossed Keys



Pictured with the new 2nd Division's famous Crossed Keys flag at Imphal Barracks, York are (from left to right) Cpl Jason Mather, Sgt Iain McGregor, SSgt Dave Waite, Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, General Officer Commanding 2nd Division, and Cpl Lianne Evans. See story in *Soldier to Soldier*, Page 36

# Blueprint for a Bett-er army...

SOLDIERS may no longer carry a field marshal's baton in their knapsack nor will the single stripe of the lance-jack be the first step on the promotion rung for many if proposals made by the Bett Review are accepted.

They are two of the ancient ranks threatened under a revolutionary scheme to get the Armed Forces into step with the rest of society over the next 15 years.

Allowances harking back to postings on the North West Frontier could be slashed and attitudes which evolved over centuries are challenged.

Michael Bett's far-reaching vision of the Armed Forces in the year 2015 is a courageous stab at simplifying what is seen as the needlessly complex

administration of the Armed Forces.

Chairman of Cellnet and a former deputy chairman of BT, Mr Bett was asked to carry out an independent review into Service career and manpower structures as well as terms and

- **Bett Review details**  
- Pages 11-13
- **Cari Roberts's view**  
- Pages 32-33
- **Cartoon** - Page 35

conditions of service, after which he had to recommend changes to make the Services competitive in the market for recruits.

His report will be considered by the Secretary of State for Defence and the Chiefs of Staff

to decide what action should be taken.

The main thrust of the report is that the Services should be given more direct responsibility for the long-term and day-to-day management of people.

Sympathetic management of human resources is seen as crucial to efficiency and the key recommendation to achieve this is a Services Personnel Board with two civilian members. Mr Bett aims to make service an attractive prospect for soldiers and their families in a world which will see fewer long overseas tours but more United Nations work in far-flung corners.

A three-stage engagement structure is proposed, with a

● Turn to Page 11

**Grapple sappers' rescue - 15-17**

**End of road for 'feared' committee - 18-19**

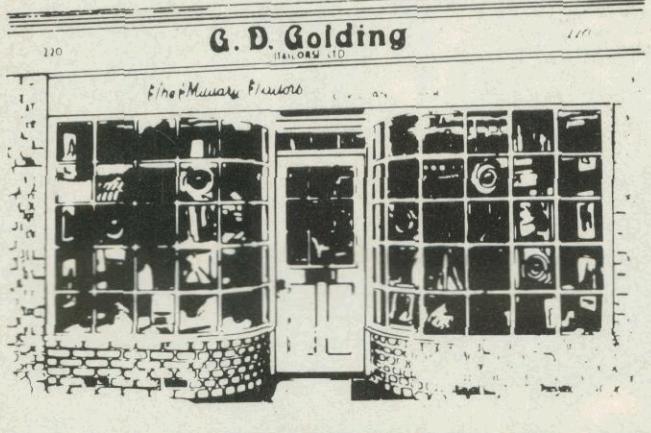
**Portland bomb pictures - 23**

**VE Day, 50 years ago - 25-28**

**Bramcote unit back to college - 32-33**

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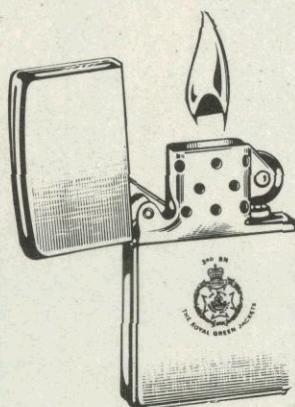
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# Dawn of a new era for Army in Germany

FOR the first time since the Second World War British troops stationed in Germany are under command of a United Kingdom headquarters – Land Command, which formed on April 1.

To mark the reorganisation, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Land Command, was present at a ceremony in Herford at which the flag of the new command was raised.

Herford is the headquarters of the 23,000-strong 1st (UK) Armoured Division, the largest and most powerful division ever raised by the British Army.

HQ Land Command, based at Wilton, near Salisbury in Wiltshire, will have an annual budget of almost £3 billion, of which a quarter will be spent by the Germany-based 1 Div.

After the ceremony, Gen Rose talked about the implications of the latest changes in the structure of the Army. "I think it is a consequence of what we've been working for over the past 50 years," he said.

"The world is now a very different place from 1989, and, if you like, we are seeing the fruits of victory."

Gen Rose also heralded the end of the period of turbulence through which the Army has been going since the drawdown period started following the break-up of the Warsaw Pact.

The 1st (UK) Armoured Division is commanded by Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson.

He said that from a NATO operational point of view he still answered to Commander ARRC, the Rapid Reaction Corps based in Rheindahlen.

But 1 Div troops deploy to many theatres, including Bosnia, Northern Ireland, the Falklands and Cyprus.

## Polished performance



Picture: Mike Perting

Tpr Harvey Taylor and Kirk Webber of The Blues and Royals apply the finishing touch to the hooves of a horse ridden by LCpl of Horse Barry Dutton, Life Guards.

The occasion was the first mounted inspection of the Band of the Life Guards by the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

All the British Army's 30 Regular bands are subject to a formal inspection every two years. Grades are awarded and

a report submitted to the Ministry of Defence. Every aspect of a band's role comes under scrutiny, including concert performance, marching, orchestra (where applicable), dance band and smaller ensembles. Accounts, facilities, uniforms and stores are also examined.

In honour of its bicentenary, the Band of the Life Guards was required to put on a full dress performance of music and riding at the walk and trot in Hyde Park.



**A parade, reviewed by the Chief Royal Engineer, Gen Sir John Stibson, marked the opening of an extension to Swinton Barracks, Perham Down and the disbandment of 22 Engineer Regiment's Independent Field Troop ACE Mobile Force (Land)**

## Girdwood gunners' tour duty cut short

FOUR hundred soldiers from 40th Regiment, Royal Artillery returned to Hohne in Germany from Northern Ireland after Easter in the second major relocation of troops since the IRA cease-fire.

Commanded by Lt Col James Marment, the gunners deployed as the Girdwood Roulement Battalion last January, and were not due to have ended their six-month tour until July.

The regiment, which is to re-equip with the AS90 155mm self-propelled gun, is remaining on standby and could be recalled to the Province if required.

Another unit scheduled to replace the gunners will complete its pre-Northern Ireland training package, but remain on standby at its home base.

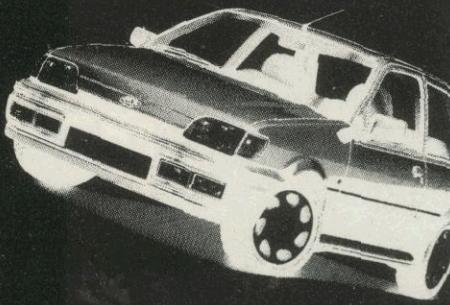
There are now about 17,500 troops and 16 major units serving in Northern Ireland, including six resident battalions, four roulement units and two on standby at their home bases, and six Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment.

• The Duke of York visited St Patrick's Barracks in Ballymena to unveil memorials to the fallen of the Ulster Defence Regiment and The Royal Irish Regiment.

Nearly 2,000 bereaved family members, ex-members and current R Irish soldiers attended the dedication ceremony conducted by the Archbishop of Armagh.

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# Phoenix given chance to rise again

MINISTRY of Defence payments to the prime contractor in the Phoenix remotely-piloted vehicle programme have been suspended until a satisfactory system performance is proved.

In a Commons written answer on April 5, Defence Procurement Minister Roger Freeman said the MoD had asked the prime contractor, GEC-Marconi Avionics (GMAV), to undertake a further year's work at its own expense. Meanwhile, alternative systems would be examined.

"We believe that, provided the remaining technical problems can be overcome within an acceptable time scale, the Phoenix system will provide a cost-effective means of meeting the Army's need for an *unmanned airborne* system," said Mr Freeman.

"Should GMAV fail at any stage to demonstrate satisfactory progress during the programme of work, the MoD will, however, be prepared to cancel the project."

Two new Defence agencies, covering transport and Army stores and both run from Andover by brigadiers, were formed on April 4. The Army Base Storage and Distribution Agency (ABSDA), originally ABSDO, will manage seven base storage depots in the UK and their sup-

## Around the Hour

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

porting distribution outlets, plus three depots in Germany. Current staff levels are 5,700 civilians and 600 military personnel.

The Defence Transport and Movements Executive (DTMX),

formed from the Directorate of Transport and Movements (Army), will be a tri-Service agency supporting the Armed Forces, the MoD and other organisations worldwide. It has 250 staff.

Details were given to MPs in written answers by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames.

The Defence Medical Service, the "finest health care regime in

the country", has a bright future, the House of Lords was told.

Lord Craig of Radley asked whether the Government was satisfied that there will be enough uniformed consultants in the DMS for secondary medical care in peace or emergencies short of a full-scale war.

Defence Under-Secretary Lord Henley said shortfalls in certain specialisations, mainly anaesthetists, were being addressed. A complement of 365 consultants and senior specialists was planned.

He said: "The future of the DMS is bright and the prospects will continue for a worthwhile and varied career for Service medical personnel in the finest health care regime in the country."

# Gurkha unit joins Grapple force

MORE THAN 240 Colchester-based soldiers from 10 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, including 108 Gurkhas, have deployed to former Yugoslavia as part of the UN Protection Force.

The contingent is providing the headquarters and transport element of the British Logistic Battalion (BRITLOGBAT), responsible for supporting British troops in theatre.

The Gurkhas will be employed driving between the Croatian port of Split and the many British outposts throughout central Bosnia. It is the first time a formed unit of Gurkhas has served in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Members of the Queen's Gurkha Signals have been serving in Bosnia with 30 Signal Regiment SATCOM detachments.



Four soldiers from Army Training Regiment Pirbright meet the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, before taking their annual personal weapons test on an electronic target range. CGS was visiting the regiment which is responsible for training recruits to the Household Division, the Royal Logistic Corps, REME and the Royal Artillery

# Icecap crossing

SIX members of the Adjutant General's Corps have swapped springtime in Britain for the Arctic Circle to take part in a month-long crossing of the

Greenland ice cap. The 350-mile trip is a curtain-raiser for the corps' Northern Lights expedition later this year and next.

Maj John Wright, Maj Simon Harris and Capt Brad Horn from the Education and Training Services branch and SSgt Mac McLaughlin, Nick Onslow and Reg White of the Support and Personnel Services branch are experienced in climbing and polar travel.

Each will travel on skis and tow a sledge loaded with 250lb of food, fuel and equipment.

## IN BRIEF

SAPPERS are to survey Bramley Training Area, Hampshire, in a search for chemical munitions from the First World War.

Armed Forces doctors and dentists have received an average pay rise of 2.7 per cent.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind visited Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to strengthen defence links and to see British Military Advisory Training Teams in the region.

The Mayor of Spandau visited TA soldiers of 4 QLR at Preston. The regiment's 1st Battalion, the last British unit to serve in Berlin, was granted Spandau's Freedom.

## Scots DG Chieftains bow out

SCOTLAND'S senior regiment and only Regular cavalry regiment, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) has completed its final live-firing exercise with Chieftain tanks before moving from Catterick to Fallingsbostel in Germany.

The regiment will be the first to be equipped with the new Challenger 2 main battle tank.

For the Chieftain, brought into service in 1967, it is the end of the road. All 38 tanks used by the Scots DG at Castlemartin tank gunnery range in Wales will be scrapped.

# On top of the world?

This topographic trio was selected to represent the British Army in the ski mountaineering phase of a series of multinational expeditions, organised by the Indian Army, to traverse the entire Himalayan range. All from 14 Independent Topographic Squadron, they are (left to right) Cpl Clive Poultnay, LCpl Jimmy Green and Cpl Colin Gent. They were attempting to cover 300km in 20 days along high altitude tracks that cross mountain passes over 20,000ft as well as major glaciers.



## Going down...

Picture: Mike Weston

Cpl Tom Cooper, 2 LI, makes sure that Steven Northey, a pupil at Stanley Comprehensive School, Consett, is securely fastened before he abseils down a tower at Albermarle Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne. Tom is an instructor with 121 Army Youth Team, which is collocated at the barracks with ITB Ouston.

## MEDIC'S MEDAL

Receiving the Territorial Decoration from Brig (Retd) Johnny Walker is Dr Arjun Hirani of 222 Field Ambulance RAMC (V) at Leicester. Dr Hirani, who has served continuously in the unit for 12 years, joined the TA as a captain in 1982. With him is his wife Hansaben. Brig Walker is Honorary Colonel of 222 Fd Amb.



## STEPPING OUT

Piper LCpl Beefy Burton of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment leads the way for children from Bocombra Primary School in Portadown. He and a male and female colleague from the battalion, which is based locally, were visiting the school to give the pupils an insight into the past and present history of the regiment and today's Army.



## PEOPLE PEOPLE

### Cutting a dash

Ceremonial duties and acting as personal escort to Tyne and Wear's Lord Lieutenant, Sir Ralph Carr Ellison (right) will be part of the official tasks over the next year for cadet Michael Cutting of Tynemouth College, who was presented with a framed certificate on being selected to be a Lord Lieutenant's cadet. Michael, a staff sergeant with the Fenham Chavasse Detachment, wants to make the Army his career.



### Looks familiar...

Holding a parting gift - a caricature of himself - is Lt Col Wally Torrington, first and last CO of the Apprentices Training and Support Wing, Army School of Catering, Aldershot from August 1993. He has now left to join 4 Division.

### Czech this out

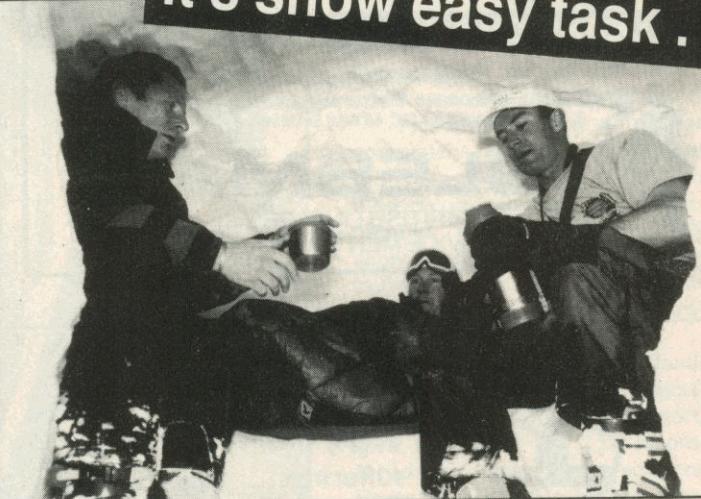
Members of Plymouth-based 29 Commando Regiment enjoy the sights of Prague during a break in Exercise Lipno 95, the first occasion since the Second World War that UK troops had exercised in the Czech Republic.



### Laugh with Lenny

Sharing a joke with Lenny Henry is Air Tpr Joe Massey of 655 Squadron Army Air Corps. The squadron presented the comedian with a cheque for £1,500 on his arrival in Belfast for Comic Relief.

### It's snow easy task...



Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson (left), GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division, experiences the rigours of basic winter training at the British Alpine Centre in Bavaria. Sharing the snow hole are LCpl Scotty Scott, 35 Eng Regt (centre) and Cpl Colin Gent, 14 Indep Topo Sqn RE.

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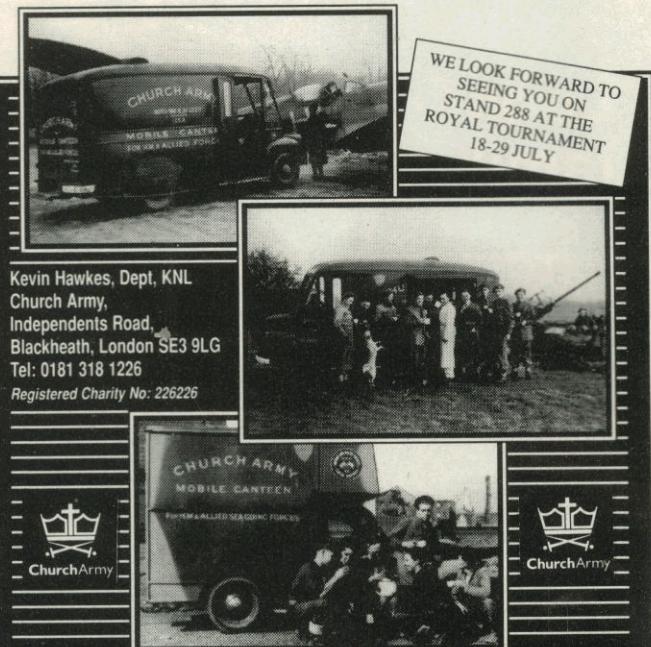
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# Don't 'cherry pick' the report - Bett

● From Page 3

bonus being paid if the engagement is completed.

The initial engagement period would bring recruits to operational efficiency and would last until about age 30, the second stage would be operational until about 40, and the final stage would be predominantly exercising management skills and would include the most senior command appointments, normally until 55.

One rank is envisaged for each command level. The key level of command is seen as the operational unit commander (lieutenant colonel) below whom only three ranks are seen as necessary: sub unit commander (major), other fully trained officers (captain) and an entry rank (lieutenant).

Formations above unit level would be commanded at brigadier/colonel level; divisional commanders would be lieutenant/major general level; and Chief of the Defence Staff, Chiefs of Staff, and Commanders-in-Chief would all be of general rank.

Four levels are proposed for non commissioned ranks – the normal working service person (private); the supervisor of small groups or lead specialist (corporal); a manager of groups of corporals or senior specialist (a merger of staff sergeant and sergeant) and a top other rank at unit or sub-unit level or an experienced and fully qualified senior specialist (warrant officer).

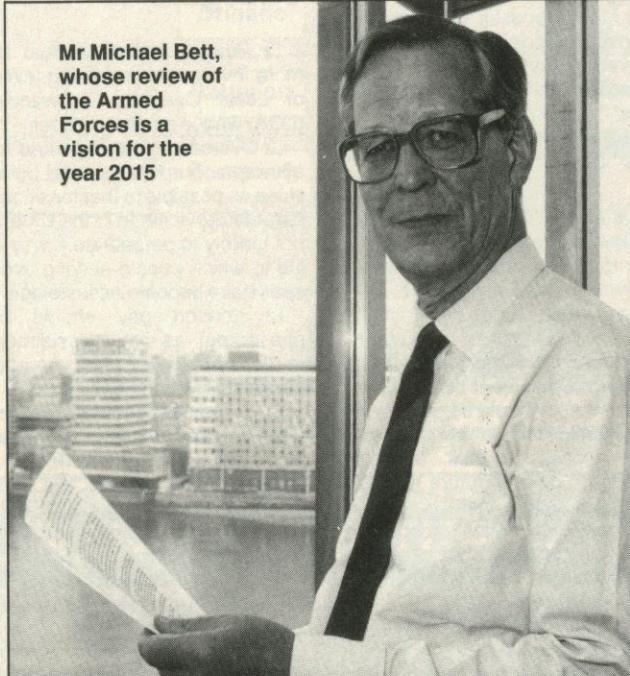
For infantry and other manpower-intensive arms the rank of lance corporal could be retained.

A flexible pay structure would remove the need to promote merely to increase pay.

A new deployment allowance would replace Northern Ireland and South Georgia pay, and separation allowances would cease, although new arrangements would be introduced, such as a new relocation package and assistance with weekend travel.

Parachute pay would cease but Parachute Regiment members should be allocated a pay range appropriate to their type of job and to internal and external market pressures. A premium pay range would be

Mr Michael Bett, whose review of the Armed Forces is a vision for the year 2015



justified for Special Forces.

Performance linked pay was not considered suitable but achievement could be recognised by incremental progression up pay scales.

A determination to reduce mobility should improve family stability and help spouses pursue a career. A reasonable quality of life in good Service accommodation is suggested, with a new pension scheme at the end.

Better management would reduce the need for some allowances, while others would be removed, with payments being made from a salary which will still include an X factor. Simplified procedures should reduce the cost of administration and the frustration caused by petty, arbitrary rules.

Providing opportunities to obtain civilian qualifications should help Service people when they leave the Armed Forces.

Service people needed time with their families, and a number of improvements are suggested to improve conditions of service and deal with overstretch.

Postings should be within a geographical area with a recommended target of five

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE  
ARMED FORCES' MANPOWER,  
CAREER AND REMUNERATION  
STRUCTURES

Chairman: Michael Bett CBE

Managing People  
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years, though high-fliers would have to be more mobile.

Mr Bett warns against "cherry picking" the most attractive features of the report. He is confident that the overall effect of the recommendations would be to enhance the quality of life for Servicemen and women and their families.

The investigation, which was completely independent, did not have cost-cutting as its target. But if the recommendations are implemented, they should gradually allow the Armed Forces to be refocused to secure significant benefits which were previously unaffordable.

Commanders have a difficult task in front of them, first digesting the 90,000 words of the report, then explaining the 151 recommendations to their soldiers. Every soldier will receive a summary.

Understanding them is an essential step, because no action will be taken before the report has been digested and soldiers' views have been considered. Working through the recommendations could take a year and if they are accepted, implementation could take until the next century.

Consultation continues as the key to the report. Not only have the British Armed Forces already been widely consulted – some 5,000 were spoken to and questionnaires sent to another 9,000 – but also those of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden and the USA. Major UK industrial concerns were examined to include the best of modern practices both for personnel and the families.

Speaking to senior officers, Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind stressed that the report was very much a consultative document which does not at this stage represent the views of the Government.

Before he and his colleagues made any assessment or considered any of the issues raised by the report, he wanted to hear the views of Servicemen and women.

"This will affect their careers and future over the next 20 years and only in the light of their comments will we come to a judgement," he said.

Bett Review details – next two pages

# POINTS FROM THE BETT REVIEW

## Career structures and management

□ A three-stage career structure should be considered from April 1997, with an initial engagement for 8-12 years and the second stage continuing to around age 40, with three-year extensions available at the end of each stage.

□ An extra payment should be made for those who remain in until the end of the stages.

□ The normal retirement age should be 55.

□ A more flexible policy should be adopted to encourage high calibre individuals to re-join.

□ The Royal Navy house purchase scheme should be extended to the other Services. This provides an interest-free loan for house purchase of up to six months' salary or £10,000, whichever is less. It would be available only once, and to personnel on Stages two or three.

□ Current redundancy payments should continue, with completion bonuses and employability training.

□ Positive and serious efforts should be made to recruit more from the large group of people who change career after a few years in their first job.

## Strategic

□ A Services Personnel Board should be created, including two non-executive civilians.

□ Senior officers above one-star should normally be expected to serve at least four years in a post.

□ A formal strategic review of manpower, career and pay would be made every five years.

## Postings

□ Regional postings should be considered to keep personnel within a limited geographical area for longer than they can expect at the moment.

□ The basing of Army units

## Manpower structures

□ The five-star rank of field marshal should be abolished, as should the practice of promoting chiefs of staff to this rank on their last day of service.

□ A formal mechanism should be set up to review all trade and branch structures every five years.

□ More multi-skilled trade groups should be encouraged, particularly for semi-skilled trades.

### Pay

□ There should be only one pay range for each officer rank, except for more senior officers or where specific skills have a high external market value.

□ Progress and promotion should be incremental but not automatic for junior other ranks and junior officers, but performance should play an increasing part for more senior ORs and officers.

□ Bonuses should be paid occasionally to those at the top of the pay range who give exceptional service but have not been promoted.

□ Cash bonuses of up to a quarter of basic salary should be allowed in key skill groups with unacceptably high wastage rates.

fit to serve should be reviewed and all cases dealt with quickly.

□ Recruitment of ethnic minorities should be reviewed and initiatives developed.

□ Contacts with the civilian sector should be developed to improve the exchange of expertise and experience.

□ As many restrictions as possible on employment possibilities for women should be withdrawn.

□ Comprehensive statements on terms and conditions should be provided.

## Allowances and charges

□ Budget holders should be more involved in proposing levels of Local Overseas Allowances (LOA) whose costs they bear.

□ Overseas lifestyle costed for allowance purposes should be as close as possible to that for a comparable Serviceman in the UK and not merely to perpetuate a way of life to which people serving overseas have become accustomed.

□ London pay should be phased out, as should residence-to-place of duty allowances under seven miles each way.

□ Boarding School Allowance (BSA) should continue for those who have a substantial chance of family mobility during the next stage of a child's education, and latterly only to those given notice of an actual posting overseas.

□ Those moved unexpectedly should be treated sympathetically as special cases.

□ The ceiling for BSA should be set at a percentage of the average Headmasters' Conference school fees, subject to a minimum personal contribution of ten per cent rather than the present complex method.

□ Having once qualified for BSA, parents should be able to claim a day school allowance for the remainder of the stage of education at the school where the child was a boarder,

rather than having to keep children in boarding education simply to retain the allowance.

□ Daily rates of pay should be ended as soon as possible in favour of annual rates of salary paid in 12 equal monthly instalments.

### Personnel administration

□ Having once qualified for BSA, parents should be able to claim a day school allowance for the remainder of the stage of education at the school where the child was a boarder,

rather than having to keep children in boarding education simply to retain the allowance.

□ Independent advice on the choice of schools should be more widely available, and procedures developed for removing schools from the list if their quality drops unacceptably.

□ Trivial differences in lodging allowances should be removed, and an effort made to ensure maximum occupancy of married quarters before excess rent allowance is paid.

□ Good quality Service accommodation should be available to those who wish to use it.

□ Separation allowance, Northern Ireland pay and South Georgia pay should be replaced by a deployment allowance for both married and single soldiers deployed over 28 days, with subsidised weekend travel. Home baggage allowances for single people should be improved, and insurance at public expense for property in transit or in store.

□ Food charges should be based on meals actually consumed and paid by everyone at a single rate regardless of marital status or location, except for those under field or operational conditions.

### Pensions

□ A new, optional, pension scheme should be introduced.

□ The practice of stopping widows' pensions on re-marriage is unsatisfactory. These pensions should be payable for life.

□ The pension scheme should be sufficiently flexible to include partners in stable relationships outside marriage.

□ Three years' salary should be paid on death in Service from any cause.

## Conditions of Service

□ The effects of overstretch on individuals should be more closely monitored to enable posting authorities to take account of excessive individual turbulence.

□ Service sport, recreation and adventurous training should be given a higher priority by all levels of command and management.

□ More stability for families should be the aim, with a target of five years in one location. The Army Board should try to provide more flexibility within the regimental system so that the number of moves and changes in role can be reduced, and personal domestic circumstances given more weight.

□ Servicemen should be permitted to serve either unaccompanied or accompanied without any adverse effect on their careers.

Overseas bases with accompanied service should be kept to a minimum.

□ The general standards and quality of Service accommodation should be substantially improved to keep up with improving standards in society at large.

□ Spouses seeking work should be given more practical and systematic help.

□ Welfare support should be directed by professionally qualified, full-time staff and not simply reliant on Service wives.

□ MoD should identify ways in which Servicemen and their families are disadvantaged when compared with opportunities or support provided by government

## NEW MODEL RANK STRUCTURE – OFFICERS

### Level of Command

### Typical Operational job

Chief of Defence Staff  
Chief of Staff  
Commander-in-Chief

### Current Rank

Field Marshal  
General

### Revised Structure

1 Rank (a)

### High Command Groupings

Task Group Commander  
Divisional Commander  
Group Commander

Lieutenant General  
Major General

1 Rank (a)

### Formations above Unit level

Brigade

### Unit Command

Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel

1 Rank

### Sub Unit Command

Company

Major

1 Rank

### Other fully trained officers

Captain

1 Rank

### Entry rank

Lieutenant

Second Lieutenant

1 Rank

Note (a): The revised structure for High Command Groupings could develop towards one rank in the longer term

## NEW MODEL RANK STRUCTURE – OTHER RANKS

### Work

Top other rank at unit or sub-unit level  
or  
Experienced and fully qualified senior specialist

### Current Rank

Warrant Officer 1  
Warrant Officer 2

### Revised Structure

1 Rank

Manages a group of corporals  
or  
Established senior specialist

Staff Sergeant  
Sergeant

1 Rank

Supervisor of small groups (2 – 10)  
or  
Lead or supervise specialists

Corporal  
Lance Corporal

1 Rank (b)

Normal working Service person

Private

1 Rank

Note (b): Certain Arms will probably continue to need two ranks at this level

Spouses seeking work  
should be given more practical  
and systematic help.

Welfare support should be  
directed by professionally qualified,  
full-time staff and not simply  
reliant on Service wives.

MoD should identify ways in  
which Servicemen and their  
families are disadvantaged when  
compared with opportunities or  
support provided by government

vice families prior to moving to a  
new location.

Welfare support should be  
directed by professionally qualified,  
full-time staff and not simply  
reliant on Service wives.

MoD should identify ways in  
which Servicemen and their  
families are disadvantaged when  
compared with opportunities or  
support provided by government

agencies to civilians. Vigorous  
action should be taken to remove  
discrimination.

A particular effort should be  
made to avoid Service children  
being disadvantaged over access  
to popular local schools.

Annual leave should become  
an entitlement, not a privilege, and  
should be carried forward into the  
following year if it is not taken for  
Service reasons. Accumulated  
leave should be granted as of right  
between postings. Various types  
of minor leave, such as re-engagement  
leave, should be abolished.

The Parliamentary Ombudsman  
should be permitted to deal with  
complaints by Service personnel  
about administrative matters.

# Celebrate 50 years of **SOLDIER**

COLLECT THIS HISTORIC REPRINT

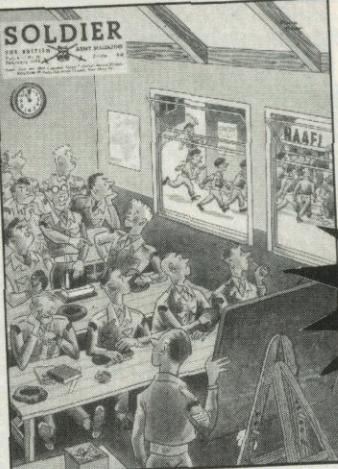
To celebrate the 50th anniversary of **SOLDIER** we have commissioned a limited reprint of our first issue. Originally published on March 19 1945, and endorsed with a "Good Luck" message from Field Marshal Montgomery the reprint costs just £1.50\* plus 50p postage and packing.



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# Sappers keep lifeline open

BRIDGE repairs by British sappers have ensured that the main all-weather route into central Bosnia from Mostar continues to carry vital stores.

A three-span concrete road bridge across the River Neretva at Aleskin Hanu was damaged during fighting between Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

A 13m section was destroyed and replaced by Royal Engineers in 1993 with an extra wide Bailey bridge.

But remaining parts of the original concrete structure supporting the Bailey bridge started to crack under the pressure of heavy traffic crossing too fast and sappers of 64 HQ Squadron were called in.

Most of the cracks were caused by vibration, so speed bumps were installed. A new wearing course and a more substantial ramp extension were constructed, and large chunks of concrete hanging from the bridge on partly-severed reinforcing tendons were removed.

As well as being the best



The stalwarts of 64 HQ Sqn who carried out the repairs

route for moving accommodation units and other stores to Vitez and Gornji Vakuf during bad weather, it is also the main supply route for the BiH army.

The local commander agreed to the route being

closed, and one wet and windy winter's night the British engineers attacked the task with typical grit and gusto.

Among diversions were occasional exchanges with inebriated Muslims who threat-

ened to blow up the bridge if they were not given access.

On another night the wearing course was laid, making for a smoother crossing and reducing the potential for cracking.

## Plucked from a frozen grave

THE FULL story of a dramatic rescue operation undertaken by British sappers in central Bosnia has now emerged.

The mission of mercy, reported briefly in the last issue of *Soldier*, involved men from 28 and 35 Engineer Regiments and took place on Route Triangle in some of the worst blizzard conditions experienced in the area for 40 years.

The story unfolded high in the central Bosnian mountains at midnight when a snow and ice clearing unit based at Fort Redoubt reported an 11-vehicle military convoy passing by in a heavy snow storm.

The following morning an exhausted soldier from the Bosnian Croat HVO Army staggered into the fort.

Through an interpreter, he told the sappers how the vehicles became trapped in snow drifts and that some passengers had died of exposure. He had been sent for help.

The Royal Engineers, normally based at Hameln in Germany, gathered personnel and plant and set out to look for the stricken convoy. UN units at the other end of the route were signalled to make their own attempts to help.

Appalling conditions made progress slow, the sappers travelling little more than 300 metres a hour. Three recovery

vehicles had to be abandoned during the advance because of the severity of the weather.

Seven hours later, the two rescue parties linked up at the scene of the convoy, in an area nicknamed The Falklands by the sappers because it is notoriously difficult to cross by vehicle.

The British soldiers uncovered several vehicles. The first they left, believing the occupants to be asleep. In another they were greeted by the relieved Bosnian occupants.

Tragically, when they went back to the first vehicle, they

discovered the occupants dead – killed by cold or poisonous exhaust fumes.

First priority was to get the living away from the exposed area and down to safety. Leaving the dead behind until the following day, the soldiers began guiding the vehicles down the mountain road to Tomislavgrad.

The route continued to be blocked by snow drifts up to 10ft deep. It emerged that the Royal Engineers had rescued a very important group of military personnel.

The 20 survivors included a number of generals and a Minister of Defence. It transpired that five of the party were still missing.

So bad was the weather that

● Turn to next page

**Sappers rescue HVO generals**

## Back to school



### Plucked from a frozen grave

From Page 15

drivers of vehicles could not make out the road ahead. Individual sappers had to brave the blizzard and walk the route in front of the vehicles. There was little chance of finding those still lost.

The mission was completed after 15 hours. Four generals, one aged 76, including the heads of the respective Croat HV and Bosnian Croat HVO Armies, were saved.

Next day, an engineer recce flight by a Lynx from 664 Squadron Army Air Corps flew over the trail of disaster. Abandoned cars and trucks littered Route Triangle.

Waved in by one group, the helicopter crew found they were the lost five members of an elite Croat Army special force accompanying the convoy.

After flying them to safety, the Lynx returned and came across another trapped vehicle. Again it recovered the occupants, who included a woman.

The remaining vehicles were recovered by the Bosnian Army using a bulldozer to clear the way.

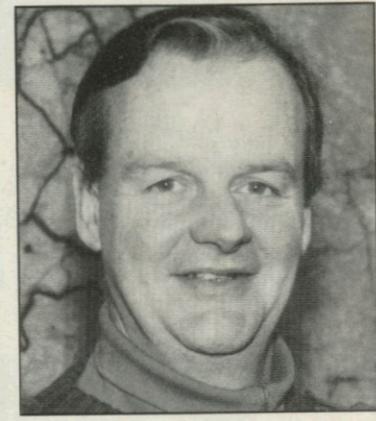
Little gratitude was shown to the rescuers. Further offers of help by the British sappers were met with flat rejection, even hostility. The Bosnians wanted no one else in the mountains to see their stricken vehicles or assist in pulling them out.



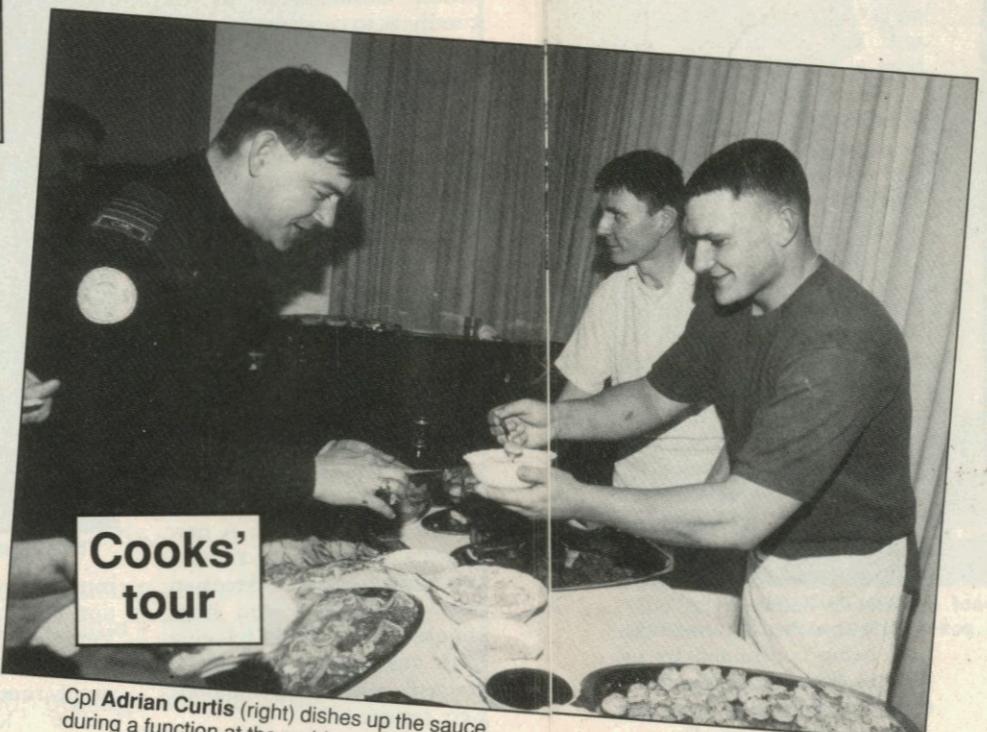
### Having an ice time

British troops serving on Operation Grapple in central Bosnia have learnt the weather in the region can be surprisingly fickle. One moment it is cold enough, at minus 35C, to warrant an issue of rum, and the next it is warm enough to sunbathe – if duty permits. Spr Tony Perry is undeterred while banging in a stake before a backdrop of icicles.

## In the cause of peace . . .



Brig Robert Gordon, who commands the United Nations Sector South West and British Forces in Bosnia, has been chairing regular meetings of the Joint Commission policy group which has, effectively, been providing the government for Central Bosnia. Commanding officers of units under his command have been running a number of sub-committees which bring delegates together at a more local level, including mayors and brigade commanders. He has just been succeeded by Commander 20 Armoured Brigade, Brig Andrew Pringle.



Cpl Adrian Curtis (right) dishes up the sauce during a function at the residence of the commander of the United Nations Bosnia Herzegovina Command in Sarajevo. He was responsible for cooking meals fit for a general and his staff. Because of the sheer weight of numbers at Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose's farewell do, Cpl Curtis was assisted by Welsh Guards Cpl Steve Finch.

## CONVOY OPS

Convoy leader Maj Norman Wingate, AGC (ETS) has been responsible for co-ordinating the passage of convoys from Kiseljak to the UN safe haven at Gorazde. All his paperwork detailing personnel travelling and loads of equipment being carried had to be meticulous to prevent convoys being turned back at Bosnian Serb checkpoints by over-zealous sentries.

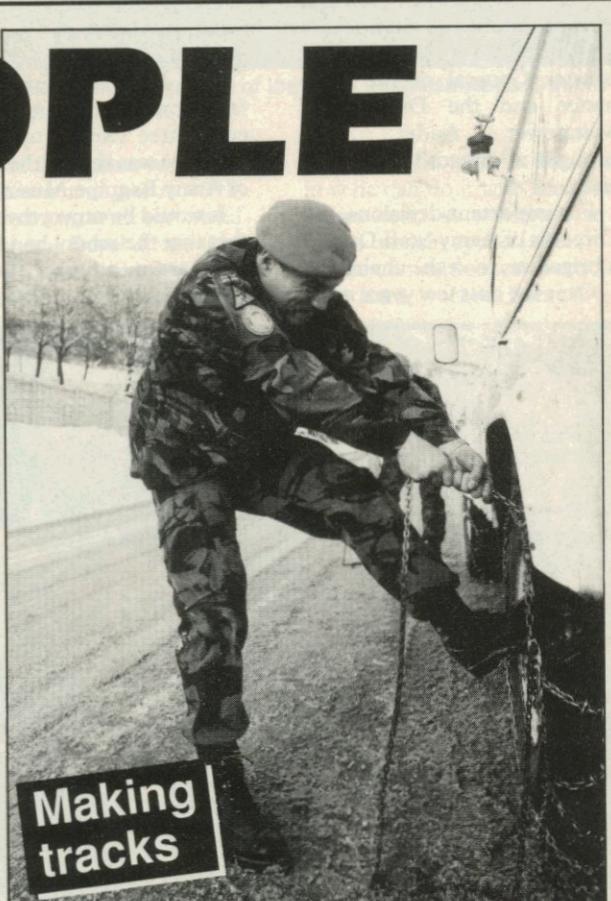


Providing a lifeline to sick villagers in war-torn Bosnia is Army doctor Maj Graham Wheatley (right, centre). He and his team of RAMC medics have established a clinic in an isolated village. Helped by an interpreter and two local nurses, Maj Wheatley juggles drugs supplied by aid agencies for adults and bags of sweets for the children. With him are Cpl Mandy Knox and interpreter Nedim Sabic.

# GRAPPLE PEOPLE



Lbdr Simon Matthews and Gnr "Yul" Meredith set up a Cymbeline mortar locating radar on high ground above Sarajevo. The gunners are playing a vital role in keeping the peace in Sarajevo by providing accurate information on infringements of the exclusion zone or attacks on "safe areas" in the city.



A sudden snowfall can make mountain roads impassable, even to the Army's ubiquitous Land Rovers. Cpl Geordie Pearson of the Royal Signals fits snow chains to his vehicle near Jablanica.

# Piped out

The Army Establishments Committee – feared throughout the Service – has itself been disestablished, a victim of new budgetary controls.

Colonels quailed before its searching questions, and some who went before it hoping for an increase in establishment left with a reduction.

The committee, which rigorously scrutinised applications to increase manpower, turned many down as a result of manning level controls. Because it had to make hard decisions it was not always the flavour of the month with those who passed through its doors.

The committee was responsible for examining and agreeing the establishments of all formations, units and elements where Army manpower was employed. Its members represented, at branch colonel level, the Chief of the General Staff, the Adjutant General, the Quartermaster General, the Master General of the Ordnance and the Director of Manpower Audit. This brought a breadth of experience.

For important decisions, the Director of Army Staff Duties, a brigadier, took the chair.

Over the past few years it has

had a particularly significant role to play in implementing the manpower reductions required by Options for Change. In achieving the new Order of Battle by April 1 it won few friends.

Control of manpower is now delegated to top-level budget holders such as the C-in-C Land Command and the Quartermaster General.

They now have the discipline of controlling their manpower as one element of expenditure against many others to carry out their function or achieve their aim.

The final establishment to face consideration before the committee wound up for the last time was that of the School of Army Bagpipe Music.

It would be unworthy to suggest that the school had its case sewn up in advance, but two former Gordon Highlanders



Brig John Stokoe, Director of Army Staff Duties, holds establishments issued before the Second World War



From left to right are Col David Wills, Lt Col David Wright, Maj (Retd) John Byrne (wearing spectacles), Col Christopher Price, Brig John Stokoe (front centre), Col Andrew Durcan, Col Mark Corbet Burcher and Cdr Paddy McLurg RN (Retd)

searching questions were put during the last sitting. Instead, in a remarkable gesture of magnanimity, Brig John Stokoe, Director of Army Staff Duties, proffered Pipe Major Webster a generous dram of whisky and toasted the School, and the committee's own demise.

As one who had been both an expert witness, member and chairman of the committee, Brig Stokoe can vouch for the enemies the committee made because it remained scrupulously unbiased.

"Over our time we have made some friends and lost many," he said. "Witnesses coming in front of the committee were by and large extremely nervous, because they were presenting an establishment they were keen to have authorised. But they were faced by an array of people usually much more senior than they to persuade of what they thought right and proper.

"It was a very daunting business being confronted by us. When I came here as a witness five years ago as a lieutenant colonel, I was equally nervous."

Another committee member was quite candid about its



approach. It spent its life being cynical, rude and hard-nosed about other people's well-intentioned bids to maximise their manpower, he said.

"It was not that the witnesses came here with a load of baloney, it is just that their perception of what they required did not match our perception of what was available."

One man's need was another man's loss, but it could be pretty harrowing for witnesses who were asked searching questions about what they actually needed.

Operating costs are now exposed to the budget holder whereas they were previously bidding to a central resource. He must weigh manpower proposals against the cost of information technology, fuel, and everything else.

When manpower was controlled centrally it was with no budgetary responsibility, hence the change. That is why it had to go.

Early this century the work of creating and amending British Army establishments

fell to individual branches and there was no overall co-ordination by the War Office.

The Army expanded so

much during the First World

War that by the spring of 1917

some 15 branches were issuing

establishments, often with no

liaison between

them.

An official report noted that the situation was "chaotic, being extravagant both financially and in the expenditure of personnel."

Later that year AG1 (part of the Adjutant General's empire), then part of the Directorate of Organisation responsible for the Army's manpower, was tasked with co-ordinating the work of the various branches.

It was not until May 1922 that control of establishments was properly addressed on an Army-wide basis, with the formation of the Peace and War Establishments Committee.

Col Durcan compared it to what a platoon commander does in the field when he thinks of the most efficient way of

Report:  
Gordon Skilling  
Pictures:  
Mike Perring

taking out a trench. He asks how he can do it with the minimum costs in casualties and uses a tactical appreciation.

The committee was particularly hard worked because of the peace dividend and Options for Change, which reduced the forces by 30 per cent.

Every establishment was put under the microscope and considered in detail.

"If you had to go in front of the committee you prepared your case very carefully indeed because if you didn't you were likely to lose manpower," said the secretary, Maj John Byrne.

"You might come to the committee asking for five extra men to do a job and find the committee might look at the whole of your establishment and take posts away from anywhere."

Members can take pleasure in the fact that they exercised an unpopular and unbiased power to get the best value for money – and need no longer fear the wrath of angry and disappointed customers.



Pipe Major Gordon Webster SG toasts the health of the School of Army Bagpipe Music and the demise of the Army Establishments Committee. From left are Brig John Stokoe, Pipe Major Webster, Col Andrew Durcan and Col Christopher Price



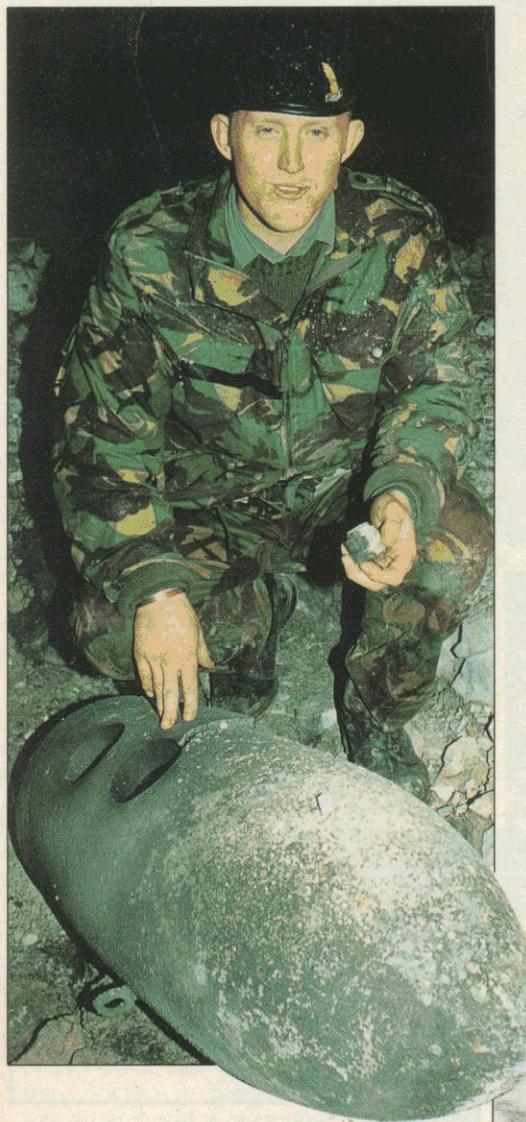
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# Portland's big bomb puts EOD in spotlight



Above - Safe as houses: Capt Mike Lobb with the empty shell of the 1,100lb German bomb. Its 1½-inch thick high grade steel caused problems

Right - The 58 Field Squadron team from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) pictured before their weekend-long operation at Portland. From left to right are Cpl Gary Webb, Spr Chris Coulter, Spr Scott Meeks, Capt Mike Lobb, Spr Abs Able, LCpl Richie Green, Spr Taff Owen and LCpl Simmo Simpson. Not in the picture is Cpl Dil Cavie, the crash crew commander.

IT WAS his first "live" bomb . . . and it was huge. Big enough, in fact, to spark off one of the largest civil evacuations in Britain since the end of the Second World War.

The discovery of the 1,100lb German bomb under a disused football pitch on the Isle of Portland in Dorset put Capt Mike Lobb - and the British Army's bomb disposal expertise - firmly in the glare of the national media for 48 tense hours.

For Capt Lobb, who led the team from 58 Field Squadron, part of Wimbish-based 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), it was a very high profile introduction to the real thing.

But the operation went like clockwork, almost. Extraction of the fuze cap was more complicated than anticipated, and it took



Capt Mike Lobb prepares the ground around the bomb found under a disused football pitch. Inset: Forbidden zone

the Royal Engineers 14½ hours to trepan through the 1½-inch high grade steel shell.

In the final phase of the operation, during which the team usually stands off while the explosive is remotely steamed out, part of the contents had to be broken up manually before it could be burned.

Military policemen joined civil police in an opera-

tion to prevent theft while nearby homes were empty.

Capt Lobb, 2iC of 58 Field Squadron, and his Wimbish colleagues were duly feted as local heroes.

Nearly 4,000 residents, evacuated from a 2,000-yard exclusion zone, had ample cause to breathe a sigh of relief - and give thanks for the nerveless skills of the Army's bomb disposal squad.



# Army to play key role in Hyde Park festival

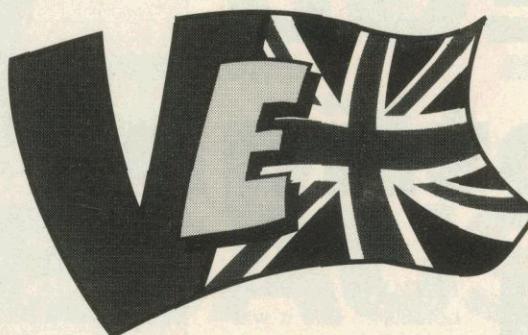
THE ARMY will play a major part in the massive VE Day festival in London's Hyde Park, centrepiece of Britain's official commemoration of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Three days of special ceremonies, exhibitions, displays, concerts and other events designed to reflect the themes of thanksgiving, peace and reconciliation are expected to attract huge crowds. It will be the largest single event of its kind to be staged in London since 1945.

The 40-acre site on the eastern edge of Hyde Park will provide an arena for 130,000 people and a stage for a choir of 3,000 and a full symphony orchestra. Around it will be a performing arts centre, bandstands, exhibition pavilions, displays of current and wartime military equipment and vehicles, and an extensive veterans' centre.

There will be a strong musical theme to the Bank Holiday weekend events – May 6-8 – with traditional folk music and 1940s jazz and swing intermingling with Army, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force massed bands.

Other displays will depict worldwide peacekeeping and famine relief operations, developments in post-war technology and the work of charities. A 70ft



flower-covered globe will feature at the heart of the ceremonies involving heads of state from more than 50 countries.

Within the covered exhibition pavilions, visitors will be able to trace the wartime campaigns that led to Victory in Europe Day. Other displays will highlight life on the Home Front.

For wartime veterans wishing to make contact with former colleagues, there will be an even larger reception pavilion than was provided for them at last summer's D Day ceremonies in Portsmouth.

The Hyde Park facility will have information desks with computer terminals providing comprehensive databases for a "Veterans' Link" to help old comrades

attending the commemorations, and areas for meeting old friends and relaxing.

Among those taking part in the musical celebrations will be the mounted bands of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals, the Bands of the Grenadier Guards and Welsh Guards and trumpeters from the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, as well as the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment and 1st Battalion, Scots Guards.

Military units in the main arena will include The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, Household Cavalry Musical Ride, the Red Devils free-fall parachute team and the Royal Signals White Helmets motor cycle display team. There will be a demonstration by the tri-Service Defence Animal Centre dog display team.

The Royal Artillery's 47 Regiment will provide a number of key personnel for the veterans' centre and join forces with the Grenadier Guards and Army Cadet Force to act as ushers in the main arena and stands.

Static displays put on by the three Services will include Warrior, Saxon and Scimitar vehicles manned by the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and the Household Cavalry Regiment. Combat Services Support Group will put on a logistics demonstration.

The 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders will form a guard of honour and provide five half companies to line the streets.

The Honourable Artillery Company will be heavily committed as will Provost units from London District and 4th Division, and the Bands of the Inns of Court Royal Yeomanry and the Coldstream Guards.

• Sappers from 50 Field Squadron (Construction) RE of Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment have been laying trackway across Hyde Park, while additional Army personnel will be called upon as required.

## Statistics not all doom and gloom

WELL OVER a quarter of a million members of the UK Armed Forces were killed in the Second World War – more than half of them in the Army. These casualties were but a fraction of the 40 million lives claimed by the conflict worldwide.

A staggering 25 million of those died in the former Soviet Union.

As the events marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the war gain momentum, statistics like these seem to take on a stark and sobering new meaning.

They, and many other facts and figures building up a vivid picture of the effect of world war, are to be found in *Fighting With Figures*, published by the Central Statistical Office as its contribution to VE commemorations. The CSO was set up by

Churchill in 1941 to help him direct the war effort and manage the wartime economy. Statistics were a vital tool, for example, in monitoring the strength of the Armed Forces.

But it was not all doom and gloom. The book shows that despite the casualties, the population of Britain actually increased during the war years.

So did the national income – by two thirds, while the nation's economic growth, compared with other combatants, was second only to that of the USA. The Yanks' economy grew by 65 per cent.

• *Fighting With Figures: A Statistical Digest of the Second World War*. Text by Peter Howlett. HMSO, hardback £29.95, paperback £19.95.

## Foggy sights

FOG DELAYED the Royal Wessex Yeomanry shooting match on Bulford Ranges where 16 teams competed for a place in the 3rd (UK) Division Skill-at-Arms meeting. HQ (Royal Gloucestershire Hussars) Squadron from Cirencester was best overall. Prizes were presented by the Bulford Area commander, Brig Tony Kerr.

## Anglians win challenge

HEADQUARTERS 49 (East Midlands) Brigade held its annual two-day military skills competition – Exercise Polar Challenge – at Catterick for the last time in its present form.

The brigade has since changed both its boundaries and its name on the formation of Land Command. Renamed 49 (East) Brigade, it now

incorporates the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire in addition to the East Midlands, for which it was already responsible.

Winners were an eight-man team from HQ Coy, 7 R Anglian, who received the Polar Challenge trophy from the Brigade Commander, Brig Henry Wilson.

## Rommel VC fetches £121,000 at auction

THE Victoria Cross awarded to Lt Col Geoffrey Keyes MC (24), of the Royal Scots Greys, who died while trying to capture Rommel at Beda Litoria, Libya in November 1941, has been sold for £121,000.

It went to a private British bidder at a Spink auction.



Churchill being mobbed by the crowds as he made his triumphant ride to the Houses of Parliament

# The day the guns fell silent . . .

FIFTY years after the guns fell silent across Europe it is impossible in mere words or pictures to recapture for younger generations the enormity of May 4, 1945 – when Montgomery accepted the German surrender at Lüneburg Heath.

For millions whose lives had been ripped apart by world war, Victory in Europe Day was an end and a beginning, for most a day of great joy, for some a start of despair. Few who emerged would ever cast off the scars of the previous five years. The shadow thrown by that conflict over the survivors – soldiers and civilians – has never completely receded.

Our national commemoration on the 50th anniversary of VE Day is a thanksgiving for Peace and Reconciliation. London's Hyde Park will be transformed on May 6-8 for a

gigantic celebration of those themes. Wartime veterans will be particularly honoured, as they will be at events all over Britain and Europe.

These pages are published as



a tribute to the men and women of the British Army – the living and the dead – who were involved, in the words of historian Arthur Bryant, in that "great pilgrimage".

"Victory has been won," he

wrote in the Victory Souvenir issue of *Soldier* on May 8, 1945, "and when the British war effort is measured in terms of individual effort and achievement, no nation in the world can rival it.

"For five years, longer than any other people except the Poles, the British have resisted,

● Turn to next page

# THE LAST ENEMY

Soldiers, more especially those who have been forward squeezing the trigger, will thank their own private Lord that victory has come to their arms in this theatre of war.

Should we need reminding how far we have come along this bitter, bloody road, we can look at David Low's imperishable draw-

ing in this magazine. With all the guff and nonsense knocked out of us, we, the British people, stood bare and stripped in 1940 with only our guts presented to the enemy's steel.

For those guts, which are our heritage, let us now give praise; for they were stronger than the steel.

We, and those who came

into the fight with us and whose blood has flowed as freely as our own into this foreign soil, may now look all men in the face and say with truth, "We saved the world."

Saved?  
Yes; for the time being.  
We have another account to settle, and that with the Japanese. Some have

called them the last enemy. This is not so; having fought as we have, knowing that we must fight again, we still have the Last Enemy then to face, another battle

to win. Friends, that battle is for the Peace.

— Soldier, British Liberation Army edition VE Day issue, May 8, 1945.

● Below — the Low cartoon



Liberation jig: Scottish troops walk arm-in-arm with women from a village on the island of Beveland

## Guns fell silent

● From Page 25

held and fought down the Axis with a single-hearted devotion and fanaticism for which there scarcely seems a parallel in recorded history."

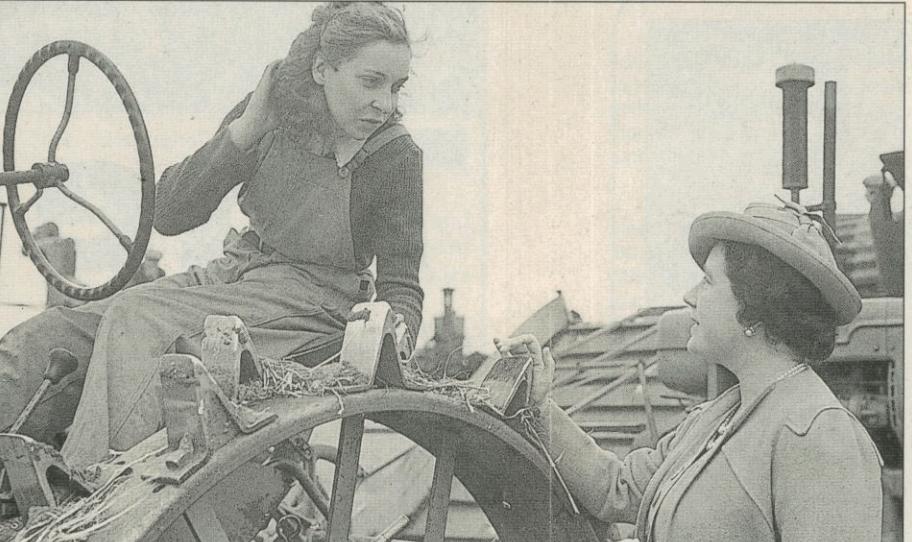
Despite the euphoria of Victory in Europe, troops involved in the bitter fighting in the Far East were not the Forgotten Army in *Soldier*. The VE Day issue reminded its readers closer to home that "the other half of the war has still to be won". Under the headline NOW OUR EYES TURN TO THE EAST it stated "... there has never been any real excuse for forgetting that this is part of the same war."

We can offer no more telling words than the eight paragraphs entitled THE LAST ENEMY which appeared on the front cover of the Victory Souvenir issue published for the British Liberation Army exactly 50 years ago (top, with artist Forster's striking cover design).

● Interviews to mark VE Day will appear in the next issue.



Pleased to see you: A soldier makes friends with happy children in Winterswyk, Holland



Above — The Queen talks to a Land Girl on the Sandringham estate. *Soldier*'s VE Day issue paid special tribute to women who bore a great deal of the burden of the war — Jane Smith (Miss or Mrs) of Great Britain, the woman who, in Mr Bevin's words "tipped the scales of victory"

Left — If the jacket fits . . . No sooner had the war in Europe ended than tens of thousands of soldiers were preparing to return to civvy street



VICTORY SOUVENIR NUMBER VE-Day, 8 May 1945

## THE LAST ENEMY

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Friends, that battle is for the Peace.

# SOLDIER

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## From the frying pan into the fire . . .

A BLUEPRINT for The New Europe was outlined in *Soldier* by Jan Masaryk, Czechoslovakia's Foreign Affairs Minister. But in the light of much of the following 45 years, his Plan for Peace makes ironic reading.

Writing in the VE Day souvenir issue he said: "During the past five years I have seen many blueprints for the New Europe. I have been sceptical about nearly all of them — sceptical because I know that peacetime will be about as hard as wartime.

"These two Great Wars have deeply scarred the life of Europe. In a hundred years' time many of the scars will still be there . . .

"We must see that Germany's capacity for aggression is for ever destroyed. My own country, for instance, is determined to prevent any revival of Germany's drive to the East, her traditional *Drang nach Osten*.

"For this reason Czechoslovakia has entered a special alliance with the Soviet Union. She believes that alliance with the

Soviet Union can alone safeguard either herself or her neighbour, Poland, from German attack in the years to come.

"But this is only part of the story . . . We who are building up security in Eastern Europe believe that there will be no failure to build up security in Western Europe. There will be special ties between Britain, France and the Low Countries."

But an Iron Curtain had to be torn down before Jan Masaryk's New Europe could begin to take shape, and that was to take another 45 years . . .



# No bananas (or bacon and eggs for that matter) today

NO whisky in the pubs, no strength in the beer. The winning of the war had not solved every problem.

*Soldier's* consolation for troops unlikely to return home immediately after the German surrender was that very little on the bleak home front was likely to change in the near future.

"There will be no immediate buying of peacetime suits made of 1939 cloth. There will be no immediate eating of peacetime meals – steak and chips, bacon and eggs, banana fritters... In short, things that are rationed now will continue

to be rationed, though gradually we shall get more of them."

The writer concluded: "... it looks as though a period of waiting will follow the end of the war in the West in which those lucky enough to be demobilised will begin to savour the things of peace – a sip here and a nibble there.

"But the man who returns a year later is likely to find little difference in the supply of comforts and luxuries from that of his mate who gets out under demobilisation priority one."



LBdr P Manley MM of Wombwell, Yorkshire was one of the first British soldiers to shake hands with a Russian.

On the windy Baltic coast at Wismar, on May 3 1945, he and his mates of 6th Airborne Division met a Russian armoured squadron which had been ranging westwards from Rostock, looking for foes or friends.

Bdr Manley, recorded *Soldier*, may not have known that *Zdorovo Droog* was Russian for "Hello, chum" but he didn't let that cramp his style. He was soon exchanging drinks and cigarettes.

**And that was all there was to it...**

"I shook hands with this Russian tank man. He was a young lad, and he wore a hat loaded with phones and gadgets, the sort of thing you would expect on a man from Mars.

"He gripped my left hand and slapped me on the shoulder with his right. I did the same. We stood and grinned at each other. What else was there to do?

"We had linked up, and that was all there was to it."

## IN THE PRESS



What the papers have been saying

## Cuts 'deep enough . . .'

NOBODY can blame the Armed Forces if they view the latest proposals for reform with the deepest suspicion. For years the Services have been cut back savagely. For them the so-called 'peace dividend' has a hollow ring.

... But 'efficiency' gained by ending allowances or streamlining ranks cannot become an excuse to weaken our defence commitment further. The cuts have gone deep enough. — *Daily Mail*

□ Strong support for maintaining the regimental system within the Army was expressed by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind in an interview. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Army engineers building tank tracks on Salisbury Plain destroyed a Bronze Age drainage ditch on Tilshead Down near Stonehenge. — *Daily Express*

□ The United Nations has voted to extend its peacekeeping operation in former Yugoslavia although final details on a reconfigured mission in Croatia are unsettled. — *Independent*

□ NATO ambassadors authorised the deployment to Croatia of 80 military personnel from the Western military alliance to prepare for a UN withdrawal from Bosnia-Herzegovina if that becomes necessary. — *Times*

## Aberdeen UOTC strikes lightning

EIGHTEEN of the 19 University Officers Training Corps detachments took part in Lightning Strike, the annual Royal Signals' UOTC contest.

About 200 officer cadets were put through a variety of stands, including intercepting and jamming communications with 237 Signal Squadron (EW) and carrying logs for 216 (Para) Sig Sqn. They raced on grass in Arctic snow shoes provided by 249 (AMF(L)) Sig Sqn and enjoyed a meal of pigs' heads and dandelion coffee cooked by 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn.

The overall winners were Aberdeen UOTC, with Queens in second place.

## Northwest Frontier, here we come



Col Richard Brook (left) presents a £1,500 cheque to Lt Malcolm Collins at the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park. The money will pay for ice picks and crampons for the 1995 Army Cadet Force expedition to the Himalayas. Fifty cadets will test their courage and sense of adventure in

one of the world's most spectacular regions — the Hindu Kush, the wild and remote Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan. WO1 (RSM) Michael McCarthy (front right) hands over a pennant to Cpl Stacey Haward and Chris Gerskowitch. It will be carried to the highest peak.

## Otterburn's MLRS, AS90 plan unveiled

PROPOSALS for a £23 million development plan for the 58,000-acre Otterburn Training Area in Northumberland — which would include road movement and live firing by the AS90 self-propelled gun and Multi Launcher Rocket System (MLRS) — have been submitted by the MoD to the Northumberland National Parks Authority (NPA).

Included in the plan is a £1 million programme of measures to reduce the effect of military manoeuvres on the environment, protect wildlife and minimise noise.

Development at Otterburn — the only range in the United Kingdom on which MLRS can be fired tactically — is essential to the Army as a result of the drawdown in Germany.

The proposal for development, submitted with a military justification explaining why AS90 and the MLRS operators need to train at Otterburn, followed an independent environmental study and took into account Government policy on major developments in national parks.

"By the end of this year, 27 per cent of the Army will be based in the UK, and a significant proportion of these forces will be units equipped with heavy tracked vehicles," said

Maj Gen Rob McAfee, Director General Training.

"The increase in these types of unit will inevitably put pressure on all our training areas, and this is something we intend to monitor and manage carefully."

Proposals for the range — 22 per cent of the Northumberland National Park — include 5.5km of new track, 49.4km of widened road and track to accommodate bigger tracked vehicles, gun spurs, observation posts, a maintenance facility and extra accommodation at Otterburn Camp.

The development plans are part of an overall £70 million programme to upgrade all

MoD training areas over the next ten years. The MoD looked at a number of training options for AS90 and MLRS regiments, said Col Clint Hicks, Army Training.

These included the acquisition of a new training area in the UK and training overseas.

"Overall, we believe our proposals will meet the needs of the Army, while safeguarding the environment and wildlife and allowing for rights of public access and the interest of local communities," said Maj Gen McAfee.

Before making its decision on the plan, the NPA will be involved in consultation with interested parties.

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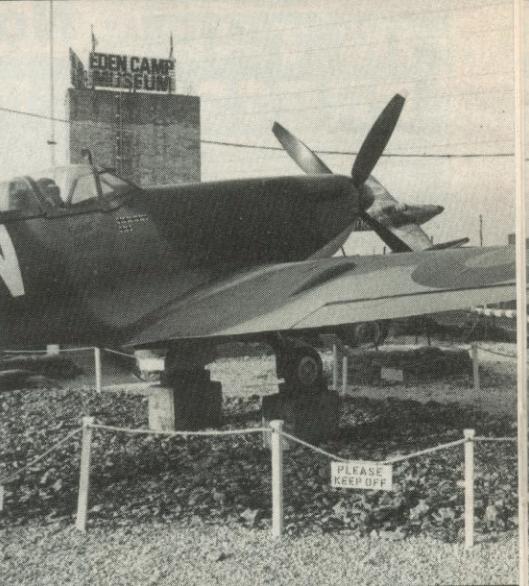
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Above - The entrance to Eden Camp  
Left - Display corridor at the reunion hut



Stan Johnson, former corporal, now promoted to camp commandant, in the representative prisoners-of-war hut at the museum



# Yorkshire's Eden is certainly

## "hut" stuff . . .

SELF-MADE millionaire Stan Johnson was surveying his latest acquisition – six acres of property in Malton, north Yorkshire – one morning when he was approached by three Italians.

"May we look round our old camp?" they asked.

And that was when the proverbial lightbulb lit up inside his head . . .

The 35 huts – still virtually intact – on the site he had pur-

chased were the remnants of Eden Camp, better known as PoW Camp 83, home to 250 Italian prisoners from 1940 to 1944 and the Germans from 1944 to 1948.

"I thought, if people are so

interested in the place, why not make full use of the huts and convert the camp into a living theme museum on the Second World War," Stan recalls.

A former corporal conscript in the Green Howards, and

now president of the regiment's local association, he did just that.

Nine years on, the annual number of visitors to Eden Camp (situated midway between Scarborough and York) is touching the quarter-million mark.

Described as "the world's only modern history theme museum", Stan Johnson's brainchild sets out to tell the story of the People's War, depicting different aspects of life in Britain between 1939 and 1945.

Hut upon hut, containing everything from graphic descriptions of the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party and the declaration of war, to a realistic portrayal of being in a submarine under attack, or walking down a war-time shopping street, are still there in rows, as they were when the last of the 1,200 occupants returned to Germany almost half a century ago.

One of the huts, complete with a corridor full of badges and photographs, has been specifically set aside for reunions by former Servicemen and women.

"It seemed a simple idea to start up the museum," said Stan, as he relaxed in Hut 10, a representation of the quarters where the PoWs were housed, 64 to a hut.

"But there were a lot of initial worries. The day we opened, I hadn't really got a lot of capital left, and my bank

cise Compound or asked their teachers to explain exactly what the doodlebug on display was.

From time to time the ban-  
shee wail of an air raid siren  
pierced the air, a stark  
reminder for any grandparents  
present of a time they had all  
lived through.

A nearby plaque stated:  
"Eden Camp Modern Historical  
Museum was created to honour the courage, fortitude  
and sacrifice of the people who  
served in all walks of life during  
the Second World War 1939-  
1949. Freedom is the greatest  
justice of life. Stanley Johnson  
1987."

The place has come a long  
way since a small contingent of  
Army personnel, under the  
command of a sergeant,  
arrived at Malton in 1942 to  
construct a barbed wire enclo-  
sure and erect tents to house  
the flow of enemy soldiers cap-  
tured in north Africa.

These days, Stan, who con-  
fesses that he bought the site to  
turn it into a food factory, no  
longer feels the need – as he  
did before he set up the enter-  
prise – to count the cars pass-  
ing on the adjacent busy main  
road on their way, not to Eden  
Camp, but to the nearby  
attractions of the Beverley  
Transport Museum or Scar-  
borough's Flamingoland . . .

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'BOMBERS' JUMBO SAUSAGE)	
POW QUARTER POUNDER (BEEFBURGER)	
DOODLEBUGS (FISH FINGERS)	
ALL ABOVE DISHES INCLUDE CHIPS OR . . .	

Tongue-in-cheek wartime menu

manager and accountant both  
thought I was a fool."

His apparent foolhardiness  
has been vindicated, with additional  
huts opening over  
the past five years  
which house a  
"museum within a  
museum".

Inside, international military  
and political events of the  
Second World War are cov-  
ered, from Dunkirk to D-Day  
and Africa and the Middle East  
to Italy.

Having experienced, for  
example, the tumult and dark-  
ness of a British town in the  
Blitz, replete with the sounds  
of fire engine bells and crack-  
ling flames, accompanied by  
an appropriate smell of burn-

ing, or the authentic whiff of  
medical liniment in another  
hut, visitors can go outside and  
breathe the fresh  
air.

They might then  
take a look at the  
lovingly-recon-  
structed and fur-  
nished 1946 pre-fab

with its accompanying "Dig for  
Britain" allotment, before  
dropping into the Prisoners'  
Canteen.

There, even the menu is con-  
sistent with Eden Camp's  
theme, with such offerings as  
Soup of D-Day, Home Guard  
Pastie or Bombers (jumbo  
sausages).

Outside, children who take  
their peaceful lives for granted  
played in the Prisoners' Exer-

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### TASK OR RESOURCE SCHEDULES?

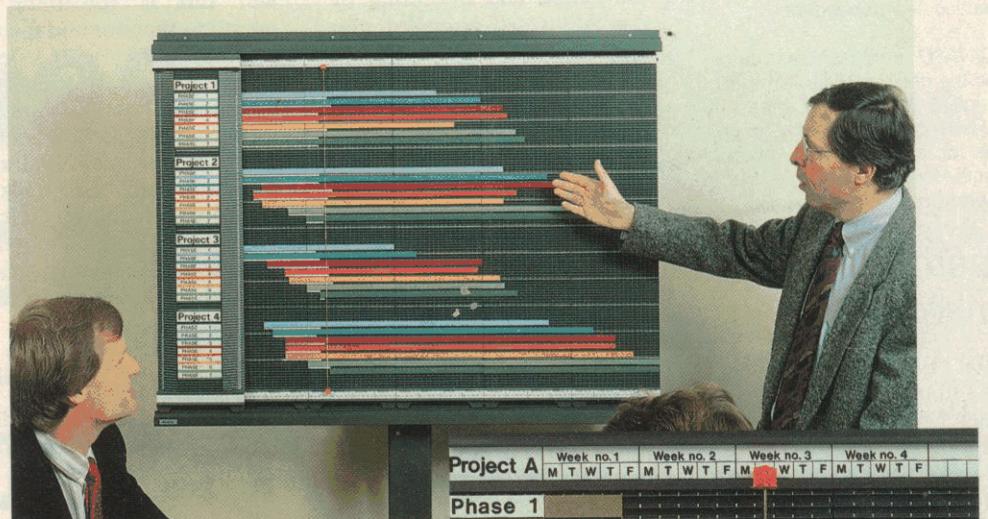
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# Here's the evidence that Mr Bett listened...

IT WAS with a mixture of exasperation and resignation that I viewed the headlines which greeted the Bett Review. After reading this imaginative and realistic report, could the media really focus only on the proposal to amalgamate ranks?

If you read Bett in total – as I have – you cannot escape the huge amount of text given over to the welfare of the family.

Underpinning most recommendations is the recognition of the importance of the family. The rank issue is a tiny one.

I have lived and worked with the Forces for nearly 20 years and I remember Service people telling me over and over again that the time would come when there would have to be a rationalisation of rank structures.

And that was before the fall of the Berlin Wall... What should have

made the headlines was the Bett commitment to recognise modern family structures.

Take for example the recommendation that the Forces recognise and redefine "entitled partners". In other words, people in stable relationships not formalised by marriage should be regarded in the same way as those who are married.

To the Old Guard, this will seem preposterous. But it is something that has been discussed for a great many years and I think it shows that Mr Bett has actually listened.

**If the MoD could find a way of carrying out the recommendation it would win many friends.**

Those who argue against it paint a world where the average



**Cari's column**

squaddie (of either sex these days) would want a quarter to house a string of lovers. That isn't what we are talking about.

The people we are talking about are those who have been living together for four or five years,

who may have children, and who wish to be a family.

If the other Bett recommendations were carried out – particularly those concerning stability and regional postings – the Forces of the future may well be faced with such an arrangement prior to an overseas posting.

Let's look at those parts of the review aimed at the care of children and their education. If a Service person with a child with special needs could be reassured that that child's education would

not be interrupted, would he or she not be more likely to stay on and give valuable service?

And then there is the approach to welfare as a whole. There has been much huffing and puffing from the Old Guard on too much emphasis being placed on personnel work. Well, I too still see the Services in their "old" role.

*I speak as one who was supposed to keep a bag packed in the cellar in case "They" came over the border. An American ex-Service man told me it was time to "wake up and smell the coffee." "They" aren't coming any more.*

Hard though it is, I and the rest of the Brigade of Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells have to realise that the modern Service person wants to serve in a modern Army.

Take Boarding School

Bett places his recommendations in a world 15 years hence. It will be a world in which young people expect to be treated with respect.

They will not want to step back in time when they don the khaki.

They will still be the same high calibre of men and women. They will still want to serve their compatriots and they will still want to be part of an ancient and noble tradition. But they won't want to pay the price of living in sub-standard housing with the creaking bureaucracy of yesteryear tying their hands at every move.

The point of the Bett Review is that it has to be read as a total package. It is no good homing in on a selection of recommendations and shaking our heads at the foolhardiness of them.

Take Boarding School

Allowance. If you believed what you read in some papers, you would think there was a suggestion that BSA should be cut. Not a bit of it.

If all the other recommendations were in operation, 15 years from now the bill for BSA would be lower as a natural consequence.

It would be a saving, and one achieved by more sensible management, not by cutting it out of the family budget.

*For me, the most exciting dimension of the Bett Review is the way in which his team has obviously listened to what was being said at the coal face. All the issues addressed were those which have, over the years, crossed my desk or bent my ear.*

The late Anne Armstrong used to come flying into my office, papers spilling from her

briefcase, full of just these issues. I can't help wondering what she would have made of Bett.

Of one thing I am certain – she would have been as pleased as I am that the MoD seems to have adopted a totally open approach to the discussion process.

The Bett Review is just that... a review taking stock of where we are and what we might want to be in the future.

I sincerely hope those commanding units take up the gauntlet and hold briefings and discussions for all their members. And I hope the comments are fed back.

Copies of the review are available from HMSO and I strongly urge everyone to get hold of one if their unit cannot make them generally available.

And I urge everyone to read the whole docu-

# Legion urges councils to 'disregard' war pensions

AS THE nation prepares to celebrate 50 years of peace, the Royal British Legion is mounting a campaign to highlight the plight of thousands of war pensioners and war widows who are being penalised by their local authorities.

Under current rules, local authorities are only obliged to disregard the first £10 of a war pension or war widow's pension before taking all the remainder into account when assessing individuals for council charges and housing benefit.

The Government has chosen not to intervene,

allowing the authorities to use their discretion. Sixty per cent generously allow a total disregard, but the other 40 per cent do not, depriving pensioners of part of the compensation they have been awarded for disabilities and bereavement incurred in the defence of the nation.

An RBL campaign last year successfully drew attention to the "missing millions" of ex-Service personnel who were unaware they were eligible to apply for war pensions. There was a huge surge of applicants to the War Pensions Agency.

The Legion is now calling on all local authorities which do not allow a full disregard to do so in future.

## Franchise directory

More than 600 franchise and business opportunities are included in a new 48-page directory.

The Perkins Index lists companies by price bands, so giving the Service leaver with say £9,000 to spend on a franchise or business opportunity, a good idea of just how many companies fit his or her financial restraints.

Most of the first edition of 5,000 booklets have been sent to Armed Forces personnel.

The Perkins Index costs £5 post free and is available from FBS, PO Box 6, Fleet GU13 9YP.

## Drivers sought

BRS Taskforce has launched a nationwide recruitment drive to attract 1,000 HGV drivers by July. The company's temporary drivers receive a full employment package including pension scheme, holidays and uniform. For more details, ring 01345 626801.

# College sets up shop at 30 Sigs

BRAMCOTE-based 30 Signal Regiment has its very own academy of learning – thanks to a link with the North Warwickshire College in nearby Nuneaton.

With the agreement of commanding officer Lt Col John Thomas, pilot courses for wives were run by the college in the regiment's community centre, and it was quickly realised that there was scope for expansion.

Luckily the regiment has a large and well appointed training wing, a legacy from the previous occupants of Gamecock Barracks, the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery, and North Warwickshire College has effectively set up a Bramcote wing there.

A number of courses are now available to husbands and wives, and in some cases older dependent children can undertake NVQ and GCSE

courses. The list so far includes numeracy and English to GCSE level; first aid; introduction to counselling; a variety of computer skills; NVQ and Institute of Management accreditation in supervision and management; and motor vehicle maintenance.

The college is also running courses to complement the soldiers' studies

in technical subjects for their trade and training, and is providing English language training for the Queen's Gurkha Signals soldiers of the regiment to supplement their formal qualifications.

Within a few weeks of the college setting up shop in Gamecock Barracks up to 20 per cent of the regiment's wives had enrolled for courses.

## SIGNAL SUCCESS FOR LECONFIELD

A BUSINESS award for an Armed Services unit has been presented to the Combat Support Services Signals Division at Leconfield. It is believed to be the first in the UK.

The unit, part of the Army School of Mechanical Transport, beat two other finalists to win the 1994 Barclays Bank Award for business development through training for small business organi-

sations of fewer than 25 employees.

Spearheading the entry were Maj Ron Chisholm, OC the signals training division, and Divisional WO Andrew Card, who helped write and design the first National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in telecommunications.

They needed to train and retain skilled and motivated signallers and to arm them with qualifica-

tions at no extra cost that would be recognised in civvy street.

They also had to work to be recognised as an assessment centre producing their own assessors and verifiers.

Their achievement was rewarded with a trophy and £1,000 to help ASMT achieve the Investors in People national award.

The school, which employs 150 Army and

600 civilians, contributes about £30m a year to the local economy, said Brig Noel Muddiman, Commandant ASMT.

"We have had to adopt a business approach and I am delighted the achievements of the signals division gained recognition. We are looking forward to seeing how they fare as Humber's entry for the UK Small Business of the Year Award."

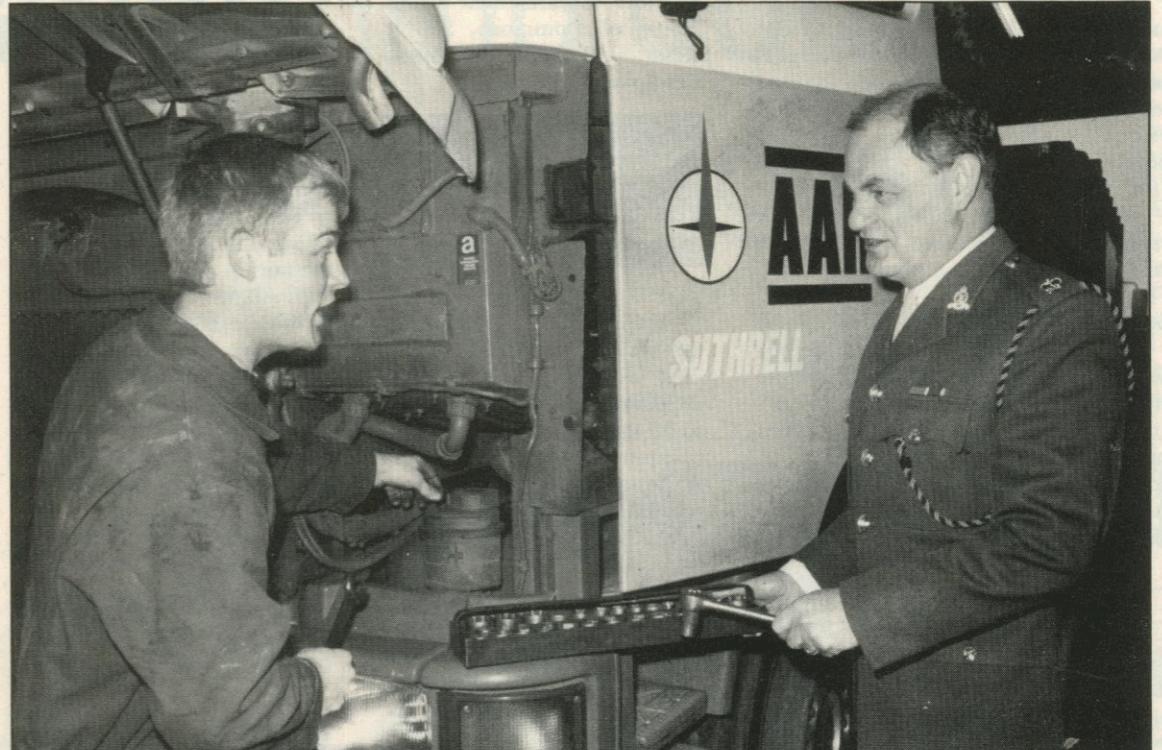
He used the attachment to identify trades and job opportunities within the industry which would

## Gurkhas covered in distinction

Twenty soldiers of the Royal Gurkha Rifles have qualified for part one of the course and 12 have gone on to achieve the part two qualification.

Capt Kishore Kumar Subba and Rfn Pramod Sherchan qualified with distinction.

The courses were the Security Industry Training Organisation/City and Guilds of London Institute Professional Guard parts one and two (supervi-



## Major refuse collector

suit soldiers leaving his regiment. AAH lorries are well known in Lincolnshire for their refuse collecting. The company is also involved in street cleaning and ground maintenance.

Graham said there were many opportunities for Service leavers in the industry, and those pre-

pared to obtain the right qualifications could compete on an equal footing with their civilian counterparts.

He listed HGV driving, vehicle maintenance and fitting, management and administration as fields in which Service leavers had comparable skills with civvies.

## Wanted: clinical treatment for PTSD sufferers

I RECENTLY made radio and TV broadcasts on behalf of many ex-Service veterans suffering from the distressing effects of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

My appeal was mainly concerned with the provision of effective clinical treatment under the National Health Service. Once people leave the Services they are sidelined to

the Mental Health Service, which tends to treat the symptoms (with medication) rather than treating the cause.

My TV interview was followed-up by an Army personality who seemed to me and my fellow veterans to trivialise PTSD with a typical "British stiff upper lip" and "soldiers don't cry" attitude.

Believe me, PTSD sufferers

can, and do, cry when reliving the trauma of the battlefield following nightmares and flashbacks.

I thought your readers might also be interested to know that Hull and District Ex-Services Mental Health Group (HANDEX) was formed last year to provide mutual support and assistance to ex-Service PTSD sufferers, men and

women, and to fight for the right to receive proper and effective clinical treatment. — **Laurie Whittle (ex-WO2 ORQMS), HANDEX Administrator, 73 Grammar School Road, Hull HU5 4NY (tel: 01482 348195).**

### Time to act on Gulf syndrome

REGARDLESS of what actually happened, or what was given to the men and women in the Gulf, the fact remains that some of them are sick and gradually getting worse day by day.

How many of them have to die before this whole issue is resolved, or does the MoD believe that if they can drag it out for long enough, time will eventually take care of this "problem" for them? — **Frustrated Gulf Wife.**

THE letter from the Prime Minister reproduced in your September 19, 1994 issue in which he said he did not believe there was anything more to be done on the question of a medal for service in the Suez Canal Zone intrigued me.

I, too, have been fighting for an award — the General Service Medal with clasp CYPRUS for the period I and many others were stationed there during the EOKA crisis.

I have written proof from the Ministry of Defence stating that the qualifying period for this medal was "uniquely longer than most".

It also says that the only way this anomaly could be altered would be by a full review by the present Honours and Decorations Committee, leading to a further submission to the Sovereign and a new Royal War-

rant. So I am now asking the Prime Minister to submit a request to the Queen for the issue of a belated new Royal Warrant so that this anomaly may be removed once and for all.

Had I been fighting in the Near East instead of being in Cyprus my presence for just one day would have qualified me for a medal.

It was not the fault of anyone in my regiment that we were called back from Cyprus before the 120-day qualifying period had expired.

If belated awards can be made (as exemplified by another article in the same issue of the magazine) then I see no reason why our claim cannot be belated as well.

I believe it was Queen Victoria who decreed, or instituted the rule, that "There should be

### Secret Army's life expectancy

YOUR "Secret Army" article (February 6) referring to the three-week operational survival expectancy of Britain's Auxiliary Units prompted me to do some research.

I quote from *The Secret War of Charles Fraser-Smith*: "I felt a

total dedication to those agents of the SOE, 480 in all, whose

average life in the field nar-

rowed down to a mere three

weeks, as we later discovered."

Could the survival period of the rank and file ever be calculated?

In Mr Fraser-Smith's book, one of the reasons for the low survival rate was betrayal by German sympathisers. According to an article in *The Listener* of May 1, 1986, the SOE Prosper network was betrayed by MI6 in the summer of 1943!

Congratulations on *Soldier's* 50th. Since your magazine went public I have bought and read all issues except one. — **H E Clarke, Ipswich, Suffolk.**

## Cyprus award fight on a par with Suez quest

an award for every campaign and that every person that took up arms should participate".

Readers who served in either Suez or Cyprus and did not get an award should contact their Member of Parliament at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA. — **David Williams, Bridgwater, Somerset.**

THE letter from the Prime Minister reproduced in your September 19, 1994 issue in which he said he did not believe there was anything more to be done on the question of a medal for service in the Suez Canal Zone intrigued me.

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YOUR article "Dumped in the Deep" (March 6), recalling ammunition disposal in the sea by the Army in the 1940s and 1950s, brought back tragic memories.

In August-September 1943, having just arrived at CAD Longtown as a newly-trained ammunition storeman in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, I was part of a special detail taken to Workington, Cumbria, to board the 700-ton coaster, ss *Craster*.

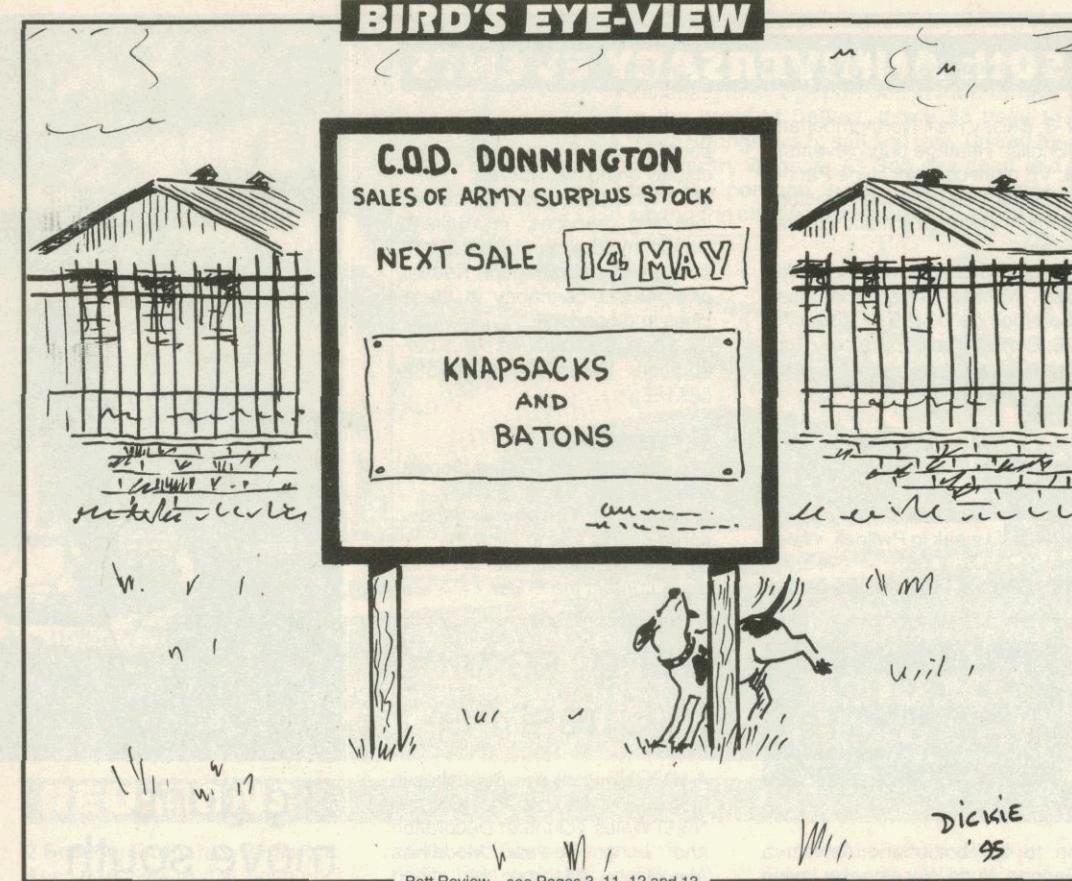
It was loaded with 150 tons of 40mm Bofors anti-aircraft shells, all misfires from St Agnes Royal Artillery Training School, Cornwall.

Could the survival period of

the rank and file ever be calculated?

In Mr Fraser-Smith's book, one of the reasons for the low survival rate was betrayal by German sympathisers. According to an article in *The Listener* of May 1, 1986, the SOE Prosper network was betrayed by MI6 in the summer of 1943!

Congratulations on *Soldier's* 50th. Since your magazine went public I have bought and read all issues except one. — **H E Clarke, Ipswich, Suffolk.**



Bett Review — see Pages 3, 11, 12 and 13

## Irish Sea ammo dumping led to 1943 tragedy

just a wooden plank wall between us and the ammunition.

Our mission, to dump the ammunition in the Irish Sea, was due to last ten days.

Shells were unloaded one at a time, from crates hoisted on deck from the hold, and thrown over the side. On contact with the sea each shell was propelled by water pressure against the side of the ship.

On the sixth day, disaster struck — not with the jettisoned

shells, but in the hold. Two of the lads had just lifted a crate onto a platform ready for hoisting by derrick onto the deck when it exploded, setting

off another two crates. Four of the six men in the hold were seriously injured, one fatally.

When we put into Ramsey, Isle of Man, an eight-day

## When Sjt became Sgt

Stowmarket, Suffolk.

● We understand that the spelling originally depended upon the unit, but in the late 1940s-early 1950s new standard abbreviations were introduced across the board, appearing in Appendix C to Staff Duties as well as in JSP 101. — **Editor**



### MEMORIES IN PRINT

RECENT features on the 50th anniversary of *Soldier* prompted me to seek out this old tattered copy of the magazine.

I was a reader from the beginning but this copy survived because it contained the exploits of my own 53rd (Welsh) Division and (as suggested on the cover) I rolled it up and sent it home.

At about that time, each number featured a particular division's actions in the Second

World War, which many veterans' associations' newsletters have followed since.

I stopped reading the magazine when I was demobbed and needed to forget my Army days — but I became a subscriber again shortly after becoming a founder member of the Trafford Branch of the Royal Artillery Association and have enjoyed reading it since. — **Wallace Brereton, Sale, Cheshire.**

## Hero of Sobraon

IN YOUR *People* piece on the Sobraon Sergeant (April 3) it is a pity you did not mention Sgt McCabe, 31st Regiment (later East Surreys).

He was the NCO who during the 1846 battle seized the Regimental Colour from the hands of the dead ensign and planted it on the Sikh ramparts, thus encouraging the regiment to successfully storm the enemy positions.

Commissioned for his bravery, McCabe was mortally wounded as a captain at Lucknow in 1857, leading his fourth sortie.

He remains a hero and his famous action is still commemorated by the descendants of the 31st. — **D James (one-time East Surrey Regt), Sutton, Surrey.**

court of inquiry was held, during which I had my 19th birthday.

About five weeks after my return to Longtown we went out again, this time with 40mm Bofors and rockets with parachutes attached.

There were no Pioneer Corps with us, just RAOC. — **Frank Mather, Warrington.**

**Imperial War Museum**

London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season.

Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

**May 4-6:** 1940s fashion shows.

**From August:** Victory in the Far East display.

**Until August 31:** D-Day to Victory exhibition.

**VE Day - MAY**

**6:** Reception and banquet, Guildhall, City of London.

**6:** VE Day Freedom parade of Camberley by Royal Logistic Corps.

**6-8:** Public event activities, Hyde Park.

**7:** Service at St Paul's Cathedral.

**7 or 8:** Services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

**50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

**7-8:** Belsay Hall, Northumberland (English Heritage public events).

**8:** VE night concert, Hyde Park.

**8:** Dover Castle salute to victory, English Heritage's main VE Day event.

**27-29:** Victory Show rally by Military Vehicle Trust, Southsea Common (tel 01489 572582).

**28:** Battle Abbey, E Sussex, English Heritage public events.

**JUNE**

**24-25:** Tynemouth Castle, Tyne and Wear VE commemoration.

**VJ Day - AUGUST**

**12-19:** VJ week in Pwllheli, Wales (tel 01758 614066).

**19:** Open-air service in central

London; Tribute and promise parade, central London; firework display along the Thames.

**20:** Tribute throughout the nation, including services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh, and culminating with a Beating the Retreat and Sunset ceremony in these cities and London.

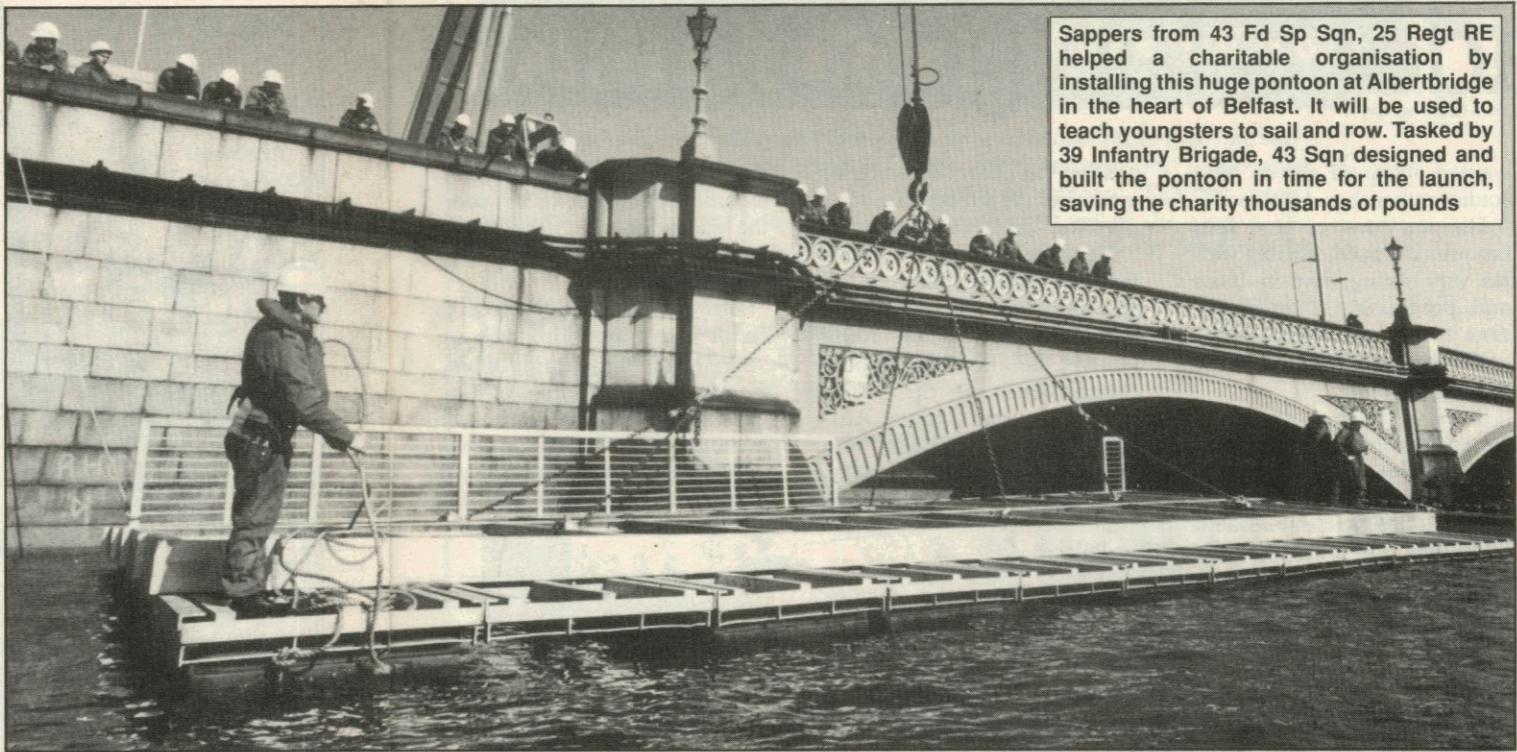
**26:** South Bedfordshire RBLs celebration, Dunstable (tel 01582 663166).

**SEPTEMBER**

**2-3:** Berwick on Tweed floodlit tattoo.

● *Entry to Government-sponsored events free to veterans*

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



Sappers from 43 Fd Sp Sqn, 25 Regt RE helped a charitable organisation by installing this huge pontoon at Albertbridge in the heart of Belfast. It will be used to teach youngsters to sail and row. Tasked by 39 Infantry Brigade, 43 Sqn designed and built the pontoon in time for the launch, saving the charity thousands of pounds

## Crossed Keys fly once more

**SOLDIER to Soldier**

THE CROSSED Keys, famous sign of the British Army's 2nd Division for more than 50 years, is flying proudly from the flagpole at Imphal Barracks in York.

Removed from the Order of Battle under Options for Change, the division's eventual disbandment coincided with the creation of a new District HQ. The new 2 Div, whose headquarters are at York, will be one of three regenerative divisions should the Army need to expand to meet a major international threat.

Its rebirth on March 31 was marked by a bugler as the old flag and title of Eastern District was replaced by the Crossed Keys.

The Second was originally formed in 1809 to fight in the Peninsular War. Its most glorious, and bloodiest, moment came in Burma in 1944 when soldiers of the 2nd Division turned the previously invincible Japanese Army back at the battle of Kohima.

Under Land Command, formed on April 1, 2 Div has responsibility for the whole of Eastern England except Essex.

## Drinks on the Royal Signals

A ROYAL Corps of Signals 75th anniversary memento covers all the celebratory possibilities...

It offers an immediate chance to drink to the health of the corps, plan a delayed party on its 100th birthday (if you can wait that long), or simply an unusual keepsake.

To mark the milestone and raise money for the regimental museum fund, 11 Signal Regiment has commissioned a red wine, the label of which is painted directly



## Long serving in Cheshire

A UNIQUE institution flourishes in Chester, where the Cheshire and North Wales Volunteer Decoration and Long Service Medallists Association has met and dined since 1901. Originally for members of the Cheshire Volunteer Corps – the 1st Cheshire and Caernarvonshire Volunteer Artillery and the 2nd (Earl of Chester's) Volunteer Battalion of The Cheshire Regiment – the association admitted members of other corps in 1906 and since 1908 has held its annual dinner in Chester Town Hall.

Regular soldiers holding the LS Medal who have also served with the volunteer forces are eligible. The chairman is Maj Ron Goodwin, QM of 3 (V) Cheshire.

## Jack was twice the lad

A SCROLL presented to a soldier who twice lied about his age to enlist has been presented to The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers' museum in the Tower of London.

Pte Jack Painter joined the West Yorkshire Regiment and was transferred to the Royal Fusiliers, surviving the first day of the Somme and winning the Military Medal at the age of 16.

Although badly injured in that war, he again lied about his age to enlist in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment for the Second World War.

Pte Painter was one of a family of 15, of whom nine served in the Army. The scroll was presented to him by the people of Walsall Wood, his birthplace.

The scroll was presented by Pte Painter's son, Dr Clifford Painter, who, with his wife Rajni, serves with Cambridge University Officers Training Corps.

on to the bottle and depicts a Second World War signaller laying a wire under fire.

Bottles cost £7.50 each or £84.50 a case. Order forms from the PRI on Blandford Mil 2236 (01258 482236) or RSM on Blandford Mil 2240 (01258 482240).

## War artistry on show

An exhibition of war artistry by Feliks Topolski opens in London in early May to coincide with events to mark the 50th anniversary of VE Day.

A book of 100 drawings by the Polish-born artist, broadcaster and journalist will cover all aspects of the Second World War, including life on the Home Front, the liberation in Europe, the camps and the refugees, as well as the military campaigns in Europe and the Far East.

Between 1939 and 1948 Topolski recorded the bombing of London, the Navy in the Arctic, Russia at war, the Burma and Italy campaigns, Germany's defeat, and the Nuremberg Trials.

The exhibition by the Royal Academician, who died in 1989, starts with a preview on May 3 and continues throughout the summer at the David Messum Gallery, 8 Cork Street, W1.

## Big guns move south

BRITAIN's oldest museum, the Royal Armouries, housed at the Tower of London for the past 900 years, has expanded for the first time – to Hampshire.

Historic cannon, guns and artillery from the world-famous Tower collection have been moved to Fort Nelson, Portsmouth.

The red-brick artillery fort, built to discourage a Napoleonic invasion that never materialised, will house the national collection of artillery. The site was opened by the Duke of Wellington on March 29 following a major restoration.

The Nelson collection includes the infamous Iraqi "supergun".

□ **THE EIGHTH Army Veterans' Association** is looking for a volunteer (preferably a "young" one, not necessarily a veteran) to edit its quarterly newsletter, *New Crusader*. Col W M S Jeffrey, Chairman EAVA, Beechthorpe, Waddington, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 3HY (tel 01200 27835) will fill in the details.

**MILITARIA**

Doctoral student (ex-Regular RAMC/TA RAPC) researching early military garrison New South Wales, Australia (1792-1825).

Regiments involved were NSW Corps (102nd Regt), 1/73rd Regt, 46th Regt, 48th Regt. Details sought of lives and careers of paymasters, paymaster clerks and schoolmaster sergeants. Replies to John Black, Associate Lecturer, Bristol Business School, University of the West of England, Frenchay Campus, Bristol BS16 1QY.

**REUNIONS**

**2 Bn Monmouthshire Regiment:** Annual reunion at the Plough, 27 Museum Street, London WC1 ALH on May 6. Details from S J Stapleton, The Gables, 113 Windmill Road, Brentford, Mddx TW8 9NH (tel 0181 560 2203).

**105 Provost Company RMP, BT Austria:** Reunion, Birmingham, May 20. Details from Bill Taylor 01252 548693 or 01252 524826.

**Royal Scots Dragoon Guards' Association:** Annual reunion at the Union Jack Club, London, May 20. Details from J L Foreman, Secretary London Branch, 1134 Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex.

**2 Queens Colours:** Colours of 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment to be laid up in Canterbury Cathedral on June 1. Reception and luncheon will follow the service. All former Queensmen welcome. Details and tickets from the Secretary on 01227 818054.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Brigadiers:** D W Montgomery – To HQ DRA, Apr 3; J J Purves RGR – To MoD, Apr 3; J M Rayner RE – To HQ AFSOUTH(BAE), Apr 3; A J Snowdon RA – To be CO 12 Regt RA, Apr 8; R Sullivan AGC(ALS) – To HQ Land, Apr 5; W S Torrington RLC – To HQ 4 Div, Apr 3; C J Caswell AGC(ETS) – To 3(UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, Apr 3; N Dransfield AGC(SPS) – To HQ Scotland, Apr 3; D R Potts RA – To HQ DRA, Apr 3; N A Shryane LD – To MoD, Apr 3.

**Lt Cols:** S M Anderson RE(Svy) – To MoD, Apr 3; A A A Beattie PWRR – To 3(UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, Apr 3; B A J Burnett REME – To be CO 103 Bn REME(V), Apr 3; C G Deacon REME – To 1(UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, Apr 3; W G Dover RLC – To HQ Rhine Gar, Apr 3; A H S Drake DWR – To HQ Land, Apr 7; P J H Hurst RA – To HQ Land, Apr 7.

**Retirements**

**Colonels:** J A Murray, late RACD, Apr 8; C J Squires, late REME, Apr 4.

removed from the mailing list.

**PWRR WOs' and Sgs' Past and Present Dinner:** July 1 at Bassingbourn. Tickets, details from the secretary on 01227 818054/56.

**Staffordshire Regiment:** Annual reunion combined with celebration of 50th anniversary of VJ Day, August 19, Lichfield City and Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (enclose sae please).

**Army Medical Stores and Equipment Depot, Ludgershall:** Reunion at Drummond Barracks on June 17-18 for Regulars, TA, National Servicemen and civilians. Details from C Mason, Lanville, Grange Road, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9DJ (enclose sae) or tel 01691 622300.

**Armourers' Association**

Reunion for armourers and artificers weapon on June 24 at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London. Details from Hon Secretary Chris Dennis, 18 Willowslea Road, Worcester WR3 7QP. Members who have not been in contact for more than three years will be

**F Coy, Boys Royal Signals:** Reunion at Union Jack Club, London, on September 27. Contact John Dadswell (1939-42) on 01993 771755.

**1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers):** Farewell parade before amalgamation on September 17 in Devizes. Final officers' dinner, September 30. Final WOs' and Sgs' dinner, September 2. All former members of messes and regiment welcome. Details from Chief Clerk, 1 Wessex, Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, Wilts SN10 2ER (tel 01380 723145).

**Gordon Highlanders London Association:** A reunion dinner will take place in London on November 17. Details from M H Burge, 19 Barricane, Woking GU21 1RB. The London Association covers all of southern England.

**7-8:** Beating Retreat, Guards Massed Bands, Horse Guards, Whitehall, in aid of Army Benevolent Fund and Household Division charities. Tickets: 0171 839 5323. (All reserved seats £10, £8, £5.)

**11:** British Mule Society's Mule Day at Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray.

**JULY**

**18-29:** 105th Royal Tournament, Earl's Court.

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

□ **THE Anglo-Austrian Society** is arranging a trip to Austria for the official British contribution to Austria's celebration of 50 years of peace. Soldiers who served in the theatre can obtain details on 01943 600800; fax 01943 600006.

# One leader's feelgood factor

IT COULD be that Corran Purdon was born not only with a silver spoon in place but clutching a lead soldier in one hand and a stethoscope in the other.

He comes from a long military and medical line. His father was Maj Gen Brooke Purdon RAMC and his grandfather and great-grandfather were Belfast doctors.

He, like his father, ended his military career as a major general and it is clear from his autobiography, *List the Bugle – Reminiscences of an Irish Soldier*, that from an early age he

wanted above all else to be a soldier rather than a doctor.

His story moves at a fast, enthusiastic pace, starting with his very young days in India and progressing through his time as a "Gentleman Cadet" at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Then we learn of his switch from his regiment, the Royal Ulster Rifles, to 12 Commando to take part in the raid on St Nazaire, and his subsequent internment in various PoW camps, including two years in Colditz.

With his active role in the

conflict cut short, his wartime memories are affected likewise, covering just 60 or so pages.

He more than makes up for this with an account of his postwar activities, which took him to Egypt, Hong Kong (where he became deputy commissioner of the police force), Malaya, Cyprus, Australia, Borneo, Oman and many other far-flung parts, providing him with mostly fond recollections of people and places.

Gen Purdon has an admirable talent for recognising some good in just about

everyone he has ever met – including some enemies – and the index of the people he mentions takes up 28 of the book's 377 pages.

If there can be a "feelgood factor" in a story of such a "born leader" (the words of his friend Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs) this book has it in large measure, giving this autobiography a strong appeal to all those who have served or are serving. – JM

**List the Bugle** by Corran Purdon. Greystone Books, Antrim, Northern Ireland; paperback, £7.50.

# Glossy gun guide ... and a Russian quick on draw

IN ONE of its early issues *Soldier* carried revelations about a gun that fired round corners.

It was no April Fool, nor a product of an inventor's vivid imagination. It really existed.

One of many excellent photographs in *The New Encyclopedia of Handguns and Small Arms* by Christopher Chant shows the extraordinary fitting developed for the Germans' StG44 (Sturmgewehr 44) in the Second World War.

The Krummlauf muzzle attachment allowed the weapon to be fired round corners with the aid of a mirror sight.

The amazing thing was that it worked – but did not help the Germans win the war. Defeat was already in sight, just around the corner.

Another fascinating picture in this glossy and colourful large-format book shows, in black-and-white of course, a line of WRNS officers of First World War vintage being shown how to handle a gun.

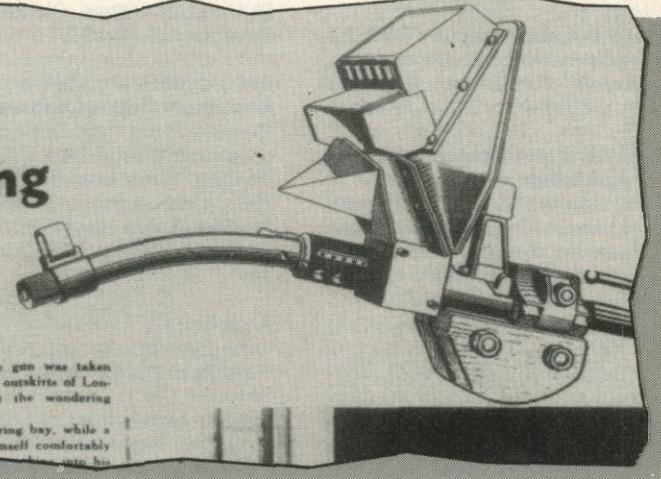
An Army officer is giving instructions standing safely behind the nervous-looking trainees while an RN mate, perhaps under khaki orders, is in front of them, tentatively offering advice.

## Carbine Caught Bending

gun that can fire round corners has long been one of the staple of the music-hall comedian. It is as much in the nature of a bullet to travel straight or an apple to fall to the ground. Most of the weapons experts have laughed at the suggestion that a bullet could be fired from any weapon other than one with a perfectly straight barrel. But now it has been done. It is now

A few days later the gun was taken to a firing range on the outskirts of London, and with it went the wondering experts.

They waited in the firing bay, while a sergeant-major settled himself comfortably into his chair and took aim.



The astonishing bendy gun – as revealed in the pages of *Soldier* in 1945

While this 216-page book could be considered ideal for coffee-table browsing, its text is packed with detailed information for the connoisseur and student, dealing as it does with small arms from their earliest days, through to 1995.

A similar historical perspective is evident in *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Handguns*, written and illustrated by Russian gun specialist Aleksandr Zhuk.

It includes more than 2,500 scale drawings of every item he so precisely describes, using such terms as "stopping power", "tissue damaging ability" and "striking energy" to

describe the effects of bullets.

Now in his seventies, Mr Zhuk, a fine artist who developed a passion for hand weapons at an early age, has put together a remarkable collection of pistol and revolver descriptions accompanied by monochrome drawings.

As well as giving working and technical details he catalogues design, construction, manufacturers, countries of origin, users, and ammunition.

Forecasting improvements in handguns and ammunition, Zhuk says some specialists believe – and he apparently agrees – that the development

of an "effectual caseless cartridge holds the key to the next generation of handguns" and would entail radical changes in design. In which case it is likely a gun wouldn't look like a gun any more.

**The New Encyclopedia of Handguns and Small Arms** by Christopher Chant. Prion (Multimedia Books Ltd, London NW5), hardback, £20.

**The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Handguns** by Aleksandr Zhuk, translated by N N Bobrov. Greenhill Books, large-format hardback, £29.95.

# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 610

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. Circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 610, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by May 19. Do not include anything else

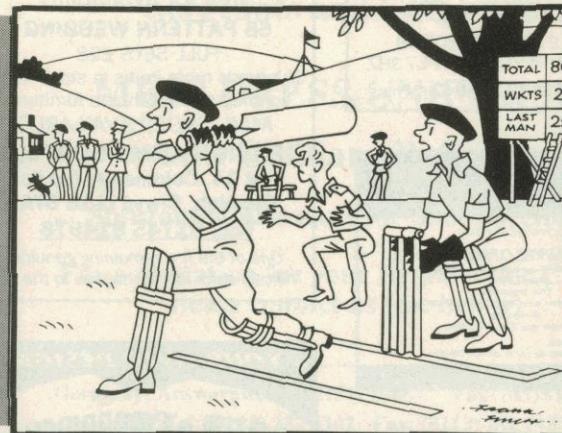
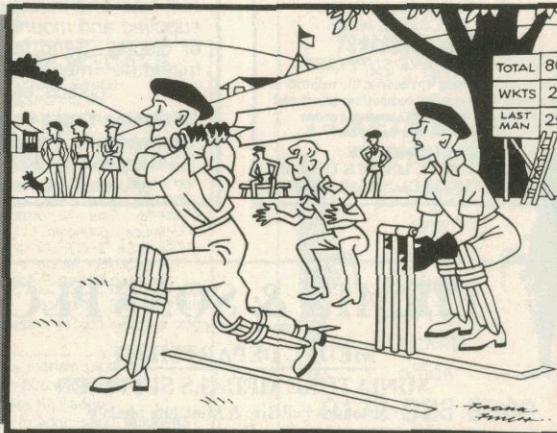
in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the June 12 issue.

# WIN £50

Name: (Give rank or title)

Address:



Competition No 607 (March 20 issue): Congratulations to Mr G McGreavey, of Newcastle upon Tyne, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs M Walker, of Perth, Tayside, and Mr C C Wicker, of London N1.

BUSIEST military historian of the 1990s must be John Keegan. Scarcely a month goes by without his name appearing on a book cover or on a television credits list.

Now we find him as the author of the foreword to Brassey's *Encyclopedia of Military History and Biography*, a remarkable and large alphabetical guide to the history of warfare, combined with a collection of biographies of commanders from Alexander the Great to Norman H Schwarzkopf.

Although extensive, it is but a selection of entries from the six-volume *International Military History and Defense Encyclopedia* (IMADE), Brassey's and Macmillan's collaborative new ground-breaking publishing enterprise.

It so happened that when this new book arrived on my desk, some information on Orde Wingate was being sought. What was found was a two-line comment in Wavell's biography: "... Brigadier Orde Wingate conducted a well-publicised and apparently successful campaign behind Japanese lines with his Chindits."

The reader will look in vain through the index for a re-

## Vain search for Forgotten Army

ference to either the Chindits or the Fourteenth Army.

Of course, it is well-known that the Fourteenth is often called the "Forgotten Army" and we find this nickname in the entry about Field Marshal Slim. We also learn that "British and Indian forces finally pushed the Japanese forces out of Burma by summer 1945". But that is all.

It is perhaps nit-picking to draw attention to omissions in a 1,197-page book aimed to cover the entire spectrum of military history, because in this intention it succeeds.

If abbreviated accounts of campaigns, or concise biographies of von Brauchitsch,



Fd Marshal Slim

Bradley, Charlemagne, Chiang Kai-shek, Tamerlane or Saladin are required, then this book is one for the shelf.

The executive editor, Franklin D Margiotta, is a retired US Air Force colonel and director of research at the US National Defense University, and now president of

Brassey's Incorporated. He must have had a substantial problem to make the encyclopedia and its parent, IMADE, balanced works of reference.

"We realised the bias that could emerge from IMADE's publication in American English, management by Americans, and the weight of the United States in military and defense matters.

"The possibility of an unbalanced focus on things American was resisted in many ways. IMADE has almost 60 articles from authors from the United Kingdom; more than 60 from German authors; and 30 from Egyptian flag ranks."

Out of 88 listed contributors of articles to this latest work, five are from the United Kingdom, three each from Germany and China, two from Japan and one from Israel. The remaining 74 authors are eminent historians based in the USA.

Can it be recommended at its price of £35? Well, yes if the six volumes of the *International Military and Defense Encyclopedia* are not to hand, and if only concise information is required. - BJ

**Brassey's Encyclopedia of Military History and Biography**  
edited by Franklin D Margiotta.  
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## NEED A CV?

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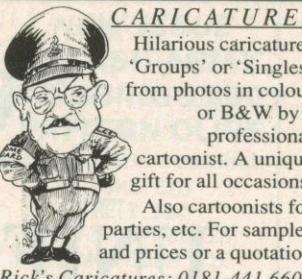
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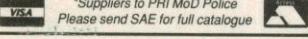
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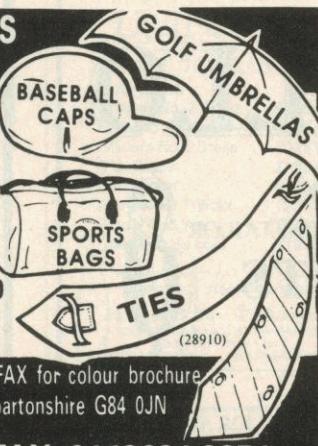
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09/95

**Nurse**, 36, Geordie living in London, 5'6", auburn hair, gsoh. Loves shooting and riding and would like to hear from soldier pen pal, any age. Write to me today, ALA. **P367**

09/95

**Sue**, 41, 5'2". Enjoys: keep fit, walking, swimming, cooking, collecting foreign coins and postcards. I'm a smart, intelligent, oriental lady, divorced with two teenage children. **P368**

09/95

**Janet**, 25, 5'5", petite, brown hair and hazel eyes. Hobbies: keep fit, weight training, reading, clubbing, listening to music, driving. I'm outgoing with gsoh and I would like to hear from anyone aged 23-33. **ALA. P370**

09/95

**Vicky**, 25, 5'6", brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys: reading, listening to music, pubs and eating out. I have a young son and would like to hear from anyone aged 25-35. No football fanatic, photo appreciated. **P371**

09/95

**Joanne**, 31, single with blonde hair. Interests: martial arts, cycling, swimming, all music, world affairs, politics and military history. Any service personnel, 30+, with similar interests, please write. **P372**

09/95

**Tara**, 27, 5'4" with blue eyes and brown hair. Interests: rugby, motorbike riding, swimming and bowling. I would like to hear from pen pals aged 25-40, all letters answered. **P373**

09/95

**I'm Elaine**. I enjoy having a laugh, girls' nights out, cooking and walking. I'm 5'2", slim with blue eyes and blonde hair. I would like to hear from a divorced or single pen pal aged 33-38. **P374**

09/95

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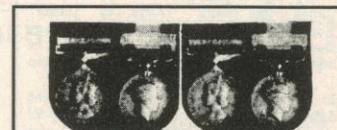
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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

APRIL 1, 1995

First prize (21 goals, £2,000) Capt D Kerridge, Army Apprentice College, Harrogate. Four-way tie for second prize (20 goals £550 each) LCpl D K Andrews, 1 PWO Warminster; SSgt J C Darwent, 1 Regt AAC Wksp REME, BFPO 47; Maj A O Davidson, ASMT, Leconfield; SSgt K Davis, 3 Fd Wksp REME, Tidworth.

10-way tie for sixth prize (19 goals, £30 each)

Sgt A P Barton, 14 Indep Topo Sqn RE, BFPO 19; Pte A M Besley, 7 Tpt Regt RLC, BFPO 39; Sgt A P Bosworth, 1 GS Regt RLC, Wksp REME, BFPO 47; Tpr M A Charles, QRH, BFPO 38; Pte S S Collins, 1 PWO, Warminster; LCpl C F Davies-Morris, 1 (UK) ADSR, BFPO 15; WO2 A S Eaton, 28 Engr Wksp REME, BFPO 31; Cpl J Evans, BFPO 825; SSgt R Hutchinson, Rheindahlen Sp Unit, BFPO 40; Capt C C D

Palmer, 40 Regt RA, BFPO 30.

APRIL 8, 1995

Three-way tie for first prize (16 goals, £1,166.67 each) Sgt S D Collinson, ATR Lichfield; Capt D J Leek, 203 (W) Gen Hosp RAMC (V); SSgt K R Lock, 6 Li (V), Bath. 12-way tie for fourth prize (15 goals, £83.33 each) Sgt A N Bennett, BFPO 802; Sgt S M Brunskill, 2 RTR, BFPO 38; LCpl C Dixon, Light Dragoons, BFPO 30; Lt Col P Lawless, Staff College, Camberley; Pte T P McHaffey, BFPO 808; LCpl A L M McKinlay, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC Wksp REME, Catterick; Sgt D Millerchip, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; Lt Col T A Park, ITC Wales, Brecon; Sgt L Rowan, BFPO 806; SSgt M A Ryan, 16 Armd Fd Amb RAMC, Tidworth; Sgt T Wallace, 1 RHF, BFPO 38; SSgt J P Wright, Log Sp Bn RLC, Hong Kong, BFPO 1.

D8

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D5

## Rowers do it indoors in the winter



Lt Col Max Heron on the ergometer at Harvard

## England call on Bessey, Watts

AMATEUR Boxing Association finalists Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) and Spr Danny Watts (36 Engr Regt) have been called up by England for the multi-nations tournament in St George's Hall, Liverpool on June 4-11.

And Scotland called on Fus Alston Buchanan (1 RHF) and Pte John Davidson (1 RS) for their match against Wales in Dundee on April 20.

Meanwhile, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE retained the UKLF Minor Units boxing championship with a close-fought 4-3 victory over old rivals 9 Para Sqn RE in the finals at the Military Boxing Centre in Aldershot.

It was the 11th time the commando engineers, who beat 238 (London) Signal Squadron in an earlier round, have won the Minor Units championship.

Winners during the ferociously-contested final were LCpl Scouse Marner, LCpl Col Lumber, Spr Joe Sims, Spr Billy Bilton, Spr Mick Hale and Cpl Davey Marr.

LT COL Max Heron and Maj Tony Allen broke new sporting ground by travelling to Boston, Massachusetts for the CRASH-B world indoor rowing championships.

The event was started by a group of former international oarsmen and women who wanted a focus for their winter training when the Charles River was frozen. The Charles River All Star Has-Beens (CRASH-B) selected the Concept II ergometer and a race distance of 2,500m for the event, features which have become standard.

Heron and Allen, sponsored by Concept II, joined 1,200 competitors at the Harvard University indoor track. Although there were many

top-class oarsmen and women taking part, others had never touched an oar in anger, using the ergometer purely as a means of staying fit.

Both Army competitors achieved personal best times, Heron finishing 19th in the 30-39 age category in 8min 19.7sec, and Allen 43rd in the 50-59 age division in a time of 9min 42.2sec.

Following the purchase of ergometers by Southern District in 1994, the Army has recently bought Concept IIs for all unit gyms. Many have discovered the advantages of this aerobic fitness machine. HQ 4 Div, assisted by Concept II, will be running the first major Army competition using the machines on May 10

in Aldershot. The event will include individual and four-man team competitions.

The new 2,000m distance will be used and separate male and female races will be run in each of the Basic Fitness Test categories.

Details have been sent to all units in 4 Div, and information can be obtained from unit PTIs of the HQ 4 Div PT staff on Aldershot Mil 3968.

● **Anyone who enjoys rowing on the machine is encouraged to try the real thing. The Army Rowing Clubs Association is running intermediate and novice training courses at Eton from May 8-20. Details from Lt Col P S Robertshaw (739-2102); Lt Col N Moore (725-2509); or Lt Col J M Heron (722-2428).**



Picture: Terry Champion

## Smallbore champs

SOUTHAMPTON University Officers Training Corps, shooting for Southern District, won the UKLF Inter-Unit smallbore target rifle championship at SEME Bordon on March 25.

In an exciting and close-fought final, their score of 1,515 was two better than A Coy, 3 PWO representing Eastern District. Liverpool UOTC were third, 3 R Irish fourth, University of London OTC fifth and 2/51 Highland sixth. OCdt Beckett of Southampton UOTC recorded the highest individual score of 389.

□ **THE WEEKLY** prize pool of money in the Army Sports Lottery is being increased from £4,500 to £6,000 from May 6. Eight top prizes range from £2,500 for first place down to £100 for the eighth place.

□ **THE QUEEN'S** Royal Hussars won the BFG Walkabout, not 3 Tk Tpr Sqn as reported in the April 17 issue. Second were 7 Signal Regiment and 3 Tk Tpr Sqn, who led after the first day, finished in third place.

## Women footballers start with a win

### Army Women 3, Hampshire Women 2

THE ARMY women's football team edged home by the odd goal in five against Hampshire in their first full representative match, **writes Derrick Bly**.

With barely 30 seconds on the clock, a long punt was back-headed by a Hampshire defender. It failed to reach the goalkeeper and Cpl Terri Bennett bundled it home.

Cpl Pauline Mitchell, Cpl Lofty Lofthouse and Terri Bennett posed problems for

## Plain sailing for the Royal Navy



Picture: Terry Champion

the visitors, while Cpl Lynn Jones, skipper Sgt Max McQue and Cpl Cas Moore did sterling work at the heart of the Army defence.

The county reduced the arrears in the 50th minute, but substitute SSgt Dawn Parker immediately restored the Army's two-goal lead, which was just as well because Hampshire pulled another back five minutes later. The rest of the match was a real battle, the home side escaping in stoppage time when a Hampshire shot came back off the bar.

Bennett showed the visiting defence a clean pair of heels in the 28th minute, but when she was blocked by the 'keeper, the loose ball was sidefooted home by Lofthouse. Just before the break Sgt Nicky Bevan headed

The Army hosts Brighton and Hove Albion Women's FC at Aldershot on May 4.

### British Army 17, Royal Navy 34

THE SUN shone as the Band of the Royal Marines seduced the 18,000 faithful from the West and North car parks into Twickenham to witness the ritual slaughtering of the Royal Navy by the British Army, **writes Roger Thompson**.

For eight years the Army had won and it was not so much a matter of the score, but the manner of victory.

The Royal Navy, on the other hand, had been "building" for eight years, and their efforts were rewarded when, on All Fools Day, they stuffed the Army in both style and score.

The Navy crossed for five excellent tries, to two equally good ripostes from the Army, to underline their supremacy on the day.

Following a short-lived early skirmish, when the Army pack stretched the seafarers' defence to the limit, Dave Hammond (SEME) kicked a penalty for a 3-0 lead. Naval retaliation was immediate, with an against-the-run-of-play try by Fletcher followed quickly by a second through Powell, the culmination of intense short-range pressure and a line out virtually uncontested by the Army.

It was not as if the Army were firing blanks during the first half – it simply appeared that the ammunition had failed to arrive.

Following a third Navy try, many in the stands hoped for 50 rounds of smoke to hide from the enemy the Army's total confusion.

Only occasionally did the Army cordite ignite. Brian Johnson (7 Sig Regt) made exciting progress on the flanks but failed to find cohesive support at the tackle. Rob Abernethy, thought to be the first Gurkha Army cap, bravely attempted to power his way through the centre with some success.

However, it was the ubiqui-

tous Howard Graham (7 RHA) who took a crisp pass from Tony Glasgow (71 Regt RE) on the halfway line and stepped inside off his right foot to score an exceptional try under the posts.

The ever-supportive Rob Hunter, an abrasive new cap from 39 Engr Regt, shadowed him all the way.

After Hammond's conversion, with the score 22-10, the match was still within reach. The Army front row of Matt Stewart (PWRR), Julian Brammer (RE) and Jim Fowers (7 RHA) marmalised the Navy opposition, Fowers taking an astonishing 11 balls against the head while Gareth Archer (ATR Bassingbourn) continued to win clean possession at the front of the line out.

In infuriatingly, and despite winning so much ball, the Army failed to quench the thirst of the Navy's back row. Livingstone, the Royal Marine scrum half, scored an opportunist try before putting White around the Army defence on the right for a superb sprinter's try in the corner.

Andy Sanger (1 RSME), who had replaced Deans in the Army centre, scored under the posts to give a glimpse of what must remain, until next year, only a dream. It was all far too little and much too late.

At the end of the day it wasn't so much that individuals played badly, they did not gear themselves to play well against a Royal Navy side who were hyped on Trafalgar and Taranto and now, in 1995, Twickenham.

It was, emphatically, the Navy's day and the Army now has only a short time to regroup. No doubt Lt Col Ken Lawson, the Army senior coach and who has frequently "doured" for Scotland, was full of fresh ideas when the team met at Aldershot to prepare for the Royal Air Force match at Twickenham as *Soldier* went to press.

# MCTC's veterans spring a cup final surprise

MCTC 3, 99 PC Sqn RLC 2

A VETERAN MCTC Colchester side – the youngest member was 33 – were worthy winners of the Naafi-sponsored Army Minor Units Football Challenge Cup when they beat Army Germany champions 99 PC Sqn RLC 3-2 in an entertaining game, writes Pat Massey.

MCTC scored in the opening minute, Daly latching on to a flighted free kick to rifle the ball home. A quickly-taken Postal and Courier free kick nearly produced an equaliser soon afterwards, 'keeper Reakes snatching the ball off the toes of Williams who had broken clear.

MCTC went further ahead in the 32nd minute when Door, who had appeared to lose control of the ball, was brought down in the area. Referee Wjngate pointed to the penalty spot and skipper Burnett made no mistake.

Just as the Colchester veterans appeared to be coasting to a comfortable interval lead, McKinney surprised them with an unstoppable 35-yard shot which ripped into the top corner of their net.

After surviving early second half pressure, the MCTC side restored their two-goal lead when Gill latched on to a defence-splitting pass and laid it off to Wilson who steered the ball wide of goalkeeper Booth.

The Germany-based unit launched a series of attacks to break down the MCTC defence, but were thwarted by Daly, who chased and covered everything in midfield. When they finally did score again, McKinney bundling home a corner, it was too late. The final whistle went before there was time to restart.

Naafi representative John Fisher presented the Minor Units trophy and medals to players and officials.



A chase for the ball in the Minor Units Challenge Cup final. From left to right are Sgt Tony Gill (MCTC), Sgt Steve Foley, Cpl Swampy Peden (99 PC Sqn), Sgt Barry Wilson and WO2 Phil Virgo

Picture: Mike Weston

# Parkins sets CS on way against Belgians

Combined Services 2, Belgian Armed Forces 0

IN A dour struggle at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, Combined Services overcame the visiting Belgian Armed Forces, minus their National Servicemen, with two well-taken second-half goals, writes Derrick Bly.

This result leaves the British Servicemen requiring a draw at Wezep against the Dutch Armed Forces to lift the Kenneth Cup.

Neither side produced a pattern in the first 45 minutes, and the standard of play during this period was mediocre. SSgt Nigel Wiscombe made two

good saves to deny the Belgians, while the visiting goalkeeper was a spectator for most of the half.

The second 45 minutes was a complete contrast, with the 350 or so spectators treated to some entertaining play and two British goals.

After Wiscombe had raced 45 yards to clear a dangerous break, SSgt Kevin Parkins opened the scoring when he reacted first to a cross from Pte Lee Bradbury after Cpl Alan

Pluckrose (RAF), on for skipper SSgt Alan Higgins, had sent him clear down the left flank.

SAC Chris Maguire (RAF) controlled a loose ball in the area, turned and fired into the corner of the net to put the home side two up.

Wiscombe made a couple more saves to preserve the Combined Services' lead, while Bradbury hit a good chance over the bar at the other end. Referee Dick John, who was in charge of the abandoned Republic of Ireland-England game in Dublin, kept a firm grip and contributed much to a good second half.

Isostar man of the match, chosen by England Under 18 manager Ted Powell, was POPT Steve Riley, a member of the Royal Navy side who clinched the Inter-Services championship in the decider against the Royal Air Force.

## Cheshire retain title

1 Cheshire 1, 1 Hldrs 0

A GOAL just before half time by Pte Simon Yeo gave defending champions the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment victory over 1st Battalion, The Highlanders in the final of the Infantry Football Challenge Cup at the Tidworth Oval on March 22.

The Highlanders defended resolutely throughout but carried little threat near goal apart from a hectic spell in the final ten minutes. It was a deserved victory for 1 Cheshire who won the cup for the second successive year.

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# SOLDIER

Spr Rob Hunter (left) denies the Royal Navy clean possession at Twickenham. But the Army were heavily defeated. Report and another picture in Page 49.

Picture: Terry Champion

