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Picture: Sgt Frank Tomlinson

Gen Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff, meets Wing Cdr Brian Warsap (left), RAF Detachment Commander at Zagreb, during a three-day visit to soldiers of the British Contingent serving with United Nations peacekeeping forces in Croatia. While in Zagreb he visited the European Community Military Mission HQ and the deputy Head of Mission, Maj Gen David Cranston

Bosnia standby

From Laurie Manton in Zagreb

TWO BRITISH sappers were slightly wounded by shrapnel from a mortar shell while preparing defensive positions for United Nations personnel at Sarajevo airport.

One, hit in the arm, returned to duty after first aid, and the other was expected to rejoin his detachment from Tidworth-based 22 Engineer Regiment after shell splinters had been removed from his leg in Rebro Hospital, Zagreb.

The sappers, who were preparing positions for United Nations military observers monitoring the shelling of the airport, had previously been deployed in the UN's logistic base at Pleso airport, Zagreb.

They replaced Canadian engineers at Sarajevo in support

of Egyptian, French and Ukrainian infantry battalions.

Meanwhile, the UN was considering an offer of 1,800 British troops to escort relief convoys to besieged areas of Bosnia.

Among units on standby was the Warrior-equipped 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment based at Fallingbostel (see Pages 13-15).

British troops will be authorised to return fire if the convoys they are guarding come under attack.

● A SOLDIER team of Laurie Manton and photographer Terry Champion are in Croatia and Bosnia to report on British Army units involved in the UN peacekeeping operation.

FRONT COVER: LCpl Andy Newell is a member of 5 Airborne Brigade's elite Pathfinder Platoon. Armed with an M16A1 rifle fitted with a M203 grenade launcher, he is equipped with a high altitude-low opening parachute. The unit is looking for potential recruits. See Pages 26-27. (Picture: Mike Weston)

Falkland shooting claims disputed

CLAIMS made in a book by a former Para that enemy prisoners were shot by their captors in the Falklands have been disputed by a fellow NCO in his own account of the campaign.

In *Excursion to Hell*, published last year by Bloomsbury, former LCpl Vincent Bramley described an incident in which he alleges three American mercenaries were shot after being taken captive by 3 Para.

The allegations were referred by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind to the Crown Prosecution Service, which has asked the Metropolitan Police to investigate.

Now WO2 Graham Colbeck, who served as a sergeant in the same company as LCpl Bramley on Mount Longdon, has given a contrasting view of prisoner treatment in his book *With 3 Para to the Falklands*.

Referring to the shooting allegations, Colbeck told SOLDIER: "I think I make it plain in my book that although I moved through most of our positions on Mount Longdon I saw nothing of the kind."

On Bramley's claim that

● Turn to Page 7

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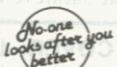
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RAVC trials breeding of dogs

A TRIAL to establish if it is cost-effective to breed dogs for the three Services is being carried out by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Support Group at Aldershot.

It aims to provide quality dogs from pure blood stock for the police dog classification and bitches for arms explosive search and drugs detection.

Only one in 40 dogs is suitable for these specialist roles following a rapid decline in the number of animals being offered by the public after the introduction last year of the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Much time and training can be wasted establishing a dog's suitability when its character is not known. Bad habits have to be eliminated before training can begin.

Establishing a reliable strain of dog is important to the Army. Previous litters from bitches and stud dogs should both have proven working ability as police dogs or to trial standards. Protecting litters from the defects they would encounter in civilian life should ensure minimal wastage.

There are four German shepherd bitches at the support group at Aldershot; two have already produced litters and two are ready to whelp. Initial training can start at seven months with proper training from 12 months.

The trial will initially run for 18 months to establish if the breeding of dogs is a better alternative to buying eight-week-old puppies at £300 each.

The 2,000 dogs and 650 horses currently in service with the Army have all been trained by the RAVC, but the Army has never bred dogs, relying instead on donations from the public.

It is hoped that raising dogs from scratch will cut down the overall training bill when they go to the Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray for the rest of their training.



They've got her licked: Animal Technical Assistant Pte Caroline Speck with a litter of pups at RAVC Support Group, Aldershot.

Picture: Mike Weston

Facts sought on Stalin PoWs

BRITAIN has asked the Russians for more information following the disclosures that soldiers from the West might have been taken to Soviet labour camps during the Second World War and Korean War.

Two British Servicemen believed to have died in Soviet captivity since the Second World War were named by the Russians as Gerald Phillips, who was serving in the reconnaissance section of a British regiment when he was

taken prisoner by the Germans in late 1944, and Michael McCay, believed to have been a pilot travelling on a convoy carrying aircraft to Murmansk.

Russia's security ministry is reported to have said that more than 2,000 people from 31 countries including Britain were imprisoned by Stalin. One report said a total of 1,471 British prisoners-of-war were held in labour camps and their technical skills used for training.

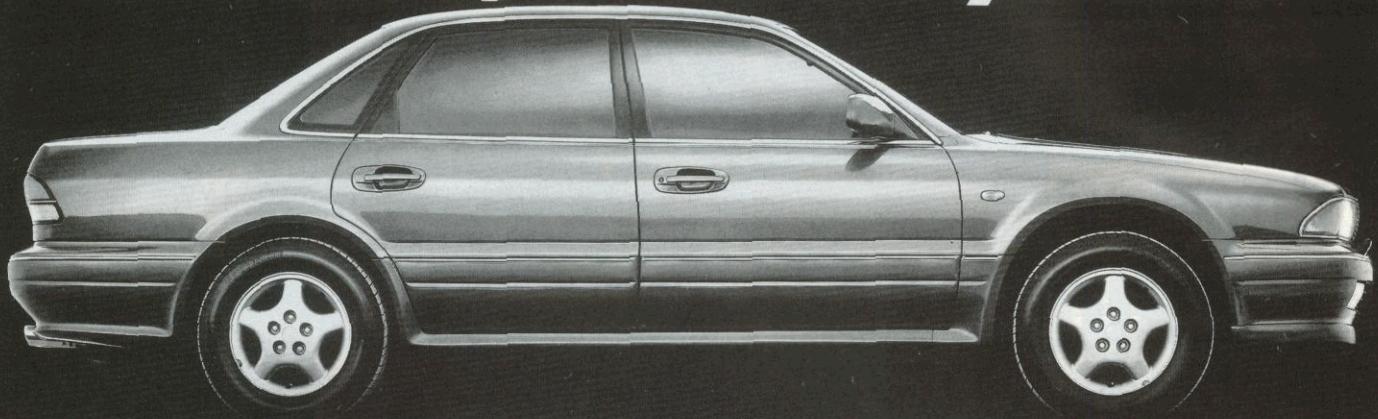
President Yeltsin of Russia

had undertaken to investigate further after evidence was discovered in KGB archives in Moscow.

The Royal British Legion said last month it was "most disturbed" at the reports and called on the Ministry of Defence to obtain full details of the files from the Russian Government.

The Legion asked for the fate of the British prisoners-of-war, and their last resting places or their present locations to be determined.

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Kuwait, Haven clasps detailed

GENERAL Service Medals and clasps are to be awarded to personnel who took part in Operation Pinseeker - the post-war EOD operation in Kuwait - and Operation Haven, which provided protection and emergency aid to Kurds in Northern Iraq and Southern Turkey.

Among those who qualify for the "Kuwait" clasp are members of 21 EOD Squadron Group RE deployed on Pinseeker last year, and personnel who served with the British Forces Middle East (Forward) or British Forces Kuwait.

Members of the Logistic Support Group based in Kuwait between March 8 and July 27 last year also qualify.

Qualification is 30 days or more continuous service in Kuwait and its territorial waters, and the northern Gulf north of 28 30N and west of 49 30E between March 8 and September 30 last year.

Individuals who did not qualify for the Gulf Medal because they had less than 30 days before March 7, 1991, may count that service towards the "Kuwait" clasp.

The clasp will also be awarded to personnel wounded or disabled during the EOD operations, to anyone who received a Mention in Despatches, a Queen's Commendation, or a gallantry medal of the status of a QGM or above, and to soldiers engaged in specially hazardous operations of comparatively short duration.

The clasp "N Iraq and S Turkey" is for those involved in Op Haven or the American-led Op Provide Comfort.

Qualifying period is 30 days or more or three operational air sorties in Northern Iraq west of 44 45E and north of 36 00N, and Southern Turkey, including territorial waters, east of 35 00E and south of 38 00N between April 6 and July 17 last year.

9 Ord on parade for Gulf Medals



LCpl Sharon Coates, RAOC receives her Gulf Medal from Brig Tony Welch, Commandant COD Donnington, during a medal parade at Corsham for more than 100 officers and men of 9 Ordnance Battalion. During Op Granby the battalion was responsible for the supply of fuel, rations and a wide range of RAOC spares to Army and RAF units

German joins British Army

THE GERMAN son of a Wermacht sergeant who fought on the Russian Front and was captured at Stalingrad has joined the British Army, thanks to the efforts of recruiters at Herford Garrison.

Eighteen-year-old Oliver Lobschat from St Blasien on the edge of the Black Forest is now undergoing basic military training at Lichfield and hopes to become a combat medical technician in the RAMC.

Oliver had considered a career with the Bundeswehr before opting for the British Army.

For Maj Bob Crabtree and his Army Careers Information staff at Herford, the young German's application was a first. "People said it couldn't be done," said Maj Crabtree, "because you need a British passport and birth certificate to wear the Queen's uniform.

"However, Oliver has both.



Oliver Lobschat

He has never lived in the UK but was born in London while his German parents were on holiday."

Yorks on the move

AFTER 25 years based at Lumley Barracks in York, the 1st Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers has moved its battalion headquarters and HQ Company to Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough.

The relocation was one of a number of moves affecting 1 Yorks under Options for Change. Companies, platoons and detachments of the battalion are now based at Scarborough, Whitby, Guisborough, Middlesbrough, Harrogate and Northallerton.

Para claim

• From Page 3

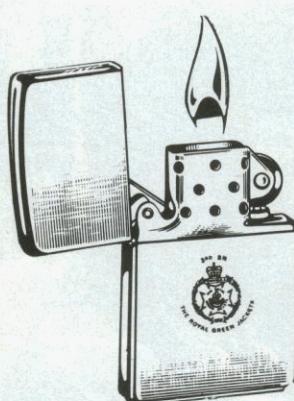
American mercenaries fought on the Argentinian side, he said: "I am sure this is a false assumption.

"Some of the prisoners spoke English - all those I heard had an American accent, which is hardly surprising."

With 3 Para to the Falklands, which will be reviewed in the next issue of SOLDIER, is published by Warrior Publications, PO Box 18, Thirsk, N Yorks YO7 1YZ, price £6.50.

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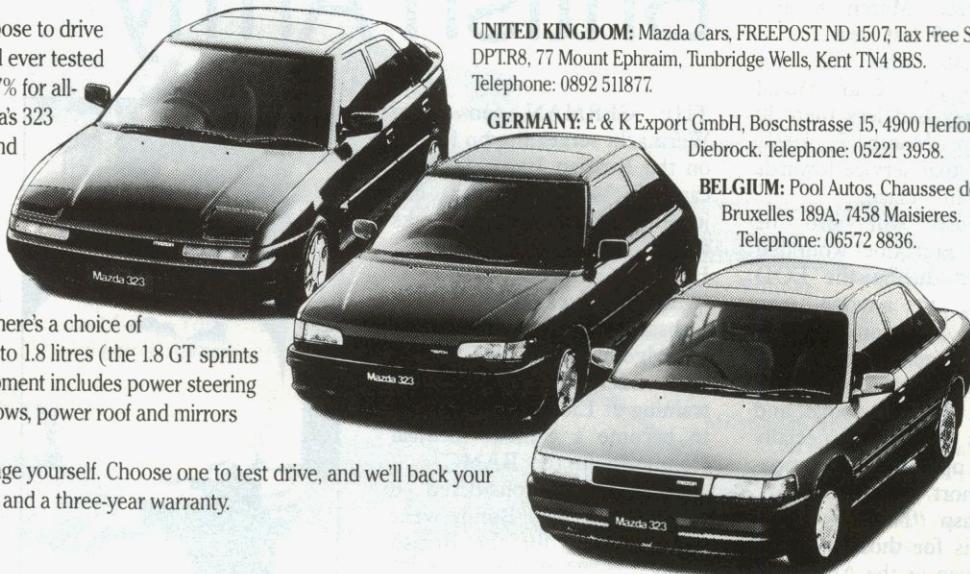
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RRW Kiwi exercise

HONG KONG-based soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, the 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) and 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles joined mortar platoons from the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment on the three-month Ghurka Infantry Brigade mortar concentration, Exercise Crossed Belt in New Zealand.

Haggis harriers

Their ability to shoot, apprehend and march a haggis down the length of the country earned The Parachute Regiment team victory in the 1992 Great Haggis Shoot and Handicap Steaks.

A win for the Paras was fitting because the event was organised to raise money for the Glencoe Adventure Training Centre initiated by the Airborne Forces Charities Development Trust.

Pictured clockwise (left to right) are LCpl Darren Challis and Pte Richard Groves, 2 Para; WO2 (QMSI) Ivor Andrews, APTC att 2 Para; Capt Richard Williams, Depot Para; and Pte Darren Evans, 1 Para.

Also involved were teams from 10 Para, the Royal Air Force Regiment and 45 Commando RM. They began with a haggis shoot at Wormit in Fife, arriving for the haggis hurling contest in London via a reception at Stirling Castle and a stop-off at Prestwick International Airport for a 20-mile bike ride and ten-mile speed march.

To raise funds for the Trust's projects, the organisers are planning a number of sponsored events culminating in a European Challenge in 1994 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem. It will take the form of an Inter-Service and civilian four-wheel drive competition starting in Aldershot and finishing at the bridge at Arnhem.



Women join KOSB ranks

A PLATOON of Service-women celebrated Minden Day standing in the ranks of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers at Wootton Barracks in Preston.

Minden was the second battle honour awarded to the 25th (Edinburgh) Regiment as it was then, and this was the first time in the battalion's 303-year history that women have

paraded as a platoon with the regiment.

In all, 29 women are serving with 1 KOSB, working in a variety of jobs and badged to four corps - the Adjutant General's Corps, the Army Catering Corps, the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport.

The Servicewomen joined the battalion between December last year and March this year, initially getting to know the ropes in Edinburgh before embarking on Northern Ireland training in southern England.

The battalion then headed north again, this time to settle in Wootton Barracks, Preston. In addition, several women joined the companies on their deployments to Northern Ireland as part of the Province Reinforcement Battalion.

RGJ on show

MORE THAN 1,000 Londoners attended an "East End" Army Day organised by A Company, 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. Main attraction was a demonstration of Waterloo-era rifle tactics re-enacted by the 95th Rifles of the Napoleonic Association.



Capt Frank Morton, OC HQ Coy 1, KOSB, presents a rose to each girl to wear in her glengarry. From left to right are Pte Mandy Knox, RAMC, LCpl Carol Sneddon, RCT, LCpl Alison McGennity, AGC, LCpl Donna Grigor, RCT, LCpl Carol Whiteside, AGC, Cpl Julie Lea, RCT and Pte Tracey Dunsire, AGC

Flying with a difference in Belize

Jungle flying has brought a new dimension to Capt **Les Henderson**'s life. He is the first Army Air Corps pilot to serve with the Belizean Defence Force (BDF) and flies the Defender, the military version of the Islander.

Capt Henderson and two RAF pilots are part of a ten-man Loan Service Team, and the unusual conditions give an exciting opportunity for a completely different kind of flying.

Tasks include dropping soldiers and stores by parachute, and marine



Picture: Mike Piering

recces. The BDF also keeps a sharp eye out for drug smugglers.

Fixed-wing flying is limited in the AAC, with only one operational flight, based at Aldergrove, and a training aircraft at Middle Wallop.

Cup joy

Members of the 28 Engineer Regiment Workshop REME athletics team based in Hameln show off their recently-acquired First Line Units winners' trophy. Finalised only the day before the REME 50 (BAOR) athletics championships – thanks to exercises and other commitments – the team still also managed to end up in third place overall.



Picture: Mike Weston



The literal high point of Exercise Tato Dandra, recently undertaken by members of 7th Gurkha Battalion Group, was El Pico de Orizaba.

At 18,700ft, it was the tallest of three peaks tackled by 7 GR as part of a mountaineering exercise mounted from Belize to provide a challenge to a team consisting of ten men from the battalion and two from 9 Para Sqn RE – the engineer squadron in support during the Belize tour.

The three peaks, including Popocatepetl (17,887ft) and Iztaccihuatl (17,342ft), were all reached – with varying degrees of success – and the exercise was described as "a challenging and thoroughly enjoyable expedition for all concerned."

Pictured on the summit of El Pico de Orizaba – the highest point in the whole of Central America – are (from left) Capt **Peter Holliday**, Sgt **Thaindradhoj Tulachan** and LCpl **Gopal Giri**.

Gurkha Group on peak form



Sgt **David Easby** of 38 Squadron RCT Workshop REME in Mulheim is pictured with his faithful Land Rover 10GT19 and the many trophies he has won in night navigational competitions over the past four years.

A member of the Herford Motor Sports Club, Sgt Easby returned to the UK last month to complete his service in the Army.

He has threatened to be back in Germany for Exercise Magnum Spirit (November 26 to 28) sponsored by 4 ADTR RCT in Minden.

Spurred on

Lt Col **Mike Vickery** (left) presents the CO's spurs to Lt Col **David Wood** as he hands over command of the 14th/20th King's Hussars, the regiment he commanded in the Gulf War. The ceremony took place on Dorbaum Training Area near Munster.



DAVID DRIVES AHEAD



Sarah's in control

Driver **Sarah Tucker** is in the fast lane with the Territorial Army – at the controls of one of the new DROPS trucks.

Based at the RCT's 157 Transport Regiment in Cardiff, Sarah is the first woman soldier in the Army – Regular or part-time – to have driven the 13-tonne Demountable Rack Off-loading and Pick-up System vehicles, which are designed to pick-up and drop-off loads in the shortest possible time.

A backward glance, appropriately, from Cpl **Karen Kilburn** of Aldershot, clad in 1949 WRAC battle-dress at the wheel of a 1954 Land Rover.

She and other female RAOC/EFI reservists were marking the passing of the WRAC by putting on a series of scenes – wearing uniforms of the time – depicting the history of the women's services, at the annual reunion of the RAOC/EFI at Claygate, Surrey.

A wartime jeep and a modern combat vehicle completed the line-up.



Football fun

More than 250 boys and girls from the Aldershot area, aged between 7 and 14, took part in the Army Football Association's annual football fun week in Aldershot. Daily training sessions were supervised by fully qualified Football Senior (pictured) dropped in during the week, to demonstrate his skills to an attentive audience.

PEOPLE

TA soldiers to the rescue



Two TA soldiers – both members of 4 Bn, The King's Own Border Regiment – were able to put their first aid training to good use in two separate incidents within days of each other.

In Morecambe, Pte **Richard Armer**, an infantry soldier in Lancaster-based HQ Coy, was one of three persons who went to the rescue of a shopkeeper involved in a horrific robbery and arson attack.

The other incident involved LCpl **Sharon Potts** of 4 Battalion's medical team, who came across a road accident on Shap Fell just as police arrived. She dealt with two casualties, one with serious head injuries, and was afterwards praised by a senior Cumbria police officer.



Karen goes into reverse

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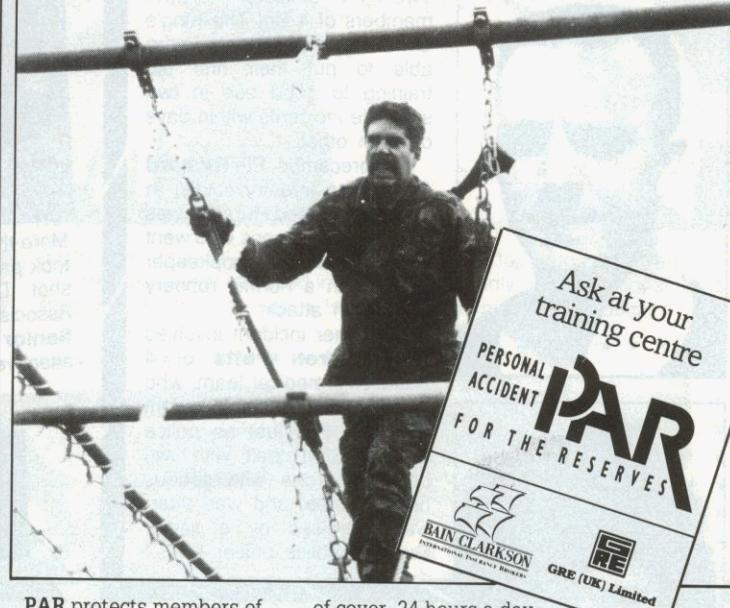
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Debussing drills with Warrior

THE WARRIOR DIMENSION



MASSIVE firepower does wonders for your self-confidence, says Cpl Paddy Ledbetter, a section commander with the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment in Fallingbostel.

Each section has its own 30mm Rarden cannon and 7.62 Hughes chain gun on its Warrior, laying down covering fire during attacks.

The battalion is converting to Warrior after a home posting in Chester and while the basic infantry work of closing with the enemy and killing him is still the same, Warrior adds a new dimension.

"You feel a lot safer with the platoon wagons supporting you," said Cpl Ledbetter, who had to attend a special week-long course in tactics. "Once you have debussed, the second sergeant takes the Warriors off to a flank to provide fire support."

The mechanics of debussing from Warrior are similar to those of the earlier FV432, last used by them in Germany 12 years ago, but the learning curve is steep for drivers, gunners and commanders at all levels.

Commanders in particular must learn to react quickly because of their speed of



WO2 AQMS George Tweedy and EME Officer Capt Tony Downes supervise work on the Warrior fleet

movement. Long, detailed orders are out, and one attack can follow another several miles away in a few minutes, calling for a sudden change of plan.

Soldiers of the Armoured Infantry and Tactics Training Team work hard to instil new concepts, particularly in connection with gunnery. Royal Armoured Corps

practice is followed while learning gun drills.

Those who have operated with tankies acknowledge their skill in encoding, sending and receiving orders quickly. Infantry does not now have the "luxury" of a long march to reflect on the coming battle.

There is also a wealth of experience from the Armoured Infantry Manning Increment, a group of soldiers drawn from the Prince of Wales's Division who provide the extra manpower needed for the vehicles. Each platoon has three lance corporals and a sergeant, whose previous experience provides a solid base for those new to the vehicle.

Cpl Bob Law joined the Cheshire in Ballykelly in 1982 but went to the Staffords in 1988 as a deputy vehicle commander to the platoon commander, and was with them in the Gulf. He has now returned to the Cheshire with the departure of the Staffords.

"Using vehicles is a totally different world," he said. "Some learn quicker than others and although I'd never touched computers before, the equipment is so easy to use and you can easily pick it up."



Sgt Paul Chase demonstrates loading the Rarden cannon

Facing up to change

SQUADDIES are infamous for their resistance to change when it comes to tampering with the bacon and eggs for breakfast. But since the Cheshire moved to Germany some have gone in for continental breakfasts and in summer, Wednesday afternoon barbecues also go down well.

The battalion is adapting to great changes. After a home posting in Chester, public duties, Hong Kong and Ballykinler, it is a changed BAOR into which it now fits as armoured infantry.

Nobody is now on less than 72 hours' notice, and weekend visits back home are normal. Stockport to Fallingbostel is only 13 hours, even by Land Rover.

Germany itself is very different for old soldiers, who have to come to terms with not pulling up grass or breaking twigs for camouflage. When 1 Cheshire's commanding officer, Lt Col Bob Stewart, was battalion ops officer in Germany in 1978-9 there were large areas over which one could exercise. Restrictions on operations mean the chances of this

are greatly diminished.

However, Col Stewart felt European integration was well served by soldiers being garrisoned in different countries, like British in Germany and Germans in Wales.

There were also fewer social restrictions. Visits to Berlin, former East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia are easy now, and the old ten per cent rule limiting the number of troops who had to be available is now obsolete.

Nobody is now on less than 72 hours' notice, and weekend visits back home are normal.

Stockport to Fallingbostel is only 13 hours, even by Land Rover.

The military band is particularly adept at changing pace. Along with dance band, jazz band, wind and brass quintets, it had a German band even before Germany, and during its tour in Hong Kong from 1984-86 it was a hit with the



Lt Col Bob Stewart, commanding officer

Chinese. The bandmaster has no problem with a dual personality.

WO1 John Duggin was with the Staffordshire Regiment before he took his three-year bandmaster course at Kneller Hall.

He transferred to the Cheshire and was just getting used to their regimental marches when the amalgamation of the two regiments was

announced. Amalgamation is the greatest change faced by the 22nd Regiment. It is hard to swallow, not because of any antagonism towards the Staffords. Quite the contrary - they respect it as another fine county regiment with whom they have close ties. Some fought with it in the Gulf, including Technical Quarter Master Mick Pimblott as gunnery officer.

But the Cheshire's identity goes deep, as the only county infantry regiment bearing its own name never to have been amalgamated. Half the platoon sergeants are sons of the regiment; there are about 70 sets of brothers, cousins or nephews; one Birkby joined in 1843 to become bandmaster in 1860 and five generations on, Hod Birkby has just retired after being RSM and QM.

There is much of the old "Pals" influence: WO2 Peter Murphy joined with six others

from his street. The CO well remembers the weeping lady at a church when, as company commander, he buried six soldiers, two in the same church, all from Cheshire, after the Droppin' Well Inn atrocity at Ballykelly in 1982.

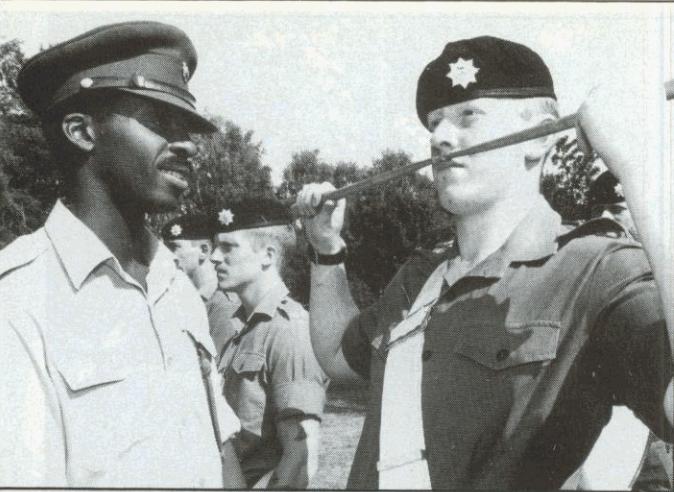
She had watched the 6th Battalion at their Stockport church before the Somme in 1916 when 1,200 were present; 18 months later they had lost 587 rank and file.

"We are tribal," said Lt Col Stewart. "It is very upsetting when you cut deep into your history, but we are changing into something different and will gain strength, just as has happened to others before."

The regiment will not die. It is still the only regiment to have the Scinde honour and, if parts of its heritage will not be highlighted, the best will be kept. Life in this time of change is difficult, but the Cheshire are getting on with it.



Eric and David Bratchell are one of many close family connections in the regiment



Above - WO1 Bandmaster John Duggin served under Pte Tony Blackshaw's father

Right - While their men learn about Warrior, Cheshire wives use old-fashioned steeds to give children a ride



STRIPPED FOR ACTION!

AFTER inheriting Warrior infantry fighting vehicles used by the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment in the Gulf, 1 Cheshire is coming to terms with some of the effects of heat and sand.

Fuel tanks had expanded because of the heat and these are being replaced where they are being hit by the bottom of the turret ring.

Sand has also been a problem, and the battalion is the only one with the facilities to remove and clean turrets.

With two mechanics taking five days to do each of the 54 vehicles, it takes some time.

"The wagons and guns were

always fairly new and were mobile all the time, but now the sand has started to cause a problem," said WO2 AQMS George Tweedy.

"It is acting as an abrasive and each one has to have its turret taken off and a new ring put back on."

The LAD section has 15 staff but 23 Base Workshop in Wetter has also been involved in the post-Gulf inspections.

Sand infiltrated everywhere, and whole vehicles had to be stripped. All engines have now been completed.

LAD personnel provide continuity with the previous unit, the Staffordshire Regi-

ment, and the Cheshire, said Electrical and Mechanical Officer Capt Tony Downes. They remain during arms plot moves and pass on their experience to the newcomers.

"We educate the infantry to get used to the vehicle and maintain it properly," he said. "Because the move was at short notice, all the conversion was done very quickly, in two months rather than 18 months."

Working with Warrior has been an interesting experience for Capt Downes. He specialises in aviation and will return to it when he is posted to the Army Air Corps at Detmold.



Cpl Alan Millward and Pte Neil Matthews get to grips with Warrior's radio equipment watched by CSgt Allan Grundy



Cambrian patrol practice: five members won the bronze medal last year

It's a tough life but they love it

HALTERN ranges in Germany provided an excellent annual training camp setting for members of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment.

They would have preferred Fallingbostel, where their Regular 1st Battalion is based, and the chance to familiarise themselves with Warrior, but their main purpose was low-level individual and section training, with progressive range work from zeroing their weapons to live-firing attacks.

During the second week they provided communications security during 1 (BR) Corps' command post exercise, when they were based in Oxford Barracks, Munster.

The enthusiasm of the

volunteers impressed the adjutant, Capt Simon Robinson.

"Those who think they just do it for the money are wrong," he said. "They do it because the want to, and a lot give up money they would get by working overtime at weekends to train for the Army."

Where Regulars would complain about the hardship of conditions, the volunteers positively lapped it up, he added.

Cpl Graham Clough's idea of a good time was being out on the Brecon Beacons, or field-firing at Warcop over a weekend in October.

"We don't have to put bergens on our backs and walk

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Perring

through snow and rain. We want to be there . . ."

He found great satisfaction watching recruits develop. "Comradeship is in very short supply these days," he said. "People are taught to put self first and don't worry about anybody else."

His grandfather, Tom Hopwood, had been in the 6th Battalion during the First World War, as had Sgt Tom Drabble's grandfather, George, and his uncle, Harry Jones, who died at the Somme.

Though his father was in the Royal Navy, Sgt Drabble had always wanted to be a soldier and has been serving since 1949. He was company

sergeant major at A Company and was asked to do the same job for B Company, but could only commit himself for eight months because of travel and his own civilian job.

When the Home Service Force was disbanded ten "old and bold" were taken back into the 3rd Battalion.

"We're no 18-year-olds, but we are very experienced and can do our bit driving, clerking or doctoring, which allows younger ones to be in the field."

Age does not weary Cpl Allan Gregory, at 49 still leading a section like a spring chicken.

After the first week of recruit training newcomers to the battalion were glad of a break. Many had never been "camp-



Former Thai boxing champion Jackie Hughes, whose press-ups run to three figures at a time, gives a kick to recruit training



Sgt Tom Drabble and Cpl Graham Clough, who both had grandfathers who fought with the 6th Battalion on the Somme

ing" before and CSgt Dave Cooper was not happy at a tendency for items to be lost when soldiers had to move out quickly. The second week was to be a highly-mobile exercise and personal administration had to be spot-on.

Petite blonde Pte Jackie Hughes did not get shouted at too much during her recruit training at Haltern.

Instructors were careful how they treated the former British Thai boxing champion.

Officer commanding Recruit Reception Training Team, Maj Stuart Needham, said Pte Hughes had done just two weekends with the unit before it went to Germany but had already made her mark.

Girls had to prove their



Dad and daughter team up as Pte Beverley Sephton uses her knowledge of beauty therapy to cam up her dad, Dennis



Medic Sgt Jim McGarrie is well supported by LCpl Paula Bootham, who served in the Gulf

fitness by doing six press-ups. Jackie had stopped at 25 and asked how many more were required – normally she does 100 at a time! She said she preferred the male battle fitness test to the less physically demanding female test.

She was quite understanding about the problem she presented her instructors. "They are probably scared that if they teach me to salute I'll knock myself out!" she said with a grin.

The autobahns worried Sgt

Jim McGarrie, a tree surgeon in civvy life and appropriately on the battalion's RAMC staff.

"Map reading on the autobahn is a whole new experience," he said. "There are a lot of 'woofers' – 90-ton lorries that charge up behind you and go 'woof' as they pass."

One man was not too interested in the bright lights during the weekend off. Pte Dennis Sephton preferred to visit his son, Trevor, a fitter

with 26 Engineer Regiment at Iserlohn.

Dennis had been a Regular sapper, spending his last 16 months in Hameln before moving to the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in Liverpool, where his elder son, Dennis, still serves. After being in the Home Service Force for five years he has now returned to 3 Cheshire.

Pte Sephton's daughter, Beverley, was also on the camp, and as a student of hairdressing and beauty therapy, was the ideal person to apply dad's camouflage cream.

The 3rd Battalion's companies are based at Stockport, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Runcorn, with a platoon at Northwich.



The entrance to the Amesbury headquarters and warehouse

Streamlined Naafi changes its options

NAAFI's days of grandeur belong to another, imperial, day. Changed shopping patterns and the Gulf War slashed into profits returned to the Forces and the famous discount or dividend over the till in the United Kingdom was stopped to save money.

With two thirds of its customers in Germany, this purchasing power was clearly missed when the Desert Rats went to the Gulf. Half-yearly profits reported in January had dropped £1m.

Naafi has felt the effects of Options for Change but it has also changed to keep up with the times, recognising that it may lose one fifth of its customers in Germany, which previously provided two thirds of its profit.

Gone is Naafi's famous London headquarters, Imperial Court bought in 1922, an early

Victorian building redolent of past glories. Instead, the public face has changed to a bright new headquarters set beside its Amesbury warehouse.

As well as drawing in its horns to be nearer the heart of its main UK customer base at Tidworth and Bulford, Naafi has recently launched a drive to improve its service to customers and reverse the trend of making economies by cutting down on the range of goods offered.

With 500 employees in Amesbury, Naafi is the second largest employer in the Salisbury area.

Many long-serving employees at the London HQ, some with 40 years' service, decided not to move to Wiltshire. For them, generous redundancy terms eased a sad parting.

But 50 members of staff, mostly senior or single, did opt

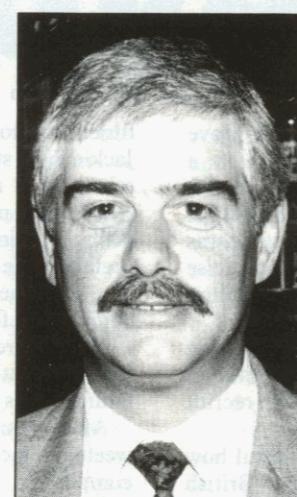
convenience shop when something has been forgotten.

Every three weeks there will be 50 different items on special offer featuring discounts of 15p to 25p.

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The warehouse boasts an advanced system developed in Naafi's Kempston warehouse in



Warehouse manager Steve Rayment

for a new life in the country, and were rewarded by leaving the slog of commuting behind them.

Built in 1940 and extended in the 1970s, the Amesbury complex had the capacity for expansion. An extension was built for the 150 administrators, many of whom are ex-Service people living locally. A new cold store was built to

replace one closed in Aldershot, as was a new staff restaurant and club.

Charge hand Joe Martin

spent 15 years with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Although he and his wife used the Naafi regularly in Germany and Cyprus, he never thought he would end up working for the organisation. He looks forward to meeting old friends when the battalion arrives at nearby Warminster in July.

When Ron Andrews started work with Naafi as a 20-year-old, he processed handwritten indents. After 41 years, he has adapted to computers and tele-sales service. The main warehouse works on a six- or seven-day cycle, but he hopes to reduce that to three days

needed to assemble fruit and vegetables.

"We take orders for them while they are still growing," he said. "Some we buy early, so that it ripens on the journey to the shop."

Naafi is a public company

which provides facilities requested by the Services. It is given no public money to help it run shops at the remotest outposts of a much-reduced empire. The larger supermarket chains would barely be interested in the profit offered by all Service customers and

He's got it off to a tea!

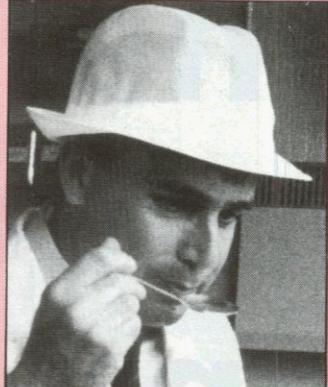
ON STEVE Cooper's sensitive palate rests the responsibility for ensuring that the Naafi cuppa, which helped win the Second World War, remains up to standard.

Tea has greatly improved since the char of those days, according to Mr Cooper, only the fourth Naafi tea factory manager and chief taster in 70 years. "Soldiers know what they want, and many who leave the Army don't want to change. They write asking where they can get Naafi tea," he said.

Steve's tasting bowls are bone china and allow the right amount of light to filter through to give the correct orange-coppery colour. After testing, milk is added for a second test.

"Ours is a tried and tested standard because we know what our customers want, such as our breakfast tea, which is stronger than our other blends.

"Tea is seasonal. Almost all of our tea comes from Africa and there is a constant mixing of types to maintain the



Steve Cooper checks the quality of Naafi tea

standard. It must be strong because the majority of British drinkers like strong tea.

"We've never had a bad remark about our tea in my 23 years, though someone said he preferred the Assam flavour to the Kenyan."

Incidentally, the tea in ration packs is not provided by Naafi, so Steve Cooper accepts no responsibility for it, though he admits that if he were cold and wet on an exercise, anything hot and wet would taste good.



Above: Mrs Cindy Orchard is an assembler for Ron Andrews, despatch manager

Right: Ex-Fusilier Joe Martin caters for German tastes



Orders are assembled in the "picking" area

Catterick unit looks for the next crop of leaders

These signallers are on course to command



DETACHMENT commanders in the Royal Corps of Signals carry a heavy responsibility in some of the most remote locations manned by the British Army round the world.

With many thousands of pounds worth of equipment to operate, it is a lonely job with perhaps only two other signallers and the responsibility for a vital operational link.

Knowing how to work with a team is essential, and it is this quality which is particularly sought by WO2 Martin Chapman, Chief Instructor on the Regular Detachment Commanders Course run by 11 Signal Regiment at Catterick.

Adult recruits spend ten weeks doing initial training with 1 Squadron, 11 Signal Regiment to master the military aspects of their calling. They

then do their trade training, many just crossing the road to 8 Signal Regiment before going out into the "Field Army".

Ideally after six years proving themselves in their units they can return to 11 Signal Regiment as lance or full corporals to take the first further military qualification on their career ladder. Everybody needs the detachment commander ticket to succeed, but it is not an attendance-only course, and signallers need to work hard to pass.

While much of the work is infantry-orientated, the aim is not to produce infantry soldiers.

But this training best brings out qualities of leadership and

confidence in their own decision-making, in themselves, and in their ability to look after lower ranks.

The last week of the four-week course is the most challenging. Students have to prove in a four-day exercise that they can command and control men and women, receive and give orders and lead a patrol to an objective successfully and bring it safely back.

"We don't put barriers in their way, except an ambush, but that is part and parcel of the course.

"If you decide not to ford a river and use a bridge further up that is up to you, because you have to weigh the benefits against the lack of protection and

chance of being seen," said WO2 Chapman.

"If we just instruct students verbally, they don't remember," said Sgt Mick Senior. "You try to let them see the situation, make decisions for themselves, and learn from their mistakes. As long as they make their decision and get on with it, that is fine."

Many of the situations are new to girls like Cpl June Massie, a systems technician. It is not so long since women were non-combatant. Today they have to prove their fieldcraft, pass the same weapons test as the men and survive the physical exertion.

Commanding lads didn't make any difference to Cpl Massie, who took the rough with the smooth, passed well and now is set fair for her third stripe. "Even though I can't swim, I enjoyed leading my section in the tactical river crossing," she said.

One girl has a different situation to deal with. Sgt "Bob" Munday is the only female instructor, which takes some getting used to for youths steeped in their macho image.

"The lads are a bit sceptical so you've got to convince them that you're capable of doing the same as your male counterparts, but after a few days I am just another instructor," she said.

First woman to pass the demanding sergeant's course – with a grade which hasn't been equalled by any other woman yet – she revels in military training.

But her kind of confidence is often lacking in the younger girls, who have not had the same initial training as the men and feel inferior in the field, though they are surer of themselves in the classroom.

Because they have a lot to prove, the girls will often work harder and those who come through can be of a high quality.

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Terry Champion



Tactical river crossings have to be led with confidence



Above – Adopting a fire position is more difficult in a respirator



Left – Team work counts during the log race and leaders begin to emerge



Sgt "Bob" Munday, first woman instructor on the course, finds her task very rewarding

They often excel on the ranges – marksmanship may have to be renamed markswomanship.

"Girls are usually better than the blokes, because they are three or four years more mature

and have a calm concentration, whereas the lads tend to be a bit more excitable," said Sgt Munday.

Directing staff are certainly pleased at how the female influence helps spur on the lads to greater efforts – nobody wants to be beaten by a girl!

There is fierce excitement and hard competition for all during the log race which finishes week three. By this time natural leaders are showing through. The sergeants forcing them over the course won't admit it doesn't matter who comes last. What they are looking for is a team working hard together.

"It is hard, but all training should be hard," says the officer commanding the NCO training wing, Capt Rick Licence.

"We're looking for the commander. You get the guy who's head down, hanging on to the log, and you've got the guy who's driving them on. I know which guy I'd go to war with."



Charlie Chester with fellow artistes who entertained troops in Korea



"Titter ye not, this is serious" ... another Korea star, Frankie Howerd, gets a jab before the tour. In later years he would often go to Northern Ireland



"Don't let it go bang!" Harry Secombe at 27 (Strange's) Heavy Battery RA, BAOR, in 1970



Spike Milligan playing the trumpet (loudly) in Naples in 1945

Stars who rose from the ranks

EVERYONE in showbiz yearns to be a star. The possibility, however remote, of getting their name in lights spurs them on even though they know their chances are slim.

It's tough at the top and even tougher getting there. But there was a time, at the start of the 1939-45 war, when entertainers were needed in droves, especially by the Armed Forces, writes John Margetts.

This opportunity for those with a talent to entertain came when it was realized that one way of maintaining Service morale was by raising a laugh with a few songs thrown in.

At the time there wasn't much to laugh or sing about, but it was a tried and trusted formula and, with the encouragement of showbiz personalities of the time, an Army group was formed called Stars in Battledress (SIB).

The "Stars" of the title was something of a misnomer since most of those recruited from Army units were unknowns or amateurs. But it didn't matter

who died this year.

Among the names still around today who can give some credit to the SIB for their postwar success are Spike Milligan, Harry Secombe, Charlie Chester, Norman Vaughan, Reg Varney, Michael Denison, Ian Carmichael and Bryan Forbes.

All have contributed reminiscences to Mr Pertwee's book about their time with the SIB group and, unsurprisingly, Milligan puts in six pages, a good deal more than anyone else.

As usual he is very funny, telling several tales and explaining how he joined the SIB in Italy.

Spike writes: "I was playing the trumpet in the 2nd Echelon Officers dance orchestra. We played for all occasions, sometimes before visiting generals like Eisenhower and Alexander. There was ... an officer there, Brigadier Wood, who started making complaints about my trumpet playing, saying it was too loud, so I told him to dance further away.

"He got me transferred and

posted to the Central Pool of Artistes (SIB). Anybody who had been wounded and who could play an instrument or do a 'turn' was put in the pool straightaway. I played both the trumpet and the guitar so I was natural for the dance band.

"It was about this time that I first met Harry Secombe. He burst on the scene with a high-pitched laugh, blowing raspberries everywhere and talking so fast I thought he was Polish.

"He was in the depot after being blown up somewhere by a heavy field gun. Harry started doing some cabaret in front of the band. I couldn't understand what it was, the whole act was frenetic. I still thought he was Polish and I started talking to him in a very loud voice, as one does when speaking to foreigners, 'VERY GOOD ACT'. He must have thought I was potty."

This account of Milligan and Secombe's first meeting differs from that of Secombe's, who told *SOLDIER* a few years ago that they met in North Africa when Milligan's field gun blew backwards out of its entrenchment and down into the wadi.

Seemingly it landed behind a truck in which Secombe and some others were sheltering.

Secombe said that the truck's tarpaulin cover was pulled aside to reveal Milligan, who said in his now well-known Goon voice: "Anybody seen a gun?"

Norman Vaughan, telling of his call-up, writes: "Just before I went into the Army I was in a show called *Shoulder Arms and Legs* ...

"I recently found my old pay book and in it were the words: 'What was your occupation before you enlisted?' and it says, 'Dancer, professional.'

"When I was called before the major and he looked at my enlistment form he said: 'Are you one of those cheeky chappies?' It's funny how their minds worked."

Vaughan was put into the King's Regiment at Formby, Liverpool, and posted to Egypt where for a dare he got up in front of Harry Roy's band and did a tap dance in his Army boots. It won him 300 cigarettes and a posting to the divisional concert party.

"I couldn't believe my luck, it was wonderful. In Army entertainments most performers either did Max Miller's

act, played the mouth organ or sang like Bing Crosby. So when somebody did a tap dance it was something completely different, especially wearing Army boots."

Reg Varney joined the REME in 1942 but two years passed before he was transferred to SIB and put in charge of a show called *Jamboree*.

He was made up to sergeant and toured the UK before leaving for Malta, Libya, Cairo, Singapore and India.

When demob came round Varney was a polished solo performer and went straight into variety in the UK, working at one time with ex-soldier Benny Hill, and subsequently in a number of TV successes, including *On the Buses* and *The Rag Trade*.

Impressionist Janet Brown, famous now for her take-off of Mrs Thatcher, was another who toured Normandy with SIB in 1944.

Most of her shows were done from the back of a truck in a field, but sometimes she and her companions would find them in good stead when it came to making it to the top in civvy street.

Recognising that they "did their bit" for the war effort, Prime Minister John Major has

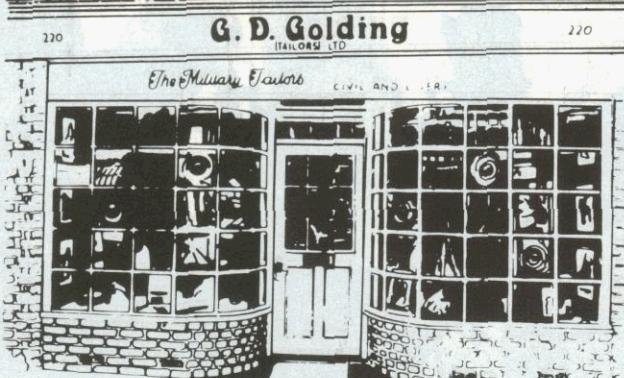
written the foreword to Pertwee's book, calling it "a worthy tribute to many brave men and women".

He adds: "They not only served their country in the front line, but also boosted the morale of their comrades by putting on shows and revues ... the Service personnel involved, many of whom went on to become well-known stars, made a unique contribution to the war effort."

Stars in Battledress, by Bill Pertwee. Hodder and Stoughton, £14.99.

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MoD celebrates worldwide care of wildlife habitats

"THE MINISTRY of Defence is in the front line in the campaign to protect the habitat of wild species," writes the Duke of Edinburgh in the foreword to the 21st edition of the MoD's conservation magazine, *Sanctuary*. "For the sake of future generations, it is the campaign that we must not lose."

Lord Cranborne, Under Secretary of State for Defence, said the milestone edition marked 21 years of looking after the defence estate with care and consideration for habitats and wildlife.

"It also shows that the MoD was concerned about environmental protection long before

green issues became so popular," he said.

With good management the MoD can achieve the balance between the need to train the armed forces and a desire to protect the environment, and *Sanctuary* features many areas where this has been successful.

In the abandoned village of Tyneham at Lulworth, Dorset, the sensitive tree lungwort has thrived under the watchful eye of the Army. And on the Isle of Benbecula in the Hebrides, the shell sands, protected by a nearby firing range, have provided a unique habitat for flora and fauna, supporting more than 80 plant species and a similar number of breeding

and wintering birds.

On Salisbury Plain – where the Army occupies an area the size of the Isle of Wight – the MoD is working to preserve the largest remaining expanse of chalk grassland in the UK, while at Otterburn in Northumberland, staff are breaking up monocrops of conifers and planting a mixture of native deciduous trees.

Elsewhere, sappers have graded ponds so that they can be used by natterjack toads and, in one of the more unusual ventures, the Ministry has co-operated to mark out an underwater nature trail in the sub-tidal reaches of Dorset's Worbarrow Bay.

The publication also features articles on sea turtles being protected in Cyprus, and work undertaken by the military to protect virgin rain forests in Belize.

• A new management plan to help preserve a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Porton Down has been signed by Dr Graham Pearson, Director General of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, and Mr Eddie Idle, Director of Operations for English Nature.

The plan will enable the MoD to use the site in a way compatible with its military needs while protecting the wildlife.

QLR back in the groove on Sennelager's ranges

HAVING settled into Berlin and completed an initial training period, men of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment recently moved to Sennelager to carry out their first conventional field firing package for three years.

After leaving Paderborn in 1989, the battalion completed a tour in Northern Ireland before returning to a conventional infantry role in Berlin this summer.

The battalion was virtually the only unit using the Sennelager Range complex for the fortnight, giving it a unique opportunity for training, ranging from individual marksmanship to company level live firing attacks.

Skills that might have gone rusty during two years in Northern Ireland were honed, and in the first week of training 1 QLR threw or posted 175 grenades in various tactical settings.

Fifteen soldiers fired 18 HEAT 94mm, three of which misfired, and 12 were assessed to have scored kills. The battalion also fired more than 60 2in HE bombs from the 51mm mortar, a weapon rarely fired.



Taking aim. A 1 QLR soldier fires a general purpose machine gun at Sennelager

The range, run by Sgt Brian Marshall and Cpl Daz Leigh was a resounding success and proved the accuracy and effectiveness of the 51mm mortar.

Rifle companies expended nearly 40,000 rounds of 5.56mm ball ammunition and practised with the new sniper rifle.

Every soldier revised his GPMG and LAW 80 drill and

the battalion fired 2,000 7.62mm 4 BIT ammunition in the first week. Rifle companies practised clearing the range's new Iraqi trench system.

The recce platoon fired 200 30mm practice rounds from their Fox vehicles, while the Milan platoon fired 12 missiles, missing the target only twice.

Three hundred sets of SAWES (Small Arms Weapons Effects System) were issued for

a 36-hour battle on Stapel DTA. Climax of the week was a live company battle run.

Commanding officer Lt Col Geoff Sheldon expressed his satisfaction with the training camp: "I am delighted with the outstanding results achieved during our exercise at Sennelager. The facilities are superb and we took full advantage of them to conduct demanding and realistic training."

Pathfinders cast their net wider

THE FRONT LINE means exactly that to men of 5 Airborne Brigade's Pathfinder Platoon.

Designated as the Commander's advance force, the platoon is tasked to find, mark, recce and secure drop zones for the leading parachute battalion group.

Once that has been achieved and the brigade has landed, the platoon reverts to a medium reconnaissance role and operates up to 70km ahead of the main brigade.

At present all this has to be done on foot, but, by next year, the platoon will have more mobility. It has just taken delivery of a number of 1/2-ton Land Rover 90 vehicles which will be modified to suit its requirements.

"I see it as the way forward," said the platoon's OC, Capt Jim Heycock. "We do need to be more mobile about the battlefield and the Land Rovers are the ideal bit of kit for us.

"They are large enough to

carry soldiers and their ammunition, water and stores, and we can get two vehicles on to one medium stress platform. This means one C130 Hercules aircraft can deliver four Land Rovers for us," he said.

The vehicles are being designed to carry general

purpose machine guns or similar weaponry front and rear. Each will also have an anti-armour capability.

The platoon comprises two cadres, mountain and air. The mountain role is being developed within the unit, while the air cadre concentrates

totally on air operations.

Exercise Quick Drop on

Salisbury Plain was designed to

keep up the soldiers freefall

parachuting skills including

HALO - high altitude low

opening.

The platoon also practised

other infiltration skills, includ-

ing high altitude high opening

(HAHO), in which a cadre

jumped at night from extreme

altitudes. Special parachutes

enable men and equipment to

glide in company for consider-

able distances and land without

the "give-away" sound of an

aircraft to alert defenders.

The mix of trades in the

platoon is predominantly Para-

chute Regiment, with a

sprinkling of gunners, sappers,

signallers, and Gurkhas.

Since April, 5 Airborne

Brigade has been part of the

UK Division and the Pathfinders

are set to expand, having

received permission to recruit

from across the division.

Previously they recruited pure-

ly within the brigade.

"I hope, by next year, we

will have a far greater mix

within the platoon. Not only

from 5 Airborne Brigade,

but from any UK Division units,"

said Capt Heycock.

"We are looking for moti-

ved, fit young men of any cap-

badge capable of operating on

their own and who can

assimilate a fair amount of

intensive training in their first

year with the Pathfinder

Platoon.

"We can offer the ideal

candidate a lot of interesting

jobs during his two to three

year attachment," he said.

Candidates do a pathfinder

selection course and, if suc-

cessful, go on a basic para-

chute course before joining

the platoon. They do not do P

Company because the path-

finder course is considered

of equal stature.

The course is being adver-

tised on orders and fuller

details should be available

through unit admin offices.



LCpl Chris Holman (left) takes oxygen from RAF Pathfinder instructor, Sgt Paul Hunt



The Pathfinders leave nothing to chance. Here Cpl John Allcock, Royal Engineers checks through his equipment on the tarmac at Keevil airfield before take off

Words: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Weston



Pathfinders in six-star formation leap from the back of a Royal Air Force Hercules aircraft accompanied by RAF freefall instructor, Sgt Paul Hunt



Right: Pte Indra Rai 7GR comes in to land. He is the first Gurkha to serve with the Pathfinders



Above: Low-level view of LCpl Andy Newell rehearsing freefall techniques

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Silhouetted dramatically against a dawn sky, members of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment prepare for an attack on the FIBUA village at Copehill Down, Wiltshire as part of Exercise Griffin's Flight

Fighting Glosters see the future unfold

THE SOUND of gunfire echoed through deserted streets, punctuated from time to time by huge mortar explosions.

Small groups of soldiers made a dash for cover between a petrol station and a churchyard, in danger all the time of coming under fire from the windows of occupied buildings.

An occasional prisoner, head covered and wrists tied, was led past burning vehicles to be interrogated.

Sarajevo?

No, Salisbury Plain at dawn – but every bit as realistic...

Scene of these twilit activities was the Army's purpose-built training village at Copehill Down, where the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment was taking part in Exercise Griffin's Flight.

About 400 members of the battalion and ten vehicles had been flown in, in total

darkness, the night before.

Now, augmented by men from 3 Belgian Para Commando, their respective objectives were to attack or defend a captured enemy village and seal it off, gaining invaluable training in FIBUA (Fighting In Built-Up Areas) in the process.

Adding to the international flavour of the proceedings were observers from the Netherlands, a smattering of Australian and New Zealand infantry – and a chief umpire from the Glosters' affiliated Royal Canadian Regiment.

"The Belgians are acting as our third company," explained Capt Chris Carter. "Their job is to take the first section of the village and remain as the battalion's reserve. They all speak excellent English and participate in our exercises quite frequently."

First in, before sunrise, had

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Weston

been a recce team to act as guides, said Ops Officer Capt Tim Kingsbury. They had made their way to the far end of the village, unchallenged, through its sewers.

"There might be a few questions asked about that later," he threatened, as he ordered a unit to take the two houses on their right.

With 94 buildings of all kinds, and more than 2,000 rooms, it was going to be a long slog, Capt Kingsbury said.

A fact borne out when the SOLDIER team, dodging frequent salvos from blank cartridges, ventured to "Shrewton Street" at the far end of the village, ahead of the action.

With the noise of gunfire echoing in the distance, one frustrated private, itching to get into the action, said: "I've been here ----- ages and I've not killed anybody yet."

He was to get plenty of opportunity later, although for the time being a mid-exercise ceasefire was called to debrief the troops on lessons learned so far at battalion level.

During the lull, Maj Marc Savels, 2iC of the 100-strong 15th Company, 3 Belgian Para Commando, told SOLDIER: "This is a marvellous example of international co-operation, with the British Army backing up my men.

"It would be great to have some Britons training in Belgium on our commando and para courses."

The FIBUA facilities at Copehill were very impressive, he said.

"We don't have them in Belgium on a scale like this."

Meanwhile, just up the road from a "burning" armoured vehicle, an officer was exhorting a platoon: "Quick as you can with that trailer, the battle will be starting again in five

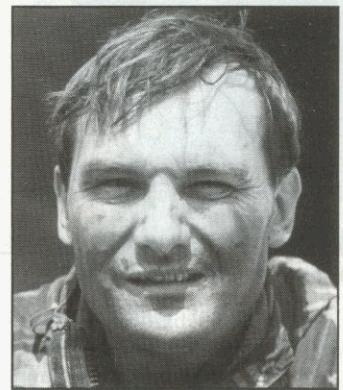


Above: Burnt-out vehicle provides useful cover

Right: Waiting for the off ... battalion members take a breather before the next attack



Cross-Channel co-operation. Belgian Paras fought alongside British, as would happen in the real event



Lt Col Martin Vine

minutes. Stay here, and keep it as a concentration area."

Shortly afterwards, in areas such as "Deptford Lane" and "Middle Barn Close", the onslaught resumed.

As peace descended, Capt Kingsbury reflected: "The village is a first-class training facility, and, despite the changing circumstances in eastern Europe, is still very relevant to the Army's needs.

"The only difference between now and five years ago is that at that time, you knew who the enemy was. An unknown quantity these days makes life potentially far more interesting."

Lt Col Martin Vine, the

Glosters' CO, told 500 weary troops: "There are not many battalions in the British Army who could carry out a blacked-out heli move and go straight into an eight-hour FIBUA attack."

There had inevitably been a few hitches, and improvements were needed in areas such as fieldcraft, but the sense of aggression and qualities of junior leadership had been very much in evidence.

As the battalion prepared for a few more days of exercises – in which it alternated in the enemy role with the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment –

culminating in a huge brigade exercise at the end of the week as part of 24 Air Mobile Brigade, the colonel had a parting shot for SOLDIER.

"We have had visits from brigades and battalions from all over Europe who are interested in the way our FIBUA techniques have developed, in conjunction with our use of helicopters and light service vehicles. I think this is definitely the way of fighting in the future."

Few who witnessed the Glosters' extremely authentic early morning attack and its tactical unfolding and conclusion would disagree.

Hope for folk who live on the Hill

IN ITS FIRST annual report after its establishment in 1916, the Star and Garter Home for disabled ex-Service personnel boldly stated: "Every patient is regarded as a hopeful case."

Seventy-six years, 3,000 residents and one Royal prefix later, that is still its proud boast.

Originally located in a large converted luxury hotel, the home succeeded in its purpose of providing a residence for up to 200 persons, but was soon bursting at the seams.

The building was demolished and a new one was opened on the site – at the top of Richmond Hill in Surrey – in 1924.

These days, the home, which is run by a charity established by public subscription, houses around 170 residents from all three Services, including ex-Service women.

Many of them disabled on active service in areas as disparate as the Somme and Northern Ireland, the current occupants of the Royal Star and Garter range in age from 35 to 95.

Although some have lived at the home for more than 40 years, others stay for as little as two weeks, enabling their usual carers to take a holiday.

Since places in the home are open to any physically disabled person who has served in the Forces, including the TA or Reserves – irrespective of age, rank or length of service – a fair proportion of the residents are there for rehabilitation from strokes and other illnesses which have occurred after their return to civilian life.

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Weston

"Over the years, the home's residents have had to change, because circumstances have changed," said publicity officer Patsy Willis.

"When the Star and Garter was first set up, the average age of the men who were sent here was 23. They had lost limbs or were paraplegics."

In those days, care in the community was not even heard of, and the sort of care that the home could provide was desperately needed.

"Attitudes have changed, and in the last decade or so, the welfare service has changed. This has meant that we tend to take in, say, quadriplegic cases – patients so seriously injured that they cannot be looked after elsewhere. Or those whose carers have died or simply cannot continue to cope."

Bryan Potter is a case in point.

Formerly a bandsman with the Devon and Dorset Regiment, his life was completely transformed in 1979 after a road accident.

His parents cared for him at home after he had been in a coma for two years, but after his mother's death Bryan moved to the Royal Star and Garter.

"It's better for him to be here – for the companionship as well as any other considerations," said Patsy Willis.

Speaking with great difficulty, Bryan, whose four brothers and sister all have a military background, and who attends daily physiotherapy and occupational therapy sessions, said he found it frustrating not to be able to walk, and to have to repeat himself in order to be



Charlie Hankins: man who put the 'star' in Star and Garter

understood. At the same time, he valued the independence which the home offered, and the great variety of activities available.

"I enjoyed a trip on a canal boat, it was good to get out and about, and I like to mingle with the other patients – especially in the bar," Bryan said.

Ted Phelps, one-time Desert Rat injured at Tobruk, is also happy with his lot at Richmond.

Born the year the first World War broke out, he has been a resident for 13 years.

A Berkshire lad, he worked as a chauffeur to a titled lady, among others, before enlisting in the 4th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Grateful for all it has done for him, he has compiled an

anthology of poetry "dating back to my best mate's death at Tobruk", which he was selling to raise much-needed funds for the home.

A comparatively recent change in the Royal Star and Garter's constitution means it now has several female residents.

These include Diana Law, who served with the FANYs (First Aid Nursing Yeomanry) during the Second World War, and Dorothy Tennant, a former ATS private.

Previously a computer executive, Diana suffered a massive stroke in 1967 and is now a permanent resident, receiving frequent therapy.

Dorothy, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, enjoys the frequent visits to concerts

Decade of challenge

• Falklands veteran Simon Weston, the former Welsh Guardsman badly burned in the campaign ten years ago, has strong feelings on the future of the Royal Star and Garter.

Speaking at the launch of an official support group based in Aldershot – aimed at increasing local awareness of the home among ex-Servicemen and women and raising some of the £3 million needed annually for its upkeep – he said:

"The greatest challenge at Richmond will come in the next decade, as survivors of the Second World War face the difficulties and disabilities that come with old age.

"If the Royal Star and Garter is to stay a real home – comfortable and well adapted to the needs of all those in its care – it must be looked after as carefully as the residents themselves. One day, I hope the home's task will be done . . ."



Mealtimes – "the only institutionalised thing" about the Home, as one contented resident put it



Happy Home on the Hill: the Royal Star and Garter Home

which the home arranges and said she had "never been so well treated".

David Pinfold, one of the newest residents, would go along with that.

A former sapper, he was captured in Crete, "so my war finished rather early", subsequently joining the TA, from which he was discharged in 1961.

"It has given me a whole new lease of life and made things a lot simpler for me," said David.

Arguably the man who puts the word "star" into the Royal Star and Garter is Charlie Hankins, formerly with the Black Watch, and 72 this year.

"My hands are like my legs: they don't work very well," he explained. "I use my computer for writing."

After his wife's death he moved from a flat in Torquay first to a nursing home, then to Richmond.

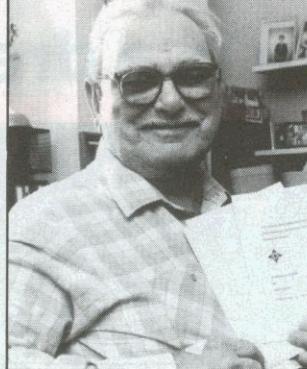
"My first impressions are all good," he said. "There is so much to do. I am a member of the bridge club and the music club and, with ten other sappers here and a reasonably-priced bar, there's a damned



Dorothy Tennant



David Pinfold



Ted Phelps



Brian Potter

from this home to Worthing in his hand-propelled Second War War invalid tricycle, as well as journeys in the same vehicle to Land's End and John O'Groats – and the reverse trip four years later.

Not content with that, he took in a tandem parachute jump and an underwater dive in Loch Ness en route . . .

Charlie, an Eastender, who lost both legs and an eye in North Africa in 1943, has been a resident of the home since 1971, when he was taken in to convalesce after the removal of a bullet from his lung.

Since 1981 he has been a tireless fund-raiser for the Richmond establishment.

His exploits have included covering the 56-mile journey

under wraps which involves lakes, canals – and Loch Ness.

As for the future of the "Home on the Hill", Patsy Willis said: "Predictions for the next decade indicate that demand for places will increase, not decrease."

"With Second World War injuries, old age and illnesses such as strokes, and with 20 per cent of the population currently of retirement age, there is likely to be a sharp increase in admissions."

In 30 years' time, she added, there would clearly be a change in the number of people presently being treated.

In the meantime, as one resident put it, "the only thing institutionalised about this place are the meal times."

Build yourself a future

MORE AND more enthusiasts are taking up the option of building all or part of their own homes.

Last year 23,000 people from all walks of life moved into self-built houses and it is at least worth considering a variety of self-build options which may help to solve some Service housing problems.

Self-builders can save between 25 and 30 per cent on the cost of buying a new home from a developer. They can achieve the home they really want, built with their choice of materials.

There are several ways to go about it. Self-builders can design their own construction or take one from a brochure. They can join a group or go it alone.

But an essential foundation for any such move – before the footings are dug – is the National Self Build Homes Show to be held at Alexandra Palace from

September 17-20. You will be made especially welcome if you are a SOLDIER reader (see below).

Show details: The show is open from noon to 6pm on Thursday September 17 and from 10am to 6pm on the following three days.

Admission is £5 for adults and £2.50 for children (5-16) and senior citizens. Half-price tickets are available through a telephone hotline (081-546 5000) and for groups of ten there are further reduced rates. You should mention SOLDIER when you apply.

Car parking is free and there are courtesy buses from Wood Green Underground and Alexandra Palace BR stations.

Further information about self-build and the show is available from Sue Woodward at The National Self Build Homes Show, 37 High Street, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey KT1 1LQ (tel: 081-549 2166, fax: 081-398 9334).

Family home is a dream



Capt Peter Russell takes charge of a dumpertruck as the foundations are dug

"WITH HARD work I should be able to move myself and the family into our self-built house by Christmas.

"It may not be completely finished, but the kitchen, bathroom and heating will be in place," said Capt Peter Russell, an individual self builder.

The fact that he is stationed in Andover and is building his dream house in Wiltshire does mean hard work during off-duty hours and weekends.

"All the family help – it is truly a family commitment. There was no way I would

have been able to buy my own house of the same standard and design, so the answer was to build one.

"But it does not always go smoothly, as Peter explained.

"With Merronbrook, a firm specialising in timber package build, we were able to find a house of our design.

"But before you can erect there's a lot of work to be done. I used 11 truck loads of cement – taking two-and-a-half weeks of hardwork – to lay the foundations for the bricklayer to put in the damp course ready for the company to erect the main

structure of the timber-framed house."

But it does not always go smoothly, as Peter explained.

"In the Army people do what they are asked to do on time. This is not always the case with civilian suppliers. One really has to chase everyone in the commercial market and that has slowed me down dramatically.

"But the tremendous satisfaction when the last concrete truck discharged its load and pulled away was one of immense jubilation. It's well worth it."

Hastings homes worth the work

AS A GROUP of 14 attractive timber-framed houses takes shape at Copse Close in Hastings, Sussex, a passer-by might think it was just another select development.

What makes this estate different is that it is the work of a group of hard-working and dedicated self-builders.

Members, who range from skilled builders to complete novices and are managed by Chartserve Ltd, are required to put in at least 20 hours a week. Most work at weekends.

One self-builder on the site said: "There is no way I could normally afford a three-bedroom house of this size and with fittings of this standard."

The three-bedroom houses will cost between £41,000 and £48,000, depending on type and location. Six months into the project, two are already occupied and the rest will be finished by the end of the year.

Development funding is being provided by the Housing Corporation and Northern Rock Building Society.

Forty per cent will come from the corporation's revolving loan facility.

FAST-TRACK FIRM

"HOME AND dry in half the time" is the slogan used by Roland Adams of Merronbrook who is well-known to some who have completed the Bricks and Mortar Course at Aldershot.

"This fast-track form of building has an advantage for Service personnel who may only have a two-year posting," said Roland. "We can do as much or as little as requested but for Capt Peter Russell we negoti-

ated, for example, with the local authorities over the planning as the plot was in a conservation area.

"One advantage is you can claim back 17½ per cent VAT on all the building materials going into the house."

The skills taught under the watchful eye of Derek Shaw at No 2 Resettlement Centre, Aldershot, are just what is needed for self-build.



A roof goes on to a house at Hastings



IN MY...

AN interesting comment appeared in the Government's reply to a recent report by the House of Commons Defence Committee which had voiced anxieties about the effects of Options for Change.

The reply, noting that in its report the Committee had expressed concern about housing for personnel leaving the armed forces prematurely over the next few years, added:

"After the report went to press the Government announced on February 24 a major package of measures which address the housing needs of all Service personnel including those being made redundant."

The package included an announcement of the Do-It-Yourself Shared Ownership Scheme (DIYSO), details of which were given only on July 1 and only after I had put the parties concerned in touch to explain difficulties.

Another announced measure, the Services Home Saving Scheme, had not started last month.

Sadly, in my view, the

Task Force remit was too narrow

remit of the Housing Task Force which studied the issues was far too narrow. It did not have on its agenda the disposal of surplus MoD land for social housing in line with Government policy.

Neither did it look at a cash incentive scheme in which local authorities can grant tenants up to £20,000 to move into the private sector.

Another possible scheme might have allowed Service personnel to rent their properties, perhaps on a more organised basis, and at the same time fall in line with Government wishes to increase the rented sector.

Nor did the Task Force look at the problems encountered by Service personnel in respect of

local authority and housing association nominations and the Government's proposed rents-to-mortgages scheme.

Self-build was first brought to my attention some years ago by Army wife Karen Parish, who had the vision to see its potential. Schemes such as self-build, refurbishment of MoD flats and package-building on MoD land were carried out in similar housing crises after both world wars.

Receipts from the sale of MoD land could help to ease the housing shortage, but Treasury policy is to use the money to pay off existing defence bills.

But will not even the Home Savings Scheme pay-outs have to come out of the MoD budget five years after it starts? I do not see how a comprehensive housing policy can emerge when attempts are made to solve problems only as they occur.

However, I am hopeful, now the Government has settled in, that there will be significant changes within the next five years.

...VIEW

Pilot scheme at Catterick

PLANS are afoot for an attractive and affordable housing scheme which might suit those wanting to settle in the Catterick area.

The individually-designed timber-framed Heritage Potton houses, available from £40,000 with up to 15 per cent immediate equity on completion, will take just 16 weeks to build, subject to site and weather conditions.

They can be purchased complete, but there is an opportunity for buyers to assist, fully or in part, in the building or finishing, under expert guidance.

Further details of this pilot scheme are available from either M. Pierce Partnership Ltd, City House, 5 Carlton Crescent, Southampton SO1 2EY (tel: 0703 232269) or MTF (Northern) Ltd, 17 Ashfield Avenue, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 4SS (tel: 091-488 9876).

Modular answer to homelessness



Modular homes at Haringey: times have changed since the famous pre-fab days

does not materialise.

Parkway modular homes have come a long way since the days of the famous pre-fabs.

Modular homes are a form of low-cost housing using new technology which allows flexible design of a purpose-built timber-framed bungalow.

This is an option Service families might consider when that dream house at the end of the engagement

complying fully with building regulations and safety standards.

Most firms give a ten-year guarantee and the homes require minimal maintenance.

They can be built to individual specifications or used for transit or temporary accommodation, as at the Lypatt Families Centre.

Plain sailing for gunners

FOUR SOLDIERS from 2nd Field Regiment RA based at Munster dispensed with ferries for a cross-Channel crossing to raise money for the Royal Artillery Heritage Appeal – they arrived in France by sailboard.

Led by Maj Ray Fox, a keen windsurfer, and regimental sailboard instructor Sgt John Fradley, the plan had been for six men to make the crossing from Greatstone-on-Sea near New Romney.

But a send-off arranged by a 3 RHA detachment with a 105mm light gun provided by 289 (V) Commando Battery was spoiled when French authorities withdrew permission for the windsurfers to land.

Next day Maj Fox, Sgt Fradley, SSgt Gary Easter and Bdr Paul Tilson took advantage of ideal conditions to make the crossing in 4½ hours – with no safety boat and still no Gallic approval!

★ ★ ★

HQ (Westminster Dragoons) Squadron, Royal Yeomanry carried multiple sclerosis victim Jacqui Bellis to the top of the mountain in the annual Snowdon Challenge organised by the London East Friends of ARMS (Action and Research for Multiple Sclerosis). They were the fastest military team to the top, second fastest overall, which raised £1,400 for ARMS.

Any units wishing to enter next year's challenge should contact Peter Bellis at London East Friends of ARMS, Unit 17, Waltham Park Way, Billet Road, Walthamstow, London E17 5DU.

★ ★ ★

Seventeen members of 3 Platoon, C Company, 7th (City of Belfast) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment based in Palace Barracks, Holywood, raised £885 for the



The 2nd Field Regiment RA boardsailing team which successfully crossed the Channel



The Royal Yeomanry team from Westminster pauses half way up Snowdon with Jacqui Bellis, who they carried to the summit

Ulster Cancer Foundation by making a sponsored parachute jump. The event was organised by Lt Mark Lindsay, who had served with The Parachute Regiment.

★ ★ ★

A sponsored run was the means by which 15 military and civilian staff from 49 East Midlands Brigade based at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Chilwell, raised £250 for the British Olympic Appeal. SSgt Bill Burchill masterminded the event and ran 27 of the 34 miles himself.

★ ★ ★

A sponsored run from the Tower of London to the Eiffel Tower by five members of the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Catering Department raised more than £5,000 for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation and the purchase of computer equipment for the Red Cross Department at the

hospital in Woolwich.

With the French Army providing accommodation, and supported by the British and French Red Cross, Maj Steve Morgan, WO2 (SQMS) Nigel Bates, SSgt Rick Duff, Cpl Billy Barrie and Cpl Mark Heritage, all of the Army Catering Corps, each averaged over 60 miles a day for four days.

★ ★ ★

The Regimental Band of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards raised £1,004 by singing carols around their barracks at Tidworth last Christmas. The money has now been presented to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association to train a dog for the Welsh Cavalry's recruiting area in Wales and the Border Counties.

★ ★ ★

Eight children from Ravelrig House, a residential home for handicapped children run by

the Barnardo's charity in Edinburgh, were given a summer holiday to treasure when they spent a week with 40th Field Regiment RA at Hohne.

The Lowland Gunners, who recruit in the Edinburgh area, laid on a busy programme for the children, including pony riding and visits to a theme park.

★ ★ ★

A relay run from John O'Groats to Lands End by ten members of the Number Three Company, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards raised more than £1,500 for the National Star Centre at Ullenwood Manor, Cheltenham, which runs courses and activities for young handicapped people, many in wheelchairs.

The 1st Battalion is stationed in London on public duties.

★ ★ ★

Army nurse Capt Jane Couper and Cpl Sylvester Swanston from the Lancashire Army Youth Team walked the 200-mile Coast to Coast trail from St Bees Head, Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire in under two weeks.

They accompanied 40 Preston teenagers who completed the trail as part of the Preston Guild celebrations, raising more than £8,000 in the process.

★ ★ ★

Six men from 27th Field Regiment RA were able to present £800 to the Erne Special School in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, after completing a 24-hour 125-mile triathlon – all within the boundaries of their Grosvenor Barracks at Enniskillen.

What Dayan meant

YOUR reviewer was baffled by a quotation by Moshe Dayan which appeared in *Warriors' Words* (Book Reviews, August 10).

The quotation comes from Dayan's *Diary of the Sinai Campaign* (1956) and refers to the premature entry of the 7th Armoured Brigade into action in Sinai, 24 hours ahead of schedule.

The actual quotation is: "Yesterday I had a row with the GOC Southern Command who, contrary to GHQ orders, threw 7th Armoured into action before the time set for it.

"Notwithstanding explicit orders, which stated that the armour would not go into action before 31st October, GOC Southern Command persisted in his own point of view that no time should be wasted and that . . . the initiative and surprise element must be exploited to advance and capture whatever possible . . . I could not deny the sympathy I felt for the premature entry of the armoured brigade into operations before being authorised.

"It is better to struggle with a stallion when the problem is how to hold it back, than to urge on a bull which refuses to budge."

I trust this clarifies the context and meaning of the quotation.

The action in question centred around the battle for the Egyptian position at Kusseima. — Robert C Waddington, Bewdley, Worcs.

Royal Irish veteran is 102

CAPT Ewbank asked if any members of the original Royal Irish Regiment are still living (Letters, July 27).

The Royal Irish Rangers took over the administration of the welfare fund about eight years ago and that responsibility has been inherited by the new Royal Irish Regiment.

I know of one member of the regiment still living. Patrick



Streamlined Naafi — Pages 18-19

Paras' role questioned

I AM NOT anti-Para, having served with quite a few from the regiment in my career so far.

But in exercise conditions almost ten per cent of the 400 men from 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment who dropped in during Exercise Pegasus Fury (SOLDIER, June 15) were unable to continue because of injuries.

In my book that is a lot of men to be without. Admittedly conditions were not favourable, but when will they ever be?

In the current climate of cutbacks, various equally

famous infantry regiments are fighting hard to keep their identity despite amalgamations.

Would it not have been sensible to have cut The Parachute Regiment by at least one battalion, allowing a normal infantry battalion or two to survive?

When was the last time paratroopers dropped in on active service? I would say during the 1960s in Aden, but I dare say some will disagree. Will they ever be used in this role again, I ask? — Sgt Robert Cameron, Scots DG, Dumbarton.

These are genuine bearskins

AS A MEMBER of the staff of the Guards Museum I can assure you that, contrary to your caption to a Scots Guards picture (August 10) the bearskin cap is not synthetic and is still made from Canadian bear. I have spoken to RHQ Scots Guards who confirm this.

— Gerald Row (Gren Gds), Hastings, Sussex.

● Sorry — we were misinformed about synthetic bearskins, though this does not surprise Maj Lance Brett, SO2 Supply at HQ Household Division, who heard the same from a drill sergeant. He would love to replace the Canadian brown bear skins, costing £300, but cheaper copies have yet to come up to the standard required. — Editor

Thank you, readers

FOLLOWING my letter (June 1) I am very grateful to SOLDIER readers for their offers to supply me with back copies of the magazine.

I have been able to write to thank everyone who got in touch, with one exception. I hope the anonymous donor at MoD will accept this printed thank-you instead.

In another context, it isn't

just SOLDIER readers who are quick to answer a call for help.

A couple of months ago a young Serviceman in Northern Ireland wrote to the advice columnist of *The Sun* newspaper. He may like to write again because I happen to know that there is a stack of mail waiting for him from sympathetic members of the public. — Marilyn Mailley, Halesowen.

Impressive study of Kwai tragedy

THERE have been many stories about the Burma-Siam railway, built by Japanese engineers using prisoners of war and local coolie labour, the best-known being Pierre Boule's novel and the subsequent film, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.

However, few of the prisoners who worked on the Tamarkan bridge would have recognised their commanding officer in Alec Guinness's portrayal of Col Nicholson and, as they all knew, the bridge was destroyed not by commandos but by B24 Liberator bombers flying down from eastern India.

Further, the *canard* of Boule's book and David Lean's film was that the Japanese lacked the technical competence for bridge building. It is this slight that is resented by the Japanese more than many of the other criticisms and accusations over the railway and of their treatment of prisoners.

It is only now that we have a comprehensive evaluation of the Burma-Siam railway in its strategic, logistic and manpower contexts. The book is entitled *River Kwai Railway*, for which its author Maj Gen

HANDSOME TRIBUTE TO MALTA HEROES

ANY LIBRARY or personal collection of wartime literature and historical records will be enhanced by *Malta, Defiant and Triumphant*, which has been produced by the George Cross Island Association.

Bound in royal red leatherette embossed in gold, this handsome volume, edited by Capt E A S Bailey, RN (Retd), marks the 50th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to the island and honours the memory of more than 7,000 Servicemen and civilians who were killed during the prolonged siege.

An editorial board drawn from veterans of each section of the Armed Forces, Merchant Navy and civilians has ensured a balanced compilation of reports, potted histories and

Clifford Kinzig, Director of Educational and Training Services (Army), has used material from Allied and Japanese sources to document the railway intended to carry the Japanese army into India.

It was built at enormous cost in terms of human life. Of the 61,806 PoWs force to work on the project, at least 12,399 had died by the end of the war, victims of accident, malnutrition, disease, and ill-treatment by their captors.

The number of deaths among native labourers – the "Sweat Army" – was much greater; estimates vary between 25,000 and 50,000 of the Tamils alone.

By contrast, the Japanese achieved the conquest of Malaya, Singapore and Burma at the cost of 5,500 lives. But it must be said that 183,000 Japanese were killed in trying to retain their hold on Burma alone.

Much has been written about the brutally harsh treatment meted out to prisoners by Japanese guards and Korean auxiliaries, and the author attempts to explain this in terms of cultural and racial clashes between oriental and western attitudes.

It is difficult to assess how successful he has been in this aim as it is inevitable that he and the reader must be influenced by personal and pre-conceived judgements.

One root of the Japanese lack of compassion was the *bushido* code of the *samurai* towards the "traditionless" masses. Although a code of honour, *bushido* did not require the strong to protect the weak, nor was there a place for mercy.

Instead, the stress was on loyalty, self-sacrifice and the virtue of suicide rather than surrender. It is even said in this book that wives of some Japanese soldiers committed suicide as their husbands went off to war so that they would be entirely free to do their military duty. Little wonder it is hard for westerners to understand such an alien culture.

In the words of Joseph Grew, one-time US Ambassador to Tokyo: "Oriental culture stands as the antithesis to luxury. To many Japanese, culture means a Spartan ability to endure hard work, hard living and hard fighting... They look upon us as boastful, vain-glorious, rich and flabby. They think we are physically soft."

From the start this did not bode well for the PoWs; the Japanese even found it surprising that these representatives of racist and decadent western society actually wished their governments and families to know of their dishonoured position in captivity.

River Kwai Railway is an impressive study of all aspects of this remarkable and tragic episode of the Second World War.

At the end of the war much of the railway was dismantled and a major all-weather road now serves the area where once the line was the only means of land communication. However, restored stretches of track are carrying local traffic and tourists brought in by the package holiday trade! – BJ

poems as well as 80 photographs, many published for the first time in half a century.

Annexes give full information about all convoys and a chronological summary of the siege, while two full-page charts pinpoint naval bases, airfields, battle areas, gun-sites, searchlights and radar stations.

The Duke of Edinburgh, present when the Queen unveiled the 12-tonne Memorial Bell in Malta earlier this year, has written the foreword.

All profits from the book will go to the GCIA Memorial Trust Fund.

Malta, Defiant and Triumphant, price £19.95 UK, £21.35 overseas, inc p and p, from Capt E A S Bailey, c/o PAE, NatWest Bank, 49 North Street, Taunton, TA1 1NB.

River Kwai Railway: The Story of the Burma-Siam Railroad by Clifford Kinzig. Brassey's, hardback, £19.95.

The Munro Letters edited by Arthur H Haley. In his letters, Lt Innes Munro, 71st Regiment (later



Grenadier Guards march past Waterloo Station entrance on their return from Malaya in August, 1949

TIME MARCHES ON . . .

THIRTY years ago police inspector and former soldier James Cramer walked round the coast of the Isle of Wight for a bet.

He completed the 62-mile circuit in 23 hours 35 minutes and had no trouble with his feet at all. No blisters, or other signs of damage to the feet, he reports in his book *Military Marching*.

His secret, it seems, was to switch his socks from foot to foot every five miles or so, then turn them inside out for a similar distance before discarding them for a new pair.

His footwear for this jaunt was a pair of brown Australian

IN BRIEF

Future Wars by Trevor Dupuy. With the help of a team of experts who claim to have predicted the course and outcome of the Gulf War, the American author speculates on wars which might occur in the next decade. Sidgwick and Jackson, hardback, £20.

Aftermath of War: Everyone Must Go Home by Sir Carol Mather. Former liaison officer to Montgomery at Alamein augments his personal experiences with research and interviews to build a picture of the postwar repatriation problem. Brassey's, hardback, £22.50.

The Munro Letters edited by Arthur H Haley. In his letters, Lt Innes Munro, 71st Regiment (later

pattern boots, 1945 vintage, with a sewn-in tongue. And just to remind him of his days in the Grenadier Guards, the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and a glider-borne infantry battalion of the 6th Airborne Division, he carried a 20lb pack of water, food, maps, a groundsheet and stationery.

Participants in the four-day, 100 mile Nijmegen Marches – as well as serving soldiers – would do well to read Cramer's book. He reveals just how much more there is to marching than "just putting one bleedin' foot in front of the other" and tells a history stretching from the Ancient Greeks to the

present day, describing the various styles.

A couple of years ago the author visited the Guards Depot at Pirbright, Surrey, to see if the drill was up to the 1939 standard of the Grenadiers.

He was pleased to report, he said, that standards were as high as anything he experienced at Chelsea Barracks all those years ago.

High praise indeed, specially as it comes from the former RSM of the 6th Airborne Division Training Centre. – JM

Military Marching by James Cramer. Spellmount, £25.

Highland Light Infantry) wrote graphically of the complex relationship between British and Indians in the early days of the Raj. Bullfinch Publications, Liverpool, hardback, £11.50.

The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry by Fergus Read. Short illustrated history from its origins in 1798 to its reduction this year to a single squadron on amalgamation with the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry. Lancashire County Books, £4.95.

Argentine Forces in the Falklands by Nicholas van der Bijl with colour plates by Paul Hannon. In the 250th volume of the Osprey Men-at-Arms series, arms, equipment and uniforms are

detailed by the author, who served in the Falklands with the British Army and was involved in prisoner

interrogation and handling of Argentine records. Two other recently-published volumes are

Frederick the Great's Army 3 – Specialist Troops by Philip Haythornthwaite, colour plates by Bryan Fosten, and **Canadian Campaigns 1860-70** by David Ross and Grant Tyler, colour plates by Rick Scollins. Osprey Publishing Ltd, softback, £6.50 each.

Heroes of the Crimea by Michael Barthorp. Respected military historian's well-illustrated account of the battles of Balaclava and Inkerman, reissued in paperback. Blandford, £8.99.

Omissions do SAS no favours

THE QUESTION one must ask about *A-Z of the SAS* is why produce an encyclopaedia instead of a well-written and indexed book?

He also omits and inaccurately records some facts. Why mention that Lt Limbosch led Op Caliban without recording he was killed, or omit that over 30,000 Germans were disarmed on Op Apostle?

More than 40 Germans were killed on Op Tombola and not 30, as stated, and he fails to mention that in the raid on Agedabia the 37 aircraft destroyed were out of a total 39 available.

The entry under "Australian SAS" does not record that the squadron during five years in Vietnam killed 500 Vietcong for the loss of one killed and 29 wounded, and he incorrectly states that Maj Sandy Scratchley stayed in Italy until the end of 1945, whereas he returned with 2 SAS and became 2iC in 1944.

Annoyingly the author claims such terms as Last Light, Sitrep, "O" Group and Phantom are unique to the SAS, which is incorrect.

All these criticisms do not make this book unuseful as there is a lot to interest the military enthusiast, including some interesting photographs.

But the photograph on Page 73 really does not do David Stirling credit in his dark glasses. Randolph Churchill, who was liaison officer with SAS, is on the right, although not mentioned.

What a pity that the author did not mention under the entry of Maj Ian Fenwick that he was the famous cartoonist whose humour adorned the pages of *Punch* and other magazines and helped to raise our morale until his brave but untimely death on August 8, 1944 with 1 SAS in the village of Chambon. – PSN

A-Z of the SAS, by Peter Darman, Sidgwick and Jackson, £20.

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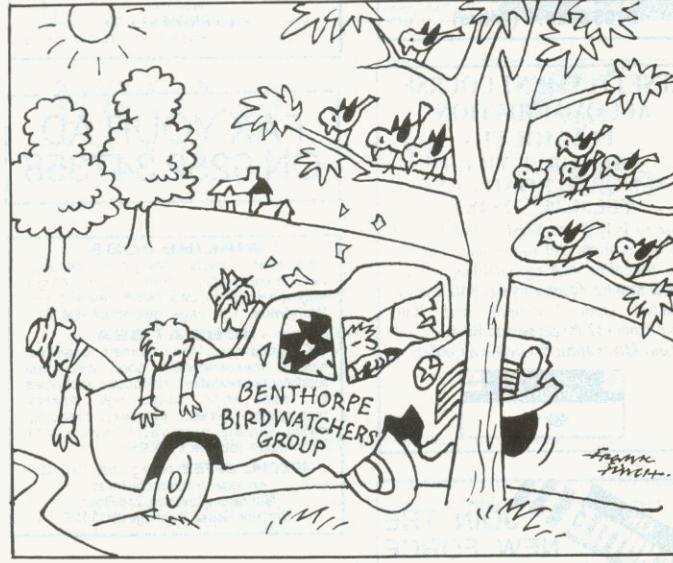
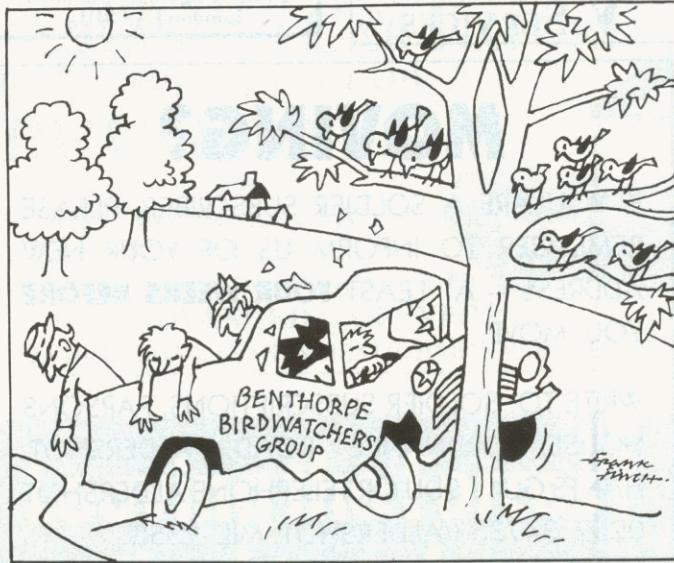
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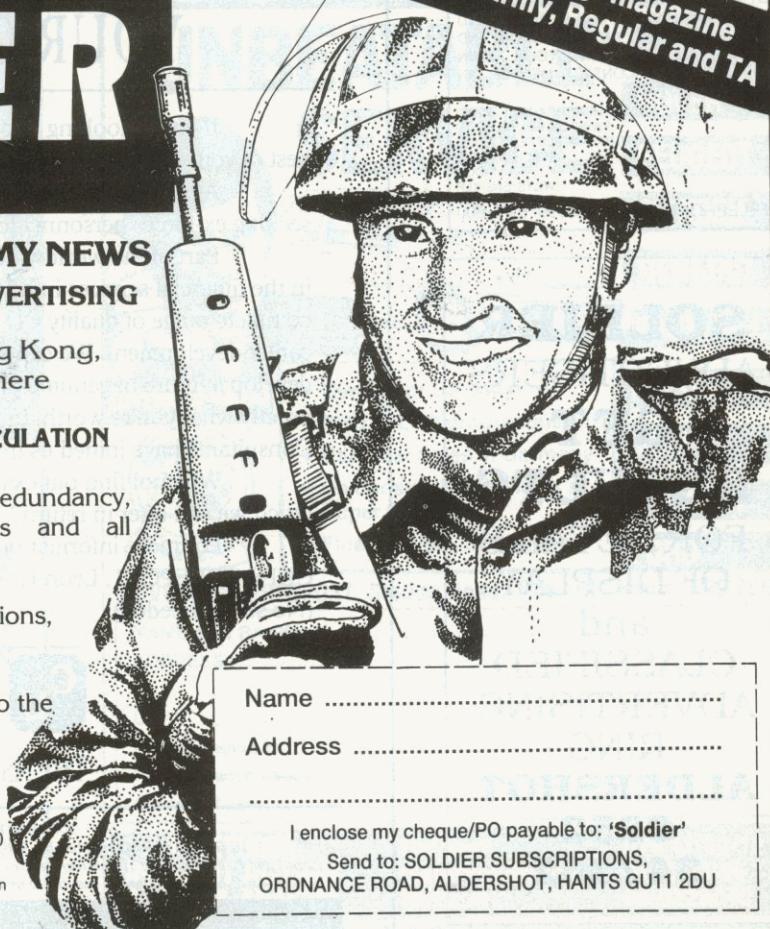
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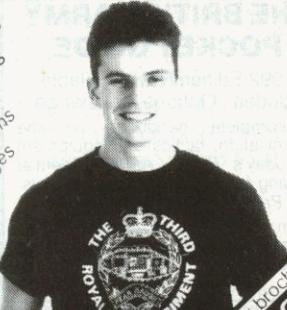
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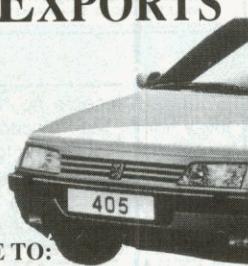
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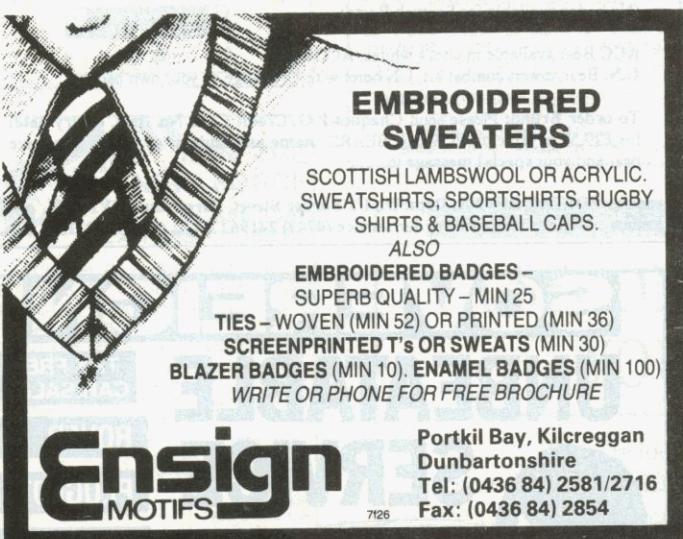
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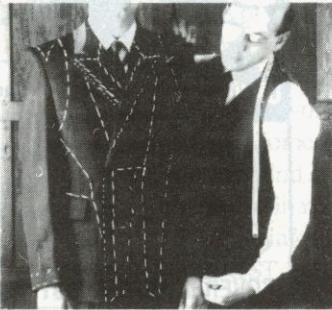
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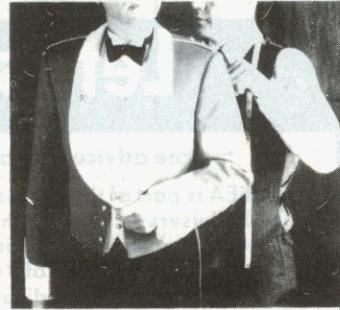
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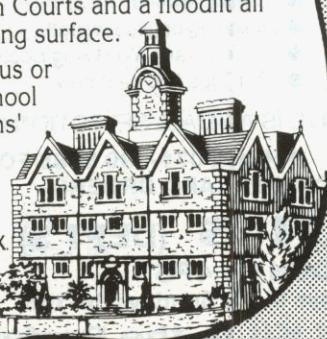
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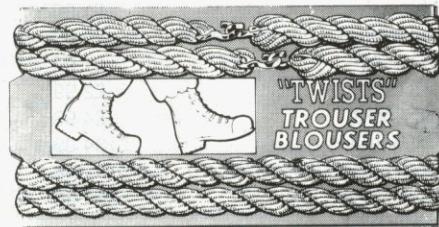
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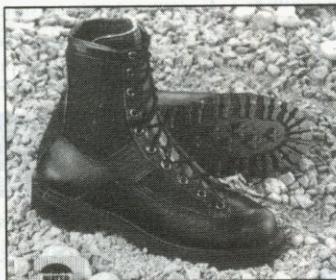
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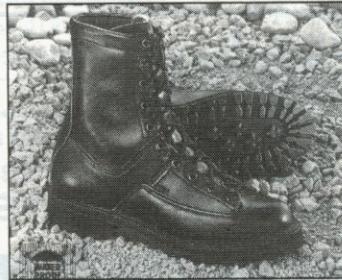
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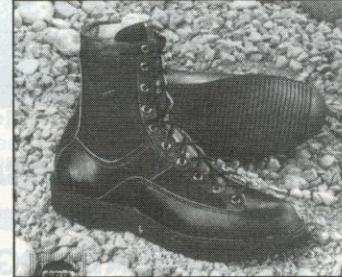
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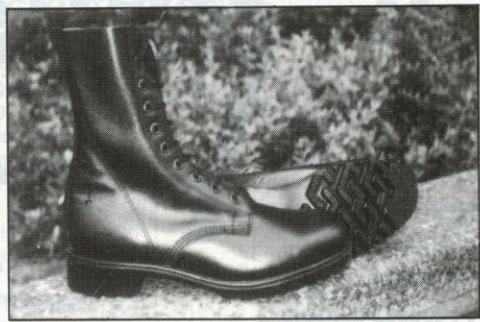
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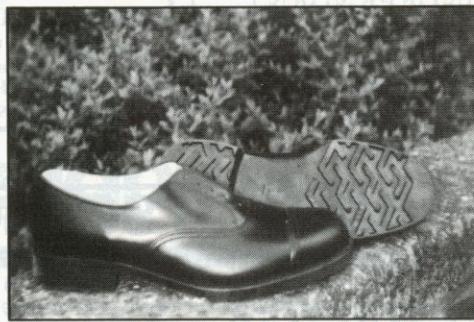
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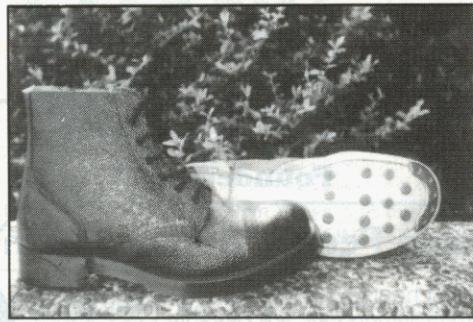
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Divers in shape at Cranwell

THE ARMY men's diving team swept the board at the Inter-Services championships held at RAF Cranwell last month, taking first and second places in both the 3m springboard and 5m highboard events.

WO2 (QMSI) Mike Kempson (APTC), serving with the Depot and Training Regt RCT TA in Grantham, convincingly won the 3m springboard.

His opening dive, a back 1½ somersault with 1½ twists – his most difficult – proved to be his best, scoring 40 points and setting the standard.

Fellow team member 2nd Lt Christiaan Munro of 3 RTR took second place, 12 clear points ahead of the Royal Navy diver.

Munro continued the Army dominance with an outstanding performance in the 5m highboard. His forward 1½ somersault with one twist produced two sevens from the Midland county judges, ensuring first place, 30 points ahead of team member Sgt Amos Greenfield of 22 AD Regt RA who himself was 25 points clear in second place of the RAF's best diver.

The ladies were not so victorious as a team, finishing in second place six points behind the Navy. The best individual result was from Cpl Amanda Davies of 9 Signal Regiment. She took first place on the 3m springboard and third place in the 5m highboard.

Now back in Cyprus, she will be able to take advantage of the new and only diving facilities in Nicosia. Until now there was nowhere she could train on a regular basis, which undoubtedly resulted in the loss of the ladies' overall trophy which she has held for the previous four years.

The most remarkable performance of the championships in the coaches' eyes was that of 2nd Lt Susan Griffin (AGC),



Cpl Amanda Davies

Picture: Mike Weston

Inter-Service diving champions. From left are ATpr Neil Wilson (reserve), Sgt Amos Greenfield, WO2 (QMSI) Mike Kempson and 2nd Lt Christiaan Munro

HOCKEY

A COMBINED Services hockey team from Cyprus completed an inaugural hockey tour to Egypt during the summer and encountered an exceptionally high standard of play.

The diving at the Inter-Services championships proved to be the best for many a year, with the standard getting increasingly better.

One of the high points for the Army team was the selection of Kempson, Munro, Greenfield and Davies to represent Combined Services on October 14 against the Civil Service and British Police.

To keep the team at the high standard it is now, Army diving is looking into the possibility of an overseas tour, and a diving clinic for Servicemen and women and dependants to promote and encourage the sport more widely.

ATHLETICS

COMBINED Services were first over the line at the end of the inaugural athletic event against Achilles AC and Surrey. Held in ideal conditions at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, a good evening of athletics ended with the Combined Services totting up 161.5



Army hopes sunk at Portsmouth

EMPHATIC victories over both the Army and Royal Navy gave the Royal Air Force the outright championship at the Famous Grouse-sponsored Inter-Service cricket festival at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth, last month.

The Army's bid to retain the title foundered on the first day when they went down by nine wickets to the airmen after struggling to 159 for eight in their 55 overs.

It took the RAF just 40 overs to knock off the runs and set themselves up for an equally convincing performance against the hosts the following day. After bowling out the Navy for 158, the RAF replied with 162 for four with eight overs to spare.

This was sufficient to give them the championship regardless of the result of the Army-Navy match on the final

day. In the event, rain prevented any play.

Two Army players, Capt James Illingworth and Lt Alistair Holdsworth, were awarded Army caps.

ARMY

Lt R J Greatorex b Elks	25
Cpl N Palmer c Aunger b Whybourn	1
Lt W A C Pym b Phillips	15
Lt I Fielding c Aunger b Phillips	14
2nd Lt I T Wood c Aunger b Turner	21
Sgt G N Summersgill not out	34
Capt J W S Cotterill c Riddell b Spiller	25
Capt P J Istead b Spiller	1
Capt R T Thicknesse c Dales b Spiller	11
Capt M W B G Dyer not out	1
2nd Lt P D O Logan did not bat	
Extras	11
Total (8 wkt, 55 overs)	159

RAF: 1-4; 2-31; 3-58; 4-69; 5-85; 6-130; 7-135; 8-153.

Bowling: Turner 11-0-31-1; Whybourn 11-5-15-1; Phillips 11-3-33-2; Elks 11-2-26-1; Spiller 11-0-46-3.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Cpl J Riddell b Thicknesse	77
Sgt G S Lumb not out	67
Cpl A Jones not out	12
Plt Off D Catlow, Cpl A Elks	
Flt Lt D Aunger, SAC M Turner	
Flt Lt A W J Spiller, FS B Phillips	
SAC A Dales, Cpl C Whybourn did not bat	
Extras	4
Total (1 wkt, 40 overs)	160

FOOTBALL: 1-117.

Bowling: Logan 6-1-31-0, Dyer 4-1-30-0; Wood 8-1-44-0; Cotterill 11-3-29-0; Thicknesse 8-2-27-1; Pym 3-1-13-0.

Royal Air Force won by nine wickets.

RN: 158 (50.2 overs). **RAF:** 162-4 (46.4 overs) (Riddell 61, Lumb 54). **RAF** won by 6 wickets.

In the week before the Inter-Service festival the Army lost to the Civil Service at Bath by 58 runs and to Essex 2nd XI at Woolwich by six wickets.

Civil Service: 208-7 (55 overs) (Capt Dyer 3-65, 2nd Lt Logan 2-41). **Army:** 150 (Lt Greatorex 25, Capt Thicknesse 20). Civil Service won by 58 runs.

Army: 160 (49.4 overs) (Lt Fielding 25, 2nd Lt Wood 22, Sgt Summersgill 26, Capt Cotterill 23). **Essex 2nd XI:** 161-4 (34.2 overs). Essex won by 6 wickets.

Take Courage

COURAGE the brewers are to sponsor for a fourth successive year the Inter-Service Alpine and bobsleigh championships.

A cheque for £15,000 was presented to Maj Gen Graham Hollands, chairman of the Combined Services Winter Sports Association, by Mr Michael Foster, executive chairman of Courage Ltd.

TA polo team beats Regulars



The Queen poses with members of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry polo team after they had beaten the Blues and Royals at Windsor to win the Inter-Regimental Cup. The Wessex success, by 5-4, was only the second time in 114 years that a Territorial Army unit has

succeeded in beating a Regular team.

From left to right are Capt Alexander Dabell, Lt Jamie Gordon, the Queen, Mr Bernard de Nonancourt, chairman of sponsors Laurent Perrier, Capt Paul Lucas and Lt Tim Verdon. The Royal Wessex Yeomanry

Lady ref's on side for change

Capt Donna Peak, the Army's first woman referee, would very much like to see the formation of a proper women's league within the Service.

Badged to the AGC (SPS) and currently serving as Training Adjutant of the Training Battalion and Depot RAOC at Deepcut, Capt Peak was granted special permission by Director WRAC to do the referees' course.

She qualified in March 1990, finishing top of the course, and breaking through a female exemption that also applies to rugby and boxing in the Army.

But the Army FA actively encourages women referees



Picture: Mike Perrin

and women's teams in units, and her desire to see the formation of an official Service women's league is supported by AFA secretary Maj Terry Knight.

Women's football is one of

the country's fastest growing sports.

At present a Class 3 referee, Capt Peak is going for promotion to Class 2. She is also chairman of the Southern District referees' panel and

runs men's football teams at Deepcut.

She is pictured with Depot players (from left) Cpl Gibbs, Pte Hunter, Pte Deyer, LCpl Hounsell, Pte Evans and Pte Bailey.

Corinthian spirit invoked by Army's fair play code

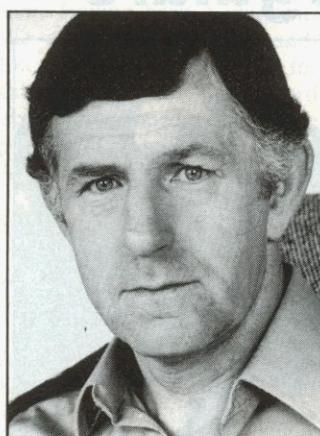
ARMY football administrators are to make a major effort to stamp out unsavoury aspects of the game. The initiative is supported by recently announced FIFA rules, writes John Elliott.

A concerted campaign to encourage a more Corinthian spirit on and off the playing field is being led by Brig Andy Massey, Chairman of the Army Football Association's Executive Committee.

Targeted for particular action will be dissent by players, off-the-ball incidents and lack of respect towards opponents as well as officials, also unsporting behaviour by spectators.

Flagship for the code of conduct, which has been sanctioned at the highest level, will be the Army's senior representative team. Its manager has been instructed to substitute immediately players cautioned for dissent.

Other areas of indiscipline will also be punished by substitution at the discretion of the manager, and persistent



Brig Andy Massey: "I think we forget sometimes that sport is in itself a discipline..."

offenders will not be selected. Army players will be forbidden from appealing against decisions made by the referee.

The AFA directive on discipline and sportsmanship was formulated against a background of steady increases in cases dealt with by disciplinary sub-committees (up 15 to 20 per cent last year

against a 25 per cent increase in civilian football).

"The laws of the game are a contract to which players are signed up. As far as we are concerned, a player who persistently or flagrantly flouts them is indicating to us that he does not wish to play. And we are not minded to compromise; the issues at stake are too fundamental for that," said Brig Massey, Commander Training Group RCT at Aldershot.

"I think we forget sometimes that sport is in itself a discipline, physical, mental and of temperament, which is why the Service invests so much in it.

"But we are not about to create a punitive regime, rather an environment in which players perform to and achieve their full potential. Our approach is not draconian. We are talking about returning a sense of proportion, sanity, even humour to the game."

"Nor do we want to remove the competitive element. It can

be physically robust and fair at the same time - Pele's 'beautiful game'. In my view there is no other team sport that matches football in its demands for physical strength, athleticism and tactical intellect."

Brig Massey, who during his career played for Sandhurst, his corps, and the Crusaders, said indiscipline was not peculiar to soccer, and he hoped the AFA lead would be followed by other Army sports, and beyond. By going through the Chain of Command, the Army Football Association intends to involve commanding officers, managers, team captains and players.

"We are looking for leadership, for individuals at all levels meeting their responsibilities," said Brig Massey.

"It would be especially encouraging to see commanders showing more interest; after all, this is our soldiers' sport. I would, in particular, like to see a more positive response in the availability of players for the Army team. This will be a great help."

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Bandsmen of The Cheshire Regiment are ready for any occasion in Germany, as demonstrated by Cpl Paul Adams, SSgt Andy Taylor and LCpl Steve Beswick. Cheshire feature – Pages 13–17.

Picture: Mike Perring

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