

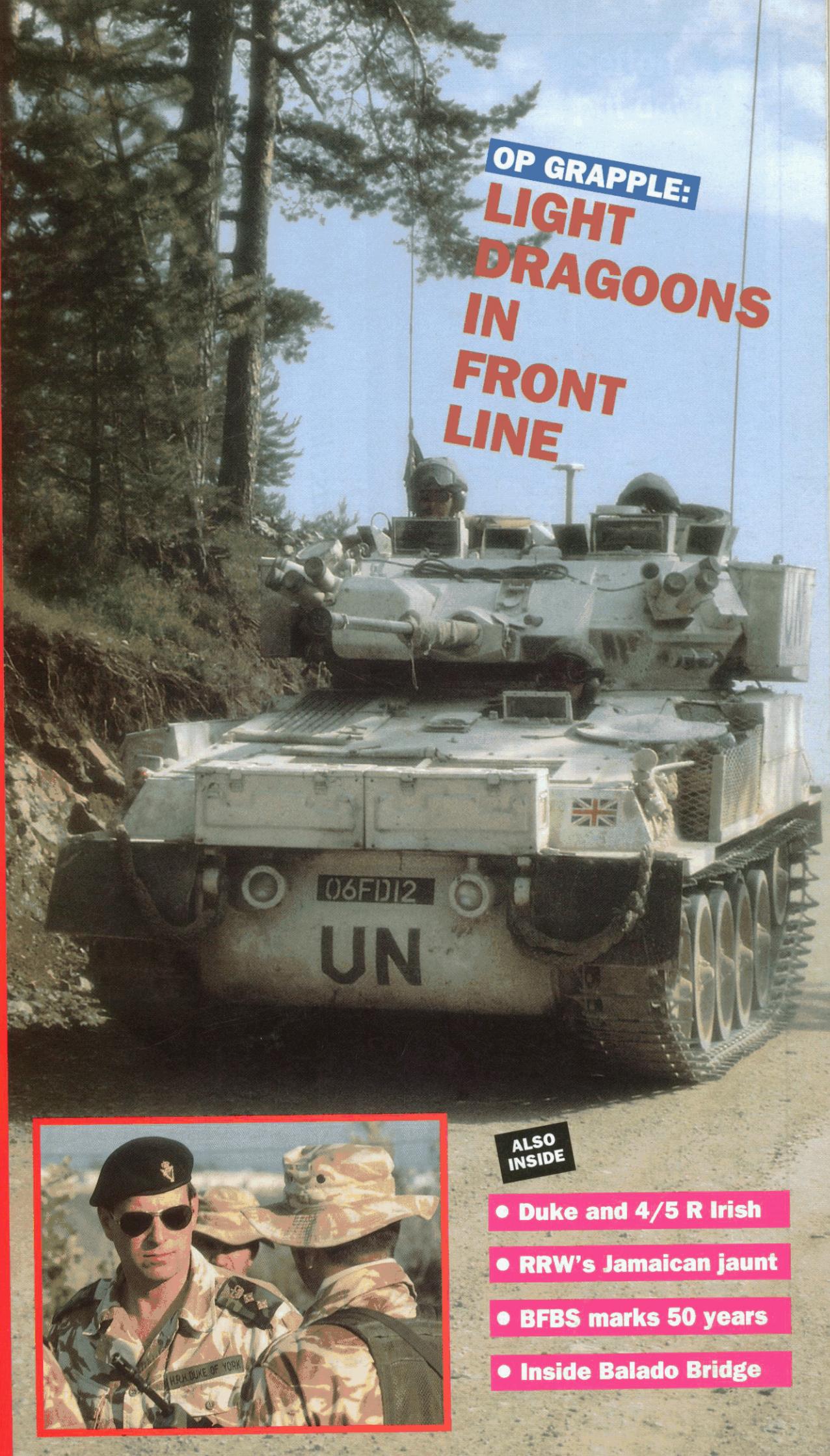
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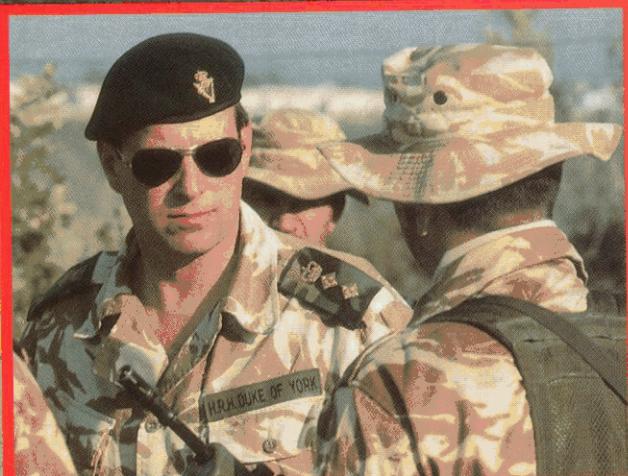
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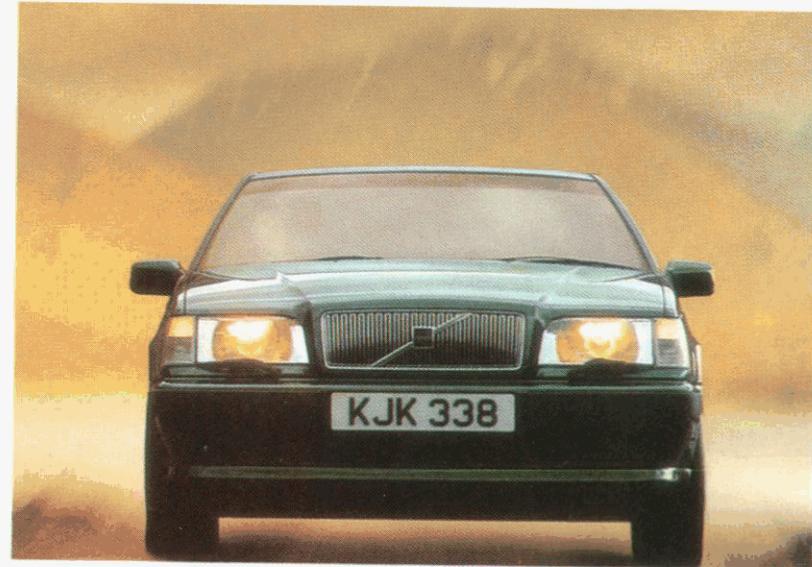
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August 9, 1993
VOL. 49/16

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UK news trade distribution: SM (Circulation Department), 6 Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London SW16 2PG. Telephone: 081-677 8111. Fax: 081-769 9529 or 081-677 0136



Sefton put down

Picture: Chris Barker

The last photograph of Sefton, taken with groom Pte Catherine Woolcock, who works at the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray.

Sefton, aged 30, was put down after his condition had

deteriorated at the Home of Rest for Horses, Speen Farm, in Buckinghamshire, where he was retired nine years ago from the Household Cavalry.

In July 1982 Sefton survived an IRA terrorist car bomb in

Hyde Park, London despite 38 wounds and a partially severed jugular vein. Two months later he was back on duty. An officer, three soldiers and seven horses died in the explosion.

Desert Fever: 'No evidence'

SUGGESTIONS that some British Service personnel have developed medical conditions as a result of service in the Gulf War are being closely monitored by the Ministry of Defence.

The so-called Desert Fever or Desert Storm Syndrome (DSS) has been linked in some press reports with ammunition containing depleted uranium (DU). Symptoms are said to include weight loss, bleeding gums and extreme fatigue.

But MPs were told by Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley on July 20 that there was so far no clinical evidence of such a link.

He said: "Statistics compiled by the Ministry show that, since the Gulf conflict, there has been no overall increase among serving Service personnel in the incidence of the type



Armed Forces Minister
Jeremy Hanley

of diverse symptoms that are alleged to make up the syndrome.

"My department will continue to investigate any information that is provided and to monitor all evidence bearing on the situation."

He added: "It is in our inter-

ests that our serving forces and those who have left them are fit and well and stand no extra risk because of their experience."

Mr Hanley told the House that UK forces fired 88 depleted uranium shells during the war.

Desert Fever and the use of depleted uranium have been the subjects of a series of Commons questions over several weeks.

Mr Hanley said in a written answer on June 11 that the 120mm tank ammunition, small quantities of which were fired by Challenger tanks during the conflict, was the only ammunition containing depleted uranium currently used by the Army. It is not used in peacetime training.

He added: "The Ministry of Defence knows of no evidence that there was any health risk to any United Kingdom Service personnel who served in the Gulf War, due to the handling or use of depleted uranium ammunition."

On July 13 Mr Hanley said: "My department has received one representation from a serv-

● Turn to Page 5

FRONT COVER: A Scimitar reconnaissance vehicle races through "Bomb Alley" – a stretch of road on the route from Vitez to Tuzla often swept by intense mortar and artillery bombardments. Reports and more pictures of The Light Dragoons operating in and around the front lines of northern Bosnia appear in Pages 18–21. (Picture: Mike Weston.) Inset: The Duke of York visits 4/5 R Irish on annual camp in Cyprus. See Pages 22–23. (Picture: Terry Champion)

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Bosnia, Brunei medals cleared for wear

THE QUEEN has approved the wearing of medals for service in Brunei and the former Yugoslavia.

This permission applies to soldiers in the service of the

Sultan of Brunei on either loan or contract terms who received the Brunei Silver Jubilee Medal to mark the accession.

The unrestricted acceptance and wearing of the United

Nations Medal for service with the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has also been granted. The ribbon of the medal, awarded on completion of 90 days of qualifying service,

consists of a background of UN blue, with a wide central band of red representing the UN protection areas. Narrow bands of green and brown represent forests and mountains.

BW first to leave in Colony drawdown

PLANS for troop reductions and a phased withdrawal from Hong Kong have been announced by Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley.

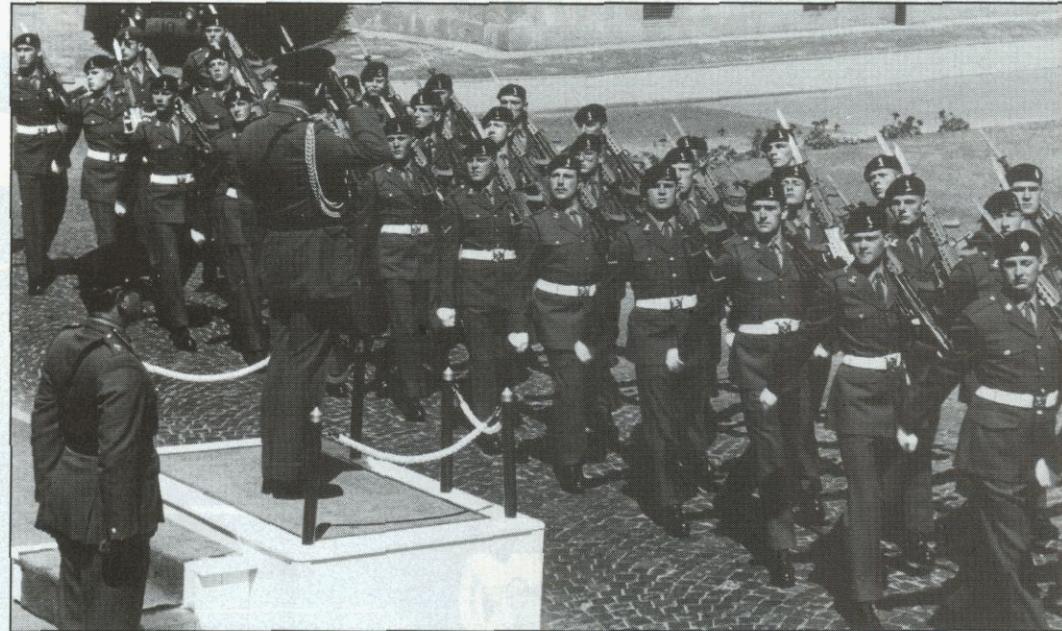
It is planned to pull out the Hong Kong Garrison by June 30, 1997, although units of all three Services – the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force – will remain in Hong Kong until then. The garrison will reduce in stages as local forces assume responsibility.

In August next year, the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch is due to return to Britain and the two Gurkha battalions will merge to form the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles. The new battalion will be one of three forming a Gurkha brigade. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions will be based in Brunei and the United Kingdom.

The Gurkha battalion will remain in Hong Kong until the end of 1996, when it will be replaced by a British battalion, whose soldiers will not be accompanied by their families.

Logistic and other supporting units will be reduced in proportion.

There are about 6,000 Service personnel in Hong Kong, plus 2,700 locally-employed civilians.



Gen Sir John Waters, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, takes the salute as soldiers of the new 1st (UK) Armoured Division march past at Herford to mark the retitling of the 4th Armoured Division. The new formation, Britain's only remaining armoured division and the most powerful in the Order of Battle, will be one of two

British divisions assigned to Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). It will be commanded by Maj Gen Anthony Denison-Smith, former GOC 4 Armd Div, and comprise brigades based at Osnabrück, Hohne and Paderborn, a headquarters at Herford and a forward support group at Gutersloh

Desert Storm Syndrome

● From Page 3

ing member of the UK armed forces and four from, or on behalf of, ex-Service personnel who served in the Gulf conflict concerning symptoms which they believe might be connected to the alleged Desert Storm Syndrome.

"No such representations have yet been received that have been made by families of UK Service personnel or by civilian general practitioners."

Asked about the effect of atmospheric pollution on the health of those personnel involved in Operation Granby,

he said those UK personnel most at risk were Royal Engineers engaged in clear-up operations near the oil fires.

"Their respiratory function was measured before they left the UK and at two-weekly intervals during their assignment in Kuwait. No adverse effects were suffered and no change in respiratory function was seen."

In a written answer on July 9, Mr Hanley said: "The wide variety of symptoms which are alleged to make up the condition popularly known as Desert Storm Syndrome are prevalent

within the general population.

"There is no evidence that the incidence of these symptoms in the Services has increased since the Gulf conflict.

"There is nothing in the available medical evidence in the UK that would suggest that the symptoms described cannot be explained in conventional medical terms, but my department is actively seeking further information and will continue to monitor the situation closely."

He said depleted uranium ammunition was not used by US forces in accidental attacks on British forces.

On June 29 Mr Hanley reported that US monitoring of symptoms had concluded that exposure to DU had not caused the unexplained symptoms associated with DSS. On July 13 he said there had been a similar response from the French authorities after a British request for information.

Summer ends early at Palace

THE CHANGING of the guard at Buckingham Palace has switched to its out-of-season timetable a month early because of operational commitments.

Normally the guard changes every 24 hours from April 1 to

mid-August and, with the Queen's permission, adopts a 48-hour cycle for the remainder of the year to enable troops to be deployed on other duties. This year the 48-hour cycle began on July 16.

The King's Regiment, cur-

rently on public duties, was directed to take over at the Royal Tournament from The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The reallocation of tasks was not unusual in the light of operational priorities, according to the MoD.

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Teeth clerks switch to AGC

SGT Phil Morris of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, who was promoted colour sergeant on June 30, lasted only a day in the rank.

But he had not blotted his copybook – along with all other “Teeth Arms” Regular clerks, he transferred the next day to the Adjutant General’s Corps, becoming a staff sergeant.

This was the third and final phase of the transfer of all clerks to the AGC’s Staff and Personnel Support (SPS) branch.

On formation in April last year the branch consisted of former RAPC and RAOC staff clerks and elements of the WRAC who had not rebadged. In April this year, All Arms clerks from the RPC, REME and RCT switched allegiance, and on July 1 the remainder received their new cap badges, stable belts and lanyards at parades all round the world.

Despite wider opportunities for the new military clerks, there were mixed feelings among soldiers leaving regimental families and traditions.

Military clerks in the Guards have handed back their scarlet tunics and bearskins and, in common with their counterparts in the Household Cavalry, will no longer take part in ceremonial parades; Scots have returned their kilts, trews and jackets, Royal Irish their green trousers and Cherrypickers their crimson trousers. They will normally retain their distinctive head-dresses, but with the new cap badge.

DERR soldier shot

LCPL Kevin John Pullin (28) of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh’s Royal Regiment was murdered by a sniper while on foot patrol in south Armagh on July 17.

A single man from Devon, he was the second soldier from the battalion to be murdered by snipers in south Armagh this year.



All Arms clerks were rebadged to the AGC in ceremonies around the world at the end of June. Pictures show (above) Berlin Brigade Commander Brig David de G Bromhead presenting a new capbadge to CSgt Martin, 1 RS attached to 1 Gordons; (above right) the Duchess of Gloucester presenting new berets at Herford, Germany; (right) Brig Colin Geal, Director SPS Branch, welcoming Pte Christopher Sabor, 2 Fd Regt RA, to the corps at the AGC Training Centre, Worthy Down



tour began in March.

On June 26, Pte John Randall (19), also single, died after being hit by a high velocity round while on foot patrol in the same area.

Four soldiers and two RUC policemen have been killed by snipers in south Armagh this year.

Gen Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff, discusses the operation of the 81mm mortar with a soldier of 10th Princess Mary’s Own Gurkha Rifles during his visit to Hong Kong Garrison. He called on units throughout the Territory, including the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch.

QOH move from Hohne

LED BY the Regimental Band, Challenger tanks of The Queen’s Own Hussars moved out of Caen Barracks, Hohne for their new home in Wessex Barracks, Fallingbostel.

Their departure, which leaves Hohne without an armoured regiment for the first time since 1945, was the culmination of a number of QOH farewell events before their amalgamation with The Queen’s Royal Irish Hussars at Fallingbostel.

Leeds Rifles join Guards

THE LEEDS Rifles have been appointed an honorary company of the 1/152 Infantry Indiana National Guard after training with them in Indiana.

C (The Leeds Rifles) Company of the 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales’s Own Regiment of Yorkshire, an ARRC-roled TA battalion, used US rifles, machineguns, mortars and anti-tank weapons during the two-week exercise, which was reciprocated at Lydd and Hythe when 150 US National Guardsmen trained with the remainder of 3 PWO.

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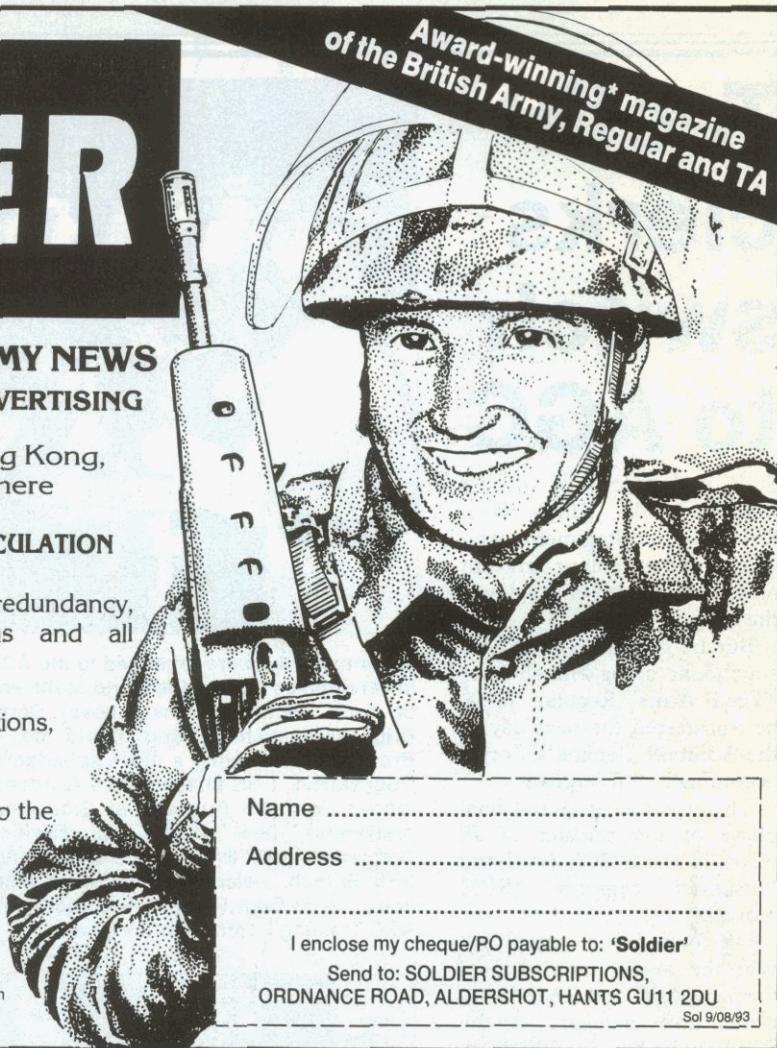
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Farewell to Minden

THE PEOPLE of Minden turned out in force to say farewell and thank you to the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders when the Thin Red Line marched through their streets for the final time.

The crowds cheered almost 100 kilted troops, the Pipes, Drums and Band and the Regimental Colours, as they

weaved their way through the town centre.

Their destination was the local athletics stadium where the Argylls were welcomed by the Mayor, Herr Siegfried Fleissner. After inspecting the troops, he joined Lt Col "A K" Miller, the commanding officer, in planting an oak tree, a sign of the lasting friendship between Minden and the unit,

which has been stationed at Elizabeth Barracks since 1989.

And closing the final chapter in Minden's history as a garrison, Lt Col Miller presented the Mayor with the 11 Armoured Brigade flag, bearing the golden battleaxe. By September, the Argylls will have left Germany for their new home at Shorncliffe, and the remaining military pres-

ence in Minden will be led by 4 Armoured Field Ambulance and 211 Signal Squadron at Kingsley Barracks.

The 1st Battalion has more than 30 personnel serving as part of the 1 PWO Battalion Group in Bosnia.

The Argylls' march through Minden was the culmination of two days of celebration which highlighted its excellent relationship with the town.

The evening before, The Argylls had thrown open the gates of Elizabeth Barracks to the residents of Minden for a final parade and the presentation of a Fahnenband in recognition of the unit's contribution to peace in Europe.

Thousands of people enjoyed Argyll hospitality and a tremendous display of marching by almost 200 soldiers to traditional Scottish music provided by the Regimental Band under WO Peter Hunt and the Pipes and Drums led by Sgt Jim Motherwell.

The Argylls are to lose their Band, and the parade in Minden was their final public duty with the regiment. Their swansong will be the Edinburgh Tattoo.



The Argylls march through the streets of Minden for the last time. They are returning to Shorncliffe

Gordons honoured in Berlin

THE BERLIN-based 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, which received the Freedom of Charlottenburg District in June, is the first, and almost certainly the last, British battalion to have the honour bestowed upon it.

Berlin Garrison is due to close down by the end of 1994, by which time the American, French and Russian garrisons will also have withdrawn.

Lt Col Andrew Durcan, commanding officer, received the Freedom scroll from the Mayoress, Frau Monika Wissel, before his battalion paraded in the magnificent setting of the forecourt of Charlottenburg Palace.

There the Freedom scroll was received on behalf of the battalion by Lt Gen Sir Peter Graham, Colonel of the



Frau Monika Wissel, accompanied by Lt Col Andrew Durcan, inspects 1 Gordons during their Freedom of Charlottenburg parade

Gordon Highlanders and until recently GOC Scotland.

The battalion, faced by the prospect of amalgamation with the Queen's Own Highlanders, returns to Edinburgh in April. It will celebrate its 200th anniversary in Aberdeen in June.

Forty-six former Gordons, some of whom had visited Berlin in 1945 three weeks after the end of the war, joined the 1st Battalion in Brooke

Barracks, Berlin, for the regimental fortnight.

Watching the Gordons crossing the Havel in assault boats and a ferry, one commented that it was "not done that way" when his unit crossed the Rhine in Buffaloes in December 1944.

Another guest was Gordons' Girl Lesley Ann Reid, who has represented the regiment in the north east of Scotland for the

past three years and visited the battalion in West Belfast and Fort George.

A highlight of the fortnight was the Waterloo fun day organised by Maj Norman Jaffray. More than DM1,450 was raised for the battalion kindergarten.

Another feature of the celebrations was a two-day wives' exercise, dubbed Highland Lass, organised by B Coy.

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IN BRIEF

Wilton ops HQ opened

A NEW Joint Service operations centre at HQ UKLF, Wilton was opened on July 8 by Admiral Sir Jock Slater, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff.

Designed to provide round-the-clock coordination and control of British Army operations worldwide, the centre provides a much enlarged and improved working environment, extensive communication systems, and audio-visual facilities which can link it to other MoD and Nato headquarters.

• • •

A further order worth £60m has been placed for the Battlefield Artillery Target Engagement System (BATES), Procurement Minister Jonathan Aitken announced on July 13. Built by Marconi Radar and Control Systems, BATES will allow automated control of artillery up to corps level, linking MLRS and AS 90 to surveillance and targeting systems.

The system was first accepted into service in 1992.

• • •

A team from the Army School of Catering, led by Lt Barry Griffiths, came fourth overall in the first field catering competition for European armies in Hungary. Twelve nations took part, including the US Army's European Command.

• • •

Before opening new law courts at Bedlington, the Queen inspected a guard of honour mounted by D (Northumberland Hussars) Squadron, The Queen's Own Yeomanry.

• • •

Britain's competitors in the 1993 international military pentathlon for reserve forces are set for a testing session against ten other Nato countries in shooting, orienteering, assault courses, first aid and



Pup patrol: Pte Louise Allen with "F" litter at the RAVC Support Group in Aldershot

swimming in Washington DC, USA.

The 30-strong squad from the Reserve Forces Association has been sponsored by WS Atkins Ltd, consulting engineers, which has allowed them to concentrate on training rather than fund-raising.

• • •

Romford-based 124 Petroleum Squadron (Volunteers) carried out intensive training in Gibraltar during the sixth and final exercise in the 1993 Marble Tor series.

• • •

Men of the 4th/5th Battal-

ion, The Green Howards, made an amphibious landing at Melanda Beach during a two-week Lion Start exercise in Cyprus.

• • •

Austers, Sketers, Scouts and Gazelles were flown in tribute to the aircrew of 658 Squadron, Army Air Corps, at Netheravon airfield when old and bold, many of whom had flown unarmed observation aircraft over Europe's battlefields and some of whom now live in Belgium and France, returned to commemorate the squadron's formation 50 years ago.



Admiral Sir Jock Slater (right) is welcomed to the new operations centre at Wilton by Gen Sir John Wilsey, Commander-in-Chief UKLF

Trial pups in debut appearance

THE FIRST of the Army's specially-bred dogs stole the hearts of audiences at the Royal Tournament this year when ten pups making their first public appearance scampered on with their handlers at the end of a display by dogs of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

After training at the Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray, however, the German shepherd dogs will present intruders on Army property with a less cuddly appearance.

Since the breeding scheme was introduced last year, three other litters have gone to Melton Mowbray, where training starts when they are 12 months old. It is hoped that breeding dogs in a controlled environment will be much more cost-effective than travelling the country looking for suitable animals.

REME sought for Americas expedition

THE Household Division is looking for REME volunteers to maintain its vehicles – from Alaska to Cape Horn.

Its Roof of the Americas expedition next year promises to be the largest attempted by the Services, with relays dog-sledding around Arctic Alaska, kayaking the white waters of the Colorado river, sailing in a tall ship, driving through Amazonia and climbing a number of mountains.

The Welsh Guards' Roof of Africa expedition in 1990 raised more than £24,000 for charity and the Americas expedition hopes to raise money for the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries.

Volunteers (ideally Class 1 vehicle mechanics) should contact the expedition office at Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ (tel: 071-414 3433/3436 or London Dist ext 3433/3436).

Roof of Africa leader Capt John Warburton-Lee will also lead the Americas project.



Golden girl Debbie

A routine display at Worthy Down last month to mark the first anniversary of the AG Corps turned into a red letter day for Red Devil LCpl Debbie Ingle. For the jump was Debbie's 1,000th, and the Queen was there to present her with The Parachute Regiment's traditional golden lanyard to mark the achievement.

Debbie, a qualified instructor, has been with the Paras for 4½ years. Last year she and 99 other girls broke the world record for a formation free fall at La Luc in the south of France.

Her ambition is to become a team leader for the Adjutant General's Corps Parachute Team.



Dartmoor data

Okehampton's mayor, Mrs Sylvia Westlake, gets some help with a light support weapon from Cpl Shaun Johnson, 1 PWO, during a Dartmoor open day for civic leaders at Okehampton Camp. Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn, GOC Southern District, arranged the event to show the visitors why and how the Army uses Dartmoor for training.



Out-Foxed!

When C (Kent and Sharpshooters) Squadron of The Royal Yeomanry converted from Saladin recce vehicles to Fox in 1977, Tpr Andy Hastings of The Blues and Royals drove the first Fox into Croydon. After 16 years he is a WO2 in The Household Cavalry Regiment, and is again a Permanent Staff Instructor with the squadron. And as Corporal Major Eric Happe, CO of 104 Regt. Alfred served with the Herefordshire Regiment at Gallipoli.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALFRED

Gallipoli veteran Alfred Deans (centre) proudly wears the medals he thought he had lost forever when thieves broke into his Newport home. But neighbour Mr Percy Ballinger contacted his son, Lt Col Brian Ballinger (right), CO of 151 (Greater London) Support Regiment RLC(V), who asked the Army Medals Office at Droitwich to help.

And on July 2, Alfred's 97th birthday, he received the new set, suitably inscribed, in the sergeants' mess of Newport-based 104 Air Defence Regiment RA. On the left is Lt Col Eric Happe, CO of 104 Regt.

Alfred served with the Herefordshire Regiment at Gallipoli.



Steve's your man for smart salutes

Bdr Steve Jones of 104th Air Defence Regiment RA(V) knows a bit about 21-gun salutes – he has fired 75 of them since joining the Territorial Army in 1979. Pictured with a shining 25-pounder field gun, his most recent public performance was at Cardiff City Hall to mark the Queen's birthday. Cardiff is a saluting station and C (Glamorgan Yeomanry) Troop of 211 (South Wales) Air Defence Battery does the firing. As well as its two vintage 25-pounders, C Troop is equipped with the Javelin missile system.

Exclusive story



IN WITH THE NEW... Although Sgt Bob Atkinson (centre) of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment is about to leave the Army after 22 years, the family connection is stronger than ever. Twin sons Mathew (left) and Jamie are due to pass out together in August from Princess Marina College, Arborfield, where they have been training as REME aircraft technicians.



Over to you

Lt Col Geoff Catling (left) has handed over command of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment to Lt Col Geoff Moss (right), whose last appointment was as 2iC of the 1st Battalion stationed in Chester. Pictured with them is Watchman III, the battalion mascot.

Called to the bar



Capt John Matthews RLC has been presented with the bar to his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, believed to be the first received by any officer or soldier in the new corps. He got his LS and GC in 1978 while serving as a sergeant with 8 Regiment RCT. He is currently OC HQ Coy at the Training Regiment and Depot RLC, Deepcut, Surrey.



Where it all started: Army Broadcasting Service Headquarters, Algiers. The building was formerly a Turkish pirate's harem



Capt Leo Bennett's opening in Algiers on January 1, 1944, cued in by Capt Malcolm Luker



Men of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment at Anzio listening to the latest news from home, courtesy of the Forces Broadcasting Service



Gen Marshal Montgomery broadcasts his Christmas address to BAOR

Picture: Imperial War Museum

The British Forces Broadcasting Service is about to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Phil Wilcox has been looking behind the microphone from the Western Desert to the war in the Gulf

B4 AND AFTER

IN THE blasé Nineties, when laser-operated compact discs, plastic audio cassettes, and round-the-clock broadcasting by satellite are taken for granted, it is perhaps hard to conjure up a picture of a truck, trundling along bumpy roads in the middle of a war zone, its occupants desperately trying to preserve their precious load of 78 rpm records.

Yet from such beginnings half a century ago, the British Forces Broadcasting Service and all its attendant effects on communications and increased morale for the men and women in the field, has flourished.

An exhibition to mark the service's 50th anniversary, opening in London this month, seems as good an excuse as any to turn back the pages...

"It all started in a harem in Algiers," said exhibition organiser Alan Grace.

"The British Forces Experimental Station - set up by Lt Col Gale Pedrick-Harvey and two captains, Philip Slessor and Emlyn Hughes - actually opened on January 1, 1944, but C (Conception) Day was November 23 the previous year."

Trial broadcasts from the makeshift studio in the intervening period, with the aim of "bringing the music and voices of home to the British troops in the Central Mediterranean Force, to give them clear reception and make them realise they were not forgotten", proved a success with the target audience, and the service was born.

"We actually started in two areas simultaneously," said Mr Grace, BFBS head of broadcasting administration and a seasoned BFBS "man with the microphone" himself.

"In India, where the BBC could be heard, but faded as you got further east, especially in Burma, Maj Jack Frost and



"I keep it tuned in to British Forces Network in case there's a snap election."

Contemporary tribute by cartoonist Jon

Capt Bryan Cave-Browne-Cave were also setting up a Forces Broadcasting Unit.

Before too long, as Maj Frost's inspiration, the recorded personal message programme, "Calling Blighty", took off, their team would be dealing with 11,000 greetings per year.

From Algiers, the newly-created "B4", one of three mobile transmission stations and studios designed to travel with the Eighth Army and the Desert Airforce, went into Italy, moving behind the lines right into Austria.

In 1944, mobile transmitters



Capt Sue Stevens, one of the broadcasting team at the Matapan Lines in India in 1944 - a vital link with home

Picture: Claire Brown Collection

for north west Europe, BLAs 1, 2, 3 and 4, were set up.

"However, what people tend to forget," said Alan Grace, "is that even before Algiers there had been some broadcasting - from Cairo - with the Services buying time on the Egyptian State Broadcasting Service."

The idea of the exhibition, he explained, was to recreate the beginnings of BFBS (he has managed to borrow one of the original, refurbished, B4 trucks from the Museum of Army Transport in Yorkshire and transplant it temporarily in the National Army Museum).

A comprehensive "guided tour" in pictures and text of the service carrying out its original role as being "for the Forces by the Forces" in times of strife is featured, from the dark days of Palestine, EOKA, the Mau Mau and Aden right up to

more recent conflicts such as the Falklands and the Gulf.

One off-beat aspect of the exhibition is that, perhaps unlike others, it is saving its biggest guns not for the opening day, but for November 23, the day it closes.

That is deliberately

planned to coincide with the day the experimental station went on air," said Alan Grace. "There will be a big live programme, with, hopefully, many of the glitterati of forces broadcasting, including Raymond Baxter and David Jacobs as well as the 'real backbone' of the system - the sergeants and corporals - being present."

As part of the exhibition background will explain to visitors, Forces Broadcasting faced great obstacles when it came to obtaining personnel.

Men of reasonably high

Gulf Commander Sir Peter de la Billière, himself a one time newsreader on BFBS Falklands, talking about BFBS:

"They played a vital role in the Gulf, not only in keeping the soldiers informed of what was going on in the United Kingdom, but also in enabling me to let them know what the rest of the Services were doing out there, and how their little patch was only a part of the whole operation."

"So nothing changes except the equipment - satellites have made things so much simpler - and the lads having to wear NBC gear," Alan Grace added.

At least that is one thing that the pioneer British forces broadcasters, with a wary eye on the racks full of 78s as they made their precarious journey in the truck, didn't have to contend with...

● The BFBS 50th anniversary exhibition runs from August 17 until November 23 at the National Army Museum, Chelsea. Admission is free.



Broadcaster Sarah Kennedy (foreground, left) with wives of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment during a recording of the Falklands Task Force request programme

Picture: Aldershot News



How the Army learns to live with trauma

IMAGES of burnt bodies in Ahinici, Bosnia sickened the world when they appeared on television screens earlier this year.

Stressful as the pictures were, viewers did not have to clear up the remains, nor the putrefying cadavers of 40 other victims murdered in the streets of the small Muslim village.

That task was left to soldiers of the British Battalion Group based at Vitez.

Helping British soldiers in Bosnia cope with this type of traumatic experience is Capt Garry Walker QARANC, the Force community psychiatric nurse, who has established a good relationship with commanders at all levels.

He travels throughout the theatre dealing with psychological problems as they occur and offering an education package which is effectively a psychological wind-down for soldiers returning home.

"If a soldier does have difficulties, I meet them for an informal chat to talk through their problems.

"I also get involved where there has been significant trauma. After the operation to recover bodies from Ahinici, those involved took part in a psychological debrief.

"It involved nothing more than the soldiers talking about their experiences and emotions. What they saw, what they felt and what they smelt," said Capt Walker.

He was also involved with six soldiers who had been captured by Muslim soldiers and held at gunpoint for more than three hours.

"They honestly believed they were going to die, so you can imagine the emotions they went through, thinking about their wives and families. After 48 hours, we got them together as a group and talked about the incident to normalise the feelings they had."

Men have fought each other since time immemorial and their reaction to the stress of

conflict and the Gulf War, the Army has made great strides in coping with the effects of stress.

"The Army has always been interested in the problem and has become more aware of soldiers' needs.

"Over the past four years, I have noticed changes in people like infantry commanders and senior NCOs. They are very much on the ball when it comes to soldiers' psychological welfare," he said.

By telling soldiers that they could suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), might they not think it on themselves?

"We are very aware of not trying to create psychiatric problems. We are here to prevent those problems and we focus on the normal reactions after an incident and the normal fears that people have when coming into this type of situation."

There is a human tendency to "personalise" an incident. A soldier with a wife and children recovering the bodies of

women and children might be more affected by the situation than a single soldier.

"One of the biggest problems is denial. People think that because they are a sergeant or a major they can't have psychological problems. It affects anybody given the right circumstances and that's how

try to educate people.

"Soldiers might say they don't have a problem, but when their relationships start breaking down and they drink more and more, that's how people know they are distressed," warned Capt Walker.

"It can happen to anyone, but we can treat it quite easily.

It's a small problem. Of the 2,500 British soldiers serving in Bosnia, I would be very surprised if we saw more than six to eight genuine cases of stress disorder.

"There will be a lot of people who will need to talk to their wives or the padre or a friend about their experiences, but

they will move on from there."

There is no longer a stigma attached to stress. British soldiers returning from Bosnia are being issued with a leaflet telling them how to cope with it

and are advised to seek professional help if they feel they need it.

Words: Laurie Manton

Pictures: Mike Weston

'It is our aim to normalise the experience'

by Maj Ian Palmer, a senior specialist in psychiatry at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, London SE18. Reproduced by kind permission of The Times.

WHEN we are daily reminded of the unfolding tragedy of the Balkans and its impact on the local population and world community, the effect on our soldiers may seem to pale into insignificance. So it is right to ask the question "Will soldiers returning from Bosnia need psychiatric help?" Having been the Army psychiatrist in the theatre. I feel well placed to answer, and to explain what the Army psychiatric services are up to.

Men have fought each other since time immemorial and their reaction to the stress of



Above - Community psychiatric nurse Capt Garry Walker discusses a problem over a cup of coffee. Right - Traumatic sights like this Gulf War casualty were commonplace to the British Army's grave registration teams

combat is well known. In psychiatric terms, this is an acute stress reaction and is reversible with rest, sleep and feeding. It is now well accepted that treatment is quite straightforward - keeping the sufferers in the military environment with their comrades and as close to their unit as feasible. Since the Arab-Israeli wars this has come to be called battle shock and officers and soldiers are taught about it in much the same way as they are taught first aid. The aim of this training is to "normalise" the reaction to such stresses.

What is less clear is the term post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Every year at Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital we see about a hundred new cases

of mainly combat-related PTSD consequent upon service in the Second World War, the Falklands, the Gulf and Northern Ireland.

We find that those exposed to traumatic situations experience symptoms of PTSD such as nightmares, intrusive thoughts, jitteriness or hypervigilance. These symptoms seem to be a natural reaction and usually settle down within a few months. What is unclear is who will go on to develop full-blown PTSD. It seems in part a mixture of pre-existing personality and psychological health, and the severity of the trauma. A number of soldiers will have come from abusive and broken homes which have left them with feelings of vul-

nerability and helplessness.

Soldiers in Bosnia have witnessed women, children and the elderly being shot.

They have recovered bodies which have been tortured and defiled before being shot or burnt alive. They have witnessed the plight of refugees. Each time, under the United Nations mandate, they have been unable to intervene. Soldiers are not trained to be helpless, and for some of them the sensation has dredged up hidden memories.

Historically, soldiers have, over the years of involvement in such situations, dealt with them by humour (however black), talking to colleagues and drinking. It is pretty clear that those who have stable per-

sonalities and good psycho-social support can cope well and, indeed, may profit from the experience.

As with most psychiatric illness, those with difficulties in personality, inter-personal relationships and with poor social support, and who may have been brought up in a neglectful family, tend to run into most problems.

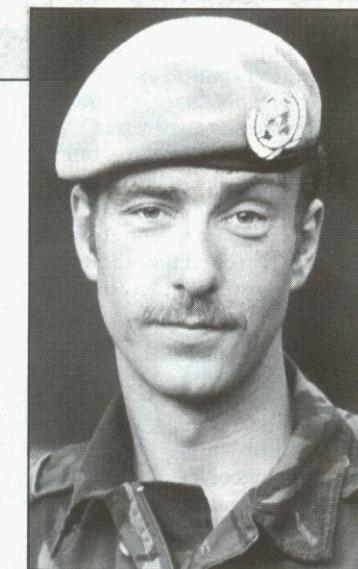
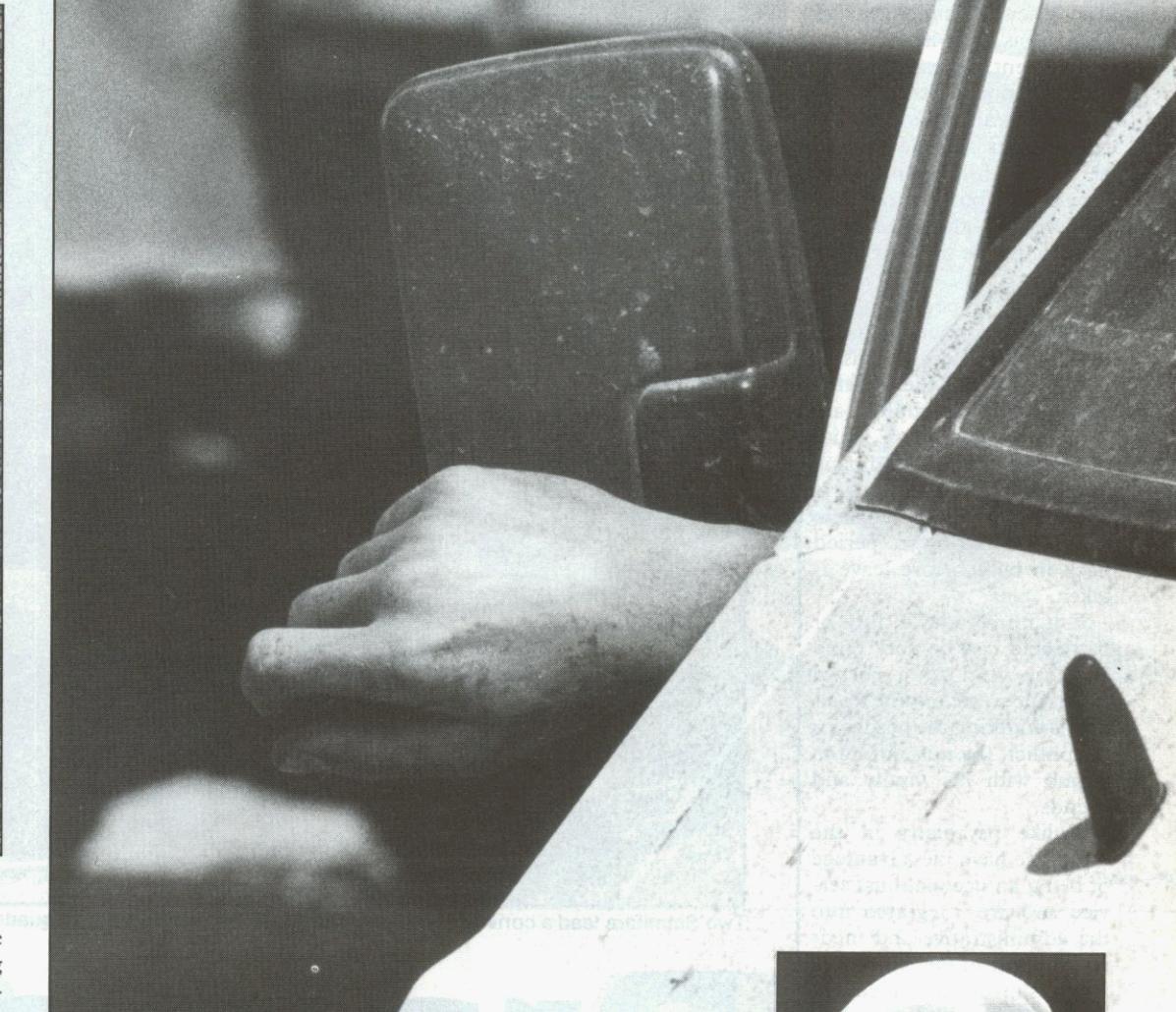
One of the problems in dealing with established PTSD is the individual's tendency to withdraw into himself. It is difficult to share the experience with those who were not there. Many become alienated and withdrawn and are less likely to seek help.

It is difficult to anticipate who will get PTSD, and it does

not seem morally right simply to wait and see. So we offer debriefing to those involved in traumas. The aim of debriefing is to ensure a more healthy processing of the emotional information of the event by sharing the experience with others, especially those who were there. Ideally, this should be done by the unit or group itself, but members of the psychiatric services have the necessary skills, too. Such work can be harrowing and daunting for non medics and training can be given through a programme in Germany which attempts to disseminate skills in the Army community.

There are also standing instructions for commanders

● Turn to next page



Combat Medic Geordie Halliday of 2 Armoured Field Ambulance is no stranger to the horrors of war. During the Gulf War he was a member of a graves registration team; in Bosnia, he helped recover dead civilians in the aftermath of a car bomb in Vitez and others burned to death during ethnic cleansing in Ahinici.

"I saw hundreds of bodies in the Gulf. It is not something you get used to, but it does make it a bit easier. You have to pull together and just get on with it . . ."

on debriefing following incidents in Northern Ireland. And a new training video on PTSD has been launched to supplement and extend existing educational material.

There is always a risk that psychiatrists may be seen to be "medicalising" traumatic experiences but it is our aim to normalise the experience and encourage the sharing of emotions.

There is, of course, plenty of informal debriefing among soldiers themselves. This is encouraged and the benefits of the Army community are at their best in these situations: be it platoon, company or regiment. To this end it is now standard policy for there to be a wind-down period back in base before leave is taken.

Exit from today's duty or battlefield can be very rapid and can lead to a surreal experience: one minute a soldier is suffering the hardships of conflict, the next sitting in a pub with his family and friends.

Unlike psychiatry in the NHS, we have the advantage of being an occupational service and are integrated into the administrative and medical support of the Army. We are thus involved with education and prevention as well as simply responding to the problems when they arise.

Almost to a man, our PTSD cases at Queen Elizabeth Hospital have somehow missed out on debriefing. They all regretted this and we aim to prevent such oversights in future.

We have a broad understanding and agreement on how to diagnose and treat battle shock. Post traumatic stress disorder is, however, much more complicated.

We are guided by the old saying that prevention is better than cure and we hope that through education and de-briefing we will, if not prevent, then at least mitigate, aspects of PTSD which once established is a most invidious and difficult condition to treat.

PTSD video

A 49-minute SSVC video, *The Mind at War – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder* sponsored by the Director of Army Psychiatry and introduced by Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, Adjutant General when it was made, was released on July 16.

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston



Two Scimitars lead a convoy of National Support Element Transport Squadron (based on 27 Regt RLC) vehicles through the infamous "Bomb Alley" near Kladanj

Dragoons in Bomb Alley

BRITISH soldiers keep respirators to hand while patrolling in northern Bosnia – a sharp reminder of just how unstable this area of the former Yugoslavia has become.

The order to carry protective masks followed reports that the Bosnian Serb Army was using chemical weapons. Muslim soldiers claim the BSA is using some form of choking agent, thought to be CS gas. Chlorine gas is also reported to have been pre-positioned on the front line.

"We assess the effect as low, but it is a threat that cannot be taken too lightly," said The Light Dragoons' operations officer, Capt Eddie Mangles.

In the centre, Croatian HVO soldiers and Muslim BiH troops are fighting each other as well as the Bosnian Serb Army; in the north, Croat and Muslim armies fight side by side against the Serbs.

The order of battle of opposing troops in northern Bosnia contrasts markedly with that found in the country's central region, as soldiers from B Squadron, The Light Dragoons soon found out.



Maj Marcus Browell

three mountain ranges from Vitez.

Home is an abandoned airfield near Tuzla, littered with wrecked helicopters and MiG fighters. Close by, a BiH training establishment teaches its recruits the rudiments of warfare.

The Dragoons' responsibilities include escorting humanitarian aid convoys through the infamous "Bomb Alley" between Kladanj and Stupari. The area runs close to the Serbian front line and is frequently shelled.

Conditions at Tuzla are basic, although measures are in hand to improve the lot of the troops.

Electricity is a major problem because the region's power station is working at only five per cent of its output.

Lack of water is caused by electrically-operated water pumps being in action for just two or three hours each day.

The airfield has been

attacked with mortars several times and sappers have constructed a number of shelters to protect UN troops.

Convoys from Belgrade under Operation Cabinet are escorted three times a week across the front line on their way to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' warehouse at Lukovac.

The Light Dragoons patrol the area around the warehouse which has been burgled several times recently.

Another task for B Sqn is to monitor and reconnoitre the whole of the northern Bosnia area.

These information gathering missions provide an opportunity to fly the United Nations flag and create a presence in areas not frequently visited by the UN. Humanitarian aspects can be passed to headquarters for action.

Knowledge of the ground is
● Turn to Page 21



A senior Muslim commander (left) makes a forceful point to the squadron leader, Maj Marcus Browell. Interpreter "Norman" (centre) translates the message



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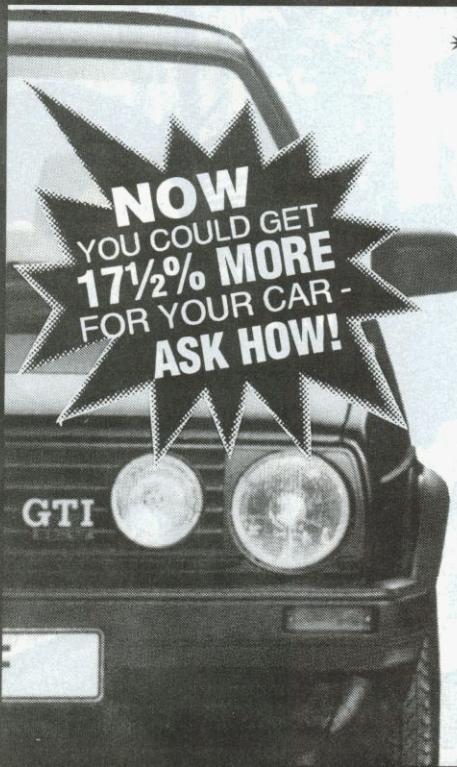
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BOMB ALLEY

• From Page 19

vital, and newcomers to the region are shuttled out on recce's within hours of their arrival at Tuzla.

Much of the area is in the front line, within five kilometres of which UN soldiers go to a heightened state of operations.

At his morning briefing, the squadron leader, Maj Marcus Browell, warns his new commanders that UN vehicles have been specifically targeted on occasion by the Bosnian Serb Army.

"We have been engaged by small arms fire in the Lukovaca area and by direct fire weapons near Klokotnica," he said.

The latter included anti-aircraft guns fired directly at Scimitar recce vehicles.

"The first we knew of it was when shrapnel showered down and then we saw the puff of smoke above us."

In a recent incident, a 1 PWO Warrior infantry fighting vehicle was engaged by a BSA T-72 tank east of Tuzla.

Fifteen rounds were fired at the Warrior's crew which was dismounted at the time of the attack. The closest shot exploded 30ft from the vehicle. Three artillery rounds were also aimed at the soldiers.

The Bosnian Serb Army admitted responsibility for the attack, accusing the British troops of being in a restricted area.

A new dimension of terror has entered the battlefield with reports of craters 30ft wide and 10ft deep. They may have been caused by Frog missiles and soldiers are warned to keep a sharp lookout for evidence of such attacks.

A two-vehicle patrol took one officer on a familiarisation visit to front line positions near Dobo, north-west of Tuzla. Aim of the operation was to observe the area from two observation posts.

In one town, Maj Browell visited a local Bosnian commander to find out which roads and tracks might be clear. Over coffee, and with the help of an interpreter, the two men worked out a mutually acceptable "safe" route.

Afterwards the patrol set off for Dobo, but was diverted by a determined checkpoint. Flags of opposing sides could be seen flying in the two front lines.



Helmets are put aside for this informal grouping on Sunshine Hill, but combat body armour is retained. Left to right: sitting centre, interpreter Anzabagic Nermin and Pte Jud White RAMC. Standing, Lt Mark Fawcett, Tpr Dave Gray, Lt James Cliff, Cpl Tony Hall, Maj Marcus Browell and Tpr Adrian Butler



A commander's eye view of a front line track. It could be mined or hit by shellfire, but it is a risk the Light Dragoons have to meet daily

A prominent point overlooking the town of Dobo had been dubbed "Sunshine Hill". It made an ideal OP and Maj Browell was able to point out much of interest to Lt James Cliff who was gathering information for his tour of duty in the region.

The location was also an

ideal place for an impromptu lunch break and the soldiers' food was consumed against a background noise of artillery and machinegun fire in the valley below.

Another change of direction and the vehicles proceeded along a narrow track through a wood past BiH mortar and

heavy machine gun positions. The Light Dragoons proceeded with caution because the front line has constantly changed hands in the fighting.

There was a nervous moment when a communications wire, stretched across the track, came close to decapitating members of the Spartan's crew. It was a close call.

The two vehicles were driven off the track and concealed while the squadron leader took Lts James Cliff and Mark Fawcett forward.

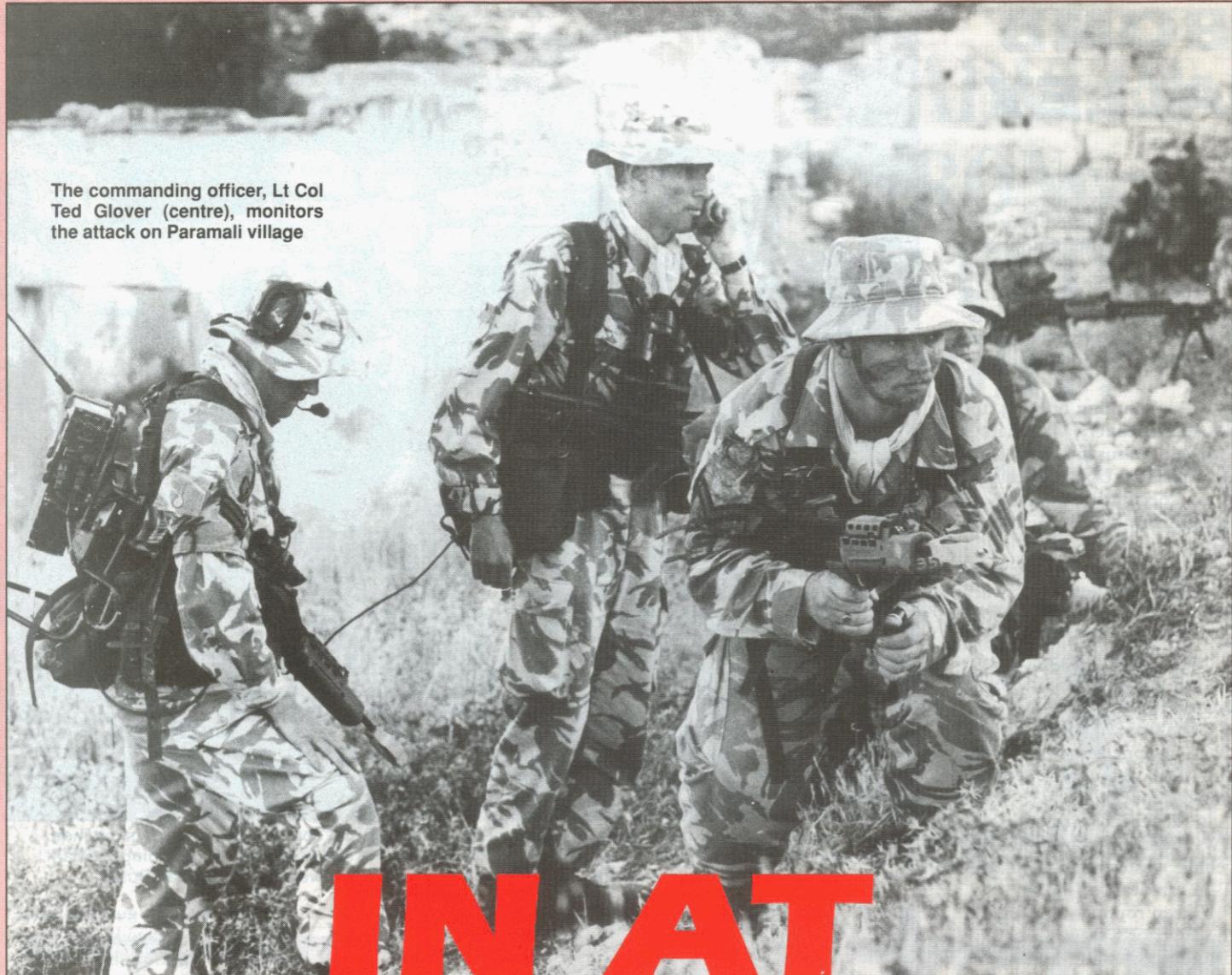
Exploding shells sounded much closer now.

Eventually the three officers returned, slightly breathless because they had run for several hundred metres to avoid shellfire exploding around them. They had a certain look of exhilaration . . .

They had also gathered a good deal of useful information for the debriefing session that evening. The next day another commander would be sent out, until every member of B Squadron knew and understood the terrain.

Reconnaissance patrols have proved to be difficult and dangerous work, but vital to the United Nations command. The Light Dragoons have provided the information it needs to carry out its work in this part of the former Yugoslavia.

The commanding officer, Lt Col Ted Glover (centre), monitors the attack on Paramali village



IN AT THE DEEP END

SOLDIERS from the 4th/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers (Volunteers) were flung in at the deep end in Cyprus during their annual camp – and came out fighting.

But it was hot work.

After a beach landing some went back into the water, in full kit, to cool off as soon as they had secured the area.

The 435 Rangers from Portadown, Ballymena, Enniskillen and Newtownards had very little time to acclimatise. They launched straight into a seven-day exercise to prove they were fit to fight in far different conditions from those they were used to in the Rear Combat Zone in Germany, which was their previous role.

As befitting one of the eight TA battalions assigned to Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps, the Rangers showed they could hack it whatever the conditions.

The Cypriot terrain is very rugged; trenching is next to impossible so sangars have to be constructed. Deep gorges trap heat, and because of the high stress factor this creates during the day, most of the

work is carried out at night.

The first day was exceptionally hot – so was the water in the colour sergeants' bowsers when it came to replenishment. But having been on loan service with the Omani Army, the commanding officer, Lt Col Ted Glover, knew how to get the best from his men without them collapsing from heat exhaustion.

"The volunteer will go without sleep and even food during 72-hour exercises, but never has time to get a grip of his own routine in the field," said Col Glover. "During a seven-day exercise there is time to settle in and feel the pressure of shortage of sleep."

Extensive patrolling allowed

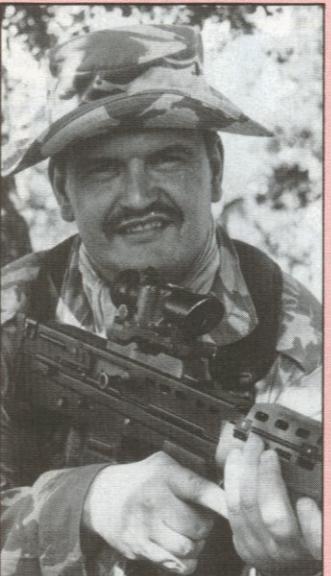
JNCOs to receive tasks, carry out battle procedures, give full sets of orders and lead patrols, with time for proper rehearsal and debriefing rather than concentrating on simply executing the patrol.

The battalion is lucky in the quality of its rangers. Several are graduates or students. When people from different backgrounds team up they often get on brilliantly, said one company commander, who was amazed to see the code words "mesozoic" and "Jurassic" crop up until he realised a geology graduate was leading the patrol.

One honours graduate was LCpl Alan Clark, who was originally part of C Company but joined D Company (The London Irish Rifles) when he went to university in London. He will continue serving while he is taking his post-graduate degree.

So keen was 2nd Lt Gerald Cupples to keep his connection with the battalion that he flew 4,000 miles from Memphis, Tennessee, where he is a pilot. He hopes to return permanently soon.

Happily causing problems for the Rangers were Cpl Ian Olliffe, LCpl Paul English and LCpl Eddie Edwards of 62 (Cyprus) Spt Sqn RE, who provided fortifications – and a lively enemy



WO2 Wilson Murray was also keen to remain with the battalion, but is apprehensive that he will be pensioned off after 22 years' service. His grandfather survived the loss of eight ribs at the Somme with the 12th (Co Antrim) Battalion, The Royal Irish Rifles, and was his inspiration to join up.

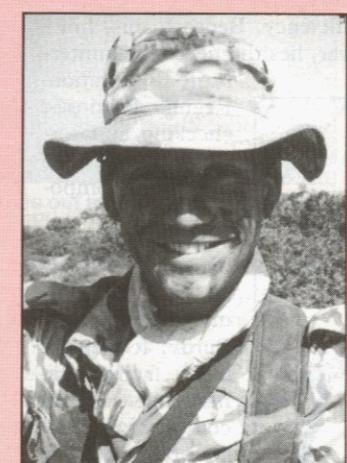
Based at Bloodhound Camp with battalion headquarters, this was the first annual camp on which WO2 Murray had not been in the field. He had spent two six-week detachments in Canada and Cyprus with the Regular battalion, and was also on the first TA detachment to patrol the inner German border.

His dedication impressed the Duke of York, who visited the battalion in his capacity as Colonel-in-Chief. The Duke, who also visited the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, based at Episkopi, told the volunteers he knew all about com-

Left – The last time WO2 Roy McCombie saw the Duke of York was while standing rigidly to attention as the young Princes Andrew and Edward shot past him in go-karts.

That was 20 years ago when he was an 18-year-old Gordon Highlander on Balmoral palace guard. During a residential tour of another "palace" – the barracks in Hollywood near Belfast – WO2 McCombie fell in love with an Irish lass and her country, and he settled there when he left the Gordons.

He joined the Royal Irish Rangers and, as CSM of A Company, 4/5 Rangers, helped show the Duke round during a visit to the battalion on exercise in Cyprus in his capacity as Colonel-in-Chief.



High flyer come to earth is 2nd Lt Gerald Cupples from Memphis, Tennessee

munications cords – he spent a cold winter's night on Dartmoor with one tied to his thumb during his Royal Marines' training.

The final attack on the deserted Paramali village was greatly helped – or hindered –

Writer Gordon Skilling and photographer Terry Champion joined 4th/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers (Volunteers) on exercise in Cyprus



The Duke of York meets Rangers on exercise

by sappers of 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron, who linked their own combat engineering exercise into that of 4/5 Rangers by fortifying the village and providing a lively enemy.

A sapper troop commander from Northern Ireland was amused to see his boyhood next-door neighbour and another friend attacking him. SSgt Michael Smith RE has a family connection. One of his grandfathers had been with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, at Gallipoli, the other grandfather with the Royal Engineers in Burma. His father had fought with the 6th Airborne Division in Normandy.

Heavy manual work in the sun had not been too much of a problem for many of the sappers, said SSgt Smith, as they had got used to it in the Gulf. However, they were careful to work early and later rather than

in the heat of the day. Several weeks' acclimatisation was normal for them when they first arrived.

The Regular sappers complimented the Rangers on their attack, which came from an unexpected quarter. It was hard work fighting through a well-defended village – line of sight was rarely possible and strict control was essential.

The village looked like some of those in Bosnia, minus the greenery. As they went about their tasks, the Rangers were conscious of the analogy with the Balkans, where members of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, served as part of the Cheshire battalion group.

If 4/5 Rangers is required to keep open a main supply route in Europe or further south, it has shown it can do so, and well deserved a few days' adventurous training afterwards.

Kinross golf ball comes in from the cold

CASUAL enquiries as to the purpose of the distinctive and slightly sinister "golf ball" located near the town of Kinross might until now have solicited the response: "What golf ball?"

But as Cold War memories grow ever more distant, all can be revealed. The golf ball has come in from the cold.

Words: John Boyes
Pictures: Mark Owens

those men who will best be able to use their specialist skills here", commented the OC, Capt Terry Moorhead.

"They will all have qualifications and will typically have spent four or five years at a technical college learning their trade. Here they will have ample opportunity to use these acquired skills in a practical environment."

Specialist training begins with four months at Latina in Italy. Subjects covered include satellite communications (SATCOM), Digital Line of Site (DLOS), Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) and Modems. Many soldiers undertake a considerable element of voluntary further education, some at Open University level.

One of a network of 20 similar terminals which provide secure military and diplomatic communications for Nato around the world, it is unique in that it has been staffed since 1985 not by the Royal Air Force as is usually the case, but by the British Army, specifically the Royal Corps of Signals.

Using the Nato IV satellite system, Balado Bridge serves the Maritime Headquarters at Pitreavie via an intermediate relay station at nearby Cullaloe Hill.

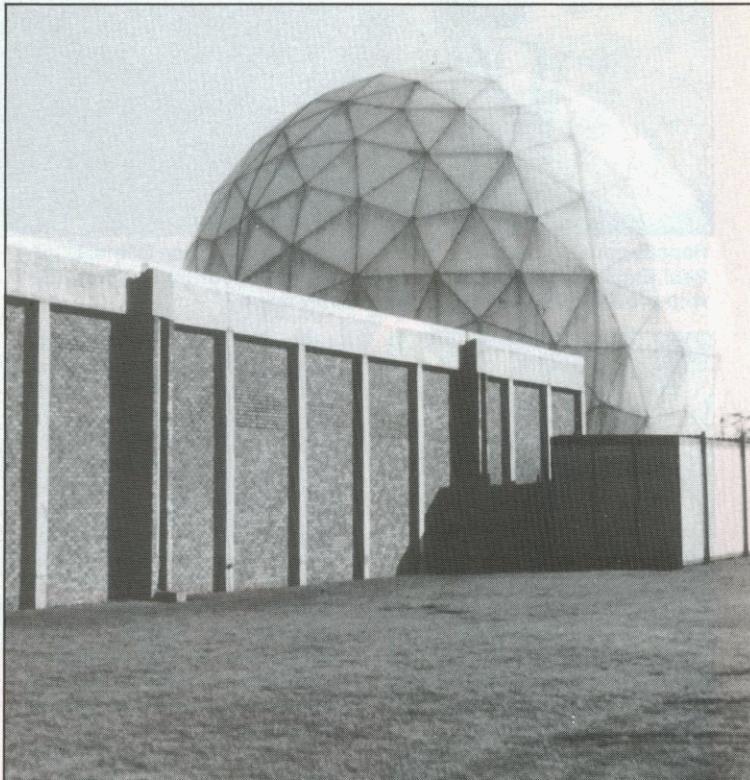
The site is a piece of Nato-owned real estate, protected by the MoD Police. From the outside it seems a small site, even perhaps, were it not for its "golf ball" radome, an insignificant one. Inside it is rather a different story.

It is manned 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by a staff of 26. There are four daily shifts of three soldiers, supplemented by a day staff.

A civilian engineer provides continuity across changes of military staff.

All are volunteers – it is the nature of the job that they should be – and they will typically complete a four-year tour at the SGT.

"We can afford to select



The distinctive "golf ball" at Balado Bridge near Kinross

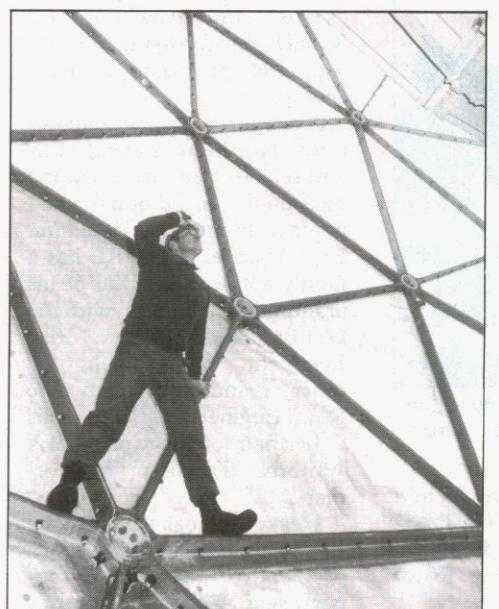
"old sites". The principal one is at Landau in Germany.

The overall impression of the operation is one of quiet efficiency. Beneath this, however, lies the need for uninterrupted operation.

Regular diagnostic checking and servicing minimises the risk of component failure.

A full spares back-up is provided by the storeman, Cpl Andy Purdy. It being a Nato facility, he has the added complexity of accounting in Nato terms. Access to the radome and the main complex is by airlock, the buildings being fully protected against the electromagnetic pulse (EMP) generated by a nuclear explosion.

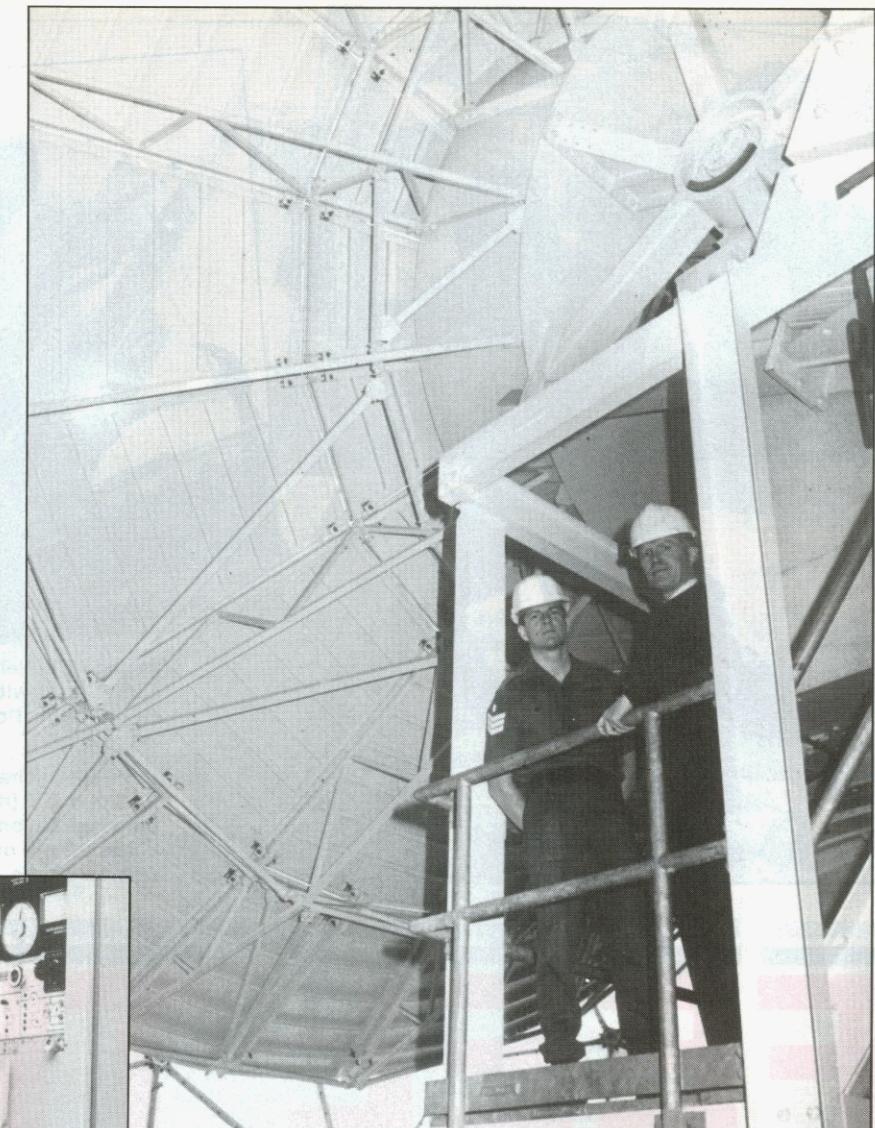
Cpl Paul Howarth, who has been on the site for nine months, is 2iC to Cpl Keenan. "We test the back-up systems on a regular basis by deliberately cutting off the main



WO2 Foreman of Signals Terry Norman checks the inside of the antenna dish



SSgt Ritch Cousins (left) and WO2 Foreman of Signals Terry Norman check the waveguide at the rear of the antenna



SSgt Ritch Cousins (left) and OC Capt (TOT) Terry Moorhead give some idea of the size of the antenna dish



Cpl Dave Keenan (NCO C Power) carries out a routine inspection of the power supply

supply", he explained.

Main feature of the complex

is, of course, the 14.5m dish antenna which points skywards

at the Nato IVA satellite sitting in geostationary orbit 53 degrees West and 23,000 miles above the earth's surface. Nato IVB is used as a reserve satellite.

The Nato IV satellites feature SHF and EHF dishes and the 200-watt output power is ground-controlled. Computers ensure that the antenna is always pointed directly at the satellite and fine adjustments are constantly being made to account for small perturba-

tions in the orbit. If the computer fails, manual controls can be used to orientate the dish.

The dish is protected by the characteristic "golf ball". Made up of hundreds of fibreglass triangles which are transparent to radio waves, they form an amazingly complex geometric shape.

Despite all the hi-tech equipment that typifies the site, when it comes to removing deposits of snow, a simple rope attached to the top of the radome is the most effective "low-tech" answer.

Signals received by the antenna are transmitted via a

rectangular wave guide to a water-cooled amplifier, again with full back-up facility. This converts the microwatt signal into kilowatts.

Signals travel in both directions: analogue data is converted into digital and then into a single bit stream via a modem and vice versa.

"But there comes a time when it is just conventional radio technology", explained WO2 Foreman of Signals Terry Norman, whose posting to the site began last December.

Terry's esoteric pastimes include painting and drawing – his particular taste being reflected in the colours chosen for the recent redecoration of the office accommodation.

"Obviously we are still soldiers and have to keep fit despite our rather sedentary occupation", said Terry. "We have set aside one of the offices as a keep fit room with weights and another with gymnasium apparatus and this has proved most popular. You'll find us in there whenever we have a spare moment."

Balado Bridge has to be operational at all times and the

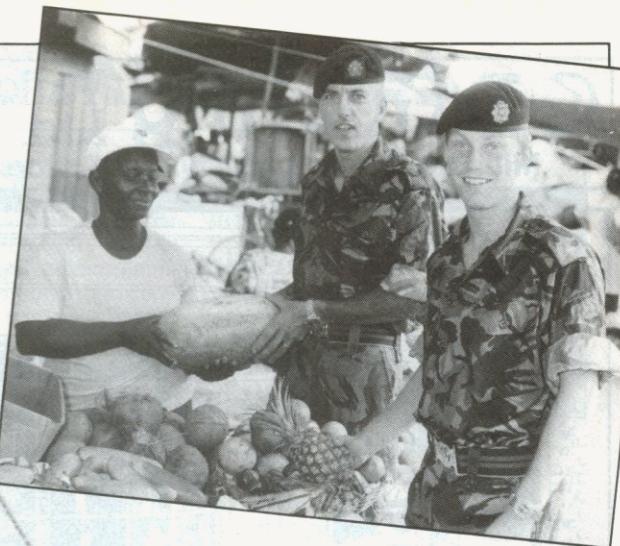
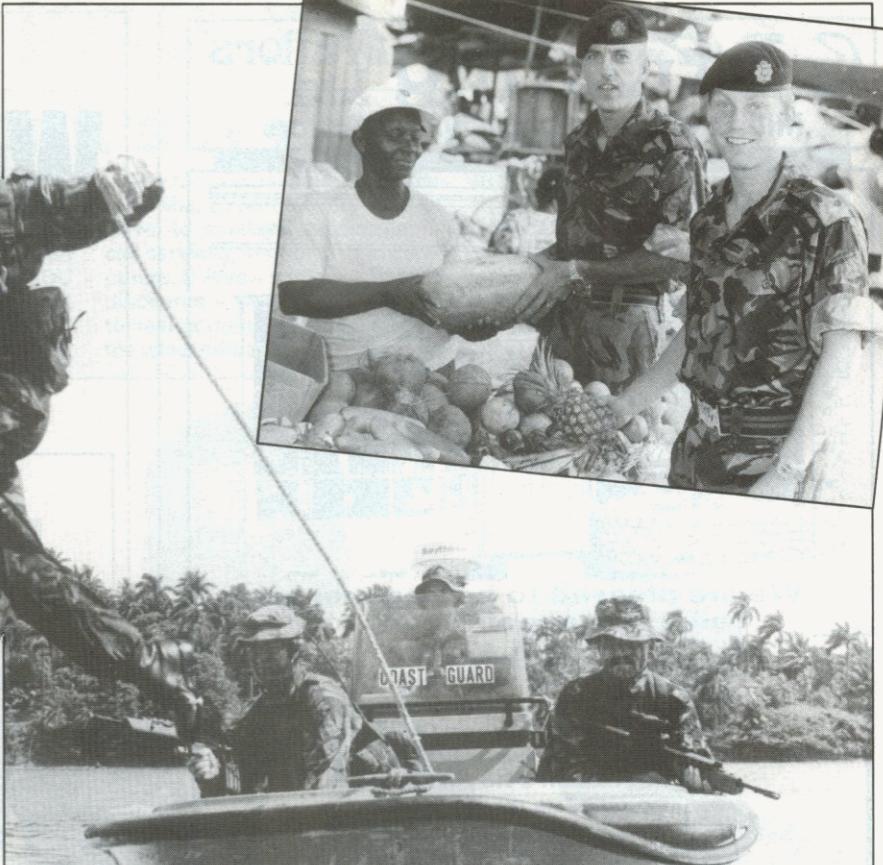
on-duty shift must be able to keep operating if the replacement shift cannot reach the site, as happened during severe weather experienced last winter. Camp beds and emergency provisions are therefore part of the inventory.

Much of what goes on at Balado Bridge is quiet and low key. Preventative maintenance is carried out on a weekly basis to ensure that equipment failure is kept to a minimum.

"We have a good team here," says Capt Moorhead. "Although we all have our jobs, each one depends in some way on the efficient operation of someone else. Only in that way can we ensure uninterrupted service."

"With the ending of the Cold War we can be a little more open about what we do here. We still cannot enjoy a high profile and this sadly mitigates against a greater involvement in the local community."

"There are those to whom the mere sight of a 'golf ball' conjures up thoughts of electronic eavesdropping and such-like. Our duties are less dramatic, but nonetheless vital".



Above - Cpl Neil Herbert gets to grips with roof repairs at the Portland Infirmary

Left - Pte Michael McCloud JDF (right) practises bayonet drill under the eye of Cpl Andrew Clarke, 1 RRW

A JDF soldier instructs a member of A Coy in the art of jungle map-reading

FEEL THE HEAT!

A Coy, 1 RRW warms to the task during Jamaica visit

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales took Jamaica by storm last month, enduring temperatures in excess of 94 degrees, often accompanied by 100 per cent humidity.

The soldiers, serving with A Company, 1 RRW, have just returned from Exercise Red Stripe, an annual company exchange with the Jamaican Defence Force (JDF).

A Company OC, Maj Rory McGregor,

explained: "We have been extremely lucky to get here. As you would guess, there was a lot of competition between 1 RRW companies to be on this exercise. Now that we have done it, we have all benefited, both in professional and R and R terms."

After an initial acclimatisation phase, in which the soldiers were put through hard physical training and sports in order to get used to the searing heat and humidity, the jungle warfare training package began. Running concurrently with this activity was adventurous training and a community project.

Aspects of jungle training included many lessons in field survival, what to eat, how to cook it, as well as surviving the tens of thousands of mosquitoes and ants which plagued the soldiers 24 hours a day.

"The jungle here is better stocked than our local Sainsbury's, and at least we do not have poisonous snakes to contend with," explained Pte Michael Jones, Support Company. "Apart from the heat, working out here is not too bad. Most of the guys are eating fruit as their main diet and only supplementing with rations if desperate."

Several members of the JDF were integrated into the platoons so that their local knowledge could be drawn upon. Their contribution to the exercise proved invaluable.

"Although a lot of our soldiers are jungle warfare trained already, and we have recent experience from training in Brunei, there is always something new we can learn. The JDF soldiers have been really useful in this respect, as well as

being good fun to have around," explained A Company CSM Richard Molloy.

After jungle training, it was time to slow the pace and get in some serious water sports. The camp, based at Port Antonio on the north of the island, was close to beaches and shallow water, ideal for snorkelling, windsurfing, canoeing and offshore sailing.

Soldiers experienced diving in crystal clear waters with colourful and varied marine life to see – something most will remember for a long time.

"Because the sea is so warm here, you can just relax and stay in all day if you want – a bit different from my home town, Port Neath," joked LCpl Wayne Clark as he emerged from the water.

The community project, now a regular feature of the

Red Stripe exercise programme, was based at the Portland Infirmary, a government-run hospice for the elderly physically and mentally disabled.

Pte Andrew Dent, from Cardiff, explained: "We were tasked with helping as much as possible to try and improve conditions. Much of our work has been cosmetic; we don't have the resources to do much else, but we're hopefully making things a little more bearable. There is so much to do.

The final company exercise, Welsh Dragon, was a fitting climax to the whole training package. Supported by the JDF Air Wing, the exercise began with an early morning heliborne insertion, followed by a series of advances to contact, recce and fighting patrols, a company dawn attack and a final extraction by sea.

After five days' much-deserved R and R, during which soldiers explored the sights and sounds of Jamaica day and night, it was back to their barracks at Tern Hill and resumption of more normal duties, boasting deep sun tans and numerous insect bites.

• One hundred and ten Jamaican soldiers under the command of Capt Clive Davis spent a month at Tern Hill, where they were hosted and instructed by 1 RRW.



Above - Cpl Kevin Lawrence (right) leads an assault during Welsh Dragon the final company exercise

Above - Run ashore: A Coy makes a beach assault
Inset above - Sgt Mepham and Lt Rob McGraw of the RLC local resources section, buy fresh produce in Port Antonio



Right - Pte Lee Chiplin takes the plunge. Nearby beaches provided superb swimming and sailing

Words: Maj Steve Munns, Int Corps Pictures: LCpl Giles Penfound RAOC

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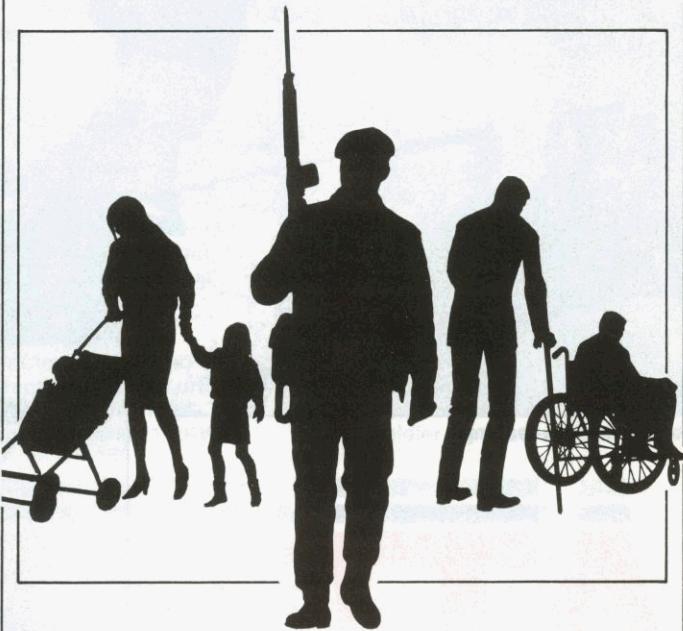
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Nursing jobs crunch faced by wives

NURSES married to soldiers find it harder to get jobs and to improve their qualifications than those married to civilians, according to a study carried out by an Army wife.

And there is a word of warning for families leaving the Forces who may be relying on a nursing wife to take over the bread-winning role.

Mrs Sally Moran RGN, DipN, RCNT, who is married to a REME major serving at HQ UKLF in Salisbury, carried out a two-year research project for which she has been awarded a first class BSc (Honours) degree at the University of Wolverhampton's Department of Health Sciences.

She told SOLDIER that the findings had "serious implications for dependant nurses as individuals, and the health of the military community as a whole."

The project, which included a worldwide postal survey, studied the effects of a mobile lifestyle on the employment experiences and qualifications of nurses who are Army wives, estimated to number 4,000.

Comparisons were made with the results of major studies of civilian-based nurses and with national trends and statistics.

There is a new requirement for registered general nurses (RGNs) to update their qualifications every three years.

Many wives trained in the Forces as enrolled nurses. If they want to return to work in the NHS they are now required to undertake RGN conversion courses.

Army wives are often not in one place long enough to

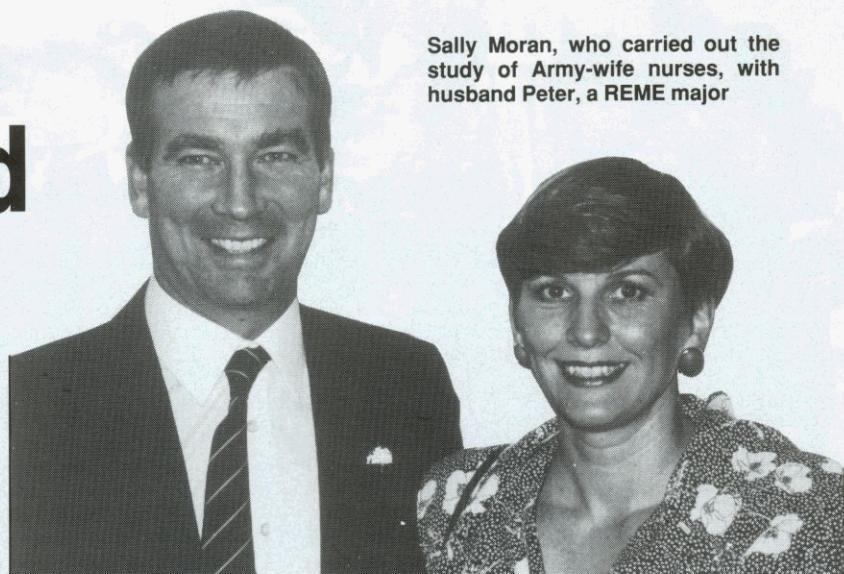
obtain the necessary qualifications and their fragmented career history puts them at a disadvantage when applying for jobs.

Mrs Moran reports: "Problems currently faced by military wives who are nurses include: difficulties for enrolled nurses securing conversion courses to RGN; access to midwifery refresher courses; and gaining promotion above the basic employment grade."

At the time of her study, carried out between 1991 and earlier this year, a smaller percentage of Army wives were employed as nurses than similarly-qualified civilians.

She says: "Unlike ordinary nurses, who change jobs mainly to develop their careers, Army wives' cue for such change is dependent usually on husband's posting to an area not necessarily of her personal or professional choice.

"Lack of a professional career structure for dependant nurses employed in military settings is not likely to attract highly-qualified nurses, who may be considering whether or not to accompany their husbands on postings; nor does it encourage recently-qualified nurses to improve their



Lady Ryder to champion war widows

FIRST patron of the War Widows Association of Great Britain is Lady Ryder of Warsaw, founder of the Sue Ryder Homes for the Sick and Disabled.

Lady Ryder is the widow of Lord Cheshire - Gp Capt Leonard Cheshire VC - creator of the network of Cheshire Homes.

knowledge and skills to the benefit of the military community they serve."

High mobility is a real deficit in the employment market, she says. And there is a problem when the Army-wife nurse wants to return to work when the children reach school age.

"In the current nursing climate of low job turnover with decreasing numbers of

posts, fragmented employment histories and repeated periods of non-nursing jobs, or unemployment, may not impress future employers sufficiently to secure an interview, let alone a contract.

"The implications are serious for families about to leave the Forces, who rely on a nursing wife to take over the bread-winning role."

Mrs Moran suggests that open and distance-learning may become the best way for Service-wife nurses to develop professionally. A mother of two, she points to a need for more organised childcare to help working mothers in the Service community, and recommends wives overseas to seek career advice from senior nurses in the UK.

There is praise for SSAFA for its efforts in creating professional development opportunities for military-dependent nurses outside the UK, by provid-

ing part-time work, access to refresher courses and a nationally-approved family planning course.

"But it is clear," she adds, "that improved, and more creative, employment and learning opportunities would benefit this group of nurses while abroad, possibly encouraging more to accompany their husbands.

"Service families would gain by further improvements in the standards of care available worldwide."

Mrs Moran told SOLDIER she was anxious to stress the positive aspects of her report.

She said: "While there is much that military employers could do to improve the work situation for this group of dependants (given manpower, incentive and money), the intention of the report is to raise awareness about the employment situation that exists, and to provide practical tips to help nurses take responsibility for their own professional development."

Copies of the full research, *Dependant Nurses in a Hidden Community*, and information packs for nurses who are Army spouses are available from the Federation of Army Wives (UKLF), c/o FHWS, UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN (tel: 0722 336222 ext 8321/8830).

Single parent review in progress

THE QUESTION of equal rights for unmarried mothers in the Services was raised in the House of Lords by Lord Kimberley.

In a written question he asked about the progress made "to allow unmarried mothers in the Armed Services the same rights that

other Service personnel enjoy in respect of allowances, including those for medical care and education and the right to occupy married quarters".

Defence Under-Secretary Viscount Cranborne replied: "The review by the Ministry of Defence of Ser-

vices' policy on the provision of public married accommodation and associated benefits for single parents serving in the Armed Forces is still in progress.

"An announcement will be made as soon as the review is concluded."

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Number One! Lt Dharmendra Gurung, 6 GR, is chaired by his colleagues after winning the 1993 Queen's Medal at Bisley



RASAAM 1993 RESULTS

RASAAM RESULTS

Individual

Service Rifle Championship:

Queen's Medal, Lt Dharmendra Gurung, 6 GR; ARA Gold Jewels

(Series A) Lt Dharmendra Gurung, 6 GR; (Series B) Sgt D Delaney, 36 Eng Regt; ARA Silver Jewels (A) Cpl Ashok Sen, 2 GR, (B) SSgt P F Quilliam, 3 Regt RSME; ARA Bronze Jewels (A) Capt A R McLeod RS, (B) Cpl Deobadar Rana, Queen's Own GTR.

Young Officer's Cup, Lt T J Lucas SG; Watkin Cup, Lt Dharmendra Gurung, 6 GR; Manchester Regiment Cup, Rfn Dilip Gurung, 2 GR; Rifle Brigade Cup, Pte L Mosley, 23 Pioneer Regt RLC; The Cheylesmore Cup, Rfn Lalit Bahadur Gurung, 6 GR; Roupell Cup, Sgt D Delaney, 36 Engr Regt; Henry Whitehead Cup, (A) Cpl D G Sutton, 1 QLR, (B) SSgt P F Quilliam, 3 Regt RSME.

6 GR now has three serving Queen's Medallists.

Top to bottom - Lt (QGO)

Dharmendra Gurung,

WO2 Khusim Gurung

and Rfn Lalit Bahadur

Gurung

Roberts Cup, LCpl Garbua Kham, 7 GR; Army Hundred Cup, Lt Dharmendra Gurung, 6 GR; Old Contemptibles Cup, LCpl R Doak, 3 R Irish.

Service Pistol Championship:

Pistol XXX Cup, ARA Gold Jewel and NRA Bronze Medal, Cpl D A Camp, 1 Para; ARA Silver Jewel, Capt I Standen, 30 Sig Reg; ARA Bronze

Jewel, SSgt Atherton, 110 PRO Coy RMP; Centenary Small Gold Medal, CW3 Topp, US Army Reserve; Silver

Medal, LCpl P Nunn, R Marines; Bronze Medal, Cpl D A Camp, 1 Para; Southern Command Cup, Cpl D A Camp, 1 Para.

Worcestershire and Sherwood

Foresters Cup, Cpl Ashok Sen, 2 GR; Graham Trophy (A) Pte W R Little, 4 R

Irish, (B) SSgt P F Quilliam, 3 Regt

RSME.

Association Cup, Capt A R McLeod

RS; Vallis Cup, Sgt Yamkumar Gurung, QG Signals; Presentation Kukri (A) Rfn

Lalit Bahadur Gurung, 6 GR, (B) Sgt

Yamkumar Gurung, QG Sigs; Staffordshire

Regiment Cup, WO2 H G Ashley, 3 Cheshire; Whittaker Trophy, Sgt

Yamkumar Gurung, QG Signals;

Minor Unit Skill-at-Arms Championship:

(A) Company Shield, MCTC Colchester; (B) Royal Army Service Corps Cup, Depot HK MSC; Wakeham Cup, 3 Regt RSME.

Rifle Team Match:

(A) Northamptonshire Cup, 2 GR; Royal Anglian Cup, 2nd Bn Scots Guards; (B) Ulster Defence Regiment Trophy, QG Signals.

Minor Unit Rifle Team Match:

(A) Queen's Own Highlanders Cup, MCTC Colchester; (B) Western Command Cup, Army App Col Aldershot; Parachute Regiment Cup, 2 GR; Light Infantry Cup, ITB Strensall.

LMG Match:

Worcestershire Cup and ARA Spoon,

Cpl A J McNeice, 8 R

Irish; Queen's Own Highlanders Cup,

Rfn Hon Bahadur Roka, 2 GR.

LMG Aggregate Match:

(A) Eastern Command Cup, 5 R Irish; (B) Royal

Pioneer Corps Cup, Queen's Own

GTR.

Minor Unit LMG Match:

(A) Household Division Cup, ITB Strensall.

Section Match:

(B) Small Arms Cup, QG Signals.

Minor Unit Fire Team Match:

Southern Command Cup, AAC Aldershot.

Gurkha claims second Queen's Medal

GURKHA riflemen took the top honours in this year's Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Bisley, with Lt (QGO) Dharmendra Gurung of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles winning the Queen's Medal for a second time, and Gurkha units winning both the Major and Minor Unit championships.

In the individual contest, Cpl Ashok Sen, 2 GR, was runner up, with the 1990 Queen's Medallist, Capt Angus McLeod, Royal Scots, third. Last year's winner, Rfn Lalit Bahadur Gurung, could manage only sixth place.

Capt McLeod had some consolation in winning a special gold medal to mark the Army Rifle Association's centenary.

The Queen's Gurkha Signals was best Minor Unit, and 6 GR the top Major Unit.

The Territorial Army Queen's Medal was won by Cpl David Fenwick, 7 LI.

The Queen braved torrential rain on the final day of competition to fire the last shot of RASAAM '93 using an SA 80



Watched by the Small Arms School Corps chief instructor, Lt Col (AIW) George Harvey, the Queen fires the final shot at the Regular Army's Skill-at-Arms Meeting. The SA 80 is set on an Enfield rest which is normally used to test-fire weapons for grouping standards

infantry rifle. The atrocious weather conditions failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the competitors.

According to Army Rifle Association deputy secretary Lt Col John Woods, this year's

meeting was a great success.

"Standards are higher than ever and soldiers using iron sights instead of optical have become more competitive."

"Two men, Sgt Dave Delaney of 36 Engineer Regi-



Capt Angus McLeod receives a trophy from the Queen

Fewer overseas teams competed this year, but those who did shot well and provided the British Army with stiff competition. Service teams from the Sultanate of Oman, America, Canada and Australia took part.

One particular team competition, the Parachute Regiment Cup, is particularly arduous. Competitors start with a two mile run and then move forward as a section from the 600m point to give covering fire and suppress an enemy. In the final assault, respirators are worn by the soldiers to simulate NBC conditions.

Said Col Woods: "All our competitions at RASAAM are designed to be as close as possible to combat conditions, but the Parachute Regiment Cup is a real test of fitness and a soldier's ability to put down accurate fire."

Hitting the target while wearing a respirator is a necessary fighting skill that is practised at RASAAM in the Parachute Regiment Cup



Poppy Appeal beats slump

EVIDENCE of so-called charity fatigue in these straitened times has given the Royal British Legion special reason to be proud of the public response to its 1992 Poppy Appeal.

When the figures were eventually totted up after the appeal closed on May 31 they reached the record total of £13,227,231, almost £140,000 up on 1991.

Appeal chairman Mr Ian Cannell said: "In the light of the experience of other national charities, some of whom have suffered badly from the recession, this increase is to be warmly welcomed.

"It reflects the hard work of our volunteer organisers and collectors and the special place the Poppy Appeal occupies in the hearts of the British people who support us so magnificently."

Last year the Legion spent almost £16.5 million helping more than 100,000 ex-Service people and their dependants in many ways, ranging from assistance with food and heating bills to providing permanent accommodation in its six (soon to be seven) residential homes.

Voice to remember

DURBAN's Lady in White, who sang to three million British Service personnel as they passed through the South African port in the Second World War, will have a permanent memorial if a fund-raising campaign succeeds.

Book publisher Sam Morley is hoping to raise the £15,000 needed to raise a statue of Perla Siedle Gibson on Durban waterfront, where the legendary figure, who died in 1971, sang through a megaphone to troopships and naval vessels.

The Lady in White Monument Fund is being co-ordinated by Mr Morley at Aedificamus Press, 113 The Ridgeway, Northaw, Herts EN6 4BG.

Walloping good time

TO THE uninitiated, "The Wallop Challenge" sounds like a rather primitive form of boxing. Enthusiasts of aerobatics and, in particular, everyone associated with the Army Air Corps will not be deluded.

The Wallop Challenge and Air Display, including an inter-Services competition of precision flying skills and a mock battle, will draw visitors in their thousands to

the AAC Centre near the A343 at Middle Wallop, Hampshire, on September 5.

During six hours of flying activity the Challenge itself, hosted by the AAC, will include five disciplines - Gazelle helicopter, Chipmunk, glider, free-fall parachuting and hot-air ballooning. The winners will receive the Middle Wallop Challenge Trophy.

Entry from 10 am onwards costs £5 (children £2), with free parking and reduced-rate admission to the award-winning Museum of Army Flying. With proceeds going to Service charities, it sounds like an exciting and worthwhile day out.

Growing fast

THE British Army Association reports that it has close to 1,000 members. It started five years ago at Thanet with nine ex-soldiers, and now has six more branches - Dorchester, Slough, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Ditton and Bexleyheath. Others at York, Bristol and Cleveland are being formed.

The Thanet secretary is Mr John Holland-Hobbs, 6 Burch Avenue, Sandwich CT13 0AX.

Front Line Top Ten

Back in the 1940s, the mobile "B4" broadcasting station was one of three designed to travel with the Eighth Army and the Desert Airforce (see article, Page 14).

Built into three Army trucks which housed studio, gramophone library, office and transmitter, the station - sometimes operating only three miles from the front line - ran its own extremely popular letter and telephone request programme. Its most requested items were:

1. "One Fine Day" - Joan Hammond
2. "Ave Maria" - Deanna Durbin
3. "In The Mood" - Joe Loss
4. "Santa Lucia" - Tino Rossi
5. "The Road To Mandalay" - Peter Dawson
6. "White Christmas" - Bing Crosby
7. "The Stars Were Brightly Shining" - Act III Tosca
8. Black Dyke Mills Brass Band
9. "Old Man River" - Paul Robeson
10. Gracie Fields

Pals' colours handed over

FOUR Union flags belonging to the four Liverpool Pals battalions of the First World War have been presented to the King's Regiment Collection in the city.

The restored colours were presented at the Museum of Liverpool Life on June 28 to Maj Gen P R Davies, Colonel of the King's Regiment, by the Earl of Derby, whose grandfather raised the Merseyside battalions 80 years ago.

One flag will eventually go on display in a new King's Regiment Gallery at the museum. The others will be kept in store.

The restoration was financed by the Liverpool Pals Appeals Fund, set up by the Western Front Association in 1991.

On September 18 a brass memorial plaque will be unveiled at Ypres, Belgium, followed next year by a stone obelisk in the village of Montauban-de-Picardie, liberated by the Liverpool and Manchester Pals on July 1, 1916. A memorial plaque in Liverpool itself is also planned.

Nearly 2,800 Liverpool Pals were killed in the war and three times as many wounded.

Para covers snapped up

COMMEMORATIVE covers released to mark major events in the history of British Airborne Forces are creating a stir.

Particularly prized among collectors are a number signed by the late Maj Gen John Frost of Arnhem fame. Gen Sir Peter de la Billière's signature is also "collectable".

Proceeds will go to the Airborne Forces Charities Development Trust, whose patron is the Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment.

Details are available from the Stamps Officer, Airborne Forces Appeal, The Parachute Regiment, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU.

Duke opens tank hall

AN INITIATIVE by British defence industry chiefs raised £50,000 towards the modernisation of the Tank Museum's World War Two Hall, which was opened by the Duke of Kent on July 21.

It was therefore fitting that the Duke, who is patron of the museum at Bovington Camp,

Wareham, Dorset, should rename the building the British Defence Industries Hall.

The fund-raising was masterminded by the chief executives of Vickers Defence Systems, who build the Challenger main battle tank, GKN Defence, who make the Warrior MICV, and Alvis, responsible for the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance series.

A further £20,000 towards the funding came in the form of a grant from the Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund run by the Office of Arts and Libraries in conjunction with the Wolfson Foundation. The museum, developed extensively over the past ten years, is a registered charity which now supports a workforce of more than 50 and receives an average of 175,000 visitors a year.

REUNIONS

● **657 Squadron AAC 50th anniversary:** The squadron will celebrate its 50th anniversary on August 12-15 at Dishforth Airfield, N Yorks. All past members welcome. Details from Capt Brendan Shaw, 657 Sqn, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth Airfield, N Yorks YO7 3EZ (tel: Catterick Mil (or civil 0748 87) 4516).

● **Royal Anglian Regiment:** Annual reunion at Bassingbourn Barracks, near Royston, on August 29. Details from RHQ, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN (tel: 0284 752394).

● **Staffordshire Regiment:** Annual reunion will take place on September 11 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (enclose sae).

● **6/36 (Arcot 1751) Battery RA:** 250th anniversary dinner, parade and open day at Hohne on September 16-17. Former members of 6 Battery and 36 Battery welcome. Contact Capt R M Lee RA, 6/36 Bty RA, 40 Regt RA, BFPO 30 (tel: Hohne Mil 465; civil (05051) 18 465).

● **1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards:** Annual Cardiff dinner at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff on October 22. Details from Regimental Secretary, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 0222 227611 ext 8213).

● **First and Eighth Army veterans (Egypt, North Africa and Italy):** Southern reunion at King Alfred Centre, Hove on October 23. Tickets and details from Ken Buckle on 0273 608637 or Bill Ash on 0273 506405.

● **DERR Band (Royal Berkshire and Wiltshire):** Reunion planned

DIARY

UNTIL October 15: Forces Sweethearts exhibition, Imperial War Museum.

AUGUST

1: Military vehicle rally, Imperial War Museum, Duxford.
6-28: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card and postal bookings from Booking Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB (tel: 031-225 1188).

SEPTEMBER

5: AAC Wallop Challenge and Air Display, Middle Wallop, near Andover, Hants

NOVEMBER

4-6: BAOR Arts and Crafts Society exhibition, Ripon Hall, Bielefeld.
14: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

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

SEARCHLINE

● **Bridging Troop, 17 RSME Sqn, 12 RSME Regt:** Pete and Sue Mayall of 2 Great Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DE (tel: 0892 544376) are hoping to organise a reunion of Bridging Troop, based at Chattenden Barracks, Kent 1975-76, in early October. Also involved are Brian (Scouse) Kelly and Ken (Andy) Anderson.

● **Harrogate - Penny Pot:** Col C J Walters (Commandant, College Headquarters, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, N Yorks HG3 2SE (tel: 0423 503024 ext 4230) is compiling a history of Uniacke and Hildebrand Barracks and would be grateful for recollections from anyone who served there since 1939, especially before 1955, and from the following units: 9 Fd Trg Regt RA, NCO Trg Regt, R Signals, No 3 Int School, HQ East and West Riding Area, Army Apprentices' School.

● **Maritime Royal Artillery Old Comrades Association:** All ex-members, including those living in Northern Ireland, welcome. Details from M L James, President MRA OCA, Summerhill Cottage, Draburys/Cyprus 1964-66. Especially Paddy Miller, B Collis, C Hughes, Hobo Turner and Floyd Pattison. Replies to 1 Rosewood Close, Westborough Way, Anlaby Common, Hull, E Yorks (tel: 0482 507321).

● **14817167 WO2 Charles McKay:** Would relatives of the late Charles McKay, last known address Larkhill, please contact K Henderson, 3 Douglas Brown's Walk, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8PL (tel: 0980 53658) who has information concerning relatives abroad.

● **Arnhem/Oosterbeek AMS:** Author of proposed publication on Army Medical Services during the battle of Arnhem/Oosterbeek seeks members of AMS present during battle. Publication planned to coincide with 50th anniversary. Replies to Capt P H Starling RAMC, 225 (Highland) Field Ambulance RAMC(V), Block 5, Oliver Barracks, Dalkeith Road, Dundee, Tayside DD4 7DL (tel: 0382 456602 ext 4766).

● **Ex-Dvr C T Miles:** wishes to contact any RASC National Servicemen who served with 112 Coy RASC, Verden and 12 Coy RASC, Liebenau 1960-62 for reunion. Replies to 97 Sundridge Drive, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 8JE.

● **Geordie and Sue Strachan (RCT):** Best friends of Geordie (Ian) and Sue Strachan wish to re-establish contact. Write to Julie Hagerty (née Long), 4074 Larchview Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236 USA.

served in the battalion with Cpl Ivan (Dev) Pike between 1955 and 1958 please contact his daughter, Debbie Johnson, 215 High Street, Honiton, Devon EX14 8LE (tel: 0404 46370).

● **Ex-Cpl Dave Ireland RE:** wants sappers from following postings to contact him: 44 Fd Pk Sqn (27 Regt), Minden 1952-57; RHQ 36 Corps Engr Regt, Osnabrück 1957-58; and 24 Fd Sqn RE, Christmas Island Main Camp, Op Grapple 1958-59. Replies to 28 Main Street, Flixton Village, Scarborough, N Yorks YO11 3UB (tel: 0723 890994).

● **Angela Taylor:** Mrs Anne Beal (46 Cavendish Road, Worksop, Notts S80 2SS) wishes to trace her friend Angela Taylor, with whom she lost contact in 1977. Angela's husband was an NCO in the RRF. They lived in Essex before a posting to Germany.

● **Peter Cole:** wants to hear from anyone he served with with a view to a reunion - Junior Leaders RA, Ramsey Troop 1958-61; 26 Regt RA Svy Tp 1961-64 (Malaya), and Shoeburyness/Cyprus 1964-66. Especially Paddy Miller, B Collis, C Hughes, Hobo Turner and Floyd Pattison. Replies to 1 Rosewood Close, Westborough Way, Anlaby Common, Hull, E Yorks (tel: 0482 507321).

● **Frontline Britain 94 reunion and commemorative medal:** 50th anniversary reunion for those who served in East Kent District, South East Kent Command area 1939-45. A commemorative medal is to be struck for these veterans and application form and further details will be sent on receipt of sae. Send to Frontline Britain 94, 107 Mongeham Road, Deal, Kent CT16 9LJ

● **1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment:** Would anyone who

APPOINTMENTS

BRIG M S White CBE to be Director of Support LANDCENT in the rank of Major General from July 1.

● **Brigadiers - R M Giles:** To be DCat(A), July 2; T B N Oldrey, late RAMC - To RAM Coll as Director, July 30.

● **Colonels - S H Louden:** To be PRCC MoD, May 18; D A Harrison - To HQ DGAGC, June 28; R W Ward - To be Comd ETS HQ SDIST, June 28; T G Scrivens - To HQ PM(A), July 4; M H Duncan - To DGAGC, June 28; H J Hurrell - To H Cav and RAC MRO, July 9; J C L King - To Brit Appts USA, July 10; M D Lemon - To MoD, July 5; A V Twiss - To HQ LAND-SOUTHEAST (BAE), July 5; A R Biggs - To HQ ULKF, July 16; A Curran, late RAMC - To HQ UNIFCY, Aug 1; K MacG Stevens, late RAMC - To BMH Rinteln, July 20; A P Willman, late RAMC - To RAM Coll, July 31.

● **Lt Cols - The Hon I D W Chant-**

Sempill, Gordons - To be CO 1 Gordons, June 30; C J R Day RDG - To CATC, June 28; A G Flood APTC - To MoD, June 28; M J B Graham RLC - To HQ RLC Trg Cen, June 28; C R L Lomer, Coldm Gds - To RCDS (Staff), June 28; J H Baber AGC(PO) - To HQ UKLF, June 28; S W Crawford RTR - To Staff Coll, June 28; B R Anderson RDG - To BGTT(N), July 5; P J Cable, Glosers - To Exchange Appt Canada, July 5; C F R Kenyon RA - To MoD, July 5; G R Coward AAC - To HQ DAAC, July 5; C M Eastland, R Signals - To MoD, July 7; R G Blackwell AGC(SPS) - To HQ Wales and W Dist, July 12; C G J Head AGC(SPS) - To MoD, July 12; F H Lea RLC - To HQ BAOR, July 12; A J Roberts RHF - To BATT Kenya, July 12; J M Shields RACD - To be Sen Chap HQ Scotland, July 15; D G Davies RLC - To ASU SDist, July 12; N B

RETIREMENTS

● **Brigadiers - M R Frisby:** late Colm Gds, June 29; T I M Waugh, late R Signals, July 17.

● **Colonels - T R Cottis:** late Staffords, July 12; B A McCandlish, late RE PCS, July 9; A S Mumford, late RADC, July 31.



Colleagues salute Phil as he crosses the line after 1,001 miles

Phil completes an a-Maze-ing ride

Bdr Phil Elson of 12 (Minden) Battery RA, has just finished his sponsored cycle ride around the perimeter wall of HMP Maze, near Lisburn in Northern Ireland. Since he started in April, Phil has spent most of his rest time cycling 455 laps around the wall to complete 1,001 miles, raising more than £500 for charity in the process. The donations will go towards much-needed equipment for the Wren Spinney School for Handicapped Children in Kettering.

Foreign medals poorly received

RECENTLY in the House of Lords former chief of the Defence Staff Fd Marshal Lord Bramall raised the matter of Whitehall's "particularly parsimonious attitude" towards the wearing of foreign medals by British citizens.

Commenting that we British are allowed to wear "all too few medals", Lord Bramall continued: "When a campaign ... has been commemorated by a foreign government, we should be looking for reasons why those who participated can wear the medal, not why they should not." Not before time are questions being asked in high places.

An explanation might soon be forthcoming that will clarify the reason why officers and men of my old regiment, the Royal Artillery – who, during the Korean War were decorated with three Silver Stars and four Bronze Stars conferred by the President of the United States, as well as five Croix de Guerre awarded by the French Government – have not been allowed to wear them.

Such a ban does not, or so it seems, apply to the very highest in the land.

To illustrate my point, the Prince of Wales wears New Zealand's Queen's Service

Where there is a will . . .

SIXTY years ago Harold Larwood bowed his body-liners and is now remembered with an MBE.

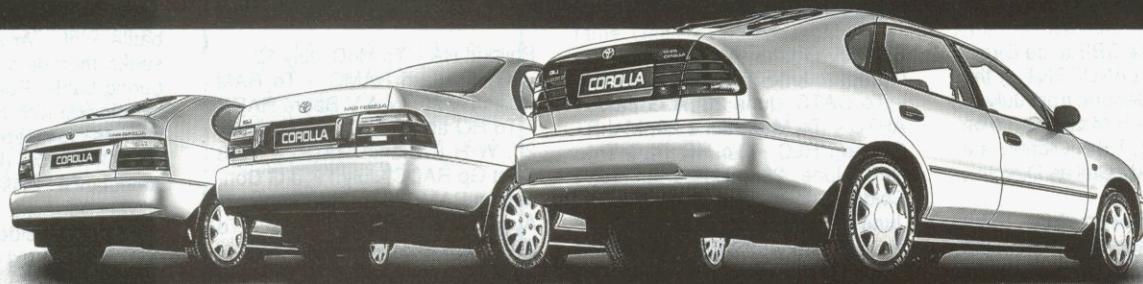
Fifty years ago Lithuanian prison guards allegedly committed atrocities and are now facing prosecution.

Forty years ago Suez soldiers were overlooked for a GSM and they are told this is too long a lapse to do anything about it.

Seems odd. – **Suezvet** (name and address supplied).

Order 1983 and the Commemorative Medal 1990, as well as the Canadian Forces Decoration 1991. Should the same rule, which possibly owes its origin to an obscure 16th century edict by Queen Elizabeth I, apply to all?

Foreign governments who wish to reward our Service personnel might hold the view that Whitehall's mandarins consider their medals less worthy than ours. – **James W Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.**



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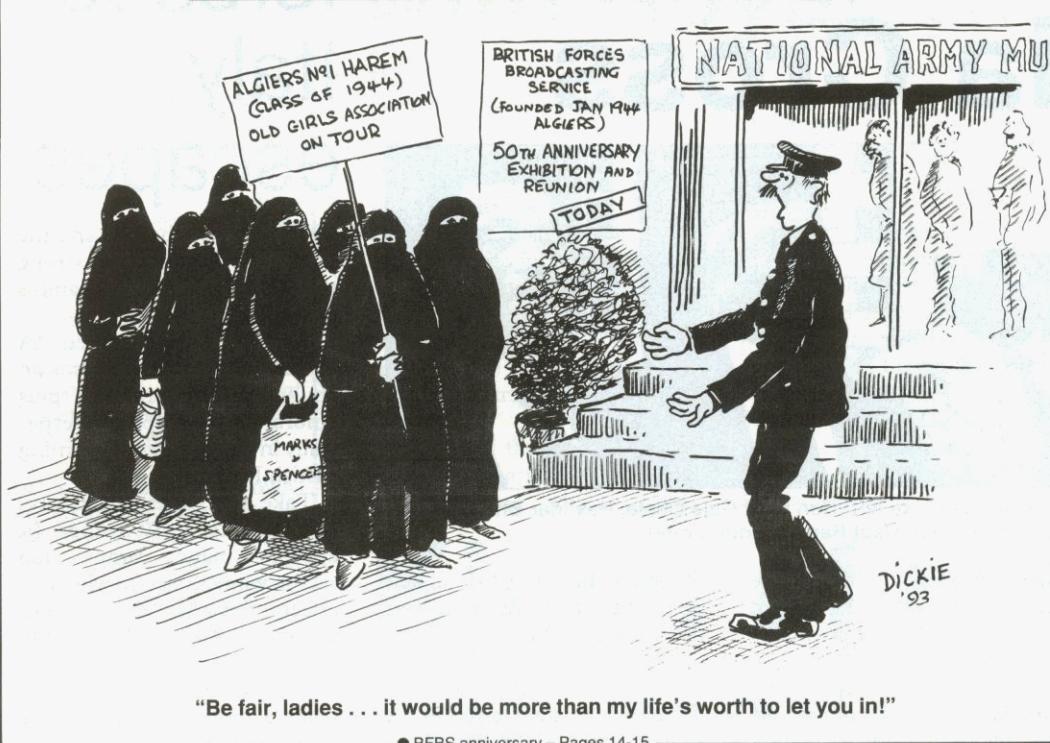
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THE NEW COROLLA. THE CAR IN FRONT IS A  TOYOTA

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



● BFBS anniversary – Pages 14-15

Souvenir pack gets red card

HAVING read your magazine since its inception and been a subscriber for many years I regret I must tell you that I am most disappointed in the list which you selected for the "Souvenir Collection" of cigarette cards in which you have not included a Scottish or Welsh regiment.

You include two English regiments (it would be most interesting to know their recruitment record) and while I have great regard for the Irish regiments I would suggest that a soldier with an Irish Wolfhound or shamrock would have been more appropriate.

It was the *Scottish* pipes that Jessie heard in her dream at Lucknow, who played at Dargai, at El Alamein and in countless other battles.

It appears that no notice has been taken of the Welsh regiments, O'Connor (the first Army VC) or of their gallantry at Rorke's Drift and of course their other battles.

It may be that you intend to produce another series but I consider the present list to be

seriously defective and insensitive to many famous regiments of the British Army.

So that there is no misunderstanding I must tell you that although I am a Scot and born in the Royal Scots I joined from choice what was originally an English cavalry regiment which has had Scots, Irish and

Welsh in all ranks throughout the centuries. – **J A Ward, Edinburgh 15.**

● A spokesman for the company from whom the collection was commissioned said: "The subjects were designed to give an overall picture of the British Army in 1993 as it adjusts to its new roles and operational commitments."

HORSE TRADING . . .

MAJ R A Hill – whom I suspect is the same Maj Hill who commanded H Squadron, the RCT's last horsed unit – is of course correct when he states that the German Army bought many of our horses when the British Army mechanised in the late 1930s (Letters, June 14).

However, the figure quoted of 6,000 horses to be used in the invasion of this country in 1940 is, amazingly, too low!

The official history, Basil Collier's *Defence of the United Kingdom* (HMSO, 1958) records that in the original plan the 13 infantry divisions for the

first stage of Operation Sealion were each divided into two echelons and the transport for each included upwards of 300 horses.

The first echelons had a strength of "close to 4,500 horses . . . while the second echelons comprised nearly 60,000 horses . . .".

Once the invasion force had secured a firm hold three more "waves" would follow. These included another 17 infantry divisions with their attendant horse transport.

Regarding the British Expeditionary Force in France, just prior to the winter of 1939-40,

Riot put paid to Aldershot glasshouse

AFTER reading the interesting article (July 12) about the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, I am prompted to ask what happened to the "Glasshouse" in North Camp, Aldershot.

Its correct title was the "Military Prison and Detention Barracks", which was proclaimed on a large noticeboard fixed upon the high wall close to the entrance gate.

As the title implies, in those pre-1939 days there were distinct categories of inmates – military prisoners and detainees.

In the late 1930s I was stationed at Pinehurst Barracks, Farnborough, in the 2nd Royal Tank Corps. Prisoners and escorts often arrived at Farnborough Station in the morning and were fed and lodged in our guardroom until 1400 hours, the time of entry and discharge.

I believe that the Pinehurst area is now a community centre. – **J L Echlin, Uxbridge, Middx.**

● Built in 1870 to replace an earlier wooden structure, the Glasshouse ceased to be used after a riot on February 23, 1946. It was demolished in 1958, apart from a section of the wall which now forms part of Lille Barracks. – **Editor**

it was considered necessary to supplement the BEF's transport with four pack mule companies of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps, together with a Cypriot mule company.

Most of the personnel were captured during the evacuation from France and no doubt the mules were utilised by the German Army. – **Denis C Bateman, Ruislip, Middx.**

● In his letter, Maj Hill correctly quoted the figure of 60,000 horses. Through error or sheer incredulity, a nought was lost in transcription to the printed page. Sorry! – **Editor**

Gurkhas and the Victoria Cross

ODD as it may seem, there was a time in British military history when Gurkha and Indian soldiers were not eligible for the award of the VC no matter how heroic they were in battle.

They had to be content with the Indian Order of Merit – “the most prized honour a grateful country could bestow on a brave man.”

But that changed in 1911 when George V, on a visit to India, altered the rules to put them on an equal footing with British Servicemen – so far as the VC went, anyway.

In *The Story of the Gurkha VCs*, Maurice Biggs tells of the 26 Gurkha officers and men who have been awarded the VC and how they won it.

He starts with Lt John Tytler, who won his award during the Indian Mutiny in 1858 – the first to be won by an officer of a Goorkha regiment.

He ends with the story of LCpl Rambahadur Limbu of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, the latest recipient, who won his VC in Borneo in 1965.

The remaining 70 or so



Gurkha VCs (from left) Hon Capt Gaje Ghale, Havildar Bhanbhagta Gurung and Hon Capt Rambahadur Limbu

pages are filled with the heroic deeds of the other 12 British officers and 12 Gurkha officers and men who have won the medal. This is a short book with each story accompanied by a biography and a photograph of each man, except for Rifleman Sherbahadur Thapa of the 9th Gurkha Rifles, who was killed in action winning his Cross in Italy in 1944. He was 23. It is believed that he never had his photograph taken.

Explaining the titles Goorkha, Gorkha and Gurkha, the author says that in the early days the regiments were called

Goorkha, but in 1901 all ten regiments of the Brigade were titled Gurkha Rifles.

Then in 1947, with Indian Independence, the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th transferred to the British Army and retained the title, but the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th and the re-raised 11th stayed with the Indian Army and were designated Gorkha Rifles. – JM

The Story of Gurkha VCs by Maurice Biggs. Available from The Gurkha Museum, Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants at £9.50 plus £1 UK p and p.

MEMORIES OF HELL

IF IGNORANCE is bliss then the generals in charge of the Army in 1914-18 must have been abundantly endowed with this unenviable malaise, judging by the stories of ten First World War survivors.

For all of them, now well into their nineties, tell horrifying tales of absolute stupidity on the part of the Army's top brass – and some of the lower orders – who were dishing out the orders at the time.

“Over the top – and that's an order. Oh, and by the way, walk, don't run.” The Tommies did as they were told, straight into a wall of machinegun fire and certain death.

Author Tom Quinn spoke to ten old soldiers of their time in “the war to end all wars”, recounting the memories in *Tales of the Old Soldiers*.

Quinn apologises for any

inconsistencies in the stories, but the facts and figures of those killed and wounded remain stark and terrible.

Hundreds of thousands died and, even though the question why has been asked a similar number of times, the answer appears that they died for almost nothing, since the ground they captured was recaptured almost immediately. Advance and retreat was the general order of the day for both sides.

The Rev Grant Osborne was a young coachbuilder when he joined up to become a machinegunner and “mow down dozens of Germans” without the slightest comprehension, at the time, of the effect of .303 bullets ripping into a man. Life was cheap. At the battle for the Menin Gate at Ypres, everyone knew this was not a war for heroes, he

says. “And our officers knew that we knew.”

So when his OC “asked” his four-man gun team to position themselves 20 yards from a German front-line trench they thought they were on a suicide mission.

It almost came to that when a shell landed close by, killing one and seriously injuring the other three. He goes on to tell how he took part in a mutiny after being refused sick leave entitlement.

“We just stayed in bed,” he said. “We were on strike.”

The book is full of such stories and Tom Quinn has done a valuable job in collecting the memories of these old-timers. After all, there are very few of them left to tell the tale. – JM

Tales of the Old Soldiers by Tom Quinn. Alan Sutton Publishing, hardback, £14.99.

Orders forbade Italy escapes

THE GOOD, the bad and the ugly come across in strong measure in Richard Lamb's *War in Italy – 1943-1945*.

The book is sub-titled “A Brutal Story” and it records an abundance of brutality plus ignorance and stupidity – especially in the chapter concerning British PoWs.

Take the order Lamb says was sent to PoW camps (it appears many camps had secret wireless sets), which in effect forbade them from making mass break-outs because of the danger of wholesale reprisals. If they did make a dash they would later face a British Army court martial for disobeying orders.

Seemingly large numbers ignored the order, issued by a War Office brigadier, and made a bolt for freedom.

But within 48 hours of the armistice being signed with the Italians, the Germans moved in and transported thousands of British captives to Germany.

Conversely an American officer sent to organise escapes reported that “hundreds of PoWs refused to make the slightest effort to return to our lines”.

He reported that of 1,500 contacted only 100 came through, while on another beach, awaiting shipping transport, 300 gathered, but when a farmer fired his gun at a dog all but 25 ran away.

This is a confusing story, chock-a-block with the politics of the time, and needs careful perusal to comprehend the mass of facts and figures, claims and counter-claims.

Richard Lamb poses many questions as to the rights and wrongs of the political and military decisions made at the time and, while he offers no solutions as to what should have been done – always easy with hindsight – it is obvious that he doesn't think too highly of many of those involved. – JM

War in Italy 1943-1945: A Brutal Story by Richard Lamb. John Murray, £19.99.

Book Briefs

May the Lord in His mercy be kind to Belfast by Tony Parker. A compilation of interviews with people from all walks of life (including nine terrorists, four soldiers and an Army wife) conducted over five months. Comprehensive and enlightening – apart, it has to be said, from the bland, censored words of the Army interviewees. Jonathan Cape, hardback, £16.99. – JM

The Visual Dictionary of Special Military Forces. Engrossing, large-format 64-page pictorial encyclopedia of equipment in the excellent Eyewitness series. Dorling Kindersley, hardback, £9.99.

Hell's Foundations: A Town, Its Myths and Gallipoli by Geoffrey Moorhouse. Paperback version of one of last year's best military histories, telling the story of the huge sacrifice made by the Lancashire Fusiliers and the people of Bury. Sceptre, £6.99.

Military Errors of World War Two by Kenneth Macksey. Paperback reissue of the author's 1987 "selection of command 'cock-ups'" with attempts to explain how they happened. Arms and Armour, £9.99.

Panzer: A Revolution in Warfare, 1939-45 by Roger Edwards. Paperback reissue of the 1989 "definitive book on German armour", describing how tactics used successfully early in the war ultimately became their downfall. Arms and Armour, £10.99.

LIGHT FANTASTIC

Sounding Retreat
Bands of the Light Division

THIS IS the pre-recorded music as performed on Horse Guards Parade this year. I saw it on TV rather than heard it, for as an old rifleman who tried to play a French horn at 140 and more paces a minute, the mere sight of it made my legs go to jelly and my lips feel bruised.

So, volume down, feet up, and thank the Lord you're not on parade.

Volume down because there are comparatively few bugle marches, all played by me and my like hundreds of times, and therefore hard on the ears after so many decades. Volume up

Down tunnels of time with Royal Engineers

The Sappers

Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers.

THE FINEST examples of the sapper's art, and the most famous, are those to be seen on, or rather in, the Rock of Gibraltar. And this disc was compiled from LPs made by the Aldershot Band (as long ago as 1972) to commemorate the 200 years the Corps has spent there.

No fewer than three directors of music are represented in a programme which could

almost date from the 1930s, except for there being no Supp^e overture! Still, a pre-war Eastbourne audience would turn not a hair if offered all 19 items.

A fourth sapper director of music is featured with Alf Young's *The Corps Fanfare* and his *Sapper Patrol*, which quotes *Hurrah for the CRE*, which also appears later. Standard marches are *Drum Majorette* by Arnold Steck, *The Phantom Brigade*, *Royal Standard* (also by Alf Young), *Florentiner*, and *Friedlander*, with *British Gren-*

adiers and *Wings* for the Corps.

Troops are Leo Stanley's *The Colours* and the march from *Aida*.

Bandstand favourites are Felix Godin's famous *Valse Septembre*, *The Mexican Hat Dance*, Leroy Anderson's *The Typewriter*, Bizet's aria *Ouvre ton Coeur*, the world of ballet's *Clog Dance*, plus a couple of more recent pieces *Par for the Course* and an arrangement of *Prost Onkel Albert*.

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Kings of rock do the modern thing

Echoes of an Era

Band of The King's Regiment
Conductor: Bandmaster D D Robertson

THIS PROMISES to be the penultimate recording by the band, the next and last to be a compilation of music from the regimental archives and other items suitable for a wake.

The disc's title is therefore apt, and reflects not only the regiment's past but also its

association with Manchester, and especially Liverpool, for Echoes of an Era is also the title of a medley of Beatles tunes.

At present the Kings are performing guard duties in London, and stationed in Hounslow Barracks, so Kneller Hall as the venue for the recording was very handy.

The music is by no means mournful for the impending wake – the opposite, in fact, for here is a case of a modern band

doing its modern thing, and very nicely too. The playing is a credit to all concerned.

The *Marches of John Williams* are by now part of the history of films, associated with all those sci-fi epics and *Jaws I, II, III*.

The same goes for *Sounds of James Bond*, yet those great Beatles tunes still take pride of place. How badly we musical snobs judged them at the time.

Another medley from the popular series *Hooked on the Classics* is *Classic Rock on Parade*, while shorter items are Lloyd Webber's *Love Changes Everything*, *Switched on Swing*, a big band favourite, and a march by Mr Robertson called *Desire the Right*, which is the motto of the Falkland Islands, where the band did a tour.

Solo pieces are very attractive, being *One Moment in Time* on Bandsman Armstrong's flugel, *Gabriel's Oboe*, arranged by a student at Kneller Hall, and Sgt James Edgar playing the haunting pan-pipes in *The Lonely Shepherd*.

All in all, an attractive and well played programme from a regiment known in my day as The King's Liverpools, who used to beat everyone else at football – or was it boxing? It's music of the moment.

certainly the last appearance together of the seven bands.

Various incidental items are a bugle fantasia, Bach's *Toccata in D Minor* updated, Grieg's *Dance of the Imps* used cleverly as an accelerando in marching terms, and two medleys of the Division's marches – *Five Into One* and *Three Into One*. *High on a Hill* is now a bugle classic, but Shostakovich's *Festival Overture* was a sadistic choice after so gruelling a parade.

I was exhausted at the end of it all, merely watching it. So thank the Lord again and pass the carpet slippers.

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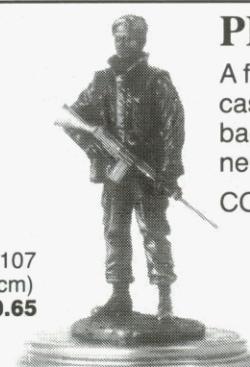
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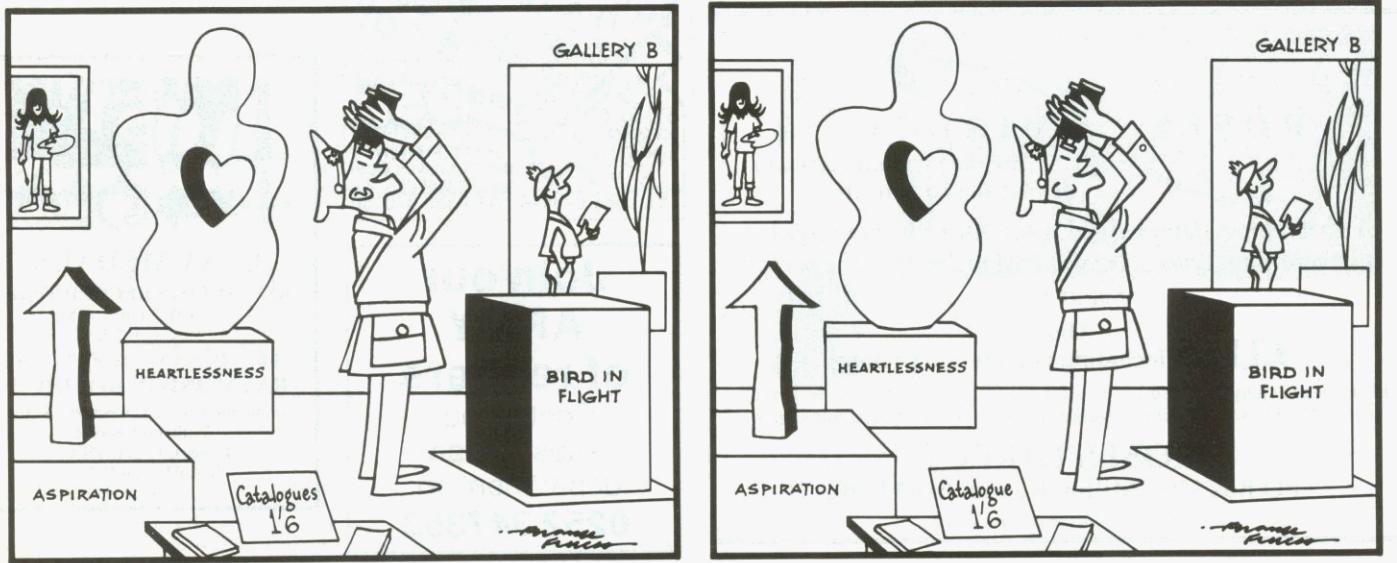
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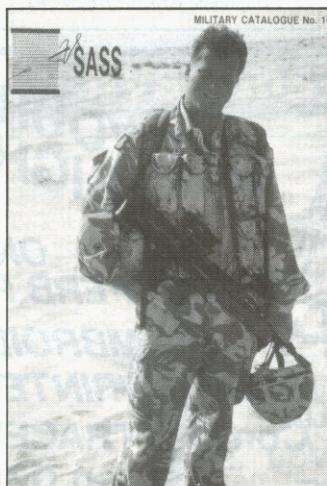
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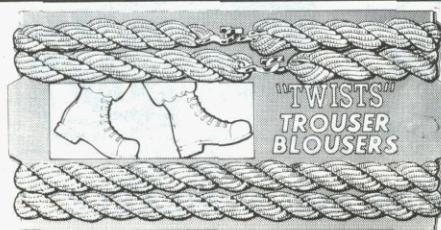
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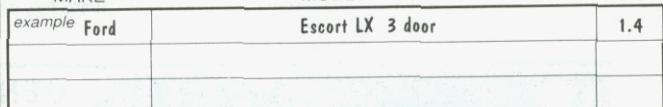
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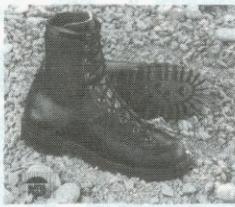
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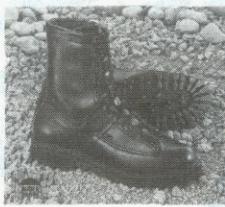
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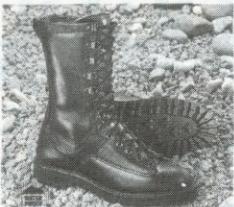
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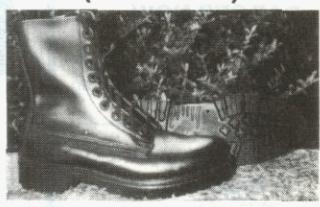
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A pen pal advertisement costs £11.75. Send your details (maximum 30 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to "Soldier", to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded.

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Hi, I'm Michelle. I would like a pen pal, I'm 24 and enjoy listening to music and socialising. If you'd like to know more about me, drop me a line. **P566**

Hi, single lady, 26, 5'6". Would like to correspond with tall soldier aged 25-30, serving anywhere. I enjoy socialising, travel, cinema and various music. Photo appreciated. Write soon. **P567**

Hi! My name is Paula. I'm 5'8" tall with long blonde hair, big brown eyes and a great sense of humour. Get in touch, you won't regret it! **P568**

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Gallagher sprints to victory in canoe marathon

CPL Vinnie Gallagher (42 Svy) confirmed his ranking as the Army's top sprinter at the Army Canoe Union championship held on the River Wye on July 17-18, and also showed that he is a force to be reckoned with over the longer distances.

He won the Army K1 marathon title over the technically demanding 12-mile course from Monmouth to Symonds Yat and back, a passage that includes shooting the rapids.

Gallagher finished in 1hr 25min 49sec, two minutes clear of Sgt Alan Heath (HQ RE Resources), having already won the individual 500m and 1,000m titles.

In the shorter sprint he was chased home by Heath, and in the 1,000m race by Capt Duncan Capps (4 GS Regt RLC). Heath and Capps, who successfully teamed up for Great Britain in the Amsterdam marathon in June, dominated the K2 sprints.

The championships received a considerable boost from a 70-strong Household Cavalry Regiment team. They finished strongly in a number of novice classes and deserve to make an impact on Army canoeing.

A team of 12 was chosen to represent the Army at the Inter-Services sprint and marathon championships to be staged from September 3-5.

K1 1,000m - 1, LCpl Gallagher (42 Svy); 2, Capt Capps (4 GS Regt RLC). Junior - AT Holt (Harrogate). **K1 500m** - 1, LCpl Gallagher; 2, Sgt Heath (HQ CEP); 3, LCpl Key (GATW). Junior - AT Holt.

K2 1,000m - 1, Sgt Heath/Capt Capps. Junior - AT Holt/Sgt Stafford (Harrogate). **K2 500m** - 1, Sgt Heath/Capt Capps; 2, Maj Bradborn/LCpl Key (GATW). Junior - AT Holt/LCpl Farlington (Harrogate).

Marathon, K2 (12 miles) - 1, Maj Bradborn/LCpl Key (GATW), 1hr 25min 20sec. Junior - AT Wragg/LCpl Farlington 1:44:30. **K1 (12 miles)** - 1, LCpl Gallagher 1:25:49; 2, Sgt Heath 1:25:51. Junior - AT Mitchell (Harrogate), 2:39:40.



Pictures: John R Rilkin

Terry's all gold - and bronze

King Hussein of Jordan (above) shakes hands with Bill Hunter, formerly of the RAF Regiment, after opening the first International Ex-Service Wheelchair Games at the Stoke Mandeville sports centre on July 10.

Also in the front row are Wally Kelly (left), ex-7 RHA, and Eddie Gray, who was in The Queen's Regiment.

They were members of a 50-strong British team.

Former Army Air Corps member Terry Hopkins (pictured above right) took the oath on behalf of the 200 competitors from 20 countries. A gold medal winner at the Barcelona paralympics, he added to his collection with two shooting golds, golds in the discus and shot putt, and bronze in the javelin.

Wally Kelly won six gold medals in the swimming pool and a silver in the javelin.

Standing next to King Hussein is British team manager Geoff Winchcombe, ex-Parachute Regiment.

The event, which it is hoped will become a regular fixture, was organised by the Royal British Legion and Stoke Mandeville.



Larkhill heavies in form

LARKHILL-based gunners 14 Regiment, Royal Artillery have gone from strength to strength this season in tug of war competitions.

Under coach Sgt Mike Wells they began by winning the RA open title in the 600kg division, and taking runners-up medals in the 560kg and 640kg classes. Having decided to concentrate their resources on heavier categories, 14 Regt went on to win the Army and Inter-Services 640kg titles.

Team members were Sgt Dave Wardle, Bdr Alexander Bullock and Dave Weaver, LBdr Jason Hind, Jonathon Lewis, Kevin Poneskis and Ian McAuley and Gnr John Stevens.

Palmer leads Under 25s to another title

THE ARMY retained the Famous Grouse award and Inter-Services Trophy with fine victories over the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy in the Under-25 cricket championship at Aldershot, writes Graham Parsons.

When Gdsm Ian Redfern (2 Cold Gds) removed both RAF openers in his second over, and LCpl Richard Addison (3 Fd Wksp) struck three early blows, the airmen were in tatters at 24 for five.

A lower order revival hauled them back into the match and a 55-over total of 138.

Addison finished with 3-22 while Pte David Mathews (17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC) failed to take a wicket but conceded just five runs from 11 overs.

LCpl Tony Pick (33 Engr Regt) was out in the final over for 35 after seeing the Army to a respectable 174 for nine.

Capt Jonny Bartholomew (Scots DG) played on in the first over, but 2nd Lt Simon Mason (2 RGJ) and 2nd Lt Chris St George (1 Coldm Gds) kept out some excellent RAF bowling to reach tea on 64 for one from 25 overs.

Rain interruptions reduced the Army's target, and although St George went for a

fine 46 and Addison for three, Mason (38 not out) and skipper Cpl Nick Palmer (AAC Centre), with an aggressive 29, carried the Army home without further loss.

RAF 139-9 (Gilmour 45; Addison 3-22). Army 121-3 (reduced target) (St George 46, Mason 38 no, Palmer 29 no; Singleton 2-25). Army won by 7 wickets.

Bartholomew, the Army's most prolific run-maker before the Under-25 tournament, was dismissed for a second successive duck after being inserted by the Navy.

Mason was run out for eight, but St George (48) and Palmer (44) put on 70 before a mini-collapse left the home side precariously placed at 109 for six.

LCpl Tony Pick (33 Engr Regt) was out in the final over for 35 after seeing the Army to a respectable 174 for nine.

The Navy lost both openers cheaply, but Falconer (57), Mann, Baker and Toogood put them in a winning position before Falconer was run out by a direct throw. That was a turning point, because the Navy then collapsed to 125 all out in the 46th over.

Redfearn finished with 3-14 and Sig Ross Thubron (1 Mech Bde Sig Sqn) 3-25.

Army 174-9 (St George 48, Palmer 44, Pick 35; Proctor 4-38, Garbutt 2-29). Royal Navy 125 (Falconer 57; Redfearn 3-14, Thubron 3-25). Army won by 29 runs.

Rain ruined the RN-RAF match with the Navy required to score 60 in 23 overs. They won by five wickets but would be the first to admit that the



Army and Inter-Services 640kg tug of war champions, 14 Fd Regt RA with CO Lt Col Ian Vere Nicholl



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Makin a name for himself!

A century from young Nick Makin (14) on his debut for Wiltshire earned him the Man of the Match title in the inter-county Under-15 schools championship final at the County Ground, Southampton. Rain restricted the match, organised in conjunction with the county regiment, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, to 40 overs, in which Wiltshire made 159 for one, Nick scoring 102 not out. He is pictured receiving a trophy and cheque from Brig Michael Constantine, Deputy Colonel of the PWRR.

weather and the rules were the real winners.

Chris St George scored a superb century as a Combined Services Under-25 XI beat the English Schools Cricket Association by eight wickets in the annual Famous Grouse challenge match at Sandhurst.

The schoolboys reached 208 after 65 overs, and when Mason and Falconer (RN) were dismissed by the spinners with the Services score on 34, looked to be in with a shout.

But St George and Palmer played fine shots all round the wicket to win the game with seven overs to spare.

St George scored his first 50 from 90 balls, and when both men got to 70 with only 40 runs required, Palmer fed St George the strike to allow him his hundred, the second 50 of which was plundered from just 57 deliveries.

ESCA 208 (Ayres 78, Bainbridge 33; Taylor 4-37, Miles 3-39). Combined Services 209-2 (St George 104 no. Palmer 77 no). Combined Services won by 8 wickets.

The Army played four games in their build-up to the Services' Under-25 festival, losing to BAOR by 18 runs, beating Herefordshire by three wickets, and losing to Buckinghamshire by one wicket in the last over and by eight wickets to the National Fire Service.



Sgt Mel Bradley (left) tracks Cpl Sue Sharpe (4) and Wren Craig in the 3,000m

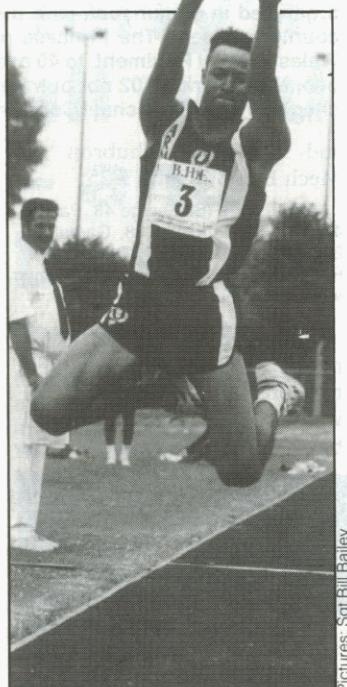
Grant's double delight

WELSH international Maj Glen Grant won two gold medals at the British veteran championships at Monkton Stadium, Jarrow, on July 17-18, and two other Army athletes also picked up medals.

Grant (HQ UKLF) won the 1,500m with a storming 55-second last lap and set a championship best performance in the 800m with an impressive solo run of 1min 55.3sec.

Cpl John Brown (22 Engr Regt) led the 100m until the last stride, but had to settle for third place in 11.82sec when he eased up on the line and was out-dipped. Although Brown qualified easily for the 200m final, a muscle injury forced him to withdraw.

Capt Terry Hall, London District Area Catering Officer, had a busy championships. He finished second in the 400m hurdles and third in the triple jump, ran a personal best in the 110m hurdles and came fifth in the long jump.



Army men's team vice-captain Cpl Alvin Walker leaps to a triple jump personal best of 14.71m. He was second

Picture: Sgt Bill Bailey

Inter-Services details

(Army top-three finishes)

Men

100m – 1, Sgt Callender 10.6sec; 2, LCpl Ward 10.8. **200m** – 1, Sgt Callender 22.5, 3, LBdr Smith 22.6. **400m** – 3, Fus Nolan 49.6. **110m H** – 1, LCpl Tomkinson 14.6. **400m H** – 3, Cpl Richardson 55.2. **800m** – 1, Sgt Finch 1min 52.5sec; 2, LCpl Smith 1:53.10. **1,500m** – 1, Sgt Finch 3:52.8; 3, Maj Grant 3:54.4. **5,000m** – 1, Dvr Wadsworth 14:50.3. **3,000m SC** – 3, Cpl Palmer 9:32.7.

High jump – 3, Cpl McSwan 1.95m. **Long jump** – 3, Cpl Walker 6.77. **Triple**

Ladies' day as men dip out

A SUPERB team effort by the Army women earned them victory in the Inter-Services championships at Portsmouth, while the Royal Air Force prised the Army men's grip off the trophy in the final stages of a desperately close competition, writes Peter Marsh.

HMS Temeraire, home of the Royal Navy's PT branch, provided a superb setting for the 1993 championships, meticulously organised by Lt Cdr Clive Lambshead and his team.

Despite several excellent individual performances, the Army men were unable to hold off an in-form RAF team in one of the closest matches for years.

With events running out, the RAF steeplechase pair scored a decisive blow by claiming maximum points, thereby giving their 400m relay squad a vital cushion.

Although the Army quartet put up a spirited fight they were unable to contain the RAF charge for victory, their first at the Inter-Services since 1986.

The new-look Army women's team dominated the proceedings throughout the day and never looked in danger

of losing. OCdt Sarah Jane East, one of a fine batch of young athletes to come from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst this season, scored impressive wins in both the 100m and 200m, as well as anchoring the 4×100m relay team to victory in her first season as an Army athlete.

Sgt Mel Bradley scored an impressive double in the 1,500m and 3,000m and her efforts were rewarded with her first sub-ten minute time and a new Army and Inter-Services record in the latter. Both were previously held by WO2 Maggie Fowers.

With predictable wins for Cpl Kelly Holmes in the 400m and 800m and victory in both relays, the Army women took their first title since 1989 by a clear 23-point margin.

Selected on their performances in these championships, 36 Army athletes were chosen to represent the Combined Services team in a fixture against Hampshire, Surrey, Essex at Aldershot on July 25.

The Army's top two middle distance runners, Sgt Rod Finch and Kelly Holmes, missed this fixture, Finch to collect his first England vest in a match against Australia and Wales, while Holmes has been selected to compete in the world championships.

She beat some of the world's best over 800m in the TSB Grand Prix at Crystal Palace on July 23, winning in 2m 00.7sec.

jump – 2, Cpl Walker 14.71. **Pole vault** – 3, Sgt Killen 13.60. **Shot** – 2, Sgt Killen 13.33. **Discus** – 2, Cpl Dobson 40.94; 3, SSgt Daniels 40.08. **Hammer** – 1, Cpl Jones 50.96. **Javelin** – 1, Gdsm Rix 60.52; 2, OCdt Pampanini 59.48.

4×100m relay – 1, Army 42.9sec. **4×400m relay** – 2, Army 3min 23.4sec. **Teams** – 1, RAF 168; 2, Army 160; 3, RN 59.5.

Women
100m – 1, OCdt East 12.8sec. **200m** – 1, OCdt East 26.4. **400m** – 1, Cpl Holmes 55.8; 2, Pte Brown 61.5. **100m**

H – 1, Cpl Churchley 14.9. **400m H** – 1, OCdt Swain 72.3. **800m** – 1, Cpl Holmes 2min 9.4 sec; 2, Pte Brown 2:22.5. **1,500m** – 1, Sgt Bradley 4:46.4. **3,000m** – 1, Sgt Bradley 9:58.0 (Inter-Services record).

Shot – 2, Capt Osterburg 11.06m. **Discus** – 1, Cpl Terry 38.70; 2, Capt Osterburg 37.80. **Javelin** – . **High jump** – 1, Sgt Paul 1.60. **Long jump** – 2, Cpl Churchley 5.32.

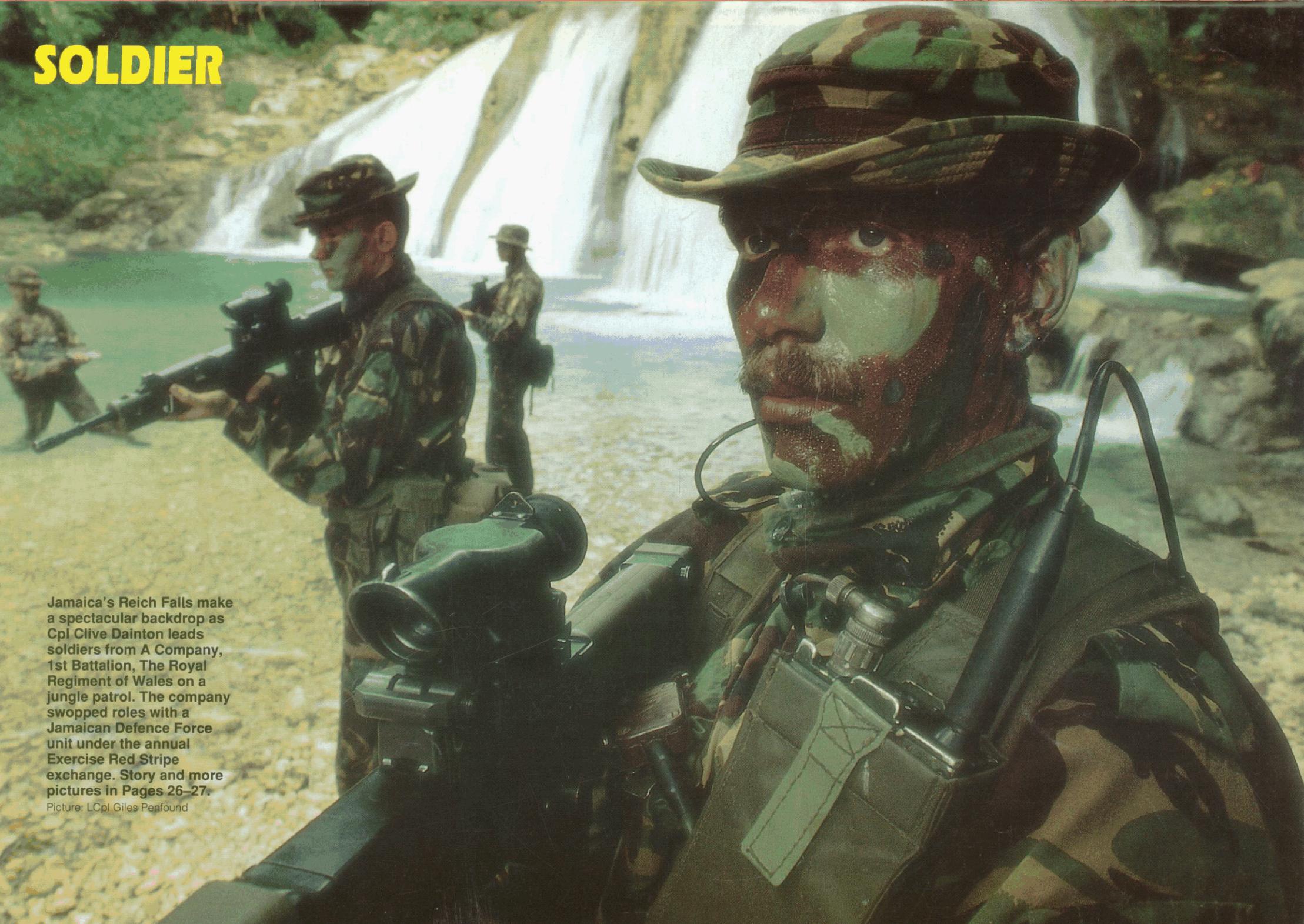
4×100m relay – 1, Army 51sec. **4×400m relay** – 1, Army 4min 5.4sec. **Teams** – 1, Army 134; 2, RAF 111; 3, RN 63.



Troops at some British bases in Bosnia have been able to take part in adventurous training. Pte John Scollen (above) abseils near the National Support Element HQ at Tomislavgrad and (inset left) joins Cpl Mal Gregg and Pte Vanessa Comiskey to explore a cave system revealed when a local river dried up.

Pictures: Mike Weston

SOLDIER



Jamaica's Reich Falls make a spectacular backdrop as Cpl Clive Dainton leads soldiers from A Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales on a jungle patrol. The company swapped roles with a Jamaican Defence Force unit under the annual Exercise Red Stripe exchange. Story and more pictures in Pages 26-27.

Picture: LCpl Giles Penfound