

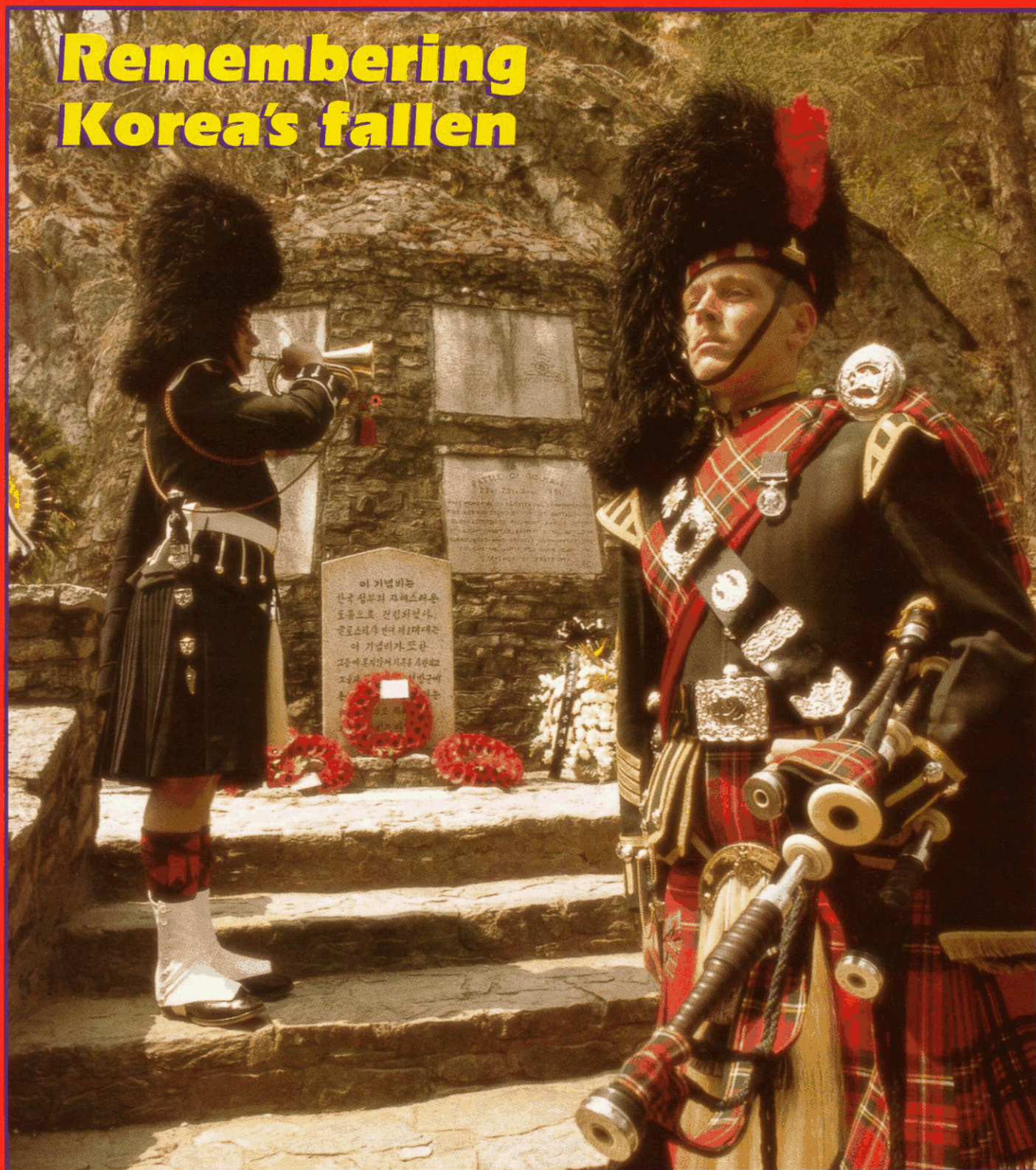
# SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

MAY 26 1997

80p

## Remembering Korea's fallen



The Highlanders and 1 R Anglian in Northern Ireland





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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

May 26, 1997 Vol 53/11

## CONTENTS

### 9 1 R Anglian

Battalion completes six-month NI tour

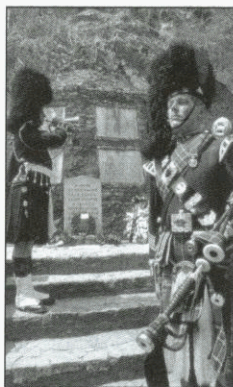
### 11 Humour

### 12 People

### 14 Lifestyle

Express passport service for soldiers

### 17 Cover story



Picture: Mike Weston

Black Watch Pipe Maj Steve Small and bugler Pte Lee Fitzpatrick play during a service at the Gloster Memorial in Korea. Wreaths laid included one from the Duke of Gloucester

### 21 Taste test

Food panel checks out new contractor

### 22 Highlanders

Scottish battalion in Londonderry

### 26 Reviews

A well-crafted history of REME

### 28 Diary

Tony Soper plucked from the South Atlantic

### 31 Your letters

'Drummie' belongs to the infantry

### 32 Proud symbol

Queen's Truncheon returned to Gurkhas

### 33 Win £50

### 34 Soldier Mart

### 40 Sport

ATR twins are Army's quickest double act



Picture: WO2 Pete Bristol

Lt Col Mark Rayner (left), CO 1 PWRR, WO2 (CSM) David Neal and WO2 Alan Appleby lead their troops aboard an aircraft for their deployment to the border of trouble-torn Zaire

# Rescue team on standby in Zaire

**BRITISH** soldiers, working with the Royal Air Force and Royal Marines, were poised to rescue United Kingdom nationals from Zaire, should the civil war threaten several hundred foreigners who live in or near the capital, Kinshasa.

The deployment of a 206-strong force, based on the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, and including a company of Gurkhas and support elements from 5 Airborne Brigade, is the latest stage of a British mission code-named Operation Determinant.

Soldiers of 1 PWRR have set up their main base in Libreville, Gabon, and half the force has joined Royal Marines in the Congolese town of Brazzaville, which will be the launching pad for an air- and boat-borne rescue if the situation in Zaire deteriorates.

Marines, under Brig Julian Thomson, and equipped with two hovercraft and several Rigid Raider boats, deployed to Brazzaville several weeks before the arrival of the Tigers. The craft are considered ideal for use on the two mile-wide river that forms the frontier between Zaire and the Congo.

RAF C130 Hercules aircraft have also been deployed to Libreville to fly evacuees back to Britain if necessary. RAF Pumas are also standing by.

Lt Col Mark Rayner, CO 1 PWRR, said: "We are poised to moved quickly into Kinshasa and secure assembly areas for

British nationals if they need to be evacuated.

"From there, we will be able to get them to the security of Brazzaville. We will be able to complete the assistance by securing and helping those who are in isolated areas."

It may be necessary to evacuate up to 500 British and Commonwealth citizens, and 500 citizens of other European countries.

Operating in a country where law and order has largely broken down has obvious dangers, but a programme of inoculations against disease should reduce health risks.

Army spokesman Paul Sykes, with 1 PWRR in the Congo, said the biggest challenge faced by the troops had been adjusting to the climate.

As *Soldier* went to press, efforts to secure peace in Zaire had been stepped up. British citizens were being urged to leave by normal routes.

The troops have been exercising their boat and helicopter skills.

## Gunners storm desert

FOR the sixth year in a row, soldiers from Thorney Island-based 47 Regiment RA beat the heat, and some of America's toughest troops, to win the Bataan Memorial Death March.

Twenty-four men and women from 47 Regt crossed 26 miles of New Mexico desert to retain the title.

The endurance test is held in

memory of those who died on a forced march ordered by the Japanese during the Second World War. Of 80,000 American and Filipino prisoners-of-war, only 60,000 survived the march through the Philippines.

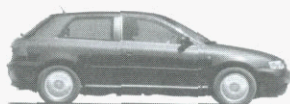
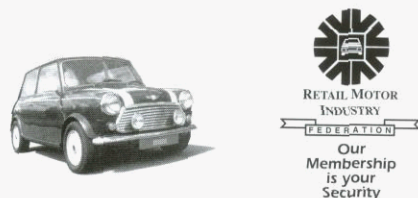
The gunners were up against 1,500 troops from around the world, including élite soldiers from US Special Forces.



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# German take-away for Hong Kong Brits

PLANS have been made for the 800 British Garrison personnel who will be in Hong Kong for the final eight days before the handover to the Chinese on July 1 to be fed meals provided by a German airline company.

A contract placed with Lufthansa Sky Chefs, which provides the RAF and BA with in-flight food, will allow the deep-clean of military kitchens so that the People's Liberation Army can take them over in spotless condition.

Larger-than-average, squad-die-friendly, British-style meals will be produced in bulk and taken hot in insulated containers to two barrack locations.

By mid-May the British Garrison had become a "lean, mean" outfit of about 1,500 unaccompanied personnel.

All remaining families were repatriated during March and the ever-diminishing garrison is now spread thinly at Prince of Wales Barracks, Stonecutters Island, Kai Tak Airport and Osborn Barracks, Kowloon.

All of these, except the airport, will be handed over to the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, CBF Hong Kong, told *Soldier* the process of preparing the PLA for the transfer of defence responsibility was going well.

● Don't miss our two June issues, which will mark the British farewell to Hong Kong in style. Special sections will include the recollections of readers who served there.

## In the picture

**WINNER** of a class sponsored by *Soldier* in the Army Photographic Competition will get plenty of exposure for his or her work. The image will be used on the official 1998 Army wall planner.

To run from May to October, the competition is open to all Regular and TA members, cadets and Army-employed civilians. Watch out for details.



Lifting the lid on their success: Soldiers of Hebburn-based 17 (Durham) Company, 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, after winning the Exercise Martial Merlin military skills competi-

tion, the largest such competition for the Territorial Army. While preparing for Martial Merlin the paras gave first aid at two road traffic accidents, extinguishing a burning car at one of them.

# Driver error ruled out in Bosnia Saxon crashes

AN INQUIRY ordered by the Ministry of Defence has returned a verdict of accidental death in the case of four soldiers killed when their Saxon vehicles were involved in separate accidents while on patrol in Bosnia.

The ruling overturns a previous inquiry that blamed driver-error, and followed protests by the families of the dead drivers.

Both accidents occurred in September 1994 near Gorazde. In the first, Pte Benjamin Hinton RGBW was driving a Saxon personnel carrier when it rolled off a narrow mountain track. He was killed, and four

other soldiers were injured. Three days later, a second patrol from the regiment was involved in a similar incident. The driver, Pte Martin Dowdell, and two passengers, Ptes Christopher Turner and Phillip Armstrong, were killed. Other soldiers were injured.

The MoD appointed Brig Peter Currie, Director of Personnel Services (Army), to review the evidence and conclusions of the initial enquiry.

He concluded there was no categorical evidence that the accidents were the fault of the drivers, and that no blame should be attached to Ptes

Hinton and Dowdell. He said it was not possible to establish the causes of the accidents and "open conclusions" were therefore appropriate.

Brig Currie also found that Saxon vehicles were suitable for use in the mountains of Bosnia, and that no fault could be attached to the chain of command.

He noted with concern that members of the initial inquiry had been required to apportion blame, making it impossible for them to return an open verdict, and recommended that future inquiries have no such limitation. The MoD has accepted this and a review of the system is under way.

## New ministerial team

**NEW** Defence Secretary George Robertson, appointed on May 3, said the Government would "ensure as strong and effective a defence of our country as any government ever has".

Mr Robertson, who was born in 1946, is a Scot. He was educated at Dunoon Grammar School and Dundee Universi-

ty, before becoming a Labour Member of Parliament in 1978.

MoD's three new junior ministers are Dr John Reid (Armed Forces), Lord Gilbert (Procurement), who served as a junior Defence minister during the Wilson administration, and John Spellar, appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State.

● **E-MAIL extended:** The Army's Unit Computing Team (UNICOM) at Worthy Down, which has provided an E-mail facility since 1994, has been enhanced to allow users on one system to E-mail those on other UNICOM systems.

Its service is available to more than 20,000 Servicemen across the UK and Germany, and will eventually be accessible worldwide.



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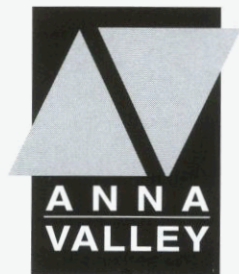
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# Reconnaissance unit deploys on Plain

CHINOOK helicopters joined C Squadron, The Blues and Royals for an exercise on Salisbury Plain last month as part of the work-up phase for Exercise Union Gallop, a tactical engagement simulation exer-

cise (TESEX). The Household Cavalry, 3 (UK) Division's recce regiment, trialled a new concept in deep battle, involving penetration of the enemy front line to report back on weaknesses in rear areas.

Training with two Chinooks from RAF Odiham provided the recce unit with a rare chance to rehearse crucial elements of resupply, casualty evacuation and movement of vehicles.



Golden jubilee pride: Men and horses of The King's Troop on parade before the Queen in Regent's Park

Picture: Terry Champion

## Horse gunners mark 50 years as King's Troop

REGENT'S PARK, London, echoed to the sound of galloping hooves and horse-drawn artillery when The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, celebrated its golden jubilee in the presence of the Queen on April 30.

The Queen inspected six of the Troop's gun detachments before the riders, their mounts and their field guns passed her in review order.

A largely ceremonial unit, The King's Troop marks state occasions with gun salutes, and keeps alive the tradition of highly mobile light artillery.

In Regent's Park the Troop put on a stirring display of horsemanship, riding past the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at a walk, then at a trot and finally at a gallop.

Until 1947, it was known as The Riding Troop, but when King George VI visited the barracks 50 years ago, he

crossed out the word "Riding" in the visitors' book and substituted "The King's". When the Queen acceded the throne in 1952 she decreed the Troop retain its name in memory of her father.

In addition to ceremonial, The King's Troop has a serious military role, providing a rapid deployment group. Members of the unit are serving in Northern Ireland and Bosnia.

● Polling Day, May 1, had a different significance for the men of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment.

The 190 soldiers and horses, accompanied by the mounted bands of the Blues and Royals and the Life Guards trooped through Hyde Park for inspection by the Commander of the Household Division, Maj Gen Iain Mackay-Dick. His task was to ensure the regiment is ready for a summer of ceremonial events.

## Hotshots in form at Ballykinler

IN the words of Brig Robin Brims, Chief of Staff at HQ Northern Ireland, it was "the most effective skill-at-arms meeting" he had witnessed.

Brig Brims made his remark while presenting prizes at the main marksmanship competition in Northern Ireland.

It took place over five days at the Ballykinler Army base in County Down and was attended by 400 Regulars, as well as 250 TA members and cadets.

Shoots involved individual and team matches, using both optical and conventional "iron" sights on rifles, pistols and automatic weapons.

The best shots will qualify for the prestigious annual competition at Bisley.

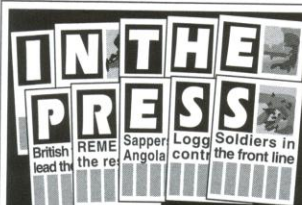
Main prize-winners

**Major Unit, optical sight:** 1, 2 PWRR; 2, 7 R Irish; 3, 1 Cheshire. **Individual, optical:** Cpl McMillan, 1 R Anglian.

**Champion at Arms, iron:** Sgt Dodd, HQNI, 15 Sig Regt.

**LSW:** Pte Blain, 7 R Irish.

**GOC battle match:** 1, 2 PWRR; 2, 8 R Irish; 3, 5 R Irish.



What the papers have been saying

## Animals galore

TWO goats, an antelope, a ram and a ferret are among animals on the Army's register of 2,292 animals. Most are dogs and horses. The more obscure ones are kept as regimental mascots. - Daily Mail

□ Novelist Dame Catherine Cookson has donated £50,000 to fund an independent study into illnesses suffered by ex-Servicemen involved with nuclear tests. - Times

□ An SAS bug planted in a crucifix led to the storming of the Lima embassy and the freeing of 72 hostages. - Daily Mirror

□ The most comprehensive review of US defences since the end of the Cold War is expected to result in a reduction of up to 50,000 American fighting troops as the Pentagon paves the way for a new generation of advanced weapons. - Times

□ NATO and Russia made progress in negotiations on an agreement outlining a new relationship following the expansion of NATO into Eastern Europe. - Times

## On the screen

**UNITS should have received a copy of the latest Army Video Diary (April 1997).**

**Any unit which feels it has an exercise, event or special occasion which merits inclusion in the next diary (October) should contact the Directorate of Public Relations (Army) as soon as possible.**

**Fax suggestions to SO3 DPR(A) on MoD Main Building ext 84920 (0171 218-4920), including unit name and full address, point-of-contact and telephone and fax numbers, and a brief description of the event.**

● Helicopters from 3 Regiment AAC based at Wattisham in Suffolk will be flying in Snowdonia during May as they prepare for service in Bosnia.

Exercise Balkan Warrior will involve 250 troops, 75 vehicles and up to 18 Lynx and Gazelle aircraft.



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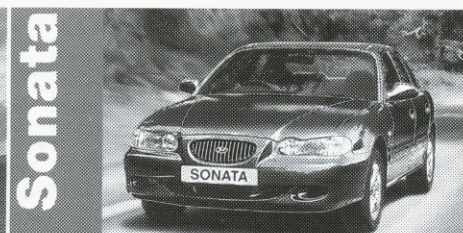
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# Challenging tour as tension returns

AS THE men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, prepare to return to mainland Britain at the end of their latest tour of duty in Northern Ireland, they will look back on the last six months with satisfaction.

The 550 troops, normally based near Cambridge, arrived in Belfast last November with the sobering knowledge that the IRA cease-fire had been over for several months and that the Province was in danger of slipping back into a cycle of violence.

"Tension was returning to quite a high level," said Maj Tony Marinos, who commands HQ Company and is also responsible for community relations.

## NECESSARY TACTICS

"Our tactics had to be altered accordingly. It gave us no pleasure to go back to pre-cease-fire ways, but it was necessary."

The tactics involved increased patrolling with the Royal Ulster Constabulary, working from several centres in West Belfast.

"The relationship worked well," said Maj Marinos. "Giving support to the RUC is, after all, one of the main reasons why we are here."

Terrorist attacks quickly proved that the Royal Anglians' precautions had been justified.

One patrol was the target of a bomb which exploded behind a brick wall as it passed by, causing no injuries. Rapid follow-up action by the soldiers and the RUC resulted in the arrest of a suspected

bomber. Patrols also came under ineffective mortar and rocket fire.

It was not always easy to establish mutual understanding between the troops and the local people, but, said Maj Mari-

nos, the battalion has done its best. "On occasions we invite community leaders, teachers and hospital staff in to explain what we are doing. There's been a good response.

"We understand their feelings, and sometimes we can help. We had a meeting with the head of a Catholic girls' school, who was not happy about our patrols crossing school land. We were able to tell her that we would avoid the route as much as possible."

A routine problem has been what the soldiers call "minor aggro" – gangs of youths and children, sometimes as young as five or six, will stone patrols, or "brick" them, to use Northern Ireland Army parlance. Injuries are not uncommon.

Many of the Royal Anglians are family men and have children the same age as those who confront them in the streets.

Maj Marinos does not, however, see it as particularly malicious violence. "One minute they'll be throwing stones at you, and the next they'll be asking what football team you support. It's all rather sad.

"It has been a challenging tour during a difficult time. We came here with a job to do. We've done it to the best of our ability, and we're proud of it."



A Belfast lad gets a soldier's view. "Minor aggro" directed at the troops often gives way to curiosity

Pictures: Paul Taylor



Supporting the RUC: "One of the main reasons why we are here"



# STATUTORY NOTICE

## EDUCATION ACT 1996 SECTION 167

### SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

#### **Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Junior School (no 3926) Gatton Park, Reigate.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of Section 167 (1)(b) of the Education Act 1996 that Surrey County Council, as Local Education Authority, propose to cease to maintain The Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Junior School with effect from 31st October 1997.

Places for existing pupils will be provided in a new all-through (7-16) school the Governing Body of The Royal Alexandra and Albert Secondary School as promoters are concurrently proposing to establish in the combined premises of the two schools with effect from 1st November 1997. There will be no change to the existing boarding arrangements.

School transport to the extended school will be provided in accordance with the Local Education Authority's current school transport policy.

It is essential that this proposal is read in conjunction with the proposals to change the character of and make a significant enlargement to The Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Secondary School by extending its age range from 11-16 to 7-16 which is being published concurrently by the school's Governing Body.

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### SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

#### **Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Junior School (no 3926) Gatton Park, Reigate.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of Section 41(2)(a) of the Education Act 1996 that the governing body of The Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Schools, intend to publish proposals to:

- a) change the character of The Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Secondary School by changing the age range from 11-16 to 7-16 from 1st November 1997
- b) to make a significant enlargement to the premises of The Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Secondary School. The Governing Body propose that with effect from 1st November 1997 the extended Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Secondary School will occupy the combined premises of the existing Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Secondary School and The Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Junior School. In addition, 68 extra permanent places would be added to the 11-16 accommodation.

The school will provide a total of 570 places for pupils aged 7-16 years and will cater for all pupils currently attending The Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Junior and Secondary Schools although those pupils would be free to choose alternative schools if they wish to do so.

From September 1998 40 pupils will be admitted to the extended school at 7+. Those children will automatically continue their education at the school when they reach 11 (unless they choose to transfer to another secondary school). In addition, up to 42 pupils will be admitted to the the school from other schools at the age of 11. There will be no other changes to the existing admissions policy and a copy of this can be obtained from the

## OBJECTION PROCEDURE

Under the provisions of Section 168(1) of the Education Act 1996, any ten or more Local Government Electors for the area, acting jointly may within the period of two months after the first publication of the proposal, submit an objection to the proposal to the Local Education Authority. Objections to the proposal may also be submitted to the Authority within that period, by the governors of any School affected by the proposal or by any other Local Education Authority concerned; and the Authority by whom the proposal was published shall within one month after the end of the period, submit to the Secretary of State copies of all objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) in that period, together with observations on the objections. See Explanatory Notes.

Any objections to the proposals should be submitted in writing to the undersigned (Ref: EPDU/AW) **WITHIN TWO MONTHS** of the date hereof.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

- 1 A statutory objection for the purposes of the Act submitted on behalf of ten or more local government electors for the area, either must be signed by each of the objectors or else it must be demonstrated that the objections have been made in conjunction with others.

Dated 24th April 1997

Signed: Dr Paul Gray  
Director of Education  
Surrey County Council  
County Hall

KINGSTON UPON THAMES KT1 2DJ

governors. Boarding provision will continue to be provided at the extended school and is not affected by this proposal.

With effect from 1st November 1997, the extended school will operate under a single governing body instead of the current joint governing body.

School transport to the extended Royal Alexandra and Albert (Aided) Secondary School will be provided in accordance with the Local Education Authority's current school transport policy.

This proposal will fall to be decided by the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

It is essential that this proposal is read in conjunction with the concurrent proposal published by the Local Education Authority, Surrey County Council, under Section 167 of the Education Act 1996.

## OBJECTION PROCEDURE

Under Section 42(1) of the Education Act 1996, any ten or more Local Government Electors for the area acting jointly may, within the period of two months after the publication of the proposal, submit an objection to the proposal to the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT, and objections to the proposal may also be submitted to her within that period by the governors of any school affected by this proposal or by the Funding Agency for Schools or by any local education authority concerned. See explanatory notes.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

- 1 A statutory objection for the purposes of the Act submitted on behalf of ten or more local government electors for the area, either must be signed by each of the objectors or else it must be demonstrated that the objections submitted have been made in conjunction with others.

Dated 24th April 1997

Signed: John Henry  
Chairman of Governors  
The Royal Alexandra and Albert School  
Gatton Park  
REIGATE RH2 0TD



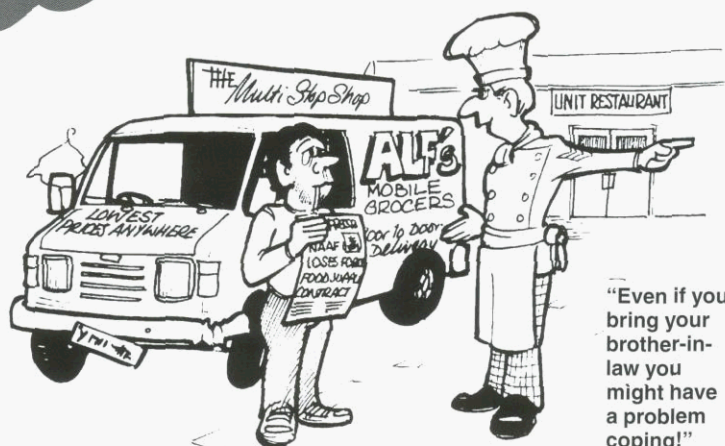


"Despite the recent ruling on Courts Martial, I think you'll still have to finish your two days Restriction of Privileges!"



"Sadly the signwriter can't spell . . . It should be Personnel Services!"

# Chuckle with Chip



"Even if you bring your brother-in-law you might have a problem coping!"



"Right now? . . . You're taking the p . . . !"



"Look . . . Sixteen pence for the beans on toast and that's my final offer!"

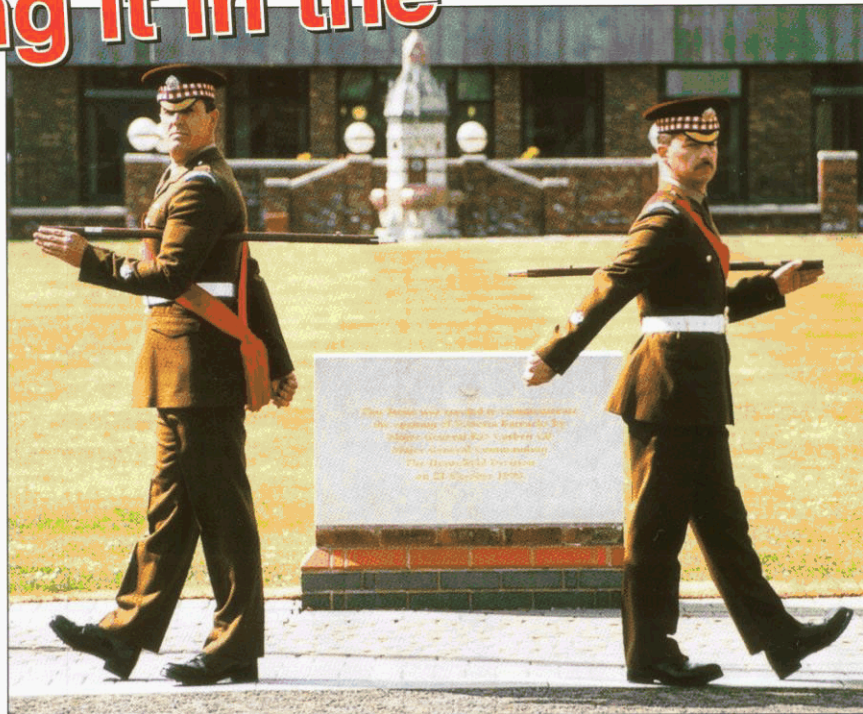


# Keeping it in the family

Marching temporarily in different directions, but with a common aim, are brothers-in-law CSM **Ian Hood** (left) and CSM **John Dunn**.

Both members of the Scots Guards, currently based in Windsor, they intend to maintain the training of future guardsmen as a family concern – at least until Ian, who is CSM of the Guards Company at the Army Training Regiment Pirbright – completes his service there in two years' time.

John, who is the future CSM of the Guards Company, ITC Catterick, has completed 17 years' service.



## In at the start

Taking over command of the newly-formed HQ Lisburn Station from Lt Col **Dougie Rowlinson**, R Signals, (left) was Lt Col **Millen Mathew** RLC, previously Garrison Colonel at Gutersloh.

The new headquarters has been formed from units within HQNI and 15 Signal Regiment.

## Situation satisfactory

Fresh from training, Welsh Guardsmen **Lee Emmerson**, **John Davies** and **Cai Lewis** were persuaded by Sgt **Mark Woolcock**, Army Recruiting Sergeant at Army Careers, Swansea (right) to take part in the Satisfied Soldiers scheme at the office. Their brief was to talk to potential applicants, giving them an "honest and first-hand insight into life in the Army".



# PEOPLE



## A spot of Hong Kong culture

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, forming a ceremonial guard at Hong Kong Garrison, struggle to maintain a stiff upper lip as they are inspected by Australian cultural attaché Sir **Les Patterson**, alter ego of comedian **Barrie Humphries**.

Seen with battalion CO Lt Col **Alasdair Loudon**, he was filming for a television programme about the handover of sovereignty, scheduled to be shown on June 30. It remains to be seen what Dame **Edna Everage** will make of it...



## Women 'steel' the show

Proving that they were as sharp as knives were these women based in the steel city – Sheffield.

All members of its university's Officers' Training Corps, they were among 26 sections entered in the annual inter-unit/inter-section military skills competition – Exercise Martial Merlin – held by 15 (North East)

Brigade at Catterick training area.

For the second consecutive year, led by 2nd Lt **Helen Dingsdale**, they won the best overall female section trophy and, like their male OTC equivalents, under the leadership of 2nd Lt **Paddy Ginn**, were also rewarded with a silver medal award.

## TRIGGER'S HAPPY



"A day to remember, and well worth six months' defensive driving" was the verdict of a delighted Spr **Stuart "Trigger" Towner**, 22 Engineer Regt, after completing a fast circumnavigation of Thruxton race circuit in a single-seat Formula Ford 1600.

That, together with a safety briefing and instructional drive, was his reward as the winner of a competition organised by WO2 (QMSI (MT)) **Russ Holmes** RE among all the drivers in the regiment when they were deployed on IFOR 2 in Mrkonjic Grad, Bosnia, last year.

Aim of the competition – no easy task with the unpredictable road and weather conditions – was to promote road safety by arranging prizes for the drivers who travelled the greatest distance without being involved in a traffic accident.

Driving "any vehicle he could get his hands on", ranging from Land Rovers to self-loading dump trucks with 10-ton tilt trailers, Stuart slowly overhauled the leader, Cpl **Wayne Darling**, the CO's driver, in the last month of the tour, after his rival had moved to the Ops Room.

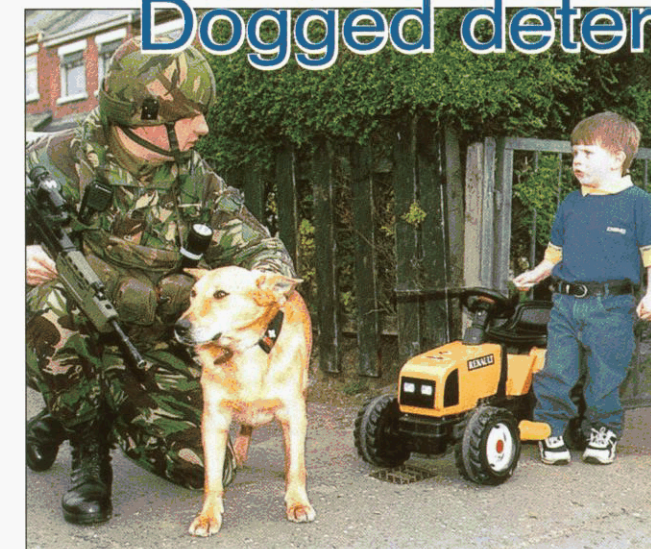
## High-ly delighted

A Royal School Armagh cadet enjoys one of the more dizzying attractions of an open day for teenagers held by 8th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment at their Ballykinler base.

CO Col **John Deverell** said: "The occasion was looked on as an opportunity for young people to get to know a bit about us, our regimental history and our operational role. They were also able to see a range of things that soldiers, both male and female, get the chance to take part in for fun besides the work we do."



## Dogged determination pays off



Still making friends, both young and older, on the streets of Belfast, is canny canine **Mutley**, whose loyalty to dozens of units over the years has been recognised by his recent promotion to 2nd Lt by his current adoptive "family", the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

Believed to be approximately 14 years old, Mutley, who originally turned up at the cookhouse at Girdwood Barracks to scrounge some food, has since covered hundreds of miles with troops on patrol.



# A little literary imagination goes long way

AMONG the variety of statistics released by the MoD on a huge range of topics, one recent batch revealed some lesser known facets of the Army.

For example, did you know that 2,292 animals share the life of the modern soldier? Most are horses and dogs, but they also number a few exotic mascots.

And while Service personnel in Bosnia sent 600,000 pieces of mail home, only about 250,000 were received in return, a statistic which suggests there are an awful lot of soldiers writing letters to no avail.

While this conjures up a rather sad scenario there may well be a simple answer, but it did make me wonder about the ways in which people keep up contact. A little while ago my mother gave me some papers relating to my late grandfather's service during and after the two world wars.

What is fascinating is the diary he kept as a young man in the trenches in the months leading up to the Armistice. Among prosaic entries about the course of the war are passages about the letters and parcels he got from home.

Whenever one arrived he was clearly overjoyed but he omits to say what was in them. So what did they contain? There is mention of writing paper, but perhaps there were other home comforts, such as photos or fruit cakes or soap.

What do people send these days? I know one woman who mails her husband disposable cameras so he can take pictures of himself at work and relaxing. He sends them home so she can get them developed. The wife says it helps the children keep in touch with their father.

Others send cassettes. One son I know used to send his parents recordings of daily life. These weren't just spoken letters but what we in radio call "actuality". He recorded everyday sounds and, as he was in a remote spot in

Africa at the time, the tapes were wonderful. Sitting in leafy Camberley with a glass of wine, listening to the sounds of a market in a dusty square thousands of miles away was magical.

These days there are so many technical ways of sending a greeting that the written word is sometimes neglected. I think it's a shame.

The simplest form of communication, and the only one you can use if you're sitting in a damp tent in the middle of nowhere, is the pen and paper.

That's all very well if you've got something interesting to say. What, said one friend, do you say when all you've done is take the kids to school, cleaned the

house and been to the supermarket? What do you say when the washing machine has broken down, the kids are fighting and you've got the worst hay fever you've ever had?

Here are a couple of offerings. You could send articles from their favourite magazine, a short story, a pressed flower from the garden or something you've made yourself – a category which yielded the most imaginative suggestion of all. One woman sent her husband a gingerbread heart with the words "I love you" piped in icing.

I hope there is a simple explanation to account for the disparity in the numbers of letters sent in and out of Bosnia. I also hope that if you've got a letter in your tray with a mental note to answer it soon, you actually get down to it.

And if you have an imaginative idea for something small you could send to a loved one do let me know. I might even be able to come up with a modest, and suitably literary, prize for the best idea we get.

● **Carli Roberts presents Counterpoint on BFBS radio. Write to her at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o Soldier.**



Carli's column



## Making news 'Friend'-ly visitor

Counting on a selected range of the home's books and goods and special events throughout the year, as well as receiving their own newsletter, an exclusive certificate and lapel pin and an invitation to an annual "Friends Day". Telephone 0181 940-1351 for details.

For an annual subscription, members will be entitled to dis-

counts on a selected range of the home's books and goods and special events throughout the year, as well as receiving their own newsletter, an exclusive certificate and lapel pin and an invitation to an annual "Friends Day". Telephone 0181 940-1351 for details.

## Hospital care trial under way for families in Gibraltar

THE secondary (hospital) care needs of United Kingdom Servicemen and their dependants based in Gibraltar are to be provided by the Gibraltar Health Authority under a nine-month trial introduced this month.

Under the agreement, negotiated by the MoD's Defence Secondary Care Agency (DSCA) over a period of eight months with the Gibraltar authorities, those requiring care will be treated at St Bernard's Hospital.

The Gibraltar government will

on 01422 333333 extension 82671.

\*Australia, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Diego Garcia, Republic of Ireland, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Isle of Man, Italy, Sardinia, Jersey, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates.

be paid for providing care, and current UK facilities at the Royal Naval Hospital have been closed, except for the surgical theatre and a small day ward, which will be available for use by the Gibraltar Health Authority to treat Service personnel and dependants, as well as Gibraltarian civilians.

Negotiations between the MoD and Gibraltar will continue throughout the trial to speed a final decision on the feasibility of a more permanent arrangement.

Ron Smith, chief executive of the DSCA, said: "This gives us the opportunity to work more closely with our Gibraltarian colleagues, while at the same time opening the potential for delivering a higher quality of secondary health care for our Service personnel and their dependants, with goodwill and flexibility on both sides. I am sure the trial will be a great success."

# Teenagers shown Light side of life

TWENTY youngsters aged 16 to 18, from Belfast, Dublin and Warrington, were given an insight into how the Army operates by soldiers and officers from the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry.

They were taking part in the Tim Parry Scholarship, created after the death of Tim Parry and Jonathan Ball in March 1993 when an IRA bomb exploded in a shopping mall in Warrington.

Initiated by the Parry family, the scholarship – now in its second year – aims to "enlighten and create awareness and understanding of the conflict among young people".

The day with 2 LI was the fifth in a week-long programme of trips, visits, meetings and discussion in Dublin and Belfast.

The itinerary included a tour of Belfast, workshops on the Falls and Shankill Road, a meeting with the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Londonderry and a tour of the Antrim coast.

Lt Bill Frazer, 2 LI co-ordinator, said: "The young people have had a go on the simulated arms training range, worked with the dog



Warrington youth leader Ann Percel, surrounded by some of the scholarship participants, dons full bomb disposal kit with the help of a member of the Belfast detachment of 321 EOD Squadron

handlers, been driven around in the armoured vehicles, received a chat from bomb disposal experts and used all sorts of equipment.

"It's been a great day, good fun, and we have really enjoyed ourselves mixing with the young

people. All they ever see is the Army patrolling the streets, so today has given them the chance to chat to the soldiers and see that beneath the uniform they are real people."

Belfast youth worker Steven

Carr added: "The scholarship provides a unique opportunity to bring three groups of people, from three distinctive backgrounds, together to see how the Troubles affect each one."

"It has been a real learning experience, and the participants are encouraged to challenge the stereotyped images they have of each others' country and communities."

One participant, a 16-year-old from Warrington, said: "I've never been to Northern Ireland before, so I was a bit apprehensive, but it's been great. Everyone has really clicked, and the soldiers are so interesting: they stand and chat for ages."

Another, a 16-year-old from Belfast, commented: "When I first came here, I felt a bit uncomfortable and intimidated. Where I've been brought up, I don't associate with soldiers, but today has helped me see them as young people just doing their job."

A 17-year-old from Dublin had the last word: "This has been such a new experience for me: I've had a great day."

## Express passport service opens for soldiers

A NEW scheme to provide passports for Army personnel is in place.

Aimed at supplying passports, at Army expense, to officer and soldier recruits and to personnel in units with a readiness state of R5 (ready to deploy in 30 days) or less, the scheme is necessary because the Passport Office requires 30 days.

Issue of passports to all officers and soldiers before the end of commissioning or Phase Two training will be funded by the Adjutant General's Department.

Land personnel in units at R5 or less – excluding Royal Irish (Home Service) and the Gurkhas – are to be issued with new passports, or have existing ones renewed.

The measure will remove existing deployment constraints on formed units and the ability to back-fill high readiness units with additional personnel, according to G1 Branch, HQ Land Command.

Eligible personnel in Land units have been asked to apply, with the aim of having passports issued by July 1. Details from Maj Yori Griffiths on Salisbury Mil (733) 2483.



## Fine feathered friends

For the past three years, LCpl Tim Redhead, a member of Bodmin-based D Company, 6th Battalion, The (Somerset and Cornwall) Light Infantry, has been combining his Territorial Army activities with, of all things, ostrich farming.

His interest was aroused when he read an article about the birds in a farming magazine and, before he knew it, he was in business.

Lean, low in cholesterol,

but containing as much protein as beef, ostrich meat is finding a place on the British dinner table. Despite their equatorial habitat, the birds are hardy creatures and well able to withstand the Cornish winter.

Tim has managed to raise several of the beasts to maturity from the egg and says they have become like a second family – ensuring that, combined with his TA duties, he leads a very active life.

## Linda's plea

CATTERICK-based Army welfare worker SSgt Linda Johnston – featured in an article on the Army Benevolent Fund in the April 14 issue – has sent an SOS via Soldier.

John Simms wrote to her asking for an Adjutant General's Corps cap badge, but his address has gone astray. "Please send me your address again, John, as the cap badge and refund for postage are waiting to be sent," Linda says.

## Halifax shares: make sure you are eligible

UNLESS Halifax Building Society members are registered resident in the UK or a permitted territory\* they may not be entitled to shares.

Eligible members (Halifax have appropriate BFPO numbers) need take no action, but those not

resident in a permitted territory should change their account address in writing, by May 30, to one – a bank or relative, perhaps – in the UK. The building society is expected to convert to a PLC on June 2. Queries to Halifax helpline

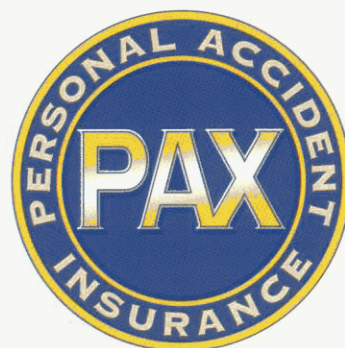


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Back to the battlefields

가평군청  
County office

Pipe Major Steve Small, 1 BW, leads the parade of Korean War veterans marching from the main street of Kapyong towards the British and Commonwealth Memorial

# Today's soldiers also remember

THOSE who fought there call it the Forgotten War, though why the peoples of so many nations should have allowed it to slip their collective memories is hard to understand.

In three years and one month about 1.8 million men were killed and wounded on both sides as the United Nations armies fought to save South Korea from the onslaught of communism and the world from another global war. About 1.4 million of the casualties were Chinese and North Korean.

In the South Korean Army alone, 415,000 died and 429,000 were wounded; the Americans lost 33,629, with 103,284 wounded.

Between August 1950 and July 1953, 1,263 British Commonwealth troops were killed and 4,817 wounded. Well over 1,000 were listed as missing, of whom a large proportion, mainly from 29 Brigade captured at the Battle of the Imjin River, were repatriated after suffering in prison camps. Others died in accidents or from sickness.

These Commonwealth

forces were from Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as the United Kingdom.

Thousands more casualties were suffered by other nations involved in the conflict – Belgium, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Holland, the Philippines, Thailand and Turkey.

More than 1,800 honours and awards went to Commonwealth participants. They included four Victoria Crosses and two George Crosses.

But if others forget, the veterans who fought under the United Nations banner to defend South Korea certainly do not. Every year they return in their hundreds to battlefield memorials in South Korea to remember fallen comrades. They are



Across the generations: Black Watch veteran John Mackay with Capt David Kemmis Betty, operations officer with today's 1 BW

supported by uniformed representatives of today's armies, navies, marines and air forces.

For the past four years, a strong contingent from the British Garrison in Hong Kong has joined representatives of the British Embassy in Seoul.

Last month, on the 46th anniversary of several key battles including the Imjin River and Kapyong, an 18-strong Hong

Kong party sponsored by United Nations Command Korea was led for the third successive year by Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton.

The military party, augmented by members of the US Forces in Korea, conducted battlefield studies, visited the demilitarised

Reports: Chris Horrocks  
Pictures: Mike Weston

● Turn to Page 19





Maj Gen Bryan Dutton with the Duke of Gloucester at the Gloster Memorial



Kings Regiment veterans Brian Hough and John Thomson



WO1 (GSM) Vince Bell with veterans Brig Derek Richardson and Frank Fallows



British Forces Hong Kong guard of honour at the Gloster Memorial ceremony

# Lucky Len survived seven hits

FIRST SHOT on the United Nations side in the Battle of the Imjin River in April 1951 was fired by a man who can claim to be one of the luckiest in British Army history.

Len Swatton, 28-year-old section mortar firer in 12 Platoon, D Company, the 1st Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment, had been wounded seven years earlier in the Normandy landings and was to survive six more "hits" before his Army career was over.

Now 75, Len, from Harefield, Middlesex, told his story with the blasé humour which comes with years of recollection as he returned with comrades to the Gloster Valley in South Korea last month.

"I had joined the Middlesex Regiment in 1941 and landed at Gold Beach on D+2 in 1944," he told *Soldier*. "On D+13 I was blown up by a mine as I was driving a machine-gun carrier."

"After being wounded several more times by shrapnel in Belgium and Holland I was shot when the war had actually ended. The ceasefire had already been signed. I was patrolling farms in Germany when someone shot me through the left leg."

"It took a while to recover and when I came out of hospital in 1947 I was sent to Palestine and finished my time in the Army the following year."

"In 1950 I was recalled from Reserve into the Gloucestershire Regiment along with many other Army Reservists."

"We found ourselves in the hills of Korea and I got a bullet in the same leg as last time, plus a piece of shrapnel in my arm. I was taken to a field hospital, where I was treated by Australian medics."

With a wry smile, Len Swatton added: "When I got back to Gloucester I was demobbed as a lance corporal, being 'of no further use'!"

Len was making the pilgrimage as one of 60 registered members of the



Len Swatton: fired first shot at Imjin

5,000-strong British Korea Veterans' Association. Like him, many make the journey under an assisted scheme run by the International Federation of Korean War Veterans, which has members in all 22 countries fighting under the UN banner in 1950-53.

The trips are sponsored by a number of commercial organisations and the veterans receive extraordinary hospitality from the South Koreans. This year BKVA registered members paid just £528 for the return trip, whereas slightly longer commercially-organised tours cost considerably more.

BKVA national overseas co-ordinator Frank Fallows said: "The generosity and goodwill of the Koreans must be underlined. Nothing is too much trouble for them."

All 200 places allocated for BKVA members in the year 2000, 50th anniversary of the start of the war, have already been filled. Even more will be attending in 2003.



Glosters veterans David Clark (left) and Norman Wilke at the Gloster Memorial wreath-laying ceremony

## Return to Hill 504

WE HAD spent a gruelling hour under an unforgiving South Korean sun climbing the steep, at times almost perpendicular, incline of Hill 504 above the once battle-scarred Kapyong Valley.

As if encouraged by the smiling people of a charmed and charming country, the purple wild flowers seemed to have chosen this beautiful spring day to come out to greet us.

But for at least one of this 40-strong party of battlefield students it had been an effort of supreme will-power of mind over ageing and protesting leg muscles, akin to ascending the Eiffel Tower by the staircase route, and punctuated by frequent stops to wipe the brow and gasp for breath and water.

The prize at the summit of those 504 painstaking metres was yet more water, a packed lunch, and the generous if slightly amused congratulations of the seemingly super-fit British, American and Australian Servicemen and battlefield historians.

Plus (the product, this, of a journalist's fevered imagination) a prayer of thanksgiving

for safe deliverance from a chaplain who seemed to have ascended with the aid of some unseen heavenly funicular railway.

This was April 18, 1997 and as we consumed our boxed lunches of fresh rolls and fruit and drank in the staggering story of the defence of this redoubt against ferocious waves

of fanatical Chinese marauders 46 years ago, we were left in no doubt that for those brave and tenacious United Nations soldiers it was anything but a picnic.

The Chinese had launched their spring offensive on April 22, 1951. In the west the attack had fallen heavily on 29 UK Bde and the 1st Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment had fought a gallant defence on the Imjin River, holding a Chinese army for three days and allowing US 1 Corps time to regroup to protect Seoul.

In the centre, the South Korean 6th Division had broken, leaving 27 (British Commonwealth) Brigade to face the onslaught.

Here above the Kapyong Valley, which we now surveyed from our idyllic vantage point, the 3rd Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment had fought a similar

Hill 504 towers over the Kapyong Valley. Below: From its peak, Maj Nick Foster, OC C Coy, 1 BW, is the battlefield guide



heroic defensive stand to blunt a Chinese advance.

All in the face of *real* hardship. In 1951, the diggers had had to climb those muscle-straining, near-vertical slopes weighed down by heavy equipment and supplies – then, against the odds, descend under fire with similar burdens, plus their wounded, plus their dead, plus their Chinese captives. Their fighting withdrawal has become a classic in the annals of modern warfare.

On our spring stroll in 1997, all we had to bear were our rucksacks, water bottles, cameras and packed lunches. Some of us, Over the Hill in one sense if not the other, could not even manage those.

Somehow it put everything sharply into perspective.

### ● From Page 17

zone at Panmunjom and took part in services at British and Commonwealth memorials.

At the Gloster Memorial, Solma-Ri, British Forces Hong Kong mounted a guard of honour commanded by Lt Col Nick Southward, HKMSC.

The Duke of Gloucester represented the Queen at this and other ceremonies and also present was the British Ambassador to Seoul, former Royal Artillery officer

Stephen Brown, and the Defence Attaché, Brig Colin Parr. Hong Kong Garrison chaplain the Rev Christopher Cook, who conducted the services of remembrance, later led a small BFHK party and veterans in a commemoration at Pusan.

With the impending handover to the Chinese it was the last occasion a Garrison party from Hong Kong would attend the South Korea ceremonies, although it is hoped British military support will still be possible in some form.







Back to the battlefields

# Gloster Hill: 'nearest thing to a grave I'll ever see'

GLOSTER HILL, South Korea, was an especially poignant destination for Sylvia Dangerfield and Eileen Baynham when they joined this year's veterans' pilgrimage.

Both, who have since remarried, were widowed on April 25, 1951 when their husbands, Sgt Ken Eames MM and Sgt Donald Northey, were killed while serving with the Glorious Glosters at the Battle of the Imjin River.

Sgt Northey, who was Mentioned in Dispatches, has no known grave. "I am visiting Gloster Hill because it is the nearest thing to a grave that I will ever see," said Mrs Baynham, of Portchester, Hants, who was making the trip with her son, Michael Northey.

"We have waited 46 years to do this. We are hoping perhaps to meet other veterans who were here when he was killed, who may know what happened.

"We have had a great deal of sorrow and we feel we are putting it to rest by making this pilgrimage."



Putting sorrow to rest: Eileen Baynham and Sylvia Dangerfield

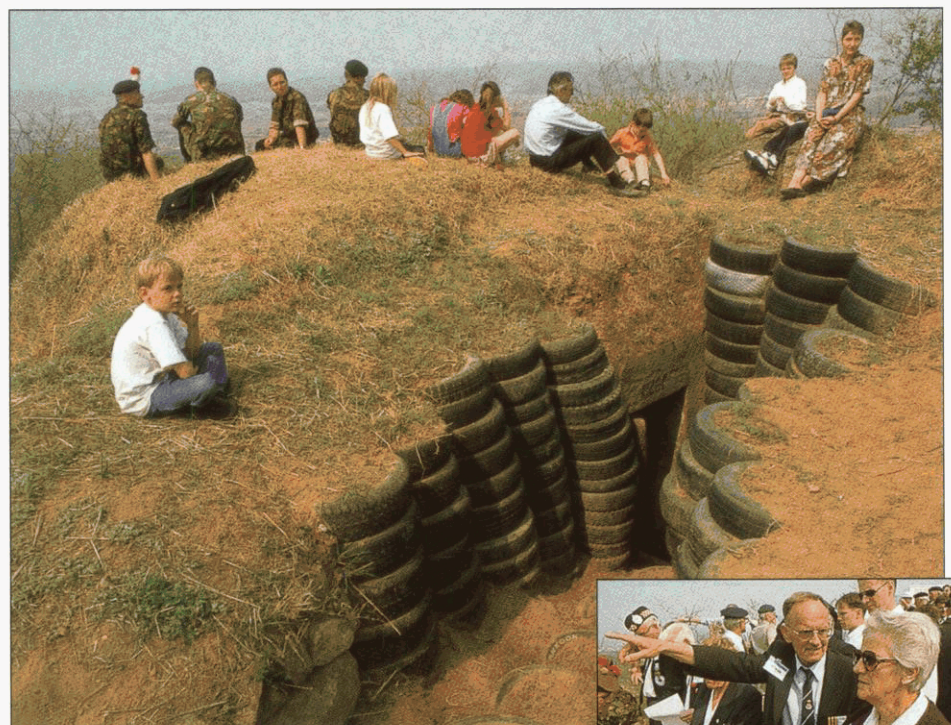
## Living tribute to the British fallen

A PERMANENT memorial is to be established in England to honour the 1,078 British Servicemen who died in the Korean War.

The British Korean Veterans Association (BKVA) has agreed to take part in the National Arboretum Appeal by sponsoring a plot in the new National Forest being created at Croxall in Staffordshire.

The central feature will be an avenue lined with trees representing the United Nations, in whose name the Korean war was fought, at the end of which will be a circular site of about six acres.

Within this area, the BKVA will have a one-acre plot on which trees of Korean



Young and old contemplate the past on defensive positions at Castle Hill overlooking the Gloster Valley  
Inset: John Mann makes a point above the battlefield

origin will be planted. The aim is for the memorial to be completed in time to be dedicated before the year 2000, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the war.

"The Korean War of 1950-53 is often referred to as the 'forgotten war'," said BKVA national chairman, Col (Retd) George Gadd. "We intend to correct this

impression by creating a permanent, living memorial to all those British Servicemen who died in the conflict."

An appeal has been launched for more than £10,000 needed to finance the project. Contributions to "BKVA Project 2000" can be sent to Alex Walker, Project Co-ordinator, 14 Gateford Avenue, Work-sop, Notts, S81 7BL.



# A question of taste

OVER a period of three days, a group of men with heightened taste buds had some serious work to carry out in a tower block at the Army School of Catering RLC in Aldershot.

They were members of the tri-Service food selection panel – holding its inaugural session for the next food supply contract.

During the course of their tastings, 45 commodities were assessed, ranging from quiche to lime cordial, and from beef-and-onion pie to yoghurt.

This time, the aim was a little different from the panel's usual tastings: Booker Foodservice Group – due to take over the Services contract from Naafi in October – was being given the once-over.

First, the members were bench-marking those commodities which had previously been 'selected' where the nominated product from Bookers was cheaper and, by inference, might be of a lower quality, and allowing the company to match where possible the selected product.

Secondly, as an on-going selection process of the 45 commodities, they were confirming the product list for the contract start date, as well as providing the means for information technologists to proceed with the various amendments which

may be required before then. Several of the items were also being assessed as part of a costing exercise for the daily messing rate.

Each day, a time-honoured pattern was followed: a small proportion of the commodities was assessed, usually by "blind-tasting" samples laid out on saucers and plates, and the results processed by computer, followed by a discussion and acceptance phase.

"Normally, the panels are held at units on a monthly basis, rotating the Services, but this is a one-off occasion," explained Maj Don Sinclair, Directorate Services Food Management (DFSFM).

Acting as a guest panel member was WO2 Brian Hutt, 9 Supply Regt RLC, based with 5 Training Regt at Grantham.

"I'm the middle man between the contractor and the customer," he said, "acting as a link between the units and the DFSM. Quite a few of the potential troubles can be resolved at my level."

The tasting exercise had been "very relaxed, very interesting" and "definitely not a waste of time," WO2 Hutt added.

The only minor drawback had been the previous day, when, he said, there had been an overload on sausages...

**Report:**  
**Phil Wilcox**  
**Pictures:**  
**Mike Weston**



Above – WO2 Brian Hutt with a selection of goodies to be tasted



Left – Food selection panel members pose with just some of the commodities duly tasted and tested at St Omer Barracks



# Highlanders are sharp and sparkly on Province tour

THIS YEAR is the 1,400th anniversary of the death of Colm Cille, patron saint of Londonderry. Legend has it that St Colm Cille yearned for his beloved oak grove in Londonderry when he set off on his mission to the islands of Scotland.

It is appropriate therefore that the resident unit in Londonderry is the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, recruited from the Highlands and islands of Scotland.

The Highlanders were formed in 1994 when The Queen's Own Highlanders and The Gordon Highlanders, two of Scotland's most renowned regiments, merged. Clan affiliations are clearly revealed by the wearing of Cameron, Gordon, and Mackenzie tartans and by a Gaelic motto – rare in the British Army – *Cuidich 'n Rìgh* (Help the King).

The Jocks had arrived in Londonderry, on the Foyle estuary, amid the warm glow of the IRA cease-fire. In February 1996 the explosion at Canary Wharf in London sent a chill wind across the Irish Sea.

Lt Col David Stewart, the commanding officer, described the change in tactics since the end of the cease-fire. "Between April 1995 and January 1997 no soldier had to be on routine patrol, either mobile or on foot, in the city.

"We were, however, providing military

escorts to the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

"After Christmas the RUC asked for assistance. Today this has increased operationally to routine foot, vehicle, helicopter and boat patrols.

"Sadly, the Troubles had returned to both green-and-pleasant lands.

"We have a four-stage cycle for the four companies, with each stage lasting one month: counter-terrorist operations, training, guard duties, and leave."

Steps to a state of higher alert were taken in brisk fashion, although the Highlanders' skills were not fully required until July 1996.

"The violence of the summer marching season took many by surprise," said Lt Col Stewart. "With our eyes firmly on preparation for the Apprentice Boys' Parade in August, we were called in at short notice to support the RUC in dealing with civil disorder. This then switched, in the space of a few hours, to dealing with full-scale rioting."

"We were aware that no one in the battalion had been involved in public disorder of this nature before," said Capt Simon Crane, who was in the thickest part of the rioting with his platoon. "The Pipes and Drums were on the left and we were in the centre, both facing a lively crowd of 3,500."

Over the ensuing three nights the Highlanders, protected by their body armour and riot shields, were on the receiving end of hundreds of petrol bombs while they, in turn, were forced to keep the rioters at a distance with baton rounds.

During the nightly

**Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne  
Pictures: Mike Weston**

rioting the images of the soldiers and their Saxon armoured personnel vehicles (APVs) silhouetted against the burning post office were seen around the world on newspapers and television.

One Highlander was pictured standing



Top cover: Hldrs Leon Purcell and Barry Watson



Above – On patrol are (back) Hldr Iain MacDonald, Hldr Barry Watson, LCpl Robbie Pearson and Hldr Paul Gardner; (front) Hldrs Mark Duffus, Sean Walter, Mickie Clark, Colin Knight  
Left – Pipe Maj Lewis Barclay, LCpl James Clark and Piper Robert Stewart of the Pipes and Drums



Members of the A Coy quick reaction force: Hldrs Steve Hay and Angus McNeil and Pte Chris McCurdy RLC



PTE Gareth Medlock, a young chef in the Royal Logistic Corps, was busy writing up the daily menu in his kitchen.

"Four choices of meat, two types of curry, spaghetti bolognese, chilli, two Chinese dishes, a choice of nine vegetables, three types of potato, fish, salad, omelettes, pies, and, of course, 'stovies'," he said.

There are many regional variations of stovies but his was a sausage stew with potatoes and onions.

Each morning by 8 o'clock the soldiers working at the

## CHOICE CUTS

patrol base fill in their meal options . . . and when they want to eat.

"I serve breakfast, brunch, and an evening meal, including a healthy choice.

"And they can eat at any time between 5 and 8pm. I try to make the meal timings as flexible as possible," he explained.

"There is nothing worse



Open all hours: Pte Medlock

than one of the lads coming in from a patrol and finding there there is nothing to eat.

"While I am running my own store-room, accounts, and kitchen, I am also studying for my NVQ 2 and 3 Chef Class 2. There is nothing better

than the experience of actually doing the job," added Pte Medlock.

Since amalgamation the Highlanders have been in the Province and very much out of sight of their countrymen back in Scotland. This was not helped by a television reporter referring to them as "Fusiliers" on the evening news.

He obviously missed the tartan flash worn on the right shoulder proclaiming the regiment's proud origins.

To promote the regiment in Scotland, active recruiting takes the shape of Exercise Highland Gather during which, once every six weeks, a platoon commander and a number of Jocks from the Province work with the regimental recruiting team in Scotland.

The mission is to re-inform and recruit.

● Turn to next page





Above - Lt Stephen Vaid (left) and LCpl Jim Rennie on a vehicle checkpoint

Left - Hldr Scott Henderson on Braveheart Challenge



# Highlanders

● From Page 23

Football matches against local pubs, meetings with cadet forces or schools help spread the message far and wide. A recent charity walk along the length of the River Spey raised money for a local deaf children's school.

One young soldier, Hldr Leon Purcell, joined the regiment early last year. "The recruiting sergeant said: 'You're a local lad, join your local unit, The Highlanders'. So I did. I want to train to be a physical training instructor and the regiment is helping me achieve that goal."

The distinctive echoes of the pipes and drums resonated throughout the barracks and into the courtyard beyond. Pipe Major Lewis Barclay first held a set of bagpipes 25 years ago under the watchful eye of his grandfather. Having won several solo competitions he is about to join the staff at the

Army School of Piping and Drumming as Pipe Major and Instructor.

"My brother, Alistair, is with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders," he said as he paused for breath. "He is the Drum Major of the Argylls and we will see one another soon at a Royal British Legion competition in Edinburgh. I guess you could say that this music runs in the family."

Army drumming champion LCpl James Clark explained his introduction to the drums: "I heard someone playing a side drum in a park in Beith, Ayrshire. I spoke to him and was introduced to the Ardrossan Pipe Band. Eighteen months later I joined the

Army to be a drummer." After training he attended the Guards School of Piping and Drumming in Surrey. He transferred to the Highlanders from the Scots Guards in 1995.



Cpl Les Gray, quick reaction force commander



Cpl Eddie Murray and Hldr Steve Larter in the shadow of the Letterkenny super sanger

## Wives respond to the challenge

MEMBERS of the Highlanders' wives' club have had several daunting challenges to face. They have also adjusted from a pre- to a post-cease-fire climate as professionally as their camouflage-clad other halves.

Cpl "Rab C" Cunningham is one of a staff of four who provide the liaison between the families and the regiment. A recent wives' military exercise, a fashion show, plus Christmas and Halloween parties, have kept the interest high during difficult times.

Exercise Heather Belle had 34 wives from The Highlanders, 8 Brigade and 176 RMP taking part in clay-pigeon shooting, go-karting, bus driving and tackling an assault course during the day, then digging trenches, laying line and setting up camp for the night.

Youth Leader Trudy Nelson gave her view of the events: "Great fun, especially the bus driving. But I hate beasts and I can't understand how I got paired up with a 6ft woman to dig our trench. I'm only 5ft 6in and by the time we had finished I couldn't see a thing."

Clothes for a charity fashion show held at the New Community Centre at Ballykelly were provided by a major chain store and models from the wives, chil-



Highlander wives: (clockwise from left) Heather Ballard, Trudy Nelson, Dee Taylor, Jenny Perry, Les Ross (standing), Barbara Lucas, Helen Davidson with Michael, Margit McCarthy with Michelle, and Natalie Ballard

dren, and soldiers of the regiment. About £500 was raised for the local Belmont House Special Needs School, and £50 for the mothers' and toddlers' group.

But when the regiment was called out last year the wives felt the agony too.

"We had just got ready to go out when the phone rang and they told him to get back on the transport," said Helen Davidson. "You are supposed to get used to that sort of thing, being an Army wife, but I'm not sure you really want to. This is a beautiful country and there's nothing we would like more than to be able to explore

and go shopping together. The end of the cease-fire put paid to that. It's a real shame."

The regiment is returning to the UK and Catterick Garrison. The consensus of opinion is that Yorkshire is a great post after a Northern Ireland tour.

"You can't really call it exotic but at least we will be able to see more of our husbands. The children are always so excited to see their fathers, and that's the same throughout the regiment," said German-born Margit McCarthy, who has been married for ten years.

Piper Robert Stewart has managed to combine two of his favourite activities during his Army career - piping and skiing.

"I liked the music and had a chance to join, he said simply. "And I have just returned from the Army winter championships in St Moritz where I qualified for the Downhill event." Without a doubt the best of both worlds.

Sport and competition are no strangers to the soldiers in Londonderry. In the battalion's own Braveheart Challenge, ten-man teams have done battle on the physical front. Each man pulling a 4-tonne vehicle for 50 metres, "heaves", sit-ups, and a rowing and bike biathlon, have tested the Highlanders to the limits of their strength and endurance, all in the name of fun.

Support Company came top in training and showed great promise for the final stages of the competition. As they gathered



Hldr John Lambert reaches the top of the Letterkenny sanger

around Hldr Scott Henderson, who had just finished sweating over the finish line, parts of the 25-ft high, mile-long wall around Londonderry glimmered in the late afternoon sun.

Lt Col Stewart summed up the tour: "The themes of excellence, readiness and humour have been brought sharply into focus during this tour."

"The battalion goes from strength to strength, and the skills and spirit of the Jocks continue to impress all who encounter them. The battalion has established, under testing conditions, a truly excellent reputation across a wide spectrum of endeavour."

"Further challenges lie in wait, for sure, but the 1st Battalion is ready to tackle them in true 'sharp and sparkly' fashion."

The 6th century monastery on the Scottish Island of Iona is testament to the work carried out by an Irish saint and apostle of Scotland known by the Islanders as St Columba. The Irish know of him by a different name, St Colm Cille, and his oak grove still waits for him under the watchful eyes of The Highlanders in Londonderry.



## In brief

**A Military Atlas of the First World War** by Arthur Banks. Second reprint of encyclopaedic study of the conflict with the aid of 250 maps plus hundreds of diagrams and illustrations. Leo Cooper, hardback, £19.95.

**Gubbins & SOE** by Peter Wilkin-son and Joan Bright Astley. First published in 1993, this book about Colin Gubbins, the commander of SOE – “a resistance leader of undoubted genius and remarkable aptitude” – contains new material. Pen & Sword Paperback, £11.95.

**Queen Mary and the Cruiser: The Curacao Disaster** by David A Thomas and Patrick Holmes. Nearly 340 men were lost when the *Queen Mary*, in service as a troopship, scythed through the cruiser HMS *Curacao* on the bright afternoon of October 2, 1942. Patrick Holmes is one of the few survivors alive today. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.95.

**Silent Heroes: The Story of the SAS** by Graeme Stewart. Author, who writes under a pseudonym, worked alongside the SAS as a war photographer. Michael O'Mara Books, paperback, £4.99.

## Spirit of hope that survived SOE and the Gestapo

CONFUCIUS wrote: “The height of misfortune is the loss of all hope”, and the author exemplifies this throughout his story of his service with Special Operations Executive (SOE), and in particular during his barbaric treatment at the hands of his German captors in Fresnes, Buchenwald, Camp Dora and Ravensbruck.

A Dutchman by birth who had lived in Belgium and spoke French and German fluently, he was an ideal recruit for SOE in France and the Low Countries after he had made his initial escape from Belgium via Spain to Canada, where he enlisted in Dutch forces.

Transferring to the comandos on arrival in England, he was selected for a two-man reconnaissance patrol to Sark because of his languages, which was so successful he was

**Pierre Lalande Special Agent** by Guido Zemsch-Schreve. Leo Cooper, £18.95.

noticed by SOE and recruited.

After more vigorous and specialist training he was inserted into France by parachute, together with a wireless operator, with the aim of setting up a new cell in Paris to replace one which had been compromised. This he did skilfully and enterprisingly, and his story of how he did it could be a textbook for future operators and is best left to the reader to enjoy.

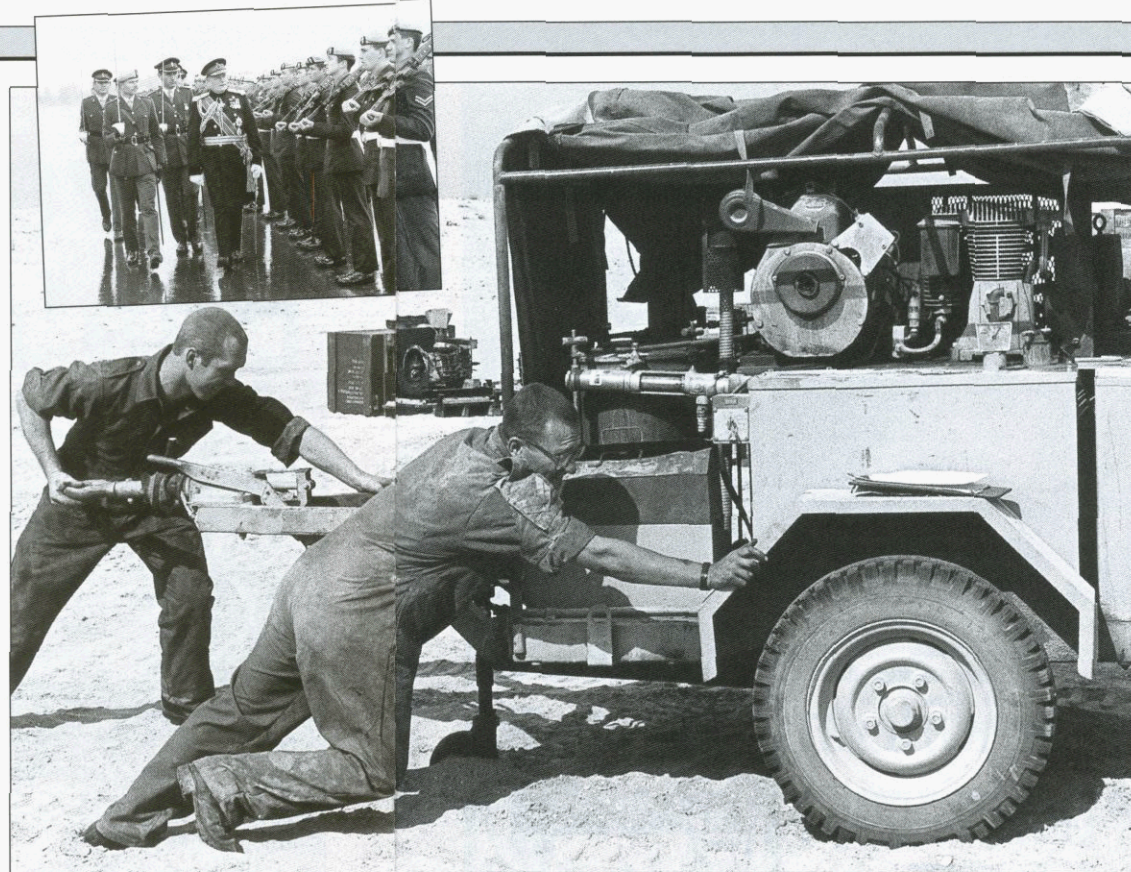
His capture in Paris, when trying to contact an agent who had been blown, was according to himself entirely his own fault and his action was against all the rules, which paints a more honest picture than that in M R D Foot's book *SOE*, which states “he was caught by a routine police operation while trying to hand over a transmitter”.

His capture and subsequent treatment by the Germans is a story of barbaric brutality, throughout which his ingenuity, courage, humour, instinct, indomitable spirit, SOE training and loyalty to his comrades shines through and is best left to the reader to experience. An experience it certainly is.

His reaction on returning to England after his escape in the closing days of the war in Europe however should be recorded. “I paid a preliminary visit to London to meet the heads of SOE's French Section, who made me welcome as a wasp at a picnic. Absolute anarchy reigned. The whole department was divided into rival factions, each of them obsessed with a single idea, namely to assist its claim to be the true saviour of France.”

What an end to such a tale of suffering and endurance.

Long may he enjoy his retirement in Provence. As he rightly says: “An appreciation of simple joys and the determination to preserve them intact – that should be our guiding light. May it lead the human race, step by step, towards its ultimate goal: a world at peace.” – PSN



REME, wet and dry: members of the corps during Operation Granby and (inset) on a rainy 50th anniversary parade

## Well-crafted story

This review is by Prof **Richard Holmes**, Director of the Security Studies Institute, Cranfield University at RMCS Shrivenham. A brigadier in the TA, he is to be the next Director of Reserve Forces and Cadets. A second series of his “War Walks” is due to be screened on BBC2 in the autumn.

of the more formal sort. However, it is commendably well written, and the authors are successful in enlivening what could so easily be stodgy fare with judicious sprinklings of anecdote.

A workshop commander organised a wives' visit to his unit during a BAOR exercise, only to discover that: “Several couples set off into deep cover. One telecommunications technician took his wife to show her his box-bodied repair vehicle. While inside, the door unaccountably jammed.”

On another exercise, when a padre gave communion to soldiers in full NBC protective kit, “his communion wafers were contained in a small tupperware box placed inside a green metal case.”

On a third, recovery crews had to deal with 21 armoured vehicles bogged down within an area of 16 square kilometres.

Even parades did not always go exactly as planned.

When the corps celebrated its freedom of entry into Minden in 1973, an injudiciously-parked civilian vehicle was nudged by a passing REME truck, whose driver was fined DM10 by a policeman-spectator: the fine was promptly refunded.

The parade celebrating REME's 50th anniversary coincided with an unseasonable downpour which drenched but did not dispirit participants and observers alike.

In short, if the book traces the detailed evolution of the British army's equipment support structure, it also celebrates the life of a corps.

Although *Craftsmen of the Army* will appeal primarily to serving and former members of REME, it is not merely a piece of parochial introspection, for it provides military historians with an invaluable

## Front-line doctor earned two VCs

ANY soldier capable of winning two Victoria Crosses in the space of a few months is an exception, even in the distinguished annals of heroism in the face of the enemy.

Capt Noel Chavasse RAMC, who died in August 1917 during the bloody slaughter at Passchendaele, was such a man.

In fact, he was the only soldier to win two VCs in the 1914-18 war.

Chavasse did not survive the 3½-month battle for Passchendaele. He died from the dreadful shellfire wounds he suffered while tending injured men.

Until then he had lived a charmed life. With death ever-constant, he somehow evaded the bullets. Such was his good fortune that his men consid-

**Chavasse Double VC** by Ann Clayton. Pen & Sword Paperback, £11.95.

ered him something of a regimental mascot.

A twin son of Bishop Chavasse, Bishop of Liverpool, he was, before joining the RAMC and being attached to the Liverpool Scottish, a young doctor at the city's Royal Southern Hospital, where his experiences stood him in good stead at Guillemont, at the time he won his first VC, and later at Passchendaele.

He had already won a Military Cross at Hooge.

During a German attack at Guillemont, Chavasse attended the wounded all day under heavy fire, frequently in view of the enemy. During the night he searched for wounded in front of the enemy lines, and next day was wounded while carrying an urgent case to safety while under fire.

That night he rescued three more men from a shellhole practically under the lip of the German trenches, buried the bodies of two officers and collected many identity discs.

Chavasse was seriously wounded early in the action at Passchendaele – he was hit twice in the head – but refused to leave his post. Under heavy fire, he insisted on going out to look for wounded men, saving many who would have died without attention.

He “died peacefully, at one o'clock in the afternoon of 4 August, 1917. It was the third anniversary of the outbreak of war”.

Anne Clayton's acclaimed biography, first published in 1992, has been reprinted in paperback. *Chavasse Double VC* tells of his infant days with his twin, Christopher, their time at Oxford, and his days as a junior doctor.

His letters, written from the front to his parents, family and fiancée – a girl who was prepared to go to France to marry him – are reproduced.

The Chavasse name is highly regarded in Liverpool to this day. Plans were announced in February for a £91.4-million development on the city's Chavasse Park.

## The French Foreign Legion -

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● Organisers at the Tomorrow's World Live exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham voted an Army equipment support stand one of the best.

Centrepiece of the display, put on by the Army Technical Support Agency, the Army Base Repair Organisation and REME, was an overhauled Warrior 513 repair and recovery vehicle delivered direct from ABRO Donnington, and a display of electronic, radio and optronic equipment.

The number of career enquiries received from thousands of visitors suggested that the hard work put into the stand was worth the effort.

## Canloan spirit alive and well

AN article (Diary, Oct 28) on Canloan – the Canadian exchange officers who served with British units during the Second World War – has drawn a belated response from Zimbabwe.

Brig Adrian Naughten, head of the British Military Advisory and

## Tony Soper's purple service

THREE Services combined to rescue naturalist Tony Soper when he narrowly escaped being crippled in a freak accident on far-away South Georgia.

He was lecturing on board the cruise ship *Professor Molchanov* in the South Atlantic and was hurt when a cable hoisting a powerboat used to ferry passengers to see king penguins snapped.

A heavy block fell on Tony's legs, badly breaking both bones in his lower right leg.

Maj Tony Willmen, an Army doctor at Grytviiken – four hours away – stabilised the fractures before the cruise ship raced back

to the Falkland Islands, where a Royal Navy surgeon operated on Tony in the King Edward Memorial Hospital. A plate and screws were inserted in the leg.

It was fortunate that the regular resupply RAF Tristar aircraft was due to leave the following day, and Tony was medevac'd to the UK.

Thanks to Army, Navy and Royal Air Force, the ornithologist was back in Britain just days after his horrific accident off one of the world's more remote islands.

"The chaps did a marvellous job on me," said Tony. "I can't thank everyone enough."

Training Team in Southern Africa, came across the story in a pile of back copies preserved in Harare.

His last appointment was as the Defence Adviser (DA) in Canada, where, he says, the spirit of Canloan is very much alive. Apparently there are branches in every province, and two years ago the 50th anniversary was celebrated by 80 Canloaners at a grand dinner in Ottawa arranged by Brig

Naughten and his British Defence Liaison Staff.

A silver trophy, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and to be known as the Canloan Cup, will be competed for between British and Canadian Army cadets at their annual shooting match.

Involvement of the British DA with Canloan goes back many years, and includes lunch for the veterans at the DA's residence following the annual Remembrance Day service in Ottawa.

Average attendance during Brig Naughten's three years in post was 57.

Latest figures reveal that of the original 673 Canloan officers (128 were killed in action), 193 are alive today, the youngest a hale and hearty 71.



Col Keith Calder (pictured), Honorary Colonel of 201 (Northern) Field Hospital (Volunteers), has finally hung up his forceps.

A member of the Territorial Army since 1960 and a former commanding officer of 201, he returned to serve as colonel two years ago.

He is succeeded by Gen Peter Craig.

### 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1947

**TROUBLED PALESTINE**  
The Army has banned the word "terrorist" as a description of Jewish gangsters who terrify only civilians. A soldier's life in Palestine is hardly a restful one, but today's 20-year-olds take it in their stride.

The men of HQ British Troops in Palestine and Transjordan are neither at war nor at peace, but last year more than 40 officers and men were killed and nearly 150 injured.

### 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1972



"I can never remember if the ace of spades means promotion or a court martial."

## Para dog's new stone

A stone marking the remains of Smokey the Polish para dog is to be rededicated in the grounds of a Lincolnshire school.

Smokey, plucked by a Polish officer from a blitzed building in London in 1945, became mascot to the Polish Medical Parachute Company based at what is now Stamford School. He shared the lives of the soldiers, even parachuting with them.

But when the company went to Arnhem, Smokey was left behind. In despair, he pined away.

The company, greatly upset by his death, gave him a military burial. A headstone had decayed so much that last year the school sought permission from the Polish Airborne Association to repair it.

The stone was rededicated during the Stamford Combined Cadet Force annual inspection at which the Polish Ambassador was a guest of honour.

● The REME Band, appearing on behalf of the Star and Garter Home, will be playing at a one-off Freedom Festival at Beaulieu on June 8-9 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Disabled Drivers Motor Club. Anyone registered disabled may gain free entry if they order tickets on 01275 836465.



Picture: SAC Garry Williams

A 15-year ambition achieved. Mr and Mrs Jones and WO2 Alan Phelps are greeted at Mt Pleasant Airport in the Falklands. Left to right are WO2 (SSM) Steve Laing RE, who organised the visit, WO2 Alan Phelps, Evelyn and Stan Jones, and Norman Clark of the Friends of '82 Trust

## Parents' emotional Falklands pilgrimage

FIFTEEN years on from the Falklands War, the parents of a young sapper who was killed during one of the final battles have made an emotional pilgrimage to the mountain-top where he died.

Christopher Jones RE (18), who was attached to 45 Commando, Royal Marines, was killed by mortar fire on June 12, 1982, during the fighting for Two Sisters, a craggy hill holding up the final British advance on Port Stanley.

His body was returned to Britain for burial, but his parents, Stan and Evelyn Jones, of Cinderford, Glos, had wanted to walk on the mountain and see the islands and people that he had fought for.

Their chance came in March, when Headquarters British Forces Falklands and a local civilian

group, the Friends of '82 Trust, organised the 16,000-mile round trip.

Mr and Mrs Jones were accompanied to the Falklands by their son-in-law, WO2 Alan Phelps RM, himself a Falklands veteran. WO2 Phelps was able to give Mr and Mrs Jones a poignant tour of the Two Sisters battlefield, where debris from the fighting still litters the landscape.

The lasting danger of Falklands battle sites was vividly illustrated when Mr Jones found an unexploded mortar shell. It was later destroyed by a bomb disposal team from Stanley.

The three visitors laid wreaths at war memorials on nearby Sapper Hill, at Goose Green, and in Stanley.

## REUNIONS

**Inns of Court Regiment and City of London Yeomanry:** Garden party to mark 50th anniversary of reforming of two units, June 4, in Lincoln's Inn. Former Rough Riders and members of Devil's Own, permanent staff, wives and friends welcome. Tickets (£10) from T Taylor, Pine View, Haslemere Road, Witley, Godalming, Surrey GU8 5QA (tel 01428 683757).

**6th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders 1939-45:** Annual reunion dinner, Sept 5, at RBL, Buckie. All Gordon Highlanders welcome. Details from A Robson on 01542 833254.

**Armourers' Association:** The Armourers and Artificers Weapon REME and RAOG annual reunion takes place at the Victory Services Club, London, June 21. Details from Chris Dennis, 18 Willowslea Road, Worcester WR3 7QP (tel 01905 755334).

**Hong Kong:** Reunion on July 5 at the Royal Sailors' Home Club, Portsmouth, has been confirmed. Anyone who served in Hong Kong in recent years is welcome. Cheques for £12 payable to M L Rutley and forwarded to him at 36

Albermarle Avenue, Elson, Gosport, Hants PO12 4HU before June 15. Details on 01705 501083.

**Staffordshire Regiment:** Annual reunion to be held at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield on Sept 13. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY

## SEARCHLINE

Ex-members of **105 Provost Company RMP** who served in Austria on Four Power Patrol (Vienna), 1945-55, sought. Ring 01252 524826.

Details of **315 Battery, 130 Fd Regt (Lowland) RA**, attached to

(please enclose sae).

**12 Green Howards/161 Regimentt RAC 1942-44:** Ex-personnel who served in Scarborough, Trowbridge, Wiltshire and Ballymena sought for reunion in Redcar on Sept 20. Contact Vic Sylvester, 5 Longbeck Road, Marske by the Sea, Redcar TS11 6EZ (tel 01642 486932).

**105 Club Austria RMP:** Reunion dinner in Windermere, Oct 11. Ex-members of 105 Provost Company welcome. Further details on 01252 524826.

52nd Lowland Division, and trained at Harwich and Colchester in early stages of Second World War, sought by Charles Cameron Carruthers, 14 Poplar Street, Dunbar, East Lothian EN42 LP6.

Miss L Williams wishes to contact

## Scholarship to Korea

● Closing date for applications for a post-graduate scholarship in Korea is June 30.

The Samsung-Royal British Legion Korean scholarship, in association with the British Korean Veterans' Association, is for British nationals aged between 21 and 30 on March 1 next year. It is open to serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces, their spouses and descendants.

Preference is given to descendants of Korean War veterans: the scholarship fund was set up by Samsung Europe in memory of those who gave their lives during the conflict.

Details from Col T H English on 0171 973-7256.

### MAY

Overlord military vehicle show, which was to have taken place at Longmoor Camp, Hants, has been rescheduled for May 24-26 at Popham Airfield, Basingstoke.

### JUNE

**4-5:** Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Household Division, Horse Guards. Tickets on 0171 839-5323.

**14:** Queen's Birthday Parade, F Coy Scots Guards, Horse Guards (Major General's Review, **May 31**; Colonel's Review, **June 7**).

**21:** Sherborne Military Tattoo, Sherborne Castle, Dorset, in aid of Poppy Appeal and Army Benevolent Fund. Features displays by White Helmets, PWRR free-fall team, D and D Band, RGR Pipes and Drums, 9 Para Sqn RE, AAC helicopters.

**28-29:** Victorian Military Society celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, in the Historic Dockyard, Chatham.

**29:** Colchester Garrison County Day, Fingringhoe, featuring Red Devils and Army tug-of-war.

### JULY

**6:** 30 Signal Regiment, open day, Bramcote featuring White Helmets, R Signals and Brigade of Gurkhas bands, APTC display team (01455 222551).

**15-27:** Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets: 0171 244-0244.

**27:** Middle Wallop Challenge 97 air show. Tickets: 01980 674421.

### SEPTEMBER

**6-7:** Berwick Military Tattoo, The Barracks, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

**13-15:** Military Survey 250th anniversary, Hermitage.

### OCTOBER

**7-8:** Cyprus Walkabout.

**24:** Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance. Tickets: 01843 292882.

● Veterans will be welcome at the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division commemorations in Normandy on June 6. The timetable is: Caen Chateau 1015 hrs; Caen 3 Div monument 1030; Hermanville La Breche sea front 1915; Hermanville Cemetery 2045. Further information from Maj (Retd) Delius on 01980 672326.

## MSMs

The following have been awarded MSMs:

**RA:** SSgt W J McOwan; SSgt B Summerfield.

**Scottish Division:** Sgt R E Scott, BW.

**RLC:** WO1 E A Larrard; WO2 Ng Kit Choi.

**REME:** WO2 G French.

any RAOG survivors of ss *Anselm*, torpedoed July 5, 1941 off the Azores bound for Tokoradi. Her brother, serving in the RAF, was lost when the ship went down. Replies to 48 Heol Preseli, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire SA65 9JG (01348 872953).

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F	O	R	A	T	A	F	T	I	O	E
O	L	M	W	C	E	F	I	D	R	T
R	I	E	K	I	A	R	S	C	R	U
D	P	E	P	S	G	I	M	L	A	B
A	Y	T	U	T	A	I	R	E	D	I
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# Symbol of loyalty returned to Gurkhas

A VALUABLE regimental symbol, dating from the Indian Mutiny 140 years ago, has been returned to the Gurkhas by their Colonel-in-Chief.

The Prince of Wales formally handed the Queen's Truncheon to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, during a ceremony at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on April 28.

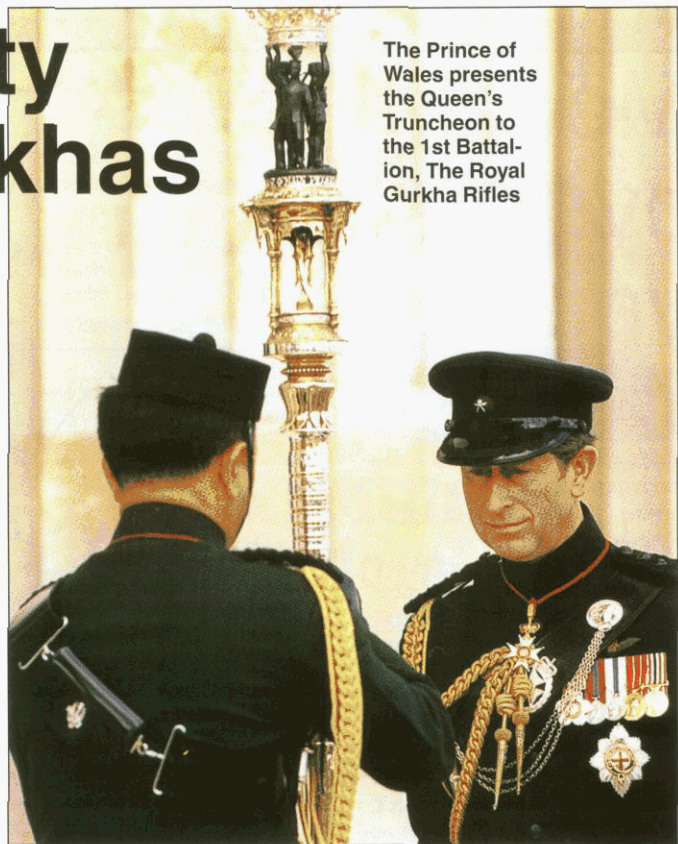
The equivalent of a royal standard, the imposing and ornate Truncheon had been the pride of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

It was presented to the regiment by Queen Victoria to mark the loyalty of its soldiers during the rebellion of 1857.

But when the four Gurkha regiments were disbanded in 1994 and replaced by the present Royal Gurkha Rifles, the Queen's Truncheon, which is similar to a drum major's mace, was placed in the Indian Army Memorial Room at Sandhurst.

There it was expected to remain, but because of its unique design and significance as a symbol of Gurkha loyalty and bravery, the Truncheon has now been returned to regimental service.

Watching the ceremony at Sandhurst was Lt (QGO) Bishnukumar Pun, who, when serving with the old 2nd Gurkhas in 1994, had handed the Truncheon to the Prince of Wales for safe keeping.



The Prince of Wales presents the Queen's Truncheon to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles

Picture: Terry Champion

## GSM 'Near East'

**Q: When was the GSM – Bar 'Near East' issued and why, and what was the qualifying service and geographical zone covered? (H Cross, March 31).**

THE General Service Medal (Army and RAF) 1918-62 with clasp "Near East" was authorised in Army Order 81/1957. It was to be awarded to officers and other ranks of UK Forces and certain listed civilian categories.

The area and dates were Egypt and Egyptian Waters from October 31 to December 22, 1956.

The periods were one day, or part thereof, ashore; one day in one of the 182 listed ships\*; or one sortie by aircrew over the operational area.

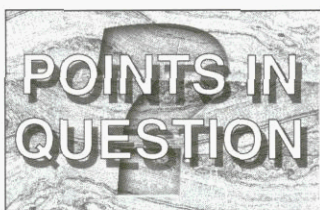
\*The ships were listed by name and the breakdown includes 59 Royal Navy, 8 LSTs, 1 LS hospital (S), 5 MLs, 30 RFAs, 6 HM tugs, 7 HM salvage vessels, 3 French ships, 3 RASC LCTs, and 52 merchantmen. – **Lt Col (Retd) A R Tinson, Fleet, Hants.**

## 1st Chinese Regiment

**Q: Can readers shed light on the origins of the 1st Chinese Regiment and its badge? (Mr A E Tate, April 28).**

THE 1st Chinese Regiment of Infantry (also called the Wei-Hai-Wei Regiment) was formed in Nov 1898 after Britain obtained the lease of the port and town of Wei-Hai-Wei in Shantung Province to prevent the Gulf of Pechili from falling under the domination of any single foreign power.

It was recruited from the local Chinese of the town and surrounding district but also included a number of Manchus. Service in the regiment proved so popular



that by 1901 it had a strength of 1,320 all ranks, organised as 12 companies.

In 1900 the regiment was called upon to open fire on serious disturbances in Wei-Hai-Wei instigated by the popularist Boxer Movement.

A detachment of four companies under Lt Col Hamilton Bower saw action in the field against the main Boxer armies and took part in the defence of Peking Legations June 10-14, Taku Forts on the Peiho River June 17, capture of Tsientsin City July 13 [hence the battle honour on the cap badge], and relief of Peking August 14.

The detachment was highly praised for its discipline and gallantry during the campaign. It lost 44 killed and 14 wounded.

The need to maintain a garrison at Wei-Hai-Wei disappeared with the signing of a treaty with Japan and the regiment was disbanded in June 1906.

It was a sad end to a fine unit. – **R A Hamilton, Ainsdale, Southport.**

THE regiment wore a dark blue uniform cut in Indian Army style, a blue turban, long blue puttees, a red cummerbund and brown leather equipment (less boots, which were black).

Twelve other ranks under a European SNCO marched in the Coronation procession of King Edward VII in 1902. – **Pete de Wood, Schwalmthal, Germany.**

● Many thanks to all the other readers who responded, including the Rev R A McDowall, HQ Defence School of Transport, Leconfield, E Yorks, who mentions that a succinct history of the regiment and other 20th century frontier units can be found in James Lunt's book *Imperial Sunset*, published by Macdonald in 1981. – **Editor**

## Dragon badge

IN RESPONSE to Messrs Kelly and Edwards (April 14), the China Dragon of the Royal Berkshire Regiment was awarded to the 49th Foot in 1843 and appeared as a badge on their glengarries from 1874.

A green dragon is thought to have distinguished the colours of The Buffs in about 1707, when the regiment was in Ghent. Its origin is obscure but may be traced to a dragon in Dutch history which was taken from a mosque during the Crusades and brought to Bruges, later to be transferred to Ghent.

Alternatively, the emblem could have been conferred on The Buffs by Queen Anne at the behest of her husband, the Colonel of the

Regiment, Prince George of Denmark – a symbol of their roots in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. A dragon was used as a supporter in the arms of both Elizabeth and the City of London.

The old saying "Steady the Buffs" dates from 1858, when the newly-raised 2nd Battalion shared barracks in Malta with the veteran 21st Fusiliers.

The recruit Buffs needed to be steadied when on parade next to the Fusiliers, and the oft-heard command, "Steady the Buffs!" was mimicked so often by the Fusiliers that it crept into common usage. – **P D Griffin, Leicester.**

FOR confirmation that the China Dragon was worn by the 49th Foot (Hertfordshire Regt) I refer Mr Edwards to *Head-dress Badges of the British Army Vol 1* by Kipling and King. Illustration No 505 shows the badge with the dragon standing on the word China, the number (49), the title "Princess Charlotte of Wales" and the word "Hertfordshire" at the top. – **Sgt Colin Anstee (ex-Royal Anglian), HQ Company 5th Bn PWRR, Canterbury.**

## For the record

### Bosnia sappers

YOUR feature "All change for sappers in Bosnia" (March 31) mentioned 42 Survey Engineer Group from the UK as being part of 39 Engr Regt, when in fact the majority of soldiers in Geo Tp, Banja Luka, have been provided by 14 Independent Topographic Sqn, Royal Engineers, based in Germany.

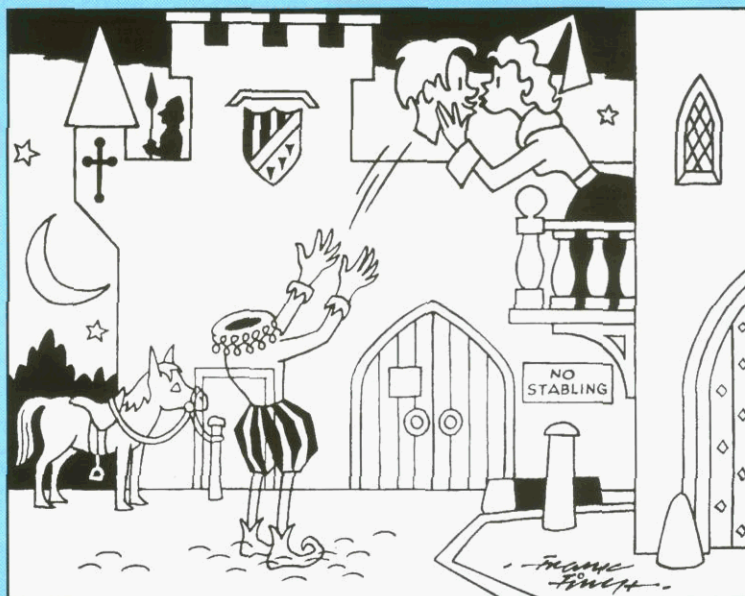
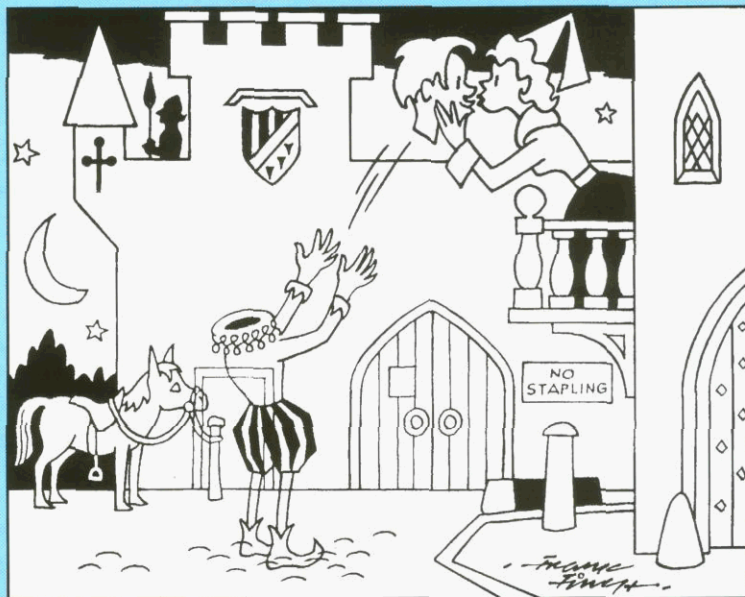
We are an extremely proud and aggressive unit who are well-known in UKSC(G) as a group of people who try our hardest and

excel at nearly everything we do. A mention in the magazine would appease the lads in "Fighting 14". – **Spr Scooby McGregor, Geo Tp, HQ MND (SW), Banja Luka.**

### No RASC?

The Collectors' Series article on the Adjutant General's Corps made no mention of the RASC, in which I enlisted in 1937. Incidentally, I have just relinquished the post of standard bearer at my local Royal British Legion, aged 82. – **R J Shears.**





COMPETITION 662

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Competition No 659 (April 14 issue): First correct entry drawn was from G L Massey, of Solihull, West Midlands, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs K Patrickson, c/o 9 Signal Regiment, BFPO 59, and ex-Royal Signaller B A Burt, of Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. The ten differences were: hotel windows, balcony; falling skier's left foot, left ski pole; mountain peak, left centre; lines on peak at right; skier No 2's hairline, figure 2, left glove; left-hand silhouetted treetop.



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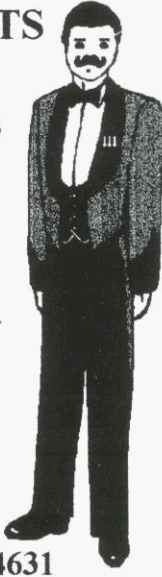
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**TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL.** Please send for details enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope to: *Soldier Magazine*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

**Alison, 31, 5'1"**, a blue-eyed blonde who enjoys socialising, outdoor pursuits, music and the countryside. Seeking sincere male pen pals aged 24-38. **P990** 11/97

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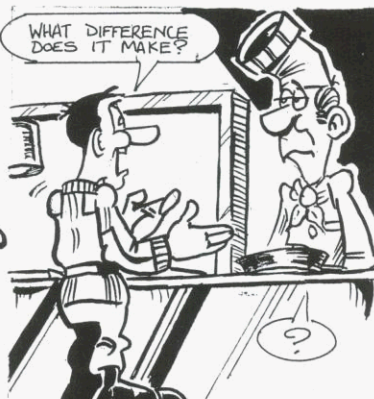
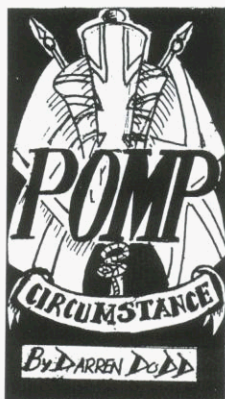
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### The Royal Anglian Regiment Association

will be holding its Annual Gathering/Reunion at Oakington Barracks, Stanton, Cambs on Sunday 20th July 1997.

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Gates open at 9.00am.

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APRIL 26, 1997

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**NOTICE:** Only 6 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

**May 3, 1997**

**First (293 runs, £2,500):** Maj DS Hancock, 1PWO, Chester.

**Second (289 runs, £1,250):** Sgt IA Urquhart, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, BFPO 40.

**Third (288 runs, £750):** Sgt M Hay, QRL, BFPO 36

**Fourth (287 runs, £500):** Cpl I Williams, 12 Regt RA, BFPO 16.

**Fifth (285 runs, £400):** Cpl RA Underdown, 1 GS Regt RLC, BFPO 47.

**Sixth (281 runs, £250):** Cpl KA Higgins, 38 Engr Regt Ripon; Capt D Parkin, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

**Eighth (280 runs, £33.33):** LCpl KK Darnton, 4 Regt RA, BFPO 36; Sgt RD Horsman 1 PWRR, Canterbury; Maj DE Langford, HQ Land Wilton.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Lotteries for May 3 onwards will be based on county cricket scores, in accordance with the rules. In the case of the May 3 lottery itself, the results will be based on the scores in matches played with the following priority:

- First: Benson and Hedges Cup ties Fri May 2
- Second: Benson and Hedges Cup ties Wed Apr 30
- Third: Benson and Hedges Cup ties Mon Apr 28
- Fourth: Sunday League matches Sun May 4.

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Raring to go: Joselyn (left) and Josephus Thomas

## Twin ambitions

WHEN Joselyn Thomas hoodwinked twin brother Josephus into enlisting – four weeks after doing so himself – Woodford Green Athletics Club's loss became the Army's precious gain.

Both 25-year-olds had been leading (in more ways than one) sprinters in their adopted area of south London, where they had lived since arriving from Sierra Leone in 1987.

Josephus, the younger by 15 minutes, was a full-time athlete over 100m and 200m, was rated fifth in the UK and had come second to Linford Christie in the GRE finals at Hendon.

In fact, both brothers could lay claim to having been advised by, and beaten, the former World, Olympic, European and Commonwealth 100m champion, due to retire this year.

"Linford met a friend of ours," Joselyn explained, "and asked us to go training with him. We had three races against him, and had faster times than him in two. He was very impressed, gave us some advice, and since then we have slashed our 100m times."

After Joselyn had walked into the recruiting office in the Strand and enlisted, his twin said he was mad.

But, a month into his training at ATR Pirbright, he persuaded Thomas junior to follow in his footsteps.

Joselyn got Josephus to join up by telling him how easy it was. "After he signed up, I broke the news to him that it

was hard, with six-mile runs with heavy packs."

"Our coach is world class," said Josephus, "but, since joining the Army, our runs are getting faster, and it was quite a surprise to find how fit our physical training instructors are."

"It was like starting our athletics career again. Before, as soon as our legs gave up, so would we. But now we are pushed a lot further."

Joselyn's first basic fitness test (BFT) at Pirbright was completed in 11min 40sec – since pegged to nine minutes.

"Mentally and physically I am extremely fit," he told *Soldier*. "I am pleased with the way my instructors have

### SPORTING PROFILE

taught me: also, I haven't found any racial discrimination, which is good."

His brother is equally enthusiastic about Army life and the calibre of the staff at Pirbright.

"Our friends said we were crazy, and that the Army would not allow us to do specialised training for sprinting. They were wrong," said Josephus.

"It is not just about shooting a gun: you have to be fit and well-disciplined and alert all the time. I find I can now map-read and administer first aid."

And discipline presents no problem to the twins: having a father who is the Commissioner of Police in Sierra Leone saw to that, they say.

Both realise that the Army

has first claim on them as far as sporting representation is concerned: Joselyn won his race at a recent meeting against the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and British Universities, having been summoned directly from a five-day exercise.

The brothers are each other's biggest fans. Josephus admits: "If I'm racing against Joselyn, I've got to beat him. I've got to get everything right. I'm usually faster than him over 100m or 200m, but can't touch him after that."

Long-term goal is the 2000 Olympics, but their immediate aim is to represent both the Army and Combined Services.

"I don't think anyone will beat us," said Josephus, without a trace of immodesty.

At some stage, the twins say, they would both like to pass on the benefits of their physical strength and advice, perhaps qualifying as PTIs themselves.

Joselyn is currently undergoing his Phase 2 training at RLC Deepcut; Josephus is due to pass out from Pirbright this month.

"It's the best job in the world and we are looking forward to the next 20 years," Joselyn said, as his brother nodded in agreement.

Although neither of them smokes or drinks, it is fairly safe to say that, before the year is out, they will be raising an imaginary glass to the toast in Army athletic circles: "Make mine a double!" – PBW

Picture: Terry Champion

# Howard's end puts paid to RAF's Twickenham dream

Army 35, RAF 35

IN THE dying seconds of the Twickenham decider, John Murley (SEAE) threw himself over the Royal Air Force try line to the left of the North Stand posts, writes **Roger Thompson**.

With the score then 35-33 to the RAF, Howard Graham (ATR), in total silence, calmly, and from an acute angle, cleared the despairing outstretched light-blue hands to kick the two-point conversion and secure a draw.

The previous 80 minutes had witnessed an epic, but in many ways unnecessary, battle when, yet again, the Reds almost turned a certain win into defeat.

It was tantamount to Henry V inspiring his troops to climb "once more into the breach" then saying: "OK, lads, that's enough for now, 30 minutes for a fag."

At 25-10 in the lead, and despite a fine Rory Underwood try, the RAF defence was in tatters. It was a match already won but the Army simply failed to apply the tourniquet, lost concentration and almost the match.

The first half contained some sparkling Army rugby, with Rob Abernethy (RGR) scoring two fine tries.

Receiving more ball than a golf-driving range, the Army threequarters were cohesive. Graham and Rory Jones (7 RHA) teased and turned the



Supported by Sgt Pete Curtis and Maj Rob Wainwright (right), Lt Brian Johnson splits the RAF defence

Picture: Roger Thompson

RAF defence, time and again generating space for Abernethy, Johnson and Bartliff who were only hauled down by excellent cover defence.

At the breakdowns the Red pack rammed in to re-cycle the ball for a host of attacking options. Frequently, the Army players challenged the RAF defence until it literally ran out of tacklers.

Lee Denham (2 Sig Regt), a less than shrinking violet,

preparing to storm the central trenches, found himself in the RAF 22 with a clear run to the posts. Knowles converted.

At 25-10 ahead, corporate Army amnesia set in – or was it the thought of a lucrative three-year contract with a well known brand of sleeping pill?

On the light blue side the Few became a Few More, then the Many. Courtesy of an "iffy" penalty try the airmen regrouped and attacked gaps of

autobahn proportions in the Army midfield.

Unusually, the Red pack had to tackle back to cover the gaps as the RAF – after-burners glowing, radars fixed on the Army line and posts – took off. Kamikaze stuff but very exciting – and it worked. Rory Underwood scored another excellent try, converted by Lazenby, to reduce the Army lead to just 28-27.

When Smith scored in the

other corner and the RAF crowned the afternoon with a well-taken drop goal, the light blues led 35-28 with five minutes to go. The Army's sleeping pill contract finally expired.

Their pack, with replacements Andy Dawling and John Murley in a refreshed back row, soon regained not only the initiative but also the ball and authority. Seb Stewart, Julian Brammer and Matt Stewart slammed into the RAF front-line fighters, gaining vital yards and committing the defence.

Dave Dahinten (19 Regt RA), Lee Francis (2 Sig Regt) and Peter Curtis (2 Sig Regt) drove all before them while Rob Wainwright called the tunes.

At half-back John Denwood (ATR) and Mark Botten, at a crucial time, ensured a no-nonsense approach, popping the ball to the big forwards who hit the rucks at speed.

For five agonising minutes Twickenham shuddered and, in RAF parlance, the referee had nothing left on his altimeter when John Murley forced his way over.

The conversion by Howard Graham – a single shot landed with salvo-like proportions – provided a 35-35 draw, and, as it turns out, the 1997 Willis Corroon Inter-Services title.

The competition is run on Courage League lines, so the Army's victory against the Royal Navy, the only win of the championship, was the decider.

## Motor cyclists do it for charity

THIRTY-ONE teams took part in Exercise Enduring Help, a 24-hour motor-cycle cross-country endurance race at Bordon, Hants.

Riders had to contend with bumpy terrain on an Army training area.

The winning four-man team, entered by the Bordon-based School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, managed to complete 167 laps of the 4.2 mile circuit, beating off a strong challenge from 150

Transport Regiment (V) and 3 RHA.

Territorial Army soldiers from 200 Squadron RLC celebrated their unit's first year in existence by finishing 16th in their first attempt at the race.

Their team captain, Sgt Norman Greeves, had spent several months training his team in off-road riding techniques and maintenance procedures.

His OC, Maj Richard Arnold, said: "The aim of the

competition was to improve cross-country riding within the Army and to test the endurance of both rider and motor cycle over harsh terrain. It certainly separated the tough from the rest."

Organised by Capt Jason Butler and SSgt Graham Gorse of 7 Battalion REME, the event raised more than £5,000 for Childline and Service charities including SSAFA Forces Help and the Army Benevolent Fund.



A rider needs a helping hand to get across to get out of a sandpit

Picture: Jacky Billington, Bordon Herald



# RSME RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

3 RSME 3, 1 A and SH 0

MORE than 600 spectators packed the new stand at the Aldershot Military Stadium to watch 3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment beat the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 3-0 in the 97th Army Challenge Cup football final, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Early exchanges were even, although the long throw-ins from 3 RSME skipper Cpl Mayers caused the Highlanders some anxious moments in defence.

For the sappers, Cpl Brown directed traffic in midfield while Cpls Reeves and Innes created the first real opening, a chance scrambled clear by the A and SH defence.

The sappers went ahead in the 16th minute when a long ball out to the right was crossed first time by LCpl Shannon and Argyll defender Cpl Gardiner's back-header cleared his own colleagues and fell for Innes to stoop and head the ball home.

Two minutes later Innes should have increased the lead when a 30-yard through ball from Reeves left him clear with only Petrie to beat, but the keeper spread himself well and cleared the danger.

The infantry side had a chance to level the score when a Pte McAuley corner on the left found Rhodnan who easily beat his man, only for his curling shot to go fractionally wide.

The Jocks fought very hard for an equaliser with LCpl



Evasive action: LCpl Michael McMullen (left) shrugs off the attentions of 3 RSME's Cpl Steve Reeves and LCpl Ian Finch during the 97th Challenge Cup final at the refurbished Aldershot Military Stadium

Provan, LCpl McMullen, Cameron and Rhodnan going close.

The sappers gradually took control but the nearest they came to increasing their advantage was a thumping 25-yarder from Reeves that rattled the Argyll's crossbar.

In between corners from Capt Green, LCpl Finch saw his pinpoint cross headed behind. The sappers continued to press and substitute

LCpl McNulty caused havoc down the left flank.

At the other end Maj Philips's timely tackle on Cameron saved a dangerous situation.

A lone piper in the Scottish contingent gave an impromptu performance to rally his team with 15 minutes left, but it was the sappers who responded by scoring two goals in the last ten minutes.

Reeves bundled in the first

following a cross from the right and three minutes later, a thunderous shot from Shannon was given a final touch by Cpl Bomber Brown.

Cpl Bomber Brown was named man of the match and received the Bill Wilson Memorial Trophy.

## Guards denied

1 Coldm Gds 24,  
RAF Laarbruch 36

DESPITE a late surge, the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards rugby league team failed to win the British Forces Germany Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final at Munster.

Laarbruch's side dominated the first half, leading 26-0 at the interval. Strong words from the Guards' trainer galvanised the soldiers who came out firing on all cylinders. They scored some excellent tries but were still 12 points behind when time ran out.

## Topos find route to goal

THE Army minor units Hockey Cup has been won by 14 Independent Topographic Squadron RE, who beat 42 Survey Engineer Group 4-1 at Aldershot.

The Monchengladbach-based sapper squadron travelled to Hampshire to take part in the competition after beating 14 Supply Regiment RLC 9-0 in the British Army (Germany) minor units final.

Having reached the final, 42 Survey were hoping to make it three titles in a row, but were denied their hat trick by the determined Topo team. The side from Germany dominated at first, surprising 42 Survey with an early goal from Spr Si Cuthbertson.

Survey Group came back into the game towards the end of the first half when a penalty stroke by LCpl Alfie Conetta

defeated 14 Squadron's goalkeeper, Sgt Taff Thomas.

With their sights set firmly on the winners' medals, they dominated from the re-start. But a superb solo effort by WO2 Jeff Day put 14 Squadron back in the lead and was followed by a goal from Sgt Graham Symes.

Day scored his second ten minutes from time to seal the victory.



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# SOLDIER

Soldiers from 6 Support Regiment RLC storm ashore as dawn breaks over Milanda beach in the Western Sovereign Base, Cyprus. Supported by landing craft from 417 Maritime Troop RLC at RAF Akrotiri, Gutersloh-based 6 Regt were taking part in a Lion Sun exercise.

Picture: Cpl Paul Brownbridge RLC

