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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

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Vol 50/5

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Blow to Bisley as RASAM is abandoned

Above – Running
down the range:
troops take part in the
last RASAM at Bisley

THE ARMY's long involvement with Bisley is to be dramatically curtailed following a major review of Army shooting policy.

The Regular Army Skill-At-Arms Meeting (RASAM), a focal point of Army marksmanship for more than 100 years, is to be abandoned in favour of a shoulder-to-shoulder Queen's Medal competition at Bisley and Pirbright and mandatory participation by all Regular units in the Tickle non-central competition.

The loss of RASAM, greeted with dismay by military marksmen, who believe the decision will lead to a reduction in standards, follows a protracted rearguard action in its defence by the Service rifle community.

A major factor in the Army Board's decision, effective from April 1, was the "lack of evidence that the Army as a whole was benefiting from the very high quality of shooting attained at RASAM", said a formal announcement of the changes.

"A more representative standard of competition shooting should result from the new arrangements with benefits for the operational evaluation of units."

The Army has traditionally

devoted considerable manpower and technical resources to RASAM and the internationally famous Bisley meeting which annually draws the world's finest Service weapon shots to the Surrey ranges.

But the Bisley connection will be retained in the form of a new event, to be known as the Regular Army Queen's Medal competition. The Army's 50 best shots, selected from District and Command skill-at-arms meetings, will compete in a one-day event at Bisley to decide the winner of the Queen's Medal.

Beat the price rise

OWING TO rising production costs the price of **SOLDIER** will increase to 60p with effect from the issue dated April 4. This is the first price increase for 2½ years.

Subscription rates will increase at the same time.

Why not beat the price rise by taking out a subscription? Payment must reach us by March 11, 1994 to ensure that you receive **SOLDIER** for a year at the current rates. See Page 34.

This year's inaugural event will be held on July 6.

The decision does not affect the Territorial Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force, or the cadet organisations, which will continue to hold skill-at-arms meetings at Bisley.

With many units finding it increasingly difficult to prepare for Bisley because of operational commitments, the Army Board's decision will be seen as sad but understandable.

For most units, success at RASAM requires a great deal of work over several years before a dividend is shown in the form of improved results. If operational commitments intervene, the hard work can produce little obvious reward.

Another factor has been the annual manpower demands of Bisley on the Regular Army. Although this support has been chipped away from battalion strength to company size, the Army has continued to run virtually the whole Services meeting.

In the final analysis, RASAM has been replaced because too much effort was devoted to producing too few good shots. Underlying the decision has been a debate since the Gulf War on precisely what standards the modern Army rifleman needs to achieve. Given the potency of his weapons, he may as easily destroy the whole barn as hit its door.

FRONT COVER: On picket duty in the "tunnel" of security provided by the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards for aid convoys in Bosnia are Gdsm Philip Richardson (driver), LCpl Shane Grant (commander) and Gdsm John Stone of the 1 Coldm Gds Anti-Tank Platoon. More Operation Grapple pictures and stories in Pages 16-19. (Picture: Mike Weston.)

● Turn to Page 5

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Sol 7/03/

DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

Yorkies receive Grapple commendations



The Duchess of Kent

TWELVE soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire received awards for exemplary service in Bosnia from the Duchess of Kent when she visited them at their Osnabrück base.

The Duchess, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, presented UN Force Commander's commendations on behalf of Gen Jean Cot, who led UNPROFOR during the Yorkies' Operation Grapple tour.

Four members of A Com-

pany, 1 PWO - WO2 Neil Clark, Cpl Philip Hodgson, Pte Al Denham and Pte Tony Morley - received commendations for their part in an action at Guci Gora during which 186 Croats were protected from Muslim forces, then evacuated safely from the village.

Sgt Gary Whitton, a cook attached to 1 PWO and based at Gornji Vakuf, was responsible for the supervision of more than 200 meals three times a day. On one occasion his kitchen was nearly destroyed by shell fire, and on

some days the number of mouths he had to feed doubled to 400 without notice.

Another soldier attached to the battalion and singled out for a commendation was LCpl Mark Brown of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment. He was in command of a Warrior which came under attack.

Disregarding his own safety, he left the protection of the armoured vehicle to help wounded colleagues, administered first aid, recovered them to the vehicle and got them safely back to Gornji.

ARA welcomes Tickle change

WHILE saddened by the decision to drop RASAM, Brig Christopher Bullock, secretary of the Army Rifle Association, gave a cautious welcome to the package of changes announced following the review of shooting policy.

He told SOLDIER: "It is very sad that the team aspect of RASAM has been dropped, although it is good news that the non-central Tickle compe-

tition is to become mandatory.

"After all, every soldier has to fire his Annual Personal Weapon Test (APWT) just as he has to do his Basic Fitness Test. This will mean he will fire competitively for his unit every time he fires his APWT, and that must be a good thing for shooting standards.

"Although the one-day Queen's Medal competition will be a much more modest affair than the old RASAM, it will still be a very prestigious occasion. By programming our one-day event with the National Rifle Association Service weapon competitions, it means that top Army shots get nearly a week of very competitive shoulder-to-shoulder shooting.

"My concern is not to lose top military marksmen a chance to compete centrally at the highest level while improving the overall shooting ability throughout the Army.

"After all, every soldier faces the possibility of defending himself with his own personal weapon against those who wish to kill him. His competence with, and confidence in, his SA80, will therefore be paramount.

"We will have fatally failed him if at such a critical moment he lacks both confidence and competence.

"Our aim in the ARA is to work on shaping this new package so that it improves the battle shot over as wide a spectrum of the British Army as possible."

Advisers in South Africa

A TEAM of seven British Army officers has flown to South Africa to advise peacekeepers in the lead-up to the nation's first free elections in April.

Led by Col Nick Cottam, late RGJ, the Army contingent was joined by British Police officers on a three-month deployment as part of the Commonwealth Peacekeeping Assistance Group.

Col Cottam joined the Military Secretary's staff on promotion at the beginning of last year after commanding the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets in Northern Ireland.

RGJ to trial kit in Norway

MORE THAN 2,000 British troops are to deploy with the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (AMF) to northern Norway to test Nato's immediate reaction forces under Arctic conditions. In all, more than 5,000 troops of the AMF(Land) northern contingent will be involved on Exercise Arctic Express.

The British Army will provide signal, logistic and artillery support, as well as an infantry battalion, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, which will be trialling the new Combat Soldier '95 clothing system.

Some troops will carry out a parachute drop inside the Arctic Circle, while artillery, mortars and ground attack aircraft will take part in a major live-firing exercise.

Separate manoeuvres are to be held during a major amphibious exercise - Royal Dawn - in the Hebrides involving 3 Commando Brigade in a series of landings. Army elements will include 29 Commando Regiment RA, 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE and some members of the Logistic Support Battalion.

The culmination of the brigade's training, it includes the first deployment of DROPS and will involve landings by hovercraft.

RHA sent to Bosnia

SIXTY soldiers drawn from 1 and 3 Regiments, Royal Horse Artillery have been sent to Bosnia in response to a United Nations request for reinforcements. Equipped with Cymbeline Radar, they will form a mortar-locating troop to be based in Sarajevo for at least six months.

In addition, two companies from 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards have been redeployed to support UN troops in Sarajevo. The 30 guardsmen involved are being provided by Number 2 Company from Vitez and a Composite Company drawn from troops stationed at Vitez, Gornji Vakuf and Split.

● Op Grapple - Pages 16-18

RASAM

● From Page 3

Most operations since the end of the Second World War - from Borneo and Aden to Northern Ireland and the Falklands - have supported the view that the need for accurate shooting remains paramount.

The Tickle competition is designed to enhance standards of shooting and fitness through competitions and money prizes. The shooting element is based on the Army's Annual Personal Weapons Test (APWT), and is staged by individual units who post their results to the Army Rifle Association.

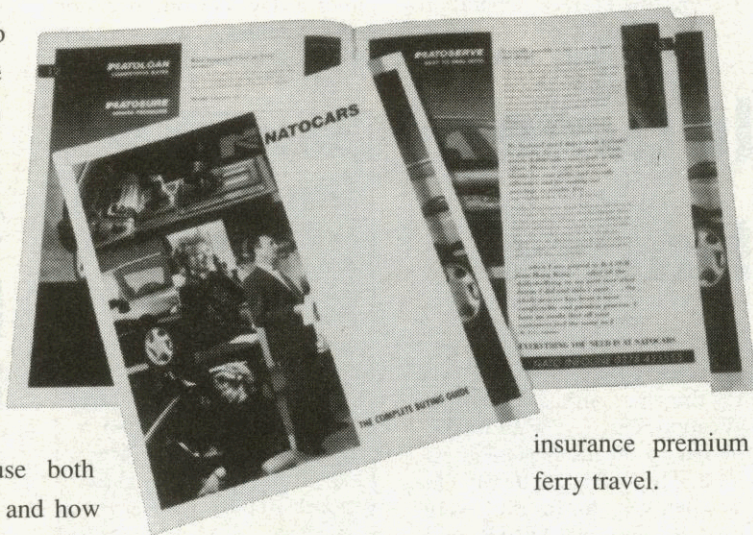
In 1993 the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment won the Infantry championship, the rifle match and the LSW match for the sixth consecutive year. The battalion's share of the Tickle Bequest, from which the competition derives its name, was £768.

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Greenjacket foils supermarket robbers

CPL Peter Dean, of the Royal Green Jackets, has received a civic award from the High Sheriff of Hampshire for his "quick and courageous action"

in preventing a robbery at a supermarket close to the Army Training Regiment at Winchester where he is serving.

While on patrol, the 29-year-

old corporal saw two youths acting suspiciously and tipped off a store manager. The police subsequently arrested two men and recovered a large knife.



Picture: Terry Champion

Year of the Yeo-person-ry? Representatives of various elements of the Yeomanry, including volunteers from FANY (The Women's Transport Service) in historical uniform, launch the event in London

Yeomanry year

TWO HUNDRED years ago this week, on March 5, 1794, with the Regular Army seriously overstretched and an invasion of this country threatened by the French, William Pitt presented a bill to Parliament.

As a result, within a month, the first volunteer cavalry troops in what was to become the Yeomanry – persons who farmed their own land as freeholders or tenant farmers – were formed.

To commemorate the anniversary, events during the Year of The Yeomanry will include a review in April by the Queen of some 39 troop-sized formations representing all the various Yeomanry titles in the

present Territorial Army, a nationwide charity event in July and a reception hosted by the City and Corporation of London at which at least three Yeomanry Colonels-in-Chief (the Queen Mother, the Princess Royal and Princess

Alexandra) will be present.

"It will be a most important year for an organisation which is as definitively British as Cumberland sausage or Yorkshire pudding," said Brig Richard Holmes, senior officer for the Territorial Army.

Scout's last parade

THE END of more than 30 years' service with the British Army by the Scout helicopter will be marked at a final flypast at Middle Wallop on March 30.

The 15 aircraft taking part will be reviewed by the Director Army Air Corps.

In recent years Scout heli-

copters have been operating in Hong Kong, Brunei and the United Kingdom. The Scout, which could be mounted with cameras, surveillance pods, machine guns or external stretchers, saw active service in the Falklands War where it fired anti-tank missiles to destroy Argentine dug-outs.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

DEFENCE Under-Secretary Viscount Cranborne confirmed in the House of Lords on February 3 that a proposal had been made to reduce the number of cadet forces training teams.

He said that in 1992-93 the MoD contribution to the cadet forces included £16.8m to the Army Cadet Force, £4.5m to the Sea Cadets and £17.9m to the Air Training Corps.

Viscount Cranborne was replying to a question from Lord Trefgarne, a vice-chairman of the Army Cadet Force Association, about the future of the cadet forces

There are no plans to withdraw Britain's military presence from Cyprus in the foreseeable future, Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley told the Commons in a written answer.

The UK commitment includes about 4,500 Service and civilian personnel in two sovereign base areas and a separate contribution of more than 400 troops to the United Nations Force.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind paid tribute in a Commons written answer on February 8 to the work of the 1st Coldstream Battalion Group in Bosnia.

He said: "In spite of considerable difficulties from fighting and obstruction on the ground, it is carrying out a very successful operation, with great skill and courage, which has helped to save many thousands of lives and of which we can all be justly proud."

Current strength of the Army in Germany is about 31,500, compared with 55,700 on April 1, 1988, MPs were told on February 8.

In a Commons written answer on February 7 Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley said the total compensation paid to women compulsorily discharged from the Services between August 1978 and August 1990 stood at £6,234,779.

In the same statement he revised the compensation figure of £7.8m he had given on January 21 (reported in the last issue of SOLDIER) to read £5.8m.

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Military salary increase staged

NEW Regular Army pay scales are published in full on Pages 25 to 28. The Territorial Army scales will appear in the next issue.

With the Government accepting the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) recommendations in full, but ruling that the overall paybill increase of 3.6 per cent implied by immediate implementation was too high, the award is staged.

The pay scales printed in the centre section reflect the two stages: a 2.7 per cent increase from April 1, followed on January 1, 1995, by the balance.

Length of service increments will be increased broadly in line with the average increase in military salary.

Medical and dental officers' pay will be the subject of a supplementary report.

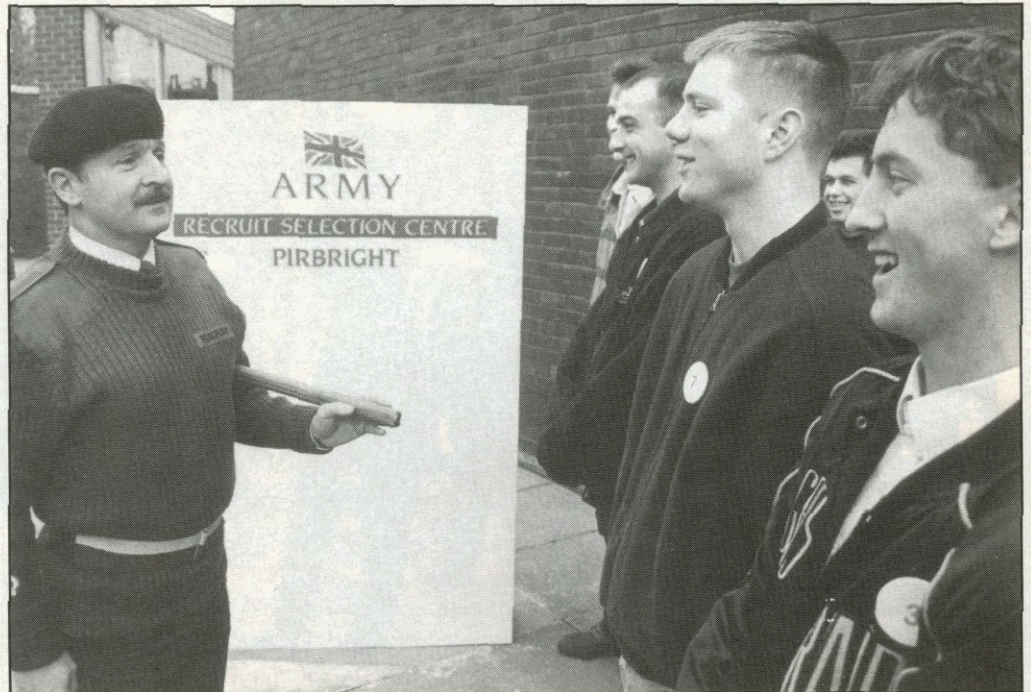
London pay will be increased in line with the increase in the Retail Price Index. Northern Ireland pay and all other items of additional pay, including flying pay, will be uprated in line with the staged increases in military salary.

However, with effect from April 1, 1995, reserve bands of flying pay will be introduced for aircrew personnel after serving in non-flying related posts for a period of six consecutive years. Transitional arrangements will apply to those already in the zone on the date the change comes into effect.

For married accommodation charges the AFPRB has recommended an average percentage increase of 5.4 per cent, which is higher in percentage terms than that for the military salary in order to begin to address the disparities between civilian comparators and Service equivalents.

The increase in charges will, however, be staged in line with the average increase in basic pay. Accordingly, married quarter rental charges, including water and sewerage

Good morning, Sergeant Major . . .



WO2 Peter Bradbury, R Signals, welcomes the first "intake" to the new Recruit Selection Centre at Pirbright, opened officially by the Director of Army Recruiting, Brig Christopher Elliott, on January 19. The Army's first purpose-built selection centre, it will be used to process applicants from the South of

England. Recruit selection centres are already functioning at Lichfield, Glencorse and Ballymena in adapted accommodation while new facilities are built.

The Pirbright centre, commanded by Maj Peter Linney, is located with the Army Training Regiment in Alexander Barracks.

Prospective recruits will spend 24 hours at Pirbright, and undergo a number of suitability tests, including medical and physical checks. At the end of the assessment, four Personnel Selection Officers conduct a final interview at the end of which the candidates are told whether or not they have been successful.

Picture: Mike Perring

charges, for Service personnel will be increased initially by 4.1 per cent on average, with the remaining staged increase taking effect on January 1, 1995.

Typical increases with effect from April 1 will range from £88 a year for A Grade 1 Type IV OMQ to £62 per annum for A Grade 1 Type B MQ.

Increases in single accommodation charges will average 4.0 per cent and will be subject to similar staging arrangements as for married accommodation charges. Increases for Grade 1 single accommodation as at

April 1 will range between £36 per annum for majors and above and £11 per annum for corporals and below.

There are special arrangements for personnel living in public married accommodation in Scotland. Because personnel based in Scotland have been receiving water and sewerage services direct from the public supply or via their main water supply, they have been in receipt of these services either free of charge (because the MoD Council Tax charge contains no element for water) or at a significantly lower cost

than their counterparts elsewhere in the UK.

The AFPRB has recommended that personnel in these categories be brought into line with their counterparts elsewhere. Therefore, they will face additional increases which will be subject to similar staging arrangements.

Thus, with effect from April 1 there will be an increase of between £1.04 and £2.24 per week, with the balance of between 34p and 81p per week payable from January 1, 1995.

Food charges for single personnel will remain at their current level: £2.99 per day. The married unaccompanied charge will, however, increase by 20p to £2.13 per day from April 1, and by an additional seven pence a day to £2.20 per day from January 1, 1995.

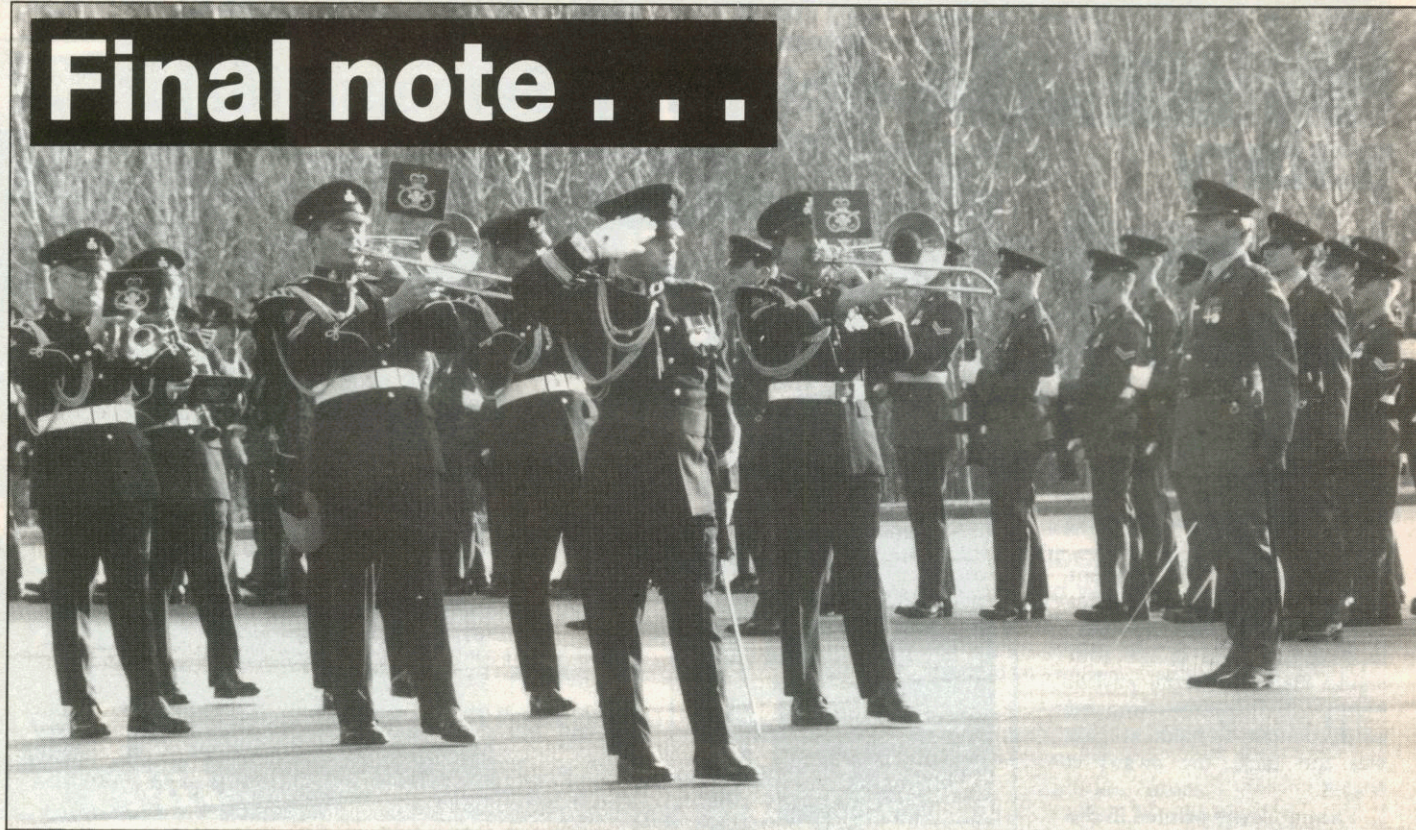
Increases are also announced in the TA bounty and R Irish (HSPT) element bounty. Bounties are set at £275 for first year, £575 for second year and £850 for third year. These new rates will be paid from April 1, 1995 for the training year completed on March 31, 1995.

FIRST AND BEST

Cfn Belinda Webster (right) is the first woman to pass out as best recruit at the Army Training Regiment, Pirbright. A member of Tobruk Platoon in Rowcroft Company REME, 19-year-old Belinda is now undergoing trade training as a vehicle mechanic at SEME Bordon in Hampshire.

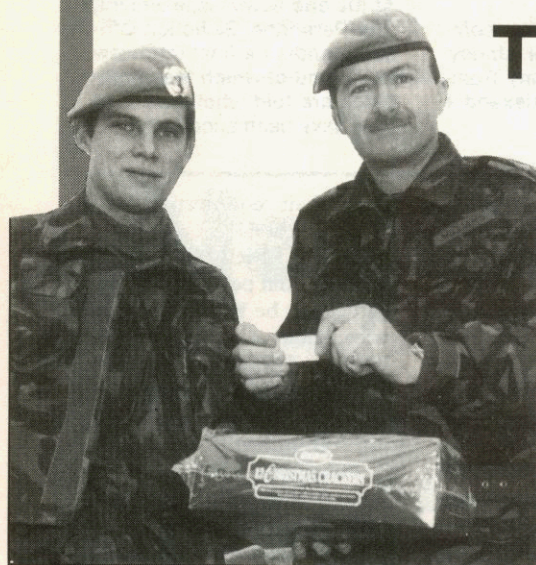


Final note . . .



Bandmaster, WO1 Chris Meldrum leads the Band of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment off parade for the last time before its musicians merge with other bands from infantry regiments of The Prince of Wales's Division. The band's final salute during the regiment's annual Ferozeshah celebrations was taken by 1 Staffords commanding officer, Lt Col Nigel Alderman. Under Options for Change, the division will have two bands. The Corps of Drums will remain with the battalion as its musicians form a machine gun platoon

That's the ticket!



Lt Colin Russell (237 Signal Squadron) gives the box a good shake while Lt Col Peter Williams, CO 1 Coldm Gds, draws the first ticket in the Bosnian Christmas draw. Prizes for the raffle – originally organised by Sgt Rick Morris (14 Signal Regiment) before he completed his tour, and which raised well over DM3,000 for two hospitals – ranged from return flights from Germany to England to a signed football.

ENTER THE COLONEL

After 28 years, the Coldstream Guards have a new colonel, in the person of Quartermaster General designate Lt Gen the Hon Sir William Rous. The general, whose great-great-grandfather served in the regiment in the Duke of Wellington's Napoleonic Wars campaigns, succeeds Maj Gen Sir George Burns, who retired on his 83rd birthday. Gen Rous is pictured during a visit to the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards on St Patrick's Day when he was GOC 4 Armd Div.



Take it as Red . . .

Generously donating blood at the Princes Hall in Aldershot were members of The Parachute Regiment's Red Devils freefall team, who had volunteered to "drop in" on a session held by the National Blood Transfusion Service. Getting the treatment are LCpl "Lofty" Mahon and Cpl Steve Blee, with nurses Pam Alexander and Laura Mansogh.



Warm Chile reception



Chilean defence minister (designate) Perez Yoma gets the target in his sights at ATR Winchester, under the instruction of Sgt Guy Du-Tracy SDG. During his visit, part of a week-long look at the British defence forces, Mr Yoma was shown various aspects of the recruit training programme and afterwards thanked CO Lt Col Robin Phayre for an "informative and entertaining day".

Pack to square one?

There was only one problem for Lt Jill McStravick, 1 Royal Irish, who, as part of Exercise Pink Flamingo in Cyprus, was involved in practising the use of pack horses for supply purposes in difficult terrain. Namely that the horses had forgotten their training – and refused to carry anything. In other aspects, however, the exercise, which also involved the island's other resident battalion (1 RGJ), was a considerable success.



Cadet Adam to the rescue

Army cadet Adam Mildenhall has a chat with Ramsbury pensioner Bert West after saving his life.

Adam, a member of Marlborough Platoon of Wiltshire Army Cadet Force, found Bert collapsed on the floor while delivering his daily newspaper and immediately called for help. Thanks to Adam's swift action, Bert, who is a diabetic, was soon well on the way to recovery in Swindon's Princess Margaret Hospital.

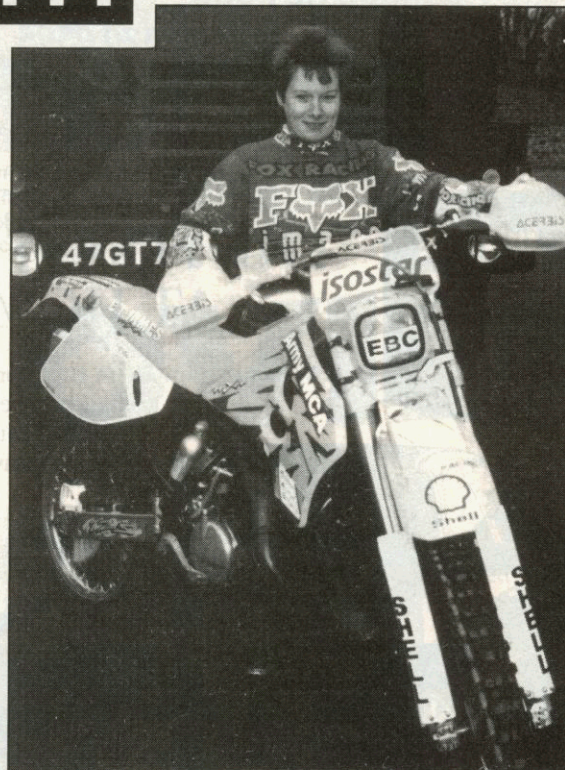


Picture: Cayx Photo News

PEOPLE

Welsh . . .

There is no truth in the rumour that certain Territorial Army members are thinking of changing the name of Wales to Wheels, but who could blame them after a couple of historic honours notched up recently? LCpl Paul Sargent (below), a member of 580 Ambulance Squadron, sub-unit of 157 (Wales and Midlands) Transport Regiment RLC (V) is the 1993 Army Motor Cycle Champion. He beat more than 125 other riders, Regular and TA, to become the first TA member in the history of Army motor cycling to win the event.



Llandovery TA Private, Katrina Price, a member of 224 Squadron (Pembroke Yeomanry) RLC (Volunteers), also did her country proud when she received her Army motor cycling colours. Winner of the Best Service Rider award at the recent Welsh two-day Enduro event, which attracted more than 200 other competitors, Regular and TA, she became both the first female and TA rider to achieve the accolade.



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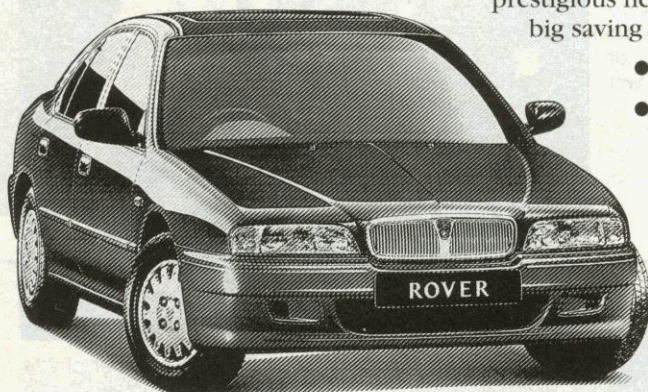
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A spot of international signalling co-operation as German (Lt Peter Gutmann), American (Spec Kevin Martin), Dutch (Sldr Eric Barink) and British (Cpl Stephen Bretherton, 7 Signal Regt, Herford) sort out a technicality at exercise control

ARRC GETS MOVING

THROUGH a gap in the vast sliding doors of the derelict building, a church spire, standing proud among tree-covered hills, could be made out in the fading light.

Things in White Land were quiet . . .

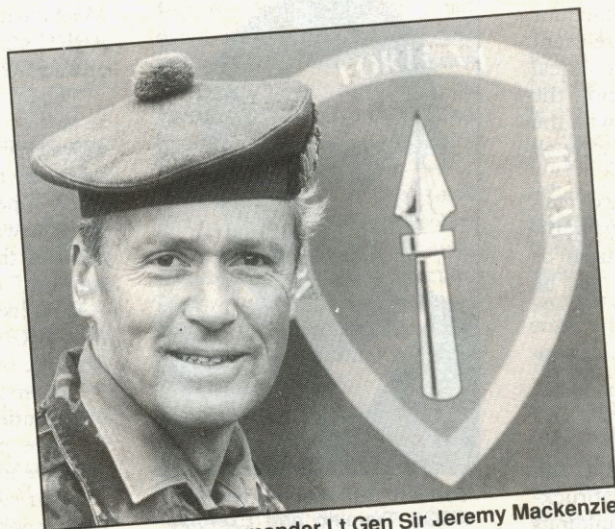
And contributing to the calm and normality of the mythical country of that name were the members of HQ Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) group.

For White Land, read Bad Oeynhausen near Bielefeld, Germany, where, as part of a huge multi-national simulation exercise last month, some 2,000 soldiers had been deployed on a peace support

operation. Bearing a remarkable geographical similarity to a certain island which Britons will find very close to home, the location of the operation involved Hibernia to

the north, White Land itself, Red Land to the west and Green Land to the east. The theoretical political scenario was that all the oil and industry were based in Hibernia and agricultural activities further south.

Picts from Pict Land in the north had settled and taken



ARRC commander Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie

jobs in White Land. Ethnic cleansing and the collapse of White Land's infrastructure followed.

Red Land was sympathetic to Hibernia, Green Land sup-

portive to White Land.

With beleaguered White Land requesting support under UN sanctions, the latter organisation had in turn asked the ARRC to help out, in conjunction with SHAPE and Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

Consequently, the HQ ARRC group had been tasked with deploying the aforementioned 2,000

men and women to "fly in" to White Land and provide much-needed support for the peace operation.

Apart from testing the enor-
● Turn to next page

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Perring



Above – Project officer Maj Tony Hacon (with pointer) discusses an exercise control problem with multinational cell leaders at Hobart Barracks. Right – Maj Gen Alberto Ficuciello, deputy ARRC commander

ARRC

● From Page 13

mous logistical headache of ensuring that such a large number of soldiers, plus their all-essential vehicles and equipment, were validated, Exercise ARRCade Guard also condensed many more simulated aspects into its five-day duration.

Pulling the warring factions together, getting the relevant regional and local political leaders talking around the table and co-operating with the UN and relief agencies were all covered.

And that is how two cavernous disused factory workshops in Bad Oeynhausen or “Birmingham” came to be transformed virtually overnight.

Unbeknown to the unsuspecting drivers of the constant stream of freight lorries and cars which thundered by a few hundred yards away, day and night, on the main Osnabrück-Amsterdam road, the buildings had become home to, respectively, a forward HQ and its attendant accommodation facilities.

Preparations for this part of the exercise had begun several days earlier when members of

170 Pioneer Squadron RLC had established that the premises were clear, and had initiated clearance patrols.

Now, where heavy machinery had until comparatively recently pounded away amid the hectic daily activities of the former engineering company's major assemblies shop, an entire, equally bustling,

canvas, barbed wire and metal encampment had sprouted.

In the parallel building, disused crane hooks suspended inches above the tent flaps of sleeping quarters, cookhouse, first aid and washing facilities were the only discernible clue to its origin.

But a great deal more had been involved before this part of the exercise could get under way, as Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Bielefeld-based ARRC commander, had earlier told SOLDIER.

“The purpose of the exercise is to test the HQ's ability to move efficiently and quickly, to establish a proper corps HQ able to operate in the field, and to deal with the whole spectrum of the business of peace support,” he said.

With its 13 member nations, the ARRC was the prime example of multinationality.

The more multinational an organisation was, the more effective politically – but less effective militarily.

“You can overcome a lot of that by good training, and, over the past year, we have done an enormous lot of training, with divisional exercises in the field and so on.

“It served its purpose of testing the effectiveness of the HQ and, with considerable hard



work, it came through the test.”

ARRCade Guard, however, was the first exercise of its kind, and would be an “acid test” of capabilities.

The choice of the abandoned sheds with holes in the roofs and walls had been quite deliberate, for example, the general said.

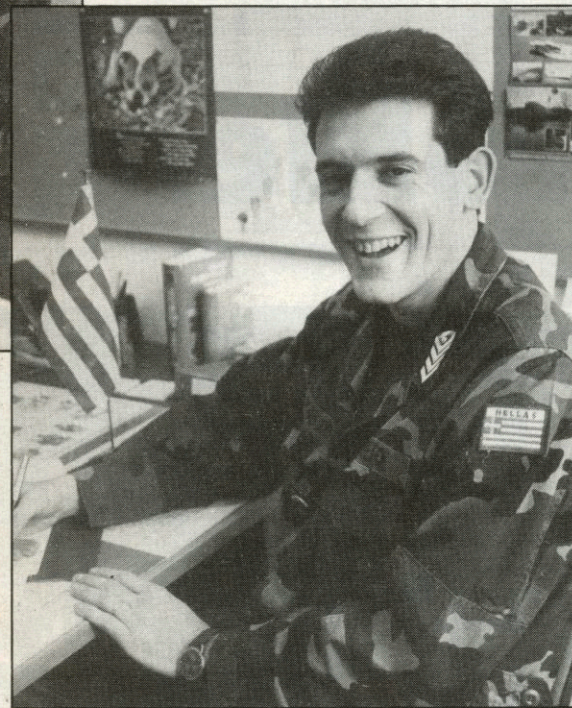
“With no heating, electricity or lighting, it means that the support battalion will be faced with a challenge, just as they might in the field.”

The “very realistic” procedure of going into the business of deploying a unit (support battalion, signals, vehicles and vast numbers of staff) through an airfield or seaport and into the theatre would be extremely beneficial, said ARRC deputy commander Maj Gen Alberto Ficuciello, an Italian.

Once deployed, the main areas of a peace-keeping opera-



Pte David Hall, 170 Pioneer Squadron, guards the forward HQ entrance



Above – It's all go at Bad Oeynhausen as vehicles and canvas take over the assembly floor of a derelict engineering factory

Left – Greek NCO Sgt Maj Symeon Mihailidis of ARCC HQ's G3 Plans Branch, who works alongside UK, Italian, German and Turkish colleagues. “It is good that we are all together, trying to do our best in the field,” he says. “And, as Socrates said: ‘I am getting older by learning’: whatever I and other nations learn from the ARRC will be useful in the future.”

tion, such as the theoretical setting up of a joint commission would be put into play.

“On the exercise, we will have a generic scenario which will enable us to carry out our business all over the world where SACEUR requires it.”

In the meantime, the vital process of ensuring that soldiers, kit and vehicles were despatched “by plane”, to be re-united in the field, was in the more-than-capable hands of WO2 Andy Lambert and his team from 69 Movement Control Squadron RLC.

From noon on the Sunday prior to the exercise to 0500 on the Wednesday – the day before the final batches of soldiers arrived at Bad Oeynhausen – the squadron had dealt with 43 “chalks” involving vehicles, passengers or freight and 609 personnel had gone through.

“Chalks” are a traditional

method of identifying aircraft loads, dating back to the days when men and vehicles literally had a line chalked around them on the ground until the time came to embark . . .

Although the vehicles are still “chalked”, technology has entered the fray, in the form of the American Computer Aided Loading Manifest (CALM) system.

Its effectiveness (with minor national differences such as weights being given in lbs instead of kgs) was due to be assessed at the end of the exercise.

The large gymnasium at ARCC HQ's Ripon Barracks served very well as the Movement Control Check Point, with each successive chalk moving from the door – effectively still the ARRC's support section boundary – into the “airport holding area”.

There, they were briefed by

WO2 Lambert (who, together with the other “chalkers”, had had very little sleep over the previous few days) on the dos and don'ts of travelling by British or US Hercules and Galaxy aircraft before registering – passports and all.

Baggage duly weighed and placed in loading bays, the various nationalities – British, American, Dutch, German, Italian and all – dispersed until it was time to board their plane – or in the case of this particular scenario, bus . . .

The following day, at the busy Exercise Control centre which had been set up in the families club building at Hobart Barracks, the truly multinational nature of the exercise was apparent.

Each nationality had converted part of the spacious bar into its own cell, maps of White Land and its surrounding countries were very much in

evidence, members were holding animated briefings – and, as an indication of the serious nature of events, the pumps had been usurped by a facsimile machine.

From the windows of the building, the satellite dish and other essential signals paraphernalia set up by Herford-based 7 Signal Squadron in tandem with their Dutch, German and US counterparts could be glimpsed on the square.

Later that day, at an updating briefing given by senior multinational staff for Lt Gen Mackenzie at forward HQ a few hours before the exercise proper began, he congratulated them on getting such a large movement of staff and vehicles up and running.

“It has been difficult, but we have proved that we can now do it anywhere if the occasion arose,” he said.

Right – American Lt Col Tim Clark, in charge of deployment planning for ARRC HQ. Normally, everyone at main HQ would be involved in deployment, execution and re-deployment, he said, but for this exercise, only a forward HQ was going to be deployed. The hardest part was pushing the vehicle chalks through the procedures, loading them and prioritising them so that what people wanted first was first at the other end. The ARRC commander would get frequent updates on troop movements



THE AIM of all United Nations soldiers in Bosnia is to create the conditions in which aid can be delivered to the people who need it. To do this, the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards operates a "tunnel" of security.

This concept of operations extends that of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire to provide protection from the Varvara quarry south of Prozor, through Gornji Vakuf and Vitez to the Zenica flyover where responsibility for aid convoys is handed over to the Danes or Canadians.

Like the Yorkies, the Coldstreamers try to allow convoys a free run. All convoys moving through the con-

Tunnel vision

frontation lines are given close escorts, as are trucks carrying fuel and troops.

Two platoons of eight Warriors cover the tunnel from 81 Northing, the point where the Gornji Vakuf company and the Operations Company at Vitez hand over responsibility. If an armoured escort is not available, convoys wait in a staging area hewn from the forest.

Warriors are posted at strategic locations to monitor fighting and advise checkpoints to halt convoys if battles become too intense.

Moving aid past Vitez became difficult in early January after Muslims launched attacks against the Croats in the Vitez pocket. Convoys had to use the mountain route Monk to bypass the fighting, and a detachment of two troops of Light Dragoons' Scimitars proved invaluable there.

Having a vanguard and rearguard is not always felt the best way of providing protection because it is difficult for soldiers to detect snipers.

End vehicles would not know what was happening in

the middle of the convoy and there was a case for having some static vehicles along the route, able to watch their arcs and listen for shooting.

"Militarily we would love to have our vehicles static so that we can use our optics and see what is going on," said Maj Other Windsor Clive, OC No 2 Company.

"It would be a much better way of doing the job, but aid convoys would not see Warrior all the time so we go for a compromise because seeing our armour does give the drivers a great deal of confidence."

The company of these mighty Warriors certainly gives drivers a very distinct degree of reassurance.

If there's a problem, call the LO . . .

THE ROUGHEST edge of the wedge in Bosnia falls to a generation of captains aged from 25 to 30 who are probably doing the most interesting job they will ever have in the Army.

They are the liaison officers (LOs) who travel in soft-skinned vehicles through the heart of a conflict which is tearing Bosnia apart.

If there is a problem, it is down to them to sort it out.

Any seriously nasty work – such as exchanging bodies or even exhuming them – is carried out by the Civil Affairs Liaison Officer. One LO had to jump into a mass grave to establish whether there had been a massacre.

Dealing with often drunk militiamen, LOs need an acute sense of how far to push and when to back off. Some extremists quite clearly do not want to communicate, so the LOs tread a very fine line.

Some militia are the last people the guardsmen would want to invite home but they have to work with the combatants and must treat them politely, said Lt Col Peter Williams, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

Words: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Weston

The LOs are the key to his operation, indeed to the whole United Nations mission. Evacuations, charity drops, hospital visits, exchanges of prisoners, refugees or bodies . . . many tasks land in their laps.

While other guardsmen travel in pairs of armoured vehicles, they operate in single vehicles, accompanied by a signaller, driver and interpreter.

The LOs are also used by Lt Col Williams to ease the plight of the civilians affected by the war. He believes his guardsmen have as sensible and regular a life-style as possible for their third operational tour in three years. Creature comforts are far better than in Northern Ireland, and they are well supported by excellent arrangements for their 350 families back in Germany.

Although it is not his principal job, he tries to bring a better quality of life to the civilians in his area, but dealing with the authorities is difficult.

Power and utilities are weapons of war, too. When one side cuts power another

interferes with the water.

The LOs spend almost every day dealing with these often intractable problems, frequently coming under fire as they go out to meet local commanders, helping, mediating, acting as unofficial postmen to pass confidential or personal messages from one side to the other.

"The whole business is liaison and negotiation, and providing you have those conduits linked into all the various agencies, the thing works because people are talking," said Force Commander Brig John Reith.

The brigadier had particular success when he struck up a fellow-para rapport with the new commander of the Bosnian Croat (HVO) army, Gen Ante Roso, who has a French Foreign Legion connection.

Aid which had been halted by an HVO offensive at Gornji Vakuf in November was soon moving again.

"He has his mission to fight his war, and I've got mine to get aid through," said Brig Reith. "By and large the two do not clash and we can come to a sensible compromise."

A British Army LO at the HVO headquarters is mirrored

by an LO at the Bosnian Army (BiH) headquarters, which allows a good working relationship with the two command structures.

The LOs are selected for their maturity and flexibility, and their escorts must also be sound and alert. They can be the centre of attraction for long periods while the LO is attending meetings.

Youngsters starved of contact with the outside world are often keen to practise English learned in schools which no longer function.



Above – Dmr Gary Dale of No 3 Company welcomes visitors

Left – Evening brief, No 1 Coy, Gornji Vakuf: (from left) Capt Tim Hutchison SG, Capt Jeremy Bagshaw, Maj Andrew Johnston, Capt Edward Macfarlane, Capt Chris Rumbold and Capt Paul Leslie, R Anglians



Saved by the presence of a Warrior

THE FAMILY was still in its house as the tide of fighting swept closer. At any other time in history the father, mother and child would doubtless have ended up in a mass grave.

On this occasion, however, a Warrior armoured fighting vehicle flying the blue United Nations flag was nearby.

As the danger heightened the soldiers stepped in and moved the family to safety.

The Operations Company of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards has difficult decisions to make about the war raging in Bosnia.

Both sides accuse it of moving the other's arms, ammunition and soldiers. Both sides also ask for help which

the Coldstreamers are not able to give.

Even if there were a peace, the soldiers are not peace-keepers, far less peace-makers. Their primary function is to help aid get through.

The guardsmen know the UN is the fall guy for everybody but Maj Other Windsor Clive looks at it from the point of view of both Bosnia's Muslims and Croats, and appreciates their perspective.

"There is a war going on and they distrust everybody," he said. "Nothing we say is believed and everything is blown out of proportion."

Lt Col Peter Williams, commanding officer 1 Coldm Gds,

● Turn to Page 19

Looking in the sniper's eye . . .

ONLY a little imagination transposes the rugged features of the Guards platoon sergeant from Bosnia to hundreds of battlefields, where regiments unflinchingly weathered anything the enemy could sling at it.

Steadiness under fire is one of the great attributes of the British soldier, never better demonstrated than when formed up in ranks returning volley for volley in point-blank musketry.

It takes the same courage to face down a sniper who has you in his sights while escorting a convoy through a hot spot.

"I heard the crack and zip as a sniper fired at me," said the sergeant. "I turned towards him and he fired again. I just kept looking at him and outfaced him - he was only trying to wind me up and see if I would duck."

It is a fine line when to return fire. Soldiers who hear the crack are safe, but it is difficult not to flinch.

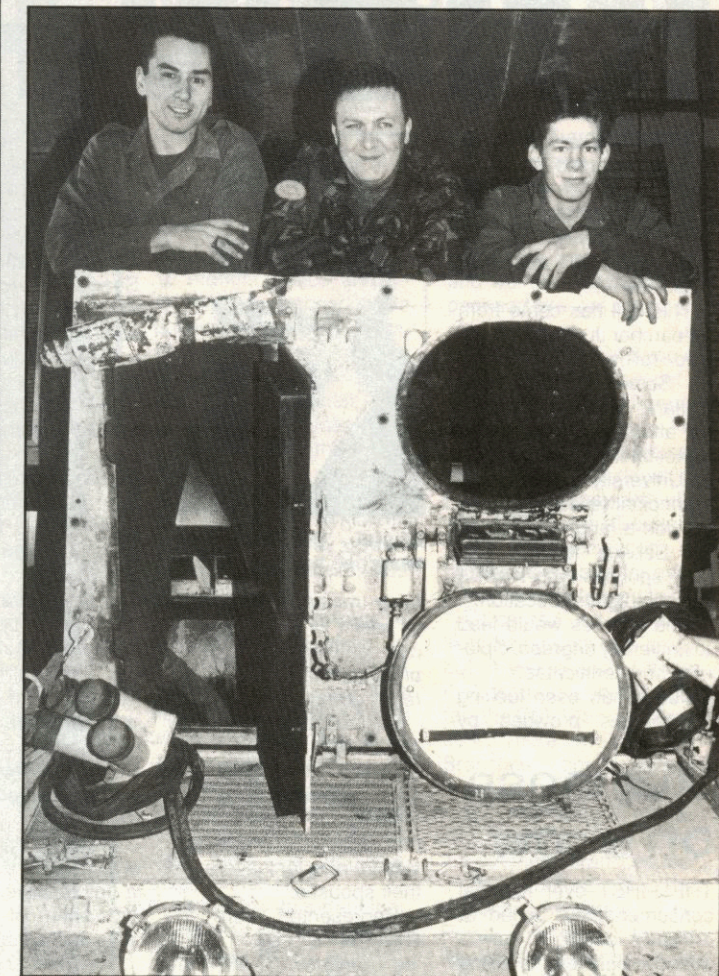


Above - life goes on: Sgt Alan McGibbon (Irish Guards) instructs on a gunnery course for LSgt Mark Mather and Gdsm Miles Borne

Right - Returning to Vitez



Left - 2nd Lt Kit Philp is glad of Warrior's protection



Mortar Platoon maintenance day: Gdsm Charlie Rydqvist, Gdsm Jason Hood and Gdsm Dean Markham

Guards stand together . . . again

SCOTS Guards were with Coldstreamers defending Hougoumont at Waterloo and are with them again in Bosnia. So, too, are representatives from the Grenadier, Welsh and Irish Guards.

Although well up to strength following the loss of the 2nd Battalion the new 1 Coldm Gds was happy to draw on the other regiments in the Guards Division.

The Scots Guards have provided mortar fire controller skills and because of the technical aspects of operating Warrior, several Grenadier Guardsmen remained when their battalion handed its vehicles over to the Coldstreamers.

LSgt Michael Thompson is one of five Irish Guardsmen with the battalion, having done a tour of South Armagh with the Grenadier Guards and an

East Tyrone tour with the Coldstreamers.

Elevated into the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess is LSgt John Moore of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, who would normally be a full corporal in his own unit.

LSgt John Callesja was surprised how well the battalion had settled down after absorbing men from the 2nd Battalion.

"There was some apprehension but it went so smoothly you would have thought it was a company coming back from an overseas tour," he said. "They have mixed in and improved the battalion tenfold."

Visitors to Vitez are welcomed in style despite the mud, and SSgt Mal Coyle can provide for 200 people in the shelter and gym. The many different units passing through know they will be well looked after, he said.

After three operational tours in as many years, some of the

young guardsmen have had as much operational soldiering as many older men.

But after the long separation from their families a quieter life would be welcome to finish off the year.

One of the busiest men in theatre is said to be OC Support Company, Maj Mike Tucker, who runs battalion operations. The support company element has been split to bolster each of the three rifle companies.

An Australian, his informal approach well matches the relaxed style of Lt Col Peter

Williams, and evening "prayers" are good-humoured.

The CO says there is no such thing as a normal day. Every day was full of the unexpected because of the Balkans factor.

"We have to take every day as a new day; if we cannot get something done today, we will get it done tomorrow."

He is quite satisfied he has what it takes to achieve his mission: the right number of troops, the right equipment and right method.

"All sorts of things may happen, but we are well placed to deal with them," he said.

View from someone else's war

GORNJI Vakuf looks better covered in snow. The stark ruins of the houses soften, the detritus of a bitter war is hidden.

It looks almost peaceful and Sgt Phil Smith of the Grenadier Guards can appreciate the view over the confrontation line between Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

Fighting slackens off, though the crack of sporadic firing never really stops completely as rounds whiz over to strike the factory just outside the British perimeter.

Though rival militia are fighting each other, the occasions when bullets are directed at the British are rare. Sandbags offer a degree of protection and it is comforting to think the British soldiers are not the target. But bullet holes in the windows and woodwork tell their own story of exceptions.

Rival militia come and go, some are not properly briefed, some get drunk and the British garrison has to keep up a sustained effort to gain and retain commanders' confidence and remind them the British are

tasked with getting aid through.

Sgt Smith stayed behind in Münster when his battalion changed with 1 Coldm Gds in Wellington Barracks, London, and took his Warrior expertise to Bosnia as part of the armoured infantry increment.

He has no complaints, despite being a Grenadier among Coldstreamers.

"If I wasn't here, I'd be in Northern Ireland. I'd rather be in Bosnia, where you don't have to tab everywhere!" he said.

Saved

● From Page 17

said: "We go to great lengths to stress we have to be impartial and fair, which sometimes means saying 'no' to people when their bright idea will favour the war-fighting communities."

A visit to one faction must be matched by a visit to the other faction, and soldiers must constantly guard against seeming to favour one side.

"There is nothing which makes one more revolted by humanity than the sort of games the factions play with human lives," said the 2iC, Maj Hugh Toler. "If we want to extract wounded from one area, the other side will want the same number extracted from somewhere else."

"Then they say they will not

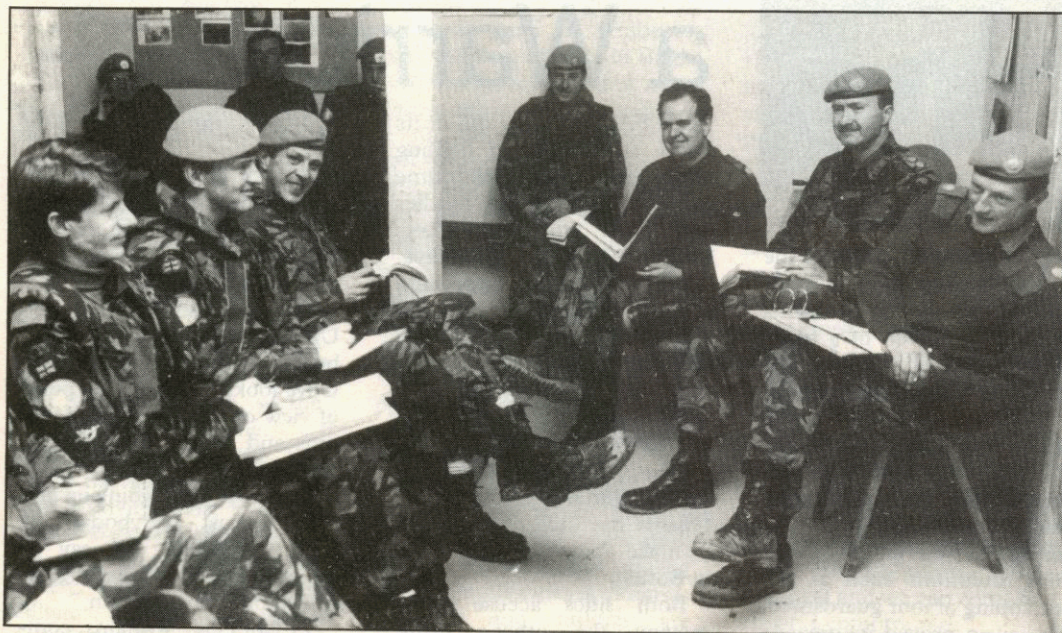
let one out because they claim he is a war criminal, so a child dies waiting, and they give permission only after they know the child has died."

There is no shortage of tragedy. Young British soldiers grow up very quickly when they see a desperate man offering his young daughter in return for safe passage out of an enclave.

Soldiers derive great satisfaction from the little things they can do: holding a party for children, delivering aid, taking refugees to a centre, saving a family from certain death . . .

Many will remember them with gratitude.

"I don't know if that frightened family will survive the war but our action probably saved their lives," said Maj Windsor Clive. "As we left, my gunner told me the little girl was the same age as his son."



Lt Col Peter Williams flanked by his 2iC Maj High Toler and Ops Officer Maj Mike Tucker during the evening briefing

FOR FAMILIES

Army experience could lead to academic qualifications

DEGREE OF KNOW-HOW

FORCES leavers and their spouses should consider opening up their options for future employment by turning their Service experience into an academic qualification.

This call has come from researcher Judith Dugdale, who, following her reports on Service housing and welfare, has now turned her attention to education.

Her latest project for Bristol University, where she is a principal researcher, is to provide a range of courses for Service leavers and their spouses who wish to resume higher education.

The courses would lead to university degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Judith has been looking at courses provided by



Bristol University researcher Judith Dugdale

other training organisations to see if Bristol University can complement the range of vocational courses currently offered.

Last month the university department already running MoD courses for Service families hosted a meeting for organisations and agencies which provide training for leavers and their spouses.

Represented were the Royal British Legion Training Company, SSAFA, the Federation of Army Wives, the Tri-Services Resettlement Organisation and the Action Support Teams.

"Bristol University wants to offer to those agencies and to all Service leavers and their spouses the opportunity to get a diploma or a certificate, or a degree from the university, as one of the range of

choices open to people returning to civilian life.

"It is hoped the courses will be run on a flexible basis, not only at Bristol but at facilities offered by the Services, such as large garrisons, where there is sufficient demand.

"The old idea of a three-year degree is no longer really appropriate for a mature student. We're talking about consolidating those experiences – training, education, voluntary activities – that people have acquired during their Service life."

Judith cited experience gained in such areas as child care, nursing, teaching, counselling, occupational health, languages and translation skills, which might be consolidated through short courses ending in academic qualifications.

"Any Service man or woman with experience as a unit families officer might find some of those diplomas appropriate.

"As another example, the university is able to offer a diploma in translation, which might appeal to, say, German-born wives of Servicemen returning to the UK. They would be able to study for a diploma in translation skills which would help them get employment."

Alternatively there were other, more academic, sub-

jects in the fields of technology, science and logistics in which people might translate their experience into a diploma, she said.

The university hoped that the Ministry of Defence would encourage people to use their £534 resettlement grant – which individuals can choose how to spend – for higher education.

"What I would particularly like to see, as a result of a piece of research work that I have just done at the university, is for the MoD to make that £534 available EITHER to the Service leaver OR to the spouse.

"At the moment I know that is not possible because money from the Defence budget must be spent on the Service person.

"However, my feeling is that it is not just an individual but a family that is returning to civilian life and that resettlement money is there for the family, not just the Service leaver.

"If a Serviceman has a very firm intention about what to do on leaving, such as buying a pub, that £534 would be very valuable to his wife for training in book-keeping, or to do licensed trade training, or a cookery course, to enable her to work with her husband."

● Inquiries about courses can be addressed to Judith Dugdale c/o SOLDIER.

Minley mission of good cheer

STILL providing a good cuppa as well as practical Christian fellowship at the last of the Miss Daniell's Soldiers' Homes, are former Master Chef Bill and Pat Woolfall, who run the Jackson Club at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley, home to ever more Royal Engineers.

The club dates back to just after the Crimean War, when a permanent camp was established in the Aldershot area.

Mrs Louisa Daniell, widow of a captain in the Madras Native Infantry, adopted Aldershot and set up a mission for soldiers whose only other outlets were the numerous public houses, dance halls and places of vice in the town.

Almost all crime in Aldershot was drink-related, so in 1863 she set up a pub without beer which became a home from home for soldiers. It proved so popular that similar "pubs" were established in other garrison towns.

Although Mrs Daniell died in Malvern she was buried just inside the entrance to the Aldershot Military Cemetery and a memorial cross was erected by grateful soldiers.

During the world wars the crowded Miss Daniell's Soldiers' Home was a haven for all, including



Tea time at the Jackson Club with Bill and Pat Woolfall

German refugees from the Nazis, and Dutch and Polish soldiers.

Prices in the Jackson Club have gone up from the original one penny for a large cup of coffee, though the Woolfalls sometimes provide free tea for recruits after square bashing.

There is a reading room, TV room and video games, and staff who offer Christian fellowship.

"We are not Bible-bashing evangelists but we are here if the boys want to talk to us and be introduced to local churches," said Mr Woolfall.

Relying on donations from the public, the home wishes to expand to cater for the development at Minley, where HQ Royal School of Military Engineering, 3 RSME Regt and the Battlefield Engineering

Wing are stationed.

The Engineer-in-Chief's staff moving from MoD are in less need than 239 apprentices who will be trained at Minley when the Army Apprentices' College moves from Chepstow. Many young soldiers, up to 960 TA recruits and more than 1,000 combat engineers on courses can benefit from the facilities – and friendship – the club offers.

Cari Roberts



➔ COUNTERPOINT ➔

How to sidestep the poverty trap

I WAS recently told a story which was a catalogue of disaster for one Service family affected by redundancy.

The man was discharged from the Army in 1992 after 12 years' service. He had 12 months' notice and he and his wife attended all the briefings offered to them. He and his family are now living on Income Support and Housing Benefit and appear to have fallen into what is known as the poverty trap.

Unless either he or his wife gets a very well-paid job they will have to stay on benefits to keep their heads above water.

The quality of the advice and information given to him does not seem to have been very good but, with hindsight, there were times when he could have done more to help himself.

It's vital that those affected by redundancy don't just rely on their Service to prepare them for the next stage in their life.

It's equally important that those still serving stay in touch with what's happening in the civilian world.

I know it's been said many times and by many people but the key to a successful transition from one stage of life to the next is to know about all your rights and politely but firmly insist upon them.

MENTION the Royal British Legion and what's the image that you conjure up? Young women helping children with special needs? A chorus line-up high-kicking their way through a dance routine?

No? Well, you'd be wrong. Members of the RBL's Women's Section have been seen doing both those and more.

I have to admit that I knew little about the RBL Women's Section until I met their liaison officer in London.

Among the other services they offer are welfare grants, counselling and advice, a national network of welfare visitors, sail train-

ing, equipment for children with a disability and financial help in hardship cases.

Membership is open to all women in the Forces, ex-Servicewomen, wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters and women dependants of past and present members of HM Forces.

In other words – if you're a woman and you've got a connection with the Forces, you can join.

At a time when women are having to look closely at their relationship with the Armed Forces in all sorts of ways the existence of organised support for each other must be a good thing.

Of course, not everyone likes being part of a group but, if you're one of those that does, you should contact the RBL Women's Section. There are Service Branches and Holding Branches (for Service wives and relatives) in both the UK and BFG and there are overseas branches too.

The address is The National Secretary, The Royal British Legion Women's Section, Haig House, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5YY.

TWO booklets from the Benefits Agency are a must for your collection.

First of all, FB5 – *Service Families Abroad (and at Home)*.

This is a particularly good starting point if you have any questions about National Insurance, Unemployment Benefit or any other DSS benefits.

Also from the Benefits Agency – leaflet SA29, dealing with your social security, benefits and health care rights in the European Community.

This is a very helpful compilation of all the rules. It has to be said that it is a general guide – like FB5 – but it's a good one for your family file.

You can write to Cari Roberts at Counterpoint; BFBS; BFPO 786 or c/o SOLDIER.

Unfairly treated by Child Support Agency?

A ROYAL Air Force couple targeted by the Child Support Agency want to hear from Army families who feel they have been unfairly treated.

The Campaign for Fair Maintenance (Service Personnel) has been set up by Bill and Kerry Ferguson to assess how many families in the Armed Forces have been affected by the Child Support Act.

Bill, a sergeant serving in Scotland, estimates he will lose at least a quarter of his income for the mainte-

nance of a three-year-old son by a previous relationship.

From their contacts with other Service families hit by Child Support Agency assessments, Kerry and Bill believe this proportion of income loss is typical.

Now they want to hear from others who pay maintenance for children, whether or not it is by way of a court order.

If they get a sufficiently large response they will consider how best they can use it to bring the problem

to the attention of the Government.

Kerry explained: "When the Child Support Agency works out a maintenance assessment the only outgoings that are taken into consideration are your mortgage or rent. Very little consideration is given to second families, and no HP or loan agreements are taken into account.

"In fact, if you do have a second family and your wife works, then she is expected to contribute to the housing costs. They

also take any interest paid into your child's building society account!

"Second families who are targeted are finding the agency is putting a lot of stress on to what were previously happy, stable relationships. Fathers are finding they cannot afford to visit their children and bad feelings re-emerge between divorced couples," said Kerry.

She thinks "single" fathers now living in Service accommodation may well be able to afford the

Child Support Agency assessments, but believes it will prevent them from saving towards the time when they might re-marry or leave the Service to make a fresh start in civvy street.

Kerry and Bill are preparing a leaflet which will contain useful telephone numbers and tips on completing the assessment forms.

To obtain a copy, send a stamped addressed envelope to the Campaign for Fair Maintenance (Service Personnel), 11 Spynie

Place, Bishopmill, Elgin, Moray IV30 2JT. All correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Kerry can be contacted on 0343 547612.

If you want to know how much the Child Support Agency will ask from you, a CSA booklet – *For Parents Who Live Apart*, No CSA 2001 – is available from Post Offices and DSS offices.

Anyone having problems with their assessment can also contact their local SSAFA branch for advice.

WE'RE WELL KNOWN FOR OUR WORK WITH OLD SOLDIERS.

BUT THAT'S JUST THE HALF OF IT. When a serviceman leaves the forces, so does his family. And civvy street can at first seem a hostile and unwelcoming place. Fortunately, The Royal British Legion can offer a helping hand. We have training centres in the North and the South of the country where ex-servicemen and their wives can pick up valuable skills. Like information technology, accounting and business studies. In fact we're spending £4 million on a new training centre at Tidworth alone. Sometimes we can lend you more than a hand, we can lend you money. Last year our Business Advisory Service arranged over £900,000 in interest free loans. We're also just as busy after hours. We have social evenings and clubs where you can enjoy the laughs you had with your mates in the forces, out of the forces. If you'd like to know how we can help you, or would like to become a member of The Royal British Legion, send off the coupon below. Your small membership fee will go towards the cost of our higher profile activities, helping and caring for old and infirm war veterans. They never did things by halves. It's only right that we don't.

☐ I would like more information on how The Royal British Legion can help.

☐ I would like to become a member. ☐ I would like to make a donation.

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....



I enclose a cheque made payable to The Royal British Legion for £.....

I would like to donate £..... using my..... credit card

number.....

Expiry Date..... Signature.....

Please send to The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

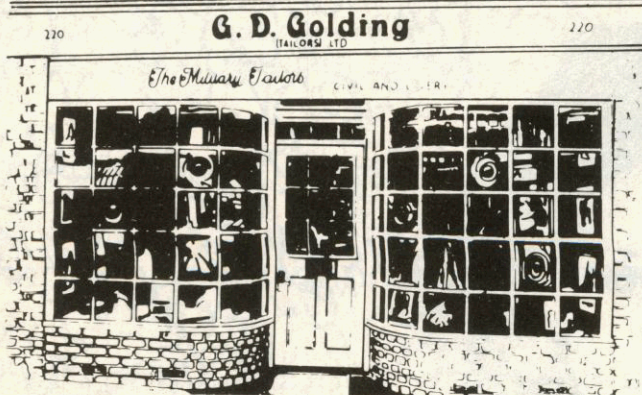
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- The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.
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- The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters.
- Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.
- The Light Infantry.
- 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.
- The Army Air Corps.
- The Royal Army Chaplain's Department.
- The Royal Logistic Corps.
- Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.
- The Adjutant General's Corps.
- Royal Army Veterinary Corps.
- Small Arms School Corps.
- Royal Army Dental Corps.
- Intelligence Corps.
- Army Physical Training Corps.
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- The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry.
- Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.
- The Wessex Regiment.

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Our Representative will call at your request. Ring (0727) 841321 –

**Fax (0727) 831462 or write for details to:
220 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW**

Name

Address

.....

..... Tel

Please state your particular requirements below:

.....

Soldiers are there when you need them...



Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

Please be there when they need you

The Army Benevolent Fund provides help to any man or woman and their families if they are serving or have served in the British Army and are in real need. This help is given in two ways: through grants to supplement Corps or Regimental aid and by financial support to over 70 national charities providing for the special needs of those in distress.

Our overall aim is to bring help to the many cases where state assistance is inapplicable, inadequate or unable to meet the immediate need.

Your donation, covenant or legacy will provide invaluable assistance for those who served their country.

Please help them in their hour of need.



**To: The Army Benevolent Fund, Dept. SOL,
41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR**

Registered Charity No. 211645

We owe a lot to the soldiers who fought so hard for our freedom and our future and continue to protect us. I would like to make this contribution to help those of them who are in need.

I enclose a donation of £10 ☐ £15 ☐ £25 ☐ Other £

Please charge my Access/Visa Card No. Expiry Date

☐ Please send me details on making a legacy or how I could donate through Payroll Giving.

Signature Name

Address

Postcode

Data Protection Act: We may occasionally wish to contact you about our work. If you would prefer that we do not, please tick the box ☐

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Remembering & Supporting the Brave



YOUR NEW PAY SCALES

FIRST STAGE - FROM APRIL 1, 1994

OFFICERS - MAIN SCALE

| Rank | Service | New Daily rates |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | | £ |
| 2nd Lt (UC) | On appointment | 20.39 |
| | +1 year | 23.41 |
| | +2 years | 26.27 |
| | +3 years | 28.68 |
| 2nd Lt (SSLC) | On commissioning | 26.61 |
| | After 9 months | 28.43 |
| 2nd Lt Lt | On appointment | 35.48 |
| | +1 year | 46.92 |
| | +2 years | 48.15 |
| | +3 years | 49.38 |
| | +4 years | 50.61 |
| Capt | On appointment | 51.84 |
| | +1 year | 59.71 |
| | +2 years | 61.32 |
| | +3 years | 62.94 |
| | +4 years | 64.56 |
| Maj | On appointment | 66.17 |
| | +1 year | 67.79 |
| | +2 years | 69.40 |
| | +3 years | 75.25 |
| | +4 years | 77.12 |
| Lt Col | On appointment | 78.99 |
| | +1 year | 80.85 |
| | +2 years | 82.71 |
| | +3 years | 84.58 |
| | +4 years | 86.44 |
| Col | On appointment | 88.31 |
| | +1 year | 90.18 |
| | +2 years | 103.76 |
| | +3 years | 105.57 |
| | +4 years | 108.35 |
| Brig | On appointment | 111.13 |
| | +1 year | 113.91 |
| | +2 years | 116.70 |
| | +3 years | 122.95 |
| | +4 years | 126.19 |
| | +5 years | 129.41 |
| | +6 years | 132.65 |
| | +7 years | 135.88 |
| | +8 years | 150.81 |

SOLDIERS' SCALE RATES

| Rank | Class | Band | A | B | C |
|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| Pte | 4 | Band 1 | 22.21 | 22.51 | 22.96 |
| | | Band 2 | 24.88 | 25.18 | 25.63 |
| | 3 | Band 1 | 28.90 | 29.20 | 29.65 |
| | | Band 2 | 33.34 | 33.64 | 34.09 |
| LCpl | 2 | Band 1 | 27.83 | 28.13 | 28.58 |
| | | Band 2 | 31.86 | 32.16 | 32.61 |
| | 1 | Band 1 | 36.31 | 36.61 | 37.06 |
| | | Band 2 | 30.20 | 30.50 | 30.95 |
| Cpl | 3 | Band 1 | 34.22 | 34.52 | 34.97 |
| | | Band 2 | 38.66 | 38.96 | 39.41 |
| | 2 | Band 1 | 30.20 | 30.50 | 30.95 |
| | | Band 2 | 34.22 | 34.52 | 34.97 |
| Sgt | 1 | Band 1 | 38.66 | 38.96 | 39.41 |
| | | Band 2 | 32.27 | 32.57 | 33.02 |
| | 2 | Band 1 | 36.29 | 36.59 | 37.04 |
| | | Band 2 | 41.10 | 41.40 | 41.85 |
| SSgt | 1 | Band 1 | 34.71 | 35.01 | 35.46 |
| | | Band 2 | 38.74 | 39.04 | 39.49 |
| | 2 | Band 1 | 43.54 | 43.84 | 44.29 |
| | | Band 2 | 37.28 | 37.58 | 38.03 |
| WO2 | 1 | Band 1 | 41.29 | 41.59 | 42.04 |
| | | Band 2 | 46.11 | 46.41 | 46.86 |
| | 2 | Band 1 | 40.01 | 40.31 | 40.76 |
| | | Band 2 | 44.04 | 44.34 | 44.79 |
| WO1 | 1 | Band 1 | 48.85 | 49.15 | 49.60 |
| | | Band 2 | 43.62 | 43.92 | 44.37 |
| | 2 | Band 1 | 47.96 | 48.26 | 48.71 |
| | | Band 2 | 52.70 | 53.00 | 53.45 |
| WO1 | 1 | Band 1 | 46.13 | 46.43 | 46.88 |
| | | Band 2 | 50.46 | 50.76 | 51.21 |
| | 2 | Band 1 | 55.22 | 55.52 | 55.97 |
| | | Band 2 | 60.95 | 61.25 | 61.70 |
| WO1 | 1 | Band 1 | 49.32 | 49.62 | 50.07 |
| | | Band 2 | 53.67 | 53.97 | 54.42 |
| | 2 | Band 1 | 59.52 | 59.82 | 60.27 |
| | | Band 2 | 65.38 | 65.68 | 66.13 |
| WO1 | 1 | Band 1 | 52.60 | 52.90 | 53.35 |
| | | Band 2 | 56.93 | 57.23 | 57.68 |
| | 2 | Band 1 | 62.86 | 63.16 | 63.61 |
| | | Band 2 | 68.70 | 69.00 | 69.45 |

OFFICERS COMMISSIONED FROM THE RANKS SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

| | Years of soldier service | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | <12 yrs | 12-15 yrs | 15 yrs+ |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| On appointment/commission | 65.62 | 68.95 | 72.29 |
| 1 year | 67.29 | 70.63 | 73.38 |
| 2 years | 68.95 | 72.29 | 74.46 |
| 3 years | 70.63 | 73.38 | 75.55 |
| 4 years | 72.29 | 74.46 | 76.62 |
| 5 years | 73.38 | 75.55 | 77.71 |
| 6 years | 74.46 | 76.62 | 78.79 |
| 8 years | 75.55 | 77.71 | 79.88 |
| 10 years | 76.62 | 78.79 | 79.88 |
| 12 years | 77.71 | 79.88 | 79.88 |
| 14 years | 78.79 | 79.88 | 79.88 |
| 16 years | 79.88 | 79.88 | 79.88 |

LENGTH OF SERVICE INCREMENTS (LSI) Daily Rates

| Rank | 9 yrs | 12 yrs | 15 yrs | 18 yrs | 22 yrs |
|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| Pte | 0.76 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 |
| LCpl | 0.76 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 |
| Cpl | 0.76 | 1.10 | 1.30 | 1.30 | 1.30 |
| Sgt | 0.93 | 1.30 | 1.61 | 1.93 | 1.93 |
| SSgt | 0.93 | 1.30 | 1.61 | 2.24 | 2.24 |
| WO2 | 0.93 | 1.30 | 1.61 | 2.24 | 2.55 |
| WO1 | 0.93 | 1.30 | 1.61 | 2.24 | 2.92 |

OFFICERS REGULAR COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

| | Daily rates |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| | £ |
| On appointment/commission | 72.29 |
| 1 year | 73.38 |
| 2 years | 74.46 |
| 3 years | 75.55 |
| 4 years | 76.62 |
| 5 years | 77.71 |
| 6 years | 78.79 |
| 8 years | 79.88 |

JUNIOR ENTRANTS

| Age | Daily rates |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| | £ |
| 17.5 years and over | 22.20 |
| 17 but under 17.5 years | 16.78 |
| 16.5 but under 17 years | 13.83 |
| 16 but under 16.5 years | 13.83 |

New rates of pay for R Irish (HSFT), TA and NRPS will appear in the next issue

ADDITIONAL PAY

Daily rates (second stage)

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--|---------|
| <i>Officer pilots and flying instructors</i> | | <i>Falkland Islands</i> | |
| Initial rate | £ 8.86 | All ranks | £ 4.00 |
| Middle rate | 14.88 | | |
| Top rate | 22.48 | <i>Northern Ireland</i> | £ |
| Lt Col after 6 years | 21.27 | All ranks up to Brig | £ 4.00 |
| Lt Col after 8 years | 20.02 | | |
| Colonel on appointment | 18.76 | <i>Gurkha Service Pay</i> | £ |
| Colonel after 2 years | 17.50 | Lt Col and above | £ 5.10 |
| Colonel after 4 years | 16.26 | Major | £ 4.45 |
| Colonel after 6 years | 14.40 | Capt | £ 3.80 |
| Colonel after 8 years | 12.51 | Lt/2nd Lt | £ 3.20 |
| Brigadier | 7.50 | | |
| <i>Soldier pilots and flying instructors</i> | | <i>Gurkha Language</i> | £ |
| Initial rate | £ 8.86 | Lower rate | £ 0.51 |
| Middle Rate | 14.88 | Higher rate | £ 0.90 |
| Top rate | 22.48 | <i>Experimental</i> | £ |
| <i>Parachutists</i> | £ | All ranks per test | £ 1.70 |
| All ranks | 3.35 | <i>Academy Sergeant Major, Sandhurst</i> | £ |
| <i>Parachute jump instructors</i> | £ | | £ 5.94 |
| All ranks | 4.45 | <i>Divers (all ranks)</i> | £ |
| <i>Air Despatch</i> | £ | ACAD | £ 2.55 |
| Under Trg/Lower Rate | £ 3.07 | UDS | £ 5.15 |
| Higher rate | £ 4.96 | AAD | £ 7.35 |
| | | ADS | £ 12.50 |
| | | ADI | £ 12.50 |
| <i>RLC helicopter crews</i> | £ | <i>Separation Allowance</i> | £ |
| All ranks | 3.07 | UK and NW Europe | £ 2.85 |
| | | Elsewhere | £ 3.65 |
| <i>Aircrewmen</i> | £ | <i>Work in unpleasant conditions</i> | £ |
| Initial rate | £ 4.39 | Soldiers only | £ 0.60 |
| Middle rate | £ 9.68 | | |
| Top rate | £ 11.38 | | |
| <i>SAS</i> | £ | <i>London</i> | £ |
| | £ | Inner London | £ |
| All Officers and WO1 | £ 14.83 | Outer London | £ |
| WO2/SSgt/Sgt | £ 11.90 | Basic rate | £ 2.63 |
| Cpl and below | £ 9.67 | Additional housing rate | £ 1.48 |
| | | | £ 0.57 |
| <i>Work of an objectionable nature</i> | £ | | |
| All ranks | £ | | |
| | Basic rate | | |
| | Higher rate | | |
| | | | |

NEW ACCOMMODATION CHARGES

Daily rates (second stage)

ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND AND OVERSEAS

Married quarters

| Type | Grade | | | |
|------|-------|------|------|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| I | 8.94 | 8.12 | 5.68 | 3.59 |
| II | 8.07 | 7.33 | 5.14 | 3.27 |
| III | 7.08 | 6.45 | 4.54 | 2.91 |
| IV | 6.22 | 5.66 | 4.12 | 2.63 |
| V | 5.45 | 4.98 | 3.58 | 2.36 |
| D/WO | 4.34 | 3.97 | 2.90 | 1.88 |
| C | 4.00 | 3.65 | 2.67 | 1.75 |
| B | 3.68 | 3.37 | 2.45 | 1.62 |
| A | 2.82 | 2.58 | 1.92 | 1.31 |

Single accommodation

| Rank | Grade | | | |
|----------------|-------|------|------|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Maj and above | 3.55 | 3.22 | 2.34 | 1.48 |
| Capt and below | 2.97 | 2.71 | 1.94 | 1.26 |
| WO/SNCO | 2.21 | 2.01 | 1.46 | 0.95 |
| Cpl and below | 1.27 | 1.16 | 0.87 | 0.59 |
| Junior | 0.99 | 0.91 | 0.69 | 0.48 |

NORTHERN IRELAND

Married quarters

| Type | Grade | | | |
|------|-------|------|------|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| I | 6.77 | 5.64 | 2.85 | 0.45 |
| II | 5.86 | 4.87 | 2.47 | 0.39 |
| III | 3.75 | 3.04 | 1.33 | 0.00 |
| IV | 3.24 | 2.62 | 1.18 | 0.00 |
| V | 2.85 | 2.31 | 1.03 | 0.00 |
| D/WO | 2.49 | 2.04 | 0.99 | 0.00 |
| C | 2.28 | 1.88 | 0.91 | 0.00 |
| B | 2.06 | 1.70 | 0.82 | 0.00 |
| A | 1.60 | 1.32 | 0.65 | 0.00 |

Single accommodation NIL

All rates assume furnished quarters

YOUR NEW PAY SCALES

SECOND STAGE - FROM JANUARY 1, 1995

OFFICERS - MAIN SCALE

| Rank | Service | New Daily rates |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 2nd Lt (UC) | On appointment | £ 20.45 |
| | +1 year | 23.47 |
| | +2 years | 26.35 |
| | +3 years | 28.77 |
| 2nd Lt (SSLC) | On commissioning | 26.69 |
| | After 9 months | 28.51 |
| | | 35.59 |
| | | 47.04 |
| 2nd Lt | On appointment | £ 47.04 |
| | +1 year | 48.28 |
| | +2 years | 49.52 |
| | +3 years | 50.76 |
| Capt | On appointment | £ 52.00 |
| | +1 year | 60.07 |
| | +2 years | 61.69 |
| | +3 years | 63.31 |
| Maj | On appointment | £ 64.93 |
| | +1 year | 66.55 |
| | +2 years | 68.17 |
| | +3 years | 69.79 |
| Lt Col | On appointment | £ 76.24 |
| | +1 year | 78.12 |
| | +2 years | 80.00 |
| | +3 years | 81.88 |
| Col | On appointment | £ 83.76 |
| | +1 year | 85.64 |
| | +2 years | 87.52 |
| | +3 years | 89.40 |
| Brig | On appointment | £ 91.28 |
| | +1 year | 105.27 |
| | +2 years | 107.33 |
| | +3 years | 110.15 |
| Brig | On appointment | £ 112.97 |
| | +1 year | 115.79 |
| | +2 years | 118.61 |
| | +3 years | 124.97 |
| Brig | On appointment | £ 128.26 |
| | +1 year | 131.55 |
| | +2 years | 134.84 |
| | +3 years | 138.13 |
| Brig | On appointment | £ 153.31 |
| | +1 year | |
| | +2 years | |
| | +3 years | |

SOLDIERS' SCALE RATES

| Rank | Class | Band | A | B | C |
|------|-------|--------|----------|----------|----------|
| Pte | 4 | Band 1 | £ 22.28 | £ 22.58 | £ 23.03 |
| | | Band 2 | 24.96 | 25.26 | 25.71 |
| | | Band 3 | 28.98 | 29.28 | 29.73 |
| | | Band 4 | 33.44 | 33.74 | 34.19 |
| LCpl | 3 | Band 1 | £ 27.91 | £ 28.21 | £ 28.66 |
| | | Band 2 | 31.95 | 32.25 | 32.70 |
| | | Band 3 | 36.42 | 36.72 | 37.17 |
| | | Band 4 | 40.35 | 40.65 | 41.10 |
| Cpl | 2 | Band 1 | £ 34.39 | £ 34.69 | £ 35.14 |
| | | Band 2 | 38.85 | 39.15 | 39.60 |
| | | Band 3 | 43.30 | 43.60 | 44.05 |
| | | Band 4 | 47.76 | 48.06 | 48.51 |
| Sgt | 1 | Band 1 | £ 50.15 | £ 50.45 | £ 50.90 |
| | | Band 2 | 54.56 | 54.86 | 55.31 |
| | | Band 3 | 58.97 | 59.27 | 59.72 |
| | | Band 4 | 63.38 | 63.68 | 64.13 |
| SSgt | | Band 1 | £ 67.79 | £ 68.09 | £ 68.54 |
| | | Band 2 | 72.20 | 72.50 | 72.95 |
| | | Band 3 | 76.61 | 76.91 | 77.36 |
| | | Band 4 | 81.02 | 81.32 | 81.77 |
| WO2 | | Band 1 | £ 85.43 | £ 85.73 | £ 86.18 |
| | | Band 2 | 89.84 | 90.14 | 90.59 |
| | | Band 3 | 94.25 | 94.55 | 95.00 |
| | | Band 4 | 98.66 | 98.96 | 99.41 |
| WO1 | | Band 1 | £ 103.07 | £ 103.37 | £ 103.82 |
| | | Band 2 | 107.48 | 107.78 | 108.23 |
| | | Band 3 | 111.89 | 112.19 | 112.64 |
| | | Band 4 | 116.30 | 116.60 | 117.05 |

OFFICERS COMMISSIONED FROM THE RANKS SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

| | Years of soldier service | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | <12 yrs | 12-15 yrs | 15 yrs+ |
| On appointment/commission | £ 66.42 | £ 69.82 | £ 73.22 |
| 1 year | 68.12 | 71.52 | 74.32 |
| 2 years | 69.82 | 73.22 | 75.41 |
| 3 years | 71.52 | 74.32 | 76.51 |
| 4 years | 73.22 | 75.41 | 77.61 |
| 5 years | 74.32 | 76.51 | 78.71 |
| 6 years | 75.41 | 77.61 | 79.80 |
| 7 years | 76.51 | 78.71 | 80.90 |
| 8 years | 77.61 | 79.80 | 82.00 |
| 9 years | 78.71 | 80.90 | 83.10 |
| 10 years | 79.80 | 82.00 | 84.20 |
| 11 years | 80.90 | 83.10 | 85.30 |
| 12 years | 82.00 | 84.20 | 86.40 |
| 13 years | 83.10 | 85.30 | 87.50 |
| 14 years | 84.20 | 86.40 | 88.60 |
| 15 years | 85.30 | 87.50 | 89.70 |
| 16 years | 86.40 | 88.60 | 90.80 |

OFFICERS REGULAR COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

| | Daily rates |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| On appointment/commission | £ 73.22 |
| 1 year | 74.32 |
| 2 years | 75.41 |
| 3 years | 76.51 |
| 4 years | 77.61 |
| 5 years | 78.71 |
| 6 years | 79.80 |
| 7 years | 80.90 |

LENGTH OF SERVICE INCREMENTS (LSI)

Daily Rates

| Rank | 9 yrs | 12 yrs | 15 yrs | 18 yrs | 22 yrs |
|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Pte | 0.76 | 1.10 | £ 1.10 | £ 1.10 | £ 1.10 |
| LCpl | 0.76 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 |
| Cpl | 0.76 | 1.10 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 1.35 |
| Sgt | 0.95 | 1.35 | 1.65 | 1.95 | 1.95 |
| SSgt | 0.95 | 1.35 | 1.65 | 2.25 | 2.25 |
| WO2 | 0.95 | 1.35 | 1.65 | 2.25 | 2.55 |
| WO1 | 0.95 | 1.35 | 1.65 | 2.25 | 2.95 |

JUNIOR ENTRANTS

| Age | Daily rates |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 17.5 years and over | £ 22.28 |
| 17 but under 17.5 years | 16.84 |
| 16.5 but under 17 years | 13.88 |
| 16 but under 16.5 years | 13.88 |

New rates of pay for R Irish (HSFT), TA and NRPS will appear in the next issue

ADDITIONAL PAY

Daily rates (first stage)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|------|
| Officer pilots and flying instructors | | | £ | Falkland Islands | | | £ | | |
| Initial rate | | | 8.78 | All ranks | | | 3.96 | | |
| Middle rate | | | 14.75 | | | | | | |
| Top rate | | | 22.28 | Northern Ireland | | | £ | | |
| Lt Col after 6 years | | | 21.07 | All ranks up to Brig | | | 3.96 | | |
| Lt Col after 8 years | | | 19.84 | | | | | | |
| Colonel on appointment | | | 18.59 | Gurkha Service Pay | | | £ | | |
| Colonel after 2 years | | | 17.35 | Lt Col and above | | | 5.05 | | |
| Colonel after 4 years | | | 16.11 | Major | | | 4.43 | | |
| Colonel after 6 years | | | 14.27 | Capt | | | 3.75 | | |
| Colonel after 8 years | | | 12.40 | Lt/2nd Lt | | | 3.18 | | |
| Brigadier | | | 7.44 | | | | | | |
| Soldier pilots and flying instructors | | | £ | Gurkha Language | | | £ | | |
| Initial rate | | | 8.78 | Lower rate | | | 0.51 | | |
| Middle rate | | | 14.75 | Higher rate | | | 0.88 | | |
| Top rate | | | 22.28 | Experimental | | | £ | | |
| | | | | All ranks per test | | | 1.66 | | |
| Parachutists | | | £ | Academy Sergeant Major, Sandhurst | | | £ | | |
| All ranks | | | 3.32 | | | | 5.84 | | |
| Parachute jump instructors | | | £ | Divers (all ranks) | | | £ | | |
| All ranks | | | 4.42 | ACAD | | | 1 | 2.55 | |
| Air Despatch | | | £ | UDS | | | 2 | 5.08 | |
| Under Trg/Lower Rate | | | 3.04 | AAD | | | 3 | 7.29 | |
| Higher rate | | | 4.92 | ADS | | | 4 | 12.38 | |
| | | | | ADI | | | 4 | 12.38 | |
| RLC helicopter crews | | | £ | Separation Allowance | | | £ | | |
| All ranks | | | 3.04 | UK and NW Europe | | | 2.81 | | |
| Aircrewmen | | | £ | Elsewhere | | | 3.59 | | |
| Initial rate | | | 4.35 | | | | | | |
| Middle rate | | | 9.59 | Work in unpleasant conditions | | | £ | | |
| Top rate | | | 11.28 | Soldiers only | | | 0.58 | | |
| SAS | | | £ | London | | | Inner London | Outer London | |
| | | | Lower rate | Higher rate | Basic rate | | | 2.61 | 1.47 |
| All Officers and WO1 | | | 14.70 | 20.60 | Additional housing rate | | | 1.43 | 0.57 |
| WO2/SSgt/Sgt | | | 11.79 | 17.65 | | | | | |
| Cpl and below | | | 9.58 | 15.43 | | | | | |
| Work of an objectionable nature | | | £ | | | | | | |
| All ranks | | | Basic rate | 2.19 | | | | | |
| | | | Higher rate | 11.05 | | | | | |

NEW ACCOMMODATION CHARGES

Daily rates with effect from April 1

ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND AND OVERSEAS

Married quarters

| Type | Grade | | | |
|------|-------|------|------|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| I | 8.83 | 8.02 | 5.61 | 3.54 |
| II | 7.97 | 7.24 | 5.07 | 3.23 |
| III | 6.99 | 6.37 | 4.48 | 2.87 |
| IV | 6.14 | 5.59 | 4.07 | 2.59 |
| V | 5.38 | 4.92 | 3.53 | 2.33 |
| D/WO | 4.28 | 3.92 | 2.86 | 1.85 |
| C | 3.95 | 3.60 | 2.63 | 1.72 |
| B | 3.63 | 3.32 | 2.42 | 1.60 |
| A | 2.78 | 2.54 | 1.89 | 1.29 |

Single accommodation

| Rank | Grade | | | |
|----------------|-------|------|------|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Maj and above | 3.52 | 3.19 | 2.32 | 1.47 |
| Capt and below | 2.94 | 2.68 | 1.92 | 1.25 |
| WO/SNCO | 2.19 | 1.99 | 1.45 | 0.94 |
| Cpl and below | 1.26 | 1.15 | 0.86 | 0.59 |
| Junior | 0.98 | 0.90 | 0.69 | 0.48 |

NORTHERN IRELAND

Married quarters

| Type | Grade | | | |
|------|-------|------|------|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| I | 6.71 | 5.59 | 2.82 | 0.45 |
| II | 5.80 | 4.82 | 2.45 | 0.39 |
| III | 3.71 | 3.01 | 1.32 | 0.00 |
| IV | 3.21 | 2.59 | 1.17 | 0.00 |
| V | 2.82 | 2.29 | 1.02 | 0.00 |
| D/WO | 2.46 | 2.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 |
| C | 2.25 | 1.86 | 0.90 | 0.00 |
| B | 2.04 | 1.68 | 0.81 | 0.00 |
| A | 1.58 | 1.30 | 0.64 | 0.00 |

Single accommodation NIL

All rates assume furnished quarters

D-DAY 50 Countdown

MORE THAN 800 soldiers from Britain's Airborne Forces are to make a massed parachute drop in Normandy exactly 50 years after D-Day.

French and Polish paratroops will join 150 members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment and 850 British Paras jumping on one of the original Second World War drop zones used by the 6th Airborne Division on the morning of June 6, 1944.

Afterwards, the Paras will join veterans at a ceremony in Ranville where a bust of the wartime Divisional commander, Gen Sir Richard Gale, will be unveiled near the site of the Pegasus Bridge.

The 1,000 paratroopers will fly to Normandy in 15 Hercules aircraft (three of them Canadian) from RAF Lyneham, passing over RAF Brize Norton en route in tribute to that station's role as the main launching platform for the original airborne operation.

Following the ceremony, the Paras will join an Airborne Forces battlefield tour accompanied by D-Day veterans.

The commemorative drop is just one of hundreds of events taking place throughout the United Kingdom and in France this summer.

Here is a selection of UK events:

Now open: D-Day exhibition at Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ (further information on 071-416 5000).

D-Day Museum Portsmouth.

MAY

14-15: D-Day Air Display and International Air Show at Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop (0264 384421).

17-October 31: "Flying for Invasion", a major exhibition of the role of air power before, during and after the invasion. RAF Museum, London (081-205 2266).

25: 50th anniversary of Review of the Fleet at Portland Harbour in 1944. Wreath-laying ceremonies, viewing of Mulberry harbours and military vehicle display. (Information from Cllr Mrs Carol White, 127 Reforme, Portland DT5 2AP.)

27-28: Hampshire Remembers D-Day, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, nr Southampton; 10,000 veterans expected on parade. Includes a review of yachts and craft representing the invasion fleet. Gun salutes fired from Calshot, Lepe and Cowes. (Further information: 0703 285968.)



"Jane", the famous *Daily Mirror* strip cartoon heroine, still has a following among Second World War veterans. The original model for "Jane", Christabel Leighton-Porter (left) shows a compilation of cartoons to radio broadcaster and Normandy veteran, Charlie Chester, and Miss Jo Lewis, who modelled the uniform of the wartime Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. The occasion was the launch of the Imperial War Museum's *D-Day to Victory* exhibition which has opened in London

28-30: Military Vehicle Trust D-Day 50th anniversary commemoration rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Details from Chris Pearce, 2 Locks Road, Locks Heath, Southampton SO3 6NT (tel: 0489 572582).

May-Sept: D-Day display at Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop.

JUNE 2

● **D-Day Parade** of veterans, military bands and military vehicles at Weymouth (0929 426310).

JUNE 4

● **Southwick House Garden Party**, HMS Dryad, near Portsmouth (invitation only).

● **Beating Retreat, Portsmouth.** Bands from the Royal Navy, Army and RAF, supported by bands from other nations and the Queen's Colour Squadron of the Royal Air Force.

● **Portsmouth Guildhall dinner** for 500 representatives of nations, military units, civil communities and organisations who contributed to the operations on D-Day.

JUNE 5

● **Drumhead Service.** A joint United Kingdom, American and Canadian service on Southsea Common. Open to all-comers, particularly veterans unable to attend other official events.

● **Flotilla to Normandy.** An international flotilla, consisting of warships from Allied nations who contributed to D-Day and commercial shipping such as Canberra and the QE2, will escort the Royal Yacht from Portsmouth to the coast of Normandy.

● **Flypast.** The flotilla will be overflown by a fly-past of military aircraft preceded by the Swordfish aircraft of the Royal Naval Historical Flight and a Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricanes of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

● **Normandy parachute drop.** Up to 1,000 paratroopers will drop near the site of Pegasus Bridge and attend the unveiling of a bust of Gen Sir Richard Gale.

● **Service of commemoration** by soldiers and veterans of 3rd Division in Hermanville military cemetery, Normandy.

JUNE 6

● **National services of commemoration** by veterans in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries at Bayeux, Douvres la Deliverande, Hermanville, Ranville, and Ryes.

● **International ceremony** at Omaha Beach with Heads of State of Allied countries led by President Mitterrand.

● **Arromanches march-past.** Many of the veterans in Normandy will march, while ships of the Royal Navy lie offshore and the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will flypast.

JUNE 25

● **D-Day 50th Anniversary Reunion Festival**, Royal Albert Hall.

JUNE 26

● **D-Day 50th Anniversary Parade** on Horse Guards, followed by service at Cenotaph.

● See Book Reviews, Page 35

Gulf grave volunteers were drawn from all cap badges

WITHOUT wishing to split hairs I feel that your article "Pioneering Spirit", which appeared in the February 7 edition, may have misled your readers in certain aspects.

While it is correct that 522 Squadron RLC now maintains two troops to carry out War

Bush hats, wearing of

POGLE asked (Briefings, January 24) about his father's RASC amphibious company in India wearing Australian bush hats.

This was not unusual. The hat was worn both by British officers with the African Rifles and other British personnel as well as a number of Indian Army regiments both before and during the Second World War.

By 1942 this headwear was being issued in the South East Asia Command, replacing the pith helmet and topee, but it was not universally worn by the British Army and others until late 1943. — **Maj (Retd) E A G Croucher (ex-SEAC), Diss, Norfolk.**

Graves Service (WGS) duties this was not so in the Gulf.

At the time of the conflict there were a handful of people within the Royal Pioneer Corps who were trained in WGS duties, these included the then OC of 522 Coy RPC, Maj I E Jones. When the decision was taken to deploy the WGS teams, personnel were drawn from all parts of the Royal Pioneer Corps, not just from 522 Coy, to form four teams.

Three of these teams were deployed to Al Jubail under my command and the fourth was deployed to Riyadh under the command of Maj Jones, who retained overall command of

the teams and was also double-hatted as SO2 J4 (War Graves).

Maj Pratchek was employed in 908 Pioneer Labour Support Unit (PLSU). He dealt with civilian labour and had nothing to do with the WGS.

Shortly before the land battle started I was briefed on the plan to advance through Iraq. This meant that the teams at Al Jubail would need to be significantly reinforced with In Theatre Reserves (ITRs) who were based in Blackadder lines.

Within a very short time all these volunteers, drawn from a number of corps and regiments of the British Army, had been

trained and were moving forward to undertake a most unpleasant task.

Fortunately we did not have many Allied dead to deal with. Nevertheless, my personal thanks go to all those, from whatever cap badge, who volunteered for and carried out what was probably one of the most unpleasant, thankless and least publicised jobs of the whole conflict.

While 522 Sqn will probably provide the bulk of the soldiers doing this job in the future, it certainly did not do so in the Gulf — **Maj P J D Ralph, HQ 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, St David's Barracks, Bicester.**

RECALL THE BELISHA MILITIA!

IN THE SOLDIER interview with the Chief of the General Staff (January 24) the need for a special class of reservist was discussed.

I was called-up as a Belisha Militiaman in July 1939 and in later years commanded a variety of Army Emergency Reserve units. It occurs to me that a similar reserve force might be created to complete the Order of Battle of our fight-

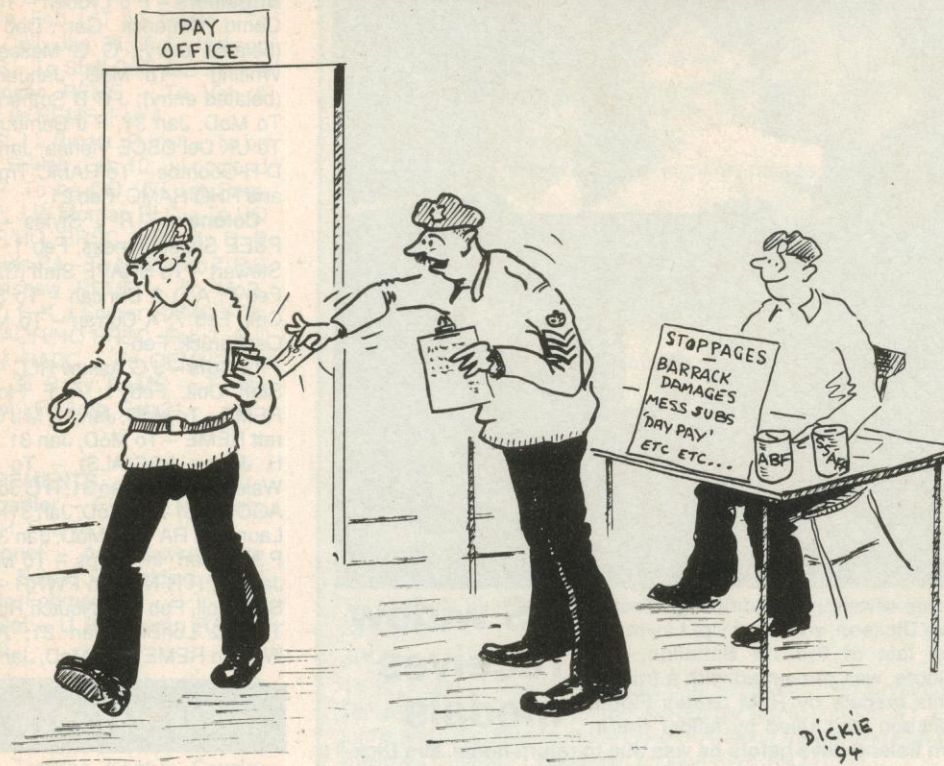
ing and logistic units when required to meet a national emergency or to fulfil UK operational obligations to Nato or UN forces.

Such a Reserve in support of the Regular Army could be formed by the recall of Regular Reservists together with Volunteers for, say, six months' Militia service.

Alternatively, why not introduce a limited form of Nation-

al Service, selected at random from the unemployed of the 18-21 age group? Although the conscription of non-volunteers may be politically unpopular, there can be no doubt that a period of character-building military service would be beneficial to the national effort to curb the prevalence of violent crime. — **Lt Col (Retd) Donald Densham-Booth, Moretonhampstead, Devon.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"Good grief, Worthington . . . how else d'you think the Army can afford your pay rise!"

PERILS (RAOC-STYLE) OF JOY-RIDING A TANK

AN EX-Conductor RAOC, I served in BAOR with 305 EADCU at various locations in Schleswig Holstein at the end of the Second World War.

I was in charge of the ex-Wehrmacht unit known as SprengKommando Knuth, concerned with the destruction of captured and enemy ammunition, which was blown up in controlled demolitions of 80 tons a day in Staat Forst Segeberg, by Bad Bramstedt. We operated out of Lokstedter Lager ammunition depot between October 1945 and October 1946.

Lokstedter Lager (known as LOLA) had been captured almost intact, but the key press, containing all the keys, had been emptied into a heap on the floor of an office.

Searching the depot for "oddities" we found two Goliaths — miniaturised tanks equipped with large mines and steered by guidewires — which the Germans sent lumbering towards defensive positions to

be detonated by remote control. (Precursors of Wheelbarrow Mk8?)

After rendering them safe we got them going and rode around in an attached trailer at a wild three miles an hour.

We were less successful with a full-size Tiger, stripped for mounting a gun, which we got started. Unfortunately the

steering jammed and the Tiger straddled the perimeter fence, one track inside, one track outside the depot, and proceeded to flatten 200 yards of fencing. It stopped only when someone cut the fuel supply.

Life in the less glamorous units could be extremely interesting on occasions. — **Benjamin Price, Bristol.**

Medals and the twaddle factor

MAY I lend support to Ray Parkes ("Your medal rules are twaddle!", Letters, January 24).

The twaddle-factor continues more recently than the Khedives Star — how about the Korea Medal and the UN Service Medal (Korea); and the British Vietnam Medal and the South Vietnamese Campaign Medal 1964.

However, the apogee of twaddle-dum must be the

Rhodesia Medal and the Zimbabwe Independence Medal. All members of the British contingent in the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia in 1979-80 received both medals.

Unusually the independence medal was issued in three grades — gold, silver and bronze. The gold (only one awarded to a Brit, I think) and silver (possibly two to Brits) were considered to be

Sphinx riddle solved

MAY I thank the many hundreds of people who wrote following the publication of my letter, headed "Solve the riddle of the Sphinx" in the September 6, 1993 edition of SOLDIER.

An article by Maj Parkyn published in the 1930s stated that while the Sphinx badge was granted to regiments as far back as 1802 for the 1801 Egyptian campaign, the original designer of the badge had little to go on because the Sphinx at the Great Pyramids was so mutilated. No real work of reference on the subject was available until 1821.

At the time of Maj Parkyn's article, the Garter King of Arms, Gerald W Wollaston, stated in a letter to the colonel of the Scots Guards that paintings of the Colours of the three regiments of Foot Guards sanctioned by George III in 1811 showed a female Sphinx "with the tail projecting above the back, as it has ever since been depicted".

He added that the Sphinx was shown similarly at a slightly later date to paintings of the Colours of the various line regiments entitled to the device.

I hope this letter goes some way to showing my appreciation in solving the riddle of why the female, rather than male, Sphinx was adopted for regimental capbadges. — **A C Sprason, Custodian, The Lancashire Fusiliers Regimental Museum, Bury, Lancs.**

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SOLDIER to Soldier

SSAFA's D-Day at the races

SSAFA funds will be the real winner at a D-Day commemoration race meeting scheduled for Kempton Park on May 2.

Sponsored by the Services' welfare organisation, the programme includes racing and many other star attractions, including the Red Devils and the RAF's replica fighter aircraft.

For £30 you can sponsor a horse – and win a case of Champagne if it is first past the post.

Advance booking discounts for the members' enclosure, £10 on the day, will save you £3, while £50 tickets for the grand auction lunch will include entrance to the members' enclosure, Champagne reception, three-course lunch and entry to the auction.

Ring 071-403 8783 ext 214 or 222 for booking details.



At a private ceremony at Edinburgh Castle, Mrs Silka Dickson, widow of Cpl Lawrence Dickson, late of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, was presented with a framed set of his medals by RSM James Flood. LCpl Dickson was killed by sniper fire in Northern Ireland days before he was due to return home. Mrs Dickson is planning to return to her family in Germany with baby daughter Roxanne.

RS widow receives medals

while their counterparts resident in that country receive many additional benefits denied to the British "New Zealand" war widows.

The War Widows' Association reckons it would cost less than £100,000 to give them parity – and a more comfortable old age. It is supporting an Early Day Motion tabled by John Butcher MP calling on the Government to give them parity.

Tribute to Canadians

NEARLY a million Canadian men and women travelled to Britain during the First and Second World Wars to fight for freedom.

Now their memory is to be perpetuated in the form of a monument near the Canada Gates in Green Park, London.

Many Canadians worked throughout Britain to support the war effort – in factories, hospitals and schools – and nearly 100,000 died in uniform.

Work started on the monument on February 9 and will be completed in time for the unveiling by the Queen on June 3.

Back to the battlefields

THE NATIONAL Army Museum in Chelsea is hosting a one-day mini-

conference on the basic statistics of Britain's battlefield – how many took part, precisely where, casualties and so on.

Scheduled for April 24, the meeting will cover the Dark Age, late medieval, civil war and Jacobite periods.

Tickets (£9) and details are available from Paddy Griffith, 22 Callendar Close, Nuneaton, Warks CV11 6LU (tel: 0203 350763).

Tell us your D-Day story

CALLING all D-Day veterans ... what are your special memories of the great invasion?

SOLDIER invites recollections of June 6, 1944 to be considered for publication in a special anniversary feature this summer.

Contributions should be restricted to no more than 175 words, and should include your rank at the time and name of unit.

...and put us in the picture

DID you have a camera with you and on D-Day? Photographs taken on June 6 will be considered for our anniversary issue

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers – P J Lyddon – To be Comd Catterick Gar, Dec 17 (belated entry); G G Messervy-Whiting – To MoD, January 6 (belated entry); J C B Sutherland – To MoD, Jan 31; P J Bambury – To UK Del CSCE Vienna, Jan 31; D H Coombe – To RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Feb 21.

Colonels – R L Styles – To P&EE Shoeburyness, Feb 1; R A Stewart – To SHAPE Staff (BAE), Feb 7; A D A Duncan – To Staff Coll, Feb 7; A Curran – To MRS Osnabrück, Feb 7.

Lt Cols – J G Askew RLC – To Staff Coll, Feb 1; A F Flower REME – To MoD, Jan 31; M J Garratt REME – To MoD, Jan 31; N J H Jones AGC(ALS) – To HQ Wales & WDist, Jan 31; R G Jones AGC (ETS) – To MoD, Jan 31; N H Launder RA – To MoD, Jan 31; J P Morrison, Int Corps – To MoD, Jan 31; P R Newton PWRR – To Staff Coll, Feb 1; R Nouch RLC – To HQ Londist, Jan 31; A M Watson REME – To MoD, Jan 31;

REUNIONS

● **Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron:** Annual dinner on March 17 at Officers' Mess, RAF Finningley will mark the 25th anniversary of the squadron's formation. Details from Squadron Adjutant, Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron, RAF Finningley, Doncaster, S Yorks DN9 3LQ (tel: 0302 770771 ext 7421).

● **RAOC/REME Middle Easterners Association:** Annual reunion lunch on April 9 at Oval Banqueting Suite, Kennington, SE11. Contact Charles Baxter, Secretary, 129 Benhill Road, London SE5 7LZ (tel: 071-703 5365).

● **1151-1157 Boys Battery:** Reunion to take place at Royal School of Artillery on April 15-17. Details from T C Holden, 3 Kilburn Street, Watersheddings, Oldham, Lancs OL1 4JF (tel: 061-633 8194).

● **RASC Jersey Boys:** Gathering at Doncaster, April 22-24. Arrangements are being made for a reunion in Jersey in 1995 (May 6-13). Contact T/88196 Joe Gutteridge, "New Horizon", 6 Tudor Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6UE (tel: 0278 422806).

● **150th Regt RHA South Notts Hussars OCA:** Annual reunion dinner in the Strathdon Hotel, Derby Road, Nottingham, April 23. Details from Geoff Clarke on 0602 815711.

● **Band of The Royal Highland Fusiliers:** Reunion for past and present members, April 23. Details from Band Clerk or BSM, Regimental Band, 1 RHF, Edin-

J F Crompton RE – To LSP Angola, Feb 1; T J L Goble – To Staff Coll, Jan 31; A C Jackson KOSB – To Staff Coll, Jan 31; E J Tomlinson REME – To Veh & Wpns Br REME, Feb 4.

P St J L Baxter, R Irish – To be CO 1 R Irish, Feb 10; J Longland RLC – To be CO 157 Tpt Regt, Feb 7; J W Morgan RLC – To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, Feb 7; D P Richards RA – To MoD, Feb 7; P S Robertshaw REME – To MoD, Feb 7; R K J Forber RAMC – To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, Feb 7; S L Newell RADC – To QEMH, Feb 17; C G Batty RAMC – To 24 (Airmob) Fd Amb, Feb 21.

RETIREMENTS

Brigadier – E C W Morrison, late RH, Feb 14.

Colonel – A J Hawkes, late RADC, Feb 1; J V Fielding, late R Signals, February 15.

Lt Col – U Bhaskaran RAMC, Feb 19.

burgh Training Centre, Cavalry Barracks, Colinton, Edinburgh (tel: 031-310 5259).

● **138th (City of London) Fd Regt RA Association:** Reunion on April 25 at Victory Services Club, London. Details from Frank Flack, 2 Camborne Way, Hounslow TW5 0PW (tel: 081-570 5267). News from ex-members welcomed.

● **Command sapper reunion:** Sixth reunion will take place in Seaton Barracks, Plymouth on May 6-8. All commando-trained ranks who have served with 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE are invited. Details from Capt M D Berrill, Seaton Barracks, Tavistock Road, Plymouth PL6 5DL (tel: 0752 764003 or Seaton Mil ext 4003).

● **Middlesex Regiment (DCO):** Annual reunion at Victory Services Club, London W2, May 7. Details from R E B Morris, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA (tel: 081-949 7506).

● **RAMC/RADC WOs and Sgts Past and Present Dinner Club:** The 1994 dinner and reunion is to be held on May 7 at the RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale. Details from WO1 (RSM) P Fowler RAMC, RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

● **Second World War Air Forces RADAR reunion:** Blackpool, May 20-22. Details from Harry W G Jurd, 9 Chelmer Court, Basingstoke RG21 2DT (tel: 0256 25980).

DIARY

MARCH

11-12: Grand Military Meeting, Sandown.

13: Army Benevolent Fund presents Massed Military Music, Southport Theatre.

APRIL

17: Queen to review Year of the Yeomanry parade in Windsor Great Park.

21: Queen's Birthday. King's Troop RHA to fire 41-gun salute in Hyde Park; HAC to fire 62-gun salute at the Tower.

MAY

8: Combined Cavalry "Old Comrades" parade and memorial service at Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park.

14-15: International Air Show, Middle Wallop.

21: Monte Cassino 50th anniversary remembrance service, St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

21-23: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

JUNE

1-2: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130 hours. Tickets £12, £10 and £3 (unreserved) from Household Division Funds Office, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 (enclose sae).

11: Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, Colour trooped by 2 Gren Gds.

JULY

11-12: Guild of Aviation Artists annual exhibition, The Carisbrooke Gallery, 63 Seymour Street (behind Marble Arch), London W1. Entry forms and schedules from the Guild of Aviation Artists, The Bondway Business Centre, 71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ.

16-23: Nijmegen Marches, the Netherlands.

19-30: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (tickets available from box office on 071-373 8141).

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

D-DAY DIARY – Page 29

● **201 RCZ Wksp REME(V):** 23rd joint mess reunion at Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwick on May 21. Details from Maj R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP.

● **Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment:** 300th anniversary to be celebrated in Worcester on June 4. Tickets from branches of the regimental association or RHQ WFR, Norton Barracks, Worcester WR5 2PA (tel: 0905 354359).

● **2 Troop, 9 Para Sqn RE:** Falklands reunion will be held on June 11. Details from SSgt Lillcrap, 1 Tp 9 Para Sqn RE, Rhine Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2AZ (tel: 0252 349460).

● **High-speed wireless operators:** Ex-4th Wireless Group OWKs (Egham 1943-45) not on Ron Weldon's list are asked to contact Alan E Foot, 96 Chiltern Crescent, Earley, Reading, Berks RG6 1AN. Reunion planned for June 17.

● **Chindit Association:** Annual reunion to commemorate 50th

anniversary of their last campaign in Burma will be held in the presence of their patron, The Prince of Wales, at Whittington Barracks, ATR Lichfield on June 17. Association members and families only.

● **Combined Ex-Services Association:** Annual reunion and conference weekend, June 17-19. The alternative D-Day celebration. Tickets £6 from Ticket Secretary, 17 Hustler Road, Bridlington, E Yorks YO16 5RN.

● **National Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association:** Annual reunion planned for October 21-24 at Warners Lakeside Village, Hayling Island. All Allied PoWs, friends and relatives welcome. Details from C Jago, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HG.

● **26 Regiment RA:** all ranks reunion, past and present members of 26 Regt (16, 17, 159, 76 and M Btys), November 25-27. Details of reunion from (and whereabouts of past members to) Brian Henderson, 3 Duke Street, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2HL (tel: 0933 442684).

SEARCHLINE

● **Harold Winterbottom RASC:** The daughter of the late Harold Winterbottom of Bolton, Lancs, is trying to trace where he landed on D-Day. He enlisted in the RASC on June 4, 1942, and, after landing in Normandy, went on to Caen, Paris and Düsseldorf. Replies to Mrs Margaret Langwine, 75 Greengate Farm, Coedpoeth, Wrexham, Clwyd.

● **Bandmaster Steele:** Norman A Davall, 12 Romeyn Road, Streatham, London SW16 2NU, wishes to trace Bandmaster Steele, who, while at Kneller Hall several years ago, was instructed by the late Albert Kay in the Schillinger system of musical composition.

● **Edward Russel from Southampton area:** Stuart Edwards, 9 Old Horsham Road, Crawley, W Sussex RH11 8PD (tel: 0293 528447) wishes to trace Edward Russel, regiment unknown, who in 1946 was based in or near Duderstadt, near Göttingen, in Lower Saxony, Germany.

● **El Adem Radio Service (TEARS) 1958-70:** John Barker, Spook E Darin, Phil Dasher, John Fraser, David Howes, Terry O'Ware, Rick Old, Ron Shipton and others sought for second reunion on May 21. Contact John Moir on 0705 595489.

● **HMLST 362 RASC survivors:** Clay Maxwell, secretary LST Club, 45 New Road, Water Orton, Birmingham B46 1QP (tel: 021-747 2418) wishes to hear from members of 463 Water Tank Company RASC, torpedoed aboard HMLST 362 in the Bay of Biscay on March 2, 1944, by U744. Survivors were picked up by HMS Rockwood, HMLSTs 324 and 413.

● **Ex-sapper postie Pat Heavey** is trying to trace posties he served with, in particular Bob Phipps and Freddy Campbell and those in 11 Armd Div Post Office, Herford 1952-53. Replies to son Graeme Heavey, 43 Thames Crescent, Corringham, Essex SS17 9DU.

● **Junior Soldiers, Fulwood Barracks (1969-71):** Those interested in a reunion are asked to contact Tony Bennett at 10 Renshaw Drive, Walton-le-Dale, Preston (tel: 0772 315180) or WO2 John Hogan at Inf Trg Bn, Strensal, York YO3 5SW (tel: 0904 659811 ext 2931).

● **Round family, 1 WFR, late BFPO 58:** Family friend Jason from Coleraine who visited at Mullard Road, BFPO 804, would like to get in touch. Write to Box No 246, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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A hard act to follow

WHEN THE Second World War began Dr David Chandler was five. Now to celebrate his 60th birthday and his retirement as head of the Department of War Studies at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, he has published his "random jottings" on Napoleon and his wars.

Acknowledged as a leading expert on the "art of war", he tells in a 24-page general introduction how, as a small boy in the early days of the war, his interest in all things military developed.

David G Chandler On the Napoleonic Wars is a collection of his essays and lectures over the past 33 years and is, in a sense, a combined celebratory valediction, although he makes it clear he has no intention of calling it a day just yet. He has plans for the future.

In his introduction, which tells of his life and times, it is apparent that this one-time RAEC officer is held in high esteem by generals and students alike and that his act will be a hard one to follow at the RMA.

His record is tremendous: he has attended dozens of overseas academic conferences from Washington to Moscow and Seoul, from Athens, Paris, Ottawa and Helsinki, to Turin and Istanbul.

He estimates he has lectured at least 20,000 British and overseas officer cadets and young officers – modestly he doesn't claim to have taught them anything, although obviously he hopes they learned something from him.

In addition to his lectures and writing on the subject of war – this is his 25th book – he is president of a wargames group called the Union of European Re-enactment Societies, which involves travelling the world re-fighting battles with some of its 60,000 uniformed members (not many from the UK, though) and has

● Turn to next page



D-Day: Commandos wade ashore at Queen Red beach, Normandy under the command of Lord Lovat, to the right of the column in the water. Freeze-frame from Army Film Unit coverage of the great invasion

MARATHON OF D-DAY DETAIL

DAVID CHANDLER is a remarkably active military historian.

Already widely known for his work on the recent and popular *Great Commanders* television series, his name now appears not only on the other book reviewed on this page but as editor of *The D-Day Encyclopedia* in association with Brig Gen James Lawton Collins Jr, US Army, who served as an artillery officer on Utah Beach on that momentous day 50 years ago.

The D-Day Encyclopedia is exactly what its title claims – a "reference work on the day that turned the tide of modern history"; 665 pages of alphabetically-tabulated entries defining and describing formations both Allied and German, biographical notes on commanders, political leaders and other personalities connected with Operation Overlord, ships, equipment, armour and weapons employed by all

forces, and chains of command.

In fact, it includes most of the details which are all too often skated over in books, leaving the reader with tantalising questions or uninformed assumptions.

Such a wide-ranging work as this calls for many contributors and the listing for this book is impressive with no fewer than 141 specialists from the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Canada and Poland, all with impeccable qualifications in their respective fields.

It would be impertinent to question the factual material and apart from some misprints (understandable in a work of such magnitude) it has to be said that the result of this marathon effort is a reference for which future historians will be grateful. There are excellent cross-references, index and list of entries which will certainly be appreciated by researchers.

In view of the obvious care

that has gone into the planning of this comprehensive coverage of Overlord, it is surprising that the end paper map omits the 79th Armoured Division, to which the British and Canadians on Gold, Juno and Sword Beaches owed so much.

However, it is only fair to say that the Division and its specialised armour is well described in the book itself.

Also on the map, 231st Brigade is referred to as "213st", but never mind, we can live with this kind of detail inaccuracy when the work is otherwise so informative.

The price of £40 (or £35 if purchased before July 31) will raise a few eyebrows but production must have cost a near fortune and it is hard to see how it could cost less. – BJ

The D-Day Encyclopedia edited by David G Chandler and James Lawton Collins Jr. Helicon, case-bound, £35 up to July 31, 1994; thereafter, £40).

LIVELY STORY OF LF's WAR

SHOULD a wartime Lancashire Fusilier be quizzed by his offspring: "What did you do in the war, Dad?" there will be no need for him to start searching for memories or scrubbing around for old photographs.

Instead he can say: "Get a copy of John Hallam's *History of the Lancashire Fusiliers 1939-45* and you can read the full story."

Now the regimental secretary of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, he has put together a lively and substantial account of the missing years from the regiment's history.

Laudatory in style (it could be nothing less, coming from the regimental secretary), it nevertheless shows – with official pictures – why the foot-sloggers of those wartime years were often referred to as "the poor bloody infantry".

Like most units engaged in front-line fighting they

had some really rough times – Dunkirk, Algeria and Tunisia, Malta, Italy, including Cassino, Burma, Mandalay and Normandy. Between them the 11 battalions of the LF served just about everywhere, losing well over 1,200 men killed.

Among the numerous awards made to the officers and men of the regiment there is one VC, awarded to Fus Frank Jefferson for knocking out a German tank with a PIAT – a hand-held anti-tank weapon – on May 16, 1944.

For those who served in this famous regiment and want to recall those days of war, this 232-page book is a must, as it is for those who might ask their fathers and grandfathers what they did in the war. This account tells it all as it was. – JM

The History of the Lancashire Fusiliers 1939-45 by John Hallam. Alan Sutton, £14.99.



Italy, 1944: In this photograph from the SOLDIER archives, Lancashire Fusiliers pause to listen to an old woman's story – although, as the caption says, "they didn't understand a word she was saying!"

IN BRIEF

Recent Osprey Military softbacks: **Campaign Series:** No 25, **Leipzig 1813** by Peter Hofschroer; 26, **Vicksburg 1863** by Alan Hankinson; 27, **Tel El-Kebir 1882** by Donald Featherstone. **Elite Series:** 48, **Nelson's Navy** by Philip Haythornthwaite and

William Younghusband; 49, **The Gurkhas** by Mike Chappell. **New Vanguard Series:** 5, **Tiger 1 Heavy Tank 1942-1945** by Tom Jentz, Hilary Doyle and Peter Sarson; 6, **T-72 Main Battle Tank 1974-1993** by Stev Zaloga and Peter Sarson.

AWOL by Maj Guy Weymouth MBE. Autobiographical account, by an officer of 6th Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, of his life in an Italian prison camp and subsequent adventures on the run in Italy 1943-44. Tom Donovan, hardback, £13.95.

Last of the Pirates by Samantha Weinberg. Story of the mysterious disappearance and rediscovery of Frenchman Bob Denard and the forces that drove him to become the most notorious and feared mercenary this century. Jonathan Cape, hardback, £16.99.

Signals to Right... Armoured Corps to the Left by Ron Larby. One man's experiences with the Royal Signals during the Korean War. Korvet Publishing, hardback, £8 (inc p&p) from the author, Ron Larby, 178 Braemar Avenue, Neasden, London NW10 0DS.

Only Frogs in an Ice-bound Pool by Jack Durrant. Short description, with personal insight, of the Second World War campaigns in Finland and Norway. Merlin, softback, £3.95.

Wilfred Owen: The War Poems edited by Jon Stallworthy. Chatto & Windus, softback, £4.99.

The Ultra-Magic Deals by Bradley F Smith. Tells the story of the secret pact between America and Britain to merge their code and cipher-breaking operations against Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan. Airline Publishing Ltd, hardback, £17.95.

To Kill Hitler by Constantine Fitzgibbon. First published in 1956 as **The Shirt of Nessus**, this reprint describes the plot to kill Adolf Hitler in July 1944. Spa Books, hardback, £17.95.

David Stirling by Alan Hoe. Paperback edition of the SAS creator's authorised biography. Warner Books, softback, £7.99.

The Gulf Conflict 1990-1991 by Lawrence Freedman and Efraim Karsh. An updated paperback edi-

tion of the 1993 account of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and its expulsion by a coalition of Western and Arab forces seven months later. Faber, softback, £10.99.

Forces Sweethearts by Eric Taylor. Paperback reprint of his tales of Service romances during the Second World War. Full of heartbreaking and tender anecdotes of courtship and marriage. Robert Hale, softback, £6.99.

The Perilous Road to Rome via Tunis by Edward Grace MC. Story of the 6th Battalion The Gordon Highlanders during the campaigns of the First Army in Tunisia and on the Anzio beachhead in 1944. The author was a young lieutenant in B Company, and went through the thick of the fighting until being wounded at Anzio. Parapress Ltd, hardback, £15.95.

Corridors of Time by Anthony Hewitt. An engaging resumé of the lives of the author, formerly an officer in the Middlesex Regiment, and Mary Hayley Bell spanning the momentous years 1914-1948. Pentland Press Ltd, hardback, £15.50.

A hard act to follow

● From Page 35

advised film-makers, the BBC, BFBS and many more organisations.

Don't let the title of this book put you off: it is a fascinating account of a fascinating war leader. As Dr Chandler says, military history is not just for the academic élite, it can also be a source of pleasure for the layman with an interest in dramas of the past. – JM

The Napoleonic Wars by David G Chandler. Greenhill Books, £17.95.

Alford's Marines pay tribute to the master

The Complete Marches of Kenneth Alford; Marches of the Sea
Band of HM Royal Marines Commandos
Conductor: Capt J R Perkins

TWO fascinating discs come from the Royal Marines to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the great march composer Kenneth Alford and the 170th anniversary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

This is the very first programme, thanks to the compact disc, of the 17 quick marches of Alford plus his famous arrangements of *Lilliburlero* and *A Life on the Ocean Wave*, the slow march *By Land and Sea*, and a newly-discovered *Vesper Hymn*.

He composed and arranged much more, but this march programme has been much requested by collectors.

The Commandos Band is the direct descendant of Alford's Plymouth Marines band, and John Perkins Alford's direct successor as conductor.

Both have taken a deal of trouble to produce a definitive version of the music – checking original manuscripts and listening to Alford's own recordings.

It is hardly necessary to mention that Alford was Maj Frederick J Ricketts, who, after many years in the Army, was appointed to the Royal Marines in 1927 and served until 1944, first at Deal then the Plymouth Division.

His marches reflect his career from bandmaster of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders (*The Thin Red Line* and *Holyrood*), through both world wars with tributes to the three services (*Great Little Army*, *HM Jollies*, *Cavalry of the Clouds*), and references to his travels (*Old Panama*, *Dunedin*).

Much has been written recently as to who is THE march king, Sousa or Alford. Although the question can never be answered, listeners, paying their money and choosing their pick, will now be able

to have one of the many Sousa CDs at hand to compare with this, the first CD of our own march king.

ANOTHER much overdue tribute is to the RNLI, and who better to make it than the Royal Marines who have a close association with this great body of men.

Alford's titles make him a prime candidate for marches of the sea, but of his 17 marches only *On the Quarterdeck*, *HM Jollies* and *The Middy* are repeated here.

Members of the band, other well-known musicians from the Royal Marines, and Capt Perkins himself provide some very effective personal tributes.

The official RNLI march is *The Lifeboatmen* by Trevor Brown, who has also written *Navy Blue* and a nice one, *Raleighing Cry!* John Perkins has *The Dunkirk Veterans* and *The Mansfield Matelot*, Sir Vivian Dunn has *Soldiers of the Sea*, and Paul Baker *Up Periscope*.

All good nautical stuff, as are Zehle's famous *Trafalgar*, the theme from the TV series *Warship*, *Leviathan* by Gordon Langford, *The Nelson Touch* by Edrich Siebert, and *Plymouth Sound* by Ron Goodwin.

In *the Eye of the Storm* is a dramatic march by Jonathon Yates of the RM School of Music, but the foregoing composers will not, I think, take offence if I say that Sir Malcolm Arnold wins the day with his uproarious *Padstow Lifeboat*. The insistent fog-horn normally spells terrible danger for these sea-going heroes, but on this occasion Sir Malcolm, who then lived near Padstow, was giving his drinking pals, the Padstow crew, a tune to sing over a pint.

Both discs have copious and invaluable sleeve notes, but if you want more, Alford's biography, *Colonel Bogey to the Fore*, is still available from RMSM, Deal, Kent at £9.95.

them, including Beethoven's *Yorckscher March*, *Double Eagle*, *Florentiner*, *Wien Bleibt Wien*, *Prussian Glory*, *Fredericus Rex*, *Nibelungen*, *Fehrbelliner Reitermarsch*, and the one Karajan conducted most often – *Radetzky* – on our screens every New Year's Day from Vienna for the past decade or more.

Many of the remainder will be half familiar, all great, and inexplicably absent from our own repertoire. A feast for all march lovers and a gift for collectors.

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Von Karajan prepares fine feast of marches

Prussian and Austrian Marches
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Conducted by Herbert von Karajan

SUCH a programme as this I never thought to see; nor had I any inkling of its material being available, let alone due for publication.

Here are the master conductor, master wind players, and probably the finest repertoire of great marches available, on two CDs, 31 in all.

The sleeve has it that the recordings, apart from one or two, were made in 1966, but I imagine this refers to transfers and editing of perfor-

mances from over the years, and more recently to CD.

In either case what we have here are the great thoughts of a great musician on the very minor genre, musically speaking, of the military parade march. And very enlightening to one such as myself who spent many years playing or conducting most of these examples.

Not with such gifted players of course, and the clarity achieved by Karajan's control of instrumentation, although about the same as a normal regimental band, gives a whole new sound to marches we thought we knew.

We do know about half of

● The two CDs are available from Band of RM Commandos, CTCRM Lymington, Devon EX8 5AR price £10 each, or cassettes £7 each. Cheques to RM Band Fund.

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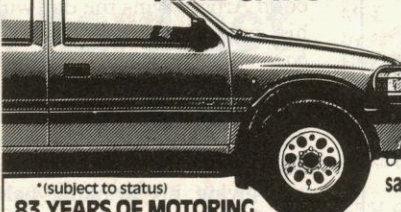
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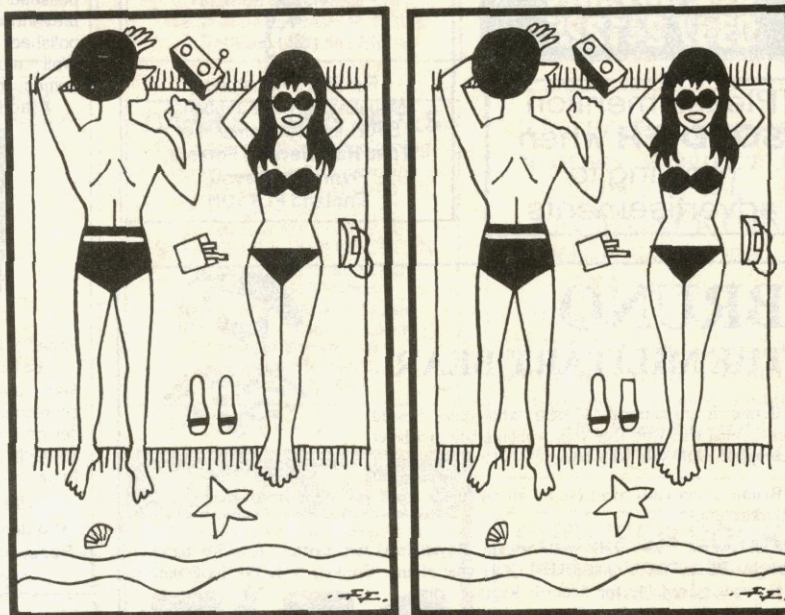
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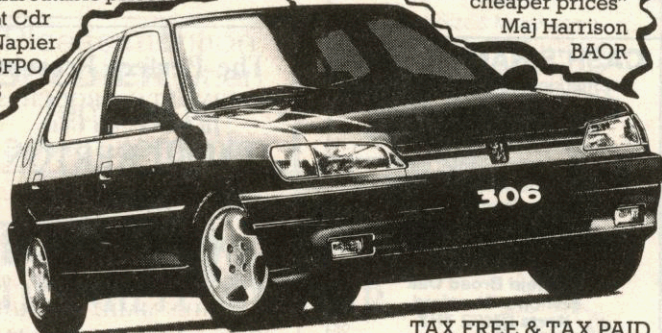
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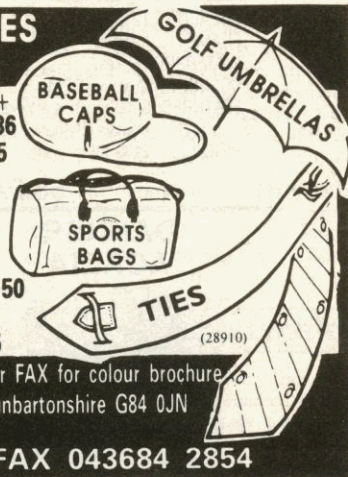
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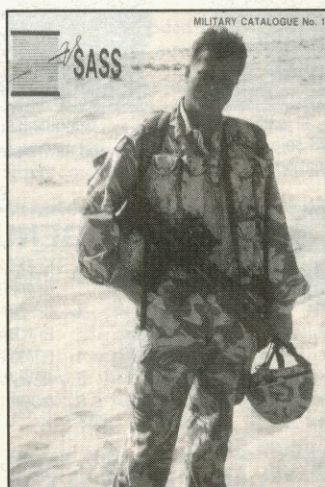
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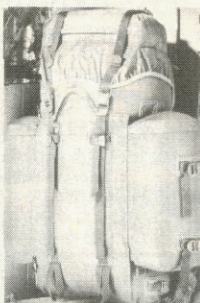
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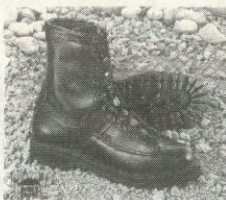
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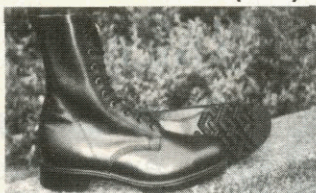
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08/94

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REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY written in the TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8" x 4" and should only contain a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and **large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.**

All correspondence to: Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Female Pisces, aged 29, Fun-loving, gosh. Seeks single soldier pen pals from anywhere, 28-35. I have 24 new pens waiting to be used. Interests: cycling, reading and music. Please write, all letters answered. **P860**

05/94

Tall, attractive, brunette - 27. Fun-loving, intelligent, warm, vivacious. Interests include good company, good music, good times. Seeks tall, single squaddie with soh and adventure to rescue her from uninteresting civvies. **P861**

05/94

Claire, nurse (20). Fed up with boring, shallow, uninventive men, seeks Jim Dale and Sid James to chase around ward 15 with. 'Carry On' and Reg Holdsworth fans a must. **P862**

05/94

I'm a petite, Pisces girl who is 31 and fairly quiet. I like music, dancing and fashion. I live in Hertfordshire with my two children. Please write soon. **P863**

05/94

I'm Melanie, aged 22 and I enjoy music and football. I work part time in a pub and would love to hear from men aged 21 to 30. **P864**

05/94

Hi, I'm a bored 25-year-old who enjoys most sports and great comedy. If you are a like-minded soldier, write to me now... right now! **P865**

05/94

Cuddly 22-year-old female, 5'5", gosh. Likes pubs, films, writing and animals. Seeks male pen pal 24+, with same interests. Photo appreciated, all letters answered. Write soon. **P866**

05/94

Vivacious divorcée, 30, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house. Would like to correspond with single or divorced soldier of any age. **P867**

05/94

My name is Dawn. I'm 28, 5'9", blonde hair, good looking, excellent sense of humour, wonderful personality and a brilliant letter writer. I'm divorced with three children, minor detail! **P868**

05/94

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05/94

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05/94

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Household Brigade magazines and other publications relating to Foot guards required. Book - "Colours of The Guards Division" by Dawnay required. Private collector. Tel: 0624 842311 anytime. 04-08

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FEBRUARY 5, 1994

First prize (18 goals, £2,000): Lt M J Hanby, ATR Basingstoun.

Nine way tie for second place (17 goals, £277.78 each): LCpl P Harling, 33 Sup Sqn RLC, Abingdon; Maj A S McLaren, HQ ARRC, BFPO 39; LCpl G B Mason, 4 GS Regt RLC, BFPO 544; Pte M McGowan, BFPO 813; Maj T W A McMinn, HQ Gütersloh Gar, BFPO 47; Sgt P A Moran, 1 A and SH, Folkestone; SSgt N R Mullings, 1 Coldm Gds, BFPO 547; Cpl S M Palmer, 1 GS Regt RLC, BFPO 47; LCpl P M Unsowrth, 13 Sig Regt (Radio), BFPO 42 (2nd win).

FEBRUARY 12, 1994

First prize (20 goals, £2,000): Maj R A Sharp, MoD DCIS (A).

Three-way tie for second prize (19 goals, £633.33 each): WO2 G Holtham, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, BFPO 1; Sgt L J Lyall, 1 RHA, Tidworth; Cpl J M A Ravenshear, 7 Regt AAC, Netheravon.

Ten-way tie for fifth prize (18 goals, £60 each): Maj A P Bourne, 1 Regt AAC, BFPO 47; Pte J Crump, 1 RRW, Tern Hill; LCpl A Hunt, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Cpl T E Leighton, 3 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, BFPO 16; SSgt P H Matthews, 13 Sig Regt, BFPO 42; WO2 M Meehan, 17 Port & Maritime Regt RLC, Marchwood; Col A W Pollard, HQ QMG, Andover; LCpl K A Shaw, 6 Sup Regt RLC, BFPO 39; Maj R N H A Wade, HQ 48 Gurkha Inf Bde, BFPO 1; Maj Gen M J D Walker, MoD AGCS. 05

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Judo standard gives cause for optimism

ALTHOUGH entries for this year's Army senior open judo championships were down on 1993, the quality of individual competition witnessed at the Army School of Physical Training was sufficient to remain optimistic about the future of this valuable military sport.

Last minute withdrawals by three units through injuries meant that the team event had to be cancelled.

And lack of entries also caused the intermediate individual grade events, planned to be incorporated into the open grade event, to be abandoned.

From the open championships, final selection for the Army judo squad was made. This squad will undergo training at ASPT, during which the Army teams will be selected to defend the Inter-Services title.

Any Army judo player who has not received notification of

his inclusion in the Army squad and who wishes to be considered should contact the Secretary, Army Judo Association, on Bulford Mil ext 2207 as soon as possible.

RESULTS

U60kg: No event. **U65kg:** 1, Bdr Airlie (32 Regt RA); 2, Pte Thomas (1 RRF); equal 3, Cfn Codd (REME Arborfield) and LBdr Gardner (7 Para RHA). **U71kg:** No event. **U78kg:** 1, Spr Edmondson (Depot Regt RE); 2, Cpl Flynn (1 Green Howards); equal 3, Sgt Bennett (REME Arborfield) and Pte

Crooks (1 Bn BW). **U86kg:** 1, Cpl Williams (1 Green Howards); 2, Sgt Tweedie (42 Survey Engr Gp); equal 3, LCpl Barrett (3 R Irish) and Sgt Flood (89 PC Regt RLC).

U95kg: 1, SSgt (SSI) Chapman (5 Regt RA); 2, Spr Loew (Depot Regt RE); equal 3, Spr Briley (22 Engr Regt) and LCpl Thomas (3 UK) Div and Signal Regt). **O95kg:** 1, LCpl Clark (9 Fd Wksp REME); 2, SSgt (SSI) Chapman (5 Regt RA); equal 3, Spr Edmondson (Depot Regt RE) and Spr Loew (Depot Regt RE).

Women: No event.



LBdr Pearson (19 Fd Regt RA) on his way to victory in the giant slalom at Sere Chevalier

Scots DG take UKLF ski lead

THE UKLF Alpine ski championships took place at Monetier, Sere Chevalier, in the French Alps in excellent snow conditions, although the race programme had to be amended because of the danger of avalanches to certain slopes.

Seven teams qualified for the Army Alpine Championships – an overall total of 34 skiers. Twenty one units (including one team from Hong Kong) were represented at Monetier. To balance the number of skiers which varied between the various meetings, the Territorial Army teams formed part of the 3 (UK) Division meeting.

The team competition was keenly and sportingly contested ending with the closest result in the Major Units for many years.

Individual results:
Alpine combination – 1, 2nd Lt W D

Fanshawe (2 Regt AAC); 2, Lt C N C Willis (Scots DG); 3, WO2 M Julian (2 Regt AAC); 4, Pte C Rawlinson (1 Kings Own Border); 5, CSgt G Gilmore (1 RRF); 6, Lt K M Copsey (3 RSME Regt).

Individual slalom – 1, Sgt I Dryden (QRH, PMC Arborfield); 2, Cpl McClelland (3 R Irish).

Individual giant slalom – 1, LBdr A L Pearson (19 Fd Regt RA); 2, CSgt G Gilmore (1 RRF).

SuperG – 1, Sgt I Dryden (QRH); 2, LBdr A L Pearson (19 Fd Regt RA).

Downhill – 1, Sgt I Dryden (QRH); 2, LBdr A L Pearson (19 Fd Regt RA).

Best Novice – Lt D J Juxon (7 Regt AAC); **best junior** – Gdsm J Hall (2 Gren Gds); **best veteran** – WO2 M Julian (2 Regt AAC); **best lady** – 2nd Lt D Corminboeuf (1/51 Highland); **best guest** – Capt P J M Bishop (1 BW, 1st slalom, 3rd GS, 4th SG, 3rd downhill).

Team competitions

Major Units – 1, Scots DG, 1,111.19 pts; 2, 2 Regt AAC, 1,114.33; 3, 19 Regt RA, 1,190.68; 4, 1 Kings Own Border, 1,791.49; 5, 1 RRF, 1,800.08; 6, 2 Gren Gds, 1,979.11; 7, 42 Svy Engr Gp, 2,170.39.

Minor Units – 1, Log Sp Bn AMF(L), 2,914.84; 2, 70 AC Wksp

Back to basics against Blues

Cambridge University 16,
The Army 27

WITH NINE Blues in the Cambridge University team and a dry, fast ground at Grange Road, this was a considerable test for an emerging Army XV in the first of the season's major fixtures, writes Roger Thompson.

A large Army pack impressed from the beginning with driving runs deep into Cambridge territory. They also scrummaged more effectively, frequently putting the students under great pressure in the set pieces.

But Cambridge opened the scoring when their No 8 broke through suspect tackling to sprint 30m for an unopposed try. Despite this reversal the Army maintained its composure and, following a series of rolling mauls, Lt Howard Graham scored a penalty goal and a try which he converted himself.

After the interval the Army pack increasing took control at scrum and line out.



Cpl Pete Curtis (2 Sig Regt) attacks against Oxford University. Following his progress are Lt Dave Dahinton (headband, facing camera) and Cpl John Denwood (right) both of 7 RHA

The experimental front row of Hall (150 Pro), Jinks (REME) and Drew (Royal Signals) was extremely solid and mobile while the combined shove of locks Lt Dave Dahinton (7 RHA) and Capt David Orr Ewing (BW/RMAS) ensured the students were invariably in retreat.

Dahinton finished off sustained periods of pack pressure by scoring two tries, converted by Graham.

To put matters beyond doubt Capt Tony Glasgow (RE) scored an individual try which might have looked a little scrappy but was the result of terrier-like concentration.

Oxford University 22,
The Army 17

Oxford University were clearly taking the annual fixture against the Army very seriously. They had handsomely beaten the Royal Navy and RAF in the preceding weeks and fielded ten blues including Gareth Rees, the Canadian international fly-half, largely responsible for defeating Wales

at Cardiff in November. By the end of the first quarter the Dark Blues had scored three spectacular tries and were 15 points ahead. Slowly the Army pack started to assert some authority, particularly in the set pieces.

The front row of Fowers (7 RHA), Brammer (42 Sy Engr Gp) and Hall (150 Pro) quietly dispatched their individual opponents, and, with the front five dominant, the back row of James, Curtis (2 Sig Regt) and White (PWRR) became increasingly effective. James put in excellent first time tackles while White and Curtis drove hard at the Oxford defence to dent it close to the rucks and mauls.

The improved forward control led directly to tries by Dahinton (7 RHA) and Glasgow (71 Regt RE), both converted by Graham (7 RHA). Oxford were by now in disarray and the pressure resulted in a crucial penalty, kicked by Graham, to give the Army a 15-17 lead from which point they should have won.

Unfortunately, the Army then hit the "cruise" button, allowing Oxford a rare visit into Army territory.

A well judged kick by Rees led to a line out 5m from the Army line, cleanly won by Orr Ewing. Then, as BBC TV's *A Question of Sport* might say, "What happened next, Mr Beaumont?" Answer: The Army backs, lying flat in defence with their heels on the try line, decided to run the ball. The gasps of amazement were drowned only by the laughter from the stand as the ball was whipped at some speed from Commander to Glasgow to Bartliff's feet.

As the winger attempted to retrieve the ball, he was tackled by Graham, the Army full back. Enter Rayner, in Blue, clearly thinking more about scoring than the comedy of errors unfolding before him, to touch the ball down.

The conversion followed: 22-17 to Oxford with ten seconds to go. Back to Basics appeared to take on an entirely new meaning.

Diadorans stretch Services

Combined Services 1,
Diadora League XI 3

IN THEIR final dress rehearsal before they visit Belgium for a Kentish Cup match on February 22, Combined Services struggled to contain a lively Diadora League representative side at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, writes Derrick Bly.

The visitors went ahead in the eighth minute and scored twice more early in the second half. Services' consolation goal, four minutes from the final whistle, was scored by substitute SSgt Steve Davies.

Army players Cpl Dave Maynard, Cfn Mike Taylor (replaced in goal by SSgt Nigel Wiscombe at half time), SSgt Kevin Parkins, Sig Jim Strouts and Sgt Steve Bates were in the starting line-up.

The Army 1,
Fire Service 1

A 1-1 draw was a fair result on a bumpy Military Stadium pitch for this annual encounter between the Army and the Fire Service, supported for the first time by new sponsors Jim Brown Investments.

Sgt Tony Wright scored a rare goal for the Army as the home side took advantage of the wind in the first half. The firemen equalised in the second. Man of the match SSgt Kevin Parkins received his award from Mr John Brown.

● Football-playing officers at Münster-based 8 Artillery Support Regiment RLC are crowing. For the first time in the regiment's history they have beaten their WOs' and Sergeants' Mess in the annual inter-mess football match.

Hoping at the most to prevent a double figure defeat, the officers won 2-1.

Bull's eye

THE ARMY women's small-bore rifle team have retained the women's Inter-Services championship – 12 months after winning it for the first time in 47 years.

Their winning margin at Portsmouth was over 40 points, with the WRNS second, a single point clear of the WRAF.

Jockeys in racing trim for Grand day

A DOZEN military jockeys recently put through their paces at the British Racing School at Newmarket will get a chance to put the experience to the test in the Grand Military race meeting at Sandown Park, Esher, on March 11 and 12.

The military races on Friday, March 11, are the Duke of Gloucester Memorial Hunter Chase and the Horse and Hounds Grand Military Gold Cup, followed by the Dick McCreery Handicap Chase and the Barclays Bank Handicap Hurdle on the Saturday.

Members' Enclosure and Tattersalls badges for the meeting are available at favourable rates if bought in advance.

Serving and retired personnel and dependants can apply for the concessionary badges, and members' car park tickets, to Capt M C Goodman, The Blues and Royals Squadron, The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge, London SW7 1SE.

Applications, with cheque or postal order made out to Grand Military Steeplechase Account, and a stamped addressed envelope, should reach Capt Goodman not later than March 3. Prices are £7 (Members' Enclosure); £5 (Tattersalls); £1 (car park pass).

Remember to state for which day you require tickets.

Make a date with Twickers

CAN the Army do it again. Last year's record thrashing of the Senior Service at Twickenham should ensure that the Royal Navy come roaring back at headquarters on March 26.

The entertainment begins at 12.30pm when Combined Services Under-21s take on England students in a curtain-raiser, and Twickenham's impressive new stands guarantee superb van-

tage points from all round the famous ground.

Tickets are available from the ARU Secretary, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot GU11 2BG. They are priced at £8 (£4 for under 18s), with family tickets (two adults, three children) priced at £16, and school parties at £1 a person. Parking tickets cost £5 for cars and £25 for coaches.

Runaway Rod's extra effort

A MIX-UP at the end of the Army cross country championships at Longmoor on February 2 almost cost Sgt Rod Finch his first title.

Finch (AGC att 3 Para), the Army's latest fully-fledged international athlete, was comfortably in the lead at the end of the second lap. But a moment of inattentive marshalling set him off on a third lap and he ended up running further than he should have.

LCpl Alan Shepherd (23 PFA), confirming his good winter form, rapidly closed the gap and eventually crossed the line just two seconds behind Finch.

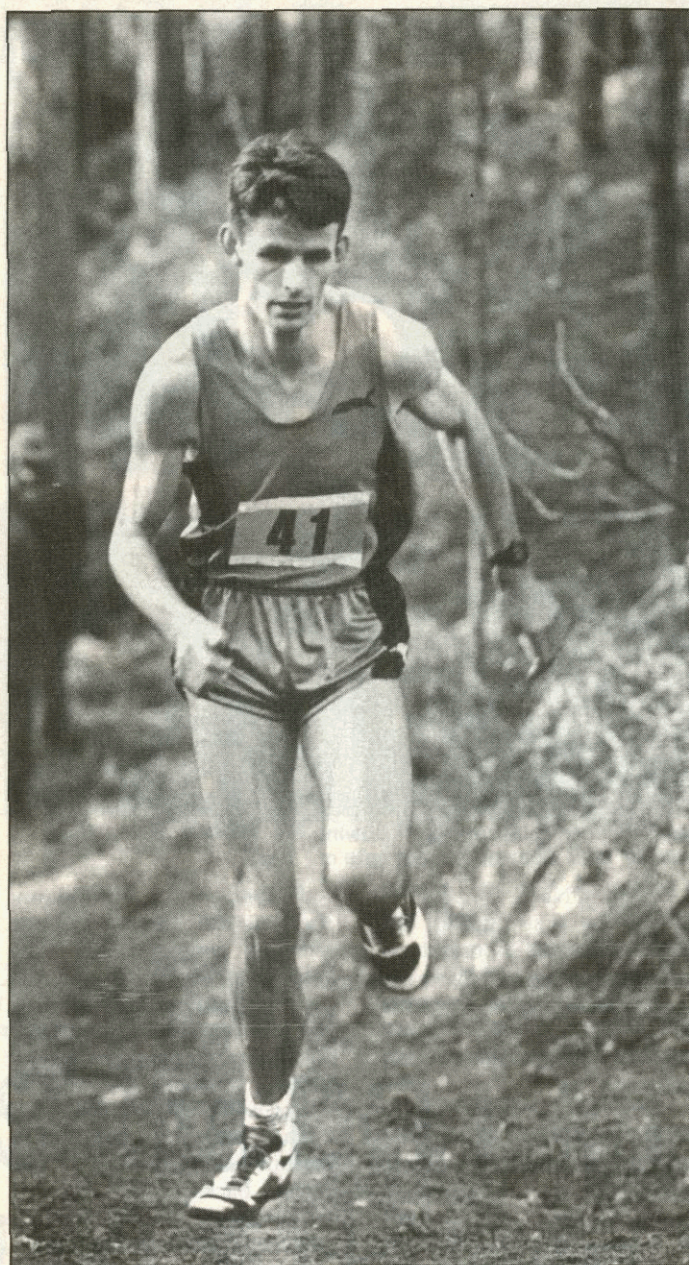
Third was Cpl Gareth Williams (Depot Regt RE) and fourth WO2 Geoff Wade (3 RHA), a former champion.

Rod Finch's consistent finishes in quality races finally brought him the reward of a full Great Britain vest at 3,000m in the indoor match against Russia at Glasgow last month. He recorded a personal best of 7min 57.47sec in finishing second. A week later he lowered his PB to 7.56.03 while finishing second in the GB-USA match at the same venue.

A desperately close Major Unit trophy was decided by a single point, 28 Engineer Regiment just pipping Finch's 3 Para team. The sappers - BAOR champions - packed five runners into the first 40 while their eighth and final scorer finished 101st out of the 358 runners. It was the first time they had won the title.

The 3 Para team's last man finished 83rd. In third place, just 22 points adrift, were 2 Signal Regiment, who would probably have won the team championship if mer Maj Les Wood had nominated himself as a scoring runner.

Winners of the Minor Unit competition were 5 AB Log Bn, ahead of ATR Basingbourn and Lancashire Garri-



Sgt Rod Finch on his way to victory in the Army cross country championships at Longmoor. He was runner-up last year

son. AAColl Chepstow finished first and second in the junior race and Princess Marina College beat off the Chepstow challenge in the youth race, the individual winner being App M Bethell (Chepstow).

LCpl Sean Malone (1 GS Regt RLC) was the first veteran across the line in 19th place, Sgt Bill Bailey (2 Sig Regt) followed him in 28th and WO1 Maurice Sheppard (Comd ES Pre Team) was third in 44th position.

Cpl Sarah Bradbury (251 Sig Sqn) won the women's title ahead of SSgt Betty Gash (RMA Sandhurst) and Capt Leisa Derben, whose Aldershot Garrison team took the unit prize with Worthy Down

Station and Women's Services Northern Ireland following.

First three in the women's veteran race were Lt Col Isabel McCord (MoD), WO2 Karen Loftus (Aldershot Garrison) and Maj Helen McMahon (WS NI).

Seven corps have indicated their interest in an Inter-Corps athletics competition being hosted by 2 Signal Regiment at the Ryedale Athletics Stadium, York, on July 20. The format for the new meeting will be two team members in each track and field event, plus four in each relay. Details are available from SSgt Neil Killen at 2 Sig Regt, Imphal Barracks, York YO1 4RH (tel: York Mil 2308). Closing date for entries is March 30.

Eleventh Service title is a stroll

THE ARMY boxing team clinched an 11th consecutive Inter-Services team title by overcoming the Royal Air Force by eight bouts to three at RAF Cosford on February 17.

A one-sided bill was unbalanced by six walk-overs, five of them in favour of the Army.

They went to Cpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR), LCpl Vinny Powell (3 RSME), LCpl Phil Helliker (1 LI), Pte Mark Quirey (2 PWRR) and Cpl Steve Burford (REME att GRIH).

Team captain LCpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) won on points and Pte Paul Treslove (1 Para) and newcomer Spr Danny Watts (Trg Regt RE) won inside the distance. Gdsm Kevin Short (WG) and Pte Darren Dugan (PWRR) lost on points.

The Army had already beaten the Royal Navy 9-3, the margin by which the sailors beat the RAF at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth.

● The best Service boxers take the first step towards ABA national titles when they meet in the Combined Services individual championships at the Army Boxing Centre, Aldershot on March 3. Any box-offs will take place the previous day.

● The Army individual track and field championships are scheduled for June 8 at the Aldershot Military Stadium. The senior inter-units championships will be held at the same venue on July 27.

● Details of the Inter-Services cross country match and an up-date on the runners of the year competition will appear in the next issue.

● Maj Glen Grant (JSDC), Maj Les Wood (2 Sig Regt), Capt Peter Marsh (16 Regt RLC), Sgt Bill Bailey (2 Sig Regt) and Cpl John Browne (22 Engr Regt) will represent the Army at the British veteran indoor championships at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on March 20. Capt Terry Hall (ACO Log Sp HQ) will manage the team.

Picture: Mike Weston



Picture: Mike Weston

Ups...

Above – A long, uphill haul for runners competing in the Army cross country championships at Longmoor, Hampshire. Reaching the top of the hill is Capt Clive Osborne (217) from BAD Kinton. He finished 109th and his team was fourth in the Minor Units race

...and...

Right – In the frame ... Cpl Sean Olsson (Para), driver of the Great Britain No 2 bobsleighs in both two and four-man competitions at the Winter Olympics at Lillehammer in Norway

...downs



Spiked winter tracks help Warrior drivers negotiate the ice and snow-covered roads of Bosnia. Gdsm Lee Wright fits a winter track to a 1 Coldm Gds Warrior at Gornji Vakuf. Behind him are LSgt Dave Baxter and LCpl Dave Brooks. More in Pages 16-19.

Picture: Mike Weston

