

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

December 1997 £1.60

SOLDIER

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Inside:

**Otterburn's
war of words**

**Your new
allowances**

**Women in
front line**





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Otterburn ranges:
subject of inquiry



Hero of Pegasus
Bridge: Page 32



Remembering the
El Alamein fallen

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Northern Ireland photographic competition



Picture: Mike Weston

COVER GIRL

British winter sports champion LCpl Sarah Rochester pauses during training at Lillehammer to help *Soldier* create a suitably festive front cover. Sara, a tank transporter driver in the RLC, is the current Great Britain women's skeleton champion and a front-runner in getting the sport accepted at the Winter Olympics in 2002. She was in Norway on her honeymoon, having recently married Sgt Roch Rochester, GB's leading skeleton racer for the past five years.

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SOLDIER to soldier

Hot air is burning issue

ONE of the main bones of contention in the public inquiry at Otterburn has been the pungent issue of efflux. This is the propellant gas which shoots out the back of MLRS when it fires (see Page 24).

Those opposing Army plans for the training area seized on information provided by a local resident.

He made a number of allegations, including one claiming that hydrogen chloride in the efflux was more poisonous than hydrogen cyanide and would have a devastating effect on local people as it travelled downwind in the wake of each firing. He found this information while surfing the internet.

MONITORED

The Army claims he has "taken two and two and made five". After trial firing, where the efflux was monitored and examined in detail, and tests were carried out by totally independent world experts, the Army is of the firm opinion that MLRS is safe for both soldiers and local people.

In small doses, of course. The Army does not claim the mixture is totally harmless. Much in the same way, one supposes, that New Zealand farmers feel about the gases emitted by their sheep – which are said to be responsible for helping to enlarge the hole in the ozone layer.

More worrying possibly is the thought of what effect a mixture of both efflux and Otterburn sheep gases might have on the Northumberland countryside.

How to contact
Soldier –
see Page 70

PLUS

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More jobs in front line to be open to women



Defence Secretary George Robertson with Servicewomen in a range of uniforms and capbadges

WOMEN in the Army will be eligible for hundreds of front-line jobs from next April – but the Government does not think society is ready yet to see them in close-combat roles.

After April 1, 1998, all Regular Army posts will be open to women with the exception of those capbadged to the Household Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps and Infantry. This will increase from 47 per cent to 70 per cent the number of jobs available to females.

They will be able to serve in all posts in the Royal Artillery, the Royal Engineers and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The decision, announced by Defence Secretary George Robertson, followed a comprehensive review of policy on women in the Army. He described the move as a “quantum change” and said: “This is another step in fulfilling our promises to modernise the Armed Forces.”

A further review is being carried out to evaluate the impact on combat effectiveness that women might have on front-line units.

At a briefing before the announcement, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said: “We do not think society is ready for women to be in close and direct contact with the enemy, which can be a particularly brutal form of fighting.

“The Army remains open-minded

about the issue and the Secretary of State has asked all three Services to hold a review. We expect to have the reports back later this year.”

Before women are accepted they will have to pass the same fitness tests as men. The details of these are still being finalised, but the four tests will require the applicant to:

- March eight miles in two hours carrying a 50lb pack;
- Lift a 90lb ammunition box from the floor onto the back of a truck;
- Repeatedly lift and carry the 90lb box for 11 yards and place it on an object for 20 minutes;
- Carry two 40lb jerry cans for 220 yards at 3mph.

These tests will follow a less demanding training programme which will start on day one of basic training with nine tests to check the basic health and stamina of each candidate.

“The idea is not to load the tests so heavily that women cannot win places now open to them,” said the spokesman. “But we do have to preserve combat effectiveness. We have already seen the high quality of women in the Army who are clever, able and active. It is only fair to break down barriers and to open up many more jobs for women, reflecting changes in society.”

● Defence debate – Page 7

Lady on the Line

Lt Amelia Baker leads a troop of gunners on patrol in Cyprus's tension-filled buffer zone



Report: James Anderson
Pictures: WO2 Pete Bristo

AN Army officer from Yorkshire has become the first woman to command a troop of soldiers on patrol in Cyprus as part of the United Nations peacekeeping force.

Lt Amelia Baker, currently serving with the 5th Regiment, Royal Artillery, is on a six-month tour on the island and has a large responsibility. She commands 25 soldiers in her troop on a deployment with the UN which means that she has an operational command in a country divided by bitter conflict that could flare up with little or no warning.

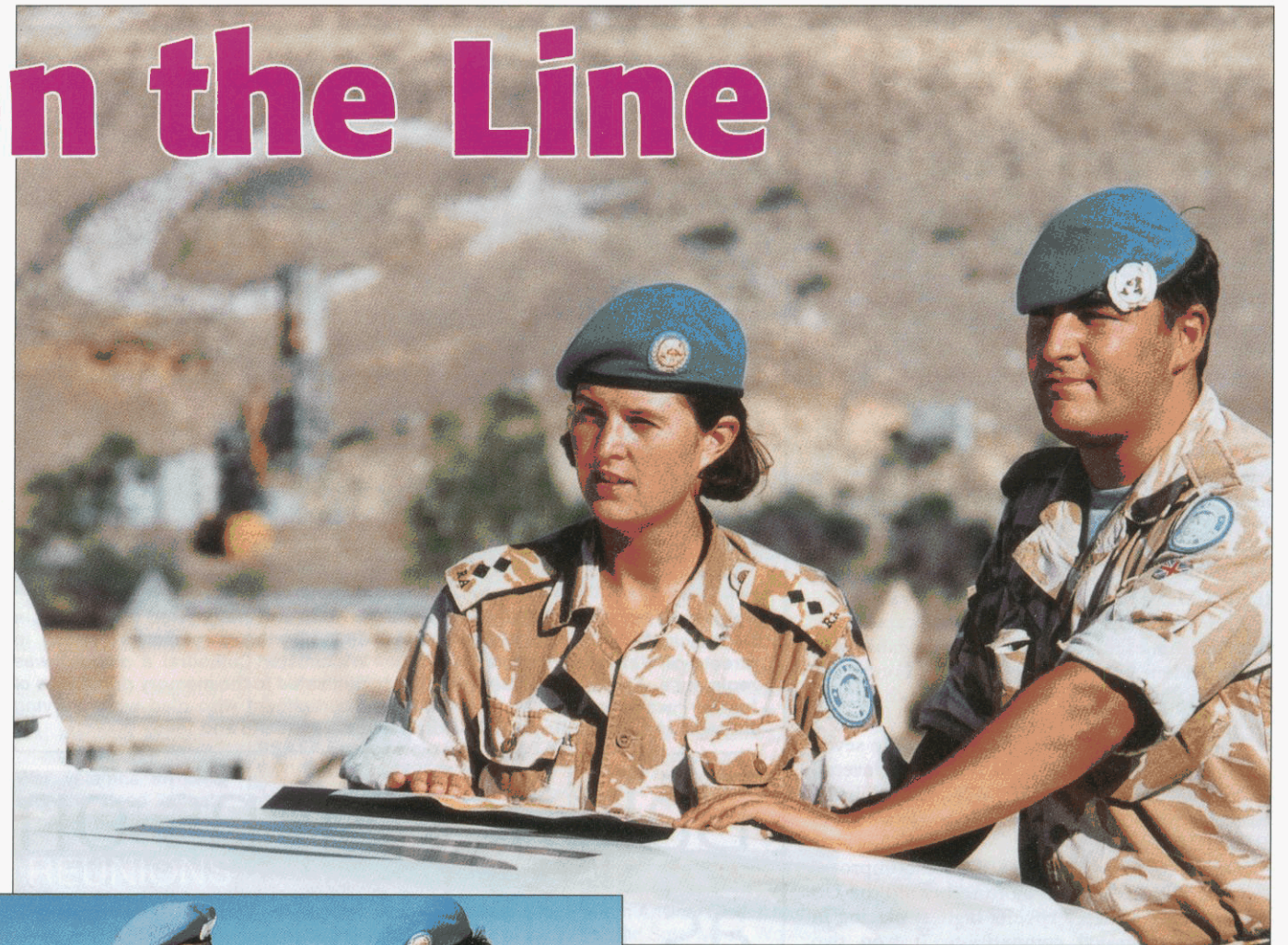
Her troop's “patch” is in the British-controlled UN Sector 2, part of the 115-mile long demilitarised Green Line buffer zone which separates Turks and Greek Cypriots.

Out in the country the line may be as wide as four miles, but within Nicosia – and inside the British sector – it is at its narrowest, only 3.5 metres separating the opposing forces.

Part of the sector, east of the divided city of Nicosia, is patrolled by Lt Baker and her troop. The cease-fire agreement lays down precise rules for the opposing



A letter from home, read during a quiet period. In the background is an essential requirement, a mosquito net



Lt Amelia Baker, the first female troop commander on the Green Line on a vehicle patrol and monitoring the opposing forces. A Turkish crescent moon, carved into a hillside, is visible in the background



Liaising with her opposite number from the Hungarian Army. The Hungarians are on Lt Baker's right flank

forces and monitoring the agreement forms the backbone of the troop's work.

Lt Baker likens it to being a dinner monitor in a school playground.

How had she found being the first woman on patrol?

“My soldiers have no problem with it, they're used to women officers. But the Greek Cypriots and Turks had quite a shock at first. When they found out that I worked in the same way as the other troop commanders, they seemed to accept it and we have had no problems.”

Her day begins with a briefing, passed down the chain of command, on political and military developments. She in turn briefs her troop, then sets about the day's

patrolling or attends meetings to deal with any local disputes which might have arisen between the opposing forces.

Patrols are done either on foot or in the familiar white, UN-emblazoned Land-Rovers. As she moves along the Green Line, the tension is apparent.

Patrols make their way past minefields that have been there since 1974. Opposing troops can clearly be seen on either side of the cease-fire line, protected by walls of sandbags or bunkers. They watch over the buffer zone, wary of the slightest incursion.

Yet Lt Baker's patrols carry only the minimum of armament, one rifle for every two men. “We only carry what we require for self-defence. Working for the UN, we are peace-keepers not peace-enforcers and our job is to monitor and report, not to become actively involved in fighting.”

The troop is based in Liri Camp on the outskirts of Nicosia and accommodation

is spartan. Like many of their predecessors they have tried to make themselves comfortable. An old fish pond has been drained, repainted UN blue and now serves as a swimming pool . . . albeit a very small one. Easily covered by a lilo and only waist deep, it does provide some relief from the energy-sapping heat.

Air conditioning is a luxury that will probably never find its way to the Line, so sport is best done before sunrise or left until after sunset. Lt Baker prefers the troop's physical training to take place in the evening.

What do the soldiers think of their female commander? Gnr Nick Claydon said: “Miss Baker makes a good boss, and certainly we have no problem with her being a woman.”

Asked whether she had a nickname, he replied: “Ma'am.” But he also admitted: “She's also known as Angry or Scary Spice . . . you should see the way she deals with anyone breaking the rules.”

Educated at Manchester University, she joined the Army in April 1996 and is now two-thirds of her way through the UN tour. Her next ambition, to serve as a forward observation officer in a mechanised artillery regiment, could be realised in the light of recently announced changes.

People, places, events

Marksmen on target in Little Rock

THE British Army combat rifle and pistol shooting team swept the board at one of the America's most prestigious military competitions.

In one of the finest performances by the British Army in international competition, the team, using SA80 and the Browning L9 pistol, shot brilliantly at the US Armed Forces Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Little Rock, Arkansas. Competing against 28 teams from 15 nations, the 20-strong British Army team finished top of the medal table in individual and team matches, collecting 27 awards to the US National Guard's 21 and the US Marine Corps' 20.

The Territorial Army also did exceptionally well, finishing sixth equal in the medal table with the Canadian Army and the Royal Air Force, and ahead of national teams including South Africa, Australia, Mexico, France, Italy and Germany.

The British Army team won five of the seven Service rifle team matches, including the overall championship. LCpl Colin McKee, 3 R Irish, won the individual rifle championship, with Cpl Robbie Doak, also 3 R Irish, second.

The pistol team showed a dramatic improvement at this level, finishing third behind the US Army and Marine Corps, its highest placing in major international competition. It won two individual and two team matches, with Cpl Willy Kennedy, 8 R Irish, second overall in the pistol championship, a superb achievement against the finest combat pistol shots in the American forces.

British success was hailed by Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff and president of the Army Rifle Association.



Gen Sir Roger Wheeler (right) checks on progress in training at Little Rock. From left are Capt Steve Townell RLC, LCpl Willy Kennedy, 8 R Irish, and Sgt Nigel Hodgson, 1 QLR

Yeomen join Earth 2000 ranks

SOLDIERS from the Royal Yeomanry are helping Earth 2000, a world-wide, multi-media millennium conservation project, to select six people from thousands of applicants of all nationalities. Candidates will undergo the same tests as recruits to the Royal Yeomanry.

During a six-month journey around the globe those chosen will become involved in projects, such as the relocation of rhino and elephants in Africa and the monitoring of gorillas in Rwanda.



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets march through the streets of Winchester to exercise the regiment's Freedom privileges. The honour was granted to the Rifle Brigade and King's Royal Rifle Corps

in 1946 and transferred to the RGJ in 1978. During a memorial service in Winchester Cathedral a plaque was dedicated to the memory of soldiers of the regiment who died while serving between 1946 and 1965.

Baldrick signs on as drink warning

THE ARMY is launching a campaign urging soldiers who drink too heavily to curb their habit. In advertisements appearing in *Soldier* (see Page 44) and other publications, Servicemen and women will be reminded that excessive drinking can lead to ill health, violence, and family break-ups.

The message is being pressed home on Services radio and television. In an ad to be shown after the 9pm watershed, actor Tony Robinson steps into his Baldrick character from the *Blackadder* comedy series and his amorous intentions are confounded by the bottle. He quotes Shakespeare on alcohol: "It provoketh the desire, but taketh away the performance."

Maj Tim Saunders, of the Army's Discipline Policy Branch, who is

responsible for the initiative, said it is being launched to tie in with the Government's regular Christmas drink-drive campaign.

According to Maj Saunders, studies have shown that a high proportion of courts martial charges are related to excessive drinking. Research has also shown that, even though many soldiers can buy alcohol cheaply, the level of alcohol abuse is broadly similar to that which exists among similar civilian age and gender groups.

In spite of the strong message, there is no intention to make the Army "dry". "We are not being po-faced about this," said Maj Saunders. "Our message is that sensible and appropriate drinking is OK but drunkenness is unacceptable in the Army."

IN BRIEF

SOLDIERS from the 4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment provided a guard of honour at a Remembrance Sunday service at Enniskillen on the tenth anniversary of the IRA Poppy Day bombing that killed 11 people and left 63 injured.

A memorial was unveiled at Saint-Venant in France on Nov 11 to honour men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers who lost their lives in the rearguard action before Dunkirk.

More than 2,500 ex-Royal Engineers celebrated the 50th anniversary of the start of National Service by attending a gigantic reunion at Brompton Barracks, Chatham. Hundreds of soldiers from the Royal School of Military Engineering, led by Maj Pat Coxen, helped organise the day and put on a series of sapper-related displays. Lunch, of bangers and mash washed down with a mug of tea, was served in the cookhouse.

Review aims to boost morale

SOLDIERS and their families who take the strain of overstretch "with so little complaint" have been saluted by Defence Secretary George Robertson.

Updating MPs on the progress of the Strategic Defence Review as he opened a two-day defence debate on October 27, he spoke of an efficiency drive which would free resources to improve equipment standards and increase morale.

"Obtaining greater efficiency from defence spending is an absolutely central part of the Strategic Defence Review," he said. "I am committed to ensuring that every pound spent by the Ministry of Defence is necessary for our defence and security."

"I have instructed my staff to look at all aspects of the way in which we support and equip the front line, to make sure that defence capability is delivered as cost-effectively as possible."

He said MoD resources needed to be freed to tackle such problems as a deficit in spares for Challenger 1 tanks, the inability to transport some of our major battle-winning equipment by air, and the "serious personnel and equipment shortfalls" in the Defence

Medical Services which had led to reduced morale.

"The problems we have inherited are not restricted to equipment," he said. "The armed forces are chronically short of personnel. As well as a shortage of well over 4,000 Regular soldiers, there are widespread shortages of specialists such as logistics experts and signals personnel."

"As a result, many of our troops have to spend much longer periods in high-stress postings such as Northern Ireland and Bosnia than is officially recommended."

"For example, more than 1,000 soldiers were deployed to Bosnia last year within six months of completing a previous operational tour. Some of them had only three weeks in the United Kingdom between serving in the Falklands and moving on to service in Bosnia."

"Small wonder, then, that we have difficulty in recruiting and especially in retaining personnel. It is a remarkable tribute to those people and their families that they take the strain of those problems with so little complaint."

● Gulf War illness latest – Page 38

Modest Les saves woman's life



Spr Les Gooding on exercise

A PART-TIME soldier who used Army first aid training to save the life of an elderly woman has been awarded a GOC's certificate of commendation.

The incident happened when Spr Les Gooding was carrying out civilian work for British Telecom and only came to light when colleagues brought it to the attention of his employers.

Spr Gooding, senior signaller in 217 (London) Field Squadron (EOD) RE (V), was testing for a phone fault in a private house when the woman collapsed and stopped breathing. He revived her with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage, then called for help on the line he had just fixed.

While he was doing so the woman again stopped breathing and Spr Gooding had to revive her again.

The commendation was presented by Maj Gen Evelyn Webb-Carter, GOC London District, at RHQ 101 (London) Engr Regt (EOD) (V) in Catford.

The Army's AH-64D Apache attack helicopter, due in service in 2000, will be equipped with a GEC-Marconi defensive aids system (HIDAS) to give it protection from missile attack, the MoD has announced. (See Pages 28-29.)

Up to 1,600 TAFMIS (Training, Administration and Financial Management Information System) users are expected to pass through the new training

centre at Headquarters Army Training and Recruiting Agency (ATRA), Upavon, by the end of March.

Two doctors and two nurses from Iceland have been attached to 24 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC to assist the British effort in Bosnia. Iceland had wished to contribute to the NATO Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in former Yugoslavia but has no armed forces of its own.

No fudge on capability – Lord Inge

IN AN acclaimed maiden speech during the Lords defence policy debate on November 6, Fd Marshal Lord Inge, the former Chief of the Defence Staff, argued strongly in support of Britain's Armed Forces retaining the capability to take part in high-intensity conflict.

This was a critical issue "that must not be fudged", he said.

"If you lose the high-intensity capability – that is, the ability to go to war and fight and win, as we did in the Falklands and the Gulf – it takes years and years to get it back in terms of equipment, training and expertise, and it will cost a great deal of money."

TOP QUALITY

Lord Inge stressed the need to recruit and retain top-quality Servicemen and women; to ensure the capability, quality and technology of the forward equipment programme ("expensive but fundamentally important");

and to maintain the endurance and sustainability of operational logistic support.

He said it was vital to make adequate provision for training; to be wary about reducing states of readiness too far; and to improve the balance for personnel

between time spent on training, on operations and with families and friends.

Also fundamentally important to the Armed Forces he said, was ethos – the motivating spirit which makes men and women put their lives at risk, a mixture of emotional, intellectual and moral values which encompasses comradeship, team spirit, integrity, human qualities and tradition in the sense of "a standard of conduct handed down to you and below which you try never to fall".

STABILITY

In a plea for stability, Lord Inge referred to the remarkable manner in which the Forces had adapted over the past 40 years and met many challenges with great humour and effectiveness.

"However," he added, "I sense strongly that after the Strategic Defence Review they need to be left alone."

He said peers' visits to front-line units had shown that while short-term morale is high, "what one might call long-term morale is not so good: it is a little shaky."

"The coming generation worry about the future. That is why they need to feel that they will have a more stable base on which to take their life forward."



Fd Marshal Lord Inge

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People, places, events

Picture: Chris Fletcher



Members of 5 Airborne Brigade's Pathfinder Platoon on Bright Star in Egypt

British brush-up on desert warfare

MASS drops by airborne forces, an amphibious landing and armoured manoeuvres were the highlights of Exercise Bright Star, which ended in Egypt's Western Desert last month.

A 750-strong British battle group, led by the reconnaissance units of the Household Cavalry Regiment, joined a force of Americans ten times larger and a similar number of Egyptians to practise coalition desert warfare. Contingents from France, Italy, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates added to the international force.

The exercise was reminiscent of the huge multi-national deployment mounted for the Gulf War and was intended to be so.

Major British contribution to Bright Star was the Household Cavalry Regiment. Its Scimitar, Striker and Spartan vehicles ranged widely across the exercise area, carrying out reconnaissance for the large force of American battle tanks.

A high point for the Household Cavalry was their embarkation on the

RFA *Sir Tristram* and the smaller landing ship, HMAV *Arakan*, followed by an "assault" on the Egyptian coast co-ordinated with an airborne landing by soldiers of B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and their Egyptian counterparts.

A Company of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry arrived from its Cyprus base already acclimatised to the heat. Its members enjoyed live-firing and survival exercises before playing the enemy in a final seven-day game of cat-and-mouse with Egyptian and American special forces.

● SSgt Carl Fisher, of the Royal Logistic Corps, was killed in a vehicle accident during Bright Star. The senior movements controller and three colleagues were in a mini-bus when it was in collision with an American tank transporter. The Egyptian driver was also killed, and the other passengers received injuries.

- Exercise report in next issue
- Veterans at El Alamein – Page 21

Russia and France in defence talks

DEFENCE Secretary George Robertson held talks in Moscow with the aim of increasing practical co-operation between the armed forces of Britain and Russia.

Earlier, at Woolwich, Mr Robertson and M Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, signed a letter of

intent on military co-operation. The signing supplements existing agreements between the UK and France on naval and air force co-operation and provides for the exchange of personnel, combined training and the swapping of information on manning and recruiting issues.

Julie awaits England call



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Territorial Army soldier Cpl **Julie Mitchell**, of 73 Engineer Regiment, is a woman with a lot of firsts to her name. She was one of the first female trans-European class one HGV drivers and was among the first to join the sappers and earn a long-service medal. Now Julie, who plays football with Nottingham's Dunkirk Ladies, is hoping to regain her place in the England women's soccer team after treatment to an injured knee.

In honour of Albert



Korean war veteran **Albert Tyas** receives a caubeen and cap badge from Catterick-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment to mark his service with the Royal Ulster Rifles. The presentation was made by B Company commander Maj **Andrew McCord** (left), son of Albert's former commanding officer in Korea. Mr Tyas was taken prisoner at the Imjin in April, 1951.

Frites flambé, anyone?



Picture: Chris Fletcher

World-famous chef **Albert Roux** was so impressed by Army cuisine he claimed he would join up if he was young enough. He tried his hand at cooking the Army way – in a field kitchen – while visiting the Army School of Catering in Aldershot. Mr Roux, a former French soldier, met Army contestants in the Chef of the Year competition and declared the food "fantastic".

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WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS EVERYTHING

People, places, events



Sgt Michael Griffiths of 12 Regiment RA tells President Herzog about a missile system

German Head of State calls on Army

IN the first of a series of meetings with NATO troops stationed on German soil President Roman Herzog paid a historic visit to British Forces Germany when he called on Exercise Sheldrake Sword at Bergen-Hohne training area.

The event was interpreted as signalling tacit support for the continued presence of British troops in Germany.

He was met by Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C Land Command, and Maj Gen John Kiszely, commander of the 1st (UK) Armoured Division, and a guard of honour from Sennelager-based 12 Regiment RA.

Mountain Terriers

WANTED: Territorial Army mountaineers interested in a first British ascent. A joint Indian-British TA expedition is to be launched to climb Mt Rathong in the Sikkim region in April and May next year.

Build-up training is planned in France or Scotland early in the New Year and anyone interested should contact Ian Craddock or Nick Copcutt on 0171 414 5247 or write to TAME Rathong Cell, Leighton House, Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road, London SW3 4SE as soon as possible.

Territorial Army Tigers take to the Alps

SOLDIERS from the 6th/7th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, surprised some of NATO's elite troops when they won the international reservists section of Lombardia 97, the Italian equivalent of the Cambrian Patrol competition.

Led by Capt Andrew Smith, the Farnham-based team travelled by minibus to Luino on the shore of Lake Maggiore in

After a briefing on British forces in Germany, President Herzog watched a tactical battle involving tanks, artillery, helicopters and RAF jets. Recently-qualified Gazelle pilot Cpl Julie Wiles of 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps, one of three female helicopter pilots in BFG, flew one of the helicopters which guided RAF aircraft on to the target.

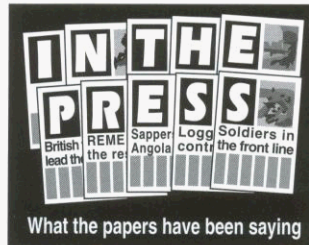
The president visited static displays which included a 2 RTR Challenger, Warrior (1 Green Howards), HMV Stormer (12 Regt RA), AVRE (32 Engr Regt), Gazelle and Lynx (1 Regt AAC), Scimitar (Light Dragoons), 1 Regt RMP, Royal Signals and 28 Engr Regt's M3 amphibious bridge.

Many of the soldiers spoke to President Herzog in German. He expressed surprise at how many had married German women and told a press conference he had been very impressed by what he had seen and that British troops would remain welcome as long as they were in Germany.

The high-profile visit appeared to strengthen the case for keeping British troops in Germany. Gen Walker said: "We are very pleased that he has come to see us. It makes a significant point in itself that he has chosen to visit now."

northern Italy where they were the sole British entry in the competition sponsored by the Reserve Forces Association.

Sgt Lee Atkinson took 6/7 PWRR to victory in the overall championship for reservist units and 17th overall out of 75 teams in the main competition, which was dominated by the Italian Special Commando Alpino regiments.



Elite units to merge in 'super brigade'

TWO of Britain's elite fighting units, The Parachute Regiment and the Royal Marines, could be merged under plans expected to be put to ministers to create a "super brigade". — *Sunday Times*

□ The Army has produced a new code of conduct detailing how its soldiers should behave on and off duty. The code, to be published next year, will say adultery is unacceptable because it damages trust between men and women who may have to fight alongside each other. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ A dog took to the skies again to mark the 200th birthday of the parachute. War hero Bing, who served with The Parachute Regiment, was taken from his glass case at the Airborne Forces Museum. Cpl Kevin Waterhouse, who jumped with Bing at Netheravon, said: "I've jumped with a radio presenter dressed as a chicken before but not with a stuffed dog." — *Daily Mirror*

□ Former Household Cavalry trooper Craig Brown has broken by 18 days Ffiona Campbell's nine-year-old record for walking across Australia. He completed the 3,200-mile trek from Sydney to Perth in 77 days. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Nine soldiers traumatised by the horrors of serving in war-torn Bosnia are suing defence chiefs for £10 million. — *Daily Mirror*

□ An imaginative scheme to conserve Stonehenge received a dramatic boost when the MoD approved a new road over its land. — *Times*

□ Several Army barracks may be sold off under the Government's defence review. Chelsea Barracks in London and much of the garrison at Colchester are among high-value properties targeted for disposal. — *Sunday Telegraph*

□ A former RLC lance corporal had a Kalashnikov round removed from his head three weeks after he was shot by a Croatian soldier in Bosnia. Tom Byrne was at first given painkillers and sent back on duty, he reveals in his as yet unpublished biography. — *Daily Mail*

People, places, events

Flag comes down on BMH Rinteln

THE FLAG of British Military Hospital Rinteln, which served units east of the Rhine, was presented to the town of Rinteln when the BMH closed its doors for the final time.

It dealt with a full range of medical needs in what is now the 1 (UK) Armoured Division area. At its height, 300 military staff and more than 200 local civilians were employed there.

A final drawdown began at the end of March when in-patient treatment ceased. All out-patient care stopped at the end of September so that the buildings and facilities could be handed to the German authorities.

Since opening as a military hospital in 1953, BMH Rinteln had treated hundreds of thousands of patients and more than 40,000 babies were born there.

Married quarters in Bückeburg and Rinteln are being retained in the short term.



Cadet Gilmore from the winning Somerset Army Cadet Force team receives the Light Division Cadet Cup from Gen Sir Peter de la Billière at Army Training Regiment, Winchester.

Organised and run by soldiers from the Light Infantry regimental support teams, Royal Green Jacket recruits and the Army Youth Team, the competition, now in its 27th year, draws teams of ten from county cadet bodies all over the country.

Despite gales and rain, the youngsters showed resourcefulness and enthusiasm as they tackled tasks including a march-and-shoot event, first aid, map-reading, swimming, assault course, .22 shooting and orienteering.

Colchester Garrison face-lift on the way

MULTI-MILLION pound plans to change the face of Colchester Garrison moved a step closer when the MoD cleared the way for private consortia to submit bids to carry out the design, building and operation of the new-look garrison.

The face-lift, backed by Colchester Borough Council, will result in many of the new Army buildings being concentrated to the south of Abbey Fields. Work will start in mid-1999.

Col John Graves, who is heading the garrison project team, said the scale of the development and the size of the investment was a clear indication of the military commitment to its garrison in Colchester.

Tornado on the Plain



A light gun from 7 Parachute Regiment RHA is airlifted to Salisbury Plain for Exercise Iron Tornado, during which all elements of 3 (UK) Division's Artillery Group demonstrated their firepower.

More than 3,000 soldiers, fielding 26 AS90s (from 1 and 3 RHA), 12 light guns (7 Para RHA), nine FH70s (100 Regt RA(V)), two Javelin batteries (47 Regt RA) and one Rapier FSC battery (16 Regt RA) deployed to conduct live firing. They were supported by many

other units, including 9 Regiment AAC, which joined the fray as part of the newly-formed Offensive Support Group, and 18 Squadron RAF.

Harrier GR7 and Tornado GR1 aircraft and 2 Para's mortar platoon were involved in the final firepower demonstration.

The exercise included an air defence phase and the first co-ordinated use of the BATES targeting system, ADCIS command and control and Ptarmigan battlefield communications.

Rainham bomb made safe by Wimbish team

A LARGE Second World War bomb was made safe by an eight-man team from Wimbish-based 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD).

More than 4,000 people were evacuated from their homes in Rainham, Essex as the bomb disposal experts carried out a text-book operation, completing the task in eight hours. The bomb was found in a land-fill site near a residential area and people living in the area had to be evacuated to create a 1,000m safety zone.

WO2 Kevin Grantham, of 21 Fd Sqn (EOD), was responsible for defusing and steaming out the explosives contained in the steel casing of the 250kg German bomb. The two fuses were destroyed on site in a controlled explosion. LCpl Wayne Bye led the support team.



WO2 Kevin Grantham (left) and his number two, LCpl Jim Moynan, work on the rusted bomb at Rainham

IN BRIEF

TWO of the British Army's most significant VCs have been presented to the Green Howards Museum. Awarded to Pte Henry Tandy VC, DCM MM, the most decorated private soldier of the First World War, and WO2 Stanley Hollis, who won the only VC on D-Day, the medals were owned by Sir Ernest Harrison.

● Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The

Parachute Regiment on duty in Cookstown, Co Tyrone helped a man badly-shocked when his car overturned.

● Men from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have returned to Celle, Germany after a six-month tour in Bosnia. More than 700 fusiliers deployed to Gornji Vakuf as part of NATO's Stabilisation Force in May. They handed over to

'One-stop shop' mines guidance

BRITISH Army expertise in land mine clearance, training and awareness has been harnessed to set up the United Kingdom Mine Information and Training Centre (UK MITC).

Part of the Royal Engineers Battlefield Engineering Wing at Minley, Surrey, the centre will place the UK at the international forefront of humanitarian mine clearance.

Due to become fully operational at the beginning of 1998, the MITC aims to be a "one-stop shop for guidance and information on counter-mine measures".

Defence Secretary George Robertson visited the centre two weeks after announcing it would be set up during a trip to Bosnia. He was shown how anti-personnel and anti-tank mines are detected and cleared by Capt Jim Willis, assistant minewarfare instructor.

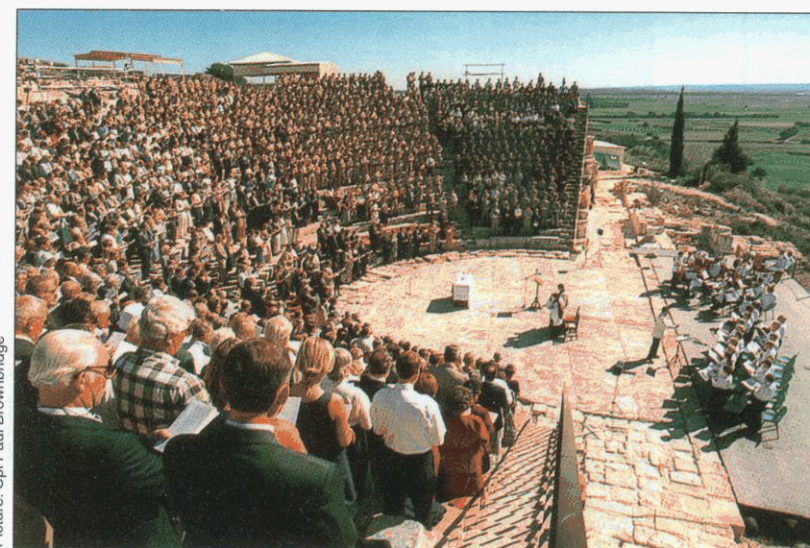
Mr Robertson said: "I am convinced the MITC will have a consid-

erable impact in getting rid of the poisonous legacy of land mines. We are using the expertise of the most professional Army in the world."

Mine detection research equipment being used by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency was on display alongside Military Survey's mobile digitised tactical information system, used to produce maps showing the exact location of minefields.

The Defence Secretary also met former military policeman Chris Moon, who lost an arm and a leg while working in Cambodia.

Aim of the MITC is to ensure that individuals deploy with as much knowledge of mines as possible. As well as the military it will be open to other governmental departments, non-government agencies, academia and industry. It will also provide a focal point for the gathering of information currently held by a number of different organisations.



British soldiers from Episkopi Garrison in the Western Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus and expatriates fill the

picturesque Roman amphitheatre at Curium, for the island's annual Remembrance Day service.

the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment from Catterick.

● Asian soldiers from Leicester-based 7 R Anglian have formed a task force to recruit from the city's large Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities.

● Magus, a lonely grey seal, has been reunited with his girlfriend thanks to ten

soldiers from 4/5 Battalion, The Green Howards. They lifted the "one-quarter of a ton of pure love" out of his pool at Scarborough Sealife Centre so he could be transported to a Cornish seal sanctuary.

● Cardiff-based 53 (Welsh) Signal Squadron's new home in Morgan Street was opened by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie.

Over to you...



LCpl Jim Pelham of The Parachute Regiment helps Jamie Lee (20) over a scramble net at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall, near York during a Look-at-Life day with the Army for 21 young homeless people from Leeds. The initiative follows the recent launch of a major drive by the Army to implement equal opportunities for all recruits, including the homeless.

Jenni-first for the TA

Meet 2nd Lt Jennifer Hill, of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), the first woman to win the coveted Taylor Woodrow Cane - awarded to the best cadet on the Territorial Army commissioning course at Sandhurst. In civilian life Dr Hill is a lecturer at the School of Environmental Management and Geography at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Her first commissioned appointment is as regimental signals officer at RHQ in Monmouth.



Bible-toting biker



Motor-cycle mad Army padre the Rev Simon Wilkinson takes to the hills on a borrowed 350cc Harley Davidson to reach members of his flock, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment on exercise in the Welsh mountains. The TA battalion was taking part in 145 (Home Counties) Brigade's Exercise Roebuck Foray.

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Your new allowances

WHAT YOU CAN CLAIM

A NEW package of allowances is to be introduced on December 1. Every officer and soldier has different circumstances and if you need specific advice on the new package, you should consult your Regimental Administrative Office (RAO) in the first instance or your staff and personnel support representative.

The allowances:

X Get You Home (Detached Duty) (GYH(D)) is a non-taxable allowance designed to provide both married and single personnel who are on detached or temporary duty with assistance towards the cost of return travel to their married quarter, selected place of residence, or to their permanent duty station.

X Get You Home (Posting) (GYH(P)) is a non-taxable allowance designed to provide married personnel serving unaccompanied on a posting within the same theatre as their family, with some assistance towards the cost of travelling home.

X Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA) is a taxable allowance designed to provide compensation to both married and single personnel for the disadvantages attributable to periods of temporary detachment of ten days or more where return travel to the permanent duty station is not possible.

X Married Unaccompanied Service Allowance (MUSA) is a taxable allowance for married personnel who serve unaccompanied on a posting outside the theatre in which their family resides. It is designed to provide compensation for the disadvantages of separation while posted on permanent duty away from the family home.

X Recompense In Lieu Of Relocation (RILOR) is a non-taxable allowance to provide assistance with the cost of daily travel from a private residence to an individual's place of duty where an entitlement to full relocation expenses has not been claimed. A personal contribution of nine miles in each direction is to be introduced.

OTHER CHANGES

X Residence to place of duty: A personal contribution representing three miles in each direction is to be introduced for travel between publicly-funded accommodation and an individual's place of duty.

X Separation Allowance (SEPAL) will cease from Dec 1 when LSSA is introduced.

X Separation travel warrants will cease from Dec 1 when the Get You Home package is introduced. This does not apply to personnel whose permanent duty station is in either Northern Ireland or the Scottish outer isles.

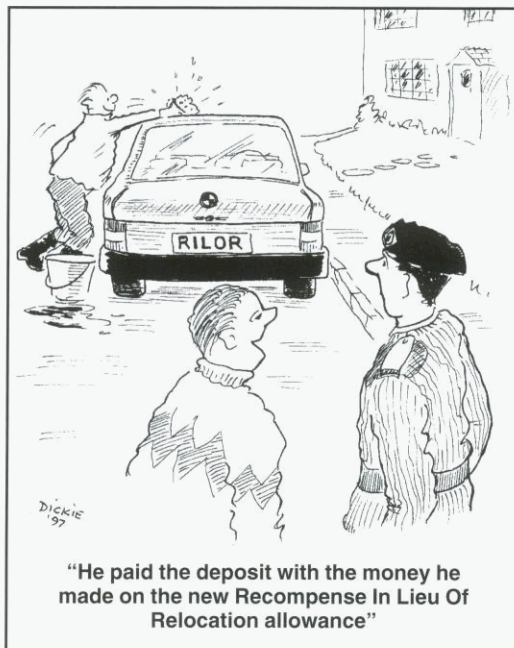
X Excess Fares Allowances (EFA) will be phased out from Dec 1 when RILOR is introduced.

X Northern Ireland Pay will be phased out from Dec 1. It will be replaced by NI Resident Supplement for those for whom NI is classed as their permanent duty station. LSSA will be paid to those on roulement tours.

X South Georgia Additional Pay will be phased out from Dec 1 when LSSA is introduced.

X UK leave travel: Changes are to be made to the UK leave travel scheme on April 1.

X Educational allowances: A new Boarding School Allowance (Day) will be introduced



"He paid the deposit with the money he made on the new Recompense In Lieu Of Relocation allowance"

from Dec 1 to provide a claimant who is already in receipt of BSA the opportunity to enable a child, who has already been attending school as a boarder, to become a day pupil at the same school and to live at home.

Baggage review

● Single person's baggage entitlement is to be increased to 50 per cent of the equivalent married accompanied overseas rate.

● A refund scheme will be available for single and married unaccompanied personnel who arrange removal of their own unaccompanied baggage on posting within UK.

● Transit insurance will become an individual responsibility. Disturbance allowance for married personnel will be increased by £45; single personnel will be able to claim up to £35. You must insure your belongings.

Where appropriate, transitional arrangements for the whole package will be put in place to give personnel time to adjust their personal circumstances.

Many of the changes to the new allowances package will be paid automatically into your pay account on a daily basis once an entitlement has been identified. This will reduce the need for regular completion of claim forms.

RAOs will be responsible for assessing individual entitlements to the new allowances and individuals will probably be called for an interview to ascertain their eligibility. Entitlements will be published between Dec 1 and 10 and first payments will be made in the December credit of pay.

A GUIDE TO ENTITLEMENT

Status	Personal Situation	Allowances									Liability to charges	
		GYH(D) (1)	GYH(P)	LSSA (3)	Travel to work (4)	Relocation package	BSA	LSAP (8)	MUSA	Leave travel (9)	Accom	Food
Single	Living in	✓		✓		✓ (5)		✓		✓	✓	✓
Single	Living out	✓		✓	✓	✓ (6)		✓		✓		
Married	Accompanied	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Married	Unaccompanied UK	✓	✓ (2)	✓		✓	✓ (7)	✓		✓	✓ (11)	✓ (12)
Married	Unaccompanied overseas	✓		✓	✓	✓ (5)	✓ (7)	✓	✓	✓ (10)	✓ (11)	✓ (12)

Notes:

1 GYH(D) – Assistance towards two journeys per month for married personnel and one for single for those on courses/temporary detachment.

2 GYH(P) – Assistance towards two journeys per month.

3 LSSA – Paid to personnel with more than three years' paid service after periods of more than ten days when detached/deployed away from permanent duty location. There are three rates to reflect accumulated separation:

Basic rate £4 per day, Middle rate £5.50, Higher rate £7.50

4 Personnel who claim relocation expenses and legal fees will not be entitled to assistance with travel to work for the remainder of the tour.

5 Unaccompanied Baggage Allowance.

6 Qualification after three years' service. Relocation Allowance for home owners (Disturbance Allowance, legal fees, house letting expenses).

7 Payable if Involuntary Separated status is applicable.

8 Long Service Advance of Pay – eligibility from age 35, current rate £8.5K or 182 days' basic pay, whichever is less.

9 UK-based personnel in their first three years of paid service retain their current entitlement, single personnel with three-nine years service retain one warrant p/a.

10 Overseas Leave Travel Scheme.

11 Married personnel over 37 exempt accommodation charges.

12 Married Unaccompanied Food Charge.

Cradle to grave: training for war

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion

THERE was a time when armoured was armoured, infantry was infantry, and – while training their commanders – ne'er the twain would meet.

But with lessons learnt since the end of the Cold War and the setting-up of the Combined Arms School (CAS) in Warminster in the early 1990s, all that has changed.

Armoured and infantry are now not only trained together at CAS but are being joined by armoured engineers and Army Air Corps pilots. Up to 1,000 combat and combat support arms commanders a year – from corporals to brigadiers – are trained in the tactics of high-intensity conflict and the latest Army doctrine.

This "cradle-to-grave" progression ensures the highest possible standard of training for soldiers who could go to war at any moment.

"We have a responsibility for ensuring that commanders at all levels are capable of general war fighting at a time when the majority of their time will be spent peace-

keeping," said Col James Ellery, who has just completed a three-year tour as commandant of CAS.

"We must remain capable of high-intensity conflict.



Above: Col James Ellery, commandant

Below: Challenger in use as a training aid on Salisbury Plain

Where do soldiers go to learn the tactics of high-intensity war fighting? The answer is Warminster's Combined Arms School. Soldier saw how they go about it – and the part played by bales of hay



We want to imbue people with the new doctrine and give them a hunger for training their soldiers when they return."

Col Ellery said that the doctrine now practised by the British Army of telling people **what** needs to be achieved, rather than **how** to achieve it, is filtering its way up through the ranks – senior officers are notoriously more difficult in being persuaded to change their attitudes.

The school is the individual training arm of the Combined Arms Training

Centre (CATC) and supports Commander-in-Chief HQ Land. It is divided into three divisions: the Armoured Tactics and Reconnaissance Division, the Combined Arms Tactics Division and the Senior Officers' Tactics Division.

Each division is commanded by a lieutenant colonel and there are 30 officer and SNCO instructors, many of whom are, unusually, the same rank as students, so they are carefully picked for recent operational and command experience.

They train commanders for general war, which is, as CAS says, "the most demanding both in terms of violence and complexity: where the combination of all arms is paramount".

IN THE FIELD

This is made possible with 93,000 acres of self-repairing chalk downs on its doorstep in the shape of Salisbury Plain Training Area. As much as 50 per cent of the course training is spent in the field. They also have the use of the CATC formed battlegroup and the Regular Army Assistance Table.

There was, said Lt Col Charlie Sloan, the SO1 of the Senior Officers' Tactics Division, an almost missionary zeal to send out the combined arms message to the rest of the Army.

"The combined arms approach is vital," he explained. "It makes all the difference between winning and losing. By the time students get on to my course they should have had the single Service attitude kicked out of them."

Commanding officers from 33 units have attended the Commanding Officers' Designate Course (CODC) – as well as a number from Commonwealth countries. Full colonels and brigadiers spend a week learning their trade on the Senior Officers' Briefing, and up to 150 commanders a time, from staff and colour sergeants to lieutenant colonels are bought up to date on current doctrines and



Looking to the future: students make themselves comfortable to discuss tactics in the field



Back to the classroom: but students spend half the time on every course out of doors

new equipment on the Combined Arms Briefings held four times a year.

After every one there is an internal validation where students have a chance to say what they think about it.

"We take note of what they say so it is always evolving – no course is the same," said Lt Col Sloan.

VIRTUAL REALITY

One of the most significant changes will be the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer, a virtual-reality computer simulator which will enable commanders to go into battle able to see the enemy on a computer-generated picture.

This, said Lt Col Sloan, will go a long way towards helping to train the tactical side of soldiering which is vital. "You can have great equal opportunities, and a great health and safety record, but at the end of the day it's no good if you're not fit to fight."

The Combined Arms Tactics Division (CATD) trains captains and majors for sub-unit command in three five-week courses a year for Regular officers and two two-week courses for the Territorial Army.

Most of them, said Maj John Wallis, the SO2 of CATD, are being trained purely for war after spending up to three years sitting at a desk.

"We get them back in the field with their webbing and helmets and get them back to being soldiers again. What we are trying to get across is very practical. We teach a little doctrine and theory, but only to put the practical side into context, and to remind them how it affects their job in the field with their troops."

It is noticeable that there are no women on the courses; not surprisingly since the British Army maintains a policy of no women in the Infantry and RAC. In the

● Turn to next page

The armour view

NCOs' Armoured Crew Commander's Course

Cpl Simon Cunningham, QDG

"It has helped tremendously. We have learnt about tactics before but this is the first time we have been told to sit down and think about it and produce a plan. At the beginning it looks and sounds very intense, but once you've got your head around it it's not too hard."



Cunningham

Cpl Dave Bayne, KRH

"Doing the exercise is the best part – putting everything we have learnt into practice, and being able to make mistakes and learn from them. Going back into the classroom is a bit difficult, but once you get out and start practising the skills it pays dividends."



Bayne

Cpl Ian Hammond, QRH

"Best part of the course for me has been the gunnery. The practical side has been the most useful – the walk-throughs and the talk-throughs. The most difficult has been the threat lectures, I have never done or heard them before."



Hammond

Cpl Adam Illiffe, QRL

"The TEWTS have been the best part – using all the practical experience from the classroom. It has been very intense, but we can make fools of ourselves here and then go back to the regiment knowing what to do."



Illiffe



Sgt David Bradbury, 3 Para, teaches the finer points of a covert local area sensor

From cradle to grave

● From Page 17

past 2½ years there has been one female instructor. The commandant was quick to point out that there was no policy of discrimination; women were simply not being sent to them. It is hoped this will change as more jobs become open to them.

The busiest and most varied division of CAS is the Armoured Tactics and Reconnaissance Division (ATRD). Set up in late 1993 when the Tactics School at Bovington closed down, it is divided into four wings: Armoured, Formation Reconnaissance, Armoured Infantry and Infantry (Light Role) Reconnaissance.

TACTICS AND RECCE

There are 27 courses a year for students, ranged from corporals to captains, which include six TA and two weekend Officers' Training Corps courses.

Again, the name of the game is flexibility, and if a gap is seen the courses are adapted to redress the balance. As Lt Col Godfrey Tilney, the SO1 for ATRD explained: "If we see there is an urgent need to train for something going consistently wrong we address it. We are always trying to extend courses and improve the quality of the training."

For many of the corporals it is the first

time they have been required to think tactically under pressure and made to form their own plans and ideas. The battle situation they study in the classroom is transferred into the field, where they sit on hay bales working out movement of troops and battle plans. By the time they have completed the final exercise on Salisbury Plain, bringing together everything they have learnt, they are fully-qualified crew commanders.

At any one time British, Dutch and Irish soldiers can be taught alongside ones from Brunei, Singapore, the Lebanon, Bahamas, Gibraltar, Zimbabwe, Egypt and Jordan.

All the courses have been programmed until the year 2000, and foreign countries have already booked their places for future students.

Advanced technology means that virtual reality computers will play an increasingly important part in the training of the British Army's commanders, but Col Ellery was convinced there was nothing to beat the traditional methods of training.

"I want to preserve the amount of field training we do," he said. "Although we will use virtual reality, it can never replace the chaos, fear and fatigue of the battlefield which can be replicated in field training."

The officers' view

Combined Arms Tactics Course – the officers interviewed had just returned from a four-day exercise in the field conducted in driving rain and howling winds

Maj James Adams, DWR

"As an infanteer it was interesting seeing the cavalry having to get used to what the infantry have to do – I think it gave them quite a shock! It was good to meet one's peers again in an exercise scenario which we have not done since Sandhurst."



Adams

Capt James Carr-Smith, RDG

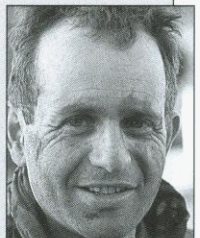
"It was very useful to see what an infanteer has to do. Everything takes so long, there is little chance of rest and you get very wet and tired. I'm glad I've done it but don't ask me to do it again! But it has enhanced my professional knowledge, no doubt about that."



Carr-Smith

Maj Athol Hendry, 2 RTR

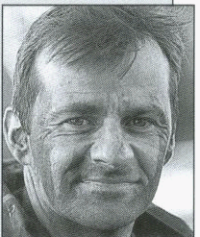
"Having not been on anything like this for a decade it is very useful. I have been to staff college, but it was much more theoretical. On this course you see everything from a grass-roots level."



Hendry

Maj Martin Travers, RRF

"I have been out of the regimental system for four years and have not done any real soldiering, so this is the perfect opportunity to get back into the swing of things. One of the best parts of the course is the mix of cap badges."



Travers

The infantry view

Infantry Light Role Close Reconnaissance NCO Commanders' Course

Sgt Mark de Bretton Gordon, 1 R Anglian

"It is good being taught for most of the time in a relaxed manner and treated with respect. It will definitely help me. I am new to recce and my job is recce troop 2ic, so I have been doing the job with my hands tied behind my back and needed this. You really

do learn the nitty-gritty technical stuff here."

1Lt Harro Devries, R Netherlands Marine Corps

"The course is very stimulating; there are seven instructors for 20 men so you get almost individual training. The British soldiers are very motivated and well-trained in individual skills and discipline on the battlefield is good."



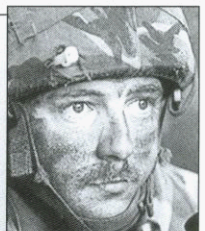
de Bretton Gordon



Devries



Armstrong



Hutton

Cpl Alan Armstrong, 2 Para

"I knew it was going to be physically demanding and expected it to be hard. I enjoyed it, though. You learn the way a battle group works . . . and learn the bigger picture."

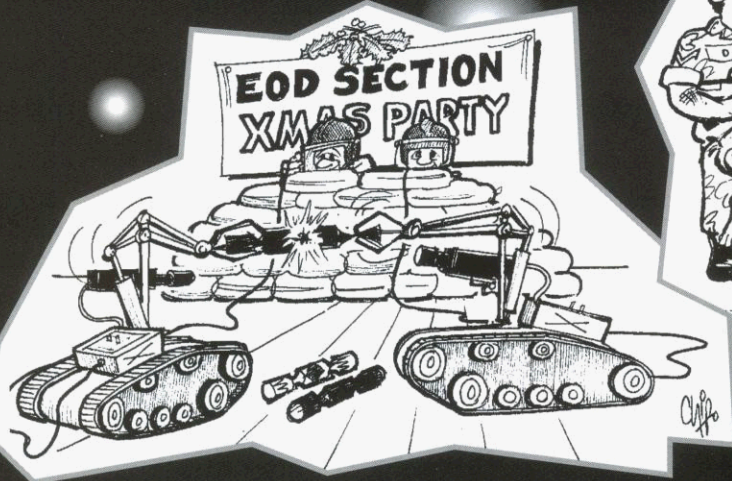
Cpl Hugh Hutton, RAF Regt

"We've learnt a lot working with other arms. Army groupings are different from RAF and I'm not used to working with such large numbers of people. Its given me a lot more experience in recce."

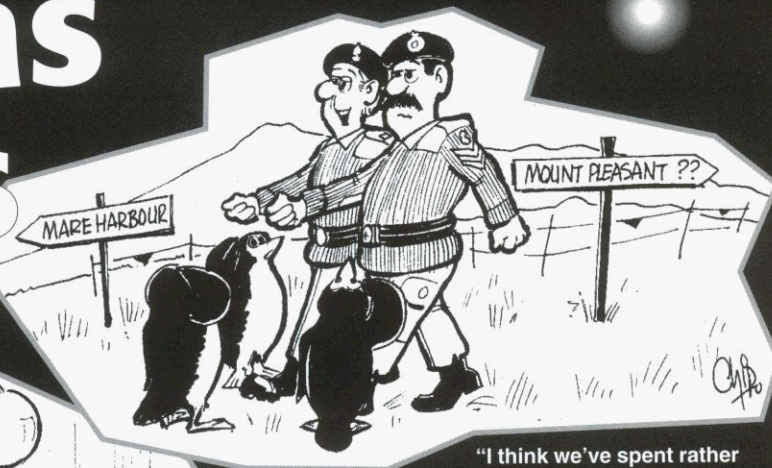
Chuckle with Chip



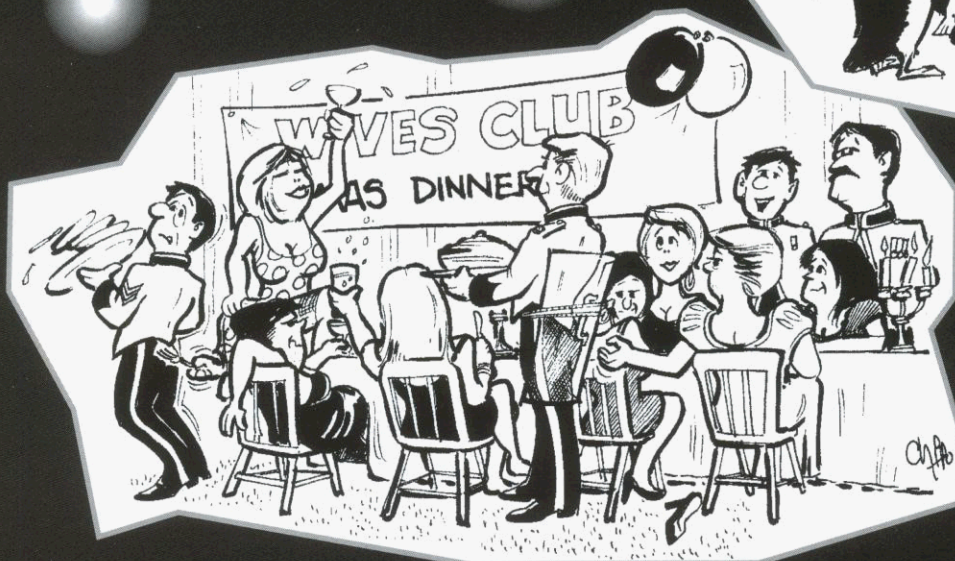
"Santa is only used to sherry and mince pies dear ... ouzo and a fish meze with the lads in Ayia Napa seems to have delayed him a bit!"



Christmas crackers



"I think we've spent rather too many Christmases here, don't you?"



"The QM said those surplus riot shields would come in handy!"

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Feature

Bright Star soldiers join veterans to remember El Alamein

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: WO2 Pete Bristo

FIFTY-FIVE years ago, a huge British and Commonwealth army of tanks and infantry gathered near a dusty village called El Alamein in Egypt's western desert. This tiny spot on the map was soon to achieve world fame as the site of perhaps the greatest armoured battle in history.

Tasked by Churchill to stop the slow but relentless advance of Gen Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps, Lt Gen (later to be Field Marshal) Bernard Montgomery arrived in the desert and told the British and Commonwealth troops (described by Churchill as "brave but baffled") that things were about to change.

"We will fight here, and if necessary we will die here," Monty said. "But there will be no more retreats."

Many did die. But casualties from the 12-day battle that began on October 23 were even higher on the German and Italian side. Most importantly, Hitler's plan to dominate Africa and the oil fields of the Middle East expired in the sands of the desert.

This year, the anniversary of that battle was marked with more-than-usual ceremony and style, thanks largely to the presence of British soldiers participating in the multi-national exercise Bright Star.

By chance, the men and women of the Household Cavalry Regiment, the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry and B Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, were camped on the site of Monty's pre-battle HQ. Representatives from each of the units joined veterans, representatives of other coalition armies and foreign dignitaries at the immaculately-maintained cemetery.

It was a poignant ceremony, ecumenical to reflect the multiple faiths of those

who died, and multi-lingual to reflect the fact that old enemies are now friends in a united Europe. English, German and Italian, spoken in unison, gave the Lord's Prayer a special resonance.

Veterans of the battle were ushered to their seats among the 7,367 graves by a younger generation of soldiers. Among the veterans was the present Duke of Wellington, who as a young officer fought on the southern flank of the British advance with a squadron of armoured cars. It was, he said, "a great privilege to come back".

For Sidney Lunn, then a private with the 5th Black Watch, El Alamein was his

first and nearly his last battle. He was wounded in a mortar blast, but some of his comrades did not survive. Gazing pensively across the memorial stones, Mr Lunn said: "My company commander, my platoon sergeant and my section commander... they're all here."

Douglas Walker, then a sergeant, was in charge of an anti-tank gun. He and his colleagues knocked out 14 enemy tanks before they were over-run. "Like most of the other chaps who were here, I can't dwell on it," he said. "But when I go to the headstone of someone that I knew, I still choke up. You see they are still just 20 or 21 years old."

Soldiers from the armies of yesterday and today gather at El Alamein. Inset – The Duke of Wellington lays his wreath at the cemetery's altar



Army 'family' helps traumatised mum

Report: Karen Moseley

MOTHER of three Mrs Pippa Hutchinson has been overwhelmed by the support she received from the Army after her baby son nearly drowned and stopped breathing in the bath.

"I thought the Army only looked after their married soldiers and wives," she said, "but I am still an 'outsider' and am so surprised and grateful for what they have done."

Thanks to her nurse's training, Pippa, who is marrying fiancé LCpl Mick Dannett on December 13, managed to save her son, Luke, with the kiss of life and heart massage.

Airlifted to Bristol, Luke was kept in an intensive care unit for 36 hours with suspected brain damage. But tests have since proved that the little boy, who celebrated his first birthday a few weeks later, was completely unaffected.

Pippa, however, was so traumatised that she found she was unable to be alone in the house with Luke, two-year-old Chloe, and her new-born baby, Sarah.

LCpl Dannett was on leave from a six-month posting in Canada to see his new daughter when the near-tragedy took place. Mick's father, SSgt Phil Dannett, who is based in Cyprus, contacted the Army Welfare Service when he heard what had happened and within days they visited Pippa, recognised there was a problem, obtained a doctor's letter, and secured an extension to LCpl Dannett's leave. His unit, the Light Aid Detachment with 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, based at Tidworth, quickly actioned a recommendation that he stay in England to support Pippa.

The family say they will always be grateful to Col Bob Boothroyd and the staff of the Army Welfare Service in Corsham.

"He was fantastic,"

said Pippa. "He was so down-to-earth. He sent SSgt Janette Marshall down to see us, and after my conversation with her she felt I needed someone on hand 24 hours a day. I was finding it so difficult – not the practicalities but the emotional side. I was having flashbacks and night disturbances and found it hard to get close to my children."

"She sent me to the doctor who diagnosed post-traumatic stress and post-natal stress. He wrote to the unit."

Soon afterwards LCpl Dannett went to see his OC, Capt George Kohler, who told him that he was needed more by his family at home than by the Army in Canada and that he could take as much leave as he needed.

"When we get married I officially become part of the establishment," Pippa said, "but I already feel my children and I have been welcomed into the 'family' by the treatment we have received."

Luke was sitting in a safety seat in the bath with Chloe when Pippa went to answer the telephone.

"The phone was in the bathroom, but I had an ear infection so went into the sitting room to make the phone call," Pippa explained. "We live in a bungalow so I was just round the corner. I heard splashing, which must have been Chloe, but when I went back in, the seat was still suctioned to the bottom of the bath and Luke was lying face down, floating."

Luke had actually stopped breathing and his life was saved by Pippa's quick thinking.

She is now spreading the message about the danger of leaving very young children unattended in baths. Pippa has found this involvement therapeutic and has already been featured in newspaper and magazine articles. The BBC has approached her about the possibility of a piece on its 999 programme.



LCpl Mick Dannett and Pippa Hutchinson with Chloe, baby Sarah and Luke

● Pippa and Mick met thanks to *Soldier*. "I was in the Army Cadet Force and an instructor and wanted to join the Army but could not because of a bad back," she said.

● "I always read *Soldier* and in July 1996 put in an advert saying that a deserted mother of one with a baby due would like to meet someone in the Army. Mick was in Bosnia up in the mountains and thought he needed cheering up and I needed cheering up. It all worked out and here we are."

A soft target for the CSA?

Ask Cari...

Cari's new-look column this month addresses problems arising from the workings of the Child Support Agency. If you think Cari can help you, write to her, in confidence, at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o *Soldier*

Dear Cari,

I AM writing on a matter which is very close to me and a large number of soldiers – the Child Support Agency (CSA). As soldiers are easy to locate we seem to be targeted without the CSA seeking the facts. I got a letter from the CSA when I was in Canada and I filled in the paperwork giving them a few facts.

I haven't seen my daughter for ten years because my ex-girlfriend remarried. Ten years later she divorced and the CSA came looking for me.

I have married and now have my own family. The CSA wrote to the Army Pay Office and money was taken from my wages. I keep writing to them but I think my letters are ending up in File 13. – CSgt B (UK).

Dear Cari,

I AM fed up with trying to get a reply from the CSA. Money is being taken from me and it's far too much. I've talked to many other soldiers in this position and they feel that we are soft targets and we're paying for all the others who say they won't pay up. I've known soldiers who have said "what's the point". They will leave the Army because they're better off sat at home. – Sgt J (UK).

Dear Cari,

MY marriage is suffering because of the CSA. My husband is handing over money that we need for our family and his ex-wife is better off than we are. I can't help blaming him for everything and I don't think I can carry on with the strain. We just argue and last time he went away I was scared that something would happen to him because we had had a row. He knows why I'm like this but he's worried about the bills as well. I feel like getting on a plane and coming home. – Mrs C (BFG).

Cari replies:

THERE are measures you can take if you feel the CSA hasn't handled your case sympathetically or fairly.

An Independent Case Examiner will look into cases involving excessive delay, mistakes, or discourtesy in the way the item has been handled. If you need help, write to the independent examiner at PO Box 155, Chester CH99 9SA.

The other source of advice and support is SSAFA Forces Help, both in the UK and overseas. A local worker will be able to provide you with all sorts of support. Look in your phone book. Or get in touch with the Director of Social Work, SSAFA Forces Help, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP.

Soldiers believe they are soft targets – from the CSA's point of view – because they are easily tracked down and payment extracted. It's not much consolation, but I know of civilian friends who are having the same problems and who also feel that they are subsidising non-

payers. This shouldn't be an excuse for not complying with the system. Neither is it a reason to give up and quit the Army.

You really are better off facing the problems and trying to get the system to work properly.

Mrs C raises an important issue. Any financial problems will create tension in a marriage, especially if the problem originates from the past life of one of the parties. Being overseas will only make it feel worse... but you are not alone.

RELATE has offices in Germany and their staff are the best people to help you discuss your feelings in a constructive way. You can see them together or alone and in confidence. Find the nearest branch through your local HIVE or SSAFA Forces Help.

It is easy to say that you shouldn't part with a row going on, but life isn't like that, is it? If you have sent him off with a flea in his ear, a letter telling him you still love him will make you both feel better. You can also make contact with your local Army Families Federation, who will be supportive. If you're unsure about where your nearest rep is, call their helpline on (UK) 01980 615 525.

Cari comments:

head of the household's commitment to the demands of a higher authority. Keeping the home together while one partner is away for long periods is an added burden... but it can be shared.

Thanks to campaigning by many people over the years we now have a variety of sources of help and support so

no one should feel alone with a problem. But responsibility for finding help has to lie squarely with the individual. Even if you don't have a problem now it might be a good idea to start compiling your own directory of advice agencies. And if you never have need of them you might just be able to help a friend who does.

If you would like to share a problem or offer advice of your own, write to me.

● Cari Roberts presents *Counterpoint* on BFBS radio



Cari Roberts

MODERN family life is very different from the way it used to be. Families are now likely to be complicated groups of people living together rather than the old-fashioned mum, dad and two-point-four children. Regardless of how we feel about this, we have to be realistic.

This arrangement can be a source of stress. It can also be rewarding.

Service families have the added complication of overseas postings and the

Cavalry saves baby's sight in nick of time

FOR the second time in four months the Household Cavalry has saved the day for year-old Bosnian baby Zivana Batajic, who was born blind.

Members of A Squadron raised £1,175 to pay for an operation in June to save the sight of her right eye and now their mates in D Squadron, part of the British contingent of the multi-national Stabilisation Force (SFOR), have stepped in to pay for surgery to restore the sight in her other eye.

Russian specialists will work to a strict deadline to save the optic nerve in the left eye. Without D Squadron's timely help there seemed little hope that her family could raise the money needed for the treatment.

With a little help from the soldiers of D Sqn, Zavina's mother Radmila will be able to accompany her to Russia. Following the operation she faces a further month of treatment in Serbia for electrical stimulation to the eye muscle.

The squadron arrived in Bosnia as the family had given up hope of raising the money needed for a second operation. Expecting a small donation, the family were overjoyed to receive nearly £900, more than enough for the surgery to go ahead. Zivana will need four more operations but these will be less expensive and dangerous.

Thanks to Maj Valentine Woyka and his men of D Sqn, doctors now believe that in time the child's sight can be fully restored.



Maj Valentine Woyka, Household Cavalry, meets little Zivana and her mother Radmila

Picture: Media Ops, Land Command

Otterburn's war of words

By Karen Moseley

ROMAN legionaries once looked out over the same raw windswept beauty of Otterburn training area as modern soldiers do today.

Curlews still call, burns and rivers still weave their way through peat and heather, and fighting men still practise the art of war in hills and valleys as they have done for nearly 2,000 years. But for the last seven months a different kind of war has been waged over the area – not of bullets and armour, but one of words.

The battlefield has been a public inquiry in a featureless hotel conference room on the outskirts of Newcastle. The weapons have been boxes and boxes of written evidence, depositions and interviews.

Latin phrases, used with disconcerting regularity by barristers who represent the opposing forces, would have been recognised by those long-ago Romans who once guarded Hadrian's Wall and marched along their straight roads to fight Picts over the border.

The inquiry is now over, and it will be up to a courteous, softly-spoken Scottish inspector to decide in the next few weeks, or months, who has emerged victorious or vanquished. But both sides admit there have been casualties.

"It has been a bruising encounter for all of us – public inquiries always are adversarial," said Terry Carroll, the deputy national park officer.

Lt Col (Retd) Richard Cross, a former Otterburn camp commandant who is now the range officer, was equally grim. "The two casualties in this inquiry have

Northumberland inquiry has serious implications for Army training areas on Salisbury Plain and Dartmoor

been truth and trust and it is going to take a long time for bruised egos to recover," he said.

So what happened to cause this rift?

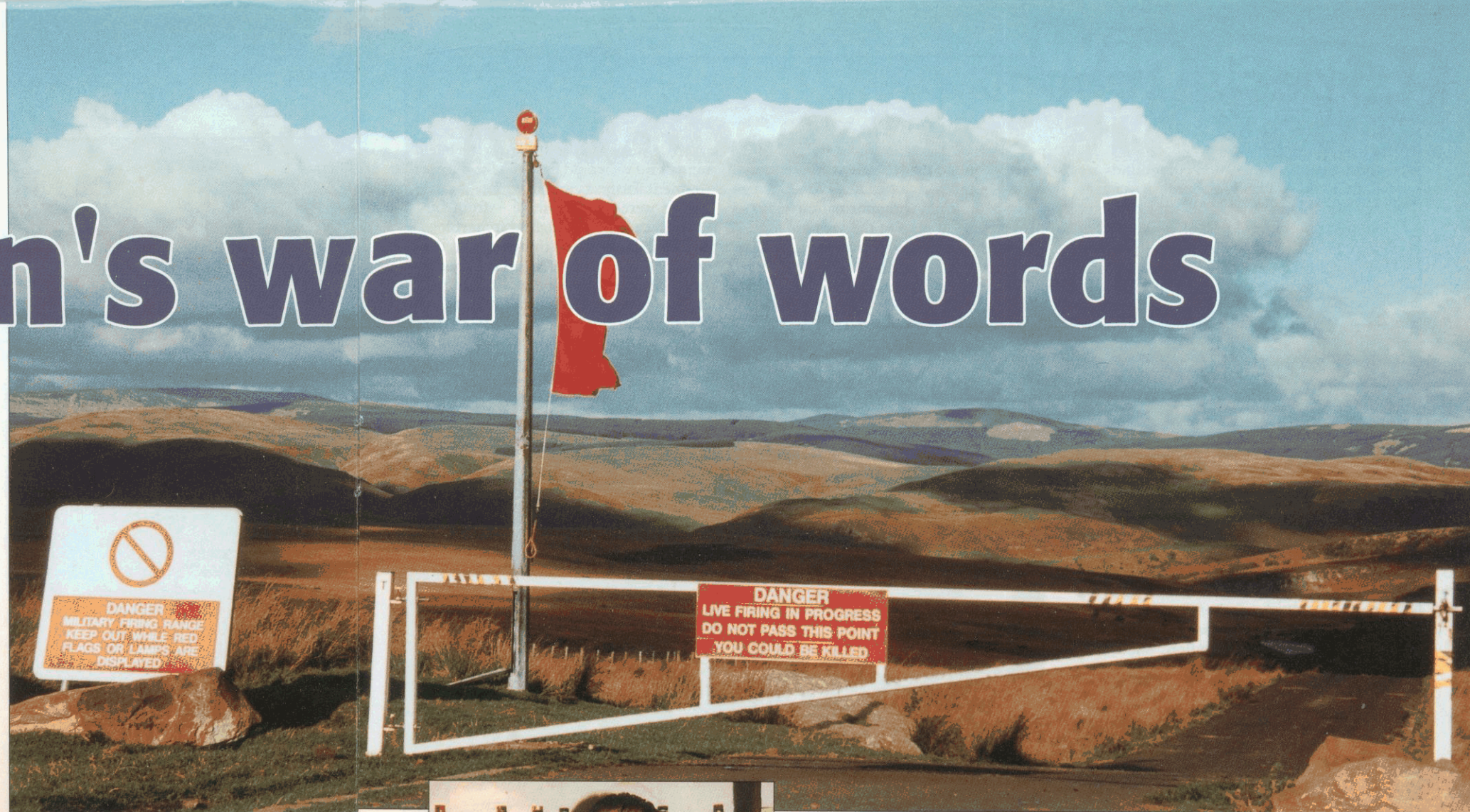
Almost all the 58,000 acres of Otterburn training area (OTA) where some 30,000 soldiers go each year to train, lie within the Northumberland National Park. Two thirds of the land was bought from a local landowner in 1911 to provide space in which the local Territorial Army could fire their horse-drawn artillery, and the rest was purchased after the First World War.



Robert Manners, senior land agent. "The Army does not need planning permission to fire the guns"

Although the Army and the park authority, which came on the scene in 1956, rubbed along quite happily for nearly 40 years, the last three years have seen a bitter conflict of interests between the two.

The MoD announced proposals in 1994 to develop OTA after it was recognised the Army would need improved facilities in the UK when training areas in Germany became unavailable. In particular, an area was needed to train safely on the 45-tonne AS90 self-propelled gun and the M28 multi-launch



A range flag flutters at the barrier of the northern danger area on Otterburn. This gloriously unspoilt Northumberland countryside stretches to the Scottish border

rocket system (MLRS). Otterburn, the Army says, is the only range in Britain where MLRS can be fired tactically over land.

Robert Manners, the senior land agent for the Defence Estate Organisation, was one of the main witnesses at the inquiry. "The Army does not need planning permission to fire the guns," he explained.

"The planning permission is needed to upgrade the infrastructure such as wider and stronger roads so there is no damage caused to the moorland. We are not planning to fire any more artillery shells than we have in the past. The FH70 has been firing here for 15 years with the same shells as the AS90."

GUN SPURS

Changes proposed by the Army include a central maintenance depot, widening existing roads, constructing new stone track, and creating gun spurs. Accommodation in the camp would be increased to house extra troops.

These changes to the infrastructure were seen as vital if training was to be effective and ground damage avoided. The MoD also provided a list of undertakings which would give the public more access to the training area, contribute to native woodland planting and nature



Clive Emerson, proprietor of The Percy Arms and parish councillor. "The military has always been extremely good at conservation"

conservation projects, and monitor pollution and noise. But the park authority and Northumberland County Council, while always accepting the military presence, rejected the proposals, saying that they would have a damaging impact on the character, quality and public enjoyment of the national park.

The resulting public inquiry, which started on April 22, is now seen as an important test case with implications for training in other national parks such as Dartmoor and Salisbury Plain.

Most affected by the outcome will be the 31 tenant farmers and their families and the local people living in surrounding villages. The Army has always been regarded as a good landlord and estate manager, and the employment it provides is welcome. There is wide local support for the Army and objectors are in the minority, although their fears have been listened to and taken into account at the inquiry.

There is a strong feeling among local people that "incomers" not used to the long association and close relationship with the Army are among the main objectors. There is also resentment that county councillors who live as far away as Morpeth and Tyneside are making decisions which affect them.

Clive Emerson, proprietor of the nearby Percy Arms for ten years, represents Otterburn as a parish councillor on the Northumberland Park Authority.

"I felt it was wrong to object to the proposed development because the military has always been extremely good at conservation," he said. "The attitude of incomers and the green movement is

totally unfair when you take into account the work done by the Army in the past 86 years. This is Northumberland and we don't like being told what to do by anyone.

"People worry about the military convoys, but we have 40-tonne civilian lorries rolling through the village. A military convoy is a far more orderly matter."

Evidence of the trouble the Army has taken to conserve the environment at Otterburn is apparent.

"You see before you 86 years of Army annihilation and carnage in the countryside," Lt Col Patrick Gouldsbury, of HQ Land, said with heavy irony, gesturing expansively towards one of the two impact areas.

RED FLAGS

Heather and grass covered any craters there may have been, and the hillside and valley looked no different from any other part of the national park except for the red flags warning members of the public not to enter.

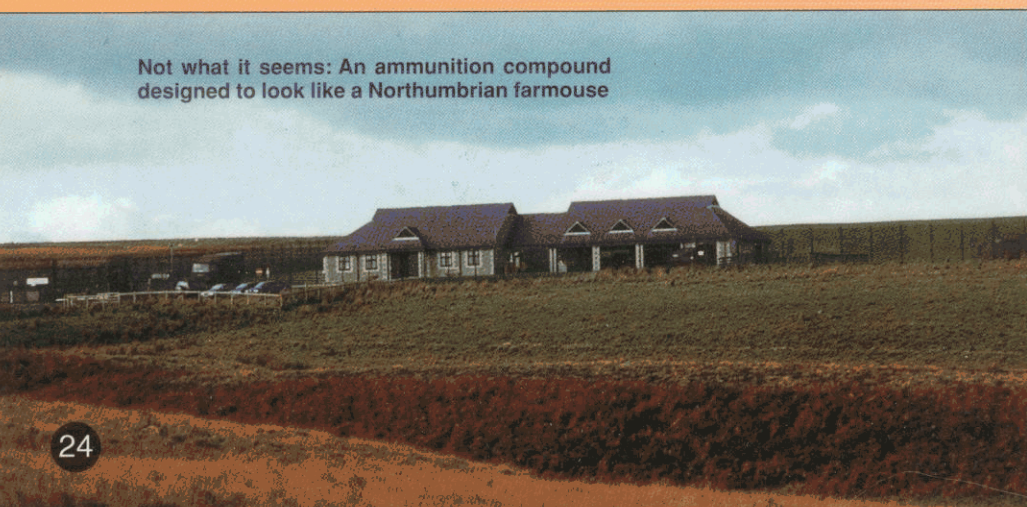
"This is a living countryside – we don't want it looking like the Battle of the Somme," he continued.

"It is the perfect place to test a soldier's endurance and perseverance, and the MoD, of all major landowners, has an unparalleled record of conservation."

Hard standing for heavy vehicles and guns is designed to allow grass to grow

● Turn to next page

Not what it seems: An ammunition compound designed to look like a Northumbrian farmhouse



Special report

● From Page 25

through and ammunition compounds are built to look like Northumbrian farms against the skyline. The replanting of Stewartshields forest, part of 4,000 acres of woodland, is the largest upland planting of broadleaf trees in the UK and an oasis for wildlife.

There are 12 sites of special scientific interest among the heather moorland,

peat bogs and upland burns. Of the 102 miles of public road, bridle way and footpaths, 44 miles are open at all times, irrespective of firing, and information leaflets with a detailed map of the area are available free of charge to members of the public.

Project sponsor Lt Col (Retd) Nick Cheesman was the person who first identified the need for improved training facil-

ities five years ago. "Right from the beginning I said we would have to take the environmental aspects into account," he said.

"We were very sensitive – from birds and insects right through to archaeology – and deliberately sited things so that there would be very little effect on the countryside. We came up with the minimum necessary that would best fit into the environment."

'A fuss about nothing'

A RANGE flag fluttering at the bottom of the drive can be seen clearly from Mrs Anne Robson's kitchen window when there is firing.

She and husband Tim have farmed 3,500 acres, the largest tenant farm on Otterburn Training Area, for ten years. Mrs Robson felt so strongly that the Army's record as a landlord should be defended, she spoke at the inquiry days before her second daughter was born.

"It just does not bother us," she said. "We know we are on an Army range, the rent reflects that, but we have never felt in the least bit threatened. There are a few loud bangs, but Poppy, my two-year-old daughter, loves them. They have told us there will be no increase in the firing days and I believe them.

"I feel wider roads are safer to snow-plough and clear in the winter. They are much more difficult to drive when they're narrow.

"I don't see us ever moving. It is a fantastic place to bring up children – so safe and so open – they can ride on bikes and ponies and walk in the fresh air.

"We have a good working relationship with the Army, and all this seems to be an awful lot of fuss about nothing."

Another farmer, however, feels the fuss is justified. Malcolm Corbett has his own farm in High Rochester, surrounded on three sides by the ranges, and has become a spokesman for the objectors to the Army plans.

While making it clear that he thinks the valley needs the Army, he is concerned about the new proposals.

"We are worried about the scale of the expansion," he explained. "They are bringing in a weapon here which is too big for the range, and because of that they are having to bring their firing pads to the side of the range, just two kilometres from my house and right on the boundary of my farm.

"I do worry about the noise and the extra convoys – there will be a backlog of



All in favour: tenant farmers Tim and Anne Robson with their daughter, Poppy



The battleground: the public inquiry at the Moat House Hotel, Newcastle

cars for miles, it will be mayhem all the way to Edinburgh."

His views are supported by the Northumberland National Park Authority, which became an independent body with the Environment Act of 1995, and is dedicated to conserving the environment and promoting public enjoyment.

Deputy national park officer Terry Carroll said there was no question of the Army being told to leave Otterburn and

train elsewhere. He said the authority was following government guidance on developments in national parks and therefore a public inquiry was necessary to look at alternatives to the Army's proposals.

"Otterburn is one of the least-visited national parks in the country," he said. "We have never claimed that people come here in vast numbers, but its solitude, remoteness and tranquillity are unique selling points.

"The public is entitled to well-trained armed forces, but also to a beautiful land-

scape. For the last 40 years we have managed to reconcile our differences without rancour, but the latest proposals have raised issues which we have tried to negotiate away. Ultimately it did not prove possible."

Both sides say they will accept the verdict of the public inquiry. Only then, as Otterburn range does itself, will the damage caused by the deep rifts start to repair.

On exercise

Yeomen take the high roads

Report: John Boyes
Pictures: Jim Gallagher

SEVEN yeomanry regiments were tested in the arts of reconnaissance and intelligence-gathering during Exercise Deep Gorge, the largest staged in Scotland since the end of the Second World War.

Planned and masterminded by HQ Scotland and HQ 1 Reconnaissance Brigade, Deep Gorge involved more than 4,000 troops and 1,000 vehicles, ranging from Otterburn and the Kielder Forest in Northumberland to the newly-extended ranges at Dundrennan near Kirkcudbright on the Solway coast.

The exercise provided the first opportunity for all the yeomanry to work together at formation level. Both Scottish brigades, 51 Highland and 52 Highland, were involved, providing friendly and enemy forces in a new role for troops who had previously concentrated on home defence.

Support was provided by units including 160 Regiment RLC(V), 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment, 32 (Scottish) Signal



Joint operations: Lt Gerald Prophet, US National Guard, points out a new location to Tpr Graham Crozier and Tpr James Hensman from the Nottingham-based Queen's Own Yeomanry

Regiment, 225 Field Ambulance and 164 Provost Company.

With many landowners agreeing to the use of their land, troops had to contend with unfamiliar and realistic terrain. The appearance on public roads of so many Army vehicles – ranging from the Sabres of The Queen's Own Yeomanry and the Fuchs NBC trucks of The Royal Yeomanry to the stripped-down Land Rovers of other regiments – caused considerable interest.

A congregation in the border village of Newcastleton emerged from kirk on Sunday morning to find the square had become a stopping-off point for the Army.

Brig Johnny Torrens-Spence, CO 1

Recce Bde, was fully aware of the potential difficulties facing units deploying over such a wide area, placing a particular premium on communications skills.

Gazelles from 3 Flight AAC(V), already with strong links to The Scottish Yeomanry, provide much-needed air support along with RAF Chinooks.

No full-scale clashes were planned but many skirmishes took place. An impressive attack at a former Royal Navy ammunition complex outside Dumfries provided a focus for a media day and demonstrated the wide range of equipment and skills of the yeomanry.

Visitors included Maj Gen Jonathan Hall, GOC Scotland, and the Duke of Westminster.

(and the low ones)

Cover job:

Yeomen take shelter as Scottish rain test the comfort levels in their stripped-down Land Rover

Far right – A member of B Squadron, The Queen's Own Yeomanry catches up on sleep after a night on patrol in his armoured recce vehicle



Who dares . . .

Rise and fall of a would-be Apache pilot

Our reporter dares all to find out if he has 'the right stuff', but didn't quite make it off the ground . . .

By Chris Kinsville-Heyne
Pictures: Terry Champion

THE TARGET shot away from the cross-hairs. I pulled the joystick hard over to the left and slammed the left pedal to the floor in an attempt to keep up with the escaping foe.

A sudden change in direction caught me unawares. Pedal and joystick crashed to the right in unison. At that moment the screen went blank.

I slumped into the padded seat of the testing booth and breathed a sigh of relief. The enemy hadn't escaped. I had just finished the Sensory Motor Apparatus test for would-be Army Air Corps pilots run at RAF Cranwell.

Putting all thoughts of how badly I had done to one side, I prepared for the next attempt to show me whether I had "the right stuff".

Six of us hopefuls had gathered at RAF Cranwell for the Aircrew Aptitude Tests. Besides me there were four officers and one senior NCO. The booths were tense places.

Because pilot training is the most expensive regime in all aircrew training, common sense decrees an early sift to see if a potential pilot has the relevant psychomotor, spatial awareness and memory skills for the job.

The computer system automatically marks the tests, derives composite scores and prints out a summary of results.

I had been impressed by the speed of the Control of Velocity test, where I had to use the joystick to move a pointer left or right to hit targets descending from the top of the screen. I wasn't sure if the computer was impressed with me.

The Instrument Comprehension test was described as a measure of general and spatial reasoning using basic aircraft instrumentation. Rapid checks of an altimeter, artificial horizon, vertical speed, air speed, compass, turn-and-bank allowed you to determine which of the five written descriptions matched the dials.

The second part used just two dials – artificial horizon and compass – to identify the correct orientation of an aircraft from a selection of pictures. My brain was hurting after the first three tests and I still had two to go, not to mention the seemingly endless medicals, eye tests, plus a day of further assessments rounded off by an interview in front of the selection board at Middle Wallop in Hampshire. If I was successful.

During the coffee break talk invariably led to the Army Air Corps' latest acquisition. The AH-64D Longbow Apache.

The chance of flying this lethal bird of



Kinsville-Heyne (centre) sits the engineering test at Middle Wallop

prey, which first captured the imagination of a generation of fliers during the Gulf War, was hovering in our minds' eye.

Reality intervened with another test, one with the interesting title of Digit Recall.

This was a short-term memory test during which sets of numbers flash on the screen for five seconds. As soon as the numbers disappear you have to type them on to the screen.

I now know that I can remember a series of eight numbers before my brain overloads and turns to mush. Fact.

The final hurdle, called Vigilance, was a test of attentional power and capacity based on a nine-by-nine matrix. There were two distinct tasks: one routine, entering the co-ordinates of the cell with a star; and one priority, cancelling an arrow with a specific button and then entering the cell co-ordinates.

My screen started off looking like a snowstorm and ended up resembling a full-blown blizzard, complete with arrows. As I was busy punching in arrow co-

ordinates, two more would appear, flashing angrily, demanding punches of their own. Through gritted teeth I promised that I would happily oblige.

Thankfully, the humiliation of being brought face-to-face

with my own inability was soon over. My last view of the screen haunted me. Arrows seemed to outnumber stars by ten to one. I now faced the prospect of not even getting an interview. I could hear it already: "Well K-H, it's like this. There's good news and there's bad news. The good news? We keep you out of our expensive aircraft. The bad news? We are taking your driving licence away too." Nightmare.

Back in the coffee room we all bore the same expressions. Death-row inmates waiting for an 11th-hour reprieve.

We were soon brought out of our misery. We had all passed. Middle Wallop was a hive of activity. Orange-panelled Gazelles hovered in the air, noisily defying gravity and enforcing their own laws of physics. We stopped to watch a startlingly rapid descent. That could be one of us in a few weeks. Our foot was gently slowing to rest on the bottom rung of the pilots' ladder and not one of us thought we wouldn't climb all the way to the top.

Aircraft factfile

McDonnell Douglas AH-64D

Apache

Type: Attack Helicopter

Crew: 2 – pilot (rear), co-pilot/gunner (front)

Dimensions:

Length: 51ft (15.5m)

Rotor diameter: 48ft

(14.6m)

Height: 12ft 7in (3.8m)

Weights:

Empty: 11,387lb (5,165kg)

Max T/O: 21,000lb

(9,525kg)

Performance:

Max speed: 227mph

(365kph)

Range: 260nm (482km)

Power plant: 2 GE T700-GE-

701 turboshafts

Armament:

30 mm M230 chain gun

16 Hellfire AT missiles or

76 Stinger/Starstreak AAM

2.75in rockets

Variants:

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Unit spotlight

Explosive time for pioneers

(or Babe goes out with a bang . . . the untold story of the Assault Pioneer Platoon, the Army's biggest users of explosives)

**Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion**

AN EXPLODING pig's head is not the most conventional of training methods – but it has the desired effect.

WO2 (QMSI) Nigel Spencer, the commander of the Assault Pioneer Platoon at Warminster, understandably feels it is better to see the results of a detonator blowing up in a donation from an abattoir rather than in an inexperienced soldier's hand.

So the pig's head, perched on the shoulder of a nattily dressed cardboard cut-out, complete with cigar, is used as a graphic example of the dangers of explosives at the beginning of each battle simulation demonstration and training session.

The Assault Pioneer Platoon, attached to Warminster Training Centre, uses more explosives than any other unit in the British Army. Its members estimate that with the battle simulations, weapons effects demonstrations and demolition days, they blow up 27 tonnes of explosives a year on Salisbury Plain.

The secret, however, is not how much to use, but where it is placed, said WO2 Spencer. Casually holding about three inches of plastic explosive in his hand, he explained: "There is enough explosive here to blow up a vehicle. Put in the right place metal cuts like butter, so does concrete. Two of these cartridges took off the side of a house in Brecon recently.

"You always respect it, and you are never blasé. Each man in this platoon has his own particular job and does not go into anyone else's area when we are laying out the battle simulation demonstration. There are detailed diagrams and calculations and we make sure every piece of kit is accounted for."

The 30 men who make up the platoon



Carefully does it: Cpl Alex McLauchlan prepares for another explosive demonstration on the Salisbury Plain training area. Top: another big bang set off by the Assault Pioneer Platoon

wear various cap badges. Not only are they experts in explosives but they also provide field fortifications for exercises on the Plain and are trained in mine warfare and clearance and watermanship.

For battle simulations, cunningly laid cartridges of plastic explosive are placed to imitate rifle and machine-gun fire, mortars, rocket launchers, aircraft fire and even a mini-nuclear attack.

A bag of white flour bursting behind an empty weapon gives the appearance of smoke and is one of the tricks of the trade which make the demonstrations extremely convincing.

WO2 Spencer is adept at what he calls "chatting up" local companies. From them he collects the scrap metal and cars, railway sleepers, blocks of concrete – and

of course, pigs' heads – which are blown up with great effect on demolition days. Even the flammable liquid for the "nuclear explosion" is obtained from a local fuel company.

In return the contributors are given a day on the range watching their donations being blown to bits.

The serious purpose behind these demonstration is to show the effects of explosives. Young officers are given confidence training by the pioneers; at any one time more than 80 troop and platoon commanders are taught how to cut holes, place detona-

tion cords, set charges and learn the finer points of safety fuses and electrical and non-electrical systems.

LCpl Stewart MacCleod, while measuring detonation cord from nose to outspread hand, said there was nothing difficult about dealing with explosives.

"As long as you've got your wits about you, and take in what you've been taught, there are no problems. You don't have to be a professor of chemistry, but you must always pay attention."

Safety is the keyword during demonstrations and training and there are tried and tested rules which are always applied. However, should anyone forget just how dangerous explosives can be, the ignominious end to the pig's head is there to remind them.

Ham and Jam

Interview: Chris Kinsville-Heyne

TWO TIN KNEES and a tin hip, the result of a head-on collision with an American six-tonne truck, make his walk laboured. His voice is surprisingly quiet but there is no mistaking the confidence and passion in his words when this 83-year-old veteran of D-Day speaks about the British Army and the events leading up to Pegasus Bridge.

"We were the Ox and Bucks, a Regular battalion although we had no more than 35 per cent of the original battalion by D-Day. Sixty-five per cent were reinforcements. I was happy to join them in '42 and able to build up my own company. We set out to be a tough lot but we were aware that we had not been battle-proven, which was the case with a lot of the British Army at the time.

"A lot of the training was during simulated battle-conditions. We were using live ammunition in our training and the bombed-out areas in the cities were used as training areas." Pegasus Bridge has been described as a turning point of the war and the *coup de main* operation remains one of the finest hours of Airborne Forces.

"It was a great honour and privilege, of course, to be chosen for Pegasus Bridge. They called it the spearhead of the invasion. We always boasted that we were the best company in 6th Airborne

Maj (Retd) John Howard DSO, of the 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, led the Horsa glider-borne assault on Pegasus Bridge on June 6, 1944. He liberated the first house on the French mainland on D-Day

Division and when we were chosen for this we felt we had been noticed after all."

His eye is steady and his voice finds strength as he describes the events of the attack.

"There were six gliders each carrying 30 men, which gave us a fighting force of

pleased to see them. But they were in very depleted numbers because they hadn't had a good landing. Instead of 650 men there were only 150. But as luck would have it the enemy hadn't made a proper attack. They had sent some tanks down which we had put out of action and that rather stalled them.

"They might have been waiting for daylight, I don't know, but by the time daylight came the paras that had arrived were in position ready to meet them. They did a very good job. The bridges weren't attacked from then on and were in our hands right through the battle of Normandy."

He eases himself out of his high-backed chair to stretch his knees and the pain of the movement is evident on his lined face.

"The code words for the capture of both bridges intact was 'Ham' for one bridge and 'Jam' for the other." His smile turns into a laugh. "Those two words, Ham and Jam, have been very important to us. Whenever we end telephone calls or sign Christmas cards we always finish up with 'Ham and Jam'."

Airborne memorabilia adorns the walls and surfaces of his neat apartment in Surrey.

"I am still very much involved in the Airborne Forces. I suppose there are about 30 of us left now and I am in touch with most of them. I try not to miss Airborne Forces weekends in Aldershot. They are tremendous events. The younger paras maintain the spirit of The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces generally, which makes us very proud.

"As far as the new Army is concerned, as a one-time disciplinarian myself, I rather think discipline, as I knew it, has gone by the board, but I

realise it is a different Army. It's a technicians' Army now, not the PBI - Poor Bloody Infantry - Army that we were in the first two wars.

"But a volunteer army is the best army, there's no doubt about that. It has shown its mettle in some very tricky jobs in Bosnia."

Maj Howard was a military adviser for the film *The Longest Day*. Released in 1961, it still holds fond memories for him. His character was played by Richard Todd, himself a former para who went



Above: A personal greeting from Maj John Howard to Soldier; left, the bronze bust of John Howard unveiled at Pegasus Bridge, Normandy in June 1995

180. One of the gliders, which had my 2iC, Capt Brian Priday, on board, landed by the wrong river, the Dives, some ten miles away. He was commanding D Platoon and didn't come into the battle at all. The casualties we had among the officers were very high. And at one time I had no platoon commanders left until I received them from the river bridge which was captured at the same time.

"The 7th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment was our relief. They arrived soon after 3 o'clock and we were very



Pegasus Bridge, June 1994: To mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Maj Howard (in wheelchair) tells the story of the assault to an audience containing many Airborne veterans of the battle for Normandy. Right, at his apartment in Surrey

over the bridge that night as a second lieutenant.

"The BBC said that he was a bit too 'stiff upper lip' to play me. True, as I came up through the ranks I was certainly the only company commander in the regiment who had reached major that way. We managed to knock out a lot of the Hollywood 'cowboys and Indians' from the original draft. The episode is therefore as authentic as it can be.

"There are only two things wrong with the film. One: in actual fact there were no explosives under the bridge. The chambers were there but they had not put in the explosives. We found out subsequently from a prisoner-of-war that we cap-

'The other thing that is wrong [with the film *The Longest Day*] is that the commandos did not play their bagpipes crossing Pegasus Bridge... they ran like bloody hell over that bridge, I can tell you. Lord Lovat and myself had many a laugh about that'

tured there that they never left the explosives in after they stood down from a red alert.

"They were afraid of the French Resistance pinching the explosives to blow up trains. The other thing that is wrong is that the commandos did not play their bagpipes crossing Pegasus Bridge.

"There was far too much stuff flying about from mortars and snipers for them to stroll across. They ran like bloody hell over that bridge, I can tell you. Lord Lovat and myself had many a laugh about that."

There is still talk of making a new film of the Pegasus operation but recent developments at the bridge have saddened Maj Howard.

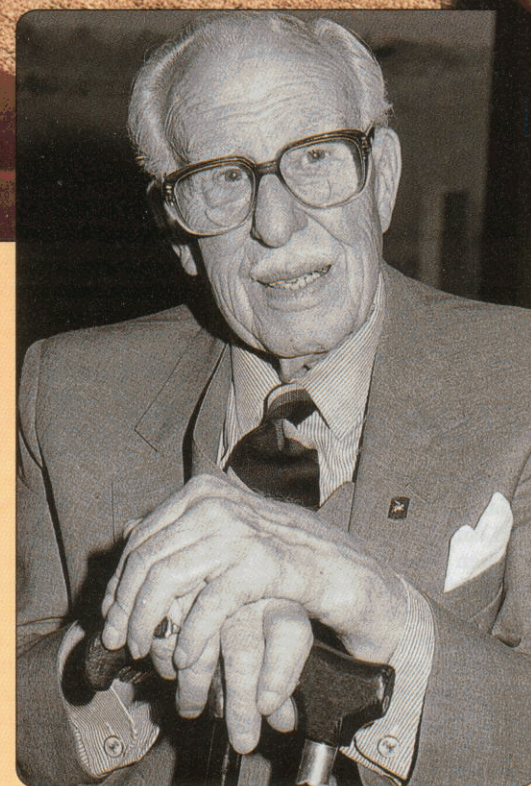
A dispute between the owner of the Pegasus Bridge Café - the first building liberated by the British - and an adjacent airborne museum has resulted in many headlines.

"Most people know I was very close to the Gondrée family [who greeted Howard's men on D-Day with champagne hidden in the café garden during the years of German occupation] over the years, all three daughters used to call me 'Uncle John'. Their girls came to my

home to perfect their English and my children went there for their French. It's hurt me very much to see the situation develop as it has now.

"It is up to the French to solve this problem of the museum and I'm sure that they have plans to do that. I hope it will end in a happy way with an arrangement with the owner of the café."

As we left we were presented with a photograph of the Horsa gliders which had crashed in a field near the bridge. With a steady hand and a smile Maj Howard wrote a message to the readers of *Soldier*. It said, simply, "Ham and Jam".



Picture: Terry Champion

Force for good

Best foot forward for the children . . .

THOUSANDS of pounds were raised for children's charities by soldiers who took part in the 13-mile Great North Run in Newcastle.

Regulars and Terriers from **The Green Howards** and the **Army Careers Information Office, Catterick** collected £3,000 for Whizz Kidz – a charity that provides lightweight wheelchairs for disabled children. Among the 35 runners was Sgt Chris Wallace, of the Army Careers Office, and his wife Julie, who were cheered from the sidelines by their daughter Kirsty (10) in her new wheelchair.

Twenty-three members of **The Light Dragoons** from Hohne raised more than £2,000 for the children's ward of the Victoria Royal Infirmary, Newcastle, and a charity for autistic children, by obtaining sponsorship to compete in boots. The regiment recruits mainly from the north east and many of the team had already taken part in the annual event.

. . . and their dreams

Big-hearted gunners from Northumberland made the dreams of six sick children come true.

When Ouston-based **39 Regiment RA** heard from the Dream Foundation that two girls and four boys wanted to visit the Army, they organised a special day for them. The children, aged six to 12, were treated to a display of rocket launchers and an FH70 gun, sat in a Challenger 2 tank and watched a Sea King helicopter air-sea rescue display before trying out the assault course and being put through their paces on the drill square.

"The regiment sees itself as part of the local community and we were delighted to make this dream come true for these children," said Lt Col Nick Clissitt, the commanding officer.

More than 65 children were chosen from hospitals all over the country to take part in **The Parachute Regiment's** third annual children's holiday, Exercise Airborne Adventure, at Cwrt-y-Gollen camp, Crickhowell.

Soldiers from Leeds-based **4 (V)** and **10 (V) Para** from Croydon paid for the



holiday by holding a series of sponsored parachute jumps. They entertained the children with canoeing, abseiling, archery, pony-trekking, and a night in the field on a "mini exercise."

In the uniform of a Roman legionary, **ex-Greenjacket Nick Trustram Eve** marched 670 miles from Kent to Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland and raised £10,000 for Combat Stress (the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society). Nick, who left the Army in 1990, said he had first-hand experience of friends who had suffered through experiences in Bosnia.

Maj (Retd) David Watson single-handedly raised £8,500 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. The Legion's county field officer for Somerset, he took part in a sponsored four-day 450km cycle ride from London to Paris.



Clockwise from top: Avon Valley walkers LCpl Jamie Ferguson, SSgt Tim Wise, Sgt Tony Frangos, Cpl Keith Frangos and Pte Billy Douglas; London Fusiliers on their bikes at Croydon; cyclists from 15 and 25 Sig Regts on London Bridge; Cpl Paul Davis and Gemma Durrens on Exercise Airborne Adventure. Centre: Ken Dodd with Liverpool Army recruiters



Geordie grins and bares it

SGT Geordie Johnson, serving at the **Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester**, gritted his teeth and bade farewell to his hairy chest when it was waxed off to raise money for Children in Need. Geordie's sacrifice was just one event in the MCTC's annual money-raising appeal for the charity, which collected nearly £5,000.

An energetic bank holiday weekend enabled soldiers from **15 Signal Regiment**, Northern Ireland, and **35 Signal Regiment (V)**, Sutton Coldfield, to raise more than £7,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital, Birmingham Children's Hospital and Lisburn Station charities.

The soldiers cycled, trailer-pushed and paddled 132 miles from Sutton Coldfield to Great Ormond Street, London.

The Avon Valley sponsored walk was joined by six members of the Army's newest unit, the **Military Provost Guard Service**. They raised £700 for the Hospice Trust after completing the 34-mile walk which started at Salisbury Cathedral.

A sponsored cycle ride from London to Brighton by ten soldiers of **C (City of London Fusiliers) Company, The London Regiment** raised more than £1,800 for the Bud Flanagan Ward of the Royal Marsden Hospital. The event

was organised by ex-Sgt Bert Bedford, a former member of the company, in memory of his son, Dvr David Bedford, of the Royal Logistic Corps.

A 209-mile speed march from Aldershot to Arnhem by soldiers of **5 Airborne Brigade's Logistic Battalion** raised £6,000 for the Airborne Security Fund. The charity assists airborne veterans, particularly those who fought at Arnhem.

Passing basic fitness tests will never be a problem for the nine RLC soldiers from the **Army School of Catering** who completed 59 sponsored BFTs in 24 hours. They raised nearly £1,500 for projection equipment to aid training for doctors and nurses of Emergency Medical Relief International (Merlin).

A 90km sponsored relay run, planned in Bosnia but postponed because of political tensions, finally took place between Hyde Park Barracks and Windsor Great Park. **A Squadron (The Life Guards)** of the Household Cavalry Regiment raised money to send a young refugee girl, Zivima Batajic, to Russia for two eye operations. (See Issues, Page 22-23)

Ken Dodd turned out to cheer a team of **Liverpool Army recruiters** when they set off on the sponsored Big Mile Walk for Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool. The £125 they raised has gone towards a £5m medical research project for the hospital.

A million-metre rowing challenge was completed by WO Chalkie White for the British Ex-Services Wheelchair Sports Association (BEWSA). A lecturer at the School of Finance and Management, Chalkie kept up a punishing schedule of 200,000m a month on a rowing machine in the gymnasium at the **Adjutant General's Corps Centre** at Worthy Down and raised £1,200.

A record-breaking microlight flight over water around the coast of the United Kingdom raised £3,000 for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. The back-up team was led by WO2 Andrew Walmsley, from York-based **3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire**, who also acted as relief pilot.

A donor session for a register of available bone marrow donors was organised by three County Londonderry-based units – **1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers** from Londonderry, and **1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment** and **5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment** from Ballykelly.

Brian's gamble pays off

SGT Brian Gamble RLC is celebrating again after being named the Army's Northern Ireland professional photographer of the year.

Twelve months ago he won the best image and best monochrome categories in the Northern Ireland Tri-Service Photographic Competition, writes Helen Trevithic.

Based at the Colour Processing Centre in Londonderry, Sgt Gamble admitted that a parachute shot in his portfolio had been difficult to achieve. "I'm chuffed... some of the shots were luck and some were planned," he said.

"The standard has been very good and it has been great to see so many entries. I always encourage people to enter because there is a lot of talent out there. But some people are shy to enter."

Sgt Gamble had double cause to celebrate. It was the second successive year that he had submitted the best monochrome photograph.

The top photographers working in the Province snapped up more than £2,000 in prizes in the annual contest, which is open to all members of the Armed Forces, their dependants, and MoD personnel.

JUDGES IMPRESSED

Judges were impressed by the overall standard of submissions and Master Photographer WO2 Andy Mason, who organised the competition, in its fourth year, said it was going from strength to strength.

"There has been a really high standard and it's getting better," he said. "The Army and Royal Air Force professional entries were really very good, but everyone with an interest in photography has a chance to win and that is what we are trying to encourage."

"It's a bit of fun and can also involve families across the three Services. More importantly for us it increases the skills and awareness of guys doing photography professionally and shows what can be achieved with their equipment."

The judges, Gerry Fitzgerald of the *Belfast Telegraph* and Martin Wright of *Pacemaker*, pointed out that they had noted better use of cropping and lenses and that the Image of the Year category, won by Capt Dave Chrystal of 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V), was a simple set-up.

Two hundred colour and black-and-white photographs covered a wide spectrum of topics, including royalty, combat, children and portraits.

Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith, GOC Northern Ireland, presented the prizes at a ceremony at Thiepval Barracks.



Northern Ireland photo contest goes from strength to strength

Left - The Queen and the GOC... Sgt Wendy Summerell's photograph was judged the best colour photograph and won her a royal £150

Results

Northern Ireland photographer of the year (sponsored by Kodak): Sgt B Gamble RLC (£250 and trophy); runner-up, Sgt P Taylor RLC (20 pack of Pro 35mm film).

Best monochrome photograph (Ilford): Sgt B Gamble RLC (£150); runner-up, LCpl M Smyth, 7 R Irish (£50).

Best colour photograph (AGFA): Sgt W Summerell RLC (£150); runner-up, Maj L J D Callow, 8 R Irish (£50); 3, Maj R J Clements, R Anglian (£40 donated by Soldier).

Best military portrait (KJP): Capt D Chrystal, 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (V) (Manfrotto tripod); runner-up, CSgt P Disley, Sp Coy, 1 Cheshire (Manfrotto monopod).

Best NI amateur photographer (Fuji): CSgt P Disley, Sp Coy, 1 Cheshire (£250); runner-up, LCpl M Smyth, 7 R Irish (20 pack of Pro 35mm film).

Own choice award (Soldier): Maj L J D Callow, 8 R Irish (£125).

NI image of the year (GOC): Capt D Chrystal, 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (V) (£200 and trophy).



Sgt Brian Gamble

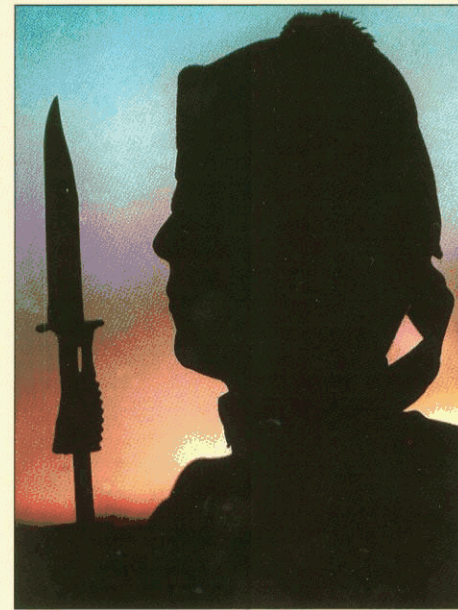


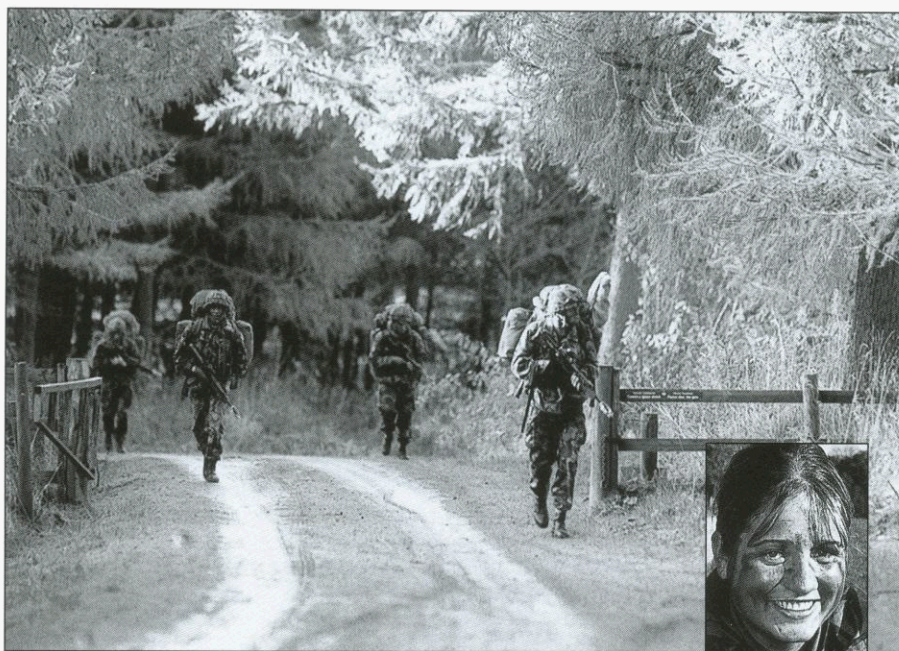
Above and right - High light and low light... two of the images which earned Sgt Brian Gamble the top professional award in the competition. He found the parachute shot a difficult assignment



Left - Where there's smoke... Capt Dave Chrystal's (perhaps non-PC) picture of a soldier enjoying his fag break won him the £200 image of the year award

Right - If the helmet fits... Maj Leo Callow's happy photograph won him the runner's-up prize in the best colour photograph category





Above: on patrol; inset: Kgm Nicola Scott, who completed the patrol

Changing face of Cambrian Patrol

ONE of the world's most gruelling military patrol competitions has been given a face-lift. After ten years of using the same format, the annual Cambrian Patrol, first staged more than 30 years ago, has been given a new look, **writes Sarah Wood.**

Brig David Ross, whose 160 (Wales) Brigade organised the 1997 event, said: "The format had become too familiar to many units. We wanted to break away from the superman image and the traditional format of OP (observation post) and close target recce and focus more on the overall level of military skills."

Changes introduced for the event, completed last month in unusually fine weather for the Brecon Beacons, were designed to make the 40km patrol accessible and equally testing for all arms. But the patrol still demanded a high degree of stamina and fitness.

Just four gold awards were achieved by the 76 teams which completed the patrol. They went to the Commando Logistic Regiment; the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment.

Leadership, navigation and physical fitness were assessed throughout the 2½ days and points were awarded for specific skills. Patrols had to meet agents to be given their next tasking and, as the patrollers only knew the location of the

next agent, they had to make it to each rendezvous to complete the course.

Over the years the Cambrian has established an international reputation and overseas teams now outnumber Regular Army infantry units taking part. The number of combat support units involved has also declined.

"We hope the new format will encourage COs as there is no longer a requirement for months of training in specific specialist skills such as close target recce," said Brig Ross. "I am hopeful that the Cambrian Patrol will be regarded as part of training programmes, giving all units the opportunity to practise military skills in testing conditions."



Brig David Ross

It is hoped more female soldiers will become involved. Kgm Nicola Scott, 5/8 Kings, one of three women to take part, had to compete with men from her unit for her place and was among the patrols to finish. "It is hard work and you have to be very fit to be able to do it, but it's worth it," she said.

The Cambrian Patrol is an exercise rather than a competition, with participants testing themselves against a fixed standard to achieving gold (75 per cent and above), silver (65-74 per cent) or bronze medal standard (55-64 per cent), or a certificate of achievement. This year 16 silver and 28 bronze medals were awarded, as well as 28 certificates.

More details released on Gulf illnesses

FURTHER details have been released about the medical countermeasures used to protect British troops from biological and chemical threats during the Gulf War.

The newly-published information, part of a policy of openness with Gulf veterans, includes the range and description of vaccinations, how they were procured and whether they were licensed in the UK.

It also details the Health Department's anxieties at the time about the MoD's decision to use an agent to speed-up immunity to anthrax.

The information follows earlier measures including the provision of increased resources, speedier medical assessment procedures and further research.

Armed Forces Minister John Reid said: "There are still many unanswered questions about the nature of the illnesses being suffered by some Gulf veterans, to which the scientific and medical community can, as yet, give no clear answers."

"But insofar as it is in my power I will continue to pursue those questions and release any relevant information."

"By the end of the year I hope to have available the diagnostic results from the medical assessment of 1,000 or more Gulf veterans and I also intend to place that information in the public domain."

■■■■■■■■■■

Skills and technologies of Britain's defence industry will be harnessed to strengthen the country's industrial base and help improve our economic performance, Defence Secretary George Robertson said.

Announcing that proposals for a defence diversification agency were being forward for discussion in a Green Paper, he said he wanted to build on the activities of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA).

■■■■■■■■■■

"Everything possible" will be done to ensure the Territorial Army can meet its training obligations at local, regimental and battle-group level following the withdrawal of Series III Land Rovers, the Armed Forces Minister told MPs.

He was answering Mr Desmond Swayne, who said the withdrawal decision would fall disproportionately heavily on the TA after January 2. Dr Reid denied that replacement of vehicles was being delayed by ministers.

■■■■■■■■■■

Current legal safeguards ensure that details of war memorials are not lost when churches are made redundant. If the site of a disused C of E church is redeveloped, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and relatives of those commemorated are entitled to be consulted, according to a Lords written reply. In addition, details have to be lodged with the local council and copied to the Registrar General.

● About ten per cent of British troops serving in former Yugoslavia are supplied by the TA. In early November, 400 TA soldiers were mobilised in the region. — Parliamentary reply

Kitstop

The amazing survival kite

Reports: Graham Bound

"GO fly a kite" is not the most useful advice to give someone who is lost, confused, hungry and worried. But thanks to a revolutionary new pocket-sized piece of kit, that may soon be just the thing to do when trouble strikes.

Skystreme is a lightweight inflatable kite that becomes a highly-visible rescue beacon. Compass and outdoor equipment manufacturer Silva (UK) Ltd is marketing the Skystreme to hikers, sailors, skiers, mountaineers and anyone whose work or leisure activities take them into potentially hostile environments.

Although it folds into a pouch about the size of a cigarette pack, the kite can be inflated by mouth to become a two square-metre metallic aerofoil and an effective beacon for search parties, boats or aircraft. Launching is said to be simple, and it will take to the air in winds of just 4mph. Its flight is described as so stable that it remains airborne while the survivor sleeps or shelters.

Crucially, the kite reflects radar signals

and its visibility can be further enhanced by adding a small "light stick" – the brightly glowing chemical indicators now in common military use. If that technology is not at hand, a torch beam directed at the kite can help night-time visibility.

This revolutionary survival tool has a few other tricks up its inflatable sleeve. It can be worn as a vest under outer garments, directing heat back to the body. Wrapped around a broken limb and then inflated, it can also be used as a splint.

All the indications are that Skystreme has been well received.

According to Silva, mountaineer Sir Chris Bonington has spoken well of the kit after testing it in the Himalayas and the chief executive of the Whitbread Round-the-World race has also endorsed it. The Royal National Life-

boat Institution is evaluating the kite.

The survival kite should soon be available at most major outdoor equipment suppliers, but if you have trouble finding a shop that stocks it, contact Silva (UK) Ltd on 01784 471721.

The metallic kite folds down into this compact bundle. It comes complete with 50 metres of strong line



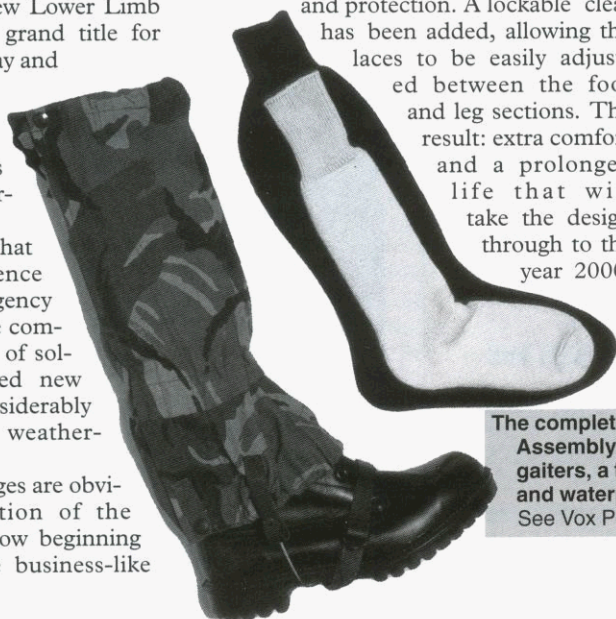
Boots, boots, boots, boots, movin' up an' down again! – Rudyard Kipling

THEY may be boots, gaiters and socks to you, but to the Quartermaster General's Department it is the "New Lower Limb Assembly". . . a rather grand title for something we use every day and think about rarely. But as any soldier will admit, when the going gets tough there are few parts of the body more important than the feet.

So it is not surprising that the boffins at the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency have been listening to the complaints and compliments of soldiers and have produced new lower limb kit that is considerably more comfortable and weather-proof.

Not that all of the changes are obvious. The latest evolution of the Combat Assault Boot, now beginning reach units, retains the business-like

looks of its predecessor, but a strengthened sole gives the wearer greater support and protection. A lockable cleat has been added, allowing the laces to be easily adjusted between the foot and leg sections. The result: extra comfort and a prolonged life that will take the design through to the year 2000.



The complete "Lower Limb Assembly". New-look gaiters, a tougher boot and waterproof socks
See Vox Pop – Page 70

Changes to the standard issue gaiter have been more extensive. These essential wet-weather items are now produced in a camouflage design on synthetic breathable material, similar to Gore-Tex. The new gaiters are lighter and quicker to dry than the old waxed cotton models.

And the DCTA has not forgotten your socks. Out to contract now and expected to be on general issue some time in 1998 are new stretch seamless black models. Although this sounds rather sexy, the socks actually make few concessions to looks. They are highly functional and almost guaranteed to keep water out while allowing the foot to "breathe".

This little black number will protect that vital final layer, the warm and comforting Extreme Cold Weather Sock. Formally issued only to units operating in high altitudes or latitudes, this white sock, fully lined with soft looped cotton, will soon be on general issue.

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POLO

Services surprise Argentina

THE FIRST official polo match between British Servicemen and the Argentine military since the Falklands War ended in an unexpected 7-7 draw and provided a fitting climax to a successful South American tour by Combined Services.

Aim of the trip, organised by Sqn Ldr Affi Ashraf (RAF), was to improve the standard of Service players by competing against the world's leading polo nation.

Final game, at the world-famous Palermo polo ground, followed two warm-up matches in which the teams were mixed because the hosts felt the tourists would be too weak for them. But the results, at San Jorge military club and El Retiro, convinced the South Americans that the Brits would provide worthy opposition.

National pride was at stake at Palermo, where the game was watched by the Argentine Chief of the General Staff and the British Ambassador.

Superb play by Capt Andrew Fox-Pitt (Life Guards) and Officer Cadet Nick Cowley (Nottingham University, sponsored by QRH) provided the backbone,



Argentine player Mariano Austuriz (centre) is ridden off by Sqn Ldr Affi Ashraf (right) in a chase for the ball at the famous Palermo polo ground. Capt Andrew Fox-Pitt (left) closes in

with Capt Roger Martin (QRH) and Sqn Ldr Ashraf putting in respectable performances in attack and Maj Mark Cann (QRL), orchestrating tactics which outwitted the more proficient Argentines. Matches were not played on handicap,

which meant the UK players were unable to enjoy the two-goal lead they might have had over higher-handicap opposition.

Servicemen interested in playing or watching polo may contact Sqn Ldr Ashraf at RAF Brompton ext 6142.

SWIMMING

Rachel sets sights on Sydney

PTE Rachel Sherrington (RLC) set the pool alight at the Inter-Services swimming, water polo and diving championships at HMS *Temeraire* in Portsmouth with two breath-taking performances.

She shattered the Inter-Services 4 x 33yd medley relay record by an incredible 17 seconds and her 200yd backstroke was quick enough to have bettered the men's Inter-Services record by a full five seconds.

In the Army championships, Sherrington broke the 100 and 200 freestyle, 100

backstroke and 100 butterfly individual records, and all without proper preparation because of her basic training commitment at ATR Pirbright.

Currently in training at Deepcut, she was on the fringe of selection for Britain's last Olympic squad and is in the frame for the next Olympics in Sydney, Australia. She led the Army women's team to a tie

with the usually dominant RAF at Portsmouth, breaking their 14-year stranglehold on the sport.

Eighteen-year-old Rachel, from Haslemere, held the British junior 200m backstroke shortcourse record and was a member of the England intermediate squad. She represented England in junior internationals in Germany and Portugal.

Her coach, Rosa Gallop, who has been involved with the Army



Rachel (above) and in the Arborfield pool

team for the past eight years, said: "Rachel really is an exceptional talent. If she gets the training and work in she will do well at international level. The Royal Logistic Corps is giving her every support."

That support is evident in the amount of pool time that Pte Sherrington is accumulating. She spends five days, including weekends, training

in the pool at Arborfield's centre of excellence and two days on military training. Her ambition is to become PT instructor.

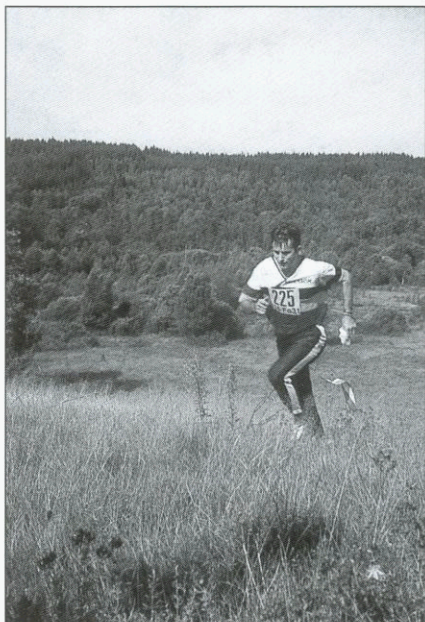
With their divers sweeping all before them and a young water polo team gaining the runners-up spot behind the RAF, the Army's results reflected the number of high-quality swimmers being attracted into the Service and the improved training structures now in place.

The squad is looking forward to a tour to Canada next year.



Pictures: Mike Weston

ORIENTEERING



WO2 Dave Rollins sprints to the finish in an international orienteering championship in Sweden. He was one of a six-man Army team, which, with a three-women squad, took part in the Swedish military championships in Eksjö.

The men finished 16th and retained their position in the first division while the women led the female class throughout to take first place with ease.

After training in Sweden, the teams moved to Halmstaad to compete in the Southern Sweden v Denmark military match against tough competition and over demanding terrain.

Once again the women led the way, with Maj Bev Walters-Davies first and OCdt Sarah Guyer second. Rollins was the first British man home, finishing in 11th place.

● Three Army orienteers took part in the senior home internationals held in the Republic of Ireland. Maj Charles Bromley-Gardner and Maj Chris Sanderson represented England and Walters-Davies competed for Wales.

Team on song in Sweden

BOXING

And then there were ten

NO FEWER than nine members of the Army boxing squad have international experience and coach SSgt Andy Edwards is hoping for a tenth to join the team before long.

It is an astonishing collection of talent, even for a Service which has been unusually well represented at the highest amateur levels for more than a decade.

And four of the squad have been called up for international matches before Christmas.

Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) and

FOOTBALL

Met Police take toll of struggling Army

Met Police 4, Army 1

A LACK-LUSTRE performance against the Metropolitan Police ended with the Army relinquishing their three-year grip on the coveted Grenadier Guards Challenge Trophy at Imber Court, **writes Derrick Bly.**

The policemen ran out easy winners, lifting the trophy for the first time since 1993. Pte Derek Cameron converted a penalty – his fifth goal in four appearances for the Army – but even that was against the run of play.

Trailing 3-1 at half time, the Army conceded a fourth despite playing most of the second period against ten men. A Met defender was given his marching orders five minutes into the half.

Best news by far on the night was the presentation of a cheque for £6,000 to the Army Football Association by David Slater, managing director of W S Atkins FM to mark the first year of a three-year sponsorship deal with Army football.

Farnborough Town 9, Army 3

Farnborough Town fielded their full Vauxhall Conference side against the Army at Cherrywood Land and exposed military defences to the full weight of

their attacking powers. Pte Steve Carter (Trg Regt and Depot RLC) and Pte David Cameron (1 A and SH) scored in a cracking first half as the home side replied with five goals.

Cameron scored again three minutes after the break but Town rammed in four more against an Army team which never gave up trying to play good football.

AFA 2, Army 2

There was a more evenly contested encounter when the Army travelled to London to share four goals with the Amateur Football Alliance. After Gdsm Steve Lennox had made two superb saves in the Army goal, LCpl David Hope kept up his goal-a-game average with the opening strike. Leading scorer Cameron gave the Army a deserved draw.

Essex 1, Army 1

Another penalty calmly converted by Cameron kept up his goal-a-game start to the season and earned the Army a deserved draw in a thriller against Essex at Braintree Town's compact ground. It was the Army's first victory over the county for five years and augurs well for the South West Counties Championship and the Inter-Services.

Signals lift soccer sixes

A WINNING score in the last seconds of a thrilling 11-goal Army six-a-side football final earned 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt a dramatic victory over SEAE.

In a pulsating decider, SEAE led 2-0, 4-2 and 5-3, only to be pulled back each

time by Army player Alfie Alford. Goals were scored for SEAE by Downs (2), Done, Griffiths and Grainger, while Stevenson (2), Alford, Watt and Galliford (2) were on target for the champions.

The Thorpe Cup for most goals scored in the group matches went to 1 Cheshire, who fired in 19 in their six games.

In all, 150 goals were scored throughout the competition. In driving rain at Aldershot, 9 Sup Regt RLC and 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt emerged as group winners, with 3 RSME and SEAE going through to the semi-finals as runners-up.

In the semis, SEAE overcame the loggies 5-1 while the signallers beat 3 RSME 4-1.

Massey Trophy results

EARLY results in the Massey Trophy inter-corps football competition are: Infantry 5, AMS 0; APTC 0, AGC 7; Infantry 4, APTC 0; AMS 1, RE 5; AAC 1, RLC 6; REME 2, Infantry 3; AGC 3, AAC 4; AGC 0, RA 3; RLC 7, AMS 0; AAC 1, RE 6.

Pte Mickey Barker (2 Para) were in the England line-up due to take on the USA in London while Cpl Vinney Powell (RSME) and Gdsm Kevin Short (WG) were in the Welsh team due to meet Ireland in Swansea.

Bessey is the holder of three national titles, unprecedented for a Serviceman.

In a busy pre-Christmas programme, the Army were also due to take on the Royal Marines and New York Police, both bills staged at the Marriott Hotel in London.



Picture: Sgt Al Green

WILTON Lions, the rugby team that represents HQ Land, are a little different, to say the least. For a start, they must be one of the few sports teams in the country that need to beware of the occasional low-flying helicopter... their training area is a landing zone with not a goalpost in sight.

Then there's the coach, a naval petty officer who just hates to yell at the soldiers under his control but is prepared to make that sacrifice for the good of the team.

Training sessions include women serving in the headquarters who are hoping to form a team of their own.

Try-happy women's rugby team is a hard act to follow

AN 84-0 demolition of Bournemouth University gave the Army women's rugby team their biggest win of the season. Maj Eilean Cunningham swapped her post as chairman for a red shirt and was one of the many players to perform well on a dreary Guy Fawkes' day at Worthy Down. The team beat Hampshire club

Havant 47-0 in the first game of the season and play Swansea, the Welsh champions, and West Wales before Christmas.

If you want to try for the team, contact WO2 Ian Neil on Worthy Down 2630 or Maj Ellis on Chicksands 218. And if you want to learn to play rugby, ring WO1 Maggie Fowers on Bulford 2407.

MARATHON

Darren dashes in

CPL Darren Hale of 24 Armd Fd Amb won the Army marathon title in a championship race staged within the annual Manchester event.

He was the first soldier to cross the line, and the fourth runner overall, in a time of 2hr 22min 8sec, nearly nine minutes inside his previous best. Sgt Michael Burke (SEME Bordon) was second, just over 11 minutes adrift.

Last year's champion, Capt Steve Lonnen, finished 49th overall in 2hr 44min 46sec, a time he had predicted before the race. Lonnen had been selected to represent England three weeks after the Manchester race and only competed to help BAD Kington retain the Major Units title, which they achieved by some distance from SEME Bordon.

He was second to SSgt Tony Leibrick (ATR Pirbright) in the veteran placings.

First Army woman over the line was Pte Lisa Yates from 1 LI in Cyprus. She

was a brave fifth overall in a time of 3hr 7min 34sec before spending some hours recovering from hypothermia.

The Minor Units race was won by Cdo Ord Sqn ahead of ATR Pirbright.

Results

Men: 1, Cpl Darren Hale; 2, Sgt Michael Burke, 2:33.33; 3, SSgt Tony Leibrick, 2:34.59, veteran.

Veterans, men: 1, SSgt Tony Leibrick; 2, Capt Steve Lonnen; 3, Maj Peter Marsh (Dir Log Pl MoD), 2:49.23.

Women: 1, Pte Lisa Yates; 2, Lt Angela Addison (18 AEC), 3:45.31; 3, Lt Georgina Tyndale (21 Sig Regt), 3:50.49.

Veterans, women: 1, Maj Sally Emmett (HMS Dolphin), 4:15.40.

Major Units: 1, BAD Kington, 8:00.11; 2, SEME Bordon, 9:48.59; 3, 28 Engr Regt, 10:08.18; 1 Cheshire, 10:12.49; 5, 1 RRF, 11:04.05.

Minor Units: 1, Cdo Ord Sqn, 8:48.47; 2, ATR Pirbright, 9:20.10; 3, HQ 3 Inf Bde, 9:35.17; 4, 21 Sig Regt, 9:36.49; 5, HQ 3 Div, 10:29.52.

IN BRIEF

Novice team boxing final

Following the withdrawal of 216 Para Signal Squadron, the Army minor units novice grade 3 inter-team boxing championships will be a straight final between 9 Para Squadron RE and 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE.

Road motor-cycling

Maj Nigel Coole is keen to start a motor-cycle club for road riders as opposed to off-road riding. The club would be open to military and civilian personnel interested in motor cycles. Anyone who wants to join should write to him at HQ AFPAA, RAF Innsworth, Gloucester GL3 1HW.

Cricket tour to Barbados

Royal Logistic Corps cricketers, holders of the Grouse Inter-Corps Trophy, plan to send 22 players on a tour of Barbados in March. The party, which is looking for sponsorship, has a six-match schedule including games against the Barbados Police and Defence Forces.

Mountain bike downhillers

Top of the Army mountain bike cross-country rankings is Spr Graham Rogerson (38 Engr Regt). He finished ahead of Sgt Dave Clarke (7 RHA Wksp), Spr Phil Sparrow (39 Engr Regt) and Cpl Mark McLeish (47 Regt RA Wksp). By winning the final downhill race, at Cheddar Gorge in Somerset, LCpl Jim Hatton (53 Squadron, 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC) clinched the 1997



LCpl Jim Hatton

Army championship ahead of LBdr Jim Clark (RA) and Gnr Andy Head (RA).

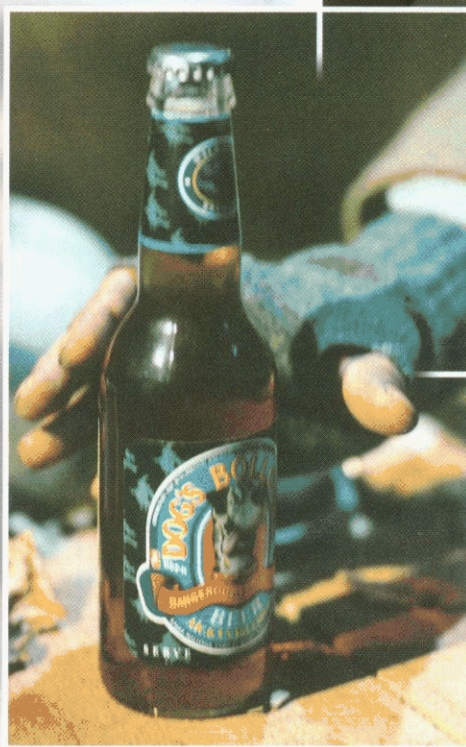
Fencing competition

Entries for the Aldershot Open men's foil and épée competition close on January 9. Details from the Secretary AFU, Maj Nick Makin, on 01959 514538, fax 01959 516025.

Golf champion

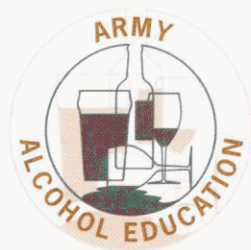
SSgt Brown of the 5th (County Londonderry) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment was in top form during the summer, winning the Northern Ireland Army Golf Society summer meeting best scratch, the TAGS captain's day best scratch and first Stableford, the AGC open championship pairs, and was a member of the NI team which won the inter-division championship.

**BALDRICK'S
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
TO THE TROOPS**



"I have a cunning plan..."

**"Don't let drink
get you into trouble
this Christmas"**



We will remember



Left: Combined Services players keep a minute's silence before taking the game to the hoop-shirted Barbarians at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth (above) Pictures: Terry Champion

Barbarians join Forces in Remembrance Day tribute to the fallen

TRIATHLON



Husband and wife triathletes WO1 Gary and SSgt Jan Kilsby (above) flew to Perth, Australia with the Great Britain team for the world championships. Both serve at Rheindahlen, where Gary is in the Physical and Adventure Training branch of HQ British Forces Germany and Jan is the unit PTI with 16 Signal Regiment.

Gary has also played football for the Army and Combined Services.

ON THE 11th day of the 11th month the Combined Services rugby team and the famous Barbarians marked their Remembrance Day match with a minute's silence at Portsmouth, writes **Roger Thompson**.

The match, sponsored by Scottish Amicable in support of the Royal British Legion, produced some very exciting rugby from the Services who took a 28 points to seven lead into half-time.

However, the star-studded Barbarians, with 11 internationals in the team, came from behind to win by 40 points to 33.

The Services, led by Julian Brammer (RE), played attractive but no-nonsense rugby, scrummaging solidly and taking more than a fair share of line-out ball through Lee Francis (2 Signal Regt) and Peter Taylor (RAF).

At the rucks and mauls the Services, led by Brammer and Matt Stewart (PWRR), were forthright and invari-

ably recycled the ball to positive advantage. In the face of such an onslaught and a 28-7 deficit, the Barbarians were forced to adopt a structured game rather than the free-flowing style for which they are so famous.

Clearly, running everything from anywhere was getting them nowhere in the face of tight marking and crunching tackles.

Lt Brian Johnson (R Signals) scored two scintillating winger's tries and Taylor clattered over for a heavy cavalry try, the ball having been driven through many hands from the Barbarians' 22 to the try line.

Andy Dawling (7 Para RHA) had an exceptional game at No 7 and, near the end, scored close to the posts. Paul Knowles (RRF) kicked three penalties and four conversions.

It is hoped to make a match against the Barbarians on Remembrance Day a regular feature of the Combined Services season.

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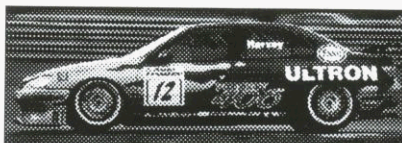


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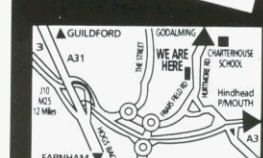


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For those who do not wish to cut their magazine, a photocopy is now acceptable, but only one entry per person may be submitted.

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The names of the winner and runners-up will be announced in the February issue.

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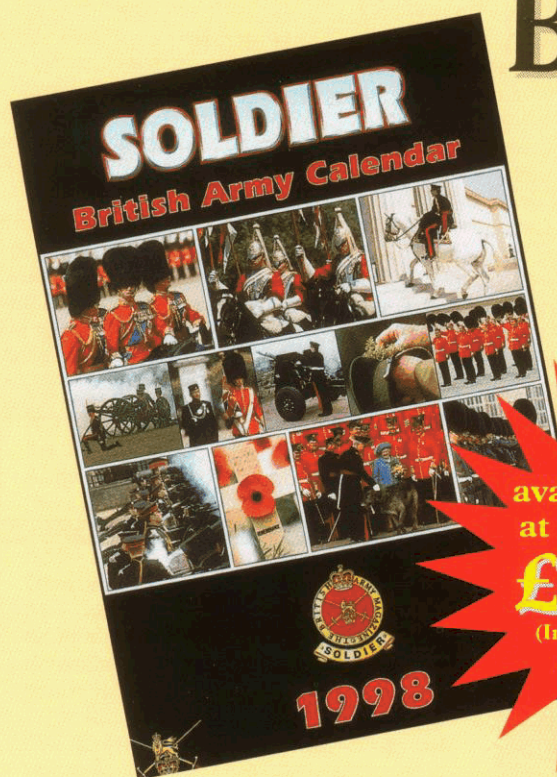
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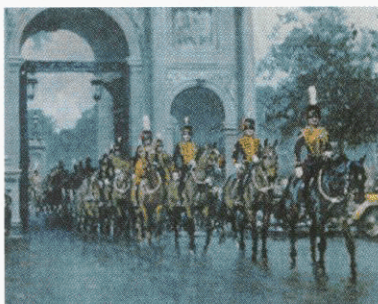
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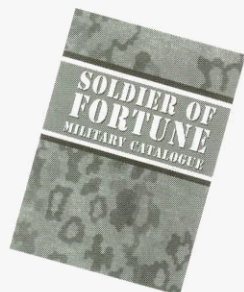
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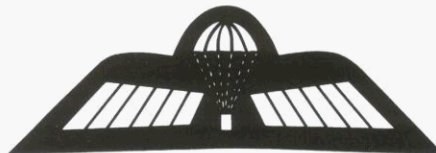
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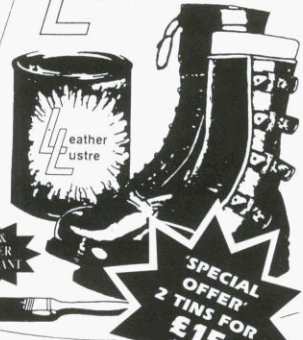
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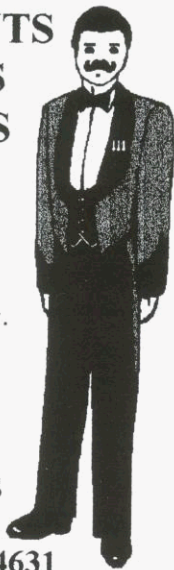
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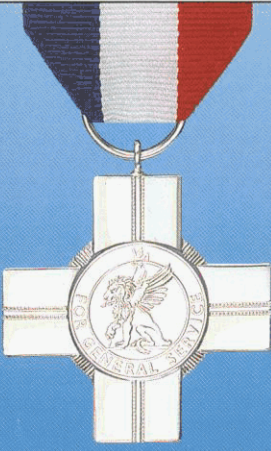
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Heidi and Beccy, 26 & 31 - Soldier, Soldier, where are you? We are seeking out a few, if you want to write a letter, pick on us 'cos we are better. **P068** 22/97

Jo, 22, 5'5", enjoys pubs, the cinema, travelling, motor-racing, (especially motor bikes) and socialising. Seeking fun, genuine male pen pals aged 20-32, to lighten up her days. **P117** 22/97

Jill, 45, 5'5", kind, caring, bubbly and fun. Enjoys the theatre, pubbing, travel, holidays abroad, socialising, eating out. Would be happy to suffer from writer's cramp writing to pen pals aged 40+. **P118** 22/97

Damsel, 34, small, slim, attractive, educated, witty, intelligent and mystifyingly unattached. Interested in practically everything, but especially cheesecake and champagne. Seeking male officer pen pals with GSOH. **P119** 22/97

Angela, 5', slim with brown eyes and brown hair. Enjoys writing, reading, swimming, horse-riding, aerobics, socializing, travel and music. Seeking male pen pals aged 24+ with GSOH. **ALA. P120** 22/97

Pam, 42, 5'5", slim with brown hair and eyes. Enjoys reading, watching sport, Tottenham Hotspur, music, home and family-life with two daughters. Seeking male pen pals aged 38-44. **P121** 22/97

Sammi, 26, 5'8", a single mum who enjoys keep fit, having a good laugh, music, swimming and writing letters. Seeking pen pals of any age. **ALA** and photo preferred. **P122** 22/97

Anna and Alison, both 25, both 5'6", and both blonde. Enjoy clubbing, pubs, cinema, travel, sports, videos and music. Seeking like-minded, male pen pals looking for a good laugh, aged 18+. **P123** 22/97

Kim, 30, 5'4", with brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys reading, pubs, night clubs, cinema and eating out. Seeking male pen pals aged 30-40. **P124** 22/97

Teresa, 32, 5'3", blonde with blue eyes. Divorced with five children. Enjoys reading, writing, watching videos, listening to music and walking. Seeking pen pals of any age. **P125** 22/97

Michelle, 30, 5'5", slim with blue eyes and brown hair. Enjoys music, dining out, pub/clubs, cosy nights in, line dancing and writing. Seeking male pen pals with pleasant personality, aged 30-36. **P126** 22/97

Diane, 30, 5'5", with medium build, dark brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys clubbing, pubs, the cinema, gardening and shopping for clothes. Seeking pen pals aged 30-35. **P127** 22/97

Danielle, 23, 5'4", with chestnut hair and blue eyes. Enjoys listening to music, reading, walking, socialising, Red Indian and other ancient cultures and beliefs. Seeking pen pals aged 23-30ish. **P128** 22/97

Tina, 36, 5'1", has blue eyes and a happy, caring and thoughtful personality. Enjoys most music, ten-pin bowling, walking, dancing and most things. Seeking male pen pals aged 30-40. **P129** 22/97

Kirsty, 20, 5'6", pretty nurse with long, dark brown hair. Enjoys 'House' dance music, clubbing and parties, clothes, drinking and other normal things. Seeking pen pals aged 17-26. **P130** 22/97

Lynne, 21, 5'8", with brown eyes, long brown hair and slim build. Enjoys keeping fit, kickboxing, clubbing, travelling and generally enjoying life. Seeking pen pals aged 19-25. **P131** 22/97

Alison, 25, 5'9", slim, blonde Scots lass with GSOH. Enjoys horse-riding, pubs, videos, writing letters and most music. Seeking squaddies for genuine friendship and laughs, aged 28-36, photo appreciated. **P132** 22/97

Susan, 36, 5'1", with blonde hair, blue eyes and GSOH. Enjoys swimming, the theatre (musicals), dancing, 60's and 70's music and pubs. Seeking male pen pals of any age. **P133** 22/97

Karen, 29, 4'11", slim with hazel eyes and brown hair. Enjoys music, playing pool, socialising, the cinema, eating out and travelling. Loves to live life to the full. Seeking male pen pals aged 29-34. **P134** 22/97

Damsel in Distress, 25, seeks knight in shining armour, must have a sharp lance as the last Galahad was taken by the dragon. Knights aged 21-29 to reply. Photo appreciated. **P135** 22/97

Leanne, 23, 5'7", with brown hair and hazel eyes. Nursery nurse with GSOH. Enjoys having fun, watching football and lots more. Seeking squaddie who likes writing. **P136** 22/97

Susan, 33, a slim brunette, caring and sincere with a GSOH. Enjoys keeping fit, music and reading. Seeking male soldiers to correspond with, aged 30-38. **P137** 22/97

Marie, 21, 5'2"ish!, full-time single mum with green eyes, mousy hair and GSOH. Enjoys beach walks, pubs and cosy evenings in. Seeking male pen pals aged 22-30. **P138** 22/97

Emma, 22, 5'1", with brown hair and eyes. Enjoys swimming, bingo, writing, pictures and going out. Seeking male or female pen pals aged 18-28. **P139** 22/97

John, 32, 5'9", with brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys cooking (chef in the TA), keeping fit, movies and eating in and out. Seeking female pen pals aged 26-34. **ALA. P140** 22/97

Jacqueline, 36, 5'4", single mum with blue eyes. Enjoys knitting, sewing, reading and cooking. Seeking pen pals in their 30s. **P141** 22/97

Tina, 24, 5'7", with blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys music, reading, dancing, drinking and relaxing at home. Seeking male pen pals aged 26-34. **P142** 22/97

Darren, 27, 5'8", fair hair with blue eyes. Enjoys reading, writing and generally keeping fit. Looking for female pen pals aged 18-35 with GSOH. **P143** 22/97

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Sharon, 36, 5'5", blonde with grey eyes and GSOH. Enjoys the cinema, dining out, walking, animals, reading, gardening, the arts and the outdoors. Seeking male pen pals aged 35-45. **P145** 22/97

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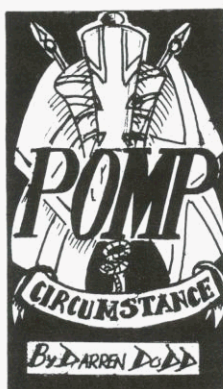
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22/97

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Charity (2) The Durham Light Infantry Charitable Fund

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Reference: CVA-227006-28268-SC

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No 2 Company, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards (Berlin 1972-75): Reunion dinner to be held at The Victory Services Club, 28th March, 1998. Members interested contact Major T Nicholls, c/o RHQ Coldstream Guards.

22/97

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

OCTOBER 18, 1997

First (20 goals, £3,000): Sgt L Fairless, 5 Regt AAC, BFPO 808.

Four-way tie for second prize (19 goals, £850 each): LCpl DC Dodds, 25 Engr Regt, BFPO 808; Cpl PL Dunn, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Aldershot; Sgt AH James, RAC Gunnery School, Lulworth; LCpl M Thorn, 1 Hldrs, Catterick, Chippenham.

13-way tie for sixth prize (18 goals, £46.15 each): SSgt SG Austin, 81 PC Sqn RLC, Abingdon; Cpl AJ Burgess, 16 Armd Fd Amb, Tidworth; Cpl NR Crouchman, 19 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Bulford; WO2 CK Davie, 99 PC Sqn RLC, BFPO 40; Bdr K Dunkley, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Sgt SJ Dyson, 30 Signal Regt, Bramcote; WO1 CHJ Holdsworth, HQ NI, BFPO 825; WO2 J Kennedy, 76 Engr Regt (V), RAF Leuchars; Sgt J Loveday, 15 Fd Wksp REME, Catterick; LCpl DA Lynch, 9 Sup Regt RLC; Sgt VA Page, BOD Bicester; Cpl MT Ray, 1 Green Howards, BFPO 36; Maj CF Warren, 2 RGR, BFPO 11.

OCTOBER 25, 1997

Two-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £2,250 each): Cpl KA Higgins, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; Capt M Huish, 42 Svy Engr Gp, Thatcham.

Nine-way tie for fourth prize (18 goals, £277.78 each): Sgt TT Boyd, RAC Centre, Bovington; Sgt CM Cheesman, 89 Signal Regt (V), Rugby; LCpl DA Cromwell, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln; Maj SJ Gray, 26 Regt RA, Gutersloh; WO2 DN Malone, Depot R Irish,

Ballymena; Cpl GC Murray, 1 Hldrs, Catterick; SSgt PA Tomlin, 70 AC Wksp REME, Middle Wallop; Pte JM White, AGC Centre, Worthy Down; Maj JC Wormington, Army Junior Div, JSCSC, Camberley.

NOVEMBER 01, 1997

13-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £538.46 each): SSgt RJ Baldock, AGC Trg Centre, Worthy Down; WO1 RJ Barker, 3 BW (V), Perth; Capt AJ Barrett, 2 Armd Fd Amb, Osnabruck; Sgt TT Boyd, RAC Centre, Bovington; SSgt P Dean, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; LCpl AD Fildes, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, Catterick; Maj JS Grinstead, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; LCpl FG Hogan, 12 Sup Regt RLC, Wulfen; WO2 JN Kemp, 4 Regt RA, Osnabruck; SSgt DJ Morton, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; Cpl RD Noble, 175 Pro Coy RMP, Belfast; WO2 GI Paillin, Army School of Catering, Aldershot; WO1 SM Powell, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth.

NOVEMBER 08, 1997

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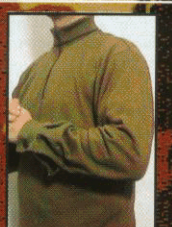
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Family estate shows good breeding

MOST people buy an estate car because it offers a lot more interior space than the equivalent saloon, but that on its own is not enough, **writes Syd Taylor.**

Estate-car buyers are just as appreciative of elegant styling and driving pleasure as other motorists and with the 406 Estate, Peugeot designers have achieved a good balance between those contrasting requirements. The smooth and elegant lines prove that practicality need not dictate utilitarian styling.

The new 406 Estate gives you the best of all worlds. Good looks, rewarding driveability and genuine estate-car functionality are its impressive mix of attributes. It derives its comfort and looks from the elegant 406 saloon, while its variable space concept is that of a true estate.

There is an aura of quality obvious even to the casual observer and classic, elegant understatement underlines the high standard of finish and attention to detail.

Everything about its style places it in a different sphere from more humdrum rivals and clean aerodynamic lines, with a subtle wedge-like profile, combine to give a sense of dynamic good breeding. The consensus is that it is one of the most attractive cars in its class.

SPACIOUSNESS

Inside, the immediate feeling is one of relaxed spaciousness and light, aided by efficient use of every available inch. There is generous headroom and legroom for occupants in the front and rear and tall passengers can easily stretch out and relax, seated on the well-designed seats which are beautifully upholstered, maximising support and minimising fatigue to keep you comfortable yet alert – the 406 never feels crowded or cramped.

The luggage compartment also has generous capacity and even with the rear seats raised it takes just about everything a family needs for a holiday. When the seatback is lowered, however, there's a massive 1.74 cubic metres of space to swallow the most awkward loads over the low sill with ease.

On the 406 LXDT tested you also get an ingenious rear-facing "family" seat which provides a third row of seating for two children, making the 406 Estate a seven-seater. In seconds you can unfold the seats from the luggage compartment floor. Standard specification on the 406 LXDT "Family" Estate is generous and



Peugeot 406 LXDT "Family" Estate

Tech Spec

ENGINE 4-cylinder diesel, electronic fuel injection. 2088cc, 110 bhp at 4,300 rpm.

TRANSMISSION 5-speed manual FWD.

SUSPENSION Front, inverted Macpherson type strut; rear, multi-link system

STEERING Variable-rate power assistance

BRAKES Front, ventilated discs; rear, discs; ABS optional

KERB WEIGHT 1485kg

SIZE (mm) Length 4725, width 1765, height 1461

PERFORMANCE Maximum speed (mph) 113. Acceleration (secs) 0 - 62 mph, 11.3

MPG Urban 29.4, out-of-town 48.7, average 39.2

PRICE £18,325 on-the-road (with air conditioning)

you get driver and front passenger airbags, front seatbelt pretensioners and weblocks, tinted glass, electric front windows, deadlocks, coded keypad immobiliser, remote central locking, rake-and-reach adjustable steering column, height adjustment of driver's seat, three adjustable rear head restraints, rear window sunblind, quality stereo system with steering-column remote control, and effective air conditioning.

From the driver's seat the 406's operat-

ing essentials are spread before you, switches easily reached and instruments instantly readable. All drivers will find their perfect position using the adjustable steering and wide range of seat adjustment – including adjustment for height.

The new 2.1 litre Turbodiesel engine delivers high performance with fuel efficiency. Throughout the test the car returned over 46 mpg. Its eager and responsive engine also offers refinement, pulling eagerly away from low speeds, to give relaxed, muscular driveability. Powerful low-speed torque means that you don't have to over-use the gearbox, although gear-changing is a pleasure with a light and precise action.

LIVELY

At virtually any road or engine speed it is willing and lively and the punchy performance is combined with remarkable quietness. On motorways, high-speed cruising is very relaxed with little mechanical, wind or road noise.

Superb body control makes the 406 inherently safe and stable on all surfaces. Tenacious grip on the road and sensitive – if rather light – power steering, means precise control.

With the 406 "Family" Estate, Peugeot has created a car free of compromises and second-bests. In every carefully-designed detail it displays the hallmarks of an estate that is totally versatile and supremely enjoyable both to drive and to own.

Saucy solution was caviar to general

ONE DAY in the early 1970s when I was mess colour sergeant of The 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment in Minden – on the “BAOR Luncheon Club Circuit” for high-ranking officers – we were told a visiting VIP was coming to lunch.

Our “Permanent PMC” disappeared into orbit and the food member had to be persuaded that the meal he enjoyed last night at his favourite watering hole could not be repeated, as few high-ranking

members of the general staff had relations in Yugoslavia. It was therefore decided that the gastronomical

delight would be saddle of lamb, which duly appeared, with kidneys for pommel, looking more like Old Mexico than Badminton.

As the mess staff sallied forth with this offering, the request came from the adjutant: “Colour, mint sauce for the general, please.”

Prize letter

Consternation ensued when the chef explained that there was no mint sauce. But, give the ACC their due, nothing daunts them. A solution was found and the order given: “Go out and get some grass.”

Into a George III silver sauceboat was placed a mixture of vinegar, sugar, chives and chopped grass and the general was served. “Excellent,” beamed the adjutant. “Lamb is *nothing* without mint sauce.” – **Ron Bishop, Stroud, Glos.**

Wartime morale ‘kept high by good leadership’

WITH contributors like historians John Keegan and Richard Holmes as well as other notable writers, the book *Time to Kill* (Pimlico, reviewed Aug 18) must have much of the real atmosphere of Second World War soldiering.

I was therefore surprised to read from Len Deighton’s foreword quoting Jeremy Crang on “soldiers who spent most of the war in camps and depots polishing their brasses and wondering why they were there”.

To put the record straight, we well **did** know why we were there . . . the threat of invasion was real and the long years of training which followed were necessary before we and the Americans could be ready to mount the Second Front.

Our morale was kept high by the natural pride and good leadership at all levels of command.

My own battalion, 4/5th DCLI, formed part of the 43rd Wessex Division, whose first action in Normandy and following battles on the route to Luneberg Heath well proved their high morale and how well those years of training had paid off.

And, incidentally, the DCLI men still meet in force at the Bodmin Keep . . . and all 43rd Wessex men can “rejoin” the division on application to Bill Edwards at 141 Kingsway, Chandler’s Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 5BX.

With best wishes to all *Soldier* readers from the Cornwalls. – **Jack Foster, Plymouth.**

Chinese bugle calls had me intrigued

YOUR article (Aug 18) about the battered ex-British Army bugle unearthed in Gloster Valley brought back memories of a strange experience I once had on a business trip to China in the early 1980s.

I was visiting a Chinese oil-drilling outfit on the outskirts of Shanghai when our discussions were suddenly accompanied by a continuous selection of British Army bugle calls – *Reveille*, *Post*, *Cookhouse*, *Last Post*, etc – coming from somewhere in the vicinity and quite professionally played.

I scouted around the area as best I could after the meeting but failed to find anything resembling a military establishment and language difficulties prevented me from checking further.

Maybe the Chinese were practising the calls as part of basic tactics to confuse potential “foreign devils”. It certainly intrigued me.

Has anyone else – in Korea, Hong Kong, or elsewhere – heard Chinese buglers playing our calls, and do they have the equivalent of Kneller Hall in Shanghai? – **Charles Clark, Stamford, Lincs.**

MM came in post

YOU REPORT (Oct) that Sgt Bob White received his Military Medal by Royal Mail in 1945 and eventually had it officially presented to him by the Queen Mother, by special arrangement.

I served in The Black Watch (RHR) in Alamein, Sicily and Italy, and the D-Day landings. I was severely wounded in Normandy at Breville and was awarded the MM for my part during the action of June 11-12, 1944.

I received my medal, with the King’s letter (which I have since lost), by parcel post while recovering in a military hospital. The box wasn’t even registered. – **David Scott (ex-Sgt, 5 BW, 51st Highland Div), Coventry.**

Earlier link with Medicine Hat

YOUR feature (Sept 1) about BATUS being granted the Freedom of Medicine Hat reminded me of a much earlier link between the city and the British Army.

Among the famous Canloan officers who volunteered to join their sister British regiments early in 1944 was Lt (later Capt) John R Harrison, Calgary Highlanders, who joined the 7th Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, part of the 51st Highland Division.

This colourful character from Medicine Hat survived from Normandy to the Rhine crossing but three weeks before the end of the war in North West Europe he

was resting in the sun beside his slit trench near Bremen when a shell killed him.

When I was an exchange officer at the Royal Canadian School of Infantry I drove west to see the Calgary Stampede and visited Medicine Hat, where I saw his name at the top of the Roll of Honour on the War Memorial.

Perhaps those who visit Medicine Hat today will stop, look, and remember a very gallant Canadian officer who was proud to be part of the Highland Division and the A and SH. – **Col G P Wood, Laurieston, Falkirk.**

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We’d prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names and addresses in block capitals (not necessarily for publication).

A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection (see Page 48) will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

● Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Write us a prize letter

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Otterburn's war of words— See Pages 24-26

Hi-di-hi days with Maj Gates

I SERVED under the "Hi-di-hi Colonel" Valder Gates (Mailbag, Oct, Nov) when as an embodied TA soldier I was posted to 2 GHQ Artillery Company (RASC), which he commanded as a major, at Lens in France.

It is quite true that when he saluted he called out "Hi-di-hi!", to which you had to reply, "Ho-di-ho!"

He used to commandeer a white horse from the Royal Artillery for his church parades, attended by about 2,000 soldiers. As you can imagine, there was no end of "hi-di-hi-ing" and "ho-de-ho-ing" at those events. In fact, we were "hi-di-hi-ing" in the BEF right up to Dunkirk.

The French were bewildered. One newspaper carried the front-page head-

line, "Qu'est que c'est le 'Hi-di-hi'?", while in Britain the famous columnist Cassandra in the *Daily Mirror* ridiculed "a certain Major G, somewhere in France".

When later I was in Tobruk (before going to Burma) I read in a tatty copy of the *Mirror* that a ministerial inquiry was being held into the affair.

The postscript to this story is that in the 1970s, having re-enlisted, I was working for my Regimental Association at Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, when the man himself, by then retired, paid a visit. When I was introduced to him I immediately jumped up and called out "Hi-di-hi, Sir!"

"Good God," he said. "You remember." — Jack Cooke (ex-Sgt RASC), Farnborough, Hants.

PS . . .

Mad Jack was a vintage character

MAD JACK Churchill, an extraordinary officer, was indeed a Seaforth Highlander (Mailbag, Oct). I met him in 1956 when he was the commandant of the Army Outward Bound Centre, Trawsfynydd, Wales. He was always dressed in kilt/shirt-sleeve order, regardless of the weather, and used to play the pipes when we were on long treks across the mountains.

The last I heard of him was that he was trying to surf with the Severn Bore . . . but was stopped by police, who felt he was in danger. At the time of meeting Col Jack I was too (of course) a Seaforth Junior Leader. — Lt Col (Retd) Geoff Smith, Woodbury, nr Exeter, Devon.

Sash red worsted

THE SASH red worsted is an infantry distinction shared only by "infantry-sprung" corps such as the APTC and SASC and yet time and again photographs appear in *Soldier* of non-infantry corps sergeants who have appropriated it.

It is wrong for commanding officers to permit or encourage this. — G A Simmons, Maidstone, Kent.

Nuclear tests

IT IS bitterly disappointing that there are no plans to introduce legislation to compensate nuclear test veterans.

The treatment of nuclear veterans — virtually all of them on National Service — is a stain on the honour of governments who have consistently refused to hold a proper public and far-reaching inquiry into the tests. — Robert McLelland, York.

Suez petition

I WOULD like to thank Suez veterans for the excellent support I have received regarding the petition, funded solely by my wife and me, for the award of the GSM for service in the Canal Zone.

Since my letter was published in *Soldier* I have had responses from all over the country as well as from Malta, Canada and Australia. So far I have about 7,000 signatures, with a lot more forms still to come in. — Tom Radford (ex-Cheshire Regt), Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Heart in his boots

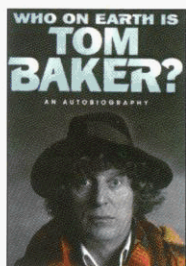
AS SENIOR trooper at Catterick in 1951, it befell my lot to be "in charge" for a Saturday barrack-room inspection. The duty did not entail much as they were a good bunch of lads. I had to draw them to attention and shout: "Stand by your beds with your boots in your hand." It was my first taste of command and I wanted to shine.

When the officer arrived I took a deep breath and screamed: "Stand by your boots with your bed in your hand." — W H D Podd, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Reviews

Bedpan burner who became a TV doctor

TOM BAKER is best-known as Dr Who and it may come as a surprise to learn that this larger-

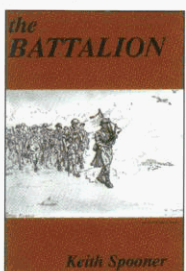


than-life actor is a former monk who spent his National Service rather gauche in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Those Army days, in which he was almost charged with attempted murder for overheating an officer's bedpan, are recounted with irreverent glee in the hugely entertaining autobiography **Who on Earth is Tom Baker?** (HarperCollins, hardback, £17.99).

Life in the raw with the London Scottish

LIFE for the private soldier has rarely been told more authentically than in **The Battalion**, Keith



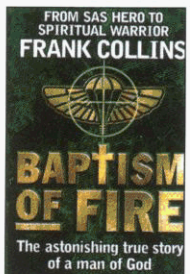
Spooner's close-to-the-knuckle account of five years as a signaller with the 1st Battalion, The London Scottish during the Second World War, and more

particularly in Italy. This is not so much military history, more vox pop. With his taut style and ear for soldiers' speech, the author makes the reader feel part of this bitterly-fought campaign.

Copies are available from The London Scottish, Regimental Headquarters, 95 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2DX at £10, inc p&p.

Cloth-and-dagger page-turner

From a life of petty crime in Newcastle to the SAS via the Royal Signals, Frank Collins took a



leading role in the breaking of the Iranian Embassy siege. Then, after secondment to America's elite special operations unit, he underwent a religious conversion, was ordained and re-

joined the Army as a chaplain. Collins's staccato style is perfect for the fast-moving **Baptism of Fire** (Doubleday, hardback, £16.99).

Brig Mike Calvert (right) with a painting by David Rowlands (left) of the Battle of Pagoda Hill in March 1944. Calvert, who led the charge of the Chindits and appears in the painting, unveiled it at the 50th anniversary reunion of the Chindits Old Comrades at Walsall. It depicts Lt George Cairns VC in action despite the loss of an arm, severed by a Japanese sword. He died of his injuries.

Prints of the painting, which forms the cover of *March or Die* (reviewed below), are available from the artist (£100 signed by Calvert, £35 by the artist only), 6 Saville Place, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4EJ.



Kill or be killed: the Chindits' way

FACED with an apparently unstoppable Japanese advance in the Far East, Maj Gen Orde Wingate threw away the staff college text books and developed a guerrilla army that became the legendary Chindits.

Wingate's approach was anathema to the Army's somewhat staid doctrine. This and his prickly character helped to ensure that his enemies were not confined to the Japanese side.

Wingate was vindicated when Churchill and Roosevelt were impressed by the way the Japanese were being given a very bloody nose in the environment they had previously considered their own, but the personal animosity of military establishment figures ensured that, even today, Wingate remains a controversial figure.

His story and that of his remarkable troops, who ranged far behind Japanese lines, receiving only occasional resupplies from the air, is awe-inspiring, and vividly told by Philip Chinnery in *March or Die*.

The author interviewed 90 survivors of the Burma campaign, among them Wingate's right-hand man, Brig Mike

● A video, *Chindit Commander*, of an interview featuring Brig Mike Calvert, supported by original photographs and archive film is available from Piers Storie-Pugh, Pilgrimage Department, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX (cheques payable to The British Legion; requested donation £10).

March or Die by Philip D Chinnery. Airlife Publishing Ltd, hardback, £19.95.

Mad Mike by David Rooney. Leo Cooper, hardback, £19.95.

Calvert. Calvert, who, quickly became respected as a courageous fighter and gained the moniker "Mad Mike" for his exploits, is himself the subject of a recently-published book.

In *Mad Mike*, by David Rooney, Calvert emerges as another complex character, controversial in war and peace and a fighter every bit as daring as his boss.

Unlike Wingate, who died in an air crash while flying out of one of the Chindit camps, Calvert is, at 84 still with us, and, the author claims, still awaiting a fair re-examination of allegations that stymied his post-war career.

Both books tell how good

fortune and gritty determination played their part in Calvert's survival.

At one point, Calvert and two of his men accidentally walked into a jungle hut full of Japanese officers. Amid mutual surprise, the trio did a smart about-turn and bolted for the jungle without a shot being fired.

His follow-up survival story, though, was purely down to strength and determination; qualities that were common among the Chindits.

Surprised to find a Japanese officer bathing in the same stream, Calvert fought his enemy, hand-to-hand, to the death. Mad Mike's men then disposed of 20 of the Emperor's army just a few hundred yards away.

That's how it was for Wingate, Calvert and the Chindits: kill or be killed. — GB/JM

Several classics are being reissued in quality paperback form in the newly-launched Wordsworth Military Library, priced at from £3.99 to £4.99. They include **Hitler** by John Toland, **Gallipoli** by Alan Moorehead, **The Great War 1914-18** by John Terraine, **Battles in Britain 1066-1746** by William Seymour, **The Struggle for Europe** by Chester Wilmot and **Rorke's Drift** by Michael Glover.

The Best Years of Their Lives — The National Service Experience 1945-1963 by Trevor Royle. In the book first published in 1986, now reissued in large-format paperback, the author, who was too young to do time in "the mob", put together a string of

In brief

recollections from men who did. John Murray, £13.99.

Armoured Firepower: The Development of Tank Armament 1939-45 by Peter Gudgin. Former tank commander uses his considerable expertise to trace the rapid development in AFV weaponry during the Second World War, comparing the four tank-producing nations. Sutton Publishing, large-format hardback, £25.

World War Two: The Personalities by Edward Davidson and Dale Manning. At least 500 of the

Class war in the trenches

WHEN Kitchener put out his call to arms in August 1914, thousands of young men from all over the country flocked to sign on for the duration.

His pointy finger, fierce moustache and forthright plea, "Your King and Country Need You" (adapted more recently to encourage more members of ethnic minorities to join the Army of the 1990s) generated strong feelings of patriotism.

In England's second city, young Brummies lined up eagerly at the recruiting offices, quickly followed by the first of 3,000 who signed on to form the Birmingham Pals – the 14th, 15th and 16th (Service) Battalions of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

At the start of Kitchener's campaign, working-class lads dominated those queues. But they weren't The Pals. They were there to sign on for the county regiment like thousands of their mates.

Most of The Pals, on the other hand, were to come from the "professional class-

Birmingham Pals by Terry Carter. Pen & Sword, large-format paperback, £17.95.

es" – non-manual workers such as managers, accountants and clerks. Class lines in those days were rigidly drawn with little or no overlap.

So, according to Terry Carter, because of this differential many young "toffs" and businessmen in Birmingham hung back from volunteering because it would mean mixing with the lower orders.

However, the city council, responding to an idea floated in Bristol for a "better class" of volunteer, was anxious to be seen to be doing its bit. It offered to raise and equip a battalion of young businessmen to be called the Birmingham Battalion – over and above the 8,000 "ordinary recruits" who had already enlisted in the Warwicks.

Kitchener, whose New Army was short of officers and NCOs, swiftly took up the



offer. It was, as the *Birmingham Daily Mail* put it: "The turn of the middle class".

The whole story of this battalion is told vividly and graphically through to its horrific conclusion. Of the 3,000-plus men who joined the Birmingham Pals, 2,400 were killed in action or died of wounds or sickness.

It was the kind of tragic human story that makes "class" irrelevant. – JM

Military Blunders by Saul David. The how and why of military failure, from incompetent commanders to meddling ministers to inadequate soldiers. Robinson, paperback, £7.99.

Napoleon by Frank McLynn. New study of the soldier, lover and emperor. Jonathan Cape, hardback, £25.

The River War by Winston Churchill. The great man's first large-scale historical work, in which he describes at first hand one of the last cavalry charges by the British Army (at Omdurman). First published 1899, now reissued, abridged, in paperback. Prion Lost Treasures, £9.99.

Costello published his first-hand accounts of the Peninsular War, Waterloo and other campaigns in 1841. Hathaway has turned this Irish rifleman's words into another superb "oral history", complete with maps, photographs and other illustrations. Shinglepicker Publications, Swanage, Dorset (01929 425670), hardback, £19.95.

1918: The Unexpected Victory by J H Johnson. Why the First World War ended sooner than experts expected. Sequel to *Stalemate! The Great Trench Warfare Battles of 1915-17*. Arms & Armour, hardback, £16.99.

Great and Good, plus some of the bad'uns, are presented alphabetically. Arms & Armour, hardback, £18.99.

Something to Write Home About by Peter Steggall, who has based this impressive paperback on his letters home while abroad with the much-travelled 18th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. Available from the author, 107 Tuddenham Road, Ipswich, IP4 2SY, price £9.95 plus £1 UK p&p.

Costello: The True Story of a Peninsular War Rifleman by Eileen Hathaway. Pte Ned

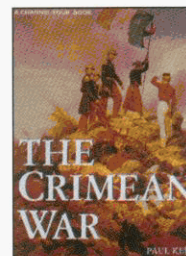
The Crimean War brought to life

IMAGES not widely seen before plus many previously unpublished first-hand accounts give

an extra dimension to Paul Kerr's **The Crimean War** (Boxtree, hardback, £16.99) which has the clarity of narrative and graphic excellence you would

expect of a book tied-in to a major historical television series, though the textual typography is not always easy on the eye.

This is oral and pictorial history, albeit of an early variety, but vivid enough almost to have happened yesterday.

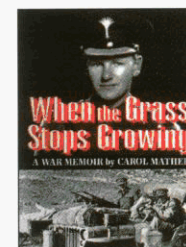


Colourful life of a man of action

A DARING escape from an Italian PoW camp; into battle with SAS commander David Stirling;

service in the commandos with Evelyn Waugh and Randolph Churchill; time as a staff officer with Montgomery... Carol Mather knew them all and many other characters, too. Few could have had such an adventurous and fast-moving war as this man, later an MP.

Commissioned into the Welsh Guards, he saw action in at least three major campaigns and tells his story in **When the Grass Stops Growing** (Pen & Sword Books, hardback, £21.95).

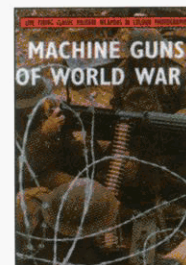


Virtual reality on the page

FOR MANY students of historical weaponry, an examination of **Machine Guns of World War 1**, by Robert Bruce, will be the closest

thing to preparing and firing these museum-pieces. That is partly the point of this handsomely-produced

book, published in large-format hardback by Windrow and Greene at £25. Each informative chapter is built around colour photography of live firing sessions in the USA, with surroundings and uniforms depicted as accurately as possible.



Reviews



August 1951: Gallipoli Day parade at a barracks in Germany. Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment commemorate their regiment's part in the ill-fated 1915 landings

Smile on the face of the Tigers

LEAFING through the 430 or so pages of this very thorough regimental history, it is clear why the Hampshire Tigers earned their alternative nickname, "the Happy Hamps".

As we are told, The Royal Hampshire Regiment was "known for its good humour and willingness to take on any task – often at short notice – from counter-insurgency in Malaya to hurricane relief in the West Indies; from the *Torrey Canyon* oil-fouled beaches of Cornwall to service again and again in Northern Ireland".

From 1945 until the September day in 1992 when the regiment's 290-year independent history came to an end – the outcome of a political decision which tested that famous agreeability to the utmost – its battalions, as in previous decades and centuries, served in places worlds away from the built-up areas of Portsmouth and Southampton from which many of their

The Hampshire Tigers: The Story of The Royal Hampshire Regiment 1945-1992 by Bryan Perrett. Available from The Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum Trustees, Serle's House, Southgate Street, Winchester, Hants, SO23 9EG, price £25 plus £3.40 p&p, cheques payable to "Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum".

soldiers were recruited.

The regimental itinerary plotted here includes Beng-hazi, Palestine, Austria, Germany, the West Indies, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Borneo, the Falklands, and, it is pointed out with a certain touch of Hampshire irony, "from time to time . . . Great Britain".

Liverpool-born author Bryan Perrett, a former 17th/21st Lancer, brings all his estimable skills as a professional historian to bear on turning all the noteworthy details of those 47 years into an enjoyable and informa-

tive read. His comprehensive chronicle, from the National Service years to the ultimately dignified and happy "arranged marriage" with The Queen's Regiment to form The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires), takes in sections on the Regimental Depot at Lower Barracks, Winchester and the record of the Territorial battalions.

Every Hampshire Tiger, and many who knew those no longer with us, will find something to strike a personal chord in these pages and photographs. Readers will look eagerly for familiar names in the appendices.

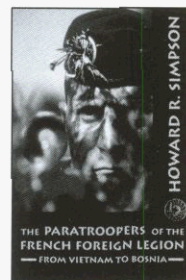
Brig Bob Long, Colonel of the Regiment from 1987 to 1992, writes in his preface: "Every good regiment thinks it is special, and so it should. It is much more difficult to analyse the reasons, particularly for those who have not served in regiments other than their own."

"Defining a regimental characteristic is in any case better done by someone from outside, who can view it dispassionately."

As a Liverpudlian cavalryman now living in Ormskirk, Bryan Perrett has done the Hampshire Tigers, their county and the infantry proud with this fine tribute. – CH

Story of the French Legion paratroopers

The "élite of the élite" is how author Howard R Simpson describes the Second Foreign Legion Parachute Regiment (2nd REP) in **The Paratroopers of the French Foreign Legion**. Given unprecedented access to archives, photography and present-day personnel, the former US consul-general uses his own extensive knowledge to trace the regiment's campaigns and actions from the Second World War via Indo-China, Algeria, Zaire, the Gulf War, Chad and Somalia to the present day in Bosnia. (Brassey's, hardback, £15.95).



In brief

Some of the following titles may be reviewed more fully in forthcoming issues:

Knights in White Armour: The New Art of War and Peace by Christopher Bellamy. Journalist and former RA officer's scholarly and influential study of the way limited wars are conducted. Pimlico, paperback, £12.50.

The Road to Peace by Rupert Wolfe Murray. Peace-keeping in Bosnia, with colour photographs by Steven Gordon. Published by Connect, 17 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1DR, a charity dedicated to creating employment for the war wounded and distributing books to schools in need. Large format paperback, £12.95 (SFOR price £9.95).

War Walks 2: From the Battle of Hastings to the Blitz by Richard Holmes. Battlefield guide *par excellence* from the TA's senior officer. BBC2 series tie-in. BBC Worldwide, hardback, £16.99.

Guardsmen of the Sky by J N P Watson, foreword by Prince of Wales. An account of the involvement of Household troops in the Airborne Forces. Michael Russell (Publishing), hardback, £19.95.

British Battalions in France and Belgium 1914 by Ray Westlake. Family historians trying to trace relatives' war service will welcome this meticulous reference work which details the movements of all 143 battalions. Pen & Sword, hardback, £21.95.

Dad's Army: The Making of a Television Legend by Bill Per twee. Pavilion, hardback, £14.99.

Diana's . . .

THREE brief paragraphs which appear in *The Hampshire Tigers* carry a special poignancy – for they were among the last published words to which Diana, Princess of Wales signed her name.

Expressing her "enormous pleasure" at being asked to write the foreword to the book, she continued:

"It was my singular honour to be Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment from 1985 to 1992. I have affectionate memories of my visits to the Royal Hampshires during those years and vividly recall the pride which the Servicemen and women I met had in their association with the regiment, its past, its present and its traditions."

"This history, with those covering earlier eras, is an invaluable record of the times and exploits of one of the truly great infantry regiments of the British Army."

. . . tribute

Bulletin board

SEARCHLINE

Can anyone cast light on the identity or fate of "Mr Lloyd of the British Army", Service No 5882820, held in cell 12 of a German maximum security prison in Via Tasso, Rome during the Second World War? In addition to his name and number, he scratched the Union Flag and "England for Ever" into the wall of cell 12. The prison is now the Museum of the Liberation. Contact Jinny Hutchinson, Palazzo Giommoni, Macchie (PG), 06060 Italy.

Mrs Catherine Russell is fighting an appeal tribunal in a case for a War Widow's Pension at the age of 83 and wishes to contact anyone who knew her late husband, especially during 1943 when he moved from North Africa to Italy. He was CSM in the **1st Battalion, Scots Guards** and seconded as RSM to 1 RRF (City of London Regiment), ending up at the battle for Cassino. Clarification of his moves would support the claim. Contact Mrs Russell's son, Mal Russell, on 01929 553648 (tel/fax) or E-mail on MalRussell@aol.com.

Geoffrey Ellis, historian for Newhaven's Local and Maritime Museum, seeks Second World War veterans involved with the deep tunnels beneath the town. Tun-

nels housed Combined Operations HQ. Contact: 11 Fairholme Road, Newhaven, E Sussex BN9 0NY (tel 01273 513737).

Whereabouts sought of **Sharon Chapple (née Jones)**, originally from Worcester. Last known as a lance corporal Comcen operator at Caernarvon Barracks, Düsseldorf 1991-92. Contact Sgt Chris Calkin, 50 (MC) Sqn, RLC, Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney, Glos GL7 5RD (tel (mob) 0973 149394).

Qui s'y Frotte Association (9th Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment) has a new secretary, Frank Risbridge, Beechcroft, Rectory Lane, Barham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6PE, who would like to hear from former members of the Ninth unaware of the association.

The **Army Catering Corps Association** has established a new branch for the northern counties. Contact Maj B Hymers on 01904 662632 or write to him at Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO1 4AU, or ex-Sgt L Croombs, 104 Harewood Road, Keighley, W Yorks BD22 7NW (tel 01535 600953).

USEFUL NUMBERS

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 581 8684
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
Harassment confidential support line:
UK 0800 731 4880; Cyprus 080 91065;
Germany 0130 827 395
Samaritans 0345 90 90 90
SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783
WRVS 01235 442954

If you think your organisation should be included in this column, please contact the Editor.

REUNIONS

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) Regimental Association: Scottish branch annual dinner and dance at the Stakis Glasgow Airport Hotel, Feb 27. All former members of the regiment and friends invited. Contact secretary J Gaughan, 49 Cartha Crescent, Paisley (tel 0141 889 9120) or Lt Col (Retd) J M Lauder on 0141 884 8483 for details.

Artillery Clerks: 64th Artillery Clerks' reunion dinner in the WO's and Sgts' Mess, Woolwich on March 7. Contact WO1 J M Charlton, LSL/RA, tel (733) 2541 or 01722 436541.

Royal Regiment of Artillery Assoc (Exeter Branch): Dinner-dance, Dec 17. Tickets from John Seatherton, 8 Seabrook Ave, Countess Wear, Exeter EX2 7DW (tel 01392 874072).

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier: N J Cottam - To DI RA, Oct 27.

Colonels: P B Kirby - To DERA, Oct 27; I J Rodley - To MoD, Oct 27.

Lieutenant Colonels: A M Abraham, 9/12 L - To DAH, Sept 22; O P Bartrum, Gren Gds - To DOC, Oct 6; R W Batho, R Sigs - To HQ R Signals, Nov 10; A M Boyle, R Sigs - To Warminster SP Unit, Oct 27; the Lord Crofton, 9/12 L - To HQ Landjut, Feb 2; P R Cobley, Para - To SHAPE, Nov 3; F J Chedham WFR - To JSCSC, Nov 1; P C Curry REME - To HQ LISA, Nov 3.

S F Deakin PWRR - To MoD, Sept 8; C P Donaghy, R Sigs - To SHAPE, Nov 17; N Dransfield AGC - To AGC Trg Gp, Jan 5; A R Fairclough AGC - To Dept of AG, Sept 29; W H Farrington AGC - To DPS(A), Dec 15; J F H Fitzgerald RE - To SHAPE, Nov 24; D P Frankland RLC - To HQ Land, Jan 5; M J Gallagher AGC - To DPS(A), Sept 22; J H Gibbon RA - To DPS(A), Nov 10.

E Glover, R Irish - To DA Accra, Jan 23; E J Gould RTR - To DA Berne, Jan 17; S I Green AGC - To HQ UKSC(G), Jan 19; R A Hamilton RA - To DGCIS, Jan 31; A D Harking RE - To HQ Land, Feb 2; J M Heron RE - To HQ Land, Jan 26; M W Hiskett RRF - To DISC, Jan 5; R J Hooper RLC - To ACDS(L), Feb 9; D Husband AAC - To DAAvn, Nov 3; J T Jackson

RGJ - To HQ Land, Feb 23; P D Jones, R Anglian - To HQ AFNORTHWEST, Jan 2.

S W Jones, R Sigs - To DGCIS, Feb 9; J Longland RLC - To HQ RLC Trg Gp, Jan 5; F G S Lukas RHG/D - To DASD, Nov 24; E W Marvin RLC - To RMAS, Dec 1; J D McIlroy RE - To SHAPE, Sept 22; T D Milne REME - To DGES(A), Nov 3; C J Murray RLC - To JSCSC, Jan 16; M P J O'Hanlon, R Irish - To MoD, Dec 1; M R Oliver RLC - To DGES(A), Sept 15; A W Phillips RLC - To HQ ARRC, Dec 10.

A T Powell REME - To RMCS, Dec 17; I E Prosser AGC - To HQ Land, Feb 23; R W Robson RA - To TSC(G), Oct 10; R L Rouse AGC - To APC, Aug 29; C F Scully RLC - To HQ AFCENT, Dec 16; J W Shanahan RE - To APC, Dec 8; M P Shapland RTR - To BMM Kuwait, Mar 18; A C Sheppard RE - To SHAPE, Oct 26; C R J Sloane RE - To HQ Land, Feb 2; A J Stamp RE - To 42 Svy Engr Gp, Nov 10.

J F Taylor AGC - To MoD, Dec 15; G C Watts RE - To HQBF Cyprus, Dec 18; W Wood AGC - To HQ AGC, Feb 2.

Retirements

Colonels: C N Guthkelch, late RE, Nov 1; D C Parker, late Para, Nov 1.

Questions of rank

Continuing our series

Their job was to lie in bed

SOME military organisations, recorded in the Army List, have extraordinary ranks and insignia. The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard (commonly called Beefeaters) have yeoman bed-hanger and yeoman bed-goer. Originally they had to make and lie on the royal bed - to ensure it didn't conceal any spikes or daggers.

Eagle feathers are a badge of rank for the Queen's bodyguard for Scotland (the Royal Company of Archers). The archers wear one in their bonnet, officers two and the captain general three.

The Queen herself is Captain General of the Royal Artillery, Honourable Artillery Company and Combined Cadet Force. Prince Philip is of course Captain General of the Royal Marines.

There is a rank of lance-sergeant in the Foot Guards - a corporal appointed lance-sergeant, with the privileges of the sergeants' mess. He has three white lace chevrons, while a sergeant wears three gold chevrons and a scarlet sash. The rank hierarchy is lance-corporal, lance-sergeant, sergeant etc.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

The Corps of Army Schoolmasters, now the Adjutant General's Corps (Educational and Training Services Branch), wore a uniform almost indistinguishable from an Army officer's. It comprised a blue frock-coat with gold shoulder-knots, sword, crimson silk sash, cap with scarlet band and gold crown badge, with three collar stars indicating a schoolmaster first class, two for second and one star for third class. One schoolmaster, summoned home from Malta in August 1914, was compelled to accept the salute of a French regiment when changing trains at the Gare du Nord in Paris. They thought he was Lord Kitchener.

Educational qualification, in the form of the Army Certificate of Education, was a prerequisite for substantive promotion. Requirements were at least a 3rd class certificate for lance-corporal, a 2nd for corporal or sergeant and 1st for warrant officer. However at the end of the First World War very few WOs had firsts, many having been promoted for gallantry in the field. There was pressure for them to pass. After he received his results one RSM admitted: "I got 100 marks on every subject except English and then I only got 99 and I knew the moment I came out of the examination room the mistake I had made - I only put one 't' in British." - **Hugh Howton**

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, December 1947

SLOW BOAT TO...

Two small ships of the RASC fleet, manned by 56 soldier volunteers, are cruising in the South China Sea. Their job, which will take them 2,000 miles and nine months, is to collect British, American and Japanese aerial bombs lying on airfields in Sarawak, Brunei and British Borneo and to dump them in the sea.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, December 1972

HARE-RAISING STUFF

Follow the scent... take up beagling and rediscover the countryside. The opening meet of the Colchester Garrison Beagles, hunters of hares in the Essex countryside, heralds the start of the season for the eight military beagle hunts. The others are the Catterick, Pimpnel (Royal Signals), School of Infantry, Shrivenham, the Purbeck and Bovington (Junior Leaders RAC).

❑ The Friends of the Green Howards Regimental Museum have scooped the top honour in the British Association of Friends of Museums "Liveliest Newsletter Awards". The museum is in Richmond, North Yorkshire.

1998 DATES

MAY

10: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service, 1100 hours at Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park. Enquiries: 0171 414 5233.

JUNE

2: 41-gun royal salute by King's Troop RHA, Hyde Park, 1200 hours, and 62-gun royal salute by Honourable Artillery Company, Tower of London, 1300 hours, to mark anniversary of Queen's Coronation.

3-4: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, 2130 hours. Tickets on 0171 414 2271 from March 1.

9-11: Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Royal Artillery, Horse Guards Parade. Details on 0181 781 3032.

13: Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour); Colonel's Review, June 6; Major General's Review, May 30. Applications for tickets accepted Jan 1-Feb 28; enquiries on 0891 505 453.

JULY

21-Aug 2: Royal Tournament, Earls Court.

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

❑ Irish Infantry regiments are to have their own "acre of Ireland" in the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The grove, featuring trees and shrubs native to Ireland, will be enclosed by a shamrock-shaped hedge centred on a 6ft-tall monument of Mourne granite inset with Belfast granite.



Col Gen Oleksander Zatyainko, First Deputy Defence Minister and Chief of the Armed Forces of the Ukraine, is given a guided tour by Cpl Reg Parker (RDG) during his visit to 1 Mechanised Brigade at Tidworth.

Picture: Cpl Moore AGC

Personal salute to the Survey

A RETIRED officer has undertaken what he calls a personal "flag-waving endeavour" to mark the 250th anniversary of Military Survey.

As a private venture, Col (Retd) Mike Nolan has re-printed the rare 1935 classic *Flash Spotters and Sound Rangers*, which describes how these specialists lived, worked and fought in the First World War.

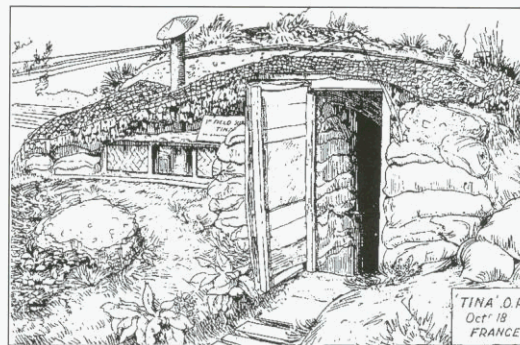
In doing so he has made available once again what, he says, is probably the only book covering the activities of the surveyors who did so much to support the improved artillery battle of the latter years of the war – "whether they were RE or RA or, as was often the case, those of any cap badge who had the right background for the job."

It is a pity, he adds, that the book does not cover the other Survey activities such as map production and supply.

Should the book recover most of his outlay or make any profit, Col Nolan intends to publish another rare but perhaps less-marketable Survey book which deals with First World War aspects not covered in *Flash Spotters*.

Report on Survey on the Western Front 1914-1918, the official record, was produced in very limited quantities in October 1920 and classified "For Official Use Only". It was re-printed in 1939 but has never been released to the public.

Flash Spotters and Sound Rangers is



Entrance to a typical ground OP, originally a German gun pit, drawn by P S Willats, October 1918. An illustration from *Flash Spotters and Sound Rangers*

available at £16 plus £1.25 p&p from Col (Retd) M A Nolan, Tall Trees, Broad Layings, Woolton Hill, Newbury, Berks RG20 9TS.

● Another book commemorating the 250th anniversary of Military Survey is *Khaki Days (Twenty-five Years in Uniform: 1944-69)* which has been produced privately by former sapper Len Wallis.

Profits from sales of the paperback – "one man's story of Army Survey" – will go to the RE Benevolent Fund (now the RE Association). The book is available from the author, The Cottage, Heath Lane, Felmingham, North Walsham, Norfolk, NR28 0BJ. The £5 price includes p&p, with cheques payable to Len Wallis.

Officer, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU (tel 01252 316104).

❑ Echoes of the past resounded around Wilemshaven on the German coast when more than 500 former pupils, accompanied by friends and families, gathered to celebrate the

❑ A few copies of the colourful 114-page *Red Beret '44* booklet produced for the Airborne Forces and Parachute Regiment by the *London Illustrated News* to mark the 50th anniversaries of D-Day and Arnhem are still available. Send a cheque for £5 (payable to Airborne Forces Charities) to the Charities

Potted history aids Suffolks

AN APPEAL for funds to give The Suffolk Regiment Museum a new home in Bury St Edmunds has been heralded by the publication of a colourful potted history.

The Suffolk Regiment 1685-1959 has been written by Lt Col (Retd) Eric Lummis, who said funds were needed to move the museum from The Keep at Gibraltar Barracks to 41, Cornhill, adjoining Moyse's Hall.

"The whole project covers the restoration of this building, which is already a Museum of Local Life in the centre of the town," he said.

"The English Heritage Fund has approved in

principle the allocation of more than £400,000. St Edmundsbury Council has promised another £150,000 and the regiment is aiming for a fund of £50,000 to rehouse the museum."

Meanwhile, the museum, which contains a wealth of interesting material needing proper display, has been temporarily closed.

Copies of the publication are available from the Hon Curator, The Suffolk Regiment Museum, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN. The £6 price includes p&p, with cheques payable to the Suffolk Regiment Museum Appeal.



Second World War veteran Capt (Retd) Zbigniew Mieczkowski meets up with his son, Stefan, ops officer of 2 RGJ, during Ulan Eagle. Left: Zbigniew is pictured (centre, with glasses) with some of his troops in Holland in 1945

Pictures: NW/Meyer

Poles so proud of British connection

THERE was a lump in the throat of Capt (Retd) Zbigniew Mieczkowski as he watched his son, Capt Stefan Mieczkowski, ops officer of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, on Exercise Ulan Eagle in Poland.

Zbigniew, who fought with the 1st Polish Armoured Division, British Liberation Army during the Second World War, said: "Meeting Stefan wearing a British uniform here in Poland was somehow a symbolic and happy ending to my long journey, which started more than 50 years ago."

His son was one of 3,500 soldiers from 20 Armoured Brigade who, with their armoured vehicles, were involved in Ulan Eagle on Poland's Drawsko-Pomorskie training area.

Stefan was not the only 2 RGJ officer with Polish ties. Maj Justin Maciejewski, A Coy commander, was in the thick of a defensive position he and his men were holding on the Drawa river when a medal-bedecked man in

a suit, complete with umbrella and brief case, strode towards them. This much-decorated veteran of the Warsaw uprising and other skirmishes with post-war communist administrations was his uncle, Janek Maciejewski, who had travelled 300 miles by train, bus and foot to seek out his brother's son.

No amount of careful planning could have taken account of this unscripted event.

With British tanks growling into position around them, and the CSM frantically trying to attract his boss's attention, Mr Maciejewski stayed just long enough to present his nephew with a book on Polish history.

When they learned of Uncle Janek's visit, Uncle George Maciejewski and cousin Joanna Iwanowska also called on Justin in the field. In spite of pressing military matters around him, Maj Maciejewski made his relatives feel welcome while his unflappable CSM "carried on" with the battle.

□ Rfn Anil Thapa (1 RGR) has received the Peter Taylor Award made annually to the best Gurkha military clerk. The award, made during a parade at the AGC Centre, Winchester, was instigated by Mrs Alison Taylor, widow of Capt Peter Taylor AGC(ETS), who died in a road traffic accident in February 1994.

Finally . . .

A PRINTER'S guillotine first used in the production of the newspaper which reported Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar has been preserved by soldiers serving with Manchester-based **75 Engineer Regiment (V)**. Sgt Dave Wroe and Cfn Lee Hobbs, both REME, and Spr Adam Sarath dismantled the guillotine on the second floor of the *Gibraltar Chronicle* and re-assembled it in working order in the Gibraltar Museum.

MORE than 80 years after he was shot as a coward on the Somme, the name of LSgt Joseph William Stones has been added to the war memorial in his home town of Crook, Co Durham. The local council decided not to wait for an official pardon – one of 307 being sought for soldiers shot for cowardice or desertion during the First World War – but to "honour a brave man in the most fitting way we could". Campaigners have long insisted that LSgt Stones, who had been in the front line with the 19th Durham Light Infantry for many months, was denied any vestige of natural justice.

AND a British soldier who died a pauper in 1889 after winning the Victoria Cross during the Indian Mutiny of 1857 has been honoured with a headstone over his unmarked grave. Descendants watched proudly as a volley of shots was fired by members of 101 Regiment RA over the grave in North Shields, Northumberland of **Pte Edward Jennings**, who saved the life of an officer during the relief of Lucknow.

A CIVIC plaque in Cheltenham's Regent Arcade shopping centre has been unveiled on the site of the Plough hotel, where, on July 30, 1795, the first troop of **Gloucestershire Gentlemen and Yeomanry** (later the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars) was raised.

ONE of the Territorial Army's newer units, Nottingham-based **B Squadron of 212 Field Hospital**, has held its first change of command. Capt Russell Harrison-Paul, who was in charge for the squadron's first two years, has handed over to Maj Chris Higham.

A MAJOR survey of Cold War military sites is to be undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. It will cover all aspects of Cold War activity, including missile launch sites, radar and communications installations, military bomb shelters, peace camps and research and manufacturing sites.

A FLAG incorporating the badge of The Royal Gurkha Rifles has been presented to the **Gurkha Demonstration Company** at RMA Sandhurst by the commandant, Maj Gen Jack Deverell. It will fly on the flagpole in front of the company lines.

THE 90th anniversary of the Women's Transport Service, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, affectionately known as the **FANYs**, was marked by a thanksgiving service at the Guards Chapel on October 25.

Vox pop

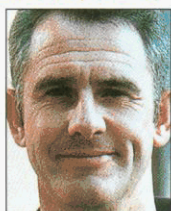
The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue of the moment



We asked soldiers serving at Gutersloh: "What piece of kit should be issued by the Army... but isn't?"

Capt Chris Shannon, RAMC

"We should look at the whole range of footwear, boots and trainers, and what it is designed for. The trainer that we have issued is not really designed for running. Maybe a trainer for gym work and a different one for running."



should get them in quickly. These are just too heavy and we are man-handling them off the back of our wagons all the time."



Sgt Nick Coker, AAC

"There should be some form of inflatable tent that you can put up instead of a 12 by 12 or 9 by 9. Something that you can take down and put up in a hurry."



ATpr Ian Lyall, AAC

"Gore-Tex boots and chest-webbing. It's issued for Northern Ireland but would really help in this job. When you're working with aircraft or in a command post it's a lot easier."



LCpl Kyle Barker, AAC

"The Pro-Boot. They were issued for a short time and then with-

drawn. We had Matterhorns when we were in Bosnia but they were not replaced. When they go we have the new assault boot, which is better than the old boot but doesn't last. They simply don't keep the water out."



ATpr Graham Clarke, AAC

"Gore-Tex Softex jackets and Gore-Tex boots."

WO2 John Milton, AAC

"Global Positioning Systems for individual issue. Not just for aircrew but Infantry section commanders, platoon commanders... anyone in a field command role. GPS are issued to pilots for Bosnia but you have to hand them in when you come off operational duty."



ATpr Darren Davies, AAC

"Para or Arctic smocks make life easier on exercise. I've tried the new one but it's not as warm



or as comfortable as a smock. I still have my Matterhorn boots from Bosnia and they are great. I'm not looking forward to getting the new ones."



ATpr Alex Colegate, AAC

"A cam-net that didn't snag would be a good idea."

Sgt Shane Spafford, APTC

"The days of the old blue shorts and red T-shirts are gone. Smart, fashionable PT kit would save the soldiers a fortune."



WO2 Mark Lewis, APTC

"A decent boot would help on the rehabilitation side and we wouldn't have so many ankle injuries. The present assault boot is a move in the right direction but there is a lot of room for improvement. Ideally, you could have a trainer-type boot for in-barrack training and a more robust, waterproof boot, in the same style, for use in the field."



ATpr Michael Lock, AAC

"Better socks. The issue ones don't keep your feet warm and

the material rubs. Nobody wants to be on exercise or ops and have to start worrying about their feet."

Pte Andrea Bramall, AGC

"Kit that fits would be good. I'm 5ft 1in tall and everything is massive. Chest-webbing and Gore-Tex boots would help too."



LCpl Neil Parkin, RLC

"Update the cook sets. The present ones are too heavy for quick-moving units. I think they are in the process of designing something for the back of wagons at the moment. They



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