

NOVEMBER 13
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ARMED SOLDIER

MAGAZINE
OF THE
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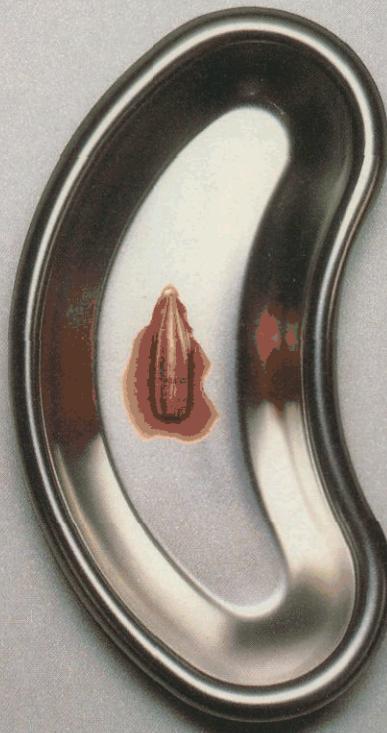
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November 13, 1995
Vol 51/23

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COVER – Maj Roger Warren aims his Tactical Engagement Simulator (TES) “God gun” during a Medicine Man exercise at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Canada. The gun activates or suppresses sensors, “killing” or reactivating vehicles. TES has dramatically enhanced training values. See special feature in Pages 20-27. (Picture: Terry Champion)



Looking good: the new unisex Army pullover on show at the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency

Services opt for unisex line in pullovers

NEW loose-fitting olive green Army pullovers are to be introduced next month by the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency (DCTA) at Andover.

Designed for use by all three Services, the unisex jumpers have improved fire retardant capabilities, wash more easily, and are said to be longer-lasting than the tight-fitting old “woolly pully”.

Regiments which wear jumpers other than in standard olive, such as the cherry version of The Queen’s Royal Hussars, will be able to buy different coloured jumpers at their own expense.

The new pullover will be available to the Royal Navy and Army from December 1, and to the Royal Air Force from



V-neck version

March. Quite different in shape and appearance to the heavy wool ribbed jersey in current use, it is made from an 80 per cent wool, 20 per cent nylon mix, and is machine-washable.

Although male soldiers will wear a crew-neck version, a V-neck option may be introduced where corps and regimental dress regulations allow it. Female soldiers have been using V-neck pullovers since last year.

Special features on the new garment – its catalogue title is “Jumper Utility, wool/nylon (Jersey Universal)” – include

- The Jersey Universal will not be part of the British Army’s fighting wardrobe.
- Cold weather clothing requirements will be met by Combat Soldier 95, a range of garments worn singly or in layers, and featured in *Soldier* in April 1993.
- The Dutch Army calls it an “onion skin” system because the layers can be peeled off as required.
- The warm layer will be provided by a fleece combat jacket liner and shirts such as the Norwegian roll-neck. At skin level the soldier wears a T-shirt. The outer “skin” is a quick-drying, wind-proof field jacket.

pen pockets on the left sleeve and elbow patches.

The tri-Service nature of the pullover is a result of the three dress committees agreeing to adopt an identical design for the first time in their histories.

Cdr David Hobbs RN of the DCTA described the pullover as “a no-nonsense practical garment that will answer the need for a modern, smarter image as most Service people are seen in sweaters.”

The garment will appear gradually as it is introduced on a maintenance basis, replacing worn-out stock. An initial order of about 50,000 has been made.

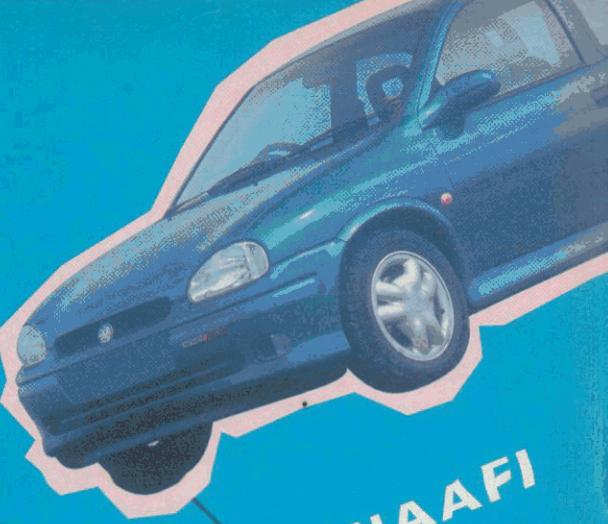
• **How it was – Page 12**

How Woofers stopped six ‘T 80s’ in their tracks – Pages 26-27

Lancers under fire – Pages 12-13

Northern Ireland campaign brooch – Page 18

Get on with life



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Green Howards rescue crash victim

SWIFT action by men of A (King Harald) Company, 1st Battalion, The Green Howards helped save the life of a German woman trapped in a burning car outside the camp gates.

The soldiers, led by CSgt Gary Smith, were in the Operations Room at Haltern training camp, south of Münster, when sentry Pte Robert Holbeck ran in to report a serious accident on the road leading past the camp gates.

CSgt Smith (left of picture, with soldiers involved in the rescue) ran to the scene, where he found a man struggling to release his injured female companion from the badly damaged vehicle.

As he instructed Dmr Steve Seymour to assist the driver and called for a sleeping bag to keep the casualty warm, the car burst into flames.

LCpl Michael Clarke ran to get fire extinguishers while Dmr Peter Elstob and Pte Colin



Cavill contained the flames as best they could.

Pte Holbeck and Dmr Paul Collins controlled traffic until

the emergency services arrived to take over.

The battalion is based at Belfast Barracks in Osnabrück.

Lt Gen Smith to be GOC Northern Ireland

LT Gen Rupert Smith, currently Commander UNPROFOR in Bosnia, is to take over as General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland in the New Year.

He will be relieved by Maj Gen Mike Jackson, at present GOC 3 (UK) Division, although the precise timing of the handover has yet to be decided in the light of the implementation of a peace settlement, the future role of UNPROFOR and the situation in Bosnia.

Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, currently GOC Northern Ireland, will move on to another senior appointment still to be announced.

Gen Jackson's successor at 3 (UK) Division has not yet been appointed.



Gen Smith



Gen Jackson

Medics on home run



Picture: Mike Perrin

When admin officer Capt Alan Bell (left) and doctor Capt Mike McLain (right) decided to ride home, they didn't do it by halves. The two RAMC officers, pictured back at their Aldershot base with Col Quentin Anderson, commanding officer of 4 Field Ambulance RAMC, cycled all the way from Bosnia ...

When their three-month tour of duty with the Rapid Reaction Force came to an end, the two officers hopped on their bikes and pedalled back to the United

Kingdom via the Alps, Italy, Germany and France. They completed the 1,200 miles without support in 13 days.

Sponsored by the Automobile Association, Aldershot Cycle World and other local businesses, they hope to raise £3,000 for Save the Children and the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA).

Donations may be sent to PRI, 4 Fd Amb RAMC, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU.

Mine-blast officers escape serious injury

TWO British Army officers injured by shrapnel from a mine while supervising the recovery of the bodies of Croatian soldiers north of Jajce have returned to Britain.

The men, a captain in the

Royal Engineers and a lieutenant serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in former Yugoslavia, miraculously escaped serious injury when one of them stepped on the mine.

They were responding to a request from the Bosnian and Croat authorities to supervise the difficult recovery of bodies from a vehicle which had gone over a cliff in an area strewn with mines.

Spike backs memorials campaign

EX-GUNNER Spike Milligan, the comedian, writer and environmentalist, has agreed to become patron of Friends of War Memorials, the fledgling organisation which aims to ensure these monuments are looked after.

Founder Ian Davidson, who first gave news of his campaign in *Soldier*, believes war memorials should be kept in parade-ground condition as a constant reminder of "our debt to our dead".

Anyone interested in the campaign should send a large SAE to Mr Davidson at 28 Sheaveshill Court, The Hyde, Colindale, London NW9 6BP.

● RACAL and British Telecom head consortia shortlisted to run the Defence Fixed Telecommunications System, a single network scheduled to replace the numerous independent tri-Service telecoms networks linked with MoD.

● Lt Gen Sir Mike Walker, Commander ARRC, visited 2 Royal Anglian at Celle, Germany, and presented four Theatre Commander's Commendations for service in Bosnia. He is Deputy Colonel of the regiment.

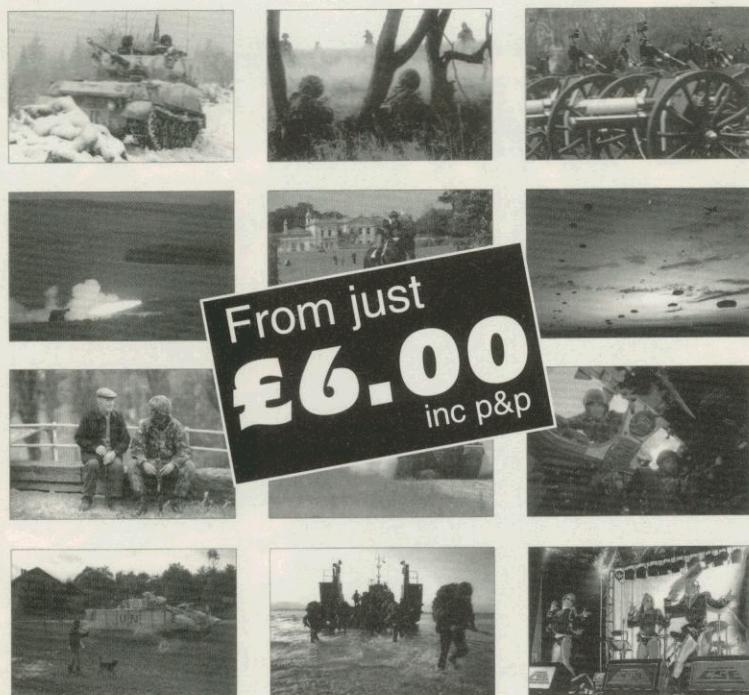
● The MoD has commissioned travel consultancy Michael Cleeve Associates to investigate the feasibility of corporate travel agents running the department's £180 million a year travel business.

● Three teams from Aldershot-based 251 Signal Squadron took part in an international assault course competition at Tournai in Belgium. The unit was the first to enter a women's team. Cpl Sue Donaugh won the sniper shoot.

● More than 300 cadets from Army and Combined Cadet Force detachments in the North East converged on Catterick last month for Exercise Colts Canter.

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Reprieved Gurkhas to the rescue

REDUNDANCIES among Gurkhas will be reduced by several hundred to alleviate undermanning in some units, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told the Commons on October 24.

Of 1,000 Gurkha redundancies planned to start next year, about 400 will be retained for a further three years. Most will make up three infantry companies, while others will fill a shortfall in Royal Signals units.

In a Lords debate in July, former Chief of the Defence Staff Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, describing the Army as "overstretched and undermanned", called for all Gurkha redundancies to be halted to help the infantry's manpower situation.

On October 16 Defence Secretary Michael Portillo addressed the question of over-

stretch during the Commons debate on the Defence Estimates.

He said the Defence Select Committee had rightly expressed concern about this problem, drawing particular attention to the operational tour intervals in the Army and especially in the infantry. "The Army is currently heavily committed to operations," he said. "Some 23 per cent of the field Army is deployed on operations with another ten per cent preparing for or recovering from them.

"Because of that, this year we shall not be able to meet our target of an average operational tour interval of 24 months for infantry battalions.

REDUNDANCIES of more than 1,000 Gurkha soldiers planned to start this year should be halted to help the infantry's manpower situation, Fd Marshal Lord Bramall said in the Lords.

Speaking in the debate on

From *Soldier*, August 7

Around the Hour

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

"On the basis of current commitments, the average for 1995-96 will be 20 months.

"I am conscious of the impact of that change on soldiers and the effect upon them of separation from their families and of uncomfortable living conditions."

He paid tribute to the Armed Forces for enduring these deprivations without morale or operational capability being affected.

Mr Portillo gave further details of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force, announced in July and to be formed under its own chief of operations by August 1 1996, which will be of reinforced brigade strength with supporting naval and air components.

He said it would be capable of being used either as part of a national response to a crisis or as part of an international coalition, whether brought together by

NATO, the Western European Union or the UN.

Units assigned to the JRDF would be specially manned, trained and equipped and have high-quality leadership. The force, separate from the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps, will be based on a core formed of 5 Airborne Brigade and 3 Commando Brigade, underpinned by British contingency forces. "Our goal is to create a force with the power to influence events," he said.

The Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) Regiment, will be located at Swanton Morley in Norfolk, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames announced during the Defence Debate on October 17.

In the past three years Britain's Armed Forces have exercised 603 times with NATO members and 18 times with former Warsaw Pact countries.

Queen gives approval for NATO Medal

BRITISH troops serving in or directly supporting NATO operations in the Balkans will be eligible to receive the NATO Medal with the clasp "Former Yugoslavia".

The Queen has given her approval for the medal to be worn.

Qualifying periods for the medal are 30 days' continuous or accumulated service in the theatre of NATO operations, defined as the territory of the former Yugoslavia, and the Adriatic, including airspace above, or 90 days' continuous or accumulated service in the area of operations outside the former Yugoslavia and Adriatic (Italy), between July 1, 1992 and a final date to be specified.

British service personnel will not be eligible for the UNPROFOR Medal and the NATO Medal for the same period of operational service. Permission to accept and wear both medals will be granted only when there is a clear dif-

ference between the two periods of qualifying service.

The medal bears the NATO star set in a wreath of olive leaves. The words "North Atlantic Treaty Organisation" and "In Service of Peace and Freedom" appear on the reverse. The medal ribbon is in NATO blue with two narrow white stripes.

Details are available in DCI General 267/95.

A party of British soldiers, sailors and airmen will travel to Brussels on November 27 for the first presentation at a ceremony attended by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge.

LAST posting dates for Christmas mail to British troops in former Yugoslavia have been announced by the British Forces Post Office.

Final date for parcels is Thursday, November 30. Deadline for letters, cards and packets is Thursday, December 14.

Time runs out on Mill



End of an era as Pte Robert Curran of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, locks the gate at the North Howard Street Mill, Belfast, for the last time. Home to more than 15,000 soldiers based in the city for the past 25 years, the huge converted mill has been stripped and demolished since the Army moved out following the cease-fire in the Province

Mujahedin fighters threaten Fusiliers

MEN of X Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were threatened near Zavidovici in central Bosnia by Mujahedin soldiers.

The incident, in which a convoy was surrounded by Mujahedin fighters, followed other confrontations and was believed to be connected to the shooting of a Mujahedin soldier by a British peace-keeper.

A Bosnian Army commander who accompanied the Fusiliers later apologised for the incident.

● Fus Gary Riches, 24, from Newcastle and serving with 1 RRF at Zepce, was shot through the head and died of his injuries.

Another soldier was seriously injured in the same incident. No warring factions were involved.

● Brig Richard Dannatt, commander of 4 Armoured Brigade, took over as Commander British Forces in former Yugoslavia and Commander UNPROFOR Sector South West on October 27. He relieved Brig Andrew Pringle, the commander of 20 Armoured Brigade.

Playing the goat

SHENKIN, mascot of the 2nd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, was recovering from an aggravated old leg injury after being manhandled by soldiers visiting Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. The culprits are to be disciplined.

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Terrier loggies move in on the Rhine

MORE than 3,000 part-time soldiers have taken part in the largest overseas logistic exercise involving the Territorial Army since the end of the Second World War.

The volunteers mustered at drill halls all over the United Kingdom before travelling to southern Germany to train in their war role with Combat Service Support Group (Germany).

Their destination during Exercise Pack Saddle 95 was the area between the Moselle River and the Rhine. Vehicles were shipped in leased ferries from Larne, Leith, Harwich and Ramsgate.

The Scottish Transport Regiment, with Pipes and Drums, flew from Edinburgh to Ostend and an advance element from Ilford-based 36 Signal Regiment flew straight to Hahn airbase in the exercise area.

The road move across Belgium was made by convoys 40-strong using two routes which converged on a staging post near the German border. With rest and refuelling stops, it took 20 hours for units to reach their deployment areas in Germany before starting tactical operations.

CSSG(G), commanded by Brig Roy Ratazzi, was formed last year with a headquarters in Germany to provide third line combat service support primarily to 1st (UK) Armoured Division. Regular and TA units are attached to the group. Pack

Well handled

SIX soldiers from the Edinburgh-based Scottish Yeomanry completed the helicopter handling course during the regiment's annual camp at Thetford in Norfolk. Helicopters were supplied by 654 Squadron AAC and the chief instructor was SSgt Mike Kelly from Dishforth-based 9 Regiment AAC.

RHF honours the hero of Assaye



Lt Col John Edwards, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, accompanied by adjutant Capt Stephen Cartwright (left) and WO1 (RSM) Harry Roy, inspects his men at a special parade in St Barbara Barracks, Fallbostel. The occasion was the annual commemoration of the Battle of Assaye in 1803, in which just three British regiments – the forebears of The Light Dragoons, the Highlanders and 1 RHF – were part of a Anglo-Indian force of only 5,000 which defeated an enemy numbering 42,000.

Saddle 95 was the first major logistic exercise conducted by CSSG(G), and the bulk of units involved came from the Territorial Army.

Main exercise activity involved the movement of supplies by transport regiment on two main supply routes, the stocking of supply areas and the deployment of medical units.

Movement was controlled by military police and communications were provided by two TA signals units.

Five railheads disgorged 2,500 tonnes of simulated ammunition, 20,000 tonnes of supplies were moved by road, 820,000 litres of fuel were loaded and used, and troops ate their way through 46,000 ration packs.

The deployment to the exercise area, the first real test for the TA, was achieved with considerable order.

Lt Gen Hew Pike, Deputy Commander-in-Chief Land Command, watched a demonstration of logistic skills by the exercising units during a visitors' day at the end of Pack Saddle, after which the Terriers were again put to the test for the return to UK via four ports in Belgium and Holland and airheads at RAF Bruggen and Ostend.

It is traditional for the quartermaster of the regiment to march the Assaye Colour on to the parade in memory of Quartermaster James Grant, who protected the Colour after every officer in the regiment had been killed or wounded. This year, the honour fell to Maj Bill Matthews.

The regiment is the only one in the British Army permitted to carry three Colours on parade: the Assaye, the Queen's, and the Regimental Colour, which depict the 196 battle honours won by the regiment.

High-flying Hussars



The King's Royal Hussars have taken to the skies over Germany – in their own hot air balloon. The canopy, featuring the distinctive regimental colours of primrose and crimson with the Hawk (the Prussian Eagle) in the middle, has been seen over Münster. Flown by Capt Richard Pearce, it is hoped the balloon may be taken to Canada next year, when the KRH takes on the role of OPFOR (Opposing Force) at British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) for nine months.



What the papers have been saying

DEFENCE chiefs have been forced to review plans to form a single tri-Service staff college at Camberley, Surrey, because of huge costs. Detailed studies into the feasibility of refurbishing the existing Army Staff College have disclosed that "tens of millions of pounds" will be needed to carry out the work. – *Independent*

□ Armed Forces' medical services are in crisis after cost-cutting reforms reduced staff levels by 40 per cent and caused seven of the eight Service hospitals to close, according to senior former officers. The assessment was rejected by the MoD. – *Daily Telegraph*

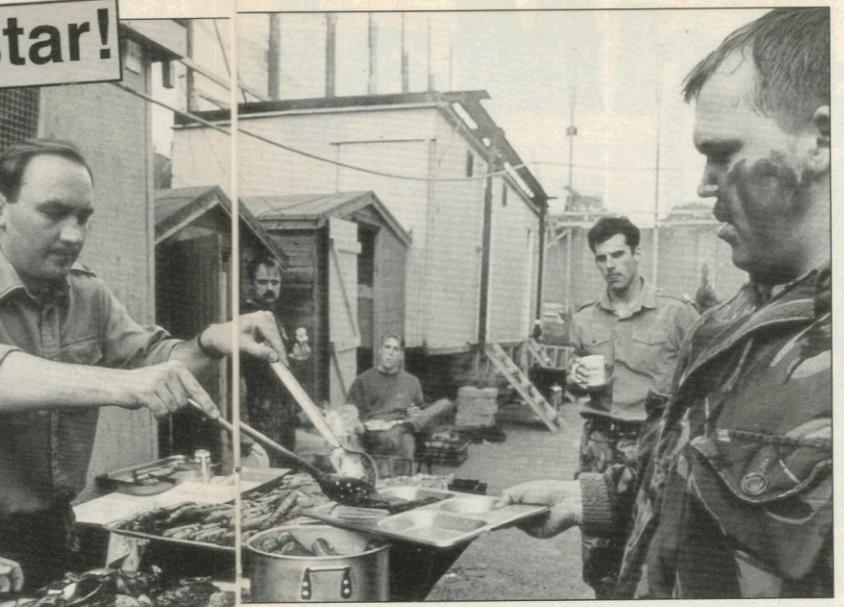
□ A consortium hopes to attract Heritage Lottery funding for a £14 million project to restore Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot – once home of the British Army Tattoo – as a centre for youth training, concerts and events. – *Guardian*

□ A £600,000 donation has been made to the British Korean Veterans' Association by the Korean Samsung conglomerate. The money will be spent on veterans' welfare. – *Daily Telegraph*



Major star!

Serving up a meal for his men is Maj Crispin Black, OC Prince of Wales Company, Welsh Guards, which was the subject of a BBC film trilogy, *In The Company of Men*, about life inside a Guards Regiment. Filmed last year when the company was coming to the end of a two-year tour in Northern Ireland, the series was made by BAFTA award winner Molly Dineen.



Getting the signal

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Signals, talks to Sgt Steve McAuliffe and SSgt Orlando Zayas, a Regular with 108 Signal Brigade at Fort Ritchie, Maryland, USA, during a visit to London-based 31 Signal Regiment's annual camp at Altcar training area, Merseyside. SSgt Zayas was one of two US signallers who flew to the UK to help when members of the regiment established a high frequency radio link with a unit of the US Signal Corps in Maryland during the camp.

Ian nets a four-wheeled winner



Picture: Terry Champion

HEALTHY COMPETITION

Changing a wheel on a Land Rover – without a jack – and other exercises such as coping with a road traffic accident proved no problems for this Royal Logistic Corps team from Preston-based 5 Field Ambulance.

Not only did (left to right) SSgt Pete Argent, Pte Daniel Currie, Capt Ken Riley, CO Lt Col Chris Best, Cpl Warren Rodgers and LCpl Damon Rusk beat 22 other internationally-based tri-Service teams to win a two-day road safety and driving skills competition at the Army School of Mechanical Transport in Humberside, they also took the prize for the best road safety presentation.



PEOPLE

Red Letter Day



Welcoming one of the latest recruits, Richard Latter, to 124 Recovery Company REME (V), Newton Aycliffe, is OC Maj Iain Grime. Richard, seen receiving his capbadge, was one of six recruits who had completed basic training and is a potential recovery mechanic.



A couple in Love . . .



Managing to succeed . . .

Brig Guy de Vere Hayes, Commander 2 Brigade, presents WO1 (SMI) John Early (left) with a diploma in management and a NVQ Level 5 management certificate at a passing-out parade at ATR Pirbright, where he is a member of staff. John's achievement should serve as an example to recruits at the depot, all of whom are eligible to gain NVQ Level 1 in public services while undergoing training, and further awards as they progress in their Army careers.



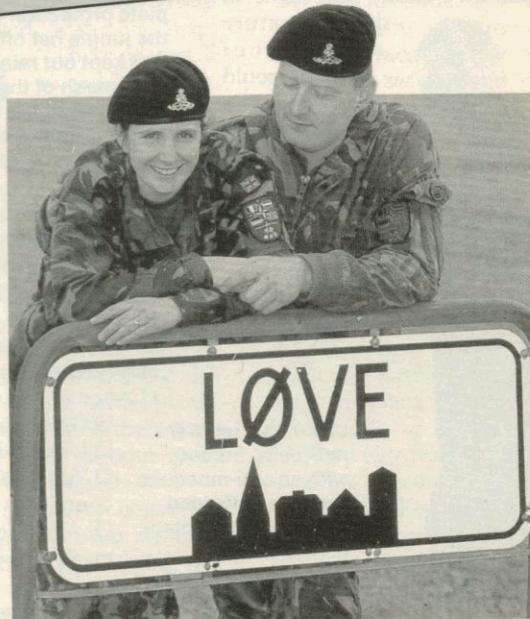
Catford's cream . . .

Two Regulars and two Territorial members of Catford-based 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V) received long service medals from the regiment's Honorary Colonel, Maj Gen Ted Wilmott.

Pictured left to right are WO2 (QMSI) Aidan Thornton and SSgt Joe Royle AGC(SPS), the Regimental Chief Clerk, who both received Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, with Sgt David Ryell (REME (V)) and Sgt Alison Hunt, who received their Territorial Efficiency Medals for completing 12 years in the TA.

Down in the jungle

LCpl Suryabahadur Gurung, 1 RGR, and Capt Derek Truman, APTC (V), a staff officer based at HQ 4 Division, teach children the finer points of jungle survival somewhere in deepest England. They were taking part in Surrey Heath Borough Council's Action Holiday Jungle Safari, organised for the second consecutive year with the co-operation of the RMA Sandhurst-based Gurkha Demonstration Company.



Only the best for new Army of 1945

"If existing plans are to be fulfilled, Britain's New Army will be the best-equipped in the world, and the British soldier will possess the most efficient and up-to-date clothing and personal kit that our scientists and War Office can produce."

So said *Soldier* in its issue of November 10, 1945.

Illustrating the claim were these photographs. Designed primarily for troops serving in the Far East, the radically new clothing was the result of War Office collaboration with boffins at the Ministry of Supply and civilian firms.

Said *Soldier*: "Only the toothbrush, hair brush, comb, field dressing and lanyard have not been improved in some way." The new clothes were lighter, more comfortable... and provided protection from pests.

Jungle-green handkerchiefs developed for the Far East—"the first handkerchiefs ever to be issued by the British Army"—were enthusiastically welcomed.

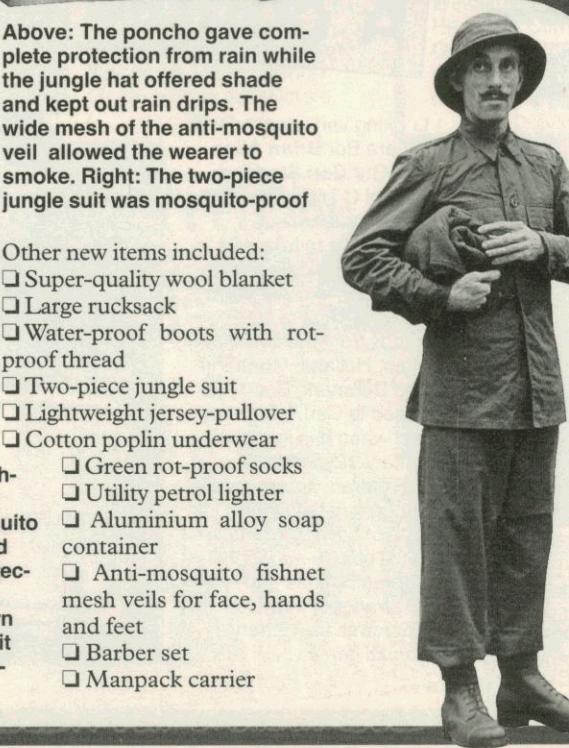
Another innovation was the poncho—described as "a South American cloak" and made of double-texture water-proof cloth. It could be used as a raincoat or tent and replaced the gas cape and ground sheet.



Above: The poncho gave complete protection from rain while the jungle hat offered shade and kept out rain drips. The wide mesh of the anti-mosquito veil allowed the wearer to smoke. Right: The two-piece jungle suit was mosquito-proof



Left—Special "fish-net" veils, treated with an anti-mosquito chemical, afforded several days' protection in malarial regions when worn with the jungle suit and took only seconds to put on



Other new items included:

- Super-quality wool blanket
- Large rucksack
- Water-proof boots with rot-proof thread
- Two-piece jungle suit
- Lightweight jersey-pullover
- Cotton poplin underwear

- Green rot-proof socks
- Utility petrol lighter
- Aluminium alloy soap container
- Anti-mosquito fishnet mesh veils for face, hands and feet
- Barber set
- Manpack carrier

WHEN retired gunner officer and Army helicopter pilot Maj Leslie Bond took up a new post at Aldershot Garrison, he was delighted to find that his job description included the chairmanship of a military conservation group and responsibility for training area management.

A life-long ornithologist and a former MoD conservation spokesman, Maj Bond is ideally suited to the task.

When not co-ordinating security on behalf of the garrison commander or dealing with inspection visits by signatories to the CFE Treaty, he can be found looking after the interests of the Bourley Training Area, which lies between Aldershot and Church Crookham.

Maj Bond's last Regular Army posting was as senior air operations officer at Headquarters Salisbury Plain Training Area.

"I was responsible for co-ordinating low-flying over the area—keeping helicopters and artillery shells apart," he said. "Being both a gunner and pilot suited me jolly well for the task."

"When I took over as chairman of a local conservation group, I became more involved and tended to act as spokesman for Ministry of Defence conservation matters concerning the Plain."

"I made an address on conservation to the Army's annual gathering of generals. As a rehearsal, I gave a talk to 200 members of the Wiltshire Women's Institutes."

More speaking engagements followed and Maj Bond became chairman of the Wiltshire Natural History Forum and MoD representative on the Country Conservation Committee, a somewhat unusual role for a serving Army officer.

"I was trying to put MoD conservation on the map, and show people we were looking after our own territory. The idea was that if we explained how we looked after the training area, and what limitations we put on training, we would receive less criticism."

He eventually took a job in

Major who walks on the wild side



Maj Leslie Bond (left) and Defence Land Agent, Les Bowman discuss the Special Site of Scientific Interest on Bourley Training Area

Aldershot. At first he chaired conservation groups for both Ash Ranges and the Bourley Training Area. Following a re-organisation of boundaries, responsibility for Ash was switched to Deepcut Garrison.

Now he concentrates his efforts on Bourley, working closely with English Nature, the Defence Lands Service, Hampshire Ornithological Society, and local natural history experts. The fragile lowland heath is highly valued by English Nature.

"Virtually the whole of Bourley is a Special Site of Scientific Interest and, last year, a European Union directive made it a special protection area," he said.

The directive was brought into effect because of the rare birds found on the area. The Dartford warbler, woodlark, tree pipit, nightjar and hobby are among species nesting there each year.

One of his main tasks is managing the training area and conservation group. He likens the job to walking a tightrope.

"If I fall off one side, I am accused of damaging the training area by allowing either the military or civilians to overuse it."

"Alternatively, limiting military training draws its own criticism. I try to keep both groups in touch with the reasons behind it. Military training is not too much of a problem. We don't have armoured units in Aldershot and tracked vehicles are not permitted on the training area."

"We do have the occasional problem with local usage. The Newton Report said that when the land is not in use by the MoD we should permit public access."

"On occasions, this had led to more damage being done than the military would ever cause, especially by motorcycle and mountain biking events."

"Under European legislation, we have a statutory obligation as the landowner to protect the birds, and could face the courts if we didn't. I

recently had to veto plans for a motor-bike race which would have passed straight through the sensitive Dartford warbler nesting site."

Recently, an Aldershot military town conservation group was formed with his help.

"There is much to see," he said. "We have deer, badgers and foxes living on the Army estate. There is a fox earth alongside garrison headquarters and staff can watch foxes playing."

"When the new Tournai Barracks was being constructed at North Camp, the site contained a lot of scrub and trees. Every morning, the site managers had to herd a group of deer, which used the woodland as a night harbour area, out of the building site."

Sadly, not every conservation battle has been won. A rare orchid was bulldozed when a new Army tennis centre was being built.

"Unfortunately, you cannot just pick up a cubic metre of earth containing the orchid

and put it somewhere else," he said. "I am hopeful that when the piles of topsoil are smoothed out, the orchid will re-establish itself."

Maj Bond also finds time to carry out his duties as secretary of the Army Ornithological Society, which draws its members from serving and retired officers, soldiers and MoD civil servants.

"Our president is the Governor of Gibraltar, Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple, and we have members serving across the Army in a variety of postings."

"They are encouraged to join their local military conservation groups, where they can assist and advise on land management plans and encourage bird life."

Every two years, the society runs an expedition to Ascension Island. Recently members visited Bulgaria, and an expedition to Bogota, Colombia is planned for 1996.

Prospective members can contact Maj Bond (telephone Aldershot military 4008) for further details.

Under attack, but the cavalry wins through

Shortly before the British Cavalry Battalion (BRITCAVBAT) handed over responsibility for the Maglaj finger to 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, *Soldier* toured their positions. BRITCAVBAT's final tour of duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina proved a major challenge to its contributing regiments who started their deployment under attack from the Bosnian Serb Army and ended it watching the Serbs' fighting capability being destroyed by NATO airstrikes.

LT PETER Troup and his small force of 9th/12th Royal Lancers arrived at Maglaj two days after the British base had been attacked by a Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) tank.

His troop was assigned as a quick reaction force and he was ordered to join forces with a Canadian TOW missile team and New Zealand tactical air control party (TACP) to prepare a contingency plan in case the base, established in an abandoned school, was attacked again.

Report: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Weston

That evening the tank fired another round at the school. It passed through a window before smashing its way into a wall, scattering shrapnel in its wake. Six soldiers were injured, one seriously.

Lt Troup and the members of his quick reaction force jumped into their Scimitar

vehicles and were given authority to return fire.

"We laid down 30mm Rarden cannon fire on to the target, while the TOW missile team drove to a pre-arranged fire position and opened fire. During the 30-minute engagement, two TOW missiles hit the target and 61 cannon rounds were fired.

"It seemed to have the desired effect," said Lt Troup. "When dawn broke, substantial damage was observed on the BSA position and no other tanks approached the area for at least a month afterwards."

It was hastily agreed that it would be foolhardy to concentrate a complete cavalry squadron in one location at Maglaj. "As a result, we 'bomb-burst' our troops across the whole area," explained Maj Rupert Weiloch of the Osnabrück-based Queen's Royal Lancers, whose C Squadron has been carrying out a variety of tasks across the BRITCAVBAT area of responsibility (AOR).

The formation was responsible for the Maglaj finger, an area bordered on three sides by the confrontation line between the Bosnian Muslim-Croat federation. Regimental headquarters, effectively based on



Tprs John Rickett and Brad Bradford patrol the perimeter wire at the Bravo 11 checkpoint. Inset above: Cpl Alex Manning holds up part of a 100mm fragmentation round fired by a BSA T55 tank at Maglaj. It smashed a hole through the wall behind him, injuring six soldiers

9/12 L from Bovington, was established at the former Eko factory in Zepce, with the regiment's echelon being augmented by reinforcements from the Household Cavalry Regiment.

The formation was responsible for the Maglaj finger, an area bordered on three sides by the confrontation line between the Bosnian Muslim-Croat federation. Regimental headquarters, effectively based on

With one or two exceptions, the UN soldiers did not escort aid convoys. Local officials col-



Tpr Lee Johnson of 9/12 L on stag at Zepce



Tpr Joe Brown, Cpl Jamie Cowie and Tpr Leigh Beuttell enjoy the sunshine at Delta 4 observation post, from where they monitored activities along the Bosnian Serb/Federation confrontation line



Cfn Kevin Irvine and Cpl Gary Lewis, serving with the QRL's REME LAD, repair a Scimitar radiator

lected supplies from the main UNHCR warehouse at Zenica and distributed it themselves.

The Lancers took part in

more than 80 community projects, ranging from the provision of medical equipment, distributing clothing collected by the soldiers' families and assisting old people whose flats had been damaged by shell fire.

Following the fall of Srebrenica and Zepe, the movements of UNPROFOR troops were severely restricted. A troop of Lancers and a small team of medics from 3 Armoured Field Ambulance found themselves virtually cut off at their base in Jelah. The root of the problem was the capture of more than £5 mil-

lion worth of United Nations weaponry and vehicles by the Bosnian Serbs.

Responsibility for the area has been handed over to the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, but the legacy of service in the region by the British Cavalry Battalion will be remembered for years to come.

Jelah," said Maj Weiloch. A 9/12 L sabre troop and a small force of support medics, command vehicle operators and a chef maintained a presence at the forward base.

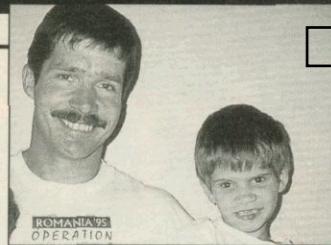
"Because of the danger, we kept staff to a minimum," said Capt Andrew Dunning.

"Artillery rounds landed around us and drunken troops returning from the front line opened fire on our base as they drove by."

For a time, only a liaison officer and a medical officer were able to get out on the ground. Capt Kevin Beaton managed to hold a clinic in a Franciscan monastery close to the front line, treating the elderly who hadn't the strength to reach a hospital at Tesanj.

Capt Beaton and his RAMC combat medical technicians dealt with a child whose leg had been crushed by a UN truck at Jelah. The boy's condition was stabilised and he was evacuated to a British hospital where his leg was saved.

Responsibility for the area has been handed over to the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, but the legacy of service in the region by the British Cavalry Battalion will be remembered for years to come.



Sgt Maj Robin Carpenter with a Romanian orphan

IT'S A LONG WAY TO ROMANIA

Sgt Maj Robin Carpenter of the FIU (Northern Ireland) Greenfly Sports and Social Club and a colleague drove an articulated lorry 2,000 miles to Romania to deliver

aid gathered by soldiers based at Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry, to children at a hospital.

Asked to erect a 3,000-seat marquee for a fund-

raising event planned by a charitable organisation, the soldiers did even better. They collected clothing, toys and building materials for the children.

Swimming sappers boost conflict kids

CHILDREN caught up in the conflict in former Yugoslavia will receive much-needed help, thanks to 13 soldiers from 35 Engineer Regiment who took on a gruelling 53-hour marathon swim.

The 90-mile relay, around the Dalmatian island of Hvar off the Croatian coast, involved team members, led by commanding officer Lt Col Neil Fairclough, spending 30 minutes at a time in the water.

The participants, usually based at Hameln, Germany, but serving at the time with the Rapid Reaction Force, trained morning and evening for the swim, despite the pressures of building a camp for 4,000 soldiers at Ploce.

Organised by the regiment's head PTI and former Army swimming coach WO2 Rob Coulard, the event was sponsored by the men and women of 24 Airmobile Brigade. Money raised will go to Children in Crisis.

□ □ □

A cheque for £656.56p was handed over by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of Warminster Training Centre to St Dunstan's School for Men and Women Blinded on War Service.

□ □ □

More than 270 Servicemen and women took part in a half-marathon at Gosford Forest Park, Markethill, County Armagh, organised by the 8th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment.

Each runner raised at least £20 to enter. The race was open to Service personnel throughout the Province and attracted representatives from



Picture: Spt Brian O'Donoghue

MEETING ANITA

Soldiers from 3 R Irish were bowled over to meet actress Anita Harris at a charity cricket match organised by the battalion and the Lord's Taverners at Ballykinler. The event raised £11,000.



all Royal Irish battalions as well as The Highlanders, Irish Guards and the RAF.

Pte Colin Baynton, 7 R Irish – running only his third half-marathon – led from the start and crossed the line in 1hr 15min 9sec.

The 8th Battalion had set a target of £6,000, with the money being divided between the battalion fund for widows and dependants and local charities.

Soldiers with H Company, 8 R Irish based at Drumadd Barracks in Armagh also helped to raise £1,800 through

a five-day, 95-mile-long wheelchair push from Portrush – one of a number of events planned by members of the company who have set themselves a target of £10,000 for Disability Action.

A ten-man team from London-based TA unit, the Royal Yeomanry, completed a 1,100-mile run in eight days from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise £10,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Eight soldiers and two permanent staff instructors from 1

RTR were supported by a team from HQ (Westminster Dragoons) Squadron RY and a trooper from 1 RTR's Pipes and Drums.

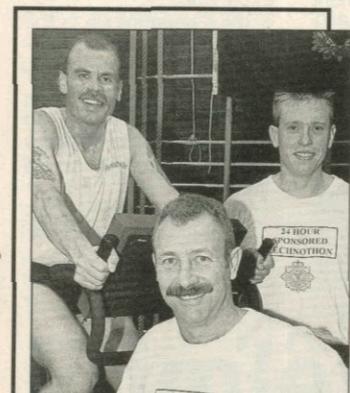
Running via two of their squadron locations (in Swindon and Leicester), the team completed the venture in eight days.

A cakebake, several functions and parties and a family day in the gymnasium raised more than £7,000 over the Oasis Goldrush weekend at Mount Pleasant Airfield in



Picture: Mike Weston

Tug of war: RSM Colin Chapman (left) and Cpl Roy Dawes of 22 Field Hospital encourage children from the Bede Centre, London, Pack Tarling Road summer activity group as they take on a Land Rover in a tug-of-war. Also helping the kids, who were taking part in a fun day at Aldershot's Thornhill Barracks, are Pte Niki Arnold (above Cpl Dawes) and, behind her, LCpl Scouse Heath.



Picture: Mike Perring

Tough trio: Subjecting themselves to physical torture in the cause of charity in the Royal Logistic Corps gymnasium were (left to right) WO1 (RSM) Buck Buchanan and WO1 (SSM) Gerry Paul (both RLC), with SSgt (SSI) Brad Braddock, APTC.

They took it in turns to run, cycle and step up on a piece of exercising equipment – covering the equivalent of six marathons and the height of Everest in 24 hours, and raising an estimated £2,500 for two-year-old Cory Eatton, who has cerebral palsy.

try on a week's activity holiday in north Wales. Both competed in Operation Airborne Adventure against 50 teams from commercial organisations and individual entrants. The sponsored assault course was organised by 3 Battalion, The Parachute Regiment at Aldershot's Rushmoor Arena.

Twelve soldiers from Sheffield-based 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment raised nearly £1,000 for a hospice during the Nijmegen Marches in Holland.

Junior REME soldiers from Princess Marina College, Arborfield, helped out at the Day of a Thousand Dives at Portland Naval Base. The 150 youngsters ran the car park,



Actor Jeremy Irons travelled to Bugojno in Bosnia to accept a cheque for £8,000 on behalf of Feed the Children from Maj Darren Drury (left).

The money was raised by the Brandywine Challenge organised by C Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

The challenge, to renovate two primary schools in Bugojno, attracted the interest of thousands of UK schoolchildren who collected materials for their Bosnian counterparts.

In all, soldiers repaired and painted six schools and protected them with sandbags. More than £13,000 was raised.



Stopwatch in hand, Col Bob Hyde-Bales, Colonel of Royal School Military Engineering, Minley, starts apprentices from the Royal Engineers' Apprentice Training Wing, 82 Training Squadron, on a charity walk.

The lads covered 82km to Calshot, overlooking the Solent, from where the original 82 Armoured Assault Squadron set off on D-Day.

A motor neurone charity and the Army Benevolent Fund are recipients of the £1,000 raised.

Society. The youngsters were given advice on bicycle maintenance and safe cycling, and had a ride in a BV206 all-terrain vehicle. Afterwards Capt Mark Wooley, the OC, gave the society a cheque for £85 raised by the unit.

ICAN, a charity which helps children with speech and learning difficulties, benefited from £649, raised by Pte Mo Hudson, stationed at Trentham Lines, Upavon. She and her friends and associates completed an 18½-mile sponsored march organised on behalf of a local pub.

Twenty-four children with hearing difficulties enjoyed an open day staged by 158 Provost Company RMP in conjunction with the South Wiltshire Deaf Children's

That will do nicely

OFFICERS, warrant officers and senior NCOs are eligible to apply for the American Express Corporate Card at preferential rates.

The offer, agreed by the MoD, means Service members pay £3.50 instead of the normal annual fee of £37.50. Service details will not appear on the card or monthly statement, and Service members will not be placed on mailing lists.

The card is intended to assist Army personnel travelling in the UK and abroad.

Features include no preset spending limit, free enrolment into the Mercury calling card programme, and free travel accident, inconvenience and baggage loss insurance.

Eligible are Regular officers, warrant officers, staff sergeants, sergeants and Royal Irish Regiment (permanent cadre) personnel.

Application forms are available from Bill Jones, American Express, 14th Floor, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5BZ or leave a message on 0171-976 4440.

Equal to the challenge?

NEWS that the Army is considering promoting itself as an equal opportunities employer has been greeted with barely disguised hilarity in the media.

One newspaper said the policy was being discussed in "language more associated with left wing councils". When are the people who write this sort of nonsense going to realise that the Service has moved on?

The Army has an uphill task if it is to convince the world that it takes equal opportunities seriously.

It has an equal opportunities unit working on guidelines for a policy document to be published before the end of the year. The unit is working with the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality to create an environment free of discrimination and harassment.

SSAFA's latest project, in Manchester, is a row of houses available to Service parents of either gender who find themselves in a broken relationship.

For this the MoD should be receiving praise, not half-baked criticism.

Some might say that had the Army taken social change on board earlier,



Cari's column

the results of a poll on its proposed change of title. Be that as it may, we should be applauding the new commitment.

The argument has been heated to the point of incandescence: I cannot remember an issue which has stirred up Army wives to such an extent.

On one side are those who see no good reason for change. Typically, they are the women who have kept the spirit of the Service alive; unsung heroines who organise social events and would make a success of their chosen career.

In the opposite camp are women who want their professional skills recognised and an acknowledgement that times have changed.

There will be many shaking their heads as they read this, which suggests it is impossible to discuss equality with any degree of detachment.

All of us all bring our prej-

udices to this debate. Boundaries need to be marked, which is just what the Ministry of Defence is doing by consulting bodies experienced in defining discrimination.

It is what SSAFA is doing by opening its Homeward Bound project to fathers. It is what the FAW is doing by asking its membership if it wants a change of name.

The real test will be what happens afterwards.

The great strength of Army life is its sense of community. Now everyone must make a special effort to tolerate other people's attitudes.

A recent radio sketch suggested the term "sir" was elitist and should be dropped. In its place, RSMs might be addressed as "Person of Enhanced Life Experience".

It's a person's life in the Army ...

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

Brooch marks women's role

WOMEN, the unsung heroines of every campaign, are to have their own "medal" for supporting their menfolk in Northern Ireland during the past quarter of a century.

The Northern Ireland campaign brooch is the creation of Mrs Virginia Russell, who recently returned from Omagh at the end of a tour which brought to five the number of years she has lived as an Army wife in the Province.

"I have always felt the part played by wives, mothers and girlfriends during the campaign has been largely unsung and unmarked," she explained. "So I had the idea of designing a brooch to provide an opportunity for men to give a visible token for the support they have received over the past 25 years."

After careful thought, Mrs Russell, whose husband John commands the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, came up with a design which has the appearance of a regimental brooch and blends Irish and official emblems. The central device is an Irish



Mrs Virginia Russell wears the brooch (inset) she has designed

The brooch is the first she has designed.

● If you want more details of the Northern Ireland campaign brooch, send a stamped, addressed envelope to Lisanelly Designs, PO Box 371, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1GT.



Erskine goes back to origins

ERSKINE Hospital, which has cared for ex-Servicemen and women since 1916, is to be rebuilt on its original site on the banks of the Clyde at Bishopston, near Glasgow.

Hospital trustees have also decided to build at least two mini Erskine nursing homes in other parts of Scotland.

Gen Sir John MacMillan, chairman of the hospital, said the changes would meet the health care needs of the 21st century and maintain the Erskine's reputation as the best hospital of its kind in the country.

"The idea behind the satellite homes is to take care into the community so veterans can stay where their life-long friends and families are," he said.

The Bishopston facility, on a green field site 400 yards from its present location on the Erskine Estate, will apply for registration as a nursing home.

Some of the £14 million programme will be funded by the hospital's own reserves but it is likely that public appeals will be necessary. Erskine Hospital operates outside the National Health Service and cares for about 350 patients, including residents of 52 four and five-apartment cottages.

Pension reminder

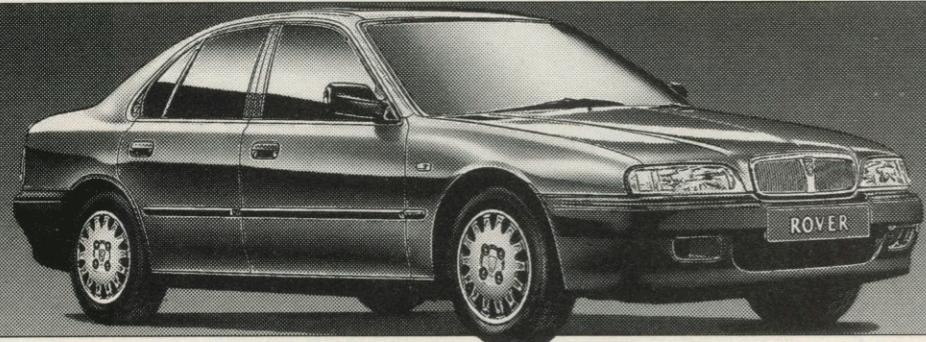
DESPITE its hugely successful campaign last year, the Royal British Legion reckons that thousands of veterans are still unaware of their entitlement to a War Disablement Pension.

However long ago a Service-related injury, wound or medical condition was suffered – be it in Gallipoli or the Gulf – there is no time bar to a claim being lodged.

A successful claim will be paid from the date the claim was received.

For further advice, contact Tom House, Head of Pensions, The Pensions Department, The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY (tel 0171-973 7200).

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ARMY medical staff will be in place at Frimley Park Hospital by February 1, and work on the hospital's new medical unit is expected to be finished by the end of March.

The Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit (MDHU) will be functioning by April under senior medical officer Lt Col Peter Fabricius RAMC and matron Lt Col June Kennedy QARANC. Timetable for the project is driven by the impending

Park will be staffed by military nurses and each ward will treat military and civilian patients.

Frimley Park is currently in the middle of a £14.5 million capital programme. By April it will have commissioned new intensive care and coronary units, new operating theatres, extended and improved pathology and sterile service departments, and upgrades to its special care baby unit.

COME up with a snappy title for the unified MoD-Armed Forces

But do it quickly, suggestions need to be in by November 17. The

suggestion scheme and you could receive £750 towards a palm-fringed beach. All you have to do is win the Thomas Cook travel vouchers in the Name Competition, c/o Suggestion Scheme Secretary, Room 611, Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP.

title, which needn't be an acronym, should reflect the importance of staff ideas.

Send your entries by CHOTS to SUGGEST-SCHEME-COMP or post them to Name Competition, c/o Suggestion Scheme Secretary, Room 611, Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP.

● Health officials are considering a pilot scheme for a minor injuries unit at the Cambridge. It would be open from 0900 to 2200 hours for a six to 12-month trial.

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How BATUS prepares battle groups for the real thing

It's big, real and very, very TES-ting

A LONE beech grows beside the "Rattlesnake", the trail which winds its way north to cross Wagon Wheel Road.

It is the only tree most soldiers see as they fight their way back and forth over the south Alberta prairie during the Medicine Man series of exercises at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS).

The area is as big as most traditional training areas of Britain and Germany lumped together - with space to spare - but with no comforting woods in which formations of soldiers can hide.

Deep gullies, called coulees, and undulating terrain make BATUS ideal for stalking armoured vehicles and with vast, unpopulated areas over which to range, it is the prime exercise area for high intensity armoured operations.

If the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, the success of 1 Armoured Division in the Gulf War was a direct result of the intensive training possible at BATUS, although battle manoeuvres in the Gulf turned out to be completely different. There the British armoured brigades attacked in arrowhead en masse, blasting the target, changing direction and attacking again.

The confusion and chaos of, for example, a "meeting engagement" of two highly mobile formations is reproduced at BATUS. Forgotten

Reports: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Terry Champion

lessons from North Africa and Korea on the supreme importance of using the ground are having to be re-learned, as are basic low-level armoured tactics.

For more than 20 years British soldiers have perfected their art at BATUS, practising all facets of war and carrying out live fire and manoeuvre with main armament and support weapons.

Although soldiers derived tremendous benefit from live firing there was never a "live" enemy - until this year.



Directing the 2 RTR opposition at exercise control are WO2 Steve Metcalfe and RSM Dave Larcombe

Use of dedicated opposing forces (OPFOR) and Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES) equipment has seen a dramatic increase in the value of BATUS.

Training is dramatically more realistic. Instead of cardboard targets, a thinking, moving, shooting enemy confronts the six battle groups which train in Canada from April to October.

Sensors attached to men and vehicles record whether specially-adapted weapons have recorded hits. At the moment of "impact", the equipment beeps, vehicles immediately stop and lights flash. Soldiers

A challenge awaits Challengers of 1 RTR on the Canadian prairies: a live enemy and tactical engagement simulation

have to lie down and remove their helmets.

It is the best possible training for the Army - and it can only be done in Alberta.

The training area of 1,700 sq km - the Block, as it is known - lies in the south-east corner of Alberta, stamping ground of the South Alberta Light Horse, a TA-type unit in Medicine Hat through which several British soldiers retired in Canada keep a military connection.

It is also the home of the Canadian Defence Research Establishment, one of the foremost centres of expertise in chemical weapons detection.

Ever since a Cree Indian medicine man lost his sacred hat in the South Saskatchewan river, causing his tribe to flee and be cut down by the Blackfoot enemy, the area has seen bloody conflict.

Tribal clashes had nothing like the sophistication and intensity of today's bloodless encounters involving Warrior and Challenger crews.

BRITISH ARMY TRAINING UNIT SUFFIELD



Exercise control keeps many fingers on the pulse of the battle

The British Army's "medicine men" in Exercise Control work a strange magic from their portable cabins sited on a bluff in the south of the Block.

So realistic is the training they orchestrate that returning battle groups are usually on an exhilaration "high".

Combatants will have taken a pounding as they fought an enemy as wily as any Indian. The learning

curve will have been steep.

Presiding over the transformation of battle groups is a nucleus of 177 permanent staff, which requires a large supplement of temporary staff from Britain and Germany for the exercise season.

The permanent staff and 400 dependants on two-year postings live an hour away in Medicine Hat or the nearby Ralston

village - said to be twinned with Ambridge.

They are augmented by 400 temporary staff on four to nine-month postings to help run training and act as safety staff.

A significant increase in the

establishment this year was the OPFOR of nearly 300 from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, which was in theatre for nine months. Its two operating

Challenger squadrons rotated with the two remaining in Fallingbostel after the first three exercises.

Infantrymen and sappers change for each Medicine Man exercise.

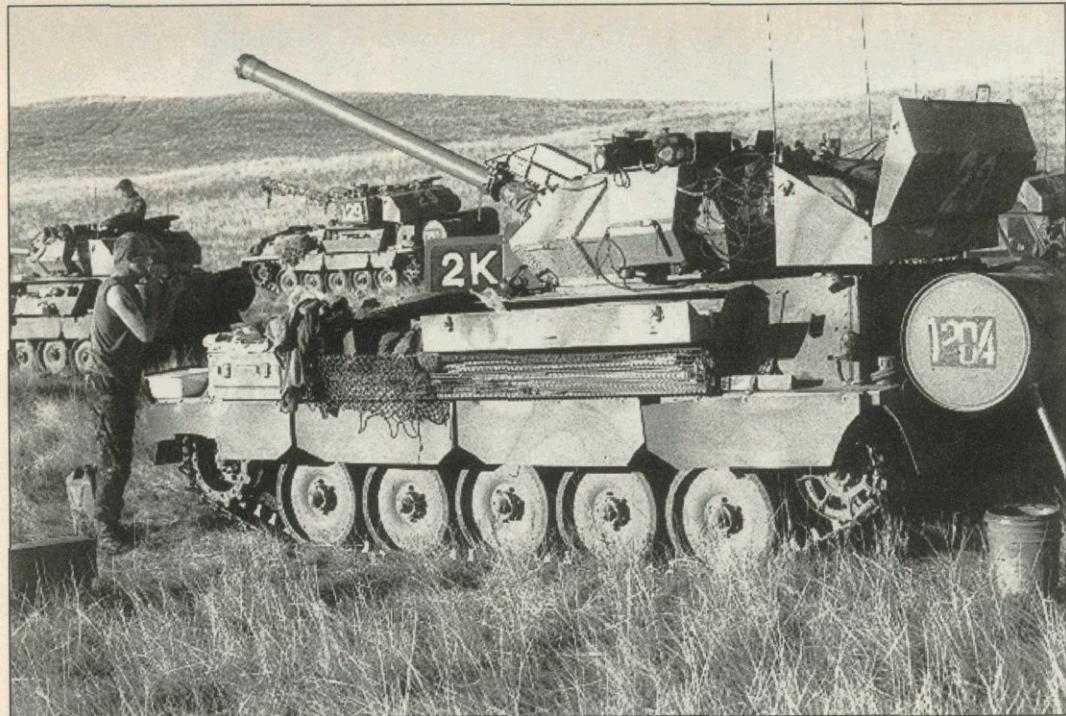
During the TES encounters with the OPFOR, a skeleton staff is imported from whichever brigade is providing the battle group, so that it can benefit from training in a brigade context.

The OPFOR represents a non-British battalion equipped with special variants of the CVRT series of vehicles, adapted to present a different profile. The Salamander is a light tank modified from Scorpion, while Sturgeon is an infantry fighting vehicle modified from the Spartan with a Milan compact turret.

The use of Direct Fire Weapons Effect Simulation computers turns these into Soviet-style T 80s and BMP 2s, with the appropriate armour, armament and vulnerabilities.

The battle groups comprise 1,200 soldiers with two Challenger squadrons each of 12

● Turn to next page



A "Salamander" crew member prepares for the fray. The barrel is made from plastic drainpipe

TES-ting

• From Page 21

tanks, two Warrior companies with 14 armoured fighting vehicles, a reconnaissance platoon of eight Scimitars and a battery of six AS90s. Additional support is provided by six Milan posts, six 81mm mortars, two Gazelles, armoured engineering and REME assets, echelon and a troop of 14 drops vehicles.

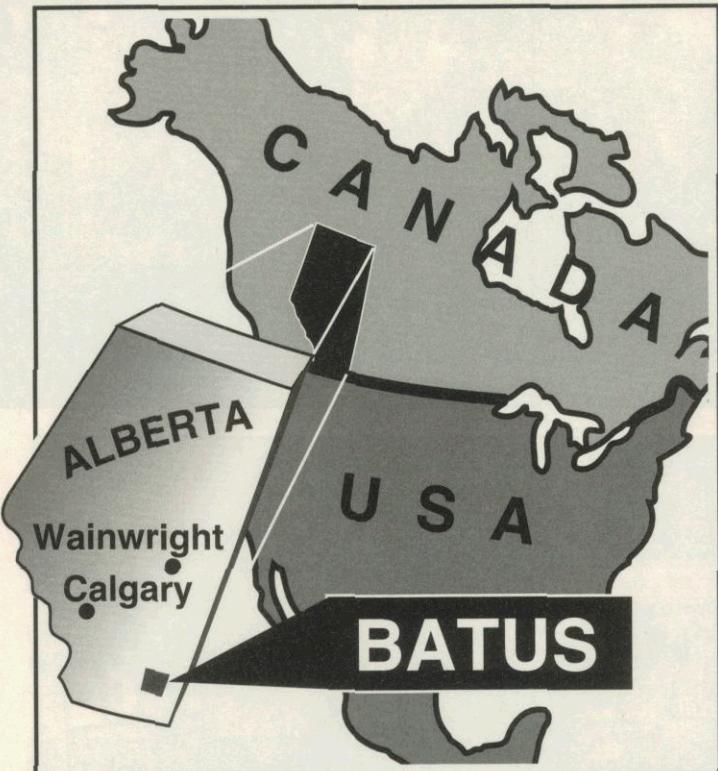
On the first of 22 days spent in the field, individual soldiers and vehicles perfect their drills, starting at the lowest level and working through a series of graded exercises to a full-blown 72-hour live firing exercise.

On Day 13 the first Direct Weapons Effect Simulation equipment exercise is carried out to familiarise the battle group with the sophisticated training kit which has changed the face of modern training.

A 24-hour exercise run by the battle group commander against the OPFOR allows him to cover specific areas he wishes before the final seven-day exercise.

Exercise Totalise is split into various missions and involves the full panoply of battle group, OPFOR, safety staff turned observer/controllers, and a full exercise control (set up with commendable speed by 7 Troop, 31 Armoured Engineer Regiment before the season started).

The battle is controlled on the ground via commercial radios, allowing controllers to transmit across the whole Block without any chance of the battle group or OPFOR



eavesdropping. One fly in the ointment is the lack of good indirect fire simulation. Area weapons effects simulation is scheduled for the year 2000 but everything from mortars to MLRS has to be simulated by a "redtop" control Land Rover scudding across the prairie and setting off smoke canisters.

An orange flashing light indicates areas are under bombardment. Control staff consult a damage assessment table and the type of target footprint of the artillery fire mission before taking their control gun and "zapping", or immobilising, the appropriate number of soldiers and vehicles.

"It's Heath Robinson, but it

works surprisingly well despite its limitations," said Maj Simon Allen RTR, who set up the exercise control system. As OC TES, he is appropriately known as TESCO.

"Fire marker teams get to the right place because of their satellite navigation equipment," he said. "When you consider all the extra procedures batteries have to carry out when firing, rounds would land after the teams arrive, conclusively proving that the Land Rover is faster than the 155mm shell!"

Each man has a casualty card in case he is "wounded" and vehicle damage cards indicate if vehicles have been "mobility

Safety first - and last

REDTOPS rather than red caps rule the prairies at BATUS.

The distinctive vehicles are mainly Land Rovers with bright red roofs, and Ferrets which are on probably their last exercises before finally being pensioned off.

They endlessly scuttle about the prairie coulees ensuring that rigid safety procedures are maintained during Medicine Man exercises.

The practice of hurtling large, unfriendly chunks of iron about the countryside is inherently dangerous, but strenuous efforts are made to ensure the highest safety standards.

"Before we start staff spend five to six weeks going through all live-firing exercises and holding a series of discussions," said the commander, Col Nick Seymour, Scots DG.

No training objective is ever worth a soldier's life and Col Seymour has no compunction about stopping a mission if conditions deteriorate.

This does not only apply during live firing phases; there is a risk from the moment the first vehicle deploys on to the prairie, from wet roads to thick dust clouds which envelope heavy vehicles and hide them from oncoming vehicles.

Everybody dons a helmet to



pass the range control barrier – a necessary precaution.

Vehicles frequently lurch into gopher holes while travelling cross-country.

Crosses dotting the prairie bear mute testimony to tragic accidents, as does a memorial wall in the village of Ralston.

It commemorates 29 soldiers who have died in the area, including a chaplain and a German.

Safety procedures are constantly under review, and various measures have been taken since a spate of five fatalities last year.

Trench systems are better marked, body armour is now worn by staff during live firing, an embryonic accident investi-



Above – WO2 Bill Lindsay, Household Cavalry, keeps an eye on the armour

Left – Ferrets are scheduled to disappear from their last role as safety vehicles

Roger Warren, a Royal Artillery safety officer.

On live firing exercises the safety staff worked harder than the battle group, returning after barely six hours' sleep, but knowing that people were relying on them to provide a safety check.

"We are repeatedly stopping live firing practices which could have gone most horribly wrong, and we earn our money when we do a double, double check and find somebody has given a six-figure grid reference of his own location as a target."

Maj Warren thinks staff are given insufficient recognition when they return to their regiments.

"There is a tendency to think we have just been out on holiday. That is absolute rubbish."



Commander BATUS,
Col Nick Seymour
Scots DG

ty to be played realistically. Trials last year established the concept and this year it has been employed, successfully emphasising the need for awareness of the threat and the correct drills to counter it.

A chemical strike, which can completely disrupt an operation, is not in the battle group's armoury, and neither are artillery scatterable mines, but such features are valuable tools for the exercise controllers to draw out lessons.

An after-action review within seven hours of the end of each mission is a key element in this learning process.

Attended by the main battle group personalities, it is not a cursory debrief but a detailed examination of how the mission developed.

After each mission, smart cards from each vehicle and weapons system, recording every shot fired and any hits received, are given to the observer/controllers. This information is fed

into the controller's laptop computer, and the data is transferred to a larger computer back at Exercise Control for analysis.

Within a few hours the raw

information is available for staff

to begin making deductions

and preparing visual aids for the review.

By the time the key players

arrive map board photographs

and schematics of the battle

have been produced for examination, and salient features can be re-digested in the light of full knowledge of what was happening, what people thought was happening and what could have happened.

Training objectives are high-



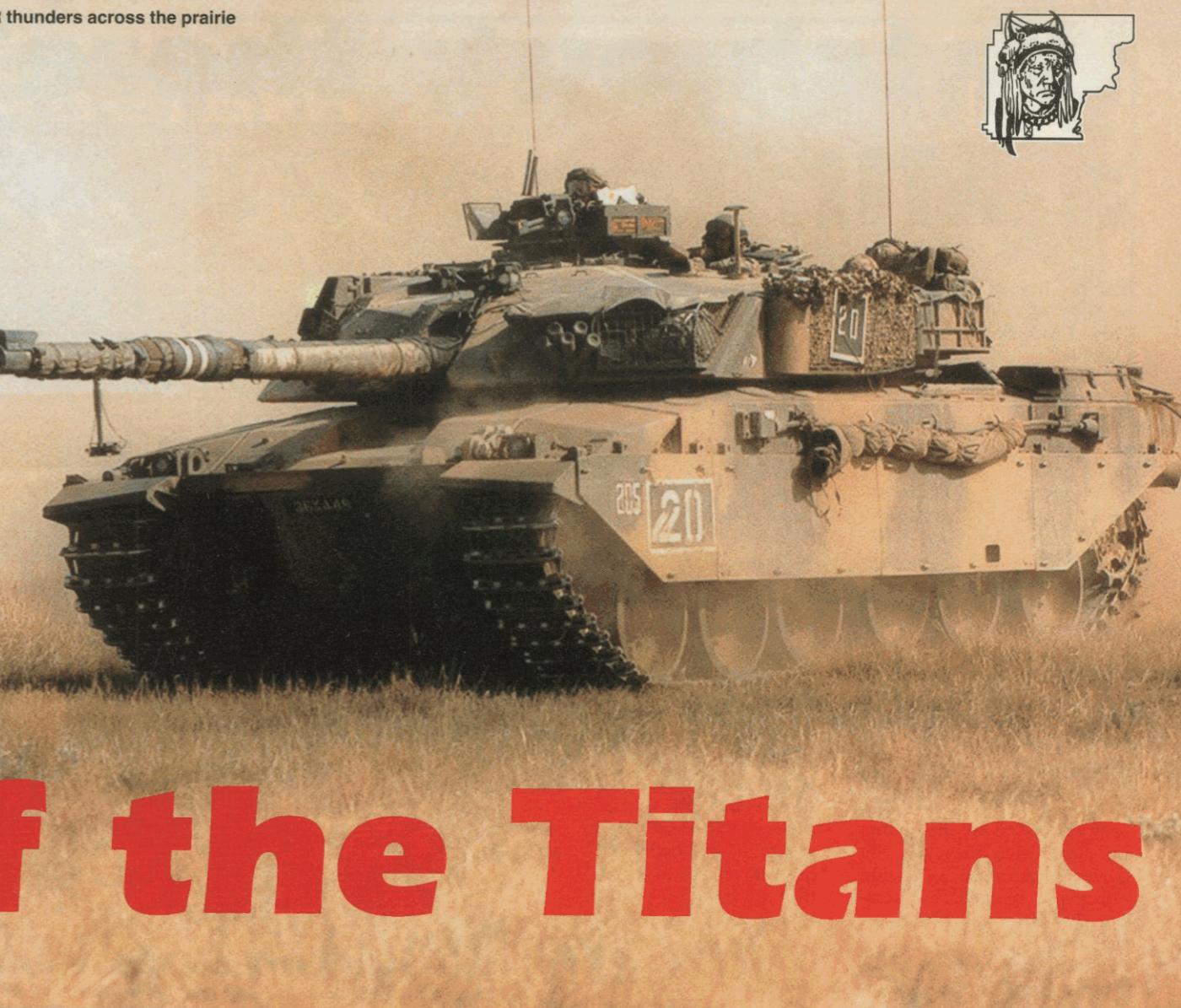
Lt Col Peter Gilchrist (left), CO 1 RTR, takes questions after giving his orders



"Sturgeons" of 2 RTR (above) and 1 RTR Challengers (below) have to learn low cunning as they stalk each other among the coulees



A Challenger of 1 RTR thunders across the prairie



Clash of the Titans

IT WAS billed as the clash of the Titans . . . 1 RTR pitted against 2 RTR on Medicine Man 5.

As the two regiments squared up to each other, one mission was simple - 2 RTR had to "bounce" a river and get a bridge across, and 1 RTR had to stop it.

Both had had intensive training before the clash: 1 RTR had trialled the new TES equipment and carried out the largest such exercise in Britain a few months previously; 2 RTR had provided the opposing force for four previous Medicine Man exercises. In 18 separate missions, it had been "defeated" only once.

The 2 RTR force had the benefit of months of working against other battle groups and is at the moment reckoned to be the best-trained armoured regiment. Its personnel knew the ground and their unconventional tactics, slick drills and speed of reaction usually carried them through.

Tidworth-based 1 RTR, the last Chieftain regiment, had made a tremendous effort to convert half the regiment to Challenger, but had little expe-



The light anti-tank weapon (LAW) held by Pte Mark Trav, with Ptes Brad Stevenson and Lee Godsall 1 WFR, presents a deadly threat to armour

rience to fall back on.

This meant late hours and outstanding work by the Light Aid Detachment of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The infantry detachment of 300 from two companies of the

They had had to learn armoured tactics as well as revise old infantry skills, but as winners of the Tickle competition for the past ten years, their marksmanship is renowned and they had excellent scores on their gunnery camp conversion with one Rarden cannon team almost achieving a maximum score.

Operating CVRT vehicles was new to 2 RTR, based in Fallingbostel, and it took a few painful lessons before drivers learned that light armour had to take things more slowly across the prairie than their mighty Chieftains.

With one tank company and a second to be regenerated if needed, 2 RTR also provided vehicle crews for its infantry increment of 60 from the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards.

The 2 RTR plan was to send the infantry down the left flank and a tank company down the right, with the vital engineering assets tucked well back in the middle.

But when their reconnaissance screen bumped into the enemy reece, the infantry com-

pany uncharacteristically waited too long. The group had been suckered into a horseshoe killing zone and six vehicles were quickly put out of action by a ring of Milan and devastating artillery fire.

Only three vehicles managed to escape.

The right flank, also hit hard, had more success. Although CO 2 RTR was taken out - for the first time in all his missions and, what is worse, by CO 1 RTR - the force remnants knew the objective and charged on.

The tanks moved so quickly they punched their way through the Milan matrix and some managed to reach the river, where one bridge still intact.

It had been a hard battle against a deliberately strong enemy: 2 RTR had been all but wiped out and had to regenerate a new tank company before achieving its objective, while 1 RTR had more vehicles left and also felt it had achieved its mission by stalling the attack.

The real victors were the soldiers of both regiments, who have benefited from the best training available to British soldiers.

Watch out, there's a Milan about

TANKS have good reason to be wary of soldiers like Ptes Glen Castledine and Adrian Gamble.

The two soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment sit behind their Milan firing posts far in advance of battle groups and "kill" advancing tanks and armoured fighting vehicles from more than a mile away.

Milan sections are changing the face of high intensity warfare training because, for the first time, they are being taken seriously.

For years, Milan posts were staked out on windswept hillsides waiting for an armoured thrust. They spent countless hours digging trenches and defending wide arcs, but could only pretend to fire their lethal missiles. Often they had the galling experience of being effectively ignored by armoured formations which trundled past.

Because missiles cost so much, Milan operators may fire only one a year, he said. So they make sure every shot hits its target.

He and Pte Gamble were sited on a prominent feature where a Warrior had been dug in before them. As a good kill is not possible with a frontal shot because of heavy simulated armour, they coolly waited for

During one exercise at the British Army Training Unit Suffield in Canada, the Castledine/Gamble team killed six "T 80s" and damaged four other vehicles. The Opposing



Green Howards charge uphill to attack Ptes Castledine and Gamble after debussing from their "Sturgeon" in dead ground



Ptes Glen Castledine, Anthony and Adrian Gamble, wire-guided snipers who broke an OPFOR tank attack with their Milan

the tanks to growl past and present their side, less protected flanks.

"Once they entered our arc we were popping up, loading, firing and getting back down so they couldn't see where we were shooting from," said Pte Gamble. Although the OPFOR was using the ground well, this single Milan post caused havoc.

"Cas got one T 80 1,600 metres away with a pearl of a shot," said Pte Gamble. Company commanders frightened to let Milan go forward did not understand the way they could be used, said CSgt Hamilton.

"What they are doing here is what they would do in war. This is where to learn from your mistakes."

He suggested that an infantry section could profitably be deployed as close support in addition to a light anti-tank weapon in dead ground close to Milan positions.

"It was excellent. Nobody can spot a well-prepared Milan position so

that they can take side or rear shots."

CSgt Hamilton, an observer/controller with 1 RTR's battle group, advocated Milan posts up to 5km forward of the main position. Their job was to kill as many vehicles as well forward of the battle group as possible. Milan posts were less effective within a defensive position because they were tied into the fate of the units engaged by armour or hit by artillery.

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"What they are doing here is what they would do in war. This is where to learn from your mistakes."

He suggested that an infantry section could profitably be deployed as close support in addition to a light anti-tank weapon in dead ground close to Milan positions.

A GPMG or Warrior's chain gun would have helped Castledine and Gamble to fight off

LCpl Justin Pugsley awaits his target

infantry as well as kill armour.

This remarkable reversal of Milan's fortunes is due to the Tactical Engagement Simula-

Eastern promise

FORMER Warsaw Pact countries are queuing up to make their vast training facilities available to the British Army, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said during a recent visit to BATUS.

But nothing could replace the incredibly valuable training available at Suffield, he added.

Referring to Partnership for Peace exercises in Poland and Hungary, he said other Eastern European countries wanted to attract British exercises.

"Almost every senior officer who comes to me from countries in Eastern Europe is offering us fantastic facilities to train," he said.

Mr Soames said British soldiers were already training at a very high level of professional expertise, and Britain wanted to train on its terms and conditions and at the intensity possible in Canada.

"What makes our forces so incredibly effective is that they are trained at the very top level of the spectrum and this gives us skills in a whole range of other military uses.

"Training in BATUS is



Mr Soames talks to WO2 Dave Parr and members of 105 (BATUS) Support Squadron RLC



Lt Gen Marc Waymel (left) and Maj Gen Rob McAfee watch the battle at BATUS with interest

vital for us and is something we could never replicate anywhere else," he said.

Mr Soames was particular-

ly impressed by the speed and mobility of the exercises, and the chaos they engendered.

Senior French officers were



Capt Peter McMullen, IG

Ptes Castledine and Gamble.

Castledine scored 15 points more than the nearest battle group Challenger and his Milan post was declared by observer/controllers to be the best post in the whole Medicine Man series.

Pte Gamble comes from a regimental family. Both he and his younger brother, Anthony, are nicknamed "Chutch" after their father, Terry, who was also in the Milan platoon and left the regiment as a corporal in 1983. An uncle, Mick, was also a corporal and another uncle, George, was HQ company sergeant major and drum major. Both his grandparents were Sherwood Foresters during the Second World War.



tating and morale among the "steely-eyed missile men" has soared.

"There is a perception throughout the Army at all levels that Milan is a good anti-tank weapon system, but nobody really understands it unless they have been part of an infantry unit," said Capt Peter McMullen, Irish Guards, another of the safety/control staff for the exercises.

Soldiers and vehicles which do not carry out the correct battle drills are mercilessly pinpointed, with beeping and flashing lights making it obvious to all

who has been hit.

Direct-fire support weapons such as Milan and the Light Anti-tank Weapon are devas-

"Sadly, it is very hard to integrate Milan live firing into any other battle because of its wide danger area. It is tricky to build in Milan at a satisfying level so the rest of the Army has never really seen it at its best."

They were now seeing the true potential of Milan, so graphically demonstrated by



Bobby Charlton's loan transfer

YOUR article about Army footballers who have gone outside and played for professional clubs appears to be confusing some of your readers.

Duncan Edwards, Bobby Charlton and Bill Foulkes were professional footballers who were sent on "temporary loan" to the Army by Matt Busby.

This was his way of saying thank you for the wonderful times he had as a soldier during the war. — **Roy Jones, Oldham, Lancs.**

Soldiers' graves 'decaying'

WHILE in India researching my father's Army service, I was shocked at the condition of graves in Lucknow and Faisabad of British soldiers who died there of natural causes between the wars.

Many had served with distinction in the First World War. Not for them "glorious death in battle" — they were just young, healthy men; fathers, sons and brothers, far from home, who had the misfortune to be abroad at a time when medical science had not reached the sophistication and expertise of today.

The graveyards no longer

exist as such. They are decaying and overgrown. Wild animals are allowed to roam freely.

The dead soldiers might have relatives still alive and grieving, perhaps under the false impression that the graves are being looked after to the same high standard as those maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which is responsible only for the graves of those who died in the two world wars.

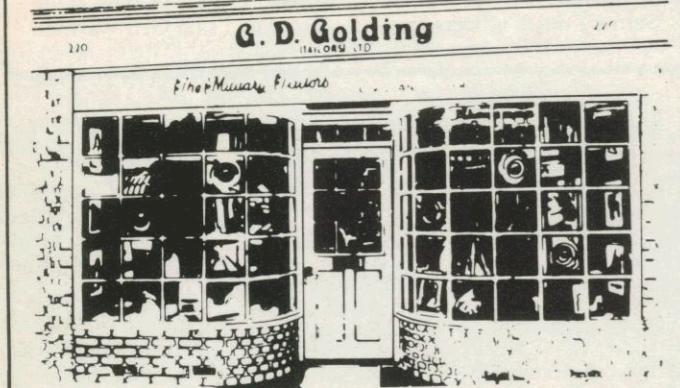
The MoD tells me it is not responsible for the graves to which I refer. When India gained independence in 1947 £53,000 was granted for grave maintenance in Pakistan and India. This ran out in 1963 and since then responsibility has been with the individual Christian communities concerned.

Well-meaning, ill-equipped and poorly-financed volunteers work against the odds to do what they can in a pitifully few cases. But in real terms little is being done, although the British High Commission in India does try to help on a small scale.

The regiments, the Royal British Legion Pilgrimages Department, and the British Association of Cemeteries in South Asia, can do little through lack of funds and the impracticalities involved.

I believe serving soldiers and the general public need to become more aware of this problem in an effort to galvanise someone into action. — **R McAdam, Chessington, Surrey.**

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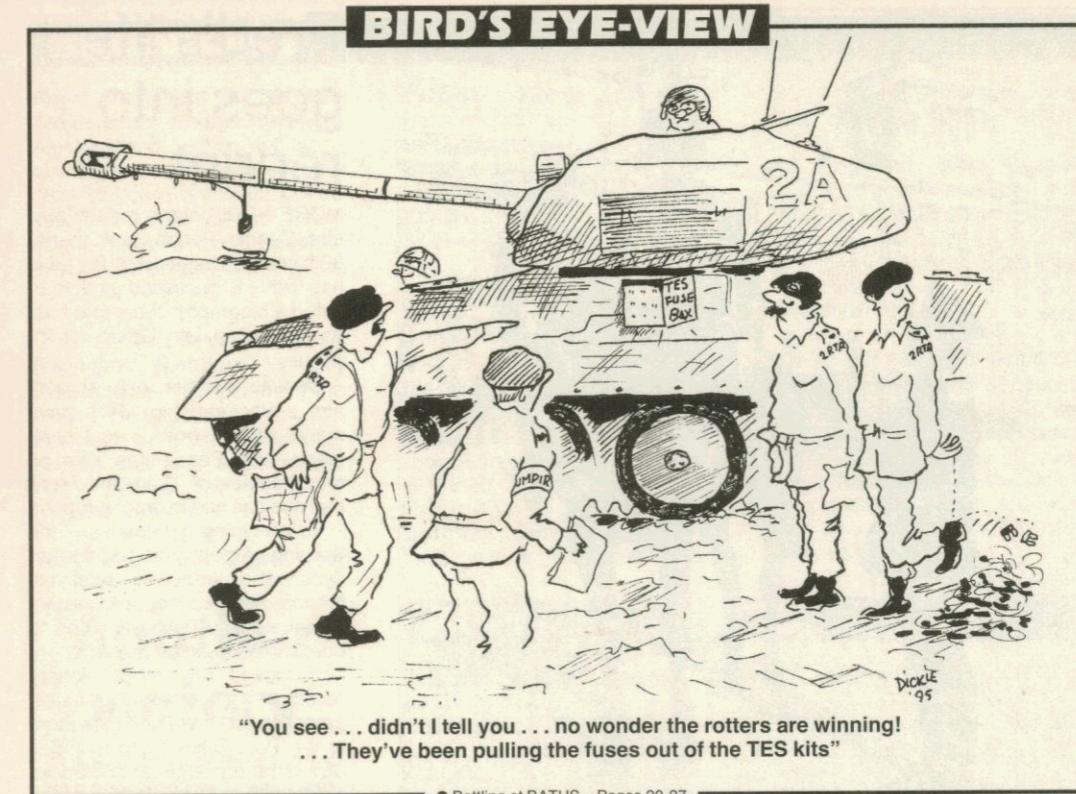
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Please state your particular requirements below:

Rhodesia medal

FURTHER to the commendable campaign to award a medal for the Suez Emergency in the early 1950s, am I right in believing that the Rhodesia Peace-Keeping Force was awarded a medal for service that lasted seven days — and that not one shot was fired in anger? — **Fayidite '52 (name and address supplied).**

● Qualifying period for the Rhodesia Medal 1980 was 14 days' service on the strength of a unit or formation in Rhodesia between December 1 1979 and March 20 1980. Among the 2,500 recipients were members of the forces of Australia, New Zealand and Kenya, as well as civilians. — **Editor**



● Battling at BATUS — Pages 20-27

Putting our Foot in it!

IN THE issue of *Soldier* dated September 18, an article reviewing a recent recording by the Band of The Royal Irish Regiment referred to the 18th Regiment of Foot both in the title and final paragraph, inferring that this distinguished Irish infantry regiment had been resurrected.

The content of the final paragraph is particular nonsense. The Royal Irish Regi-

ment is not in any way a rebirth of the original 18th Regiment of Foot. Rather it was formed when the last remaining Irish infantry regiment of the line, The Royal Irish Rangers, amalgamated with The Ulster Defence Regiment on July 1, 1992 as part of the reorganisation of the Army under Options for Change.

The original Royal Irish Regiment, then the senior

Irish infantry regiment of the line, was disbanded — along with other illustrious Irish infantry regiments — upon the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922.

I would be grateful if the totally erroneous impression given in the heading and content of this article could be brought to the attention of your readers and thus corrected. — **Maj (RO2) J Hillis**

Bonded by the Pembroke mutiny

REFERENCES to the Salerno Mutiny (*Soldier*, October 2) reminded me of an occasion when I took part in a revolt against military authority in the early days of the war. It was, however, without serious consequences.

The 81st (Welsh) Field Regiment RA was a Territorial unit that had just been brought up to strength by an intake of Militiamen from the training camps at Oswestry and Kinnel.

Late in 1939 the unit moved to Pembroke and 324 Battery was billeted in the old castle while 323 Battery was assigned to an old mill on the

banks of the river.

Soon afterwards, an epidemic of scabies broke out in 323 and the buzz went round that the old mill — obviously unclean and infested — was to blame. Blankets and equipment were fumigated or discarded.

So, one unforgettable morning parade, instead of the usual denims, the battery appeared in full marching order with all their kit which they placed on the ground in a neat pile.

The sergeant major was astonished. He told us to return in denims.

No one moved an inch.

He asked if we know how serious this was before formally reading us the Riot Act. Someone thought it would be a good idea to send for the commanding officer. He was more sympathetic (or did not want the bother of making a case) and promised to find alternative quarters.

Within days 323 Battery was split up into small billets around the town, but the true bonus of the affair was the solidarity that bonded Territorial and Militiamen in a comradeship that lasted through the grim years that followed. — **Wallace Brereton, Sale, Cheshire.**

MBE, Regimental Secretary, The Royal Irish Regiment, BFPO 808.

Rodney Bashford writes: Only a comparatively young soldier would imagine an old one, like me, would be ignorant of the origins of present-day regiments. In my day we all knew the list of Regiments of Foot, by seniority, from memory.

I am old enough to have been a friend of the last bandmaster of the 2nd Bn 18th Foot; to have been stationed for three years in Belfast with the R Ulster Rifles; to have taught most of the bandmasters of the R Irish Rangers; and to have pushed a future commanding officer of the UDR in his perambulator.

Oh, and on my father's side I come from O'Donovans.

It is quite clear from my review that I was referring to the title of an old regiment being resurrected, not its number. Because sub-editors extract a heading from the review itself I admit I should also have included the words "title of" in my penultimate sentence.

In our maudlin dotation we really old soldiers do regret the loss of those emotive titles from the Army List — Manchester, Liverpool, Durham, Seaforth and many more.

Hitler made some ill-considered judgements in the war. This continual postponement was not one of them. — **C L Golder, Bolton, Lancs.**

Who was Hitler kidding?

I MUST take issue with Phil Sharpe on his statement that Hitler could have walked right through us after Dunkirk (Letters, October 2).

It puts me in mind of other hoary Second World War chestnuts such as Russians being seen in Scotland with snow still on their boots; fighter pilots eating carrots so they could see in the dark; Home Guard / LDV armed only with pikes; and U-boats re-fuelling at Eire ports.

Indeed, our Army had suffered setbacks but every historian of note has said it would have put up stiff resistance.

The German army would also have had to contend not only with our Navy and Air Force but with armed civilians who knew how to upset conventional armies with explosives and guerrilla tactics and who were in a high state of morale due to our natural feeling of superiority (at that time) and Winston Churchill's rousing speeches.

The German High Command called off Op Sealion for very good practical reasons. — **W H D Podd, Lowestoft.**

PHIL Sharpe's comments on the invasion of Britain being a pushover after Dunkirk carry little substance.

He should read Winston Churchill's *The Second World War, Vol 2* and Richard Cox's *Operation Sealion* to see what formidable armed forces could still be mustered to counter this action and the difficulties envisaged in mounting and sustaining any offensive of this nature.

Hitler made some ill-considered judgements in the war. This continual postponement was not one of them. — **C L Golder, Bolton, Lancs.**

● A similar letter has been received from L V Oliver, of Colchester. — **Editor**

SOLDIER to Soldier

Ted (80) sets out on epic ride

MAJ Ted Hughes has begun an epic 600-mile ride on horseback to mark the 75th anniversary of the Royal Corps of Signals... and to celebrate his own 80th birthday.

The remarkable octogenarian rode off Horse Guards Parade on Lancer, a 16-year-old Blues and Royals horse from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment.

Much of the riding will be done around the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, where man and horse will be supported by a Mounted Regiment groom and a back-up team from the Middlesex Yeomanry.

Ted plans to cover, at about 25 miles a day, the equivalent distances from the White Horse pub in Uxbridge, birthplace of the Middlesex Yeomanry, to Maresfield, East Sussex, where the signals corps was formed in 1920, to Caterick, its home for 70 years, and to Blandford, Dorset, its new centre.

Ted hopes to appear at each of these places when he has ridden the appropriate number of miles.

He joined the 2nd Cavalry (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divisional Signals in 1935. Horses were still used by the operational field army, and Trooper Hughes took part in the last field manoeuvres of the Cavalry Division on Salisbury Plain in the year he enlisted. He recalls tanks frightening the horses.



Wearing the full dress uniform of a trooper in the Middlesex Yeomanry, Maj Ted Hughes receives the good wishes of Maj Gen Tony Boyle, the Signal Officer in Chief, before setting out from Horse Guards

Scratch a poppy...

POPPY-bearing Royal British Legion scratch cards have gone on sale to raise an anticipated £800,000 a year towards the RBL's welfare work for the ex-Service community. Prizes range from £1 to £100,000, and the cards will be widely available in newsagents, clubs and Naafi shops.

• The Legion is campaigning to reinstate the two minute silence at 1100 hours on its traditional date of November 11.

□ CAN any Far East veteran confirm that a 12in by 18in blue flag with "ROYAL BERKS" picked out in red letters was made by a prisoner of war?

The story of the mystery flag is being researched before it goes on display. M J McIntyre says both the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Royal Berkshire Regiment were in the Far East at the end of the Second World War, and thinks the flag may have been stitched together in a PoW camp. Contact him at 7 Marsh Lane, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0QN.

● The Legion is campaigning to reinstate the two minute silence at 1100 hours on its traditional date of November 11.

Devizes says farewell to 1 Wessex

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, Wessex Regiment march through Devizes on their farewell parade before amalgamating with the 2nd Battalion to form the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

The Freedom of Devizes, granted to The Wiltshire Regiment and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, and the Liberty granted to 1 Wessex, were transferred to the RGBW.

Staff worked hard to find uniforms and equipment for the parade, no mean task as Territorial Army soldiers are not usually issued with No 2 dress. A lot of effort also went into the battalion's drill.

Individuals in various forms of uniform were photographed by military artist Alix Baker as



part of her preparations for a painting to reflect the battalion's history.

At Devizes to watch the farewell parade and a drum-head service conducted by the Chaplain General, the Rev

Victor Dobbin, were Gen Sir John Wilsey, C-in-C Land Command; Col Martin Lee-Browne, Honorary Colonel 1 Wessex; and the Mayor, Cllr Ian Hopkins.

Spectators joined in the

Fred's life goes into reprint

MORE NEWS of the redoubtable Mrs Connie Peach, now in her 80th year, who against all the odds has written, published and marketed a biography of her late husband Fred, a Life Guard for 30 years.

Despite serious eye surgery and a fractured hip which have made all this work a real challenge, Mrs Peach has sold so many copies of *O Valiant Heart* that she has had to order a reprint.

Touch-typing because the wearing of glasses is bad for her eyes, she wrote to relatives, friends, Army colleagues, military museums and public libraries to build a market for her book.

"I replied fully to all letters received, kept a record of sales, parcelled up books and took them to the Post Office," she told *Soldier*. "I set my target at 300 books but to date I have sold 306, which is very pleasing."

Public libraries all over the country have accounted for 82 of the copies and military museums 34.

Mrs Peach's achievement is partly due to the remarkable story she tells of her husband, who after enlisting in The Life Guards in 1931 rose from trooper to captain quartermaster.

Fred, who was one of the escorts for the lying-in-state of King George V, was away from Connie on active service for the whole of the Second World War.

O Valiant Heart is available at £5 plus 79p postage and packing from Mrs Connie Peach at 4 Watermill Court, Bath Road, Woolhampton, Berks, RG7 5RD (tel: 01734 714176).

REUNIONS

1978-81 (Höhne Garrison): Reunion planned at Union Jack Club, London, on April 27. Contact Sgt Graham Perch, 28 CTT, Fox Barracks, Liverpool Road, Chester CH2 4BU (tel: 0151 755 2749; civ 01244 352749).

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (London Branch): Christmas party, December 10, at Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London. Details from Brian Kemp, Woldcroft, 8 Hornchurch Hill, Whyteleafe, Surrey CR3 0DA (tel 0181-660 4392).

1996 Cornwall School, Dortmund: Reunion arranged for July. Details

Task Force Bravo Signal Troop

Another victory

SUBEDAR-MAJ Umrao Singh has won another great victory. In 1944 he fought off repeated Japanese attacks in the Kalandan Valley, Burma, earning the Victoria Cross.

Now 76 and living in northern India, he has learned that his intervention at the VE-Day

celebrations in Hyde Park in June prompted Prime Minister John Major to raise the annuity paid to winners of the VC and George Cross. Holders of Britain's highest gallantry medals will be given the option of £1,300 a year (instead of £100) or a lump sum of £6,000.

Commandos return to Winchester

THERE was an amazing turn-out when surviving members of No 1 Commando gathered in Winchester for their 52nd annual reunion.

Although the wartime Army unit numbered 600 at its largest, and was disbanded 50 years ago in Hong Kong, no fewer than 114 former members got together for a special commemorative celebration in the commando's last home station

Veterans from as far afield as Australia, Mauritius, Zimbabwe and Canada were treated to a civic welcome, a remembrance service in Winchester Cathedral, and a supper in the Guildhall.

The veterans dedicated a seat in the Abbey gardens to residents who billeted them in 1943.

Capbadges of virtually every regiment and corps in the British Army were represented in No 1 Commando and many were worn proudly on the green berets of the Winchester marchers.

from Sharon Selman (née Stephenson) on 01622 743100.

45 Regiment RA: All ranks reunion to be held on August 10 at the East of England Showground, Peterborough. Details from P Miles, 48 Bringhurst, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5RS (tel 01733 237606).

Stalag XIB PoWs/7th Armd Div: Reunion planned at Fallingbostel in September to coincide with drive by Military Vehicle Trust to retrace route taken by 7th Armd Div in Second World War. Details from 24538669, LCpl A L Hone, Rat Re-trace, 16 Tank Tpt Sqn, BFPO 38.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier: P D P McQueen – To be Director Army Aviation, Oct 22.

Colonels: K MacG Stephens – To Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, Oct 1; S C H Ashworth – To IMS Brussels, Oct 18; B J Fairman – To HQ Woolwich Garrison, Oct 16; R Leighton – To APC Teams, Oct 16; N D Ross – To HQ Land, Oct 16; P E Dennison – To HQ AFSOUTH (BAE) Oct 16.

Lt Cols: J F Prain RE(Svy) – To

SEARCHLINE

129 (Dragon) Battery RA: The battery, believed to be the only one in the Royal Regiment not to have a commemorative painting, is seeking donations from ex-members to rectify this. Cheques payable to "CBA 40th Regt RA" should be sent to The Battery Captain, 129 (Dragon) Battery RA, 40th Regiment RA, BFPO 30.

New branch of the British Korean Veterans' Association meets at the Royal British Legion, Virginia Water, second Sunday of every month. All welcome. More information from secretary Terry Adkins on 01483 768791 or Ted Beevor on 0181-841 2775.

P J Constable, 63 Uplands Road, Brighton BN1 7FA wishes to trace Marion E McGregor (née Ancombe) who served with the

Why RE badge was missing

SOME readers may have been puzzled by an apparent omission from our "new badges" series featuring The Royal Logistic Corps on the back page of the October 2 issue.

The veterans dedicated a seat in the Abbey gardens to residents who billeted them in 1943.

Capbadges of virtually every regiment and corps in the British Army were represented in No 1 Commando and many were worn proudly on the green berets of the Winchester marchers.

42 Svy Engr Gp, Oct 9; K R Gillies RS – To be CP Lowland (V), Oct 10; N D Morrison RLC – To be CO 5 TA Trg Regt RLC, Oct 16; I J Rodley RTR – To be CO 1 RTR, Oct 16; B J Williams REME – To Veh and Wpns Br REME, Oct 17.

Retirements

Brigadier: J A Wright, late 16/5 L – Oct 10.

Colonel: M W Stott, late RE, Oct 21.

ship on the Korea run in about 1953. Does the name Cpl A H Maskell and the circumstances of his death come to mind, and where on the route did the burial take place? To which regiment did he belong? Replies to R Barker, R Signals (V), T A Centre, 28 Bedford Road, Kempston, Beds MK42 8AJ (tel 01234 262451).

Op Musketeer, RAMC: RAMC Historical Museum plans a temporary exhibition to run during October and November 1996 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Suez Crisis. Veterans of RAMC elements of the operation willing to loan photographs, maps, souvenirs, or contribute personal reminiscences, are asked to contact the Curator, RAMC Museum, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU11 5RQ.

Author wishes to contact anyone associated with, or having knowledge of, Nos 21 (Comrie) and 23 (Devizes) PoW Camps, 1944-46. Replies to Roderick de Normann, Tinkfield House, Monument Hill, Devizes, Wilts SN10 3HU.

Contact sought with anyone who knew the late Jock Anderson, Australian Army, 2/7th Bn, at E351 Heinrichsthal, Czechoslovakia 1942-45. He was a PoW and the only Australian in E351, a small working party from Stalag VIII B. Contact his son-in-law, John Ram, in Australia c/o 57 Norwich Close, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 7SJ.

DIARY

Until January 21: D-Day Dodgers exhibition – the British Army in Italy 1943-45, National Army Museum, Chelsea. November

11: Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall. 12: Remembrance Day service and parade, Cenotaph. 15: 1 QLR mounts Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace. 1996

February 28: Dedication service for those killed in the Gulf War, St Paul's Cathedral. May

11-12: Army centenary international military culinary competition and open day, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, 1000.

June 5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by massed bands of Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, 2130.

15: Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade. Colour trooped by 1 IG (rehearsals June 1 and 8).

July 9-20: Royal Tournament.

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

BOOK BRIEFS

British Sieges of the Peninsular War by Frederick Myatt. New publication of the 1987 work by the former curator of The Weapons Museum at Warminster, who died in 1994. Fascinating subject, extensively illustrated. Spellmount, hardback, £19.95.

Rifles at Waterloo by George Caldwell and Robert Cooper, with illustrations by James Dann. Story of the real "Sharpe's Riflemen" in the Waterloo campaign of 1815, told in a well-illustrated 48-page A4 softback book. Bugle Horn Publications, available at £10 (inc p & p) from 2 Brixton Mount, Longford Road, Holyhead, Anglesey, Gwynedd LL65 1TS (tel: 01407 765236).

A Dorset Soldier edited by Eileen Hathaway. Sgt William Lawrence, who fought at Waterloo, dictated his autobiography to a friend in the 1850s. The excellent 1993 edition is now published in paperback. Spellmount, £12.95.

Merry Hearts Make Light Days edited by Donald E Graves. Journal of an 18-year-old British Army officer, John Le Couteur of the 104th Foot, who served in Canada

Well sustained

WITH the flow of discs from the three Services we shall meet a few brand new bands and others which have been amalgamated under new titles.

Here is a new one in name, although the players come from other bands, including women, and for those readers a bit out of touch with the changes (who isn't?) the new corps includes the RCT, RAOC, ACC, RPC, and the postal unit of the RE.

The disc takes its title from the corps march, Albert Elms's *On Parade*, which is followed by the old marches of

Music/Rodney Bashford

of them are very tuneful though and easy on the ear, being a *Concerto* for cornet, flugel, and trumpet, three soloists taking a movement each, and Artie Shaw's popular *Clarinet Concerto*.

Gordon Jacob's *Concerto for Band* is a standard work in the band repertory and celebrates the composer's centenary year. A tone picture of the densely wooded state of Oregon by Jacob de Hann is becoming popular with British bands, though I cannot see a bright future for George Lloyd's *The Forest of Arden*, in spite of its emotive title.

Lloyd, whose music was much neglected for many years, is enjoying a probably short-lived vogue but, as pleasant and melodious as his music is, the general style is eclectic and dated.

An attractive selection and a welcome change from too many programmes which bear little repetition.

in the war of 1812. Carleton University Press/Spellmount, paperback, £9.95.

rescue in the hitherto deserted Falkland Islands. Leo Cooper Pen & Sword, hardback, £16.95.

The Wreck of the Isabella by David Miller. Early 19th century true story of a shipwreck and

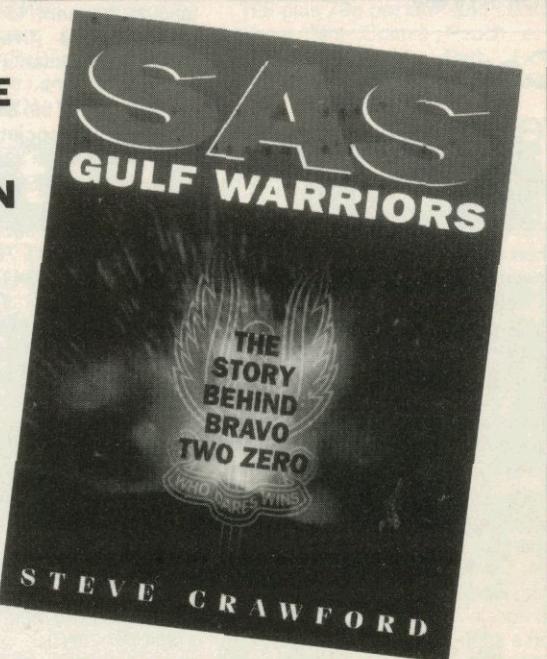
Nelson's Marines at Malta by Brian N Tarpey. True story of Maj James Weir Royal Marines, who

raised the first Maltese Regiment in 1800, told in a 48-page A4 paperback. Available at £4.80 plus 70p p & p (UK) from Brifma Associates, 13 Coleshill Place, Bradwell Common, Milton Keynes, MK13 8DG (tel: 01908 604244).

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The Band of the Royal Logistic Corps on parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

Arnhem hero's heartfelt thanks

TO EXPRESS thanks to someone or a group of people for saving your life while risking theirs is obviously inadequate. But what else to do?

Gen Sir John Hackett solved this dilemma by becoming firm friends with the Dutch Resistance workers who hid him from the Germans following the battle of Arnhem bridge in 1944, and writing the foreword to a book by one of his principal rescuers.

To Save A Life - Memoirs of a Dutch Resistance Courier is by Elsa Caspers, who, as a teenager in the Utrecht area, faced almost constant danger with her colleagues in the Resistance as she helped Allied Servicemen escape.

Sir John, then a brigadier commanding the 4th Parachute Brigade, was seriously injured following the failure of Operation Market-Garden and was hidden by the Resistance for more than four months until "passed down the line" and home to the United King-



Gen Sir John Hackett

pation, Bart Bredero, a youth of about the same age and from the same city as her, decided to make a dash for freedom from the Nazis, get to England and join the Royal Navy.

Just how he managed to achieve this daring plan in 1942 he tells in *Detour to Freedom*.

His adventure took him 12 months, crossing the guarded borders of Belgium and France, over the Pyrenees and into Spain.

En route he had many close calls, but good fortune and help from a number of people saw him eventually slithering under the barbed wire on a southern Spanish beach and gazing across the bay to Gibraltar.

Again Lady Luck smiled on him and he swam across the bay without incident since the British, on that night, did not detonate explosive charges in the bay to deter enemy frogmen.

Why the bay was free of depth charges that night is not revealed. Was it luck - or was it planned?

Bredero went on to serve in the Navy until the end of the war. - JM

Too classy for fish and chips

History as Hot News selected by Leonard De Vries. John Murray, paperback, £4.99.

TODAY's newspapers have a habit of turning up as tomorrow's fish-and-chip paper.

But while *The Times* and other top people's papers sometimes finished up wrapped round a bit of cod, not so the *Illustrated London News*.

This was probably because the paper was too hard and glossy. Additionally, being a weekly magazine with all the news and pictures, it was passed from reader to reader, becoming for many early Victorians a much-wanted journal. Messes, doctors' surgeries and top-class barbers' shops always had a copy.

It was, and still is, a good read. And so is *History as Hot News*, which reproduces the news and pictures of world events from the magazine for which eager Victorian readers paid their "tanners".

The book has hundreds of stories carried by the *Illustrated London News* from the first issue in May 1842 to January 1865.

Arguably it is better than any encyclopedia covering the same 23 years, since it combines authenticity with lively reporting and presentation.

Among the many stories reprinted is one about a plan in 1851 to build a Channel tunnel at an estimated cost of £87 million. Another tells how the 3rd Regiment of Foot (the Buffs) were marching through London en route to Ireland when an ox, alarmed by the band, charged, sending every- one flying and killing a young woman.

Others record the Great Exhibition, the Crimean War, the laying of the transatlantic telegraph cable, fashions, royal events and some crazy inventions. Recommended. - JM

A Vacancy for the post of Cadet Executive Officer

has arisen at short notice with Staffordshire and West Midlands North Sector ACF based in Stafford. The successful candidate will be required to join the Army Cadet Force and will be appointed to the paid rank of Major.

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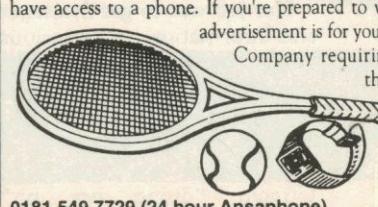
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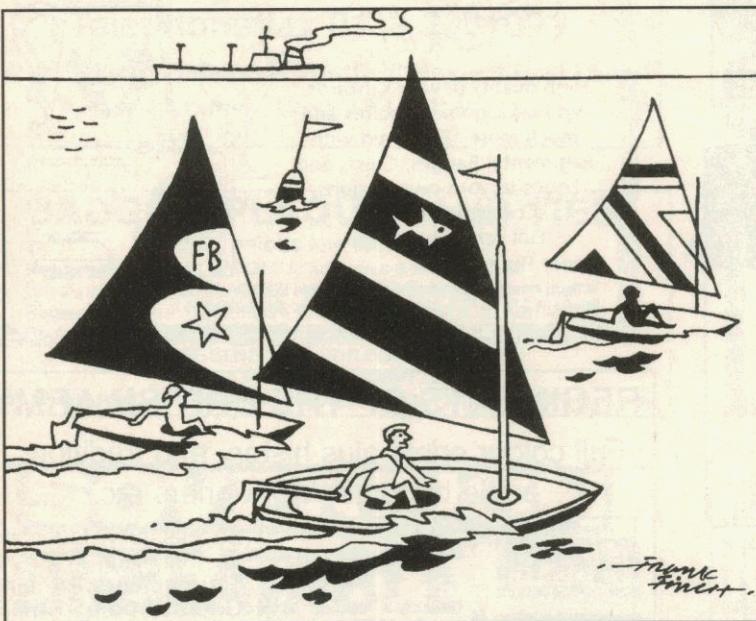
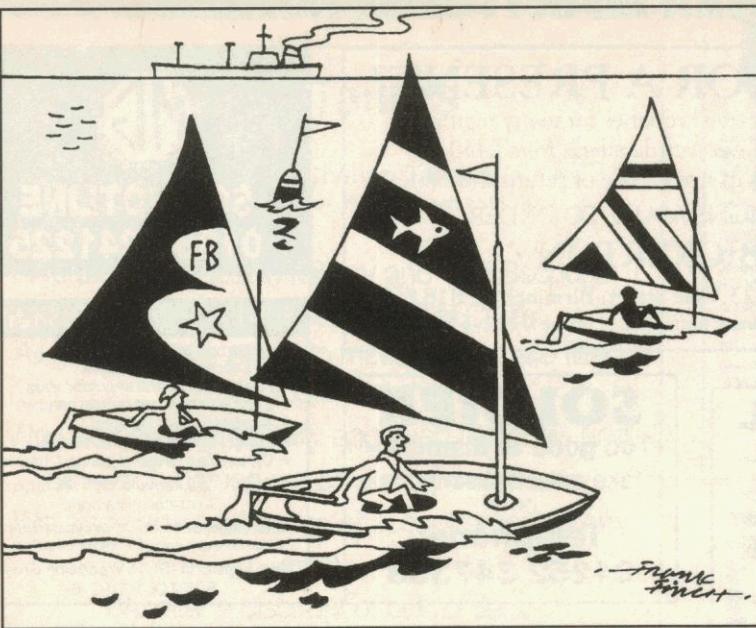
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else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the January 8, 1996 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition 621: Congratulations to SSgt Drotceff, Regimental Accountant, 1 RJG, BFPO 58, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs Sheila Brooker, of Oldham, Lancs, and Miss J M Reece, Det 9 Dental Group RADC, BFPO 807.

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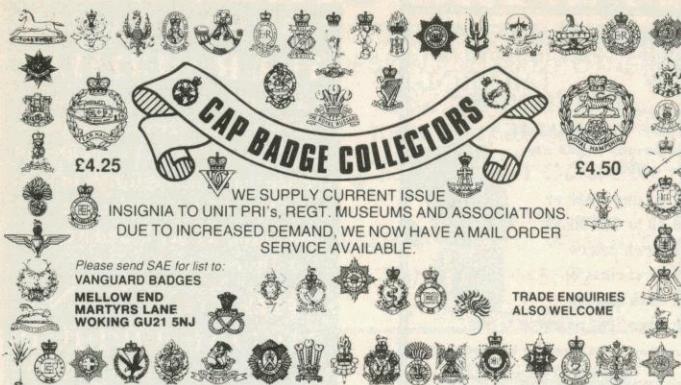
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D6

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Mandy, 34, 5'2", haulage clerk with a bubbly personality, blue/grey eyes and short brown hair. Likes trucking, pubs and having a good time. Seeking like minded pen pals. **P538**

23/95

Pauline, 27, 5'7", blue eyes, short blonde hair and of slim build. I enjoy weight training, swimming, aerobics and ten-pin bowling. I have a daughter of ten and a son of seven and am seeking pen pals aged 31-38. **P539**

23/95

Ruth, 25, 5'10", light brown hair and blue eyes. I like to keep in trim by mountain biking and walking dogs and also help out at Brownies. Seeking pen pals aged 25-30. **P540**

23/95

Maureen, 47, 5'5", a divorced registered nurse with blonde hair. Interests include dancing, cinema, pub meals and holidays abroad. Seeking a pen pal of a similar age. **P541**

23/95

Louise, 33, 5', green eyes, mousey hair and of slim build. Enjoys food and drink, walking and swimming. Would like to hear from male pen pals aged 27-35 with GSOH. **P542**

23/95

Hi I'm Sue, 30s, blonde, blue eyes, fun personality. Likes animals, travel, music and movies. Hoping to find fun male, 30s, with similar interests, for friendship and hopefully to spend some quality time. **P543**

23/95

Sylvia, 36, 5'4", single parent, slim with long fair hair. I am OU student and enjoy keeping fit by running and cycling. Previously I was a radiographer. Seeking like minded pen pals. **P544**

23/95

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07-25

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Household Cavalrymen, old and young, personal postcard/photograph invited for album/s. Eventual lodging Regimental Museum. Include simple details. A Rowlinson, Ex LG 1 HCR, 21 Gadlas Road, Llysfaen, Clwyd LL29 8TD. 23/95

Guards, Household Brigade magazines wanted, pre-1975. Pre-1952 Irish and Welsh Guards officers forage caps. 01624 842311 any time. 20-23

Author would like to purchase or borrow prints, negatives of London Transport buses in Aden, Cyprus, Burma or any where else the British soldier has served. Hambley, 7 Linden Road, Dunstable LU5 4NZ. 20-23

Person to research army career of family member. Ex Lancs Fusiliers. Suit retired person. Supply personal details and charges. Reply to Box 267, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 23/95

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Paddler Bob is on top of world

SSgt Bob Campbell from the Royal Artillery Display Troop at Woolwich is the Army's newest world champion.

He capped an excellent season on the canoe rodeo circuit by winning the world white water rodeo championships in Germany.

Campbell was the only member of the Armed Forces in the 28-strong Great Britain team which also picked up a silver and two bronze medals during the world championships.

More than 130 of the world's best white water exponents from 20 countries, including the USA, South Africa and New Zealand, took part.

In rodeo canoeing, competitors have to perform acrobatic sequences while paddling in a white water rapid. Rides are scored on technical content, variety and style.

Campbell was ranked first in the United Kingdom after winning selection events on the Thames, at Nottingham and on Teesside. This season he has also competed in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Following his world title, Ssgt Campbell has been invited to appear on the BBC's prestigious Sports Review of the Year on December 10. He has been supported by the Army Canoe Union, the gym staff at Woolwich, his unit and sponsored by Doctor D's Paddles and Simmer Style.

In brief

Concept 2 record

A TEAM of ten soldiers serving at the Communications and Security Group (UK) broke the Army Concept 2 rowing machine record, managing 369.67km in 24 hours.

Led by Cpl Adrian Batty, a physical training instructor in the Royal Signals, the team from Garats Hay Barracks near Loughborough also raised more than £1,000 for the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

Texas rugby tour

Cadets from the University of Wales Officers' Training Corps took part in the Girdlestone competition during a rugby tour of



SSgt Bob Campbell and his canoe at Woolwich

Army win Guards cup as Met falls foul of penalties

Army 5 (1), Met Police 3 (1)

THE ARMY fell victims to a first-minute goal when the Metropolitan Police won a corner on the left and a perfectly delivered cross was headed home at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, writes Pat Massey.

Although the corner-kicks of the visitors constantly posed a threat, the Army won a highly entertaining game, and with it the Grenadier Guards Challenge Trophy, on penalty kicks.

Cpl Joe Collins (R Sigs) smashed his opening attempt high over the bar, but the Met player who followed also missed. But Bambrook scored and goalkeeper Cpl Dominic Joyce (RLC) saved the Met's

first half. The Army roared back after the break and it was no surprise when they equalised, Ssgt Kevin Parkins (RLC) tapping home after a rare error in the Met defence.

Not for the first time in these Grenadier Guards Challenge Cup matches, sponsored this year by John Brown Investments, the sides were level at full time and the trophy was decided on penalties.

Cpl Joe Collins (R Sigs)

smashed his opening attempt high over the bar, but the Met player who followed also missed. But Bambrook scored and goalkeeper Cpl Dominic Joyce (RLC) saved the Met's

TONY CLAIMS CLAY TITLE

FIRST official Army clay pigeon champion is Ssgt Tony Masters (1 RHA) from the ACIO Sheffield.

He beat 31 other marksmen ranging from colonels to gunners who gathered at Edge Hill, near BAD Kineton, for the first Army Clay Pigeon Association clay shoot.

Competitors came from Northern Ireland, Benbecula, Canterbury, York, Aldershot, Catterick and Bicester.

Masters was high gun with a score of 83 out of 100,

ahead of second-placed Maj Gary Bateman (RLC) from HQ 2 Division on 81, and WO2 Doug Chambers (1 PWRR) and Cpl Andy Austin (QRL attached AAC) who tied for third on 75.

A shoot against the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force and the emergency services is being organised at Braintree in Essex, and a selection and training day is planned at West Wycombe shooting ground, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, on November 22.

Other ACPSA shoots in the

pipeline include friendly matches against the Thames Valley Police and the Metropolitan Police.

The Army association can call upon three international sportsmen, two currently serving with the Royal Irish Regiment and one with the Royal Scots.

Anyone wishing to join the ACPSA is asked to contact Capt James Giggins, the secretary, on Bicester Mil (724) 3737, or competition secretary WO1 Steve Butcher on Bicester Mil 2677.

High-speed Army take no prisoners

Army 54, Prison Service 18

A SHIFT in gear by the Army Rugby League team after ten minutes of their game against the Prison Service at Aldershot Military Stadium produced spectacular results.

Up to that point the visitors

had held out comfortably, but the deadlock was broken when a slick move among the centres sent fullback LCpl Bob Fulton (1 Para) powering in for the opening try. Cpl John Sherriff (1 PWO) converted.

With the Army rapidly gaining in confidence, skipper Cpl Andy Sangar (1 RSME Regt), Pte Pete Rumney (1 Para), scrumhalf LCpl Steve Moss (1 QLR), Pte Paul Young (1 Para), Cpl Chris Brown (1 RSME Regt), Cpl Tony West (1 QLR) and flying winger Pte Gus Glasgow (1 Para) ran in more tries to seal a comprehensive victory.

The match, refereed by Australian World Cup official David Manson, served as a useful trial for the Army squad, with Sgt Taff Curtis (1 PWO), the ARLA's new head of coaching, and team coach Kevin Langer of the London Broncos, taking the opportunity to see as many players in action as possible.

They aim to put a solid squad together by Christmas and make use of four months of competition before the Inter-Services Challenge Cup tournament in April.

Principal ARLA fixtures include representative matches against the North East at Gateshead (Nov 29), Wales Students at Cardiff (Dec 13), Civil Service at Chatham (Feb 14), England Students at Catterick (March 26), the Challenge Cup at Uxbridge (April 26) and the Grant Cup match against British Forces Germany at Rheindahlen in May.

An inter-corps programme culminates in the Army Challenge Cup final at Tidworth on April 17.

The Infantry take on the Royal Signals at Aldershot (Jan 10) in the opener. REME meet the sappers at Arborfield on the 24th and the Infantry at Aldershot on February 7; Loughborough hosts the R Sigs-RE match (Feb 21) and the R Sigs-REME clash (March 6); and the Royal Engineers take on the Infantry at Chatham on March 13.

We are the champions ...



Picture: DRE Suffield

The British Army Training Unit Suffield soccer team overcame strong opposition to carry off the Medicine Hat Soccer League and City Cup for the second successive year.

Sgt Taff Edwards RLC, team captain and top scorer with 33 goals from 17 appearances, is pictured with Lt Col Robin Hodges, Kings. The feat was particularly impressive as the BATUS permanent military staff numbers only 177.

Player of the year was LCpl

Ged Bamford, REME, most improved player was Cpl Daz Coombes and most sporting player was LCpl Jason Chandler.

Because of the harsh Canadian winter the season started on May 15 and finished on August 29. Many of the games were played on midweek evenings, but several took place on Sunday afternoons with horrendous temperatures well above 30C, said Sgt Edwards.

matches and finishing third in the PSK (prone, standing, kneeling) match. The TA were third.

The English Small Bore Shooting Union beat the Combined Services in their annual match, and the Police Athletic Association repeated their rare win over the Army, winning the long range and 50m matches to the Army's lone win in the PSK.

Sea angling

Anyone interested in the Group 2 area interested in the sea angling (beach or boat) is asked to contact Ssgt Mark Quilliam on Chatham Mil (766) 2360 or 01634 822360.

Army Women 2, Brighton 2

When Oxford United women cancelled their match against the Army, Brighton and Hove dispatched a side to Aldershot, writes Derrick Bly.

The Army had the better of the opening exchanges, with Cpl Terri Bennett (AGC) and Cpl Alli Garven (RLC) going close. Bennett headed over just before half time when Pte Tania Smith (R Irish), put through by Pte Claire Leader (RLC), delivered a perfect cross.

Cpl Steph Geeson (AGC)

opened the scoring seven minutes after the break when she scored from the rebound after a shot from Cpl Cheryl Camping (RLC) had cannoned off the crossbar. The Army went further ahead when a shot by skipper Cpl Lofti Lofthouse (AGC) deflected off Bennett into the net.

But Brighton came back into the game with a goal on 65 minutes and levelled the scores in the final minute.

Boxing coach defends Service safety record

SAFETY measures in Service boxing exceed those in civvy street, according to Army coach RSM Tom O'Connor (1 Kings).

Commenting on the controversy that has raged around the professional sport following the deaths of two British fighters in recent months, O'Connor said the Combined Services Boxing Association insisted on the highest standards of safety.

Amateur boxing is inherently safer than the professional sport because bouts are restricted to just three rounds, each of three-minutes duration for more experienced athletes, and two minutes for novice boxers, writes John Elliott.

The shorter matches mean amateurs do not face the extreme exhaustion and dehydration problems said by neurologists to be a trigger when life-threatening brain damage is sustained in high-pressure professional championships fought over 12 rounds.

"We have a more professional approach to amateur boxing than civilian clubs," said the Army coach. "For a start, we insist on a medical every season instead of the civvy norm of one every five years.

"Our boxers also have a pre-bout medical, they wear head protection in the ring, and there is a doctor at the ringside."

Service boxing has already brought in the heavier, safer 10oz gloves at all weights, preempting the civilian authority which will introduce the new gloves on January 1.

Compulsory three-day rest periods between contests and



RSM O'Connor



Sporting soldiers based in Germany will have an easier passage, thanks to shipping company P&O. Col Ian Jones (right) of the British Army (Germany) Sport Board receives a cheque for £4,000 from Capt John Hare on the cross-Channel ferry *Pride of Dover*.

Thanks to the sponsorship deal, any soldier (the scheme does not include officers) may apply to the Sport Board for financial help towards an adventur-

ous training project or sporting challenge. In addition, a 50 per cent concession is available to Army personnel for travel on P&O routes to sporting events, and can be obtained through the Sport Board at Rheindahlen on JHQ Military 2602.

REME referee takes rugby to the Chinese

Capt Vince Pagent REME joined a centuries-old British Army tradition of spreading the gospel of sport to distant lands when he flew to Shenyang in Manchuria to referee a rugby tournament.

Based at Chertsey, Surrey with the Vehicles and Weapons Branch REME, Pagent (pictured) was asked by the Hong Kong Rugby Football Union to help introduce the sport to China. His three-week trip to Manchuria was arranged by



the Hong Kong-based Wharf Holdings company.

Pagent turned to the whistle when a knee injury forced him to give up playing the game. Since then he has refereed matches in Hong Kong, Germany, Kuala Lumpur and the United Kingdom.

But he had to wait until his trip to China before he experienced the delights of a welcoming banquet which featured tortoise in green jelly and roast seasoned donkey.

automatic 28-day suspensions following injury or knock-outs also help boxers to recover fully from their efforts in the ring.

"Because we in the Services have full-time trainers, we are able to keep a much closer eye on our lads than is usually possible in civvy street," said O'Connor. "I would notice if one of my lads had a problem.

"Another advantage we have is that I always feel safer with Service referees in the ring. They invariably have the courage to stop a one-sided contest when a civilian might let it go on."

□ THE 1996 Inter-Services team boxing championship has been dropped to accommodate a shorter domestic season in the run-up to next summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta City.

□ Team honours will go to whichever Service wins most titles at the CSBA individual championships in Portsmouth, on March 5-6.

□ The national ABA championship finals - the winners of which have a strong claim to Olympic selection - will be held in Birmingham on April 6, a month earlier than usual.

● More details in next issue.

Sapper surfers on world stage

FOUR Royal Engineers based at Long Marston competed in the world waveski - gymnastics on a surfboard - championships at Lacanau in France.

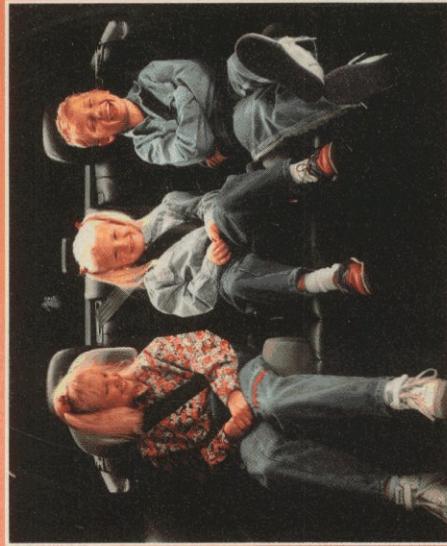
British squad members WO2 Mick Richardson, LCpl Rob Stevenson, Spr Pete O'Kane and Spr Colin Richardson made it into the second round of competition, with Richardson and Stevenson progressing through to the third round.

Anyone wishing to learn about the sport should contact WO2 Richardson on Long Marston Mil 5381 or write to him at Engineer Supply Operations Centre, HQ Central Engineer Park, Long Marston, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8QR.

Durban, South Africa, is to host the 1996 world championships.

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LCpl Ronnie Briggs and LCpl Ski Mordawski of C Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers check a route map before taking a Scimitar recce vehicle on patrol. The Spotty Dog checkpoint near Maglaj in Bosnia provided C Squadron with a base for its headquarters, the pock-marked facade providing a daily reminder of just how fierce the fighting was in the area during the early stages of the civil war. Story and more pictures in Pages 14-15.

Picture: Mike Weston