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- Army Board drug tested
- Staffords in Ballykinler
- Light Fighter competition



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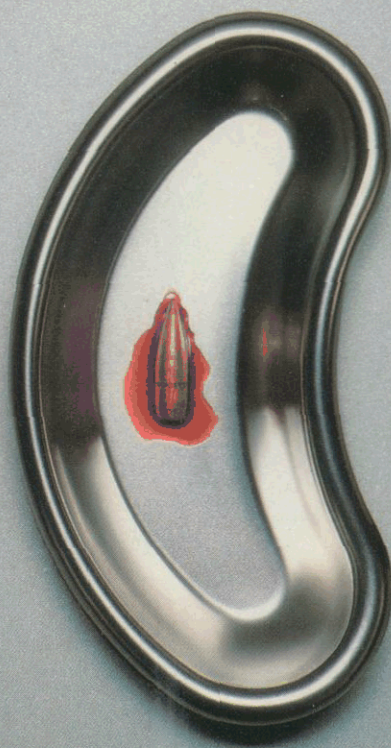
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February 6, 1995
Vol 51/3

CONTENTS

- 5 News
- 10 People
- 12 French troops on Plain
- 15 Staffords in Ballykinler
- 18 Secrets of the Auxiliaries
- 20 Light Fighter competition
- 22 VE-VJ Days 50th
- 24 *Soldier* turns 50
- 26 R Irish in Jordan
- 28 Attitude survey team
- 30 For families
- 32 Your letters
- 34 Briefings
- 36 Reviews
- 38 All in a good cause
- 39 HOAY competition
- 40 *Soldier* Mart
- 45 Classified advertisements
- 48 Sport

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FRONT COVER: – Rgr Gilmour has a ripping time while training in the Jordanian desert with C Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment. Story and more pictures of Exercise Golden Sands in centre pages.

● **ENTENTE CORDIALE:** French soldiers go to war on the Plain. – Pages 12-13.

● **NORTHERN IRELAND:** 1 Staffords find there is much to enjoy in Ballykinler since the IRA cease-fire. – Pages 15-17.

● **SECRET ARMY** – A reunion of former Auxiliaries reveals the truth about the

cloak and dagger units trained to take on Hitler in an occupied UK. – Pages 18-19.

● **VE-VJ DAYS:** Armed Forces given a role as the nation remembers. – Pages 22-23.

● **NO MORE QUARANTINE?** A microchip could save Service families the heartbreak of putting pets in quarantine. – Page 31.

CDT team swoops on Whitehall HQ



Picture: Mike Weston

Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, goes through preliminary checks carried out by Compulsory Drugs Testing team member WO2 Rick Cassidy prior to undergoing his test

Top brass first off mark with drug test

ARMY drug testers started at the top on January 11 when they called at the Whitehall office of Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff.

He and other members of the Executive Committee of the Army Board were asked to provide samples under the new compulsory drug test (CDT) regime, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

Also tested was a random selection of 20 per cent of the 300 Army staff serving in the Ministry of Defence's Whitehall headquarters.

ECAB members, including the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes and the Assistant Chief of the General Staff, Maj Gen Tim Granville-Chap-

man, experienced for themselves the procedure which will soon become commonplace in British units all over the world.

The generals were followed later by Main Building staff summoned without warning to the makeshift CDT marshalling area in a corridor on the seventh floor. Irrespective of rank, each was required to provide urine samples for analysis. CSgt Jim Wallace, formerly of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry and with 31 years' Army service behind him, briefed the board mem-

bers on the testing process.

One of ten Compulsory Drugs Testing Officers (CDTOs) drawn from all Arms who will travel to units, he said: "This is our launch pad today, although we had a dummy run at Worthy Down in December."

"The programme is being instigated because the increase of drugs-related incidents within the Army is causing concern," the Adjutant General told *Soldier*. "With soldiers handling ammunition, driving tanks and large vehicles as a matter of

● Turn to Page 5

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DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

Rum ration beats chill in Bosnia

From Laurie Manton in Vitez
SUB-ZERO temperatures and heavy falls of snow have been affecting operations in central Bosnia. Fuel tanks have frozen in extreme weather.

British soldiers in the area have fitted snow chains to wheeled vehicles while Warriors and armoured personnel carriers have switched to winter tracks.

In Vitez, as the temperature plummeted to minus 20 C and below, Lt Col John Edwardes, commanding the 1st Battalion,

The Royal Highland Fusiliers, ordered an issue of rum to his men.

Brig Robert Gordon, commander of the UN's Sector South West, said the task of implementing the cease-fire was proceeding with difficulty.

For the first time, his liaison officers have been attached to Bosnian Serb Army headquarters in Serb-occupied territory. They are also based with the 1st Krajina Corps in Banja Luka and the Hercegovina Corps in Bletcha.

"In return I have a Bosnian Serb colonel serving in my headquarters. Unfortunately, this has led to the withdrawal of the Muslim BiH liaison officer.

"Although signatories to the cessation of hostilities agreement, the Bosnian Muslims are refusing to let UNPROFOR troops into their areas of the confrontation line."

Until the Muslims relent, a planned redeployment of United Nations troops – including British units – is on

hold. Under the plan, UN soldiers will patrol the confrontation line and set up observation and crossing points.

A newspaper titled *Nada* (Hope) is being published in eight languages in Sector South West and distributed by soldiers to people who have little knowledge of what is happening beyond their own towns, villages and hamlets.

Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose has now handed over the UN command in Bosnia-Herzegovina to Lt Gen Rupert Smith.

AAC on stand-by to boost Grapple forces

BRITAIN has offered to send 18 Army and Royal Air Force helicopters plus about 200 men to reinforce the United Nations peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Six Lynx and six Gazelle helicopters from the Army and six RAF Chinooks, three of which would remain on 72-hour standby in Britain until required, have been made available.

In addition to 200 air and ground crew, it is expected that 19 officers will be sent as military observers.

More equipment has also been offered by the United States, Germany, Italy, Norway and Sweden, while Pakistan, Bangladesh and Malaysia have said they can provide more soldiers.

Soldier pair fall foul of thieves

A *Soldier* team reporting in Bosnia were robbed of all their clothing and personal possessions while driving past the notorious Bon Bon Corner on their way to Vitez. Writer Laurie Manton and photographer Terry Champion were kitted out by a quartermaster at Vitez before continuing with their two-week assignment.

Princess Royal drops in on the KRH



The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of The King's Royal Hussars, meets members of the regiment's A Squadron during a surprise visit to Girdwood Park, Belfast, their main base in Ulster. With her is KRH commanding officer Lt Col Richard Shirreff. Princess Anne was met on arrival at RAF Aldergrove by the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and the GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler

CDT starts at the top

● From Page 3

routine, the Army cannot tolerate the kind of side effects which drug-taking produces.

"Times have changed. The growth of drugs easily available overseas and in this country has become dramatically broader."

Compulsory drugs testing is simply a continuation of an existing policy, Gen Wilkes said.

Members of the RMP and sniffer dogs pay frequent visits to Army establishments and education teams go along to

units to show people examples of various drugs.

"CDT is the final leaf in the book, and we can now carry it out in an authoritative and legal way," said Gen Wilkes, who is sponsoring the programme for the Army Board.

"It has taken 18 months to ensure that the procedure is absolutely water-tight from a legal point of view."

The British Army had drawn from the American experience, he added.

"After the Vietnam war, they had widespread problems

throughout their Army. It was not until the introduction of CDT that the incidence of drug-taking fell away from 40 to 50 per cent to one per cent."

He did not envisage CDT acting as a deterrent to recruitment.

"It is so obviously a sensible precaution to take. And, in view of the high risks in a soldier's life serving in, say, Bosnia, it goes without saying that the spectre of possibly having a soldier next to him being under the influence of drugs would be unthinkable."

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Soldiers are there when you need them...



Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
Remembering & Supporting the Brave



Germans honour Detmold REME battalion

SOLDIERS from Detmold-based 7 Battalion REME have been given a *Fahnenband* (banner) by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany. Presenting the banner to

the battalion's commanding officer, Lt Col Alistair McPherson, Brig Gen Heinrich Boehr of the German Army expressed the gratitude of the German people for the

excellent service the regiment had given in preserving peace and freedom in Germany during the Cold War years.

The regiment, in various forms, has been on continuous

service in Germany since 1958.

By March, the 300-strong 7th Battalion REME will be established at its new location in Wattisham, Suffolk.

Daylight patrols end in Belfast

DAYLIGHT Army patrols of Greater Belfast have ceased after 25 years' work dedicated to returning peace to Northern Ireland.

The historic announcement that daytime Army patrols were no longer required from Sunday, January 15 was made by the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Sir Hugh Annesley.

There have been no daytime patrols of Londonderry for some time and there has been a steady decline in the number of military personnel needed to provide protection as requested by the RUC.

Sir Hugh said the decision to stop the patrols would be kept under constant review.

"It should be emphasised that the military are only being removed from their support role on the streets during certain hours," he said.

The 18,000 troops are not being withdrawn from Northern Ireland and remain under the command of Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler.

● Pte Martin Keith Thomas, 1 Kings Own Border, was fatally injured on January 17 when a firearm was discharged while he was on guard duty in Londonderry.

There were no suspicious circumstances. The incident is being investigated.



Picture: Mike Weston

Brig Gael Ramsey, the Army's most senior ranking woman, retired on January 6 as Commander Headquarters Aldershot Area. She has accepted voluntary redundancy and is to take up a career in business.

Brig Ramsey, who from her Aldershot headquarters commanded 27,000 troops based in five counties, was the first woman to head a brigade area.

As its last director, she was heavily involved in the disbandment of the Women's

First Lady bows out

Royal Army Corps and the promotion of equal opportunities for women in the Service.

She left her headquarters in a coach and pair driven by CoH Phil Mitchell.

● The new commander of Aldershot Area is Brig John Patrick.

Münster music's a sell-out

THE BRITISH Military Music Show in the Münster Halle played to capacity houses during its three-day run.

Among a multi-national line-up were the combined bands of The Dragoon Guards and the Hussar Band, who played a musical salute to Europe.

The Münster-based Band of

the Coldstream Guards were resplendent in their bearskins, and the Band of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers entertained with bagpipes and Scottish dancing.

Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, took the salute at the Saturday gala performance of the annual fund-raising event.

IN BRIEF

Manchester UOTC given a royal start

The Queen inspected the parade at the opening of University Barracks, Manchester, new home to Manchester and Salford Universities OTC, HQ Greater Manchester ACF and 879 Signal Troop, 93 (E Lancs) Signal Squadron (V).

● ● ●
Gen Bernard Janvier from France is to replace Gen Bertrand de Lapresle as Commander UNPROFOR.

● ● ●
The King's Royal Hussars finished second in a 39 Infantry Brigade march and shoot competition in Belfast. Thirty-six teams from the brigade competed, including 1 Para, 2 Para and 7 R Irish. The KRH entered six teams, with Capt Felix Gadney and his 20-man team finishing second behind 2 Para.

● ● ●
Principal guest at the formal vesting ceremony of the Defence Clothing and Textiles Authority as a Defence Agency was Roger Freeman, Minister for Defence Procurement. The DCTA will have full responsibility for providing its MoD customers with quality products and a cost-effective service.

● ● ●
Following recommendations by the Front Line First study of scientific services, the MoD's Central Scientific Staff is to be headed by a new post of Chief Scientist, supported by two Deputy Chief Scientists, for Research and Technology and Scrutiny and Analysis.

● ● ●
Bosnian orphans received toys at Christmas in a joint effort by Skelmersdale schoolchildren and soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and the Royal Logistic Corps. The Poachers, back in Hohne after a Grapple tour, took the 29 boxes of toys collected by the children to the RLC's depot at Thatcham, Berkshire for despatch.

● Maj N Le Allbeury, who received an MBE in the New Year Honours, is a PWO officer, not PWRR as listed in the January 23 issue.

Pauper VC's grave found

A HEADSTONE is to be placed on the unmarked grave of Pte John Divane VC at Penzance, Cornwall. Pte Divane, who won his VC at the siege of Delhi in 1857, died a pauper.

'His mind' shattered

As he closed the door behind him and stepped into the street, the bomb exploded. We collected him after his discharge from hospital. A bomb can do a lot of damage in a narrow Belfast street where danger has become a way of life for over 25 years.

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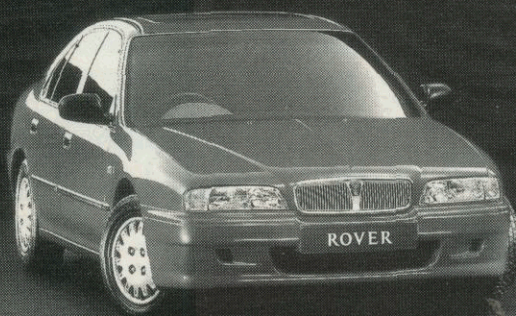
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Tale of troops, Moneybags and LSD

SCIENTIFIC research experiments known as "Moneybags" and "Recount" in which soldiers were given small doses of LSD in the 1960s were the subject of Commons written questions.

Graham Pearson, chief executive of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down, referred to the experiments in letters to Shadow Defence Secretary Dr David Clark which formed part of the written answers on January 16.

"Moneybags", carried out in 1964, and "Recount", in 1966, were among a series of studies to assess the effects of LSD on troops in a military setting by making comparisons with men who had not been given the hallucinatory drug.

Quoting details of "Recount", Mr Pearson said the 80 men who volunteered were rigorously examined for their suitability.

Of the 28 who actually took part in the experiment, which reproduced the deployment of an air defence regiment in the field, 16 received LSD.

The drugged soldiers' decrease in performance and overall effects were minimal, said Mr Pearson. All those affected were judged to have returned to normal within 24 hours.

The results were used to evaluate the potential hazard from chemical warfare agents and had



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

been, shared with NATO allies in the 1960s and 1970s.

Divorces affecting Army personnel numbered 1,157 in 1993, 1,347 in 1992, 1,352 in 1991 and 1,409 in 1990. Figures for 1994 are not available. The statistics were given in answer to a written question by Mr Gary Streeter.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames confirmed in a Commons written reply that there were no plans to amend the Service children's Boarding School Allowance (BSA) scheme.

During the academic year 1993-94, he said, 6,034 Army

children were in receipt of Boarding School Allowance (BSA).

Total cost of the BSA scheme for all the Services in the same financial year was £113.61 million. Estimated cost for 1994-95 is £104 million.

He was answering questions from Mr David Jamieson.

A renewed call for an independent inquiry into the so-called Gulf War syndrome was rejected by Mr Soames on January 13. "We do, however, keep this matter under continuous review," he told Mr Barry Jones.

The minister added that to date 90 representations about the syndrome had been received from individuals and seven from interested organisations.

Guards' barracks to close

CATERHAM Barracks in Surrey is to close in April under the Options for Change reorganisation, ending a 120-year military association with the district.

Under the cuts, the size of the UK Field Army in London District is reducing from five infantry battalions to three, supported by three public duties companies.

The Guards Depot was located at Caterham from 1877 to 1960 when it transferred to Pirbright.

Until recently Caterham Barracks was home to successive battalions of Foot Guards, the last of which, the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, went into suspended animation on November 5.

Since then it has been occupied by Nijmegen Company, the Grenadiers' public duties company, which is due to move in March to new accommodation being built at Victoria Barracks, Windsor.

The bulk of the Service housing in the Caterham area is occupied by families of former 2 Gren Gds soldiers who have transferred to the 1st Battalion.

It is proposed that these married quarters, about 150 in all, will be sold off once 1 Gren Gds is posted away from Wellington Barracks next year.

Thanks, Sarge, for saving my life



Retired businessman John Humphries (centre) had much to say to Sgt Christopher Rowe and Mrs Jennifer Vonkalasson (left) when he met them at 2 RRW's HQ in Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. And top of his list was "thanks for saving my life". Sgt Rowe was driving home when Mr Humphries suffered a heart attack at the wheel of a car in front.

The Royal Regiment of Wales NCO, who had completed a first aid course three days before, telephoned for an ambulance and, with the help of passer-by Mrs Vonkalasson, resuscitated the victim whose heart and breathing had stopped.

Mr Humphries discovered the identities of his

rescuers only after a newspaper and television station in South Wales helped to track them down.

By coincidence, Mr Humphries's brother served with the South Wales Borderers and his father was a goat major in the Welsh Regiment during the First World War. The two regiments amalgamated to form The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot).

Although 1 RRW is serving in Northern Ireland, Sgt Rowe was working with the Prince's Trust Volunteers in Cardiff at the time of the incident and was joining the Cardiff Army Careers and Information Office this month.

Square bashing winners

WINNERS of our Christmas issue Square Bashing crossword competition are Sgt Kalinski, BFPO 47; Mrs Arkieson, West Byfleet, Surrey; Maj Carlisle, RAF Lyneham; J R Armstrong, Chester-le-Street, Durham; Mrs Butterwick, Manchester; Mr Moore, Irby, Wirral.

They will each receive a copy of the superb *Oxford Illustrated History of the British Army* kindly donated by Oxford University Press.

Siberia-bound

TWELVE members of the Osnabrück-based 1st Battalion, The Green Howards are to set out at the end of February on a 4,500km crossing of frozen Lake Baikal, Siberia on 300cc all-terrain vehicles.

A-head of the times!

Picture: Mike Weston



Aldershot Military Museum curator **Nicola Moyle**, pictured with Cdr **Peter Lilly**, Mayor of Rushmore and Maj **Gerald Flint-Shipman** (centre), with some of the military headgear from the museum's collection which will feature in the museum's newly-opened Yeomanry Gallery.

It's an honour...



Pleased as Punch with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal presented to him by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicester is CSgt **Tony Glynn** from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. Tony is being posted to Germany after a 30-month tour as Senior Permanent Staff Instructor with Northampton-based C Company, 7 R Anglian (V). Also honoured, at a separate ceremony, was SSgt **Bill Brown** (left), senior NCO in the MT section of 75 Engineer Regiment (V) at Fallowfield. Bill, who can boast 23 years' unbroken service, received a certificate from the Lord Lieutenant of Manchester, **Col John Timmins**.

FOLLOW THE BAND



Hitting the right note during a successful seven-day tour in Northern Ireland hosted by The King's Royal Hussars were the Hussars Band, who led a torch-light procession through the centre of Belfast. They were joined by Brig **Seymour Munro**, Brigadier of 39 Infantry Brigade, and Lt Col **Richard Shirreff**, CO KRH.

FAMILY MAN

Bosnian service on attachment with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers in Gornji Vakuf was a stroke of fortune for Capt **Tom Brady**, a signals officer with the New Zealand Army.

A training stint in Britain meant that he was reunited with his parents, the Rev **Graeme** and Mrs **Penny Brady**, who arrived in the United Kingdom three years ago. Tom's grandfather, **Doug Howard**, a senior NCO with the Royal Horse Artillery, was at Dunkirk and fought in the African campaign before settling in New Zealand at the end of the war.



Picture: Mike Weston

Cheers, Bertha



Dropping in to give **Bertha Stickells** a surprise on her 100th birthday were (left to right) WO1 **Mervyn Gordon**, Piper **Len Colhoun** and RSM **John Ferry**, all from 3 RSME. Bertha, whose father was a veteran of Rorke's Drift and whose husband, a Royal Engineer, served in the 8th and 14th Armies during the Second World War, lives in Aldershot.

Martin and Maggie's medals

Between them, WO1 **Martin Damen** and his wife WO2 **Maggie Damen**, both of the Intelligence Corps, have clocked up 32 years' Army service. Both were proud recipients of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals from the **Duke of Edinburgh**, Colonel-in-Chief of the corps, when he visited its base at Templar Barracks Ashford, Kent.

PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE

Roy clocks off

Many people are given a gold watch when they retire. Keogh Barracks museum curator Lt Col (Retd) **Roy Eyeions** received a clock. Pictured with him as he bade farewell to the RAMC Historical Museum was Gen **Frederick Mayes**, Director General Army Medical Service.



Picture: Mike Weston

Painter on parade

Artist **Alix Baker** hands over a commissioned painting of the formation parade of The Royal Gurkha Rifles to regimental colonel Lt Gen Sir Peter Duffell at Battalion Headquarters, Church Crookham. Alix confesses that she used a little artistic licence in completing the painting. On the day itself there was a dramatic thunderstorm...



Picture: Mike Weston

Military entente becomes more cordiale

BRITISH and French soldiers have trained together on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire in the largest co-operative venture since both armies decided to join each other's exercises.

The 140 mainly conscript home defence soldiers of the French 8th Infantry Regiment,

based at Noyon north of Paris, spent 12 days on the plain getting first-hand experience of British training methods.

They crossed the Channel aboard a commercial ferry on January 5 bringing with them

**Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Weston**

27 vehicles, including 13 armoured personnel carriers – one of the few occasions since the Second World War when French troops have exercised in the UK with their own vehicles.

The visit follows an accord signed last year by the British and French field armies aimed at further improving co-operation and understanding by participating in each other's exercises and arranging joint training projects.

The French company visited the Household Cavalry Regiment in London before returning to France on January 15, and will host a company of British Territorial Army soldiers in June.

Friends and enemies were provided by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, who carried out much of the training for the French visitors. Patrolling techniques on foot and by vehicle were covered as well as an introduction to the types of mines and booby traps which could be encountered.

Staff at the Copehill Down "Fighting in built-up areas" (FIBUA) village commented that the conscripts were well offi-

cered with strong senior ranks.

The communications problem was not as bad as might have been expected. One of the Fusiliers, Cpl Jason Oliver, discovered he had been at the same school as one of the French soldiers.

Though both Pte Cyril Pean's parents are French, he was brought up in London before being conscripted.

"I had to do my ten months or I would not have been able to have returned to my relations in France without being arrested," he explained.

Above – LCpl Cyril Pean and Cpl Jason Oliver beside a French VAB armoured personnel carrier

Left – French soldiers patrol Copehill Down village



Lt Guy Rampe, 1RRF, debriefs a French patrol with the assistance of interpreter LCpl Cyril Pean



LCpl David Simpson, Household Cavalry Regiment (front), and Sgt Christophe Leuridan, of the 80 Inf Regt Engineer company, examine a Yugoslav TMA3 mine

Merseyside gunners in trophy form

FOUR out of six trophies competed for at the National Artillery Association Competition went to one Merseyside Territorial Army unit.

Members of St Helens-based 103 Regiment (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) RA picked up the BP Trophy, Best Air Defence Battery (216 Battery); the Headquarters Battery Trophy, Best Air Defence Battery (213 HQ Battery); the Taurus Trophy for aircraft recognition, map reading, Javelin equipment test procedures (208 Battery) and the Dodds Trophy for General Military Skills (213 HQ Battery).

SMS Trophy (best Javelin live firing) went to 104 Regiment (South Wales) and 105 Regiment (Scotland) took the Manorbier Trophy for best battery runner-up.

Crack shot



Pte Gavin Dickinson has been awarded a prize for being the best in skill at arms at ATR Glencorse. He received his award from Brig Johnny Wardle, Commander 52 Lowland Brigade, when the Lady-smith platoon passed out. Seventeen-year-old Gavin is to join The King's Own Royal Border Regiment after further training at ITB Strensall, York.

Not much gold in them thar hills

GOLD medals were few and far between after the Cambrian Patrol was held in atrocious weather.

On its first entry, the 5th (County Londonderry) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment was awarded the regiment's first gold and the only gold achieved by a Regular Army unit.

The 12 volunteers attributed this to training in the north Antrim glens, which they contend have worse terrain than anything Wales can offer.

Bristol University Officers' Training Corps was the only team to achieve a gold medal out of the 50 Territorial Army teams which took part.

With two gold and three silver medals over the past

five years, the students maintained their record as the most successful UOTC in this rugged event.

CAMBRIAN PATROL

Other golds were struck by the Royal Air Force Regiment and an Italian team.

The three day event is open to teams from the Regular Army, Royal Marines, RAF Regiment and Allied units and is primarily aimed at units with a combat reconnaissance role.

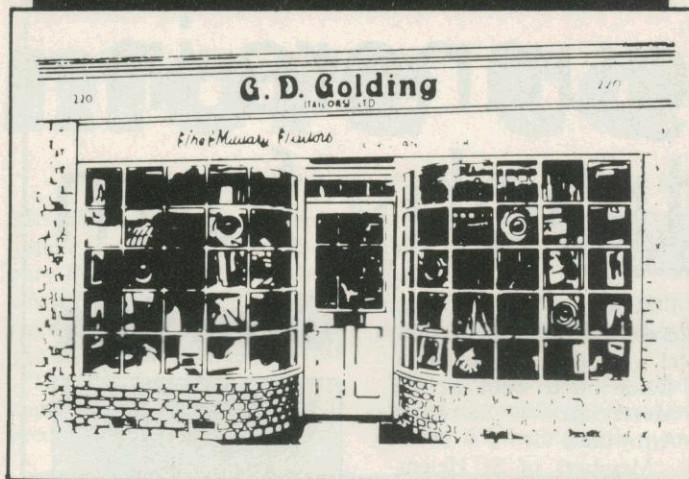
Non-combat arms and reserve units enter a popular two-day event which is always over-subscribed.

More than 90 teams took part in the Cambrian, which is reckoned to be one of the toughest tests of practical infantry skills.



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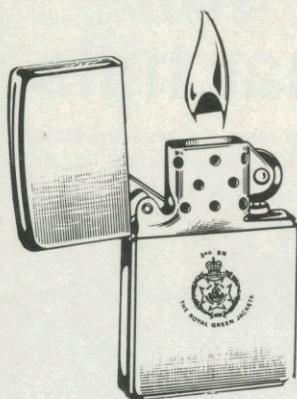
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Pte Stephen Barber patrols through Newry. The sight of soldiers in the town is becoming increasingly rare as more and more RUC patrols are carried out without Army support

Staffords find there's so much more to life in County Down

Report:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston

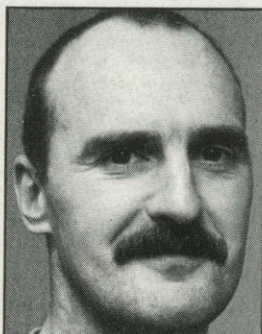
ACCORDING to the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, the reduction in the level of Army patrolling following the IRA cease-fire has made an appreciable improvement to the quality of life of his soldiers and their families.

When Lt Col Simon Knapper assumed command last April, the battalion was working flat out to support the rebuilding of the Army base at Crossmaglen.

"Since the cease-fire, we have established a less punishing operational regime.

"The married men spend more time at home, the wives are much happier, and the single soldiers are getting away on adventurous training more regularly," he said.

"We have more time to relax and more time to discover Northern Ireland itself. County Down is a great place



CO 1 Staffords: Lt Col Simon Knapper

in which to live."

Ballykinler Camp is situated on the coast with a long, windswept beach and an outstanding view of the nearby Mourne mountains. A wide variety of sports and pastimes are on offer to those serving there.

Facilities at the base itself are excellent. During the regi-

ment's two-and-a-half year tour, families have at their disposal three community centres, a creche, playgroup and a HIVE.

Improved educational facilities include an interactive learning centre. The base also has a gymnasium and swimming pool, a thriving youth club, and acres of playing fields.

Ballykinler Camp boasts a high standard of quartering thanks to a programme of refurbishment.

At the time of *Soldier's* visit,

● Turn to next page



Pte Lee Hill admires an ancient cannon overlooking the Newry Canal

Much more to life for the Staffords

● From Page 15

B Company, 1 Staffords was responsible for the Newry area. This area of responsibility is the largest within the Armagh roulement battalion's patch, covering 190 square km and encompassing Newry, South Down and part of south Armagh.

Since the cease-fire Newry has enjoyed a substantial increase in trade, mainly shoppers from the south.

Before the IRA's cease-fire announcement the Security Force base at Corry Square in Newry was attacked frequently.

"Four mortar attacks were launched at the base. One was successful and two rounds hit our base, injuring several people including civilians walking by," said Maj Grant Morley.

B Company's mission had been to provide military support to the Royal Ulster Constabulary at Newry in the fight against terrorism. This was achieved through foot patrols, mostly designed to protect police bases in the area. The main aim of the patrols was to defend the SF base, disrupt terrorists preparing to

attack, and to permit police officers to carry out normal duties.

Maj Morley spoke of the measures adopted by the Army in Northern Ireland since the cease-fire.

"We have scaled down our operations and adopted a lower profile on the streets. Our soldiers wear berets, not helmets, there is no hard-targeting, rushing in and out of cover to put snipers off their aim, and we have stopped scanning buildings through our rifle sights so as to appear less aggressive.

"Several roadblocks in Newry itself have been removed, and a major vehicle checkpoint - Romeo 16 - has been opened to allow cross-border traffic.

"Romeo 16 controls vehicles on the A1 Dublin and Forkhill roads. Everyone using the crossing previously had to stop at lights and wait to be ushered through. Now the traffic flows freely across the border, a measure warmly welcomed locally."

The people of Northern Ireland are desperate to see a lasting peace and a return to normality. Some ask why there are any soldiers at all on the streets of Newry when they have largely disappeared from, for example, the streets of Londonderry and Belfast.

According to Maj Morley, it is too early to see any withdrawal of troops in the area.

"South Armagh contains the greatest area of threat and the RUC continues to need military support.

"That said, we have reduced our own patrols by more than 30 per cent and the increasing use of RUC-only neighbourhood patrol units (NPU) to police the centre of Newry means we have been able to scale down our profile on the street slightly more. If the cease-fire continues past Easter, there may be further reductions."

Maj Morley confirmed that



Above - Physical training instructors accompany the platoon sergeants' battle course during a jog along a beach at Ballykinler



Off duty members of B Company, 1 Staffords at their Warren Point base

his soldiers were benefiting from a reduction in working hours.

"They were doing seven two-hour patrols at a stretch from Corry Square. It doesn't sound much, but add a soldier's personal admin to the total and they were strapped for time and ended up

absolutely knackered. Having cut down to fewer patrols a day, it is a lot better now. They can travel away to sports matches, work out in a multi-gym and have time to read.

"We've had to provide more videos and games to prevent boredom setting in, which would never have happened

before. Soldiers not on patrol would have been catching up on their sleep. It's more relaxed. It's great."

A recent incident in Newry demonstrated just how wholeheartedly residents have adjusted to the new order, and how desperately they wish it to continue. When an electrical



Maj Grant Morley commands B Company

mains cable shorted out with a small explosion and a shower of sparks, troops cordoned off an area of the town and tended a mother and child caught in the blast.

People gathered anxiously at the white tape, worried that the cease-fire had been broken.

"We were able to reassure them that it hadn't. They were very relieved," said Maj Morley.

"There has been a noticeable change in the attitude of the townsfolk. Now they stop and chat. It's a good start."



Many soldiers are learning to ride. Some are seen here with saddle club instructor Julia Neal and horses Martinique and Ferozeshah

Secret Army

FIFTY years after they were disbanded, men and women of Britain's secret resistance army met again at one of their operational bases – somewhere in England.

They were Britain's shadowy "Auxiliary Units", so secret that few other than Churchill knew of their existence.

In the dark days after Dunkirk cells of six hand-picked men and later women – from clerks and chief constables to peers and poachers – were trained to go to ground if the Germans invaded, emerging from secret underground bunkers when least expected to cause havoc with the enemy occupiers.

They could only guess at their fate if captured. The vicious reprisals against European mainland resistance groups were not then known. Although better organised than on the mainland, they were expected to survive for only a few weeks.

Instant death or torture would have been their lot if captured, so no records were kept – which meant they missed out on defence medals after the war. This official secrecy also posed a problem years later when it came to tracing them for reunions.

Only now are Auxiliaries starting to come forward and tell their extraordinary stories. Some were winked out for a commemorative luncheon near their former headquarters at Coleshill near Highworth in Wiltshire. Another meeting of Sussex members took place at their HQ at Edburton, Henfield, where they contacted a Monmouthshire group which regularly meets at Usk.

Maj (later Maj Gen Sir) Colin Gubbins of Military Intelligence (Research) was tasked with creating the Auxiliaries from civilians who could not be called up because their jobs were important on the Home Front.

Bemused volunteers reported to the tiny local Post Office at Highwood, where the postmistress would make a short telephone call. Soon transport

Some thought them cowards for not being at the Front. A few others knew better . . .

**Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Weston**

would arrive to whisk them off to a remote county house where they learned the skills of resistance: explosives, sabotage, booby traps and how to kill silently.

A training handbook was eventually produced with the innocuous title of Highworth's Fertilisers – recommended "to do their stuff unseen until you see the results!"

Recruits, by invitation only,



Eric Johnson, with cudgel and knuckle duster, was not the kind of person an enemy would want to meet on a dark night

believed they were being selected for special Home Guard duties and were posted to one of three battalions: 201 (Scotland and Northern Counties), 202 (Midlands) and 203 (London and Southern Counties).

"The Home Guard was a perfect cover," said Geoffrey Bradford, whose brother, Roy, trained units until he dropped into France with the SAS where he was killed behind

enemy lines in July, 1944.

"The only thing which distinguished us was the battalion number on the uniform and a small metal badge. We never paraded with the normal Home Guard and were always looked on slightly askance," he said.

They only worked with the Home Guard when the Auxiliaries were providing fireworks with their explosives.

This cover was not always sufficient – some marriages charted turbulent waters as one party suspected the other of secret affairs.

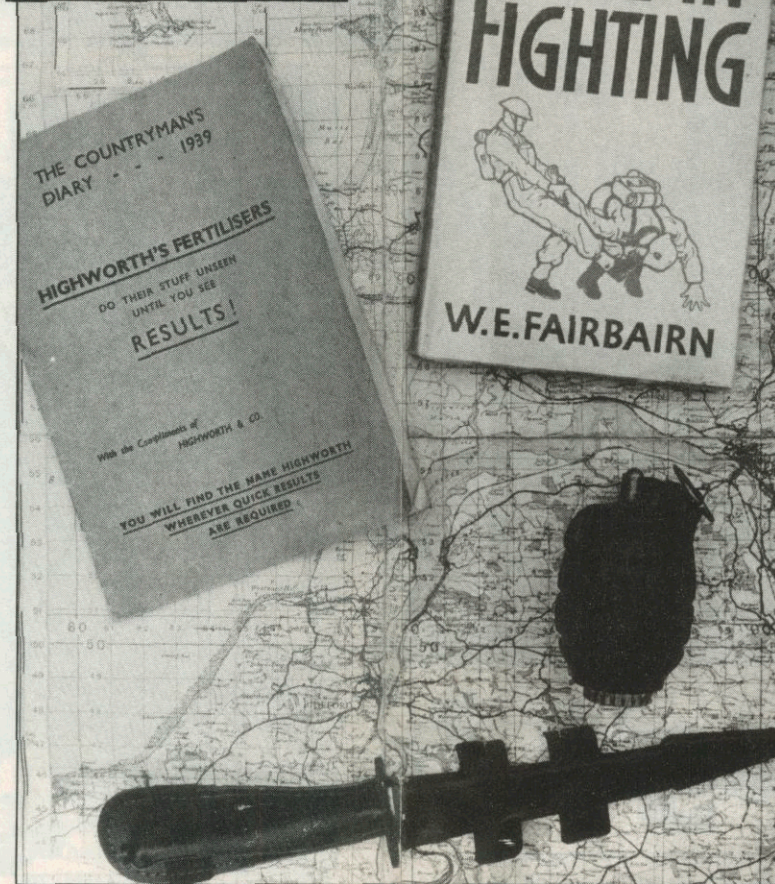
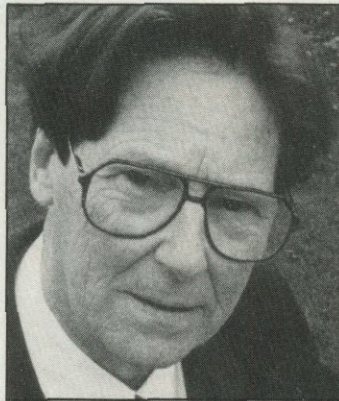
One wife thought her husband was seeing another woman because he kept disappearing at night and couldn't explain it, said Mr Bradford, who treasures his Fairbairn-Sykes commando dagger and many mementoes of those dark days.

"Men knew they were risking their lives," said Mr Bradford. "Security was intimidating and training was intensive, mostly at night, because guerrilla warfare is much trickier than ordinary warfare."

There was no room for humanitarian feelings towards the enemy, he said. "Today, it is difficult to put yourself in our frame of mind because it was wartime then and we were conditioned to thinking of brutal German soldiers raping their way through Belgium and France. If the need had arisen, I'm sure we would have done what was necessary with chicken wire garrottes and booby traps."

Patrols had a licence to get up to all sorts of mischief which was justified under their special training requirements.

Unsolved mysteries can now be cleared up. For example, unexplained explosions (in



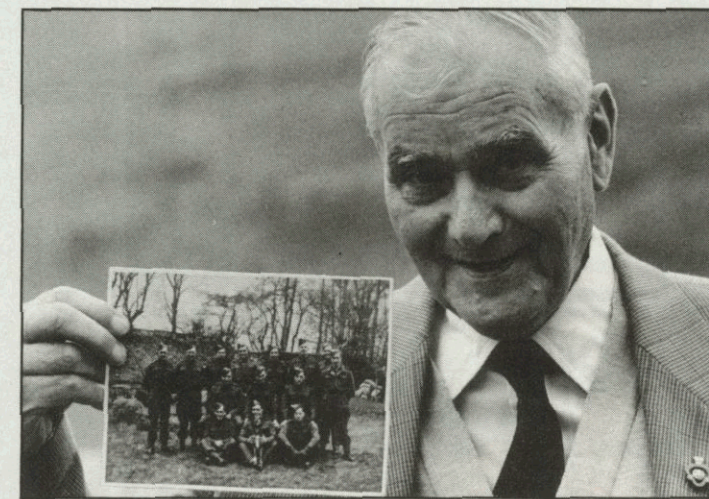
reality the local patrol training) were passed off as stray enemy bombers dumping their bombs on the way home.

A wide grin creases the features of Eric Johnson when he hears talk of the night somebody attacked a Canadian Army headquarters, immobilised its vehicles, and took a

sentry and the commanding officer prisoner.

Angry Canadians revenged themselves on a Home Guard unit which was entirely innocent. The Ashburnham patrol, of which Eric Johnson was a member, did the deed but had to keep "mum".

Mr Johnson still has his origi-



Above – Sidney Gaston and friends

Top – Secret stalwarts who held their reunion at the Tottington Manor Hotel, Edburton, headquarters of the Sussex patrols

Inset and left – Geoffrey Bradford and his treasured memorabilia of the Auxiliaries

nal studded club, which was replaced by a lead and rubber cosh which he had to hand back after the war.

"It was much more lethal and easier to carry," he said wistfully.

One sophisticated lady, who still insists that her identity be kept secret, gloried in the equipment made available to the Auxiliaries.

"We had the first Tommy guns, first plastic explosive,

Lewis guns, stens, brens, sniper rifles and revolvers – everything we could wish for," she said.

Providing essential communications for the 5,000 Auxiliaries were 100 Regulars from the Royal Signals and 43 women of the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

"We each had two wireless operators and a radio mechanic and would work in the field with four of five outstations

manned by civilians," said Arthur Gabbittas.

Each unit had a hut for day-to-day working and an underground dugout with stores, water, a ventilation system and a separate generator chamber for recharging batteries.

They were sited at locations as diverse as Roman defences, country mansions and chicken farms. The entrance to one bunker was through an outdoor privvy – the complete wooden seat, bucket and contents had first to be lifted to gain access.

Royal Engineers such as Frank Mayston tunnelled for miles and provided a thousand secret underground bunkers dotted round the countryside.

Most of the bunkers are now but hollows in the ground and many of the Auxiliaries took their secrets to the grave. Of Alan Hollingdale's original 64 who met at Usk, only eight remain.

At the time, they were sometimes called cowards because they were not at the Front. Thankfully, these seemingly innocuous people were never called upon to exercise their desperate skills.

The once unknown warriors of the Secret Army justly deserve their country's grateful recognition.



Sgt Les McCartney of A Coy PWRR was one of the secret agents



Above – Spr Barry O'Malley of 38 Engr Regt pulls his way across the River Avon



Left – Sgt Mark Bradbury of 150 Provost Coy keeps watch

Report:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Perring



A soldier of 24 Fd Amb makes his way across the River Avon

Right – Cpl Mark Neal (left) of 150 Provost Coy gives cover while Cpl Mike Holmes checks Pte Heidi Dunn of 4 Fld Amb



Showing the strain of crossing the River Avon are sappers of 22 Engr Regt

RHA wins charge of the light brigade

EXERCISE Light Fighter, the 3 (UK) Division patrol competition, was not something to be taken lightly – as 36 teams from the three brigades discovered as they set out across the River Avon in Wiltshire at the start of a gruelling 50 hours.

Their equipment alone weighed 60lb and by the time weapons, ammunition and helmets were added, each man carried nearer 75lb of kit.

There was nothing light-hearted about this serious business, which started from the premise that all arms and services must be able to operate in a hostile environment.

It was a stiff test of military skills and endurance within a variety of tactical scenarios encompassing operations short of war. As well as being stretched to the limits of their physical and mental

endurance, soldiers were thoroughly tested in initiative and leadership while assessing tasks.

Teams comprised an officer, a senior NCO, two junior NCOs and four privates, plus two reserves and an administration driver.

Support was provided by the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Divisional troops which had

been affiliated to brigades last year had been invited to take part but operational commitments to Grapple in the Balkans and Gabriel in Rwanda limited this.

No more than two teams could be entered from major units and no more than seven from combat arms. Combat support and combat service support units outnumbered combat arms, and specific

instruction was given where required in subjects such as grenade throwing, which are not as frequently practised.

Teams were selected at sub-unit level to avoid professional competitors.

The competition was made up of five phases, though it was presented in a continuous scenario to inject realism.

During the patrol insertion phase, teams carried out a

20km timed move during which they negotiated five stands: a river crossing by constructing a rope bridge; a minefield breach; treating four casualties; recovering a casualty in a nerve agent contaminated environment; and individual tests on armoured fighting vehicles recognition.

Night navigation over a 9km circuit was followed by an assault course; artillery target-

ing in pairs; a live-firing section attack including clearing a Russian trench system and destroying an observation post using L2 grenades; and a 94mm anti-tank stalk against two armoured fighting vehicles.

The second night was devoted to an ambush before a patrol extraction phase, with patrols carrying out a timed march and shoot competition covering a ten-mile course.

With a third Exercise Light Fighter planned for this year, this gruelling test is becoming a fixture in the December calendar.

Winners were 7 Para RHA, whose H Battery had a clear lead over X Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, which finished slightly ahead of C Company, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

V for Victory

A DOUBLE commemoration is to be held in the United Kingdom to mark the end of the Second World War first in Europe and then in Japan 50 years ago, writes **Gordon Skilling**.

The theme will be reconciliation and a celebration of half a century of peace in Europe and hope for the future, said Prime Minister John Major.

Plans for the commemorations were outlined by Mr Major, Lord Cranborne, Leader of the House of Lords, Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, who landed at D-Day and fought through to Hamburg, and Lord Slim, whose father commanded the "Forgotten" 14th Army in Burma.

Hundreds of free events will be held throughout the country, with the focal point for Victory in Europe Day over the weekend of May 6-8 in London's Hyde Park, an event which will bring together veterans, families, young people and leaders or representatives of all the countries which played a significant part in the war in Europe.

The Queen will attend a ser-

Services to assist, but not lead, 50th anniversary programme

vice of remembrance at St Paul's and host a lunch at Buckingham Palace in honour of the visiting nations' representatives.

The commemorations of Victory in Japan, from August 19-20, will have a different theme and provide the opportunity for the nation and the Commonwealth to give thanks for the end of the war.

A remembrance service outside Buckingham Palace will express the nation's gratitude and acknowledge the sacrifices made by those who fought in the Far East. Voluntary organisations will reaffirm that their caring for these veterans will not end with the commemorations.



Lord Bramall

Following the service there will be a march and vehicle procession along the Mall which will include veterans from the Commonwealth Forces which rallied so generously to the mother country.

The commemorations will end on a solemn note on the evening of August 20 when Beating of Retreat sunset ceremonies will be held in London, Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff.

But the events will not have an overtly military character, although the Services will have a large part in organising them and in providing guards of honour and bands, said Lord Bramall.

"The emphasis on May 6-9 will be on youth and reconciliation and there will be no military parades at that time at all," he said.

Having representatives attending from former enemy nations was a sensitive issue and no official representatives have been invited to the ceremonies marking VJ Day.

Lord Cranborne said that nobody was more dedicated to the spirit of reconciliation in general than veterans and that many reunions and reconciliations took place on an annual basis. The people most anxious that Germans should be represented in the spirit of reconciliation over the series of commemorations were representatives of the British Armed Forces both present and retired.

Lord Slim paid tribute to the Japanese warrior. "If you look at the history books you will not find a time when we had to fight such a courageous, tenacious and tough foe," he said.

Lord Slim added that there were times when the behaviour of the Japanese was not in accordance with the way the British believed prisoners or civilian internees should be looked after.

"We remember those who did not come back, our mates, the people who were trodden so hard upon and maltreated in the most beastly way, so our reconciliation is a little different."

"We are perfectly happy to meet Japanese in different circumstances when we travel abroad but we do not necessarily wish to meet them all the time," he said.

"There is no question: VJ day is veterans' day, Commonwealth day, end of war day, and I think the Japanese we speak to perfectly understand this."

Mr Major spoke of the tragedy of nations such as Poland, which were enslaved again in the moment of their liberation from the Nazis. They had remained enslaved for another four decades.

That was too long a wait, he said, but they would not have obtained their freedom at all if the Allies had not won the war.

Lord Cranborne also paid tribute to the nations which had come to Britain and suspected that it would have been very difficult to have won the Battle of Britain without them.

"It was extremely important that Poles, as one of the principal victim nations of the Nazis, should receive the gratitude of this country," he said.

Lord Bramall felt sure that the commemorations struck the correct note. He recalled the overwhelming feeling of relief throughout the nation.



The nation gives thanks: the poster commemorating VE and VJ days

As an infantry soldier who had entered bombed-out Hamburg after landing on the Normandy beaches, always wondering what the next day would bring, he had joined in the rejoicing, but the celebrations were muted because there was still the terrifying prospect of the war in South East Asia coming to its climax.

"At VE Day the 14th Army was still fighting through Burma against ferocious resis-

tance, prisoners were suffering indescribable conditions of depredation and cruelty, and there was a very real prospect that the mainland of Japan might soon have to be invaded and lead to many heavy casualties," said Lord Bramall.

"Nevertheless, on VE day, citizens of this country took to the streets to celebrate because the most evil regime this world had ever known had been comprehensively destroyed."

Coin of peace

Dame Vera Lynn was on song when events to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War started unofficially on January 10. She was joined at the Imperial War Museum by three other veteran troop entertainers - Charlie Chester, Bill Pertwee and Steve Race - for the launch by the Royal Mint of a commemorative £2 coin symbolising peace and reconciliation. Part of the proceeds from the coin, which bears a dove on the reverse, will go to the Royal British Legion.



Picture: Mike Perring



Second left, leaning forward, Fred Thompson enjoys a cook-house drink with fellow printers on Christmas Day 1952

Pressed into desert service

FRED Thompson is looking for No 1 General Headquarters Printing Press RAOC personnel who served with him at Fayid in the Canal Zone in 1952-53.

The 64-year-old former National Serviceman, now living in Chessington, was among a number of young printers head-hunted by the press's OC, Maj G C Holdorf.

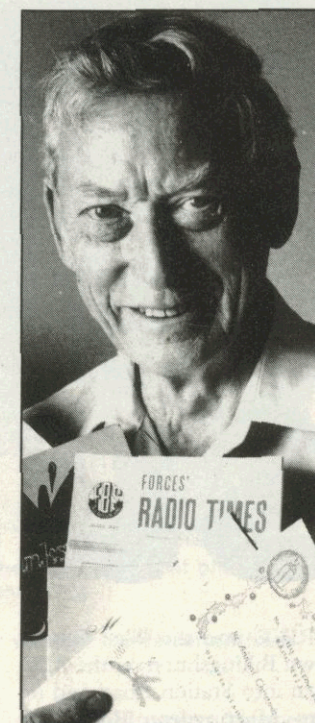
After basic training in the United Kingdom, they were flown to Egypt, where the unusual nature of their duties became apparent when the RSM, WO1 Bunny Austin, gave each man his calling card. Staff were responsible for printing all Army forms and publications used in the Middle East - ranging from petrol chits to a weekly edition of *Forces' Radio Times*.

Their jobs included a programme for the British-Egyptian premiere of the film, *The Red Beret*, and a guide to atomic warfare in the desert.

The presses were thought to have been captured from the Germans in Benghazi and Tripoli during the Second World War.

"It was a time when journeyman printer wasn't classified as a trade in the Army, and we all had to sit and pass a clerical examination before we could claim extra trade pay."

"We weren't too bothered by all the civil unrest going on around us at the time, although our tents next to the Sweet Water Canal were occasionally targeted by



Fred Thompson with work done by No 1 GHQ Printing Press. The *Forces' Radio Times* of May 10, 1953 contained details of the programmes 'For Queen and Country', 'Services Personal Diary' and 'Unit Call', a weekly visit to units such as No 3 Provost Company RMP in East Africa

extremists who fired pot shots at our living accommodation," he recalls.

Now Fred is trying to contact fellow printers who served with No 1 GHQ Printing Press for a possible reunion. He can be contacted at 21 Salmons Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2JE (tel 0181-397-5931).

● More Reunions in Page 35.



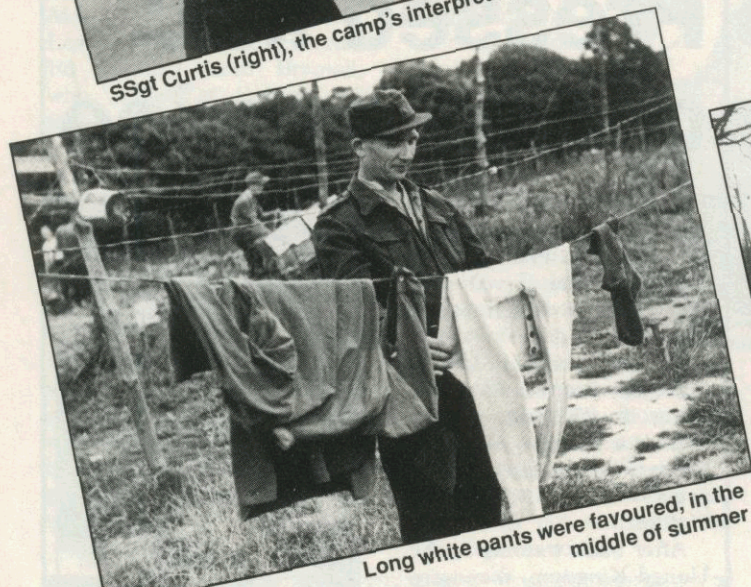
The present Viscount Slim and Fd Marshal Slim's widow, Aileen, Viscountess Slim at the unveiling in 1990 of a statue to the 14th Army's "Uncle Bill" outside the Ministry of Defence



SSgt Curtis (right), the camp's interpreter, was a PoW himself



A prisoner chalks up the evening activities, which include an issue of books and lessons in French and mathematics



Long white pants were favoured, in the middle of summer



Present day houses on the site of the PoW camp. This is the view from Marringdean Road

Sussex Stalag

DRIVE into the West Sussex town Billingshurst on the A29, turn into Station Road and on into Marringdean Road. On rising ground on the outskirts is a small new housing estate.

The last time *Soldier* visited the site it was a prisoner-of-war camp, home to hundreds of German soldiers and airmen and their armed Pioneer Corps guards.

Mind you, that was nearly 50 years ago.

A flip through the bound volumes of the magazine's formative years is likely as not to turn up a feature on Nazi war criminals, a dispatch from the rubble of a German city, or news of Hitler's ruined strongholds.

Edited in London and printed in Hamburg, the magazine had access to the remarkable revelations coming out of Germany in the years immediately after the war.

But the interest of the writers and photographers – many of them recruited from Fleet Street – was not focused entirely abroad. The war had touched every part of the United Kingdom, and there were stories to be told close to home.

Ernest S Turner, soon to become editor of the magazine, was permitted to visit the PoW camp located just outside Billingshurst, and his report appeared in the September 1946 issue of *Soldier*. Illustrating it were pictures which appear on these pages.

At the time more than 300,000 Germans were incarcerated in camps in Britain. Most were guarded by the Pioneer Corps.

Turner's first problem was getting into the camp. At the main gate his credentials were minutely examined before he was allowed to pass beyond the

barbed wire which separated hundreds of Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe personnel from the West Sussex countryside.

The camp was close enough to Billingshurst, Turner noted,



Much affection was bestowed on pets which were eagerly sought. This kitten was being nursed by a member of the German camp police

for the sound of German bugles to carry to the centre of the town when the train yard was quiet.

Although he found only Germans there, Stalag Sussex had once housed Italian prisoners. Turner was particularly impressed by a rest room mural which he described as a triumph of wishful thinking: a handsome Italian POW talking simultaneously on the telephone to a saucy-looking ATS girl, a saucy Land Girl, a saucy nurse and an even saucier nymph reclining in a sea shell.

The Billingshurst prisoners, in common with others all over Britain, were driven daily from the camp to work on farms, to repair bomb damage and to free the nearby beaches of mines.

Chalked "Send Us Home" slogans in the neighbourhood of most camps bore testament to the inmates' views on cap-

tivity. "It's no good telling a man that he eats better in a clean, well-run camp in England than in a damp basement below the rubbish-heap of the Ruhr," Turner observed wryly.

He watched the lorries returning POWs to camp in the late afternoon. Beside him stood the Lagerführer, an ex-RSM responsible for discipline and for investigating his men's complaints.

Prisoners' privileges, ordained by Geneva, allowed them to write, postage free, two letters and four postcards a month – to anywhere except Japan. While they could receive as many letters from abroad as people cared to send them, only near relatives and pre-war friends living in Britain could send letters and parcels.

Wages – the prisoners worked British union hours –



Above – Cpl K Lewis checks in a party of prisoners returning from work in the fields

Left – The Lagerführer watches PoWs return from their day's work

vest supplement. (The fourth scale was introduced to improve the midday haversack meal for those working long hours during the harvest.)

The War Office's Political Intelligence Department was responsible for "political re-education".

Escapes, Turner discovered, were extremely rare, although they did add occasional mild excitement to the otherwise boring routine of guard duties for Pioneer Corps personnel.

"Just another job," was how one described the tour. One of their number, SSgt L Curtis of

the Royal Fusiliers, had been a PoW in Germany and acted as camp interpreter.

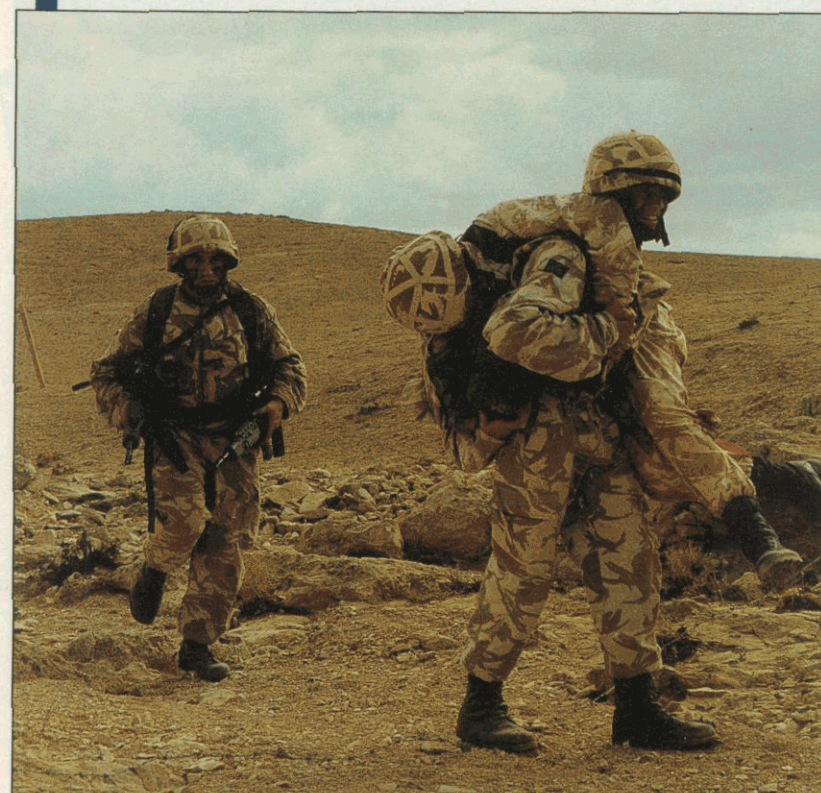
He told Turner the Britons held in German stalags had been more loyal to each other . . . and altogether more conspiratorial. And the food wasn't as good as that dished up in Billingshurst.

"In the evenings," wrote Turner, "they gossip and sing, attend classes, organise concerts, drink their week's ration of half a pint of beer or peg out on the endless clothes lines those scarecrow long white pants which Germans love to wear even in an English heat wave."

The new occupants of the site on Marringdean Road still hang their clothes out to dry, but they no longer hear the sound of German bugles.



Rgr Paul Brennan grenades a bunker



Rgr Dominic Hagans carries an "injured" Rgr Paul Brennan from the battlefield. Rgr John McDowell follows in support



The Irish beat the Jordanians at running, shooting and football – but not at volleyball



Above – Rgr Joey Dunlop, coached by LCpl Kenny Millar, engages a target using the L96 sniper rifle

Left – Coy HQ pictured during the joint firepower demo. From left to right are Rgr Groves (bugler), Rgr Christian (signaller) and company commander Maj Matt O'Hanlon

All mod cons as Irish warm to task

SOLDIERS from C Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment exchanged the niceties of Cyprus for three weeks in the middle of the Jordanian desert – and were pleasantly surprised to find accommodation with all mod cons.

The training area, halfway between Amman in the centre of the country and the Red Sea in the south, could not have been more isolated. But their MASH-style camp was already up and running following a similar visit by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

Despite the bleak setting, camp admin was second to none and included an excel-

lent team of chefs. Environmental health technicians, domestic pioneers and a detachment of sappers from Dhekelia-based 62 Support Squadron ensured that not a single working day was lost to ill health.

The Royal Irish, supported by three sustained fire teams from the Bugles, Pipes and Drums platoon and the mortar platoon of Akrotiri-based 34 Squadron RAF Regiment, arrived in the desert at the same time as No 4 Company, 7th Battalion, King Abdullah's Regiment in a neighbouring camp.

The Jordanians were fresh from opera-

tional service on the Israeli-Syrian border to the north, and proved to be both capable soldiers and hospitable hosts.

A goat banquet was laid on to welcome the British officers while the company was invited to an evening of traditional Jordanian singing and dancing. Although it was a hard act to follow, the R Irish pipers saved the day.

The range package laid on for C Coy was comprehensive, entailing a build-up from individual to fire team, through section level to platoon and company-scale live firing, and culminating in a joint firepower demonstration with the Jordanians.

Soldiers lived on the ranges during the initial phases, a test of individual fieldcraft in temperatures ranging from intense midday heat to well below freezing at night. The ranges themselves were based in desert deeply eroded by wadis and interspersed by large rocky outcrops.

With an abundance of ammunition available, the company group was put through a variety of range exercises, from bunker-blasting and anti-tank stalks to evacuating casualties under fire and night patrolling. A Jordanian platoon followed each R Irish section through the range, mimicking the tactics and fire positions of

the visitors. Later the company moved on to the platoon ranges for an advance-to-contact along the most rugged and exposed ridge the OC, Maj Matt O'Hanlon, could find. A spectacular attack with sustained fire was carried out in the crisp, cold desert dawn, concluding with a 94mm HEAT shoot on retreating enemy vehicles.

Severe downpours and thunderstorms – 21 local people were killed by flash floods – swept in to change the tempo before the climax of the exercise package, a firepower demonstration involving a frontal assault with mortar and SF support on enemy positions.

A piper and bugler added a regimental flavour. Visitors to the demo included an array of high-ranking Jordanian officers, and the British ambassador and defence attaché.

Exercise Golden Sands ended with two days of R and R during which C Coy members visited the spectacular ruins at Petra, floated in the Dead Sea and trounced their Jordanian counterparts at running, shooting and football. A few were invited to the Israeli-Syrian border to see the 7th Battalion's operational area, an unusual gesture which marked the close relationship that had developed between the units.

Your opinion DOES make a difference . . .

ASK a soldier what he thinks and you will not always get a gripe.

Squaddies, traditionally, are never happy unless they are complaining, but psychologists from the Centre for Human Sciences at Farnborough's Defence Research Agency have been struck by the level of general satisfaction with the Army despite a period of great turbulence.

On the whole, they say, the response from all ranks is positive in terms of job security, training, social aspects and relations with superiors although on the domestic front they do see more negative comments.

Wives are generally happy with their children's education, public facilities and medical support, but have a low opinion of most other categories, particularly of employment opportunities, how they are kept informed and their status as "wives of".

The Army takes notice of their responses and comments, said Sarah Smith, assignment manager overseeing surveys of

Report: Gordon Skilling

soldiers, officers, wives and those leaving the Army. Four civil servant psychologists work on surveys within the centre's Selection and Surveys Division.

"The fact that the Army carries out these surveys shows that it considers them important," she said.

Surveys have been carried out since the Seventies, when questionnaires were sent to units which then distributed the forms.

Now a more random method is used to ensure complete anonymity. The last digits of Army identification numbers are sent to the Worthy Down pay computer. One digit will target ten per cent of the Army.

"We don't keep a record of who has been sent forms," said Simon Holroyd, who analyses the attitudes of soldiers leaving the Army. "We don't mind who the individuals are. It is what they say that we want."

Forms are sent to a third of the leavers from the Royal Artillery, Royal Armoured

Corps, Infantry and Royal Logistic Corps and almost all other soldiers returning to civvy street. All departing officers are asked to complete a questionnaire.

"We had some initial problems with redundees being sent forms, but that does not happen now," said Rosalind Atherton, who carries out continuous attitude surveys of officers.

The pattern of responses has not changed much over the past few years, which is significant in itself. People are still leaving the Army for the same reasons, such as starting a new career before they are too old to switch. This has remained constant despite the recession.

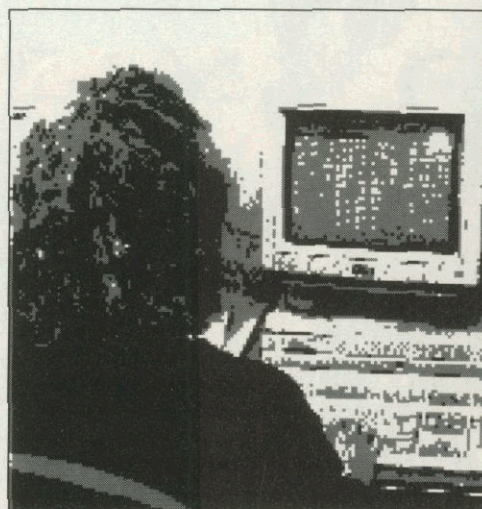
Surveys do not shirk negative comments. The depth of feeling among dependants led to the first wives' survey in August 1993.

A random selection of about 1,000 soldiers is sent a questionnaire each month, while 750 officers are surveyed every three months.

Surveys of 1,500 wives are expected to be carried out quarterly but the first sample covered 3,012 wives, of whom just over half responded.

It found that nearly 80 per cent of wives thought they were not being treated as a person in their own right, which many found insulting. Almost all felt that some wives adopted the rank of their husbands, and nearly as many believed that some wives were treated according to their husband's rank.

Employment prospects also scored very badly. Most wives



Attitude: wives and work

... and it's not all negative, says DRA's research team

had GCSEs and nearly a quarter had A levels. Just over a quarter were professionally qualified. Half the sample was employed, but 68 per cent felt they could not pursue a career while their husbands were in the Army.

Half the women felt discriminated against because they were married to a Serviceman, and 79 per cent claimed they had had to leave a job at some time because of their husbands' postings.

Wives felt they would have been better able to cope with long periods on their own had they been better prepared for it through some form of introductory seminar on what it was like to be an Army wife.

This particular revelation led to a useful booklet being produced.

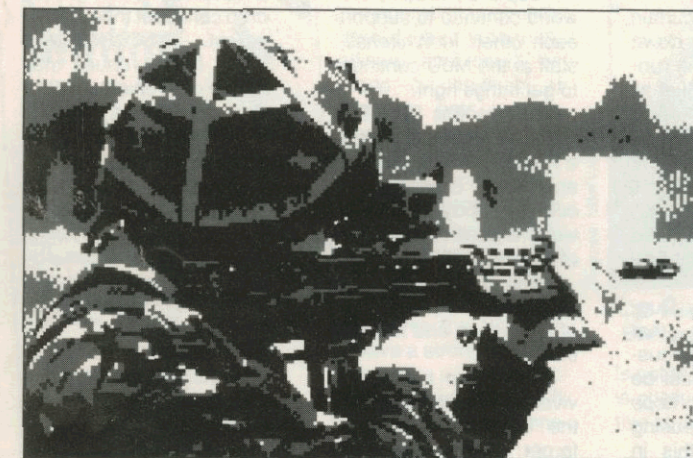
The Centre for Human Sci-



Attitude testers: Simon Holroyd (soldier leavers), Andrea Hampson (soldiers' attitudes), Rosalind Atherton (officers' attitudes) and Sarah Smith, assignment manager, at DRA Farnborough



Attitude: families and married quarters



Attitude: Soldiers and their equipment

ences is a new sector within the Defence Research Agency, incorporating the Institute of Aviation Medicine, The Senior Psychologist (Navy), Science 3 (Air) and a branch of RAF Support Command, plus the

former Army Personnel Research Establishment (APRE).

Within the psychological sciences department are four sections: selections and surveys; training needs and effectiveness; skills and error; and

human systems integration.

Sophisticated weapons systems and their command and control systems make specific demands on soldiers and the importance of choosing the right recruits has never been so important.

Selection procedure must reflect the levels of ability needed. The division therefore advises the Armed Forces on aspects of selection, evaluates selection procedures and advises on improvements.

Man for man, the British soldier is arguably the best in the world and the search for excellence has been centred on Farnborough since 1972.

At that time the APRE comprised three main divisions: personnel psychology, operator performance and applied psychology. An Army Operational Health Research Unit provided a technical support section, central facilities and a selection of infantrymen used for trials.

Its role was to advise the Army how to make the best use

of its soldiers both in peace and war, suggesting the most cost-effective ways of recruiting, selecting, training and retaining. It also recommended how to help soldiers operate under the stresses of battle and how to produce equipment which could be used to the best effect.

A special psychology research group was developed in 1992 to address issues having a longer term impact on humans relating to equipment design, selection and training.

APRE became part of the Defence Research Agency at the beginning of 1994, and though it is an executive agency of the Ministry of Defence, it operates as a trading fund, obtaining its income from its customers.

The fact that the Army will have to pay more for the services APRE provides but will continue to commission surveys is an indication of its commitment to knowing both the gripes and the gratitude of soldiers and their wives.

Welcome home, Daddy

Waiting to greet their dad, Sgt Rob Wolfe of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, in suitable attire, were Micah and Reuben, taking advantage of the extra height afforded by a Scimitar light reconnaissance vehicle.

Rob was one of the members of the battalion's B Company which, after returning from a stint with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Gornji Vakuf, took part in a parade through Celle in Germany.



Challenge to restore sense of community

IT IS at this end of the year that we traditionally look forward to the challenges to come and take stock of the previous 12 months.

Service welfare has been dominated by issues concerned with the family, but we should not forget that single Servicemen and women also need care and attention.

Then there was the saga of problems with the Child Support Agency, and the pressure of reviews, studies and possible cutbacks.

The way in which quarters are managed provided much fuel for gossip and rumour. In a report on welfare provision which owed much to research done by the late Anne Armstrong, researcher Judith Dugdale called for the links between housing and welfare to be maintained. She, too, highlighted the welfare needs of single Service people.

These points have been raised on *Counterpoint*, the programme I produce and present on BFBS, although it has been an uphill task to have them discussed by the people who are in a position to reassure lis-

teners and those who write to me.

Families have been under intense pressure in the civilian world. We have even been asked to consider what constitutes a family, while the changing patterns of family life have been blamed for every social ill under the sun.

We all know the Service life reflects civilian life, so no one should be surprised when Service families feel the pressure too.

What many commentators forget is that there are additional pressures on Armed Forces dependants not of their own making. And the scrutiny of the Services by those who know nothing of them adds to the stress. If you've not seen your husband for months and can't get your quarter repaired because of problems with the budgets, news of yet another review is going to be less than welcome.

Let's hope this year brings changes to the way the Child Support Agency works. I tried to follow up a simple question for a listener who

called in desperation from Germany because he couldn't get anyone from the CSA to give him a straight answer.

I thought he was exaggerating... until I tried calling the CSA helpline myself. I was passed from one office to another in a labyrinth of confusion.

The curtain finally came down on the long-running Whitehall farce about a proposed housing trust. Perhaps that is a little cruel, and a matter of opinion, but the uncertainty it caused created real concern for families and welfare staff.

Back to Judith Dugdale's conclusion that close links between housing and welfare must be maintained. Let us hope the new Defence Housing Executive bears this in mind when it begins its work in April.

What of the months ahead? The keys to 1995 were highlighted in addresses to the Federation of Army Wives (UK) conference just before Christmas. The time really has come for the

Access role for HIVEs?

Services to be left in peace for a while.

I was castigated the other day for using the phrase "Service community". There is no such thing, I was informed, just a bunch of individuals.

An overseas-based correspondent told me there was no longer any community spirit. I refuse to believe it.

People all around the world continue to support each other. In Whitehall, staff at the MoD continue to get things right.

Perhaps this year the Services might stop being a reflection of civilian life and start becoming a cohesive body which provides a positive example of a community.

Serving in the Forces has become even more of a privilege and honour than ever.

Those who have survived the cutbacks and the trauma must not forget that the onus is now on them to reconstruct and restore that sense of pride where it is failing, and to trumpet it where it is strong.

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

NEUTRAL centres in which estranged parents and children can meet for access visits could be provided by HIVEs, according to Stepfamilies' campaigner Kath Little.

A network of access and contact centres has been established all over the UK by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. Most are open only on Saturdays but offer a peaceful atmosphere in which children can meet their absent parent.

But these venues may not be convenient for Service stepfamilies and Mrs Little asks if HIVEs could be used.

Overnight access for divorced parents can be a real headache, a problem which can be overcome by use of married quarters which have been made available.

But Mrs Little warns that responsibility for cleaning the quarter (and the expense, should a little one run wild with a marker pen) remains with the parent.

SSAFA social workers can give advice on WRVS and other contact centres and mediate where there are problems over custody, contact and access.

Kath Little can be contacted on 01635 874030.

Tiny chip could lead to quarantine change

QUARANTINE for Service pets and working animals returning to Britain from overseas may be relaxed if the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food accepts MoD proposals designed to help families in the Armed Forces, writes Gordon Skilling.

The Director of the Veterinary and Remount Services headquarters at Aldershot, Brig Paul Jepson, is optimistic that a rigorous system of vaccinations, blood tests and electronic identification will persuade the Ministry to waive the six-month quarantine for pets of returning Service families.

"The British have always been concerned for animals, and it is the stress that can be caused to them rather than the cost of quarantine that bothers us more," he said.

There is now an effective and safe vaccine against rabies for ani-



Brig Paul Jepson

mals, and blood tests will reveal whether antibodies are present. But because the blood tests do not reveal if an animal is incubating the disease, it is essential that healthy animals are identified and registered.

Paperwork is open to forgery and tattoos on animals' ears may also cause problems so the painless insertion of a unique electronic transponder chip just under the skin is seen as the most reliable method of providing positive identification.

This simple and humane operation is already offered by veterinary officers and could be made a condition of licensing pets kept in quarters overseas.

Since July 1994 there has been a dispensation for breeders to bring animals back to Britain without the cost and stress of quarantine, and Brig Jepson believes the Services have a strong case for similar treatment. "There is a groundswell of opinion that quarantine



Cpl Mike Watson holds his dog Boxsy while veterinary technician LCpl Katrina Everard reads an electronic transponder chip implanted in Boxsy's neck

is out of date," he said. "It is costly and a big incentive to smuggling. Some

people on posting let cats return to the wild, pass their animals on or have

older pets put down rather than subject them to quarantine."



Rabies alert! A poster warning of the dangers

SHARED ownership is one way to buy a home if you can't quite afford to do it on your own. Tower Housing Association Ltd makes it possible to buy a new home for as little as 50 per cent of the full market value and to pay a

subsidised rent on the part you do not own. Later, if you can afford to do so, you can purchase more of your home or buy it outright.

Ring Tower Housing Association on 0181 850 3287 for details.

IN BRIEF

● Gartmore Money Services have withdrawn from the Services Home Savings Scheme (SHSS). Current investors have

until the end of February to transfer their accounts to the Bank of Scotland, Norwich and Peterborough Building Society or Skipton Building Society.

● Social Security abroad (NI 38) from the Benefits Agency gives

details of National Insurance contributions, Social Security benefits and health care in overseas countries.

● The Child Support Agency overseas helpline has been changed to 051 227 2274.

Argylls, too, mark Battle of Balaclava

YOUR report (January 9) on the celebrations by The King's Royal Hussars on the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Balaclava was most interesting.

At the end you stated that the honour had been awarded

to ten other cavalry regiments and "an infantry regiment".

The Hussars had played soccer against The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the afternoon, and invited the A and SH commanding officer to dinner in the evening, during

which one of their pipers played. I am therefore surprised that you did not mention that the infantry regiment (at Balaclava) was the 93rd Highlanders, later to become the 2nd Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

I am quite sure both regiments were fully aware of the significance, as of course the Argylls also celebrate the anniversary, October 25, as their Regimental Day. - **A J Donald, Waterlooville, Hants.**

A warm welcome at this airport

WHILE passing through Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport at Minnesota I discovered in the terminal the unique Servicemen's Centre.

British Service personnel and their dependants are welcome to drop in - the RAF is already "in", as a plaque on the wall revealed.

The people who run it are great and I have sent them my old TA unit badge.

It really is a bit special for travelling military personnel. Facilities include a lounge, kitchenette and beds, plus free sandwiches, bakery goods and drinks.

You can also get shaving and ironing kit, games and paperbacks, and supervised storage for luggage.

Incidentally, the centre is supported entirely by donations from military organisations, private business and individual contributions. - **M Osborne (ex-257 RAMC (V)), Uxbridge, Mddx.**



Mr Alf ("K D") Card of Co Durham is sure readers will be interested in this photo taken in Palestine in 1943-44. The aircraft, a Lockheed Hudson, was converted from its light bomber role to carry ten paratroopers. Alf, then a flight sergeant, was the

instructor checking the stick, all destined for 11 Para and Arnhem. The Hudson dropped its troops at 115 knots, then considered rather fast. Exiting out of the small door into the slipstream was claimed to be the quickest left turn in the Army.

Picking on video faults

I READ in *Soldier* (Reviews, December 12) about the new video *The Official Story of the British Army* and, having bought a copy, feel that while overall it is very good indeed, I was surprised that some material used to depict events in the history in fact showed "foreign" armies.

The three items that were in

my opinion inaccurate were the apparently French light cavalry crossing grassland to represent the Charge of the Light Brigade, the French Renault tank depicting the development of armour at the end of the First World War, and, surprisingly, the photograph of the Irish National Army besieging the Four Courts in Dublin in 1922 to cover the Troubles in Ireland 1919-21.

The credits at the end of the programme list some very reliable sources, which would have suggested complete accuracy, and the full co-operation of the MoD should have ensured more material relevant to the topic.

My comments are not a nit-picking exercise as a video like this is long overdue. But with all the effort and time and cost that goes into making it, why 100 per cent accuracy is not achieved is a surprise to me. - **Peter Leslie, Staffs.**

Official Arnhem AD losses

FURTHER to Maj Mike Titus's letter (January 9), the War Office 1954 publication *The Second World War 1939-45 - Supplies and Transport Vol 1*, compiled by Col D W Boileau, late RASC, states on Page 352:

"Air Despatch . . . The airborne invasion of Holland was the first major test of air maintenance operations. 1 Airborne Division was supplied in daylight on the four days following D-Day, and 475 sorties were flown with pre-packed stores ejected by RASC two-men despatch crews, who suffered casualties of 165 missing and 37 wounded, or over 20 per cent." - **G Barnes, Shrewsbury.**

● With its 50th anniversary in mind, *Soldier* wishes to hear from members of its staff during the 1940s and 1950s and regular readers since the first issue. Please contact the Managing Editor on 01252 347355 or at the address at the top of the page.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Continuous attitude surveys - see Pages 28-29

Museum to record Suez contribution

HAVING followed the correspondence in *Soldier* about Col Pip Newton's efforts to persuade the Government to issue a retrospective award for the Suez Emergency of 1951-56, I am writing in the hope that I can enlist the help of some of the veterans on whose behalf he has been campaigning.

I am working on plans for a permanent historical gallery in the Imperial War Museum which will deal with conflicts since 1945. We will certainly be covering the Suez Emergency, but have very little in our collections relating to this

conflict. May I therefore appeal to anyone who can spare any mementoes from their service in this campaign to contact me at the IWM.

I applaud Col Newton's efforts to achieve recognition for Suez veterans, and note that the chairman of the museum's Board of Trustees, Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, has lent his support by making a personal appeal to the Army Board.

While there is no doubt that most veterans would consider the issue of a campaign medal, or clasp, to be the most desir-

able form of recognition, may I also suggest that a permanent display about the Suez Emergency in the national museum, which covers conflict since the First World War, would also be a suitable way of recording their contribution to history. - **Laurie Milner, Research and Information Office, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ (tel 0170 416 5000).**

Kiboshed by time rule

I DO NOT want to start a procedural argument with E J Craske (Letters, January 9), all the more so as he obviously supports a medal for the Suez Emergency 1951-54, but I must point out that the commemorative medals awarded by Malta and Russia must have gone through the Honours and Decorations Committee and received royal approval to be given their official standing. The point made by D Atkinson (Letters, November 28) was that the H and D Committee has put the kibosh on our medal on "time grounds" yet waived it for others. That is the crux of his case for which he requests an explanation. - **C L Golder, Bolton.**

Let's have benefit of the doubt

ONE of my greatest friends, Maj John Kingsmill, who served with me on the Suez Canal, has just died. Although I had seen him only once in the past 30 years, he kept me informed of his efforts over the decades to get a Suez medal.

The letter in *Soldier* from the Prime Minister to Col Newton (Sept 19) begs the question as to why, if the records of the Army Office in 1952 showing the reasons why the award was refused cannot be found and "one can only speculate", then there must be some doubt.

And the benefit of the doubt should be given to the ex-Servicemen and women. - **J Jeans, Maj (Retd), 4 Coy RASC, Gebel Maryam, Egypt 1952-55), New South Wales, Australia.**

Badge that has it all ...

YOU were kind enough to air my adverse views on the head-dress badge of the RGBW. On this occasion I write in praise of the new head-dress badge of The Scottish Yeomanry.

It is an excellent design reflecting the Scottish nature in their attitude to defence of their country and portraying the Scottish crown and the Lion in their full glory.

Congratulations to all concerned. - **Hugh L King, co-author Head-dress Badges of the British Army, Farnham, Surrey.**

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SOLDIER to Soldier

The priest and the Samaritan

A NINETY-year-old Italian priest has had his dearest wish granted: to be reunited with the British officer who saved his life half a century ago.

The two men, Fr Amando Moretti and former Gurkha captain Alan MacLaren, finally met again when a party of ex-officers from 2/8th Gurkha Rifles – representing the 43rd Gurkha Lorried Brigade – returned to Italy.

They were there for the celebrations in the towns and villages liberated during the fierce battles of the Gothic Line in which they had taken part, and to honour their dead at the Gurkha cemetery near Rimini.

A wreath was laid at the mountain village of Monte Codruzzo, scene of a bitter battle between the 2/10th Gurkhas and the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division.

The Gurkhas had been having a tough time of it, so six Hurricane fighter bombers from the Desert Air Force, each equipped with two 500lb bombs, were called in to flatten Monte Codruzzo village.

In fighting after the Gurkhas had secured the village, a havildar (sergeant) captured the priest and, noticing that he was wearing a pair of German Army trousers under his cassock, was about to decapitate him.

Luckily for Fr Moretti, Capt MacLaren – commanding B Company 2/8th Gurkhas – appeared on the scene to relieve a company of the 2/10th and ordered the havildar to have the priest escorted back to Brigade HQ for interrogation. It transpired the priest had

been helping with the German wounded, and had in fact buried 38 of their dead.

He had not wanted to hand over one badly wounded German soldier to the Gurkhas, so had swapped trousers with him in the hope that the injured man would be mistaken for a civilian casualty.

The soldier was eventually handed over to the authorities and spent three years as a PoW in Egypt.

That was 50 years ago, and one can only imagine the emotions going through the minds of the priest and the officer as, surrounded by a cheering population, they met once more in the church at Monte Codruzzo.

News of peace

FRONT pages and billboards showing how Fleet Street broke the news of VE Day are featured in a set of eight commemorative postcards produced by Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People.

Sets are available from the Foundation at Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0BT, priced £3.25 (plus 50p p & p).

Mystery of Kohima stone

WHEN Burma Star Association national standard bearer Harold Page approached the replica of the Second Infantry Division memorial at the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall, his thoughts might have turned to the real one 8,000 miles away.

The original stone, surrounded by the graves of many of the Servicemen who died in 1944 in one of the fiercest and bloodiest battles of the Second World War, stands as a reminder of those who fought at Kohima, where the campaign for Burma was effectively decided.

The 16ft-long stone weighs about 17 tons and is one of a



Many years of memories to catch up on: Fr Amando Moretti and Capt Alan MacLaren at Monte Codruzzo

series of obelisk stones erected many years ago to Naga chiefs.

Permission was given to remove one, and the job of digging it out was allocated to 506 Field Company RE.

It was unloaded from the transporter at the foot of Garrison Hill and given to local Naga tribesmen.

How they got it into its final position remains a mystery.

What is not in doubt is that the epitaph engraved on it, "When you go home, tell them of us, and say, For your tomorrow, we gave our today", is as relevant in the 1990s as it ever was.

New title – new aim

THE ALDERSHOT SHOW – a title which has its origins in military, and particularly cavalry regiment, activities before the First World War, is to be revived in the spring.

Taking over from the annual Aldershot Horse Show and Country Fayre, the event will reflect more the emphasis on Aldershot as a military town, says Services liaison contact Col John Nelson.

"The fayre was always the opening event for the Redcaps' (the RMP horse and motor-cycle display team) display season, but sadly they have now disbanded.

"There will however still be a

horse show over the three days."

The Aldershot Show is to be held at the Rushmoor Arena on April 28 to 30, with public admission on the second two days.

Further details from Col Nelson on Aldershot Mil (722) 2009.

Church census

THE ARMY has taken a leaf out of the Christmas story and decided to hold its own census.

The Chaplain General, Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain and senior chaplains of all denominations within the Army have authorised a census of all church members attending Army places of worship between March 5 and April 5.

Members unable to attend but wishing to be included should write to the Royal Army Chaplains' Department at Bagshot Park.

Railcard

LONGMOOR Military Railway, closed 25 years ago, is recalled in a set of eight full-colour postcards based on the photographs of R C Riley and J E Connor.

Views show rolling stock, visits by special trains, a station view and a general view of the yard at Longmoor.

The cards (40p each or £3 inc p & p) are available from Nebulous Books, Cromwell House, 11 Oliver Rise, Alton, Hants GU34 2BN (tel 01420 89264).

SEARCHLINE

Former members of the **12th Gillingham (Garrison) Scout Group** and the **1st Gillingham Guide Group** are sought for a 75th anniversary celebration. Names and memorabilia to C Williams, F and F Dept, E and M Wing, SMW Section, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent ME4 4UG (tel 01634 822218).

Ms Chrissie Bugg-Ludkin wishes to trace Mrs **Sue Bexon**, with whom she worked at the Garrison Officers' Mess, Woolwich Barracks, BFPO 36, from 1980-85. Replies to 17 Boston Avenue, Benton Lodge Est, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7SR.

Details of a book which describes heavy fighting by **46th Bn Royal Fusiliers** against Bolshevik forces in Russia in 1919 are sought by A W Card, 1 The Paddock, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 4TF (tel 01325 310890). His uncle, Cpl Alfred William Card, was awarded a DCM for helping to repulse an attack at Gorodok. Mr Card would also like to hear from ex-paras who trained at Kabrit, Ramat Davit and Gioia de Colle in Italy.

No 1 GHQ Printing Press RAOC (Fayid 1952-53) reunion planned. Contact F Thompson, 21 Salmons Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2JE (tel 081-397 5931).

R W Forrest wishes to hear from anyone who knew his father, **Pte Jimmy Forrest**, enlisted GSC March 1944, served with 11 Green Howards (India, 1944), West York-

shire Regiment (Singapore, 1945). Replies to 15 Ryde Road, Roseworth, Stockton-on-Tees TS19 9DX.

J M Blockley wishes to learn details of a distant relative, **T Blockley**, No 5211, 1st Border Regt, died of wounds, January 20, 1900 in Spearman's Camp, South Africa. Replies to 35 Ardrossan Gardens, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7AU.

Caroline Barton seeks **Helen Willerton**, daughter of SSgt George Willerton RAOC. Last known address HQ 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, Lubbecke. Contact 0792 641362.

Adrian N W Smith seeks anyone who served with his grandfather, **Lt William Pye RE**, 1927/68, or his unit, 153 Rly Op Coy, 1939-45, in the Middle East, Egypt and Palestine. Replies to 1 Hillymead, Seaton, Devon EX12 2LF.

Daniel (Danny) Diamond, who was wounded in Italy during the Second World War and served with 22nd Fd Regt RA in Korea, seeks two colleagues from Korea days, **Spr Daniel Kelly** (6 Fd Pk Sqn RE) and **Horace Stokes** (22 Fd Regt RE). Replies c/o 41 Dunkeld Road, Elson, Gosport, Hants PO12 4NJ.

Ex-**Spr Ray Crotch** seeks old mates from 3 Troop, 55 Fd Sqn RE, Korea 1952-53, especially **LCpl Brown, McGowan** and **White**, taken prisoner on the Hook. Replies to 99 Borrowdale Drive, Norwich NR1 4LZ.)

REUNIONS

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's Association): Scottish branches' annual dinner-dance will be held at Stakis Normandy Hotel, February 24. Former members and friends invited to contact J Gaughan, 49 Cartha Crescent, Paisley (tel 041-889 9120) or Lt Col J M Lauder (tel 041-884 8483) for details.

REME Association (Scotland): Dinner-dance in Scotland area, Feb 25. Details from WO1 (ASM) Sandy Wilson, ES Branch, Army HQ Scotland, Craigiehall, South Queensferry EH30 9TN (tel Edinburgh Mil 2689).

The Queen's Regimental Association: Annual reunion and AGM, March 4 at Victory Services Club, Marble Arch. Tickets (£8.50) from the Secretary, RHQ, PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY (tel 0227 818054).

RHA Association, Trowbridge: Reunion dinner, Civic Hall, Trowbridge, March 25 open to all past and present members of any Royal Horse Artillery unit. Mem-

bership not essential, ladies welcome. Details from Dinner Secretary, 44 King Street, Melksham, Wilts SN12 6HF (tel 01225 708223).

5 PWRR: WO's and Sgts' Mess, Past and Present reunion dinner, April 1. Open to all SNCOs (Regular, NRPS, TA) who have served with 4 Buffs, 5 Buffs, 5 Queens or 5 PWRR. Details from WO1 (RSM) S Scully or Mr Skeet on 01227 462769/761397.

1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, Suez 1951-54: Reunion planned at Tranmere Rovers FC Social Club, April 8. Details from N Wakefield, RHQ, The Castle, Chester CH1 2DA (sae appreciated).

RAOC/REME Middle Easters Association and COPO (Middle East): Annual reunion lunch at The Oval banqueting suite, Kennington, London SE11, April 8. Details from Hon Sec Charles Baxter, 129 Benhill Road, London SE5 7LZ.

138th (City of London) Fd Regt

DIARY

Now open: The Right to Serve exhibition, history of women in the Army, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

FEBRUARY

15,16,17: Mountbatten Festival of Music featuring Massed Bands, Corps of Drums and Fanfare Trumpets of Royal Marines, Royal Albert Hall, in aid of Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and Service charities. Tickets enquiries on 0705 547205.

APRIL

28-30: The Aldershot Show, Rushmoor Arena. Public days, 29-30.

MARCH

15: Soldier 50th anniversary exhibition opens at the National Army Museum.

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

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier – J M Patrick – To be Comd Aldershot Area, Jan 9.

Colonels – J D C Anderson – To MoD, Jan 9; S G Hughes – To RMCS, Jan 9; C P McMillan – To IMS Brussels, Jan 9; J E B Smedley – To HQ ARRC, Jan 11.

Lt Cols – G C Bicket RGR – To MoD, Jan 10; M S Campbell RE – To MoD, Jan 10; R Chisholm RLC – To ASU SDist West, Jan 9; A J N Graham, A and SH – To be CO 1 A and SH, Jan 13; A D K Inkster RA – To be CO Leeds Univ OTC, Jan 9; D G Lyon RA – To be CO 4 Regt RA, Jan 9; A V Malkin, Para – To be CO 10 Para, Jan 9.

P S Reehal RLC – To ARFPS (BAE), Jan 9; N H Rollo RE – To be CO HQ 22 Eng Regt, Jan 9; I R Sinclair RA – To be CO 29 Cdo Regt RA, Jan 9; M J Wharmby RLC – To JSDC (DS), Jan 9.

J P G Bolton RAMC – To be CO 1 Armd Fd Amb, Jan 3; T R Foster RAMC – To RAM Coll, Jan 7; G W Lawrenson RAMC – To HQ Bulford Area, Jan 2; S P Lomax RADC – To Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Jan 9; L A S Abdul-Aziz RAMC – To BMH Rinteln, Jan 9; R A Bencini RAMC – To Primary Health and Dent Care Svcs (G), Jan 10; B P Bergman RAMC – To Surg Gen, Jan 9; M M Mumford-George QARANC – To AMS Trg Gp, Jan 11; J E Burgess RAMC – To RMAS, Jan 9; T S Pitcher RAMC – To HQ UKLF, Jan 14.

Retirements

Brigadier – J Restall, late RAMC, Jan 2.

MILITARIA

Local historian researching liberation period in Maas region of south-east Holland (1944-45) wishes to contact veterans of **7th Survey Regiment** who were in the area. Also veterans from **8th Army Group Royal Artillery** and **3rd Army Group Royal Artillery** who can recall their experiences at the Maas in the Weert-Roermond-Venlo area at that time. Replies to Hugo Levels, Uleensvaaren 47, 6086 GC Neer, Holland.

Researcher on Southern Africa conflicts, especially the South African border war, Angola and Mozambique would like to share information and views. Replies to Mee van Zyl, P O Box 90298, Garsfontein, South Africa 0042.

Military researcher Paul Riches wishes to contact former members of the **Federated Malay States Volunteer Force, Singapore Volunteer Corps** and the **Straits Settlements Volunteer Force** to assist his research, especially of the period 1939-45. Existing published sources, year books welcome. Contact him on 0249 712921 or write to The Barn, Cuttle Lane, Biddestone, Wilts SN14 7DA.

50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Imperial War Museum

Until February 5: The Italian Campaign photo display. **Until August 31:** D-Day to Victory exhibition. **From March:** London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season. **From April:** Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition. **May 4-6:** 1940s fashion shows. **From August:** Victory in the Far East display.

VE Day MAY

6 – Reception and banquet, Guildhall, City of London.

6-8 – Public event activities, Hyde Park.

7 – Service at St Paul's Cathedral.

7 or 8 – Services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

8 – Community entertainment in front of Buckingham Palace, followed by VE night concert, Hyde Park.

- Admission to Government-sponsored events free to veterans
- Other events to be announced.

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

OLD YEOMANRY SPURRED BY THE FUTURE

IT TAKES knowledge, tenacity and a certain type of courage to produce a regimental history, especially when the regiment in question is a Territorial Army unit such as the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry (DLOY), which has been around since 1798.

John Brereton demonstrates

in *Chain Mail* that he possesses these qualities in abundance. As an ex-cavalryman he has had experience and therefore the extensive knowledge necessary to write authoritatively about a one-time horsed regiment.

His tenacity came with researching 193 years of regi-

mental history and putting it into a readable form – no mean task. And his courage, which is fundamental to all historians, regimental or otherwise, might well come in useful should anyone challenge his facts.

Not that that is likely as he has investigated and reported in great detail the long history

of the DLOY up to 1991.

It is a comprehensive story, for the author not only relates the history of the regiment, its campaigns, role changes and uniforms throughout the years, but also includes 12 pages of the full musical score of the regimental march, *John O'Gaunt*, although there is

some confusion as to who actually wrote it.

Under *Options for Change*, the DLOY amalgamated with the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry to form the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry, with a Home Defence reconnaissance role. The DLOY title survives as the

name of a QOMY squadron based at Wigan.

Not a bad future, really, considering that some famous Regular units have disappeared altogether. – JM

Chain Mail by John Brereton. Picton Publishing, hardback, £39.50.

Of Shiners and Cherrypickers

AS Rudyard Kipling wrote, "For it's Tommy this and Tommy that and chuck him out, the brute! But it's Saviour of his country when the guns begin to shoot."

It is an impression that many Servicemen have had and one which is strongly expressed in *Remembering with Advantages: A History of the 10th, 11th and Royal Hussars 1945-1992*.

The 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) and the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) were both raised in 1715 as Light Dragoons to suppress the Jacobite Rebellion in Scotland. In time they were redesignated Hussars, a Hungarian word meaning scout, the 10th in 1806 and the 11th in 1840.

Nicknames, the Shiners for the 10th, and Cherrypickers for the 11th (gained through being caught by the French in a Spanish orchard), have persisted over the years, and the campaigns in which they have taken part fill the pages of British history.

"As every schoolboy used to know before the teaching of such deeds became unfashionable, the 11th rode with the Light Brigade at Balaclava under the leadership of their flamboyant Colonel, Lord Cardigan."

In *Remembering with Advantages*, Henry Keown-Boyd, a one-time officer in the 11th Hussars, traces the history of the two regiments from the end of the Second World War, through their amalgamation in 1969, resulting in the formation of The Royal Hussars

(Prince of Wales's Own) and up to the time of their second merger with another cavalry regiment, the 14th/20th King's Hussars, themselves created by amalgamation.

The title is taken from Shakespeare's *Henry V* in which the king declares: "Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot. But he'll remember with advantages, what feats he did that day."

It is apt, for the 10th, 11th and Royal Hussars have gone through numerous periods of active service since 1945, notably in Malaya, Arabia and Northern Ireland, and we are taken through these years with their mixture of tribulation and pleasant recollections which, as with most cavalry regiments, include fox-hunting.

In Germany, the Hussars had efficiently managed packs of hounds, although, as the author observes, "... Hitler had banned hunting in Germany soon after coming to power in the 1930s on the grounds of cruelty."

There are good anecdotes and fascinating side stories throughout the book. One concerns a certain National Service subaltern by the name of Ted Dexter who was with the Hussars on detachment at Sungei-Dua.

The soon-to-be captain of the England cricket team and chairman of selectors found his military service less than rewarding. In his own memoirs, Dexter recalls writing home "... it would have been nice to have serious conversation with an intelligent man or woman, on some subject other than food, the weather or sex, which is the sum total of all the conversation here."

The author tells us it was not unknown for Dexter to fall into a deep sleep during dinner.

Boredom notwithstanding, many Hussars lived to a ripe old age, including Mr David Chapman who died in 1949 at the age of 87. He had enlisted in 1879 and was probably the last survivor of the two officers and 43 men who formed the



11th Hussars detachment in Gen Wolsey's Light Camel Regiment which took part in the Gordon relief expedition of 1884-85.

David Chapman retired as squadron sergeant major in 1901 but was commissioned in an infantry regiment in the First World War.

All good regimental histories have elements of controversy and this one is no exception. In 1952 *Soldier* carried an exchange of letters concerning the capture of German guns at Nery in 1914. Whether it was

1983: Clifton's B Squadron, DLOY salutes the commanding officer, Lt Col Richard Ferguson. That year the regiment re-equipped with Land Rovers and re-roled as a Home Service recce regiment

the 3rd Troop, C Squadron, 11th Hussars or D Company, The Middlesex Regiment who captured the guns has not been established.

"Like the Nery guns, both regiments have passed into history, but no doubt, though there can be no survivors of the incident, one day the controversy will be revived."

The word amalgamation is depressing to the traditionalist

but, in an earnest attempt at fairness, the author has striven to demonstrate that long-standing loyalties and customs can survive and that determination to make a marriage work can succeed. – BJ

Remember with Advantages: A History of the 10th, 11th and Royal Hussars 1945-1992 by Henry Keown-Boyd. Published by Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.95.

Tails of glory – and every one a tear-jerker

ANIMAL stories are certain tear-jerkers – especially when they chronicle the obedience, devotion and heroism of our four-legged friends at war.

Evelyn Le Chêne's *Silent Heroes* is no exception to this rule as it tells of the roles played by our furred and feathered pals in battles over the years and around the world.

Horses, pigeons, cats, sever-

al dogs and even a big brown bear, who apparently helped load the guns in the battle for Monte Cassino in 1944, form the basis in these tales of animal love.

The stories in this book will have emotion welling up in animal lovers, and those without pets will probably get a strong urge to rush to the nearest pet shop.

Rob of the SAS is a particularly moving tale in which "an ordinary collie, prancing mischievously around his home farm in Shropshire" was, when the call came from the authorities, handed over by his owner for service with the SAS.

Amazingly, Rob survived 17 parachute jumps in North Africa in preparation for the invasion of Italy. When that

came about he parachuted in behind enemy lines to locate paras who had landed away from the target area.

Instead of rounding up sheep in Shropshire, Rob was rounding up separated soldiers. Rob, who as a pup cost his owner five shillings (25p) from a neighbour, was known officially as a War Dog and was enrolled in the SAS with Ser-

vice number 471/322.

The only dog to be recommended for an award by the War Office, Rob went on to be decorated eight times, the most important being the Dickin Medal – the animal VC – and the RSPCA's red collar and silver medallion. – JM

Silent Heroes by Evelyn Le Chêne. Souvenir Press, £15.99

Apocalyptic sounds from Earls Court

The Royal Tournament
Director: Maj Michael Parker
Director of Music: Lt Col R G Tomlinson

THE ROYAL Tournament appears to have been an earth-shaking affair, words and phrases such as Armageddon, Apocalypse, The Ark and God of War peppering the sleeve notes. No doubt that producer Michael Parker always finds a theme to draw the crowds.

The bands are those of the Household Division, the new Adjutant General's Corps as house band, the Light Division, and the Brigade of Gurkhas' band and pipes and drums.

Armageddon has suitably doom-laden music from *The Planets*, *Götterdämmerung* and *The Valkyries*, while The Ark portrays the animals which have served the Army.

Peace has more Gustav Holst, *Fanfare for the Common Man*, *Morning Has Broken*, and *Olympic Theme*. All pertinent stuff, I'm sure, but I can give no further details. At my age Earls Court is no-go territory.

In between these events are the hardy annuals, with the musical drive by The King's Troop, massed bands playing Elgar (and including a movement from the *Cello Concerto*!), the field gun race and the RAF dogs receiving their usual loud applause.

The Light Division finish the show in quicksilver fashion, while rumours circulate that this sort of thing can't go on much longer.

Armageddon indeed.

● From Bandleader, BNA 5094, CD £12, double cassette £12, Sound & Picture Co, PO Box 177, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5FE.

Guards set the feet a-tapping

When the Guards are on Parade
Band of the Grenadier Guards
Conductor: Maj P E Hills

OF the 25 marches on this disc, the title tune is the still famous song by Horatio Nicholls, just one of several he wrote with the Guards in mind.

Others here also reflect guardsmen on parade, one of them by a British "waltz king" of earlier days – Archibald Joyce, whose tunes dominated every ballroom in the country.

He wrote *The Old Grenadier* because he was one. For the same reason I wrote *The Inkerman March* and *The Queen's Company*, the names of two special companies of Grenadiers.

To complete strictly regi-

mental music are *Duke of York* slow march, *The Grenadiers March*, *Scipio* slow march, and, of course, *British Grenadiers*. *Bond of Friendship* and *Birdcage Walk* are by guardsmen and, although American, Frank Panella's *On The Square* reflects the hours guardsmen find themselves stamping the asphalt.

For the rest, the only rarish marches on disc are *The Mareth Line*, *Bravest of the Brave*, and *Marche de la Gendarmerie Neige*, with four Alford, no Sousa, and the whole being good foot-tapping stuff.

● From Bandleader, BNA 5104, CD £12, cassette £7.60, Sound & Picture Co, PO Box 177, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5FE.



Picture: Chris Barker

Soldiers from locally-based Roman Troop, 2nd Signal Regiment raised £700 for the children's ward at York District Hospital – partially by asking people for donations in return for letting

them out of York Garrison. The signallers are pictured with 12-month-old patient Chloe Simpson, mother Julie, and Student Nurse Rebecca Owen when they handed over the cheque



Members of 1 General Support Regiment RLC with some of the books which they transported to the Brandenburg town of Cottbus, 25km from the Polish border. The idea of donating the English language novels and schoolbooks, culled from

the shelves of libraries and Forces schools serving 30 stations and garrisons in North Rhein Westfalia and Lower Saxony – most of which are closing – came from Simon Williams, Deputy Chief of the Joint Services Liaison Organisation.

TA training pays off in rally

A THREE-MAN team of Territorial Army officers from the **Royal Yeomanry** came top in the Armed Services category, and achieved seventh place overall, in the gruelling Arctic Super Challenge motoring rally.

The eight-day, 9,000km competition – run in five stages from Oslo back to Stavanger, Norway via the Arctic Circle

and Russia – is designed to raise money for charities.

"Without our collective military training there is no way we would have been able to compete effectively in the rally," said Lt Andrew Niekirk, a member of Swindon-based A Sqn.

His fellow team members, like him sponsored by a number of businesses, were Lt

Ben Shepherd-Smith (HQ Sqn, London) and Lt Andrew Anderson (C Sqn, Croydon).

"The Royal Yeomanry is a medium reconnaissance regiment currently equipped with Land Rovers, which meant we all had a fair amount of practical hands-on off-road and four-wheel drive experience, unlike some of the other teams," said Lt Niekirk.

Three charities – the Army Benevolent Fund, the Macmillan Nurses Appeal and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution – will benefit from the £10,000 raised by the trio.

★ ★ ★

Stepping into the shoes of 8 Regiment RLC, now back in the UK, **The King's Royal Hussars** paid a visit to the Vinzenzwerker Orphanage in Handorf. Families Officer Lt Rick Kalewski, with CO's wife Sarah-Jane Shirreff, SLO Col Paul French and SSgt Stu Leaver handed over a cake and a basketful of presents donated by the KRH Families Community Centre.

Meanwhile, soldiers of the KRH, on roulement tour in Northern Ireland, treated 200 children from local Protestant and Catholic schools in north Belfast to an open day.

Aimed at creating a better understanding between soldiers and children, the event was described as a resounding success.

★ ★ ★

Sixteen members of Hameln-based **44 HQ Squadron, 35 Engineer Regiment** took part in a 24-hour football-athon in aid of Wireless for the Blind. The two teams, "Sinkie's Sloggers", led by Cpl Mark Sinclair, and "Dave's Dynamos", led by event organiser Cpl Dave Elliott, fought it out through the night, achiev-



This row of rowers seen handing over a cheque to Brig Clive Roberts at HQ and Central Group RADC are (left to right) SSgts Roy Willoughby, Bill Sharpling, Steve Smith and Joe Green. They rowed 335km (in the RADC gymnasium!) in 24 hours – which they claim as a record – and raised £1,850. Apart from the RADC Benevolent Fund, other beneficiaries included the Army Benevolent Fund and a special care baby unit.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 604

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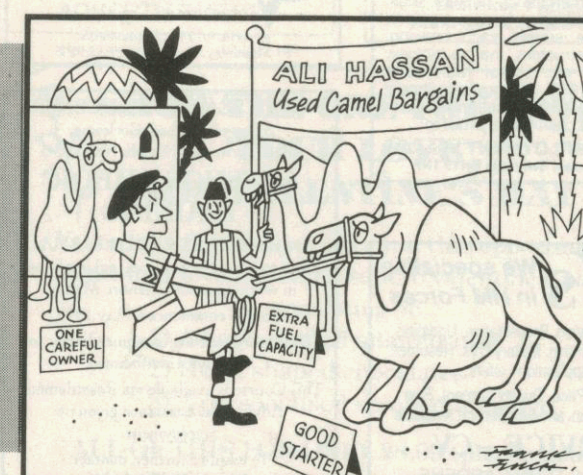
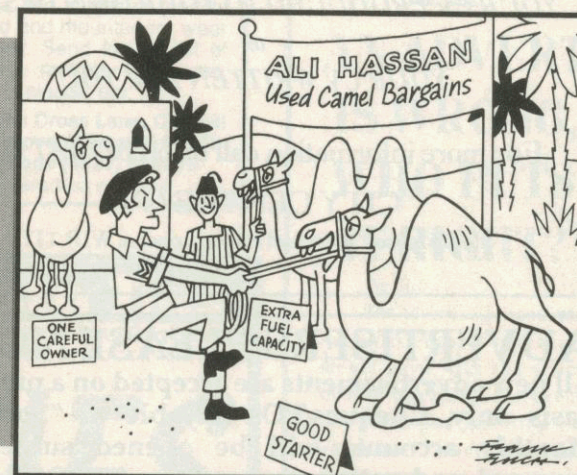
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The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 604, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by February 24. Do not include anything

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 will be announced in the March 20 issue.



Competition No 601 (December 12 issue): Congratulations to Capt A W Morris, of Acomb, York, who wins £50. Book prizes go to Mrs M Gray, of B Coy, 4/5 Green Howards, Middlesbrough and Mr N H Cross, of Barnard Castle, N Yorkshire.



ing the staggering number of 3,556 goals in the 24 hours and raising more than DM 1,000 (£400) for the charity.

★ ★ ★

Trolley dashes around Naafi premises in England and Germany have benefited pension-

ers and SSAFA respectively.

The first dash – to mark the opening of a new Naafi shop at Airfield Camp, Netheravon – collected goods worth £270 which Naafi donated to the Netheravon Day Centre to raise money for 28 pensioners. Garrison Commander Brig

Left – Abseilers from F Company, 3rd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment joined police and civilians in a 12-hour sponsored drop from one of the 72ft-high lift towers at Craigavon Hospital. Event organiser Lt Martin Twist, a platoon commander, was delighted with the result, with a considerable sum being raised to buy new wheelchairs for the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association

Denzil Sharp and Airfield Camp CO Lt Col Andrew Westcott – who took part in the dash – presented the groceries to Sally Middleton of Age Concern Wiltshire.

The second event, one of the prizes at the Paderborn Garrison Fair, was a two-minute trolley dash around the packed shelves of the Sennelager Naafi. Winners Cpl Stephan White and his wife managed to pick up goods valued at more than £300. The fair raised more than £250 for SSAFA and Toc H.

★ ★ ★

Members of Manchester-based Territorial Army unit **202 Field Squadron, 75 Engineer Regiment (V)** provided the manpower to run the Krypton Factor assault course in an event organised by the Greater Manchester Children's Hospital Appeal. Sponsored teams raised more than

£150,000, out of which £18,000 went to the Army Benevolent Fund in the North West.

★ ★ ★

A **King's Own Scottish Borderers** team took part in a sponsored swim for Red Marsh School for handicapped children, Thornton Cleveleys. Capt Charles Platt, the Rev Donald Prentice, Cpl James McCauley, LCpl John Hunter and Pte Lawrence Graham helped to raise the full amount needed for the school to buy a new minibus.

★ ★ ★

Thirty young German refugees, aged three to 13 and originating from Russia, were entertained at a party held by **2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry** at their Paderborn base. The event was organised by Families Officer Capt Mav Gardner.

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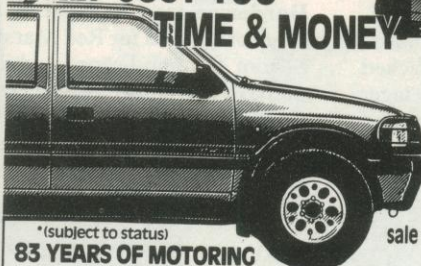
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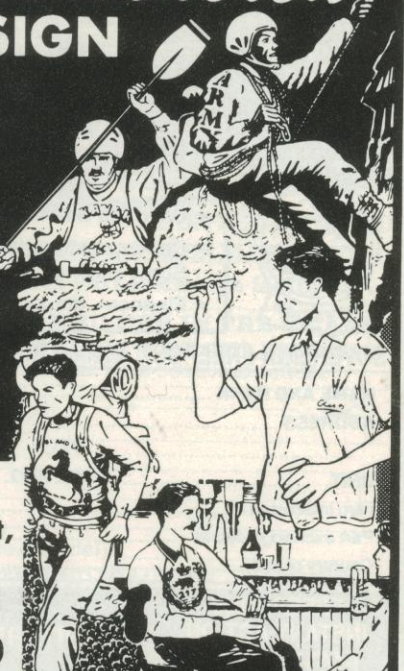
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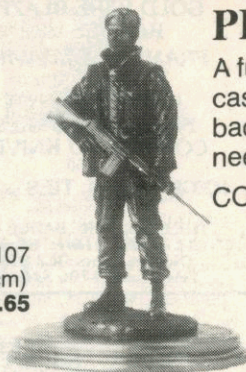
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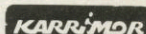
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06

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03/95

Christine, 33, 5'3", average build and dark hair. Hobbies: listening to music and writing letters. I'm divorced, two children, gsoh. Would like to hear from anyone aged 28-38. Write today to find out more. **P195**

03/95

Helen, 34, medium build, 5'8" with brown hair. Interests: gym, jogging, nights in or out, cinema, animals, writing, climbing. Divorced with teenaged children. Easy going. Would like to hear from pen pals aged 30-40. **P196**

03/95

Do you dream of June Whitfield, love Reliant Robins and iron creases in your jeans? No? Then write to Julie, aged 22. P197

03/95

Caroline, 34 (going on 21), enjoys aerobics, soul music, eating out and life. Would like to write to a pen pal with personality. Write to **P198**

03/95

REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY** written in the **TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8"x4" and should only contain a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and **large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.**

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

Sue, 32, single, petite Londoner with a wicked sense of humour. Hobbies: travelling, cinema/theatre, writing, astrology, all sports - especially football. I would love to hear from genuine, caring soldiers with similar interests, home or abroad. **P184**

03/95

Janet, 31, single and looking for any lads to write to. Interests include: watching most sports and listening to Motown. I'm 6' tall, and have a great personality and gsoh. **P185**

03/95

Enjoy receiving letters? So do I. I'm a young 39 brunette, said to be attractive, 5'7", single, sense of humour, artistic, genuine and caring. Varied interests. Photo appreciated. **P186**

03/95

Lady, 38, long dark hair, blue eyes, one young child. Would like to hear from soldiers home or abroad. Interests: music, swimming, writing and receiving letters and aiming for a stress free life. **P187**

03/95

Debbie, 24, 5'4", long blonde hair and blue eyes. Hobbies include keep-fit and travel. Would like to hear from genuine people with gsoh, over 24. **P188**

03/95

Denise, 30 and totally mad. Seeks fellow nutters for correspondence. Interests include gym, aerobics, cycling, badminton, football and partying. Gsoh essential, photo appreciated. **P189**

03/95

Georgina, 25, 5'6", slim with blonde hair and green eyes. Gsoh, single mother. Interests: visiting different places, socialising, reading, having fun, writing, music. I would like to hear from pen pals aged 24-34. **P190**

03/95

Julia, 29, tall, slim, shy with green eyes and brown hair. Interests: walking, music, animals and badminton. I work as a care assistant and would like pen pals aged 25-40. **P191**

03/95

Jan, smiling hazel eyes. Interests: Antarctic, adventurous sports, anything non-domestic, photography and writing. I am single, non-smoker, gsoh and would like to hear from anyone aged 24+. **P192**

03/95

Carrie, 28, 5'6", from an army background. Enjoys travelling, cinema, ice hockey and music. Seeks NCO aged 27-32 to correspond with, serving anywhere. Photo appreciated. **P193**

03/95

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24-04

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

JANUARY 7, 1995

Three-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,166.67 each) Lt E M Halfman, ATR Winchester; Pte J T Stewart, 4 R Irish, BFPO 804; WO1 W E Welsh, 32 Engr Regt, BFPO 30.

11-way tie for fourth prize (19 goals, £90.91 each) SSgt T F Attoe, 50 HK Wksp REME, BFPO 1; Capt E M Brain, 1 RRW, BFPO 802; Sgt S Brunt, 1 QLR, Tidworth; Spr S L Elliott, F I Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 655; Lt Col M J W Grubb, RMA Sandhurst; Sgt D J Harris, 3 Bn REME, BFPO 41; Maj R J A McGregor, SHTC Rheindahlen, BFPO 40; Sgt C C Portis, 14 Tpt Sqn RLC, BFPO 40; WO1 S A

Robertson, BOD Donnington; LCpl I Wilcock, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Cfn A R Williams, 2 R Anglian, BFPO 23.

JANUARY 14, 1995

First prize (19 goals, £2,016.67) LCpl P R Miller, 4 Regt RA Wksp.

Five-way tie for second prize (18 goals, £496.67 each) Pte S Barras, 16 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, BFPO 38; Capt N Donald, 1/52 Lowland, Ayr; Cpl J C Duff, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham; SSgt D Russell, 1 WFR, Tidworth; SSgt A Steven, ASPT, Aldershot.

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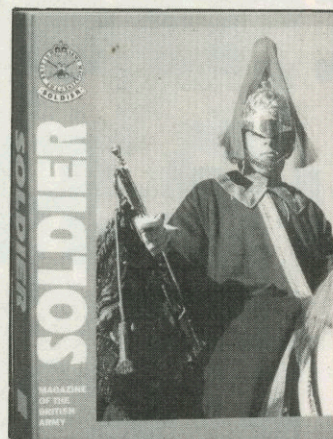
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07

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05

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03

Bolt from blue floors Robinson

A BROKEN titanium saddle bolt cost Cpl Stacey Robinson (28 Engr Regt) dear in the world triathlon championships in Wellington, New Zealand.

Despite recovering from a bout of flu, he was in the top 20 after a rough 1,500m swim across the bay. A 3ft sea swell

made progress difficult for 1,500 competitors.

But disaster struck when the bolt sheared off his advanced new bicycle 10km into the 40km ride. Robinson was thrown into a poor aerodynamic position and lost five minutes on the leaders. Pride,



Cpl Stacey Robinson

and an excellent 10km run in 33 minutes, propelled him from the mid-60s to a respectable 38th place.

He reckons the mishap on his bicycle cost him the top ten finish for which he had trained so hard.

"It was a tough competition and Wellington, New Zealand's 'Windy City', didn't do us any favours. We had to contend with a heavy swell in the sea, a strong headwind on the bikes, and it got pretty hot while we were running.

Robinson, currently serving with 28 Engineer Regiment at Hameln in Germany, is hoping

to transfer during 1995 to the APTC.

Four other members of the Regular and Territorial Army, competing as part of the Great Britain team, took part in the world championships. They were WO2 Henry Hookings and Sgt Darren Wolfendale of the RGJ, and Capt Karen Metcalf and LCpl Phil Jenkins, both R Signals TA.

Triathlon has recently been given formal recognition as an Olympic sport.

An Army triathlon training trip to Lanzarote from April 27 to May 11 is being planned, at an approximate cost of £400.

Details from SSgt Dinwoodie, 381 Troop, 47 AD Sqn RLC, RAF Lyneham, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 4P2.

Bawden uses his head to see off SAS signallers

Southampton UOTC 5, 63 (SAS) Sig Sqn 0

TWO new teams, 63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V) and Southampton UOTC, contested the final of the Southern District TA



The Army members of the Great Britain team pictured in New Zealand, where they competed in the world triathlon championships. Left to right are WO2 Henry Hookings (RGJ), Cpl Stacey Robinson with his bicycle, Capt Karen Metcalf and LCpl Phil Jenkins (both R Sigs (V)) and Sgt Darren Wolfendale (RGJ)

Challenge Cup. The students opened the scoring with a back-header by OCdt John Bawden after 19 minutes. He increased the lead with another header nine minutes later and

completed his hat trick in the second half. OCdt Alex Snook made it 4-0 and Jim Hawkins added a fifth.

● A Sheffield club football team is doing battle - backed

by the Army. Pheasant 93 FC is wearing a strip provided by the Army Careers Information Office and Sheffield's 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (V).

Lottery set to increase pay-outs

TRUSTEES of the Army Sports Lottery are expected to approve bigger prizes at their annual meeting in March.

The lottery, which began in September 1993, has so far dispensed £315,000 in prize money, and £133,000 in grants to sports associations, corps, regiments, units and individuals.

In a further development, the lottery has been thrown open to Gurkhas.

Funds generated by the project have already had an impact on Army sport at all levels.

Army representative tours to Hong Kong (cricket), football (Thailand) and tennis (Bahrain) received financial help, while at corps level the RLC rugby team was assisted on its tour to Cyprus, the Royal Artillery football team was helped on its way to Malta, and the Rugby League body was awarded a grant for its trip to Morocco.

Units which have benefited include 7 Signals and 22 Regiment RA who made rugby tours to the United States, the same destination for a lottery-assisted trip by 2 Signal Regiment athletes.

Individuals have also been helped. They include triathletes WO2 Henry Hookings and Sgt Darren Wolfendale of The Royal Green Jackets who competed in the world championships in Wellington, New Zealand.

The lottery has also helped the Rhine Army Parachute Association to buy a new aircraft, and the Army Athletics Association to acquire a photo-finish camera.

One soldier has had the luck of the Irish. A lance corporal serving with 9 R Irish has twice won the top prize, while SSgt Eddie Triggs (14 Ind Topo Sqn), the very first winner, followed up his initial win with a small prize of nearly £300.

Cavalry school open to riders

LT Robert Gaussen QLR has completed a 3½-month riding course in Italy. The course, run by the Italian Army Cavalry School, is open to British officers. Based around the three-day event, it offers instruction of the highest level which ensures a marked improvement in riding skills.

Services bogged down by FA

Football Association 2, Combined Services 0

ON a wet and windy evening and a Nantwich pitch made tricky by heavy rain, the Football Association team put Combined Services under pressure from the start, writes Jim Danks.

Fortunately, goalkeeper SSgt Nigel Wiscombe was in excellent form and kept the eager FA forwards at bay.

Services eventually got their act together and the RAF pair Taylor and Maguire brought a good save out of the FA 'keeper in the 40th minute. On the stroke of half time, Wiscombe

made a wonderful save, turning a shot behind for a corner.

Services began the second half brightly, Pte Lee Bradbury (PWRR) shooting wide when well placed in the 50th minute, while SAC Holt (RAF) made several attacking runs down the flank.

It was his cross in the 57th minute which created the Servicemen's best chance of the game. Maguire dummied to leave Cpl Dave Maynard free. His shot just missed the upright.

On the hour the Football Association went ahead when Stuart Binson of Macclesfield

Town crossed for Stuart Terry (Altrincham) to fire past LCpl Micky Taylor who had replaced Wiscombe in the Services' goal.

The introduction of several substitute players interrupted the pattern of the Combined Services play and the FA quickly took advantage to increase their lead in the 67th minute.

But the 2-0 defeat was no disgrace against a highly skilled Football Association XI and coach Sqn Ldr Nigel Quincey will have been satisfied with several aspects of his development team's performance.

CS 0, Chelsea 2

A Chelsea XI provided the opposition for Combined Services in their opening trial match leading up to the Kentish Cup games, writes Derrick Bly.

The Army was represented by eight players in the Services' squad.

Spectators were treated by the Londoners to an effective display of possession football, although the Servicemen never stopped battling and managed to create a few chances of their own.

The visitors went ahead in the 20th minute when SSgt

Kevin Parkins was adjudged to have tripped striker Rowe in the area and Craig Norman sent SSgt Nigel Wiscombe the wrong way with his spot kick.

CS stalwart LAEM Nigel Thwaites replaced Royal Navy colleague POPT Haigh as SSgt Alan Higgins, Sgt Tapp of the RF and Sig Simeon Bambrook fought hard in midfield to stem the tide and provide openings for leading Army scorer Pte Lee Bradbury.

Wiscombe brought off a superb one-handed save to deny Rowe, while at the other end Higgins forced the Chelsea 'keeper to palm away

Win one, lose one

RLC 5, RLC (V) 2

THE Royal Logistic Corps Regulars scored a 5-2 win over their Territorial Army counterparts in the inaugural match between the sides at Blackdown on January 14.

Pte Dave Hope opened the scoring for the Regulars in the 17th minute with an unstoppable shot after a good interchange of passes between Cpl Percy Zolden, Pte Steve Bowey and Pte Dave Whitworth. Man of the match Whitworth tapped in from close range to make it 2-0 before Terriers pulled one back.

From the restart the Regulars stormed back to the TA end and Whitworth was on hand to score again.

After the part-time soldiers had brought the score back to 3-2, they were reduced to ten men and Zolden and Bowey added further goals.

RLC 1, TA (UK) 2

Two goals in the final three minutes by a strong Territorial Army (UK) side pulled victory out of defeat against the RLC at Blackdown.

The loggies took the lead in the 68th minute when Pte Steve Bowey finished off a move involving Sgt Steve Booth - who was outstanding in defence - skipper Steve Perkins and Pte John Rowe.

Matelots edge out the RAF

THE ROYAL Navy overcame the Royal Air Force by seven bouts to four in the opening salvo of the 1995 Inter-Services boxing championships at RAF Cosford.

Attention now turns to the match which usually decides the destination of the title, the Navy against the Army. This year's clash on February 2, sure to be as hotly contested as tradition

demands, is hosted by the sailors at their Portsmouth stronghold, HMS *Nelson*. The Army will want a winning start to their campaign to retain the championship for a 12th consecutive year.

Tickets for the Army-RAF confrontation in the Army Boxing Centre at Aldershot on February 16 are now available. Ring 01252 349084 or 349155 for reservations.

Paras are bobsleigh champs

A TALENTED team from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, based in Belfast, clinched the British two-man bobsleigh championship at Igls in Austria.

Cpl Sean Olsson and Cpl Eric Sekwalor, who both have Winter Olympic experience behind them, swept aside 25 Service and civilian teams in a thrilling battle to win the title.

The pair are members of a 12-strong 1 Para squad which spent several days at Igls preparing for the national championships.

In Belfast, driver Olsson and brakeman Sekwalor trained during off-duty periods at the Fort Whiterock military base by using a hand-built trolley frame to simulate the all-important push start needed to shave vital split seconds off their times.

Before their Northern Ireland deployment, both men had trained at Aldershot to

achieve a peak level of fitness.

"We had hoped to do well and bring back some sporting glory to our mates in Belfast," said Olsson. "Winning the two-man title will be a great tonic for them. It's a great result. We thought we would do well but hadn't expected to win."

Their two descents at Igls gave them an overall time of 107.65 seconds, a substantial .71 ahead of their nearest rivals, Don Evans and Phil Delbaugh. The two men also achieved the two fastest starts in the competition and Sekwalor won the trophy for the fastest brakeman.

In all, 16 Army teams, four Royal Air Force and two Royal Navy teams took part.

Olsson, a physical training instructor, and Sekwalor, a section commander, were later joining two of their battalion colleagues to complete final training sessions for the British



Cpls Sean Olsson (front) and brakeman Eric Sekwalor

four-man bobsleigh championships.

Olsson, who was second in the British championships a year ago, drove the GB 2 bob at the Lillehammer Winter Olympics while Sekwalor was in the GB 3 crew in the same

competition.

● Late news: Olsson led his team to victory in the four-man event at Igls and, as British two- and four-man champion, joined Mark Tout and his team mates in St Moritz for the last race in the World Cup Series.

IT'S LOOKING GOOD

PRESTIGIOUS wins by the Combined Services over international opposition have given Armed Forces rugby a considerable boost, writes Roger Thompson.

The matches against Canada (21-20) and the Australian Combined Services (12-9) were both hosted by Devonport Services, Plymouth, and without the massive presences of Tim Rodber, Rob Wainwright, Rory Underwood and Paul Hull, who were all on international duty.

At the heart of the win

against Canada was a fine try by Army skipper Capt Julian Brammer who, following a period of expansive play, picked up the ball 20 metres out and drove low and hard under the posts.

On the domestic scene, the Army Cup semi-finals resulted in 7 (Para) RHA beating 7 Signal Regiment 42-24 and 2 Signal Regiment overcoming the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards 20-2.

Both were very good games of rugby, and with so many Army players on view, the final

at Aldershot on January 25 was certain to have been a ding-dong battle.

In the Minor Units' competition, ITB Strensall again looked the team to beat. They accounted for NCO Tac Wing Brecon 25-0 while 15 Regiment RLC were defeating 6 Supply Regiment RLC 23-5.

The Army senior XV is starting to take shape. Selectors and coach Lt Col Lawson and his acolytes have been at many of the inter-Corps matches seeking fresh talent.

As a result, a new-look Army

XV played some excellent rugby against an experienced Territorial Army side to win 58-3, which augurs well for the Inter-Services championship at Twickenham.

The Royal Navy, however, are looking stronger than they have done for many years, and the Royal Air Force still have the team which has retained the Willis Corroon Bowl for the past five years.

The big dates for your diary are: April 1, Army v Royal Navy; April 12, Army v Royal Air Force.

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Serving with the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment based at Ballykinler, 2nd Lt Tracey Washer and Cpl Robo Robinson, AGC (PRO), pause beside the Convent of Mercy school gates near Corry Square. See Pages 15-17.

Picture: Mike Weston



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