

SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

AUGUST 19 1996

60p

SCROLLS OF HONOUR



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August 19, 1996 Vol 52/17

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Picture: Mike Weston

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Smiles before the tears: Olympic "supporters", SSgt Alex Armstrong and Sgt John Dunn, bid farewell to Sgt Kelly Holmes as she prepares to fly to Atlanta

Kelly battles to the finish

IF THERE was an award for bravery on the athletics field, then Sgt Kelly Holmes would surely have won it to make up for her disappointment in the Olympics, writes Laurie Manton.

The 26-year-old's dream of gold vanished when she suffered a stress fracture in her left leg, but Kelly soldiered on.

Kelly, the British Army's top athlete, who won a silver and bronze in last year's world championships, had to have injections to kill the pain.

She reached the 800m final in Atlanta, after winning her heat in the fastest time, but could only manage fourth place, less than one-tenth of a second behind the bronze medal winner.

Brave Kelly, one of three soldiers competing in the Games – the others were TA Cpl James Williams, the fencer, and hockey player Capt Simon Hazlitt – then vowed to win a medal in the 1500m, but it was not to be. After battling through



Kelly Holmes shows the strain as she finishes second in the 1,500m heats in Atlanta

But bravery not enough for medal

to the final, she led from the start but had nothing left for the last 200m and finished eleventh. In obvious distress, she crossed the line almost at

walking pace and left the stadium on crutches and in tears.

British team doctor Malcolm Brown described her as one of the bravest athletes he had ever known.

"I had to inject a local anaesthetic into her leg before each of her last four races," he said.

"I also spelled out the dangers to her and the risks she was taking by continuing to compete.

"Though the chances were remote, I did explain if she twisted her leg during a race the bone would snap and she would then have to have a steel plate inserted.

"Each time the anaesthetic wore off she was in considerable pain. I don't think there are many girls in the world who would have stood up to what she did. It was obvious nothing I said was going to stop her trying to get that medal."

British silver medallist, Roger Black said: "No one knows what Kelly went

● Turn to Page 8

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Court martial reforms as Service laws updated

COURT martial reforms are among improvements to Service discipline procedures in the Armed Forces Act, which has been given the Royal Assent. The new legislation will reinforce the independence of courts martial and give defendants the right to

appeal against sentence as well as finding. The Act will also:

- Make it a Service offence to refuse to take a compulsory drug test.
- Enable the Armed Forces to recruit personnel for service in a particular locality, rather than worldwide.

● Introduce greater consistency into the arrangements for Servicemen and women to make complaints, both internally and to industrial tribunals.

● Amend the Firearms Acts allowing civilians to be trained under strict supervision by the

Services without having to hold individual firearms certificates.

The changes will come into force between October 1996 and April 1997. The five-yearly Act ensures Service law and civilian law are in line as far as possible.

Bett options still being considered

A PROGRESS report on the proposals made by Sir Michael Bett's Independent Review of the Services' manpower, career and remuneration structure was given to the House of Lords in a written

answer on July 25 by the Defence Minister, Earl Howe.

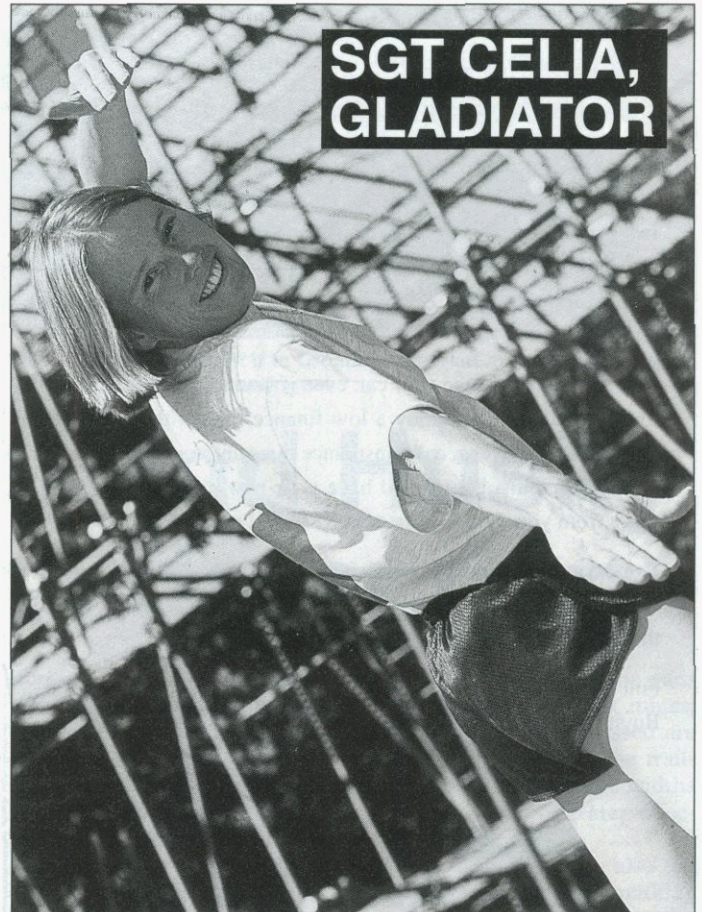
He said the Government had been considering the proposals made by Sir Michael Bett but more work was still required on the detailed options.

It was likely, he added, that those options would be set out in a report later this year which would provide the basis for an information exercise within the Forces.

● Detailed work continues on a new pay structure based on a revised job evaluation system, which will not be introduced before the end of 1999.

While there will be no changes in the pension scheme for those now serving, the position for new recruits has yet to be decided, as has the question of leave.

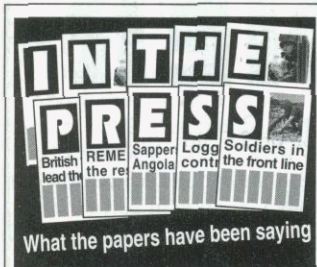
Work also continues on simplifying the current system of allowances and charges.



SGT CELIA, GLADIATOR

Picture: Chris Fletcher

"Let battle commence," says Sgt Celia Duffield, pictured by the Army Physical Training Corps' formidable high level assault course. Celia, currently based with the RLC at Worthy Down as part of the Cadet Training Team, beat 23,000 other hopefuls to win a place on TV's *Gladiators* programme. The challenge should be comparatively straightforward for Celia, one of the Army's top 1500m runners, who has been brushing up on her assault course work and weight training. Filmed this month, the programme is due to be transmitted in the autumn.



The codename of Operation Joint Endeavour for the peace-keeping mission in Bosnia has taken on an extra meaning for up to 70 of America's women soldiers. They have been sent home for getting pregnant. — *Times*

□ Thousands of British corpses in one of the oldest burial grounds in Singapore are to be exhumed and cremated to make way for a new highway and homes. About 9,000 British expatriates and ex-Servicemen are buried at Bidadari. — *Mail on Sunday*

□ Griffith Williams, oldest surviving member of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, who once arrested the Irish Republican leader Eamon de Valera, later President of Ireland, has died aged 108. — *Times*

Life Guards take a dip

FROGGED tunics and busbies replaced the shining breastplates and helmets of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment when The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery mounted sentry duty at Horse Guards in Whitehall.

The King's Troop took over

from The Life Guards to allow the cavalry to move to Norfolk for a three-week break from streets and ceremonies. Both men and horses were enjoying the opportunity to jump fences, ride across country and bathe in the sea before their return to London on August 19.

MND(C) commander

Maj Gen Rob McAfee has taken command of the Multi-National Division Central (Airmobile), part of NATO's rapid reaction forces. Gen McAfee, whose last appointment was military adviser to the High Representative of the UN in Sarajevo, took over from Maj Gen Jan Willem Brinkman of the Netherlands.



SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Civil tel: 01252 347 plus last three digits of Aldershot Military extension given below

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'Partisans' watch fire demo at Glamoc

ARMED Forces Minister Nicholas Soames stood close to the spot where a relative once landed when he watched a fire-power demonstration at Glamoc ranges in Central Bosnia.

Randolph Churchill parachuted into the area during the Second World War. Descendants of the partisans were flown to watch British, Dutch and American troops fire guns, tanks and mortars.

The massive 155mm AS90 self-propelled guns from 1 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery were supported by 105mm Light Guns from F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, 7 RHA and 120mm mortars.

Challenger main battle tanks' 120mm guns and Scimitar tracked reconnaissance vehicles' 30mm cannon, both from the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, also fired.

Above them were Lynx helicopters of 9 Regiment Army Air Corps with Tow Missiles and armed RAF Chinook helicopters while in support was a US Army radar unit.

Mr Soames took part in the demonstration by firing a 107 Light Gun.



Dwarfed by the mighty Russian Antonov 124 which brought it to Croatia, a Meerkat mine detection vehicle is towed off the tarmac at Split to join the British IFOR contingent

Meerkat and Husky aid mine detection

BOMB disposal Royal Engineers in former Yugoslavia have taken delivery of new mine detection equipment to help in the massive task of mine clearance.

The South African-made Chubby Mobile System comprises a Meerkat mine detec-

tion vehicle (MDV) and a smaller Husky MDV used for towing mine detonation trailers. Five vehicles and four trailers were delivered.

A typical deployment would be of a Meerkat followed by a Husky towing two trailers.

Both vehicles are fitted with

pulse induction detector pads which detect anti-tank mines. Mines which are bypassed are detonated by one of the trailers, whose varying axle widths give the system greater effectiveness.

The vehicles can also be fitted with mine marking equipment which allows the operator to handle detected mines from the safety of the armour-plated MDV cabin.

Sphinx Battery settles in

GUNNERS of F (Sphinx) Battery 7 Royal Horse Artillery have moved into a factory near the ruined town of Jezero for their six-month posting to Bosnia.

The Aldershot-based gunners share with a Dutch mortar company and have forward observation officers serving with the Malaysians and The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

One in three deployments of their 105mm Light Guns is by helicopter and it is a change to be located in villages and have children running through the positions and people approaching for a chat.

The OC, Maj Mark Banham, reports that they observed Airborne Forces Day but were slightly apprehensive when the Serbs commemorated the Battle of Kosovo in 1389.



RHA gunners clean their 105mm Light Gun after arriving in Jezero

"If you are having a good party in this country it always involves weapons and ammunition, but nothing happened other than the odd stray shot

across the top of the factory," said Maj Banham.

The battery took over from 19/5 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Bty of Larkhill's AMF(L) Artillery.

IFOR soldier dies in bid to rescue Brits

A CANADIAN soldier died and four were seriously injured when their Bison vehicle overturned while rushing to rescue British soldiers trapped in a minefield 8km south of Bihac on July 4.

Although The Queen's Dragoon Guards' Scimitar sustained minor damage when it hit an anti-personnel mine, the crew was uninjured.

By the time a second EOD team arrived at the scene of the incident it was too dark to extricate the Scimitar and both crews remained in their vehicles until first light when the rescue was completed safely.

BBC tries to reel in the Ladies from Hell

A FIERY cross is being sent out to the Ladies from Hell of the 51st (Highland) Division.

The call is going out to soldiers who were taken prisoner by Rommel at St Valéry-en-Caux in June, 1940, after providing a rearguard for the British Expeditionary Force escaping from Dunkirk.

The Germans, who feared the tenacious kilted warriors of the Division in the First World War, dubbed them "The Ladies from Hell".

BBC Scotland wants to make a half-hour documentary on the story of the Highland Division in France in 1940 before it found fame as the Highway Decorators from El Alamein to near the Elbe.

The programme will focus on the creation of the *Reel of the 51st Division* (featured in *Soldier's* May 13 issue this year) as a vehicle for telling the story of the capture, the marches to PoW camps and the escapes.

The BBC, which would like to hear from family and friends who have information as well as from surviving Jocks themselves, is particularly keen to find Tommy Carmichael, Tommy Drew, Charles Bennet, Peter and Stewart Allward, Allan More, Robert Thom, schoolmaster Cecil Shaw, Teddy Hicks, Ravioli Ogilvie and Hector Ross of 4th Seaforths, who composed the original dance tune.

Please contact Kate Banatnyne, BBC Scotland, Arts and Entertainment, Room 3163, BBC Broadcasting House, Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow, G12 8DG tel 0141 338 2710.

Quality SEME

The School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (SEME) has received a top award for quality assurance. After three years hard work, the establishment has now been presented with an ISO 9001 certificate.

MPs worried over strain on Forces

THE House of Commons Defence Committee's statement on the defence estimates for 1996 comments that the Armed Forces would be hard-pressed to operate effectively at a higher level of activity or undertake any additional operational commitment.

The strain caused by such factors as tour intervals, short-

age of training and serviceability of equipment was showing, although the Forces are managing to meet their commitments, says the report.

The Army's main problems were manpower shortages, meeting the Bosnia commitment, and training. The 10,500 troops in IFOR constitute a tenth of the trained

strength of the Army and if allowance is made for units preparing to go and recuperating afterwards, the commitment accounts for nearly a third of the Army.

Repeated failures to meet the tour interval target of 24 months would lead to loss of morale, poor retention and loss of skills, say the MPs, and meant that either Bosnia was too big a commitment for the Army or that the Army was not big enough for the tasks it is being given.

The committee was concerned that operational commitments of the Army and the constraints on training areas meant that the training exercise in Poland this autumn will be the first full brigade-size training exercise for five years.

Urgent attention had to be given to ensuring that the new computerised Battlefield Equipment Reliability Return provides reliable information in the future.

The committee noted the discontent in the Falkland Islands at the cost of telephone calls home, and reported that consideration is being given to providing live television broadcasts via satellite.

AAC best overall team in Nijmegen Marches



Sgt Ted Bates of HQ UK Support Command (Germany), Rhein-dahlen, airs his weary toes

OPERATIONAL commitments limited the number of British units taking part in the 80th International Nijmegen Four-Day Marches to 950 from the Regular Army, TA and Cadet Forces.

Covering 40km each day, the 73 British teams all completed the course with 659 Sqn, 4 Regt AAC from RAF Wattisham being the best Army and best overall team, with Hereford and Worcester ACF the best cadet team.

A British support element was mustered by HQ UK Support Command (Germany) and medical cover was provided by 3 Armoured Field Ambulance from Sennelager.

Soldiers of the Queen

THE CORPS of Drums and Pipes and Drums of The London Regiment carried out Public Duties for the first time when they played the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards into Buckingham Palace to change the Guard in July and August.

The Londons, formed from volunteer elements of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, London Scottish and London Irish Rifles, provided its rich mix of musicians on six occasions.

This is believed to be the first time that a TA line regiment has carried out public duties for the sovereign in

London, though London Scots have provided a guard at Edinburgh Castle.

The Londons have a long history and returned to the order of battle in their present guise in April 1993. Currently six members are serving with the Peace Implementation Force in former Yugoslavia.

● The Honourable Artillery Company Band and Corps of Drums also recently played for the changing of the Guard. The HAC regularly carries out public duties for the Lord Mayor of London and provided the sovereign's guard pre-Second World War.

● From Page 3

through. I saw her in the Olympic village after every one of her races and she could hardly walk. If anyone deserved a medal at these Olympics she did."

Kelly has been ordered to rest for at least six weeks. Her injury will respond to treatment and there is expected to be no long-term damage.

Since last year's medal-winning performances at the world championships at Gothenburg, Kelly's training had been badly disrupted.

Last winter she had her tonsils out and then underwent a second operation to remove an ovarian cyst. A hamstring injury further delayed her getting into racing shape.

With more than two months training missed, it was felt pos-

EOD team in Cyprus clearance operation

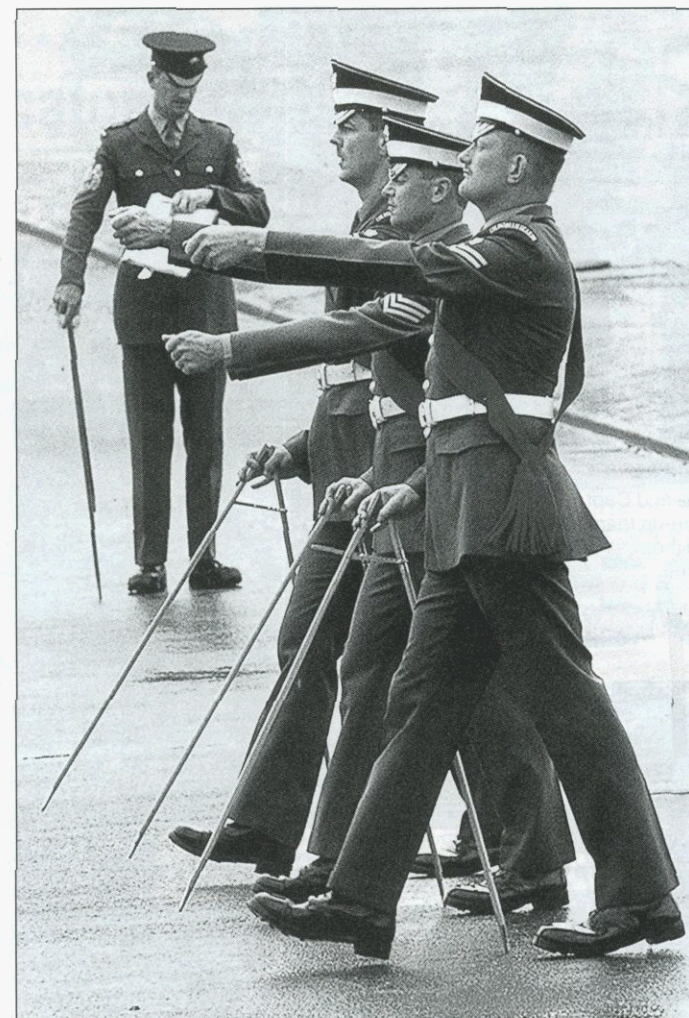
A TEAM of Explosive Ordnance Disposal experts from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) has returned from a two-month deployment to Cyprus where it cleared unexploded munitions from the Akamas Range area.

Drawn from the Wimbish-based regiment's 58 Field Squadron (EOD), the soldiers were split into two battle area clearance sections and tasked to carry out a visual search of the 15 square km area.

Much of the range, which has been declared an area of outstanding natural beauty, is exceptionally hilly and covered with dense vegetation which had to be systematically searched and cleared.

More than 4,000 items of inert and live ammunition were recovered during Operation Upraise 2, including unexploded 81mm mortar rounds and 76mm shells.

Ten tons of scrap was also removed, including a complete tank cupola and gun barrel and a rusty fridge.



It's a fact

STRENGTH of the Regular Army on April 1 this year was 113,400, compared with 154,600 five years ago. The figures include Gurkhas and trainees. -Parliamentary reply.

Paced out: WO1 Marty Brennan, Irish Guards, checks the pace of (left to right) CSgts Kevin Andrews, Lloyd Keenan and Bill Wilson, 1st Battalion, The Coldstream Guards, as they participate in the All Arms pace-sticking competition at RMA, Sandhurst. The team ended runners-up to The Scots Guards. Best pace sticker was CSgt Terry Harman, Welsh Guards.

ROYAL HONOUR

During its two-week annual camp at Chelsea Barracks, London, the Northern Ireland TA Band played for the Queen Mother at Clarence House and held concerts at the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Its musicians are drawn from all parts of the Province and both sections of the community.

OTC causes executive stretch

EXECUTIVES from the south of England discovered that the 105mm Light Gun is really quite heavy when it has to be dragged up a hill at Lulworth Ranges in Dorset.

Oxford University OTC

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Infantry recruits double

LATEST recruitment figures show a 53 per cent increase in Army enlistments in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period in 1995.

In a House of Lords written reply on July 25, Defence Minister Earl Howe said recruits to the infantry had almost doubled.

Since the Gulf conflict 25 soldiers who served there have subsequently died: 20 from injuries and poisoning, four from neoplasms and one from a disorder of the circulatory system, Defence Secretary Nicholas Soames reported on July 23.

There are 58 medical reservists currently serving in Bosnia, of whom 52 are attached to the Royal Army Medical Corps, Mr Soames said in a Commons written reply on July 24.

Other written answers: Defence Press and public relations work world-wide was carried out by 170 staff including 69 service personnel from 1995-6, said the Armed Forces Minister. Their salaries were estimated at £6.6 million.

The Ministry of Defence owns 73,873 properties, including civilian dwellings, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of which 14,498 are currently empty.

There are currently 1,005 British military personnel serving in Brunei.

Missile order

THE Brimstone advanced air-launched anti-armour missile and Storm Shadow conventionally armed stand-off missile have been ordered for the RAF as well as 21 Nimrod anti-submarine aircraft.

sible that she pushed herself too hard in trying to make up lost ground. A bout of sinusitis added to her problems.

After a short break Kelly will take up her post again with the Household Division Army Youth Team. She is expected to return to competition next year.

Britain's sole male fencer at the Olympics, TA corporal James Williams, was controversially knocked out in the second round of the men's sabre competition, just minutes after defeating the 13-times US champion, Peter Westbrook.

With the score 14-11, James seemed to score a clean parry-riposte, but the referee allowed a further movement by the

Russian, Sergei Sharikov, which won the match.

The 29-year-old health education officer from Kent left the Regular Army in March and immediately joined the TA. During his 13-year service, after joining the Royal Engineers as a Junior Leader, he won nearly two dozen BAOR, Army and Combined Services fencing titles.

Williams is ranked as Britain's No 1 and is already looking forward to the next Olympics Games in Sydney in the year 2000.

The Army's third Olympian, Capt Simon Hazlitt (1 LI) was a member of the British hockey team which finished out of the medals.



James Williams

Kelly battles to the finish

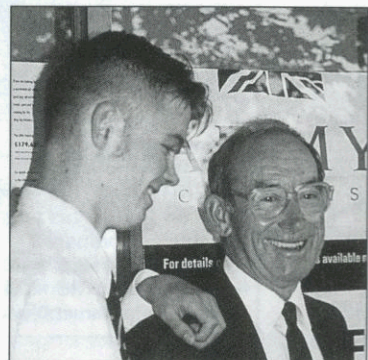
Service by the ton...

At Bessbrook, Northern Ireland, where they are serving with the 1st Battalion, The Coldstream Guards, these three chaps (left to right Capt **Michael Gajda**, Maj **John Saville** and Capt **Alwyn Lord**) are known as the ton-up team. Remarkably, they have, between them, amassed almost 100 years with the regiment



Pictures of pride

Proud dad WO2 **Ian Dunning**, Chief Army Photographer in Germany, congratulates his 18-year-old son, **Brett**, who had just passed out as a potential officer from Welbeck College, the Army's sixth form college. Equally proud was **Edward Chapman**, seen with his grandson, **Paul** (above), a new recruit to the Royal Regiment of Wales. Edward, who served with the 3rd Battalion, The Monmouthshire Regiment during the Second World War, won the VC in a battle on the Dortmund Elms Canal in 1945



When Sgt **Craig Foster** deployed on Operation Resolute in Bosnia, he did not expect to be meeting his brother, **Michael**.

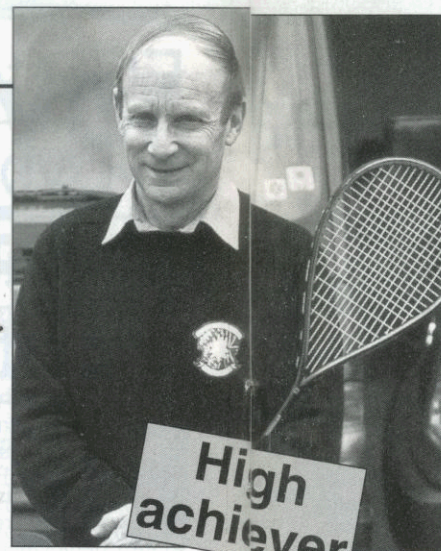
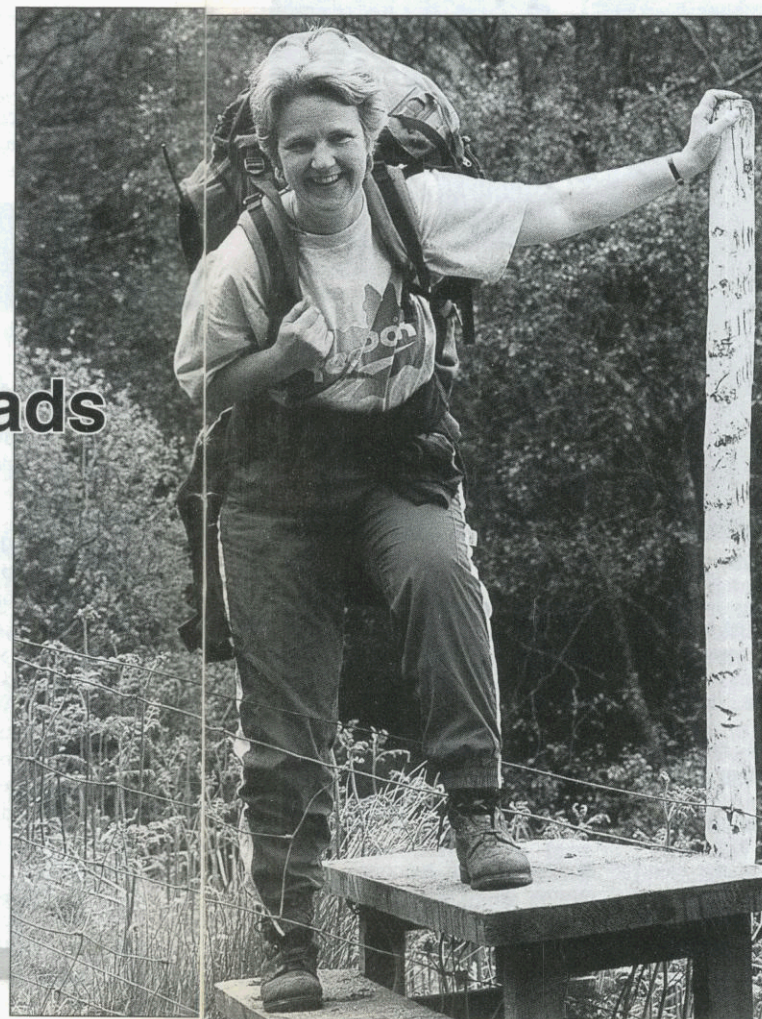
But the pair, who had previously not seen each other for two years, were delighted to be reunited at Split North Port where Craig is based with the Rations Troop, 64 Supply Squadron, 7 (UK) Regiment RLC and Michael is serving with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary on board the RFA *Resource*, which is berthed in the port.



Nice to "sea" you

Helena heads for the Highlands

Normally based in Swansea, Sgt **Helena Evans**, together with other members of 223 Squadron, 157 (Wales and Midlands) Transport Regiment RLC, switched to the spectacular scenery of the west coast of Scotland for the regiment's annual camp. The Army tradition runs in the family for Helena, who has been on previous exercises in Germany, the USA and Gibraltar and gained her HGV licence with the TA. Her father is a lieutenant colonel with Powys Army Cadet Force.



High achiever

Right up to the week before he retired from the Army, Maj **Brian Patchitt** was winning squash titles, in this case the RLC Veterans Championship. He has now left the British Alpine Centre (Bavaria) to take up a post as SO3 G3 Training at HQ UKSC (G) at Rhein-dahlen.

Dedicated David

For his "outstanding dedication, commitment, loyalty and enthusiasm for the Territorial Army," WO2 **David Platt**, a Professional and Technical Officer with the MoD at Chilwell who has travelled the length and breadth of the country for the past two years as OC of the mobile display and recruiting team, has been awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate. David is seen with fiancée **Anita Taylor** and Sir **Andrew Buchanan**, Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire.



Mean ministerial marksman...



Defence Procurement Minister **James Arbuthnot**, pictured with Cpl **Jock Bruce**, C Coy, 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, impressed members of the regiment when he spent a busy day with them on Dartmoor.

He fired all platoon weapons, including the 94mm anti-tank outdoor trainer, the 51mm light mortar and the general purpose machine gun - in each case scoring accurate hits.



Picture: Mike Weston

"Club" members

This quintet from the **Army Golf Association**, pictured in front of the practice putting green at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, Lytham St Anne's, had things down to a tee as they took a brief respite from acting as marshals at the 125th Open championship (see story, page 22).

Chalker's challenge



Presenting for the first time the prestigious trophy named after her was Baroness **Linda Chalker**, Honorary Colonel of Merseyside and Manchester-based 156 (NW) Transport Regiment RLC (V), which held its annual military skills weekend at Altcar Training Camp. Receiving the award is Maj **Nial Browne**, OC of the winning 238 (Sefton) Squadron (V) from Bootle.

Stressed out? Why not take a break. You deserve it

AS I WRITE, families are packing up the car or getting onto a plane to go off on holiday. For many people it won't be a minute too soon.

For the Service community it has been a bruising and worrying time. The notion of getting away from it all will be very attractive. Everyone needs a spell of R and R.

Stress builds up slowly and relentlessly whatever your job or calling. It's very important to recognise it and take a break or talk about it.

Recently, Martin Owen, SSAFA's assistant director of training, visited the BFBS studio to talk about how he helps to train those who work with people in communication and counselling skills.

There were, I said, many old soldiers who would wonder if today's Service people had gone soft with all the counselling that's on offer.

Many men, shell-shocked and broken after two world wars, were left to their own devices. Many, not

so obviously damaged, had to get back to civilian life on their own.

Mr Owen thought I would be surprised by the number of veterans who had said that they would have welcomed the kind of help that was on offer today, and who supported the development of such work for their younger counterparts.

Of course, you don't have to be in desperate need of help to turn to a counsellor or professional listener. Recognising stress is a big part of dealing with it.

Neither do you have to be a wimp to need someone to hear your anxieties. Often, the scale of a worry reduces after you've put it into words and said it out loud. Frequently you discover that a lot of other people share your concern.

So, what are the most common worries? The letters that come to me from those who listen to BFBS



Cari's column

often focus on a money problem.

It might be debt or, less dramatically, managing the household budget. Health concerns move people to write, as do child-care issues.

Some years ago it would have been difficult to find appropriate agencies to recommend to those needing expert

advice. Now, my bookshelves are crammed tight with self-help books and directories of agencies and charities.

We have developed a culture where it is no longer good enough to let a problem bubble away under the surface. We expect it to be fixed as easily as a broken washing machine.

Years ago, Service people expected to be told about decisions made about them and their life. Now, they feel relatively free to engage in debate about big issues. Wives, and now hus-

bands, of soldiers have emerged from the shadows and expect to be heard as well as seen.

Women have come out from behind the typewriter and the wheel of the colonel's staff car and they now expect to fight alongside male colleagues.

I think that this increasing involvement in the life of the Army, not just on the part of women but of all soldiers and their families, has led to people feeling a greater sense of commitment to the Service. While this is a positive shift, I think that it increases the tension for those who want to develop an identity or image of the Army to which they can commit themselves.

Over the past few years, traditional, stereotypical, images have been undermined. The apparent mismatch between resources and demands on the Army has caused worry at every level, and the stream of reports and reviews has shaken many people.

Set against a civilian world where violence, indolence and ignorance appear to be on the

increase, it must seem to many that the last bastion of common sense and security is crumbling about them.

I don't believe it is. When the family home becomes too small or inconvenient for the changing needs of its occupants, there are two options. You can either abandon it and go somewhere else or, if you really love it, you consult the architects and the builders and get advice on the best way of adapting it without losing its essential character.

Some architects will come up with daft ideas. Some builders tell you that what you want isn't possible. And then you have to comply with regulations or restrictions. In the end, if you keep your head and choose carefully, you end up with a home which will accommodate everyone.

I think we are seeing the same process at work in the Army. There are changes going on which, if those in charge choose carefully, will lead to a better environment. But those inconvenienced by the changes mustn't

be forgotten. They shouldn't allow themselves to dwell on the difficulties, either. This is easier said than done, of course, but with the huge range of help on offer it should be possible to find a listening ear wherever you are in the world.

The most important factor in reducing stress is rest. Rest isn't necessarily lying on the sofa doing nothing - although there are times when it's a very good idea - but it is taking a break from your usual environment. It is also putting down the burden of worry for a short time.

If you are on leave or about to go, I hope you enjoy it. If, however, a holiday is a long way off and you are up to your eyes in work, I hope you'll give yourself a break occasionally.

And if you think you are getting over-stressed, I hope you find a friendly ear.

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

REGIMENTAL silver will take on a new meaning for

Silver lining

long-married Army couples who want to take advantage of a newly-launched offer from the General Register Office.

Administrator of birth, death and marriage laws in England and Wales since 1837, the office is putting on sale specially designed

register office reproduction marriage certificates to mark

silver weddings. The laser-printed certificates, which cost £40, carry the royal coat of arms and are among the few legal documents, apart from those used by the Royal family, to use it.

Ruby wedding certificates are also being newly issued.

Male soldiers targeted in health campaign

HEALTH experts have been visiting Army bases across England during the summer as part of the Health Education Authority's (HEA's) Men's Health initiative.

The campaign aims to provide information, advice and encouragement on leading healthier lives.

Newly-published HEA research shows that men want to know more about how to look after themselves, but are reluctant to go to their doctor to talk about their health.

Men also tend to keep quiet about symptoms of ill-health in the hope that they will disappear, the study discovered. They felt it was not "macho" to expose their weaknesses, and were also uncomfortable talking to their doctors or anyone else about their problems.

Advice on diet, physical activity, drinking and smoking are provided by the campaign, which also includes self-help information on areas such as how to spot the early signs of testicular cancer and details of where men can go for help and advice.

Col John Swanston, Commander Medical Headquarters, London District, said: "We are delighted to be working with the HEA on this important initiative. Soldiers' work requires them to be physically fit, but in a predominantly male environment they are often reluctant to talk about their health. This could lead to more serious conditions."

Are you game?

OUTGOING, "have-a-go" types among Army and MoD personnel are being sought for the next series of Jim Davidson's *Generation Game*.

"We believe that Army people and their relations are the sort of contestants who would really have fun on this programme," says BBC researcher Paula Goldstein.

The only stipulations are that potential auditionees should be a generation apart and of the opposite sex.

Further details: tel 0181-225 6108 or 7547.

All in the course of protection

FORMER soldiers keen to make a career in the burgeoning field of close protection are among those being sought for a new course.

The massive growth in demand for professional protection from senior business executives and public figures has resulted in a collaboration between Warwickshire Constabulary and Midlands-based manned guarding company Commando Security Services.

With the constabulary's permission, Commando is to provide City and Guilds courses in Close Protection (CP), claimed to be the first qualification-based training of its kind in the country.

Professional police instructors will be employed in certain aspects of the training, which will take place at the Force Training establishment at Leek Wootton near Warwick.

Both organisations hope that the joint courses mark the start of standardised CP training in the UK and will result in the development of a code of practice.

The month-long courses, which start on September 30, will run throughout the autumn.

"What makes them so different is that they lead to a City and Guilds (C & G) qualification," said Gary Thompson, Commando's General Manager. "We have worked very closely with the Security Industry Training Organisation to develop courses of a high quality."

The C & G qualification would "significantly enhance employment opportunities" and leave little doubt in the minds of potential recruits that close protection is a serious and legitimate discipline, he added.

Details: tel 01926-499495.

About the Haus

Accommodation available includes self-catering family apartments for four.

Bookings and information from The Lodge Manager, Dr Bach Strasse 17, 87497 Wertach, Oberrallgau, tel 08365 367 or Maj Nicholas, JHQ Mil ext 3616.

SCHOOL LOWERS THE FLAG



Sad moment for pupils at St George's School at Kowloon Tong as headmaster Martin Cater lowers the Union flag for the final time. Three generations of Service children in Hong Kong have been taught at the school since it opened its doors in 1955, but, with the return of the garrison's schoolchildren to the UK this summer, it has finally closed. At its peak in the 1970s there were more than 1,200 pupils and 54 teaching staff. With the reduction of the garrison under drawdown and the departure of the sixth form, however, there were only 57 pupils and 23 staff when the

school reached the end of its life. Maintaining its high standards to the end, this year St George's GCSE results put them in the top 15 comprehensive schools.

CASTLES, historic buildings, rivers and lakes are some of the nearby attractions at the British-staffed Haus Magnus, the UKSC (G) adventurous training lodge in Bavaria.

Located 20km south east of Kempton, the establishment is available only to military personnel, dependants and MoD UKBCs.

Federation's persistence on MQs praised

THE Army Families Federation has not been representing the views of only a handful of wives on the issue of Army housing: it has been doing a remarkably good job, Robert Key, MP for Salisbury, told the House of Commons during the debate on the all-party Defence Committee's report on married quarters on July 16.

"Those of us who have a regular case-load of MoD issues will recognise that the federation persists," he said.

"I have had a number of meetings and many telephone calls over the past six months with the federation and other individuals. They have raised many issues that have improved the scheme to the point where, as one of the chiefs of staff said, the scheme we now have is not the scheme we started with. It is remarkably improved."

Army wives and families who criticised the leadership of the Army Families Federation should know that, of the ten points put to him on July 5 by AFF chairman Cherry Milne, eight had already been addressed and discussed in depth in the Select Committee's report, Mr Key pointed out.

Earlier, Michael Colvin, chairman of the Defence Committee, had told the debate how impressed the committee had been by the quality of the evidence presented to them. Undoubtedly, he added, "the star of our sessions



"Star of the sessions": Cherry Milne

was Mrs Cherry Milne."

The government must ensure, he said, that our Servicemen and women and their families have the housing they deserve, because we owe it to them.

"As they comprise the best Forces in the world, they should have the best housing."

● As reported in our last issue, several improvements to the safeguards in the terms of the sale, reflecting concerns of Service families, were agreed by MPs.

In its conclusions, published on July 10, the Defence Committee said it had sought to satisfy itself

that the sale was in the public interest, the method of sale was appropriate, that the needs and expectations of Service families were properly protected, and that defence interests were respected.

It stressed that MoD should accept the concerns expressed in the report about Service families' security, housing standards and protecting the ethos of service family life.

The committee recommended an immediate review of the Defence Housing Executive to strengthen its structure and functions and ensure its staff are professionally qualified and experienced in housing management.

The executive also, needed to be assured of an adequate allocation of cash each year from the proceeds of the sale to guarantee proper maintenance and repair of all MoD housing.

MoD needed to reassure Service families that the sale would have little or no immediate effect on their housing.

● Bids for the purchase of the married quarters estate closed on July 31. An announcement on the buyer was expected this month - if the sale terms have been met.

● Letter - Page 29

Bex is the best

TROOP Commander 2Lt Bex Walker, 27 Transport Regiment RLC, has been awarded the Institute of Logistics Southern Region Young Manager of the Year award for achieving a "classic logistics success" in Bosnia.

Judges praised her ability to assess priorities quickly, allocate assets and co-ordinate all available resources, resulting in lifesaving humanitarian relief following the fall of the eastern enclave of Srebrenica, which had led to a major refugee crisis.

The mission involved the establishment of a forward storage and distribution point for the relief supplies, the running of a new warehouse in Tuzla, reception and reloading of relief supplies as well as the transport, supply and distribution of the urgently needed stores to the huge refugee population.

Paul Carvell, managing director of award sponsors United Transport (UK) said: "Logisticians are playing an increasingly important role in most organisations. Lt Walker clearly demonstrated a mature understanding of the problem she faced, and worked well with other units to achieve the desired goal."



Cpl Anthony Ng, from 200 (Peterborough) Sqn, a full-time student at North London University



No more footslogging? Loggies stride out in front of their new vehicles at Longmoor

Roled for the road

A LOGISTICS unit which proudly bears an infantry name in its title has seen recruiting soar since changing role from foot-sloggers to truckies.

The former "Steelbacks" of the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment now have metal surrounding them as 158 (R Anglian) Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers).

Instead of tabbing with 100lb on their backs, they have had to prove they can manoeuvre 55-tonne vehicles across country.

After a gruelling 15-day annual camp the regiment has shown it has what it takes to carry out a demanding international role.

The regiment was formed on April 1 this year as part of the reorganisation of the Territorial Army to fill a gap in the logistic capability of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

If mobilised, it would be part of 2 Transport Group, which has two other RLC specialist TA transport regiments within it in addition to 158 Regt, which is independent.

The group's role is to be the ARRC commander's logistic reserve. As such it could be tasked with crossing national boundaries to provide logistic support across the formation.

The regiment will be Commander ARRC's only dedicated combat service support transport regiment.

With three task squadrons based at Bedford, Ipswich and Loughborough, plus RHQ and HQ squadron in Peterborough, the regiment is equipped with 50 DROPS vehicles and 30 14-tonners.

The regiment experienced no shortages

of equipment as it set up and all the vehicles, which came through the Army supply network, were new and roadworthy.

When it began its transition into its new role, the regiment had only one top category Large Goods Vehicle licence holder;

after seven months it has 231 licensees and 229 driver trade qualified personnel.

It has been a huge task to acquire the new range of skills and the annual camp played a vital part.

First phase was at Grantham, home of the RLC TA, where each person engaged in a series of trade courses enabling them to reach the standards required for the second phase, a six-day exercise set in a Balkan-type situation.

Commanding officer Lt Col David Baylis set a realistic operational scenario relating to the work the ARRC is carrying out in former Yugoslavia.

Real logistic support was practised from Driffield in Yorkshire to Aldershot in Hampshire, taking in Chilwell, Grantham and Abingdon.

Soldiers quickly found there was more to being a driver than simple trucking, and many of their old skills were still relevant.

The amount of enjoyment that the logisticians experienced surprised everyone and the word has obviously got out, since recruiting in all the squadrons had gone "through the roof", said Lt Col Baylis.

Very few soldiers had been lost during the transition, and the unit now has 464 mem-

bers, a healthy 14 per cent over establishment.

Attendance at drill nights was running at 70 per cent, many more than had been expected in the former role.

It had been a fascinating experience for the CO, a Regular infantryman who, with his Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 Peter Woodcock, have remained to give continuity.

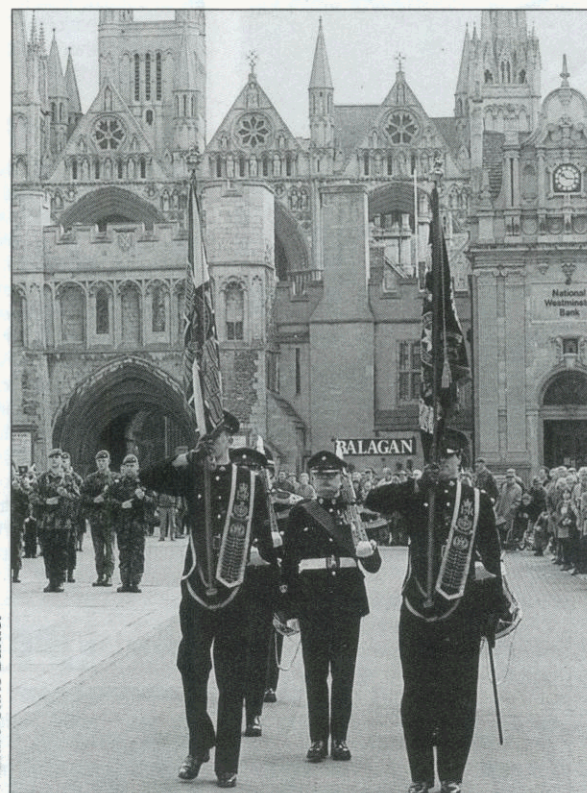
Training was novel, interesting and relevant to civilian as well as military work, said the CO.

The character of the regiment had changed, with the young women of East Anglia better able to play their part in tandem with male soldiers. There had previously been a reluctance to take on women but in a logistic role they could participate more.

The regiment is continuing its training in barracks, one evening a week and one weekend per month, to ensure personnel will be up to the necessary standard before the next camp in September 1997.

It promises to be an exciting experience, as it is likely to take place in Germany as part of a major field training exercise during which 158 Regiment will aim to prove that it has the ability to take its proper place in the order of battle and can deliver the logistic support for which it has been created.

Pictures:
Mike Weston



Picture Chris Barker

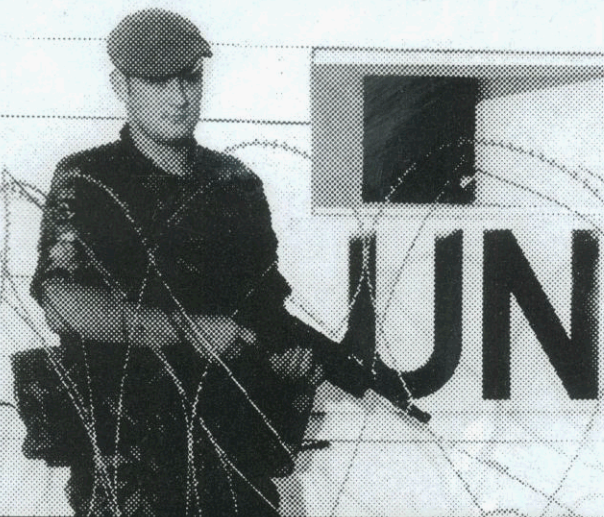
The Colours of the old 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment - The Steelbacks - are laid up in Peterborough as the battalion re-formed in a transport role within the Royal Logistic Corps



Pte Maxine Purser, a nursery nurse, and Pte Ian Shaw, a student at Loughborough University, check a DROPS load

Left - Officers of HQ 203 (Loughborough) Squadron at Longmoor training camp in Hampshire from left (front) Maj Trevor Terhegge and Lt Simon Barnes; (back) Capt Mike Marlowe, Lt Mike Flynn, Lt Steve Dodds and Lt James Phillips

**Soldiers are there when
you need them...**



**...please be there when
they need you**

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

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

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

Please help them in their hour of need.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes challenge

The Army Benevolent Fund thanks all participants in The Challenge for their considerable support for The Fund. For further information please contact:

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FEATURE THE SAGA OF HOW A PTI TRAINED A FOOTBALL TEAM TOO WELL



Pre-season (s)training: Scunthorpe United players tackle the assault course at Cambrai Barracks, the QRH's base

Below - Photo-call: Professionals of two kinds meet as the teams line up for a memorable photograph



Picture: Capt Peter Clarke, Army Press Office, 2 Div

Hussars put on United training effort

SCUNTHORPE United Football Club, nestling in the Nationwide League's Third Division, has had its share of highlights over recent years.

Any team which can boast the likes of Ian Botham, Kevin Keegan and Ray Clemence on its books in the past is bound to have had its moments.

Add to that an appearance at Wembley (at the promotion play-offs in 1992 when the team lost to Blackpool), or the occasion when former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher descended on to the pitch in a helicopter, and one will gather that inactivity and the club do not go hand in hand.

It was no doubt with this in mind that Scunthorpe manager Mick Buxton contacted Sgt John Costello, Physical Training Instructor to the Queen's Royal Hussars, to



On the run: A Scunthorpe player pursues the ball in the friendly match

give his players a taste of typically gruelling Army training.

"I heard that Sgt Costello had supervised a similar programme for Southampton some years ago," Mr Buxton said, as the team settled in to spend some time with the QRH, newly-returned from six months in Bosnia, at their Catterick base.

"The lads will be doing circuit training, swimming, gym work and aerobics: I believe it will build up their morale and leadership qualities. This isn't a fun week - it's serious stuff."

Three nights later, in front of a smattering of colleagues and families, the much-garlanded regimental team, neatly kitted out by military tailor Hodges, took on their professional opponents in an informal hour-long friendly at a local stadium.

"It's been a great week, and a big thrill for the guys to work with professional footballers," said Capt Paul Hodgson, QRH football officer and quartermaster.

Competition for places had been keen, with one would-be participant even having to be dissuaded from travelling to Catterick for the evening from a course he was attending at Bovington.

The match itself was played at a furious pace, though always in a fair manner.

At half-time, the soldiers' team, trailing by a couple of goals, was given a few timely words by player-manager WO2 "Ernie" Butler.

"You must talk to each other out there, like we do in the regiment," he exhorted.

In a somewhat unorthodox second half, one of the linesmen was substituted for a

bewildered QRH player, who then found himself running the line

Then WO2 Butler, who had thought his contribution on the field had been completed after substituting himself after the first half, had to don his boots again when a player was injured.

The end result (4-0 to Scunthorpe) was almost immaterial.

It had been a friendly, played in the right spirit, and Capt Hodgson was philosophical. "We were hoping that we might give them more of a run for their money as a useful pre-season session, but, with our Bosnian involvement, it has been difficult.

"On the other hand, we have several up-and-coming recruits, so it should be interesting to see how they get on."

If it is any consolation to him, one of the Scunthorpe players told *Soldier* after the game that, despite the apparently one-sided result, he and his team-mates were exhausted. "I was woken up at 6 o'clock, and I can honestly say that this has probably been the hardest first week of pre-season training I have ever had in several years with the club."

It seemed, however, that Sgt Costello's efforts on behalf of regiment and Army had succeeded in making the footballers a shade too fit.

For the QRH boys, it was back to the barracks to prepare for a Bosnian medal parade the following day.

And the men from Scunthorpe?

They eventually returned to their purpose-built stadium, opened in 1988 by Princess Alexandra, for more training.

This time of a more conventional sort.

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

Glamoc: Range of opportunities

OLIVER Goldsmith would have recognised the village of Direlici in Hercegovina. It is a deserted village.

Direlici does not immediately conjure up the images of a serene English countryside as does Goldsmith's evocative poem.

The rumble of IFOR's big guns and rattle of small arms fire disturbs the peace.

Not that anyone is left to bother. Direlici is derelict.

So, too, are Dukbrava, Podgreda and a string of hamlets on the hillside north of the Glamoc plain.

A civil war in all its fury swept over them last year, driving out the Kryena Serbs when Croats thrust up the valley and destroyed the 2nd Kryena Corps in a brilliant flanking attack.

Serbs have not returned to their homes as they have in the Anvil further north, nor have Croats taken advantage of their absence because of the number of minefields and the probability of unexploded shells in the area.

Instead, the Royal Artillery has moved in, and the sound of the guns is no longer menacing. It reassures people that IFOR is present.

The ridge and hills behind Direlici are ideal for a range which has become the pride of the Royal Artillery in former Yugoslavia.

Named Resolute Barbara after Operation Resolute and the gunners' patron saint, the range is near the Croat town of Glamoc and can be used by everything from infantry small arms to Apache helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.

Initially designed to allow gunners to practise and maintain standards, Resolute Barbara has been fired on or visited by all the major contributors to IFOR, and is a tremendous feather in the caps of the British gunners.

Significantly, the range has been visited

by senior commanders of the three factions, who have been profoundly impressed by the capability of IFOR. The Croat forces are delighted and look forward to taking over the range when the peacekeepers leave.

Now that the initial impact of heavy artillery and main battle tanks have had their dramatic effect, the emphasis has changed. Gunners and tank crews in particular can take advantage of the lower profile to carry out high quality training.

First priority set by the Commander Royal Artillery, Brig Freddie Viggers, was to select an unpopulated area.

"We have to think of the legacy, because one day we will leave and we must not leave a bad taste when we go," he told *Soldier*.

There were so many positive features that the area was chosen first by Capt Nigel Linge, Technical Instructor in Gunnery with the ACE Mobile Force who carried out the initial ground-work, then by Maj Taff Hill, Training Officer of 26 Regiment, the Sussex Gunners.

It was a joy to set up. When he arrived in theatre Maj Hill had no idea how much excellent training he would soon provide both for his regiment, his brigade, and the rest of IFOR.

Gunners joining the regiment from training could return from former Yugoslavia having completed not only their basic level, but advanced skills.

One of the main attractions of the area was that it had seen heavy fighting. Extensive minefields had been laid and it had been shelled for two days. It was already a "dirty" area.

Natural barriers mark the ground and it has a clear perimeter bounded by roads and a track. The whole range can be observed from half of the perimeter, and the gunners can use



Soldiers examine an M80 destroyed outside Mrkonjic Grad. It is destined to become a target at Glamoc Range

lasers and the full panoply of their technical expertise.

Although most of the houses were damaged, some were in good condition so it was decided that the buildings would not be targeted. Perhaps they can one day be rebuilt, but that is far in the future.

An early decision was taken to limit the range to an area south of the Zone of Separation between Serbs and the Croat/Muslim federation, so keeping liaison simple and avoiding potential difficulties with different hierarchies.

The first few gun positions were set up at either end of a grass airstrip established by the British Military Mission to the Partisans during the Second World War.

The ridge under which the deserted villages and small arms ranges nestle has been christened "Sussex Ridge" and was the gunners' first target.

From those small beginnings guns are able to fire in every direction from some 25 positions round 80 per cent of its circumference.

"We can engage all of it, the observation posts can observe, and the gunners can see what they are firing at, which they love because they don't often have much opportunity to do that," said Maj Hill.

The range developed to allow fire into a huge bowl similar to Warcop in the north of England.

Since then guns and mortars have fired, along with tanks, every machine gun in theatre, explosives, grenades and everything up



Czech-ing out British gunners

A CZECH artilleryman has been taking a close interest in the way British guns hit their targets.

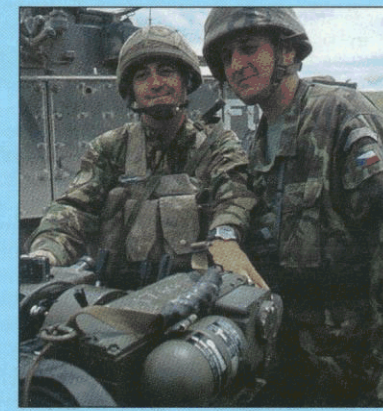
Capt Jan Trinacity is a forward observation officer with the 6th Czech Mechanised Battalion based in the Canadian brigade sector. His battalion is supported by the AS90s of 17/159 Battery of 26 Regiment RA based at Sanski Most.

Capt Trinacity has been studying British procedures so that he can run courses for the

Czech soldiers who were replacing 6 (Cz) Mechanised Battalion at the end of July.

"The Czechs have proved to be quite adaptive," said Battery Commander Mike Redmond.

"They went to the Netherlands before deploying to the Balkans to firm up on NATO procedures but there were still some issues to overcome, such as the Czechs only having 6,000 miles on their protractors instead of 6,400."



Capt Jan Trinacity of the Czech Army watches how British observation posts operate

to HOT and TOW missiles and the American Hellfire. Fixed-wing aircraft have also supported joint exercises.

"The Americans are particularly grateful for the use of our facilities because they don't have the real estate to let them set up a similar range," said Maj Hill.

Units from Gütersloh know Munsterlager and Hohne backwards: all the firing positions, where the targets are and where all the observation posts are, but Glamoc is new to them and they have to work harder to confirm their skills.

"Local people are happy for us to train," said Maj Hill. "They come out to watch and feel we are something of a buffer. We are good news because they go to bed at night feeling protected."

An added bonus was that the British will leave the range as a going concern, with no

need for Royal Engineers to clear ordnance left behind.

"We close on Sunday and every other Saturday so that we do not interfere too much with their lifestyle, and because wood cutting is a major industry, we allow people access to chop down trees," said Maj Hill.

Although he is supported by 52 (Niagra) Battery, which is based in Glamoc, Maj Hill has a very small staff to run the range: SSgt Nigel Hopkins, LBdr Sean Eatwell and Gnr Jamie Morgan.

"Everything is run as you would expect on any other range, and we still conform with all of our safety principles and procedures."

"If somebody phones and asks if he can fire today, it is not usually a problem at Glamoc. Ranges in Germany would probably have to have a week's notice."

AS90 in action at Glamoc

The training carried out at Glamoc takes a great weight off units in Britain and Germany.

"Unless you go live and hit the right target with the right ammunition at the right time you cannot be confident that all your gunnery, logistics, communications and fire procedures are working," said Maj Hill.

"You can only do so much in a dry training environment and it is only when you have a live shoot that you are confident that everything works as it should."

Ideally the gunners would like to develop the range to incorporate dismounted operations, with all arms training involving artillery, mortars, tanks and aviation in support of dismounted infantry on the ground.

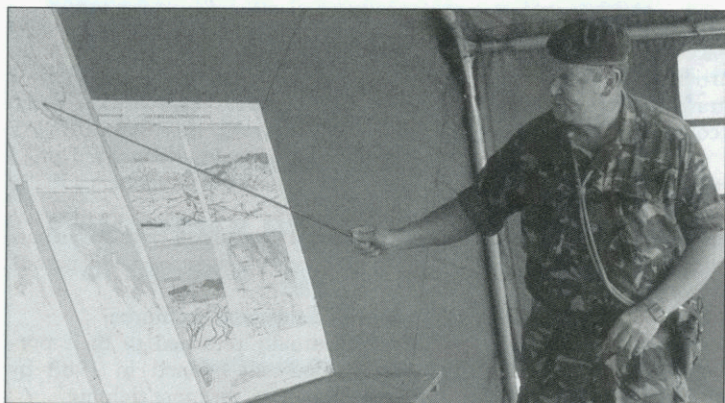
The rural charm of the sheltered cot, the cultivated farm of Goldsmith's "Sweet Auburn" is entirely lacking from the deserted villages of Sussex ridge.

Summer grasses hide many of the violent scars of war, and lush foliage sometimes shields the gaping holes in roofless houses from the eyes of IFOR soldiers who are the only people to venture in to this vast minefield. Soldiers hardly give the villages a second glance as they pass *en route* for small arms practice.

But the Glamoc carpenter who works for Maj Hill likes to take his friends to watch the firing.

It gives them a sense of security, knowing that IFOR is there.

"Even though we are not here to protect them, they feel our presence gives them confidence and helps them sleep well at night," said Maj Hill.



Maj Taff Hill illustrates his beloved range at Glamoc

Triathlon switches to Canaries

A CHANGE of destination and date for a sponsored charity triathlon has not deterred Army entrants – least of all soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment (V), a local team to the Alderley Edge-based project, who are giving their full support.

Although a “substantial” number of entries has been received from Territorial Army units, the organisers of the Sir Ranulph Fiennes Challenge Triathlon are keen for Regular regiments to put teams forward.

Originally scheduled to take place in the Holy Land in October (*Soldier*, June 10), the event has been transferred to Lanzarote on January 7 next year “in view of the somewhat volatile and unpredictable nature of events in Israel at present”, say the organisers. A letter circulated

by the Ministry of Defence to all regimental secretaries giving details of the triathlon is already said to be producing results.

“We believe that this is an excellent opportunity for regiments to promote themselves locally, showing how the Army offers an exciting challenge for those who wish to take it, as well as portraying the Army as a caring member of the community and, as a possible spin-off, helping with recruiting,” an MoD spokesman said.

Money raised will go towards a facility to be built in Cheshire to teach those who are most in contact with young people about epilepsy.

For each member of Regular, Territorial and Army Cadet Force units taking part, the Army Benevolent Fund will receive £250. Entrants, or



Cheerful Cheshires: Sgt Bob Price, Capt Peter Heyes, CSM Terry Finley and CSM Allan Joseph – members of 3 Cheshire – who will form part of the five-man team due to compete in the Lanzarote triathlon, seen with children from the David Lewis Centre. Fifth member of the team is Pte Terry Atkins

units sponsoring them on a collective basis, will need to raise a total of £1,800, of which half will be required by the event date.

A minimum of £500 must be received by November 22, the pre-event balance of £400 by January 3, and the final

balance of £900 can be submitted either before the event or by April 5 1997.

● Further details and entry forms from Arthur Surch, The David Lewis Organisation, Mill Lane, Warford, Nr Alderley Edge, Cheshire SK9 7UD, tel 01565 872613, fax 01565 880045.

Sappers' battle of the Somme

SPONSORSHIP and donations are being sought by Kent sappers to support Exercise Stallion's Stride.

To commemorate the Battle of the Somme, which took place between July and November 1916, ten members of 61 Field Support Squadron, Royal Engineers plan to run a non-stop charity relay from their operational base in Tomislavgrad, Bosnia, through the major battlefield areas where the Somme campaign was fought, to their regimental headquarters at Maidstone.

The run, which coincides with the squadron's return at the end of its Operation Resolute tour, will cover more than 2,200km.

Organiser of the event, set to raise £10,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund and Maidstone General Hospital Inten-

sive Care Unit, is Capt Paul Pendlebury, 61 Field Support Squadron RE, 36 Engineer Regiment, Invicta Park, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2NA.

A charity golf day held by the Cyprus Branch of SSAFA and Forces' Help Society attracted more than 100 contestants from Service golf clubs from the island and members of the local expatriate community. More than £2,000 was raised for SSAFA funds, with a further £500 donated to Cyprus Riding for the Disabled.

WO Andy Brayshaw, a combat medical technician based at Catterick Garrison, is taking on a three-day, 270-mile trek from Kirk Yetholth in Scotland to Edale in the Peak Dis-

Former Olympic javelin champion Tessa Sanderson took time off to join members of 35 (South Midland) Signal Regiment at Birmingham Children's Hospital to present a cheque and other gifts to children of neurology Ward 1, which has been formally adopted by all soldiers from the regiment. She is seen with seven-year-old Chloe Evans, who is recovering from a major illness, and Lt Col Richard Thurston, the regiment's CO. The £1,550 cheque brings the total donated so far this year by fund-raising organiser WO1 (RSM) Phil Clifford and members of the regiment to more than £4,000.



trict on behalf of the Medilink Children's Fund.

His slog along the Pennine Way over the weekend of September 27-29 is expected to take 54 hours at an average of 5mph.

Potential sponsors for Falklands and Gulf veteran Andy,

who has been known to run the full marathon distance blindfolded, should contact him on 01748 835894.

The Army Benevolent Fund, Merseyside Branch, raised more than £30,000 last



Ness and oarmen: The winning raft, Yellow Spotted Nessie, steered by intrepid members from B Line, BATUS Workshop, in the annual Medicine Hat raft race down the South Saskatchewan River, which raised more than \$1,000 for the Canadian Red Cross. Other units among the 20 which took part in the five-mile competition included the Workshop, QM (T), AAC Flight and 105 Sqn, RLC

Rowing home

ATTEMPTING to row the equivalent distance from their base in Split to their Regimental Headquarters in Gutersloh, Germany, on September 6 are members of Ammunition Troop, 64 Supply Squadron, 7 (UK) Regiment RLC. Using two Concept II rowing machines, eight loggies hope to cover the 1,177km distance in 48 hours or less to raise money for Childline.

the Marie Curie Trust in Belfast. Dave raised the money from sponsorship by 800 colleagues and family friends for his 3hr 30min run in the Belfast Marathon earlier this year.

Members of the 4th Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment answered the call for assistance from the Airborne Charity and helped to provide a fun day out for disabled persons in Blackpool.

Six teams of 24 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment raced to pull two seven-tonne Fox armoured cars 1km along Aldershot's Queen's Parade.

The event, organised by the battalion's chaplain, Padre Andrew Phillips, was to raise money for the Hold My Hand Appeal to provide paediatric intensive care equipment for St George's Hospital, Tooting.

A team from Infantry Training Centre Wales, overall winners from a field of civilian and military teams who completed the 26-mile challenge race over the Brecon Beacons, raised £600 through sponsorship for the Brecon War Memorial Hospital.

One letter among an avalanche received from pen pals as a result of a newspaper appeal by F Battery, 7 Para RHA has drawn more attention than others.

Sent by a disabled woman

Military 'spokesmen' cover 2,000 miles

TWO differing units have been notching up several hours in the saddle, raising invaluable funds in the process.

Seven Army cyclists from 73 Aircraft Workshop, 7 Battalion REME and a Royal Navy petty officer colleague pedalled the 2,000 miles back to their Wattisham base after a six-month IFOR tour.

The men, who had been working in the repair workshop for Army Air Corps helicopters at Divulje Barracks, Split, during that time, are hoping to raise money for a Bosnian orphanage and the children's ward of Ipswich Hospital.

The connection with the Nase Dijete ("Our Child") Orphanage in Tuzla arose from a chance meeting between Sgt Ben Selby, an avionics technician with the workshop, and a director of the UK charity, War Child.

During their marathon trip, which they negotiated via the Adriatic coast, through Slovenia, northern Italy, Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium and Holland, the cyclists, whose bicycles were lent by Sheffield firm Orbit Cycles,



Sgt Ben Selby: chance meeting led to charity donation

had a back-up team of three and a support vehicle on loan from War Child.

In the UK, a three-man team from the 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, whose annual camp was taking place in Benbecula, also took to two wheels to cycle back from Uist on the Isle of Skye to London.

Result? One puncture, 685 miles covered in 40 hours – and £1,300 amassed for the Macmillan Fund.



Pedalling Paras: (left to right) Pte Guy Bellamy, based at 2 Coy, 10 Para in Croydon; CSgt Phil Skidmore; and Liam Harold, 2 Coy's caretaker. They cycled 685 miles to raise £1,300

from Leicester, it has inspired the lads to organise a sponsored 115-mile march from their camp in Jezero to Split.

Planned to be undertaken over a period of four days by a ten-man team, the aim would be to raise enough money to buy her an electric wheelchair

or other equipment which she needs.

“We thought that, if she could take the trouble to write to us, why can't we do something in return,” said a member of F Bty, which is looking for sponsors and a celebrity to become involved.

A taste of Lehman aid from the Army

AS TOM Lehman, accompanied by faltering British hope Nick Faldo, made his way to the final tee on his way to becoming the first American to win the Open championship at Royal Lytham St Annes for 70 years, he was in danger of being mobbed.

But both men were in safe hands.

The safe hands of "minders" from the Army Golf Association (AGA), to be specific.

For WO2 (Retd) Pete Robinson – just one of several of the association's team leaders involved in the event – and the four members of his team, the honour was the culmination of many strenuous but satisfying hours spent as marshals on the course over the previous few days.

They were among AGA volunteers ranging from corporal to lieutenant colonel who had been selected for places among the 36-strong party, all of whom took leave to travel to the north west to assist officials at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in supervising spectators.

Unlike the other three consecutive occasions on which the association has helped out at tournaments, however, this year was different.

The AGA, as a "mark of recognition for previous outstanding service", had been invited to escort the leading players on the course.

As senior AGA marshal Maj Andy Buxton (handicap 17) told potential participants at the time: "Those selected will be



The message held up for the spectators by WO1 Charlie McLaughlin, AGC, says it all. On the other side, it reads "Stand still, please"

required to control members of the public and the media in a firm but courteous manner in any number of situations which arise as the competition unfolds.

"The duties are crucial to the smooth

running of the event and will require alertness, anticipation and confidence from those that take part."

The reward, he added, was a "rare opportunity to rub shoulders with the world's finest golfers" and to be part of a great sporting occasion.

And the members leaped at the chance, proving more than equal to the task.

At the end of the first practice day, at a mid-evening debriefing at Weeton Barracks – where, following an earlier recce, Andy Buxton had managed to squeeze in some accommodation for the association, courtesy of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment – team leaders recounted what had gone well and not so well.

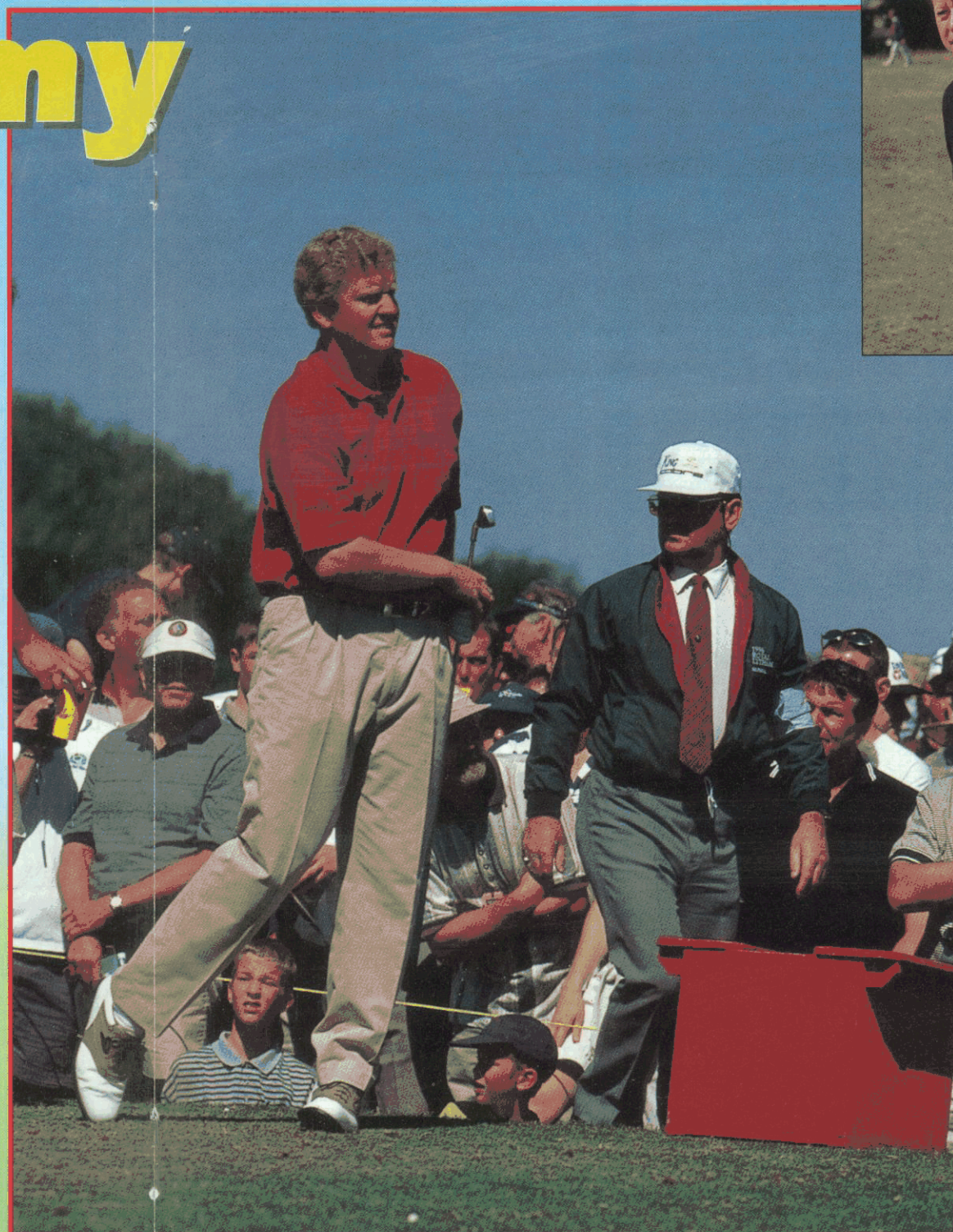
Crossing points being dropped too early, children mobbing the players for autographs and the erection of barriers for the practice ground were all matters which would have to be resolved before the championship proper began two days later.

However, on the plus side, one leader reported, the pleasant thing was that all the players had thanked the AGA marshals at the end of the day.

"It's the most remarkable experience to be so near to them," another member told *Soldier*. "Normally, when you are marshalling, you are just holding ropes. But this time, you are actually walking round with some of your heroes for five hours, and, at least during the practice rounds, can exchange a few words."

Comments on their Army chaperones were flattering the following morning as some of the golfers left the practice ground.

"There is no question that they are



Report: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston

the only way in which we can manage to get around. They are doing a great job," said former Lytham champion Seve Ballesteros.

Equally complimentary was Ian Woosnam: "It's very important that we get the spectators to stand back: if it wasn't for the marshals it would be very difficult."

Fellow British player Colin Montgomerie said: "It is very important to have profes-

sional people dealing with us. Golf is a professional sport and the people accompanying us should be capable of coping with things as they actually happen."

Michael Bonallack, former amateur Open champion and currently secretary of the Royal and Ancient, was full of praise for the Army contribution.

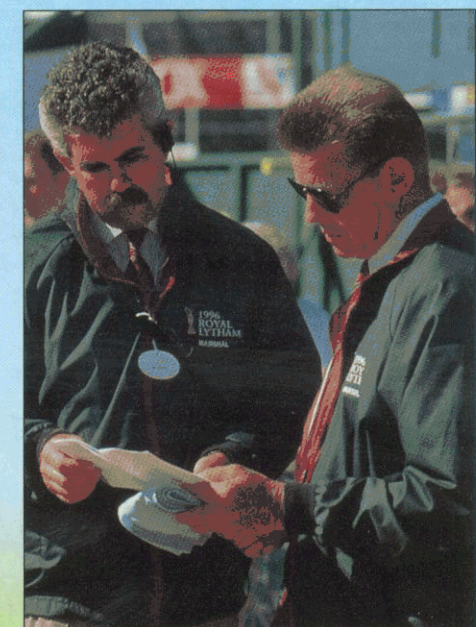
"The AGA members are very well disciplined, they are used to working together, are pretty unobtrusive when they have to be, and they are all golfers. We like to have mar-



Above – Me and my minder: Welsh golfer Ian Woosnam with determined-looking escort CSgt Shinee MacKinnon

Left – Fairway to go: CSgt Shinee MacKinnon with Scotland's Colin Montgomerie

Below – Talking it through: AGA senior marshal Maj Andy Buxton (left) caught in mid-discussion with Capt Jim Taylor RA



shals who are used to the peculiarities of the Open."

Andy Buxton, currently with ETS Branch, HQ UKSC (Germany) in Rhein-dahlen, commented when the event was all over: "It has certainly been the most demanding of the four years so far for all of us, but the most fulfilling."

Shortly due to begin a two-year stint at HQ TRADOC at Fort Monroe, Virginia, he intends to organise AGA participation at Royal Troon next year from across the Atlantic.

How will he do it?

You might say that's an Open secret. . .

● Membership of the Army Golf Association, which was established in the early 1970s, currently stands at 4,700. Further details from AGA secretary Maj John Ayres, tel 722 3582.



Sgt Tom Snaddon (REME), keeps the crowd at a safe distance during a practice round. "I reckon I'm walking an average of ten miles a day up and down the course," he said

Reaching all ranks - and all age groups

SOLDIER is the magazine for the professional soldier. Its substantial and loyal readership crosses all ranks of the Regular and Territorial Army and all age groups, including large numbers in the ex-Service community.

What is more the magazine's high

pass-on rate means there is a huge and incalculable "hidden" circulation - with some copies being read by a dozen or more people.

These are not wild claims but independent, scientific conclusions drawn from the readership survey conducted through a questionnaire

published in the magazine in April.

Some of the conclusions may come as no surprise to many *Soldier* readers. But it is reassuring to have them confirmed by objective analysis.

For example, the readership evaluation report states categorically:

"*Soldier* is read by all Army ranks."

The age profile of respondents shows that 62 per cent of readers were aged between 17 and 54 and 37 per cent over 55.

The results indicate a solid base of subscribers - 29 per cent ("Subscribers tended to receive their

copies soonest") - with the majority of respondents buying their copy from a newsagent.

The report goes on: "The readers appear to be very loyal. Over half have been reading *Soldier* for more than ten years.

"They tended to read every issue,

and to read most or all of each issue. They were also quite likely to pass on their copy to a colleague.

"On the basis of this survey, readership could exceed circulation by more than four times (more than six times for the serving Army)."

Survey snippet

● Virtually all respondents (95 per cent) preferred *Soldier* to remain an A4 magazine.



What YOU think of SOLDIER

It's all about percentages

WELL OVER 2,000 questionnaires were returned by the closing date - ten per cent of those printed. This is considered by the experts to be a good response for a postal survey, with the proviso that most respondents lived or were based in Great Britain.

The survey was co-ordinated by the Central Office of Information. Data processing was carried out by Numbers Market Research Ltd.

Their final report points out that readers who chose to respond may have been those most interested, with the strongest views (pro or anti) and those able to reply within the timescale set for responses.

"The sample profile of retired armed forces (43 per cent), Regular Army (20 per cent) and TA (20 per cent) may not be representative of *Soldier* readers for the above reasons."

Referring to the magazine's high pass-on rate, the report goes on: "Indeed there

is evidence from this survey that readership is much higher than circulation. Those serving in the Regular Army are likely to comprise a greater proportion of readers than their proportion of the circulation."

Other categories of reader included cadets, civilian workers, retired civilian workers, families, and members of other armed forces.

British Army respondents were spread across the ranks, with the largest grouping being among junior and senior NCOs. Apart from retired readers, the largest age-group was 25-34.

Not surprisingly, the age profile was younger for those serving in the Army and TA. The 17-24 age-group accounted for 17 per cent of serving Army respondents; 25-34 age-group, 46 per cent (37 per cent TA); 35-54 age-group, 35 per cent (42 per cent TA).



Up-to-date, value for money and it keeps you in touch

SO MUCH for who reads *Soldier*, how old they are and how they receive it. What do they - or, indeed, YOU - think about it?

In their summing-up, the analysts concluded: "The readers of *Soldier* appear to be very satisfied with the magazine.

"It is considered to be current and up-to-date, the articles are of the right length, they like it as it is - a fortnightly A4 magazine - and it is thought to be good value for money.

"*Soldier* is essential reading, is the magazine for the professional soldier, and helps the readers feel in touch with what is going on in the Army."

Of those who responded, 70 per cent said the magazine contained current news and 29 per cent thought it was "fairly up to date". Almost all thought the articles were about the right length.

About three-quarters wanted *Soldier's* frequency to remain fortnightly (17 per cent favoured weekly, 9 per cent monthly), while 95 per cent voted to keep the present A4 magazine format.

As to the cover price, 82 per cent thought the magazine was "good value" and 18 per cent "reasonably priced". Only one per cent considered that it was "overpriced" at 60p.

Overall, 59 per cent of respondents

strongly agreed with the statement, "*Soldier* is the magazine for the professional soldier" (the figure was 43 per cent for serving Army readers and 58 per cent for TA).

Alongside the statement "*Soldier* is essential reading for me", 51 per cent of all questionnaires were ticked in the "strongly agree" box, 28 per cent "slightly agree" and 15 per cent "neither agree nor disagree".

However, the figures for serving Army respondents showed a different emphasis: 22 per cent, 37 per cent and 29 per cent, respectively, while for the TA they were 46 per cent, 33 per cent and 17 per cent. It all appears to depend on what is meant by "essential".

Perhaps not unexpectedly, 84 per cent of retired Armed Forces readers felt strongly that *Soldier* helps them feel more in touch with what is going on in the Army, against an overall 72 per cent.

Percentages for the serving Army and TA in this category were 46 and 67.

The (slightly provocative) statement, "There are too many pages of ads in *Soldier*" brought a largely neutral response, with 28 per cent disagreeing, while only 12 per cent said they did not find the advertising in the magazine useful.

Diverse readership

THE SURVEY was completed by readers from all over the world and from a wide variety of ranks and occupations.

Civilians included teachers, civil servants, policemen, firemen, a postman, a prison officer, a bank employee, a nurse, a hospital porter, an ambulanceman, a caretaker, a security officer, a journalist, an HGV mechanic, a member of HM Diplomatic Service and a "loyal Englishman".

Apart from the British Army (and the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and RAF) responses came from members of the armed forces of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, the Irish Republic, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the United States.

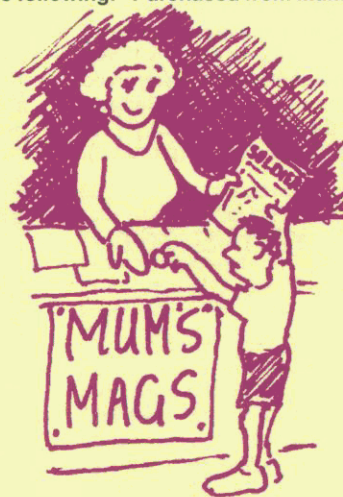
Other questionnaires were mailed from Ascension Island, Austria, Bermuda, Brunei, Channel Islands, Egypt, Hungary, Kenya, the Netherlands, Sardinia, Spain and Thailand.

Survey snippet

Asked to suggest ways of improving distribution, one reader commented: "Improve French postal system".

Survey snippet

Among replies to the question: "How did you receive your copy of *Soldier*?" was the following: "Purchased from Mum".



News is good news for readers

MOST popular section of the magazine with those who completed our survey is Newsline, followed by the general and unit features.

A resounding 96 per cent of respondents were "very" or "quite" interested in the news coverage, followed by 91 per cent for features.

Military history registered 85 per cent overall and was second in popularity among the retired armed forces readers and third among TA readers.

Other overall high-scorers in order of interest registered were People, Letters to the Editor, the *Soldier* Interview, Reviews, In the Press, articles about uniforms and badges, and cartoons.

Military history was less popular with serving soldiers, who, after news and unit features, rated People and In the Press equal third in the popularity stakes, followed by Sport and Lifestyle.

When asked what subjects they would

Survey snippet

Six readers aged over 65 claimed to be serving in the Regular Army.



like to see covered in future issues of the magazine, 87 per cent of those who responded showed interest in equipment, 80 per cent in kit and clothing and 79 per cent in other armies.

Resettlement and careers advice came high up the list for serving soldiers.

Survey snippet

Most respondents (81 per cent) had never used the Internet and six per cent did not know what it was.

Loyalty bonus

SOLDIER has a sizeable nucleus of loyal readers.

More than a quarter of those who replied to our survey have been reading *Soldier* for more than 30 years and a further third for between two and ten years. More than half read *Soldier* from cover to cover and most of the remainder read most of the magazine.

Just over a third of respondents said they keep their copies of the magazine but more than half passed it on to someone else or circulated it to colleagues. Only five per cent said they "binned" their copy after reading it.

A mere 18 per cent of respondents claimed no one else read their copy.

Your comments have been noted

AT THE end of the questionnaire, space was left for respondents to write other comments. About half left it blank. The other remarks, most of which were individual likes and dislikes (all of which have been noted) were diverse and difficult to categorise but comments such as "keep up the good work" made up 18 per cent.

It's a steal

"When you have read *Soldier* what do you do with it? was one question. The answers included:

- "Put it in desk drawer"
- "Hairdresser's waiting room"
- "Store info on PC"
- "Goes to vet hospital waiting room, then to my mum when on leave"
- "Place in local pub"
- "Pass to dentist's waiting room"
- "Take them to camp when occupied, save them in winter until camp is occupied"
- "Doctor's waiting room"
- "Send to Malawi Army colleagues"
- "Hospital wards"
- "Don't know - usually gets stolen"



Gunner artefacts in Malta 'at risk'

READER Charles Brown, just returned from a holiday in Malta, believes old gunners should intervene to preserve a bit of their history.

He was visiting the Sliema Wanderers football ground in Malta and was surprised to discover it had been built on the former parade ground of Tigne Barracks, for many years the home of British artillery regiments and later the Royal Malta Artillery.

He was told the barracks are to be demolished to make way for a tourist complex. Mr Brown came across a shrapnel and graffiti-scarred tablet engraved with the words "Tigne Battery; reconstructed 1937".

The clock tower (pictured),



dated 1902, features the Royal Regiment of Artillery emblem.

"I appeal to the Royal Artillery Association to put pressure on the Maltese authorities managing the Malta War Museum to preserve the tablet," said Mr Brown. "Better still, it could be brought to Britain before the

barracks is demolished to be exhibited in the Royal Artillery Museum."

□ We are told the artefacts may be the property of the Royal Malta Artillery rather than the Royal Regiment but have passed Mr Brown's letter on to the Royal Artillery Association.

Plain village unveils tribute to wartime paratroopers

A MEMORIAL stone which honours wartime paratroopers from the Midlands has been unveiled at Tilshead on Salisbury Plain.

It commemorates officers and men of the 8th (Midland Counties) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment raised in 1942. Forty old comrades attended the ceremony at the site of the former Army camp on which the stone was erected.

The villagers of Tilshead have close links with the battalion, which has held many reunions there.

Over the years the old comrades have provided Tilshead's church with a new altar carpet, a commemorative plaque, and an engraved vase.

The 8th Battalion had a short, action-packed existence. Under the command of Lt Col (later Brig) Alistair Pearson, it took part in the Normandy landings on D-Day, 1944. Four years later the battalion was disbanded on amalgamation.

Brig James Hill, wartime commander of 3 Para, accompanied by Brig Bob Flood, senior surviving member of 8 Para, took the salute at a parade of veterans after the unveiling on July 27.

Calling all wargamers: A new, Army-wide association has been launched for you with members in virtually every garrison in the UK and affiliations to Army clubs in Germany and Cyprus. Want to know more? Contact Maj Jim Storr, C Coy, 1 Kings, BFPO 58, or Capt David White, NITW, Resborough Barracks, Shornecliffe, Folkestone, Kent.

Desert Rats learn from Boer battles

HUNDRED-year-old battles were given a modern relevance when a party from 7 Armoured Brigade under Brig David Montgomery completed a battlefield tour of Kwa-Zulu Natal.

The Desert Rats used the examples of the Zulu and Boer wars to study modern doctrine in an historical setting. With commentaries from historian Graham Smythe, the 42-strong party retraced the route from Isandlwana, site of an overwhelming British defeat, to Rorke's Drift, site of a great British defensive action.

Of the Boer War battlefields, the visitors saw Colenso, Wagon Hill, Tugela Heights, Elandsplaagte, Talana and Spion Kop, where Buller's forces were routed by Botha's commandos.

There was a regimental link for

Pompey appeal for Monty statue

VISCOUNT Montgomery, son of Field Marshal Montgomery, has launched a £40,000 public appeal to pay for a larger-than-life statue of his father in Portsmouth.

The appeal will also fund a statue of a soldier of the Normandy campaign to be dedicated to Second World War veterans.

"Nobody believed in the British soldier more than my father and they believed in him," said Viscount Montgomery. "It is totally appropriate that these two statues should be together in Portsmouth." They will be positioned outside the D-Day Museum on the front at Southsea.

Adding their presence to the appeal launch were George Louth, a 99-year-old survivor of the Battle of the Somme; Brig David Nelson-Smith, who commanded the 1st Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment on D-Day; and Col Pat Porteous VC.

Veterans from the Italy campaign, Normandy and Dunkirk were represented, as was the Royal British

Legion. Montgomery helped plot the invasion of Europe from a headquarters at Southwick near Portsmouth.

He was a freeman of the city and president of Pompey when the football club won the First Division championship in 1949-50.

Donations should be sent to the Monty Statue Appeal, Col Bill Stevens, Portsmouth City Council, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 2AL.



Monty appeal launchers: From left, Viscount Montgomery, Col Pat Porteous VC and Somme veteran George Louth examine Monty exhibits on display in the D-Day Museum at Southsea

How Army museums are funded

SEVENTY regimental museums in the United Kingdom which receive financial support from the Ministry of Defence were listed in a House of Lords written answer last month.

Lord Mason of Barnsley had asked a general question about how military museums are financed and was told by Defence Minister Earl Howe that six national establishments, including the National Army Museum in Chelsea, received an MoD grant-in-aid as part of their annual funding.

In addition, 70 museums in a list ranging from that of the Household Cavalry in Windsor to that of the Army Physical Training Corps in Aldershot received "some financial assistance".

There were many other military museums and collections, he added, which received no money at all from the MoD.

WO1 (RSM) Tony Kirkpatrick of 40 Regiment RA. He is a former battery sergeant major of 159 (Colenso) Battery.

Brig Montgomery commented: "I have been particularly interested to note the influence of individuals and personalities on many of the great battles. Invariably it has been the person with the initiative who has triumphed, often against unlikely odds."

"It is important that we too have been able to look at ways that we can retain the initiative in similar circumstances."

DATES

August

14-26: Gurkhas at Gallipoli, 80th anniversary exhibition, Gurkha Museum, Winchester (01962 842832).

September

7-8: Farnborough International 96 airshow.

7-8: Berwick Military Tattoo. Proceeds to SSAFA.

8: Winchester militaria fair and exhibition, Winchester Guildhall.

15: RBL 75th anniversary grand tattoo and reunion, West India Docks Quay, Isle of Dogs, London. Details: 0171 735-4091.

October

6: Aldershot militaria exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey.

November

16: Classic military band concert, Band of RAF College Cranwell at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA. Details: 01406 425550.

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

Valour of The Kings

ALL ranks and battalions, from private soldier to lieutenant-colonel, Regular, TA and wartime service, were represented among the 23 VCs awarded to members of The Manchester Regiment and The King's Regiment between 1900 and 1920.

Now a 48-page paperback book, *For Valour, The King's Regiment*, has been published by Fleur de Lys, containing a photograph of each recipient with his citation.

It makes a handy-sized reference work for those interested in the history of the two regiments, from Manchester and Liverpool, which formed The King's Regiment of today.

Copies are available, price £3.50 (inc p & p) from RHQ(1) The King's Regiment, Ardwick Green, Manchester M12 6HD, or from The Museum of The Manchesters, Town Hall, Ashton under Lyne OL6 7SY.

REUNIONS

Army Sub Aqua Diving Association: 25th anniversary weekend, September 19-22 in Weymouth area, including courses, dives and social function (Sept 21). Details: Capt P Weston, RAO 1 R Anglian, Oakington Barracks, Longstanton, Cambridge CB4 5EJ.

22 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Battery RA: Reunion for all former members on September 20-22 at Roberts Barracks, Larkhill. Includes dinner to be hosted by serving officers and SNCOs, parade, display, all ranks function and church service. Details from Project Officer, 22 Bty Reunion, Roberts Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8QU (01980 675965 or 675948).

Korean War PoWs: A reunion of Korean War (1950-53) prisoners of war is to be held at the United Services Club, Gough Street, Birmingham, on September 28. The reunion is sponsored by Samsung Europe and applications to attend should be sent to Dave Tomlinson, 20 Baston Road, Hayes, Kent BR2 7BE.

Greek Campaign 1940-41: The Brotherhood of Veterans of the Greek Campaign 1940-41 has a reunion at Leamington, October 4-6, and will be taking coaches to view the "Greek Grove" taking shape within the National Memorial Arboretum at Lichfield. Details: Frank Gill 0151 9242712.

25th Fusiliers, East Africa, 1917: To commemorate the 2,500 men who served with the 25th Fusiliers in East Africa, May 1915-Jan 1917, it is intended to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the campaign with a wreath-laying at the memorial to Lt Wilbur T Dartnell VC in the foyer of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London, on January 12. Provisionally there will also be a service of commemoration at the memorial to Capt Frederick Courtney Selous in the National History Museum. Serving and former Royal Fusiliers welcome. Attendance by tickets only from Secretary, 25th Bn OCA, 17 Shaftesbury St, London N1 7HR (0171 336-0921).

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1946

SAY WHAT YOU THINK... With its ballerina skirt and Ruritania collar the tunic of the proposed new walking out dress is an offence to the eye. And, when in summer the wearer stifles in his thick, lined prison, the necessity for the traditional braces prevents removal of the tunic.

Could the War Office purchase some second-hand American uniforms instead? — Letter to the Editor from Pte T Perkins, HQ BAOR.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1971

GOING DOWN... Several Service teams competed in Hong Kong's dragon boat races festival, but the gunners of 31 Medium Battery, 47 Light Regiment RA, received one of the biggest ovations... because their boat sank.

FREE SPIRITS The Army Catering Corps received the Freedom of Aldershot in front of 3,500 guests of the corps.

About 450 local children were given a holiday from school and each received a stick of rock with the letters ACC running through and a flag with the corps' badge and the arms of Aldershot.

Kalamata pilgrimage

VETERANS of the 1940-41 campaign in Greece were given an affectionate welcome in Kalamata when they visited the marble memorial erected on the spot where ten Allied PoWs were executed on April 28, 1941.

After a service conducted by a Greek Orthodox priest at the simple column engraved with a Celtic cross, the old soldiers and their wives enjoyed a banquet provided by local people in the old railway station.

Now a museum and taverna, the station brought back sharp memories for those who were loaded there into cattle trucks — 60 to a truck in searing summer heat — to be sent to a holding camp at Corinth. Some of the party went on to Corinth to visit the camp site, now disappearing under a new road bridge over the canal.

Edwin Horlington reports that citizens of Kalamata who lived through the occupation told the British veterans they would always be welcome. People living near the memorial overlooking the docks, where the fiercest fighting took place, have taken it upon themselves to look after the memorial.

Next UK gathering arranged by the Brotherhood of Veterans of the Greek Campaign 1940-41 is at Leamington on October 4-6 (see Reunions), and a pilgrimage to Greece is planned for next May.



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WRITE TO SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU

SOLDIERS AND THEIR MEDALS

I WAS surprised to read Maj (Retd) Middleton's letter (June 24) in which he said it was refreshing to see a young soldier, Cpl Levi Ashley, with only eight years' service, having been awarded five medals to date.

Two years ago an article caught my eye in another magazine written, I believe, by the same author, commenting on the change of status from the BEM to the MBE.

I recall the opinion being expressed that it was unthinkable for a soldier or NCO to be made an MBE when some QMs who had served a full 37 years up through the ranks had not been rewarded similarly.

"Medals are for soldiers, crosses are for officers" is a phrase that comes to mind.

At the time, as an attached REME corporal serving with an RE unit, I was awarded the MBE for a considerable amount of voluntary work for an Army Cadet unit.

Recent UN tours have increased the number of medals worn by today's soldiers. There are many others in a similar position to Cpl Ashley and many with more medals.

I am 32 years old and at the end of the current Bosnia IFOR tour I will hold six – MBE, GSM NI, Gulf, UN

Bosnia (twice), the IFOR Medal and the LSGC.

I acknowledge that Maj Middleton on this occasion was commenting not on the MBE but on the fact that Cpl Ashley holds five, the GSM not among them. – **LSgt Dean MBE, C Sqn HCR, Glamoc, BFPO 538.**

For the record...

RAF Regiment

REFERENCE your article headed "Presidential welcome" (July 22), the Queen's Colour Squadron of the RAF comprises members of the RAF Regiment who also perform drill movements without commands.

I subscribe to most Service magazines and find the RAF Regiment is invariably referred to as simply "the RAF".

I have been reading *Soldier* for a number of years and find it second to none. – **N Corbett (ex-RAF Regt), Belfast.**

Double royals

YOU STATE (July 8) that the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) is the only regiment with two "Royals" in its title.

Elsewhere in the same issue you show a guard of honour of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment). – **R E Thomas (ex-RWF), Cardiff.**

Trieste peace-keeping has become 'non-event'

IN THE light of your articles on the British Army involvement in the former Yugoslavia, it is surprising that there has been no reference to, nor response from, former members of the British Element Trieste Force (BETFOR).

It may not be generally known that from 1945 to 1954, thousands of British and American troops (5,000 of each at any time) were tasked with keeping the Italians and Yugoslavs from each other's throats while it was decided who had sovereignty over the city of Trieste, its harbour and environs.

For those who took part it was arguably one of the longest peacekeeping operations since

the war. It was strange that there was no official recognition because the problem was then, as now, one of ethnicity, of Serbo-Croat belligerence, and, mostly, about Yugoslavia and its territorial ambitions.

The extent to which the Trieste operation has become a non-event is exemplified by its not being worthy of the attention of the producers of memento "campaign medals".

By the way, I read my first copy of *Soldier* at the Royal Tournament, Olympia, in 1947 and have been reading it ever since! – **James Baker (ex-20 Inf Wksp REME, BETFOR), 13 The Croftlands, Bredon, Tewkesbury, GL20 7NL.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Army "minders" at the Open – Pages 22-23

MQs sale: sympathy for Forces families

AN UPDATE on the position regarding the sale of Service married quarters, by the Director of Personal Services (Army), appeared in *Soldier* (July 22).

The benefits said to flow from this sale match those it was suggested would result from the privatisation of the water companies. The performance of the water companies has not met with universal approval. The £100 million

from the sale to be used to improve quarters is small beer when compared with the billions at stake here.

This sum, in my view, could have been realised from the existing defence budget with little pain.

In one part of the article the virtues of mixed estates are extolled, but it is also stated that the buyer will not be permitted to fill up vacant houses on quarter patches to create a

mixed estate with civilian tenants.

If the Ministry of Defence has between 2,500 and 12,000 houses to sell, why does it not send for an estate agent to sell them?

Service families are concerned that their homes will be placed in the hands of ruthless speculators and I have some sympathy with this view.

How can Service families be confident that the MoD will staff the Defence Housing Executive with people of sufficient integrity, commitment and strength of character to resist the blandishments of such speculators? Once the MoD has "sold the farm" it will be too late.

The track records of Chartermarks and regulators are not good, in my opinion. Their terms of reference are usually drawn up to be deliberately narrow.

The existing regulators spend much time publicly wringing their hands when their terms of reference do not permit them to intervene in the interests of the public. – **Maj (Retd) J R Bond, Hythe, Kent.**

'Extend Egypt honours'

REGIMENTS have received 57 awards of the battle honour Egypt – namely, Egypt 1801 (31), Egypt 1892-84 (25), Egypt 1884 (1).

Only three other battle honours exceed Egypt in number – Sevastopol 1854-55 (59), Peninsula 1808-14 (71) and South Africa 1899-1902 (98).

Eight infantry corps were allowed the distinction of incorporating Egypt as an element of their regimental badge.

But no other battle honour comes near the time span of the Egypt awards – some 83

years. Given that the last of our troops finally left the Canal Zone in 1956, this time span could be extended to cover 155 years, so making Egypt far and away the single most important continuing focus of British military endeavour.

If for no other reason, this fact alone should be sufficient incentive to issue an appropriate medal to those 1951-56 soldiers who carried forward and ultimately wrote the concluding chapter in this unique middle eastern role. – **Brian Harwood (LG Egypt 1954-56), Ticehurst, E Sussex.**

Bullet-dodger deserved the Dickin Medal!

I GO along with Harry Whitehead in congratulating Pte Gwillam Jenkins, regimental goat of 1 RRW, on getting the GSM (Letters, July 8).

In some cases animals should get soldiers' gongs, but should it work the other way?

A friend of mine, too young to join up in the Second World War, was a runner in the Home Guard. Several times, he tells me, this entailed taking messages to practice ranges.

This was always risky, and his enthusiastic mates had little regard for safety precautions. Some even had bad eyesight which they would not admit to.

He missed out on getting the Defence Medal by a few months but is it too late to put him up for the Dickin Medal for doing the job of a brave carrier pigeon? – **Len Oliver, Colchester, Essex.**

POINTS IN QUESTION

Suez tanks

I AM reminded by the 40th anniversary of the Suez crisis that some time after it happened I read that an MP had asked in the Commons why tanks were transported by Pickfords and Wynnes and not the Army. Can anyone recall the reply? At the time I was a National Serviceman on Army Emergency Reserve, with a REME workshop attached to an RASC tank transporter unit. – **W G A Deeley, Birmingham.**

Q: Why was War Department property marked with an arrow and what has replaced it?

FURTHER to the previous reply (July 8), the broad arrow, or pheon, was the heraldic badge of Henry, Viscount Sydney, Earl of Romney, who was Master-General of the Ordnance between 1693 and 1702.

In this capacity he required that the property of the Board of Ordnance be marked with this sign and in due course it came to be applied to government property. – **Michael B Potter, Bedford.**

TROJAN HORSE WAS A LOSER

The March on London by Charles Whiting. Pen & Sword paperback, £9.95.

WITH the Allied liberation of Europe in full swing it came as a blow to the British Government in 1944 to discover that Hitler had a Trojan horse plan to use 250,000-plus German PoWs to launch his own invasion of the UK – from within.

The mass break-out from scores of PoW camps across the country was to coincide with an airborne landing by ace German paras. Linking up with their compatriots, they would then make their way to London. The threat was real enough for Churchill to cancel Christmas leave for guards at all PoW camps.

In *The March on London*, first published in 1992 and now out in paperback, Charles Whiting reveals what happened in this nightmarish scenario – or rather, what would have happened.

What if the PoWs, many of them fanatical Nazis, had succeeded? The Home Guard and civilian population in general would have had a rough time – JM

MANY writers and historians have castigated the generals of the 1914-18 conflict, among them A J P Taylor and Alan Clark, the man who labelled them “donkeys”.

John Laffin went even further with his 1988 book, *British Butchers and Bunglers of World War One*, which has been reprinted in paperback to coincide with the Somme anniversary. In it he declares them to be, for the most part, vain, egocentric and incompetent.

For good measure he says they were uncaring about their men and the conditions in which they lived, fought and died in their thousands.

Dr Laffin savages those senior commanders he considers to have been the top ten “butchers” of the war. He says their outdated thinking

Bringing order from chaos of the Somme

“The Brigadier General, as we came out of the line, shook hands with each of us (those that were left). Of course it was a feather in his cap, but we didn’t get anything. Still, who cares, we get a shilling a day.”

THE “LINE” this disenchanted infantry soldier was coming out of on September 17 1916 was between Mouquet Farm and the Leipzig Salient, south-west of Thiepval.

The Battle of the Somme had been furiously fought for 79 days and the sacrificial contest that carries the name of what is still a symbol of “absolute horror and total futility” was only halfway through.

Even today, 80 years on, “another Somme” describes the nightmare scenario most feared by politicians and strategists: a virtual stalemate where very slight gains are made at very heavy cost.

In 1916 the cost in casualties was horrifyingly heavy on all sides: British and Empire forces, 419,654; French, 204,253; German, calculated at anything between 437,000 and 680,000. Why can’t we be

more precise than that?

Malcolm Brown has made the Somme his specialist study since he was engaged in the BBC television documentary made for the 60th anniversary and his *The Imperial War Museum Book of the Somme* has been published to coincide with the 80th.

As can be expected from a book with “Imperial War Museum” in its title, this is a level-headed work that

avoids the pitfalls of prejudice. In it the General Staff are not all portrayed as donkeys and the Tommies are not all lions.

However, as the author says, “... it is an entirely legitimate response to feel a sense of outrage, at the fate of those who went to their deaths, or to a lifetime of disablement or after-shock”.

Brown answers the basic question that most of us have thought but seldom asked.

“The reason for the battle taking place was, in fact, political, and the motives behind it were, largely, national.

“The French were already committed to mortal combat with the Germans, and they

The Imperial War Museum Book of the Somme by Malcolm Brown. Sidgwick & Jackson, hardback, £20.



Tea for the wounded men on their way from the fighting line at Mametz Wood, July 1916

wanted to make sure the British got into similar grips with the enemy as soon as possible. The best way to ensure this was to mount an offensive side by side.

“The Somme was where the two Allies joined. QED: the offensive should take place on the Somme.”

How does one write an orderly account of what was essentially a five-month period of disorder and confusion? The author achieves this by drawing heavily on the words of the men

who took part.

“One canard that has long exasperated me is that which assures that no ordinary soldier could turn a decent sentence or say anything other than that he hoped that everyone at home was in the pink as it left him at present.”

Of course, we find the occasional “somebody ought to be hung for this show” type of comment, but there are more poetic observations, such as: “It was really a pity to have a war on July 1, for in all my time

in France it was the most beautiful day we had. The sky was cloudless and the sun shone. The skylarks were singing as they flew heavenwards, and unknown to them thousands of our soldiers were on their way too.”

The book is a fitting memorial to the men of the 18 divisions involved in the Somme battle of 1916 and here we find many aspects of the conflict: the heroic, splendid, ghastly and tragic – a mix of success and disaster. – BJ

In brief

On the Fields of Glory: The Battlefields of the 1815 Campaign by Andrew Uffindell and Michael Corum. Waterloo brought to life with a new history and eyewitness accounts. Greenhill Books, hardback, £25.

The Pimlico Chronology of British History by Alan and Veronica Palmer. From 250,000 BC to the present in 575 fact-filled pages: events, dates, names, maps, statistics. Pimlico, paperback, £14.

Great Gambles of the Civil War by Philip Katcher. The conflict in question is the American one and this book examines actions between the Unionists and Confederates. Arms and Armour, hardback, £16.99.

Carving up the butchers

British Butchers and Bunglers of World War One by John Laffin. Alan Sutton Publishing, paperback, £9.99.

and planning, and the persistent use of these tactics, led to wholesale slaughter.

He also turns his fire on to some quartermaster and adjutant generals and even some chaplain-generals, considering their pious words to

have been “grotesque in their insensitivity”.

He quotes and denounces sermons by Deputy Chaplain-General Gwynne and the then Archbishop of Canterbury as “ecclesiastical and spiritual arrogance”.

He writes: “They could not be listed with the bunglers but they could have shown some understanding of the soldiers’ lot and avoided patronising platitudes.”

It must be said that not all commanders are seen as villains by the author, who is generous in his praise of many, pointing out also that the British did not have a monopoly in blinkered leaders.

The French, Germans, Russians and Italians all had their share of “donkeys”, too. Excellent reading. – JM

Kiss that caused Victorian scandal

HONOUR, glory, service and love of the high life came first and foremost among the officers of the cavalry regiments in Queen Victoria’s army.

They were the élite of the military and were feted as such by royalty and high society and regarded with some awe by those lower down the social scale.

Anne Baker’s account of the life of Lt Gen Valentine Baker Pasha in *A Question of Honour* sustains this image of military life throughout, even though the private soldiers of the day were poorly treated.

This book indicates, too, that Valentine Baker, then commanding officer of the 10th Hussars, was badly treated by society as a whole.

Baker was accused of attempted rape, indecent assault and common assault on a young woman in a railway carriage between Aldershot and London.

Cleared of the rape charge, he was sentenced to a year in gaol on the lesser charges, fined £500 and “removed from the Army, Her Majesty having no further use for his services”.

It seems the colonel was his own worst enemy when answering the charges in

court, since his code as an officer and a gentleman prevented him from challenging the young woman’s evidence.

His sentence and ostracisation could have spelled the end for him, but on release from prison he was offered,

with the help of his friend the Prince of Wales, the job of head of the Turkish gendarmerie in Constantinople in the rank of major general.

He went on to perform most gallantly at Khartoum, commanding a force of Turks and Egyptian cavalry, hoping that his record and loyalty would induce the Queen to reinstate him in the British Army.

Unfortunately, although she had decided to arrange for his return, he died just days before the announcement was to be made.

One indiscretion – he apparently asked the girl for a kiss – had caused the colonel’s downfall.

All concerned with the case realised that justice had not been seen to be done to a brave and gallant soldier.

The author, who married into the Baker family, has done that family a service by putting “the scandal that rocked Victorian society” into perspective. – JM

A Question of Honour by Anne Baker. Pen & Sword, paperback, £12.95.

SEAC’s old sweats tell their stories

ROY HUMPHREYS must be congratulated for tracking down the old soldiers whose memoirs make up the text of his book *To Stop a Rising Sun*.

He acknowledges no fewer than 94 of them, while there are a few unacknowledged.

Drawn from all ranks from colonels to privates, and a multitude of units, they were all caught up in the war against Japan. Hence the book’s title.

With such a diversity of contributors, some given a single paragraph, others several pages, the text varies from the absorbing to the frankly banal.

A little judicious editing

To Stop a Rising Sun. Reminiscences of Wartime in India and Burma by Roy Humphreys. Alan Sutton Publishing, hardback, £16.99.

would not have come amiss.

There are memoirs of soldiers who served in India without seeing active service, and those who confronted the Japs in Burma, including the heroes of the Kohima battle and some Chindits.

The author pays tribute to a unit little-known today – the American Field Service, whose volunteer ambulance drivers evacuated hundreds of casual-

ties in the Burmese jungles.

There were incidents officially hushed-up at the time. The torpedoing of the ss *Khe-dive Ishmael* in the Indian Ocean in February 1944 “was one of the closely-kept secrets of the Second World War”. A total of 1,297 passengers and crew, including 86 young WRNS and Army nurses, was lost. A news blackout was imposed.

Then there were the unauthorised floggings of Chindits convicted of crimes in Burma. They, and witnesses, were ordered to forget the incidents.

With its images of service in

India and the ordeals of jungle warfare, this is a book that will revive forgotten memories among surviving old sweats of South East Asia Command (SEAC).

For those readers who were not there, it will bring to life deeds which should not be forgotten.

The book is illustrated with numerous contemporary photographs, many previously unpublished, and for good measure there is a glossary of Urdu (or Hindustani) words and phrases once common among British soldiers in India and Burma. – JMB

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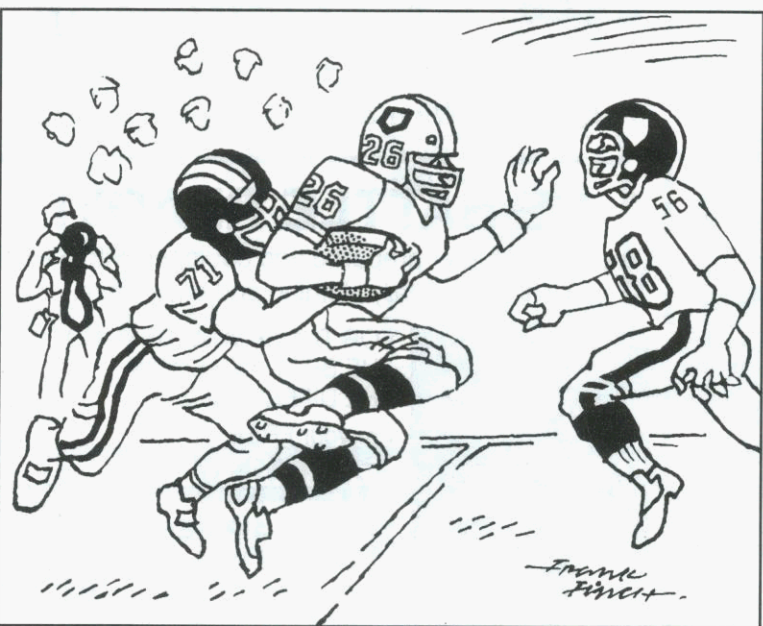
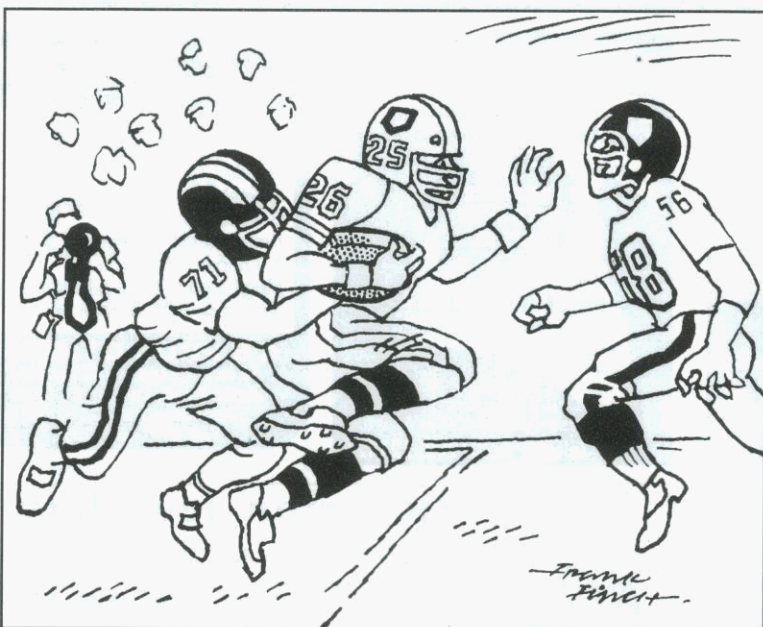
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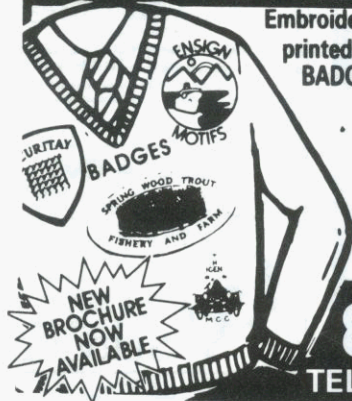
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JULY 27, 1996

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Light breezes test Army windsurfers

MORE than seventy Army windsurfers gathered at Portland Harbour for the Army and Inter Service championships, writes Mike Roach.

Last year's weather was wild, windy and cold. This time conditions were better. Temperatures hit the 80s and there was just enough sea breeze for the Open fleet to eat up the course, but not so much as to blow away the novice sailors taking part in their first championships.

Sponsored by Peugeot Export, the competition catered for all levels and skills and, like boxing, is divided into weight categories so that racing is as fair as possible.

In the inter-corps racing, the Royal Signals team had a convincing win over old rivals REME, who were missing a key sailor and who could make little impression, despite excellent sailing by Sgt Dave Tindall and SSgt Brian Grieve.

Tindall has since decided to concentrate on Army motor cycling and his noisy enjoyment of windsurf racing will be greatly missed.

The individual championship, held over five races on two days, was dominated by the excellent sailing of Capt Jonathan Coleman (R Signals) and SSgt Mark Lewis (APTC), with only Tindall making any impression on them.

The Novice fleet, made up of

sailors who have been windsurfing less than two years, has often been the springboard for new talent.

This year proved no exception, with Gnr Ian Beaton (47 Regt RA) winning every race. He had been windsurfing for only eight weeks and is expected to reach the Army's top 12 next year and be a contender for the Army team.

Nikki Loyd, a civilian nurse at ATR Basingbourne, did well to finish second in the Super-Novice fleet, which was won by WO1 Colin Slade RLC.

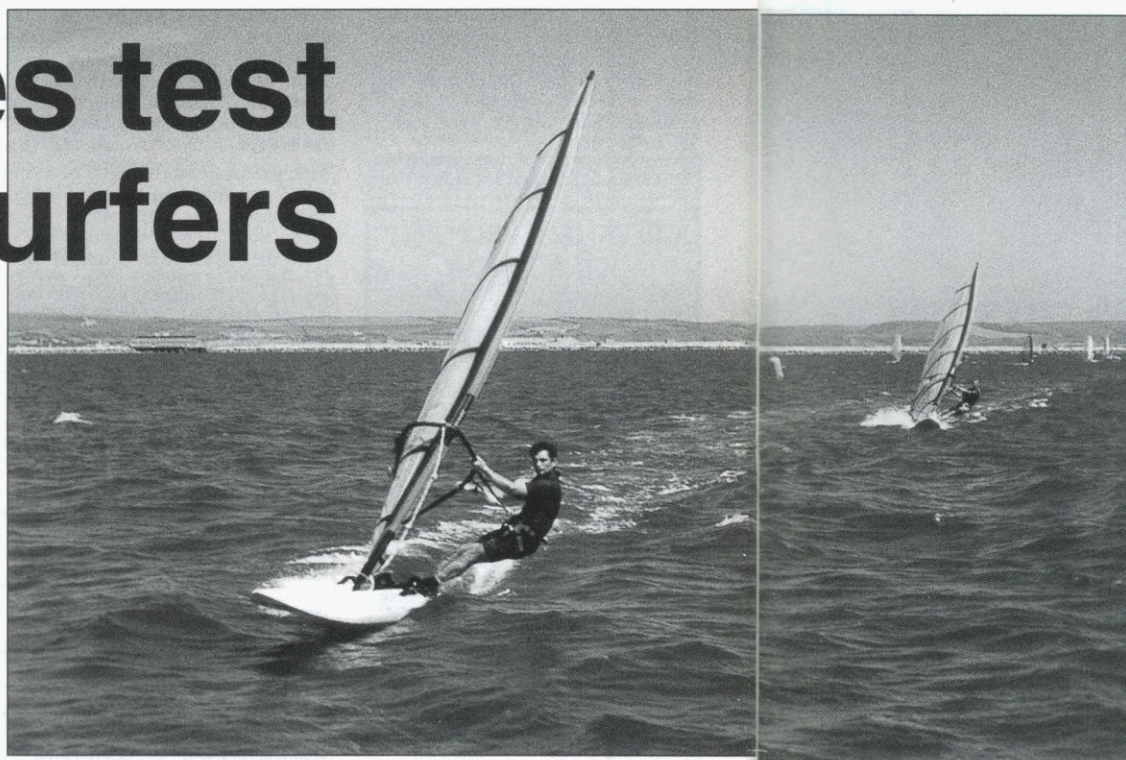
The super-novices have more than two years' experience and are scored separately from the "real" novices.

The Army championship was followed by the Joint Services individual championship, which incorporated the Inter Services team event.

The Army team won last year by just one point from the Royal Navy. This year's finish was just as close, but it was the light blue shirts of the Royal Air Force that were nearly always at the front.

By the end of the first day, they were 1.3 points ahead. On the second the Army caught up and sailed into an eight-point lead with one race to go. The RAF streaked away *en masse* in the latter to snatch overall victory.

● Further details on wind-



Capt Jonathan Coleman races towards the finish ahead of SSgt Mark Lewis

surfing competitions (speed, slalom and course racing) from Maj Mike Roach, 22 Transport Squadron RLC on Bulford Military 27081.

Army Windsurfing Championships

Lightweight fleet: 1, Capt Jonathan Coleman, R Signals, ATR Basingbourne; 2, SSgt Mark Lewis, APTC, ATR Basingbourne; 3, Lt Bernard Wishall, REME, RSME.

Heavyweight fleet: 1, Sgt Dave Tindall, REME, SEME Bordon; 2, SSgt Brian Grieve, REME, SEAE Arborfield; 3, Lt Col Jo Fletcher, R Signals, 2 Div Sig Regt.

Superheavyweight fleet: 1, Maj Neil Curry, REME, MoD PE Bristol; 2, Cpl Adrian Varney, 3 Div Sig Regt; 3, WO2 Rick Shepherd, RLC, 4 GS Regt RLC.

Tree(mendous) win helped by the draw

SSGT Keith Pegram beat off the combined opposition of a host of top Army anglers and a tree to win the 1996 Army angling championship, writes Gus Brindle.

The match, held on the Grand Union Canal near Milton Keynes, attracted more than 60 entries despite many of the Army's best coarse fishermen being in Bosnia.

The canal had been fished hard during the build-up to the match and a good draw was considered essential for

success. High numbers were favourite and SSgt Pegram of 42 Survey Engineer Group, drawn on a good feature on peg 65, knew exactly what to do.

The peg had been placed directly opposite a tree in the water and his only concern was that boat traffic might have pushed the fish right back under it. He needn't have worried as, fishing tight to the tree, he took bream, roach, perch and a crucian carp for a comfortable win with 13-10-0.

SSgt Chris Crickmore (Sennelager) was second from peg 50. Another good peg, on the famous "mud flats", he fished long pole and maggot over groundbait for 10-8-0 of bream and roach.

In third place was Sgt Steve Bowyer (ITC Catterick), who was drawn on peg 12, on the short length between Three Locks and Chelmscote Bridge. With an hour to go he landed a 4lb carp, which helped him to a total of 7-11-0.

Army Individual Angling Championship: 1, SSgt K Pegram; 2, SSgt C Crickmore; 3, Sgt S Bowyer; 4 (equal), LCpl J McGarrell and LCpl D Quantock; 6, SSgt B Barnes; 7 (equal), Cpls M Middleton and Ged Baines, and Mr I Turner; 10, Cpl B Williams.



Trophy winner: Army angling champion, SSgt Keith Pegram

Mixed catch for game anglers

ALTHOUGH high temperatures and cloudless conditions have generally made it difficult to catch fish, the 1996 season has proved a busy one for the Army Angling Association's game section, writes Lloyd Evans.

The Army v Royal Marines match at Pitsford Reservoir was an exception to the rule, with nearly all of the Army team catching at least two fish each. Best bag of the day fell to Bdr Simon Phillips-Harries who caught three fish weighing 4lb 7oz.

Although the Royal Marines narrowly beat the Army, catching 25 fish against 20, their team performance was marred by two individual blanks.

For the first time in 15 years, an Army team qualified during a regional heat at Bewl Water, Kent for the English final of the Benson and Hedges fly fishing competition at Rutland Water.

WO2 Jon Waters, SSgt Andy Taylor, Maj Bob Gwillim, WO1 Dick Waterman, Capt Lloyd Evans and WO2 Tim Bennett were selected to represent the

Army. Although soundly beaten in the final, they thoroughly enjoyed their appearance at the prestigious event.

The annual match between the Army and Navy joint team and the English Fly Fishing Association took place at Pitsford Water, near Leicester. Conditions proved difficult, with hot sun and no wind.

The 32 competing anglers, including five former-internationals, caught only eight fish, with the honours going to the association, who hooked six of them.

St George to the rescue

HAVING chosen to bat on a green pitch which was initially extremely helpful to bowlers, the Army got off to a steady start against Free Foresters at Aldershot, despite Capt Adrian Grinonneau (2 R Anglian) having to hobble off following a full toss on the foot.

He returned sixth wicket down and struck 46 off 25 balls to inject some much-needed runs at a late stage.

Meanwhile, Lt Christopher St George (2 Para) played another responsible, careful and attractive innings of 109, enabling him to declare with time to bowl out the Free Foresters.

This was achieved with nine overs to spare, with Sgt Darren Cornhill (1 PWRR), brought in for his batting, taking three for three in a fiery spell of bowling which cleaned up the tail.

Army 236-7 (St George 109 n.o., Grinonneau 48, Ball 4-100). Free Foresters 149 all out (Cornhill 3-3)

Combined Services v MCC (Vine Lane)

Evidently having noted the result of the equivalent match in 1995, the MCC committee included a number of first-class players in a very strong XI.

Combined Services won the toss and batted first. Fortunately Chris St George chose this match to demonstrate what an outstanding batsman he is and played possibly the most attractive and responsible innings of the summer.

He alone had an answer to the superb guile, flight and spin of the ex-Kent left arm spinner, Laurie Potter, who bowled beautifully, but who was lucky to break the St George/Palmer partnership by

having Nick Palmer judged lbw after the batsman had advanced some way down the pitch and hit the ball fairly firmly onto his knee.

Having few runs to defend proved difficult and although Proctor and Blagrove bowled very well, the MCC batsmen, Greatorex (47) among them, were always on top.

Combined Services 213 all out (St George 114 n.o., Palmer 33, Potter 5-33). MCC 215-5 (Welch 60, Cooper 36 n.o.).

Combined Services v National Cricket Association (Lords)

Combined Services won the toss and a positive result was ensured in this 55-over match.

Andy Spiller celebrated his retirement from Combined Services cricket after many years' service by bowling 11 overs for 21 runs - good under any circumstances, but particularly in this case with some excellent batsmen in opposition.

The game was won in the field with the bowlers and fielders performing extremely well.

This proved a fitting end to the Combined Services season and although the only victory recorded, all the games were close and a great testament to sporting cricket.

Combined Services 194-4 (Bray 75, Palmer 60). NCA 191-6.

Army v Essex (Woolwich)

A potentially very good game at Woolwich between two well-matched sides was ruined by a dangerous wicket that reduced batting and bowling to a lottery.

The Army won by being able to cope better with the conditions and through another excellent innings from Lt Chris St George (2 Para). Despite the pitch, the Army XI outplayed Essex to win by four wickets.

Essex 179 all out (Cornhill 3-47, Matthews 3-24, Langman 3-29). Army 181-6 (St George 50, Langman 33, Cornhill 30).

ROWERS LAND CASH

Headquarters Land Command organised a 24-hour rowathon at Salisbury and raised more than £8,000 for the British Olympic rowing squad in Atlanta.



Army archers at the Tower of London. Cpl Tim Moore and Lt Dave Hall (front, right) travelled from Germany and Catterick, respectively, to take part in the event

Archers take a bow at Tower of London

NINE members of the Army Archery Association (AAA) received an offer they couldn't refuse - an invitation to compete in the West Moat of the Tower of London, which is due to be re-flooded next year.

The tower provided a splendid backdrop to the competition, which involved archers from the Army, Metropolitan Police, Royal Air Force and the Civil Service.

Competitors rose above the

various challenges of the occasional downpour, a swirling wind and a host of advice from many "amazingly knowledgeable" tourists.

Paul Frost of the Army took second place overall in the 144-arrow event with a score of 999.

● More information about archery and joining the Army Archery Association from Maj Wendy le Gassick on York Military 2407.

BAD Kinton equal Mercian record

FOR the fourth year in succession, BAD Kinton won the minor units championship in the Army inter-unit team athletics finals at Aldershot.

This feat has been achieved only once before – by Mercian Depot, 1968-71.

In the major units competition, winners 2 Signal Regiment were pushed hard by the Aldershot-based 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery who finished less than five points behind.

Headquarters York Garrison took the women's unit prize.

Major Units: 1, 2 Sig Regt; 2, 7 Para RHA; 3, 35 Eng Regt; 4, 5 Regt RA; 5, 28 Eng Regt; 6, SEME.

Minor Units: 1, BAD Kinton; 2, 249 Sig Sqn; 3, ATR Bassingbourn; 4, ATR Pirbright; 5, 3 Armd Fd Amb.

Women's Units: 1, HQ York Garrison; 2, 27 Tpt Regt RLC; 3, AGC Centre; 4, Hohne Garrison; 5, 21 Log Spt Regt; 6, 2 (CS) Regt.



Picture: Terry Champion

Above – Cpl Trevor McSween won the high jump to help 2 Signal Regiment take the major units title. He also finished second in the hurdles and third in the pole vault



Left – Cpl Paul Aston splashes through the water jump. A member of the victorious BAD Kinton team, he finished almost a minute ahead of his nearest rival in the 3,000m steeplechase

SAPPERS SMASH PEAK RECORDS

TWO four-man teams of soldiers from Chivenor-based 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers smashed all the records in this year's Three Mountains Challenge.

The annual two-day event, now in its sixth year, involves running up the three largest mountains in Britain. It begins in Scotland at the foot of Ben Nevis, moves south to Scafell Pike in the Lake District, before finishing in Wales on Mount Snowdon.

Seven out of the eight men beat the existing record of 5hr 30min (the eighth was injured on the first day) and Cpl Mick Burkes (REME) was declared overall winner, knocking a massive half-an-hour off the old record time.

Postie delivers down under

FIVE Army athletes were selected as part of an 11-man Combined Services team running against the Australian Services in the Gold Coast Marathon in Queensland, writes Steve Lonnen.

Cpl Andy Arrand and Capt Steve Lonnen (RLC), Cpl Bob Goldsmith (R Signals) and Cpls Alan Shephard and Daz Hale (Army Medical Services) had high hopes of finishing well up the field, but six members of the Combined Services team were laid low with chest infections.

Lonnen and Goldsmith, who suffered the full effects of the virus, were forced to drop

out of the race in the early stages.

Army champion, Cpl Andy Arrand, took the pace out hard from the gun in a bid to improve on his best time and did just that.

The Germany-based postie shelved his disappointment at missing the London Marathon through injury by blasting out a time of 2hr 24min 31, finishing in fifth place just four minutes behind the winner. He was the first Service entry home.

Flying medics Shephard and Hale came in a little over a mile behind in 3rd and 4th places, clocking up 2:31:10

and 2:31:33 respectively.

Superb support by the Royal Navy athletes, filling sixth and ninth to twelfth places, secured a convincing margin of victory (26 pts) over the Australian hosts.

Cpl Arrand is already training for next year's London marathon where he hopes to crack 2hr 23min – not bad for someone who started marathon running only last year.

Although other runners have shown potential, Arrand's fleet-footedness has quickly established him as the Army's number one marathoner.

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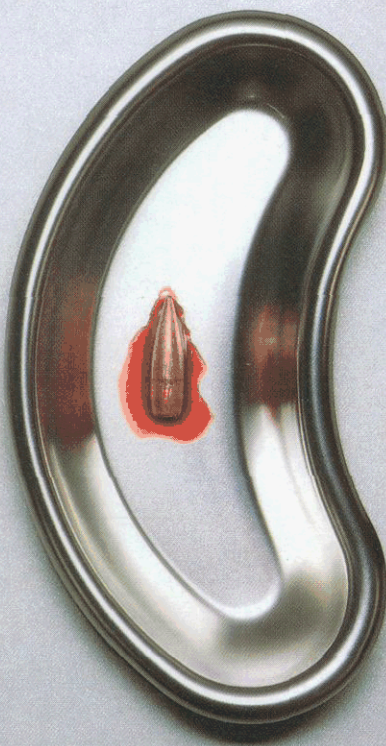
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You can't lick it: Taking a welcome break on Blackpool's promenade during a busy six-month roving recruitment tour with one of Warminster's infantry recruiting teams were LCpl Jock Collins, 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots and Cpl David Simpson, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, seen with holidaymaker Karen Brogan. Nine potential recruits showed a serious interest on the first day alone of the week-long stint in the town, said OC Sgt Sammy McLaren. Next stop, Llandudno!

Picture: Mike Weston

