

# SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JANUARY 20 1997

80p

## Last beat for RAC's Training Regiment



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on drug testing

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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine  
January 20, 1997 Vol 53/2

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Picture: Mike Weston

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Unitas Medal parade: on the steps of the Union Building in Pretoria are, from left, WO2 Peter Street AGC (SPS), Sqn Ldr Dougie Bain RAF, Lt Col Simon Falkner LG, Col Paul Davis, late R Hamps, Minister of Defence Joe Modise, BMATT commander Brig Christopher Elliott, Lt Col Viv Rowe RM, Lt Col David Morris RAMC, and Maj Sharon Deasy AGC (SPS). In all, 130 Servicemen and women will receive the honour for their work

# South Africa unity medal for UK team

BRITISH Service personnel who helped the new South Africa to integrate its national defence force are to receive the country's Unitas Medal.

Since July 1994, a British team has assisted in the sensitive process of welding together seven separate armed bodies, including two former guerilla armies.

South African Defence Minister Joe Modise presented the first eight medals to a representative group from the British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT) in Pretoria.

Heading the party was Brig Christopher Elliott, head of the British mission.

Mr Modise said the integrity of BMATT personnel had played a major part in the successful integration of the new South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

"The impartial role of BMATT, and the characteristic integrity of the British soldiers, assisted us in training a united force from such a

diverse background," he said. The eight were the first foreign military personnel to receive the unity honour.

A seven-pointed star representing the seven forces, the medal may be worn without restriction. It had received the Queen's consent, Mr Modise said.

BMATT staff monitored and assessed the selection, training and demobilisation process at sites all over South Africa as former enemies put the years of apartheid behind them.

When disputes arose they intervened to arbitrate and adjudicate, rapidly winning a reputation for impartiality

which had an immense impact on reducing tension.

Starting with a team of 33 personnel drawn from all three Services, the BMATT is now down to 23. Nine key members are on three-year postings, the rest on short-term tours. In all, about 130 Servicemen and women will receive the medal for their part in uniting South Africa's forces.

It is the third commemorative medal instituted primarily for members of SANDF, following one issued on the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910, and the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal of 1953.

## 2000: Year of the CATT

TWO NEW simulation systems for Army training in Britain and Germany will be supplied under a £180 million contract awarded to Lockheed-Martin.

The Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) creates a

synthetic combat environment. Each system will comprise a group of simulated vehicle modules, with environment and enemy forces created and controlled by computers.

Delivery of the first system is planned late in the year 2000.



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Lt Gen Hew Pike (centre), who was knighted in the New Year Honours, is surrounded by smiling Gurkhas on the Hankley Common drop zone in Surrey. The occasion marked the reinforcement of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment by a company of Gurkha soldiers

# New Year Honours

## Order of the Bath

**GCB** – Gen Sir Roger Wheeler KCB CBE ADC Gen, late Royal Irish.

**KCB** – Lt Gen S Cowan CBE, late R Sigs; Lt Gen H W R Pike DSO MBE, late Para.

**CB** – Maj Gen J J Phipps, late QOH; Maj Gen M I E Scott CBE DSO, late SG; Maj Gen M A Willcocks late RA.

## Order of St Michael & St George

**CMG** – Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker, late R Anglian.

## Order of the British Empire

**CBE** – Maj Gen C N G Delves DSO OBE, late D and D; Brig K J W Goad ADC, late RAOC; Brig K Skempton, late Cheshire; Brig A E Whitley MBE, late RE.

**OBE** – Lt Col P J Barrett AGC (SPS); Lt Col B McDonnell R Anglian; Lt Col G McGarr RLC; Lt Col B Nutt, REME; Lt Col K H N Prentice RA; Col J D Reason, Devonshire ACF TA; Lt Col J D Sainsbury TD RA TA; Lt Col J A B Salmon PWRR; Lt Col J A Thomson, Cheshire TA; Lt Col P R West RA.

**MBE** – Rev J S Alker, Chaplain 3rd Class RACHD; Maj J V G Bain A and SH; Cpl C D E Bessey RLC; Lt R J Bishop Para, Maj C N Black WG; Maj A T Boyd RLC; Maj J Bright AGC (SPS); SSgt D W Brown RLC; Maj M H P Buchanan RLC; WO1 A K G Card RLC; Maj S Cheetham TD RE TA; Lt Col John Cobb, Stoneyhurst Coll CCF TA; Maj G T Collinson RLC; SSgt A R Cooper AGC (RMP); WO1 A J Crawford, Scots Guards; WO1 W Crook AGC (SPS); SSgt G S Daniell REME; CSgt S Denham WFR; SSgt J J Flannigan LD; Capt J W A France BEM, Green Howards TA; Cpl M S Gill RE; Maj R D B Gordon AGC (ETS); Maj P A P Griffiths RA; Capt (QGO) Dharmendra Gurung RGR; Maj (GCO) Lilahadur Gurung QG Sigs; Maj L Harris-Ward TD Para TA; Maj L A Holley RGR; Maj A L Jackson RA; Maj J F Kemp Kent ACF TA; WO2 C Keogh RA; Cpl of Horse I Kirkpatrick LD; Maj R S Lawther Royal Irish; Maj P J Leighton, Green Howards; Maj A C LeQue-lenec RAMC; Maj R A Licence R Sigs; Maj S J A Lloyd RA; WO2 J MacKinnon RE; Lt Col D A MacLean (Retd); Lt Col P D Marsden, Monkton Combe CCF TA; WO1 T G Morrissey AGC (SPS); Lt S J Nye PWRR; Cpl D

A O'Connor RE; CSgt S O Oliver RRF; Capt N D Partington RAMC; Capt (A/Maj) B W Pitchforth Para; WO1 J T Preece LD; Lt Col G E W T Raikes AGC (SPS); WO2 J J Richards AGC (RMP); SSgt S Robson RLC; Maj P J F Schofield RGJ; Maj M P Shapland RTR; Maj A C Sheppard RE; Lt Col R F Somerset, Winchester Coll CCF TA; WO2 K Stewart RA; Capt J K Sutherland, Hldrs; Maj R W Warren AGC (RMP); Capt Hon Wing Wong, Gen List.

## It's a fact

Figures given to Parliament showed the number of British soldiers under 18 serving in Northern Ireland and Bosnia on December 17 as 44 and 32, respectively.

## Gunners parade

THREE hundred gunners drawn from all four Royal Artillery regiments based in Germany paraded at Roberts Barracks, Osnabrück to mark the farewell visit of Gen Sir Martin Farndale, the Master Gunner, St James's Park.

## Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

## Gulf War: the big questions

LOCAL doctors of Gulf War veterans seen by the medical assessment programme are being contacted officially to give MoD more information about the progress of ex-Servicemen.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames gave this news to the Commons last month when he announced details of a "major, independent, peer-reviewed" research programme which will take three years and cost the MoD £1.3 million.

Mr Soames said that to date 921 veterans examined under the medical assessment programme started in 1993 had been referred for further treatment where necessary.

Although the results had so far produced no evidence of a new pattern of illness, he said, the Government retained an open mind.

On the Medical Research Council's recommendation, two studies, led by Professor Nicola Cherry of Manchester University and by Dr Patricia Doyle of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, will ask two questions.

First, are British Gulf veterans suffering more ill health than if they had not served there, and what is the nature and scale of the phenomenon?

Secondly, are British veterans finding unusual difficulties in having children, or are their offspring suffering from an unusual number of birth defects, and if so, what is the nature and scale of the risk?

The studies will be co-ordinated with the major US-funded study being conducted at King's College, London, by Dr Simon Wessely.

The minister again apologised for earlier misinformation about the scale of use of pesticides in the Gulf. He said the details had been given in good faith by ministers in answer to parliamentary questions.



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# 'Superb' defence work praised

SECRETARY of State Michael Portillo has spoken of a period of stability for defence – and has paid tribute to the people, uniformed and civilian, whose “superb” work has earned worldwide respect.

In a New Year message he underlined the importance of “quality of life” for Service and civilian personnel in recruitment and retention and reiterated the Defence Ministry’s aim to complete the assessment of the Bett Report recommendations into manpower, pay and conditions.

After outlining the British achievements of 1996, which included an Armed Forces presence in more than 45 countries across the world, he said: “Looking to the future, we can plan on the basis of a period of stability for defence.”

Mr Portillo told Servicemen and women and civilian employees: “You do a superb job, both in the United Kingdom and around the world, which earns you the respect of all those who encounter you.”

● Mr Portillo paid official visits to Chile and the Falkland Islands between December 29 and January 4. In the Falklands he visited the military cemetery and memorial at San Carlos.

## Bulldog spirit

WINSTON Churchill MP, grandson of the wartime leader, has agreed to become president of the fast-growing anti-vandalism organisation Friends of War Memorials.

Founder Ian Davidson is now looking for an active chairman with a military background. Volunteers should contact him at 28 Sheaveshill Court, The Hyde, London NW9 6BP.

## Catterick support

PRIMARY Management has won a £35 million MoD contract to provide support services to Catterick Garrison, which has 16 barracks and 39 catering operations.



Picture: Sgt Steve Baillie

One-year-old Aiofe Murphy meets the Royal Irish Regiment's regimental mascot, Brian Boru, when the regiment's band played to delighted shoppers in Belfast city centre. With the huge Irish Wolfhound is its handler, Pte Peter Phillips

# Army makes safe 1,000lb Belfast bomb

ARMY bomb disposal experts from 321 EOD Squadron RLC and troops from 47 Regiment Royal Artillery were involved in a full-scale security operation in the grounds of Belfast Castle, where a large terrorist bomb had been discovered.

The IRA claimed to have abandoned the bomb in a van because of activity by the Security Forces in the area, but the local police commander believed the terrorists had hoped to lure Security Forces into a trap.

Supt Brown said: “I have no doubt that the terrorists intended to engage in what can be described as nothing else than the mass murder of police

officers and soldiers. The device was driven through a highly-populated residential area to get to its destination. The potential for dreadful death and injury just does not bear thinking about.”

The three-day operation, which began on New Year's Eve, resulted in Army EOD operators making safe the device, which consisted of 1,000lb of fertiliser-based explosive packed into two wheelie bins. The soldiers also discovered a command wire and firing pack intended to explode the bomb.

Soldiers from 47 Regiment were on duty in support of the RUC, securing the area throughout the operation.



What the papers have been saying

## Brits are best says BBC man

NO ONE who has watched other good armies operate – the French, say, or the American – will disagree that the British Army is better trained and better motivated than any of them. – John Simpson, BBC Foreign Affairs Editor, writing in the Sunday Telegraph.

□ Continuing worldwide commitments mean the Armed Forces are busier than at any time since the end of the Second World War. At Christmas more than 55 per cent were on operations, preparing to go or winding down after a deployment. – Daily Telegraph.

□ British soldiers were doused in highly toxic organophosphate pesticides during the Gulf War, even though there was a factory making safer pesticides just half a mile from the Saudi Arabian hotel where Operation Desert Storm was planned. – Independent

□ The Cabinet is ready to scrap Britain's strict quarantine laws under a radical plan to be unveiled this month. It would involve blood tests and a period of quarantine of about a month in place of the current six-month obligatory spell in controlled kennels. – Daily Mail

□ The cost of Britain's contribution to IFOR in Bosnia has grown by more than ten per cent to £337 million, according to a report published by the National Audit Office. – Daily Telegraph

□ Remains of 27 First World War British soldiers discovered by French building workers in a shallow grave near Monchy-le-Preux, northern France, would be buried in a military cemetery, said the Royal British Legion. Buttons and flashes indicate most were with the 13th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. – Guardian



# Keep an eye on those finances

THE winter edition of the excellent *Army Families Journal* concentrates on financial matters. It has selected several issues dear to my heart. One of them was first brought to my attention by Marie Jennings, the *Counterpoint* financial expert.

When she first suggested that women should apply to the DSS for a pensions forecast I was dubious. However, at her request I applied, through my local DSS office, on form BR19, to be given a forecast showing my entitlement to a state pension. The forecast arrived in fairly short order and showed me that I was entitled to only 98 per cent of the state pension. It also listed where and when the shortfall had happened.

There followed an exchange of letters before the department decided that I should make good

the shortfall. Because of the difficulty of recovering money from the organisation that should have made the contributions, the department extended the deadline for payments.

By April, I should be back on track to get a full state pension when I retire. Had I not bothered to check I would have lost a small, but necessary, proportion.

I was very impressed by the way in which local DSS staff dealt with my problem. They understood the nature of life as a "camp follower" and did everything they could to sort out the situation.

I would urge any Service wife or husband to keep track of their con-

tributions. Often those who follow a Service spouse forget to look after their own financial health. If you have had a disrupted working life and are unsure about your pension contributions, check with DSS now. There is a time limit on making up lost contributions so don't put it off.

The *AFJ* also highlights the Long Service Advance of Pay Scheme. This replaces the Married Quarters Discounted Sales Scheme. The LSAP will give you an interest-free loan up to £8,500, if you are over 35, to help you buy a house. There are a few conditions but it is worth considering.

There are a number of features



**Cari's column**

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

# 'New' charity's aim is more casework

EARLIER THIS month, the Soldiers' Sailors and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) and the Forces Help Society amalgamated with Lord Roberts Workshops to form SSAFA Forces Help.

The new organisation – its component members each having experience dating back to the last century – aims to go into the next as a "major caseworks charity" to assist Service and ex-Service personnel, their families and dependants.

With more than 7,000 volunteers, most of them professionally trained by SSAFA Forces Help, its services can range from helping a Serviceman's widow to assisting the disabled child of one of today's soldiers in Bosnia.

Maj Gen Peter Sheppard, SSAFA controller until the end of last year and continuing as controller of the new charity, spoke to *Soldier*. "Amalgamation has brought with it a new dimension to SSAFA," he said.

"To take one example, Lord Roberts Workshops has two care homes for the elderly (in Knaphill, Surrey and on the Isle of Wight), as well as cottages for the disabled – an area in which the association has never previously been

involved, so it will have to be geared up to it."

SSAFA combined casework activities with the Forces Help Society in 1988.

Over the next three years, said Maj Gen Sheppard, the plan is that the new organisation will increase the amount of casework by ten per cent.

During 1995, SSAFA dealt with 85,000 cases, with an additional 6,000 social work cases in the Services, he added.

"As SSAFA Forces Help, we intend to build on SSAFA's unique in-Service support, both here and overseas – where the organisation provides a social service, where the military capability is lacking, at least as good as is achieved in the United Kingdom."

The "very strong" (mainly case worker) training element, of which the controller is proud – provided by the charity's main office – will continue to flourish, as will the link between SSAFA Forces Help staff, the commands and the MoD.

"We will be studying government legislation on what will affect us in areas such as childminding and registering of playgroups, and



**Maj Gen Peter Sheppard, Controller SSAFA Forces Help**

the implications of the Family Law Bill: it is essential to keep up with developments," said the major general.

On a recent visit by him to Cyprus, units in the three Service garrisons had been delighted with the support received from the newly-formed branch on the island.

"In the infantry, young wives tend to miss the 'extended family', once they have got used to the lim-

itations of being in a very hot climate, with crying children and an expensive fare if they want to get back to England," the controller said.

"The older, more mature families are more philosophical: it is the younger people who tend to become disenchanted and disappointed, which potentially leads to social and welfare problems."

"So it is very important that the organisation's professional staff are sufficient and well-trained."

Support from all three Services was vital, Maj Gen Sheppard said.

"I believe they have a very keen interest in welfare, but the Service way of life at the moment is very difficult for families. It's a mutual arrangement: the Services pay for the professional staff I have, but at the same time benefit from, for example, our Stepping Stones escort service and accommodation scheme for Service families which have broken down."

It was a great mistake for anyone to think that SSAFA Forces Help was a "cosy little organisation that muddles along," he added.

"It is a huge challenge to run a charity like a business."

"Amalgamating is never easy, but the formation of SSAFA Forces Help is a golden opportunity to restate our objectives, develop a forward-looking management business plan for the organisation, and focus its finances for the future."

Here's to the future: Cfn Garry Smith; pub manageress Jackie Byrne; Cfn Kirsty Snelling; Steven Robertson and Mark Goddard (at the table) and Cfn Charlie Fulton and Kev Robertson toast the opening of the Silver Horse



Picture: Mike Weston

# Naafi brews up pub partnership triumph

A MERE week after its opening last month, the Silver Horse "pub within a club" at Hazebrook Barracks, Arborfield – home of the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering (SEAE) – was breaking all records.

Part of an experimental partnership between Naafi, the Armed Forces and Scottish Courage Brewers, the pub is aimed at providing the school's 600 soldiers with somewhere to relax and take a break from military life without having to leave the barracks, Naafi says.

Project manager Gary de Buse told *Soldier*: "It has proved to be a fantastic success: sales have been really huge in the first week. Compared with £800 takings in the same week last year, the figure was £8,000, and the Naafi club is delighted."

Air Commodore Allan Vaughan, Naafi's retail and recreational services director, said: "I endorse all that. It is transpiring to be everything we anticipated it would be. It augurs well for the future."

## LIVE COMEDY

The new facility has two bars, a stage, food, dance and bar games areas, and a weekly menu of entertainment which includes big-screen sports nights and regular live comedy and music spots.

"We are absolutely delighted with the project and the way it has turned out," Capt Peter Smith, SEAE's unit project liaison officer, told *Soldier*.

"It is very good for the soldiers, just what they need in a barracks such as this. The school is a centre of excellence – and the new pub could be described as a centre of excellence for the Naafi."

"We are delighted to have been chosen as the Army representatives for the scheme. I believe it has a future, and it is only right that soldiers across the Army should get a facility such as this. A 'young person's club' is just what is needed."

● Trials of the partnership are scheduled to run until the spring. The Arborfield site is one of three Naafi co-operations with brewers: with Bass for the Royal Navy at Faslane, Scotland and with Whitbread at Leeming, Yorkshire for the Royal Air Force.

# YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU... VOLUNTEER TO BE AN ORGAN DONOR

A PLEA for Army personnel to join the NHS Organ Donor register has been issued by the Department of Health.

The register is a confidential computer-based record of the personal details of individuals willing to donate their organs after death, says the department.

Over the past three decades, many lives have been saved, and the quality of life improved, for thousands in the United Kingdom and throughout the world, by major developments in organ transplant techniques.

Organ transplants originated with cornea replacements, which today allow more than 6,000 people a year to have their sight restored.

Additionally, 5,000 other major organ transplants take place each year: the 1,000th heart transplant occurred recently. There are also more than 15,000 kidney patients

alive today – many no longer having to undergo dialysis – as a result of organ donations, according to the Department of Health.

As technology has advanced, and more centres have opened in the United Kingdom providing transplant surgery, demand for organs has exceeded supply.

Regrettably, the DoH says, many opportunities for organ donation are missed because relatives are unaware that those they have recently lost may have wished to donate organs.

Also, it is often particularly difficult for grieving relatives to consent to their loved one's organs being donated.

Before joining the register, on which more than three million potential donors are currently listed, individuals should discuss the matter with their families.

A wish to join the register is very much a decision for the individual,

and has no bearing on his or her position as a member of the Army, says the MoD.

Service medical centres in the UK and other outlets such as shops and civilian medical facilities hold stocks of the appropriate form (DoH Form ODR 1).

Although all information supplied by registrants to the NHS Organ Donor Register is subject to the Data Protection Act, and is treated in the strictest confidence, the MoD says it is advisable for Service personnel not to declare their military rank if they decide to register.

## STOP PRESS

TWO resettlement courses with media connections are being held in Worcester.

The first, *Journalism and The Media*, starting next month, offers an insider's view of aspects including the whole range of local and

national newspapers, radio and television.

*Media Photography*, the second of the 28-day residential courses, covers professional picture-taking.

Details: tel CPC Training Services on 01452 410404.



# Winning the battle against a national culture of drugs

TWO YEARS on from the introduction of compulsory testing, the British Army is winning its battle to create a drug-free environment.

"When compulsory drug testing (CDT) began in January 1995, the programme was deliberately built up slowly to allow us to validate procedures and ensure we were not going to create a major manning crisis by being responsible for dismissing a chunk of the Army," said Maj Tim Saunders, the Army's Staff Officer (Drugs).

"Testing has been widely welcomed in the Army, with the majority of soldiers taking very much to heart the hint that drugs are unacceptable. As a deterrent, CDT seems to be working."

About 18,000 tests were carried out in the first year as the team got into its stride and the number went up considerably last year. Under current levels, virtually everybody serving in the Field Army will undergo a test in the course of a year.

CDT teams have visited British troops in locations all over the world.

"We began by visiting garrisons in Germany, Northern Ireland, Cyprus and the Falklands," said Maj Saunders.

"This year we were more adventurous and called on soldiers based in some of the more out-of-the-way places. One team tested the resident Gurkha battalion in Brunei and then deployed into the jungle to test soldiers at the Jungle Warfare School."

Four visits to units serving in Bosnia

revealed few positive results.

It was a relief for the testers to find that troops deployed on operations rarely take drugs.

Maj Saunders said an examination of soldiers waiting at RAF Brize Norton to fly back to Bosnia after a mid-tour break revealed only one who had been using drugs.

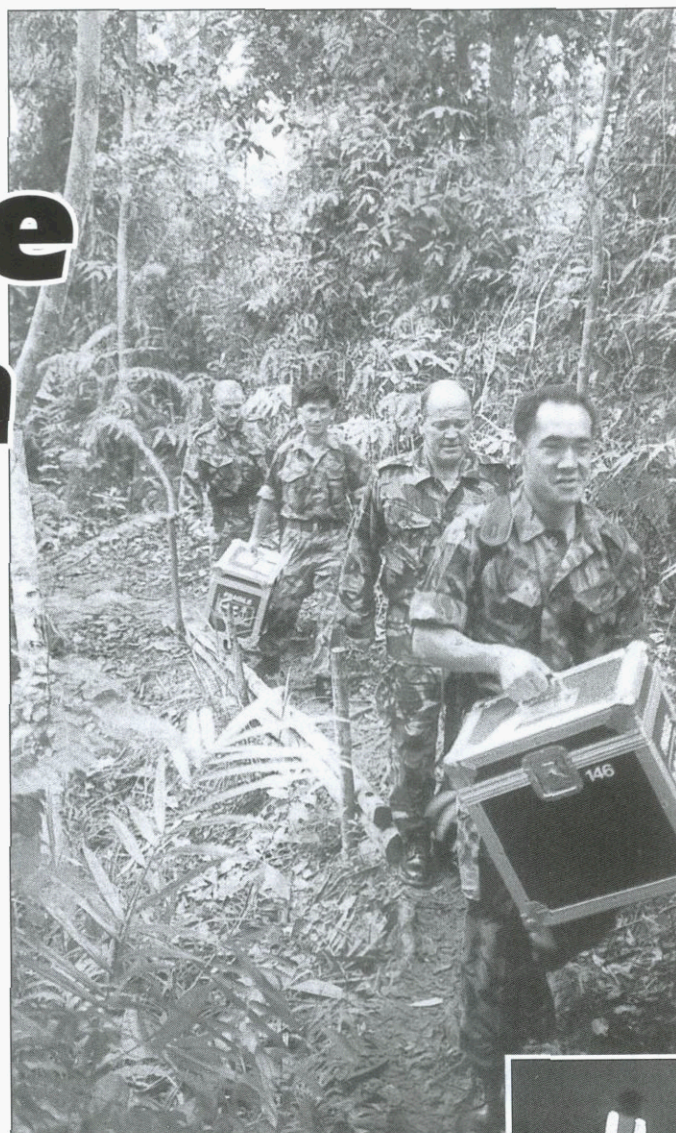
"We intend to continue with airport checks to deter soldiers using drugs on leave," he warned. "We shall also be visiting overseas exercises."

In the two years that the CDT team has been in action, the number of detected drug-users has fallen sharply.

Of the 18,000 soldiers who provided samples in 1995, just over one per cent tested positive. Last year, despite a large increase in the numbers asked to provide a urine sample, only 0.7 per cent failed, much below the national level where around six per cent of those tested gave positive results.

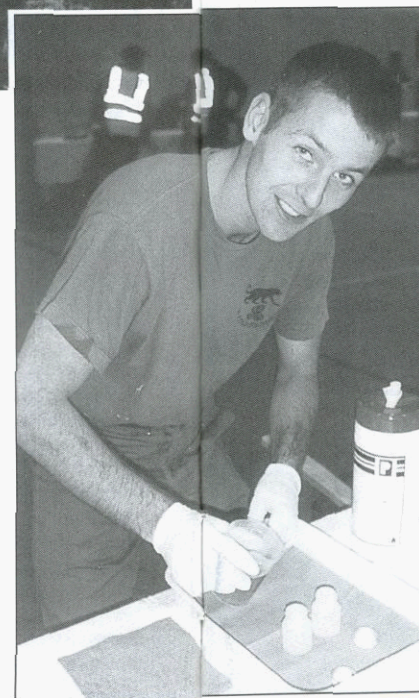
Universal acceptance of CDT played a major part in reducing drug abuse, a success the MoD hopes will persuade some parents to steer their children towards a military career.

Getting testers and their specimen bottles to areas such as Bosnia could have been



Above - Assisted by two Gurkha soldiers, CSgt Bob McGowan, D and D, and SSgt Peter Mead, RLC, negotiate a jungle track on their way to a testing site in Brunei

Right - During a CDT session in the Falklands, a sapper prepares to divide his sample before the two specimen bottles are sealed with tamper evident material



a complex operation, but the problem was overcome by the appointment of two parachute-trained warrant officers to head CDT teams composed of Long Service List WOs and colour sergeants.

The two experienced individuals, well used to moving lightly, soon identified what was essential and what was not. It is not a glamorous task and the work is hard. On most overseas assignments they see little more than the airport, the hotel and the road to the test site.

Analysis so far of the few positive results indicates cannabis is the drug most widely used by those soldiers who do choose to indulge. Other "recreational" drugs, including amphetamines and Ecstasy, have also been found.

A British survey revealed that almost half of all 16- and 17-year-olds have used drugs

at least once. A European Community study confirmed the findings. "It is a problem. People of this age group are usually considering joining the Army and the average youngster probably classes the use of drugs in the same way as an adult might view the use of beer or spirits," said Maj Saunders.

"CDT is working. The Army is actually bucking the trends of society while the problem outside is continuing to grow."

Most of those tested positive have been young private soldiers, with only a handful of junior NCOs.

Results are passed to a commanding officer and it is up to him to take action.

Any officer who failed a test would be told to resign. Soldiers are discharged administratively. In exceptional circumstances, lance corporals and privates might be given a second chance and retained.

Misusers do not go before a court martial and no disciplinary proceedings result. There are no dishonourable discharges. A soldier's "Red Book" simply records that his services are no longer required.

Disgruntled individuals seeking an easy way back into civvy street may not refuse to take the test as a route to discharge. Refusal to provide a specimen is an offence under the Army Act 1955, opening the way to a prison sentence. Few have refused.

A key feature of the CDT programme is that the soldier's interests are paramount.

The individual divides his or her own sample into two and watches them being recorded, as does a witness who acts as an independent monitor. Samples are sealed with tamper-evident material. If they are later found to be damaged, the sample is thrown away and recorded as a negative result.

"The rules are strict. We cannot do anything which would disadvantage the soldier," said Maj Saunders. "We would rather have a false negative than a false positive."

The reasons why the Army is conducting this campaign against drugs hardly needs explaining. As Maj Saunders points out, many drugs are hallucinogenic, causing users to suffer flash-backs long after the event.

"Imagine if a hallucinating soldier on

guard was approached by a member of the public, a refugee or by his relief, and all he saw was a 6ft frog and opened fire..."

Soldiers needing to feed a drugs habit while on operations would swiftly become a security risk and undermine the effectiveness of their units.

"There is also the matter of health and safety at work. Drugs, like alcohol, debilitate and downgrade an individual's performance."



Sgt Lilbahadur Gurung (centre) and colleagues prepare to serve their delicious *bhat*

## Currying favour

THREE different Services. Three nationalities. A taste of trouble, or a recipe for success? Award-winning chefs in Hong Kong Garrison have a lot on their plate.

Unique among British Armed Forces, the garrison combines British, Chinese and Gurkha personnel from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, plus supporting civilians. Each "community" has its own customs and dietary requirements, and there are currently a score of chefs to cater for them.

As the garrison begins its final rundown in preparation for the handover of sovereignty to the Chinese at the beginning of July, more and more of the catering task is being contracted out, said Mess Manager Lt Nigel Walker, a Royal Navy officer attached to the Gurkhas with responsibility for running the Prince of Wales Barracks, Hong Kong's military headquarters.

"The Gurkha kitchen is separate from the others and concentrates mainly on Gurkha foods. But for the rest of the garrison, we have to provide a combination of European and Asian dishes to give people a choice," said Lt Walker.

"And, just as the 'gweilos' [Europeans] enjoy a good Gurkha *bhat* [curry] from time to time, so the Gurkhas like to try European food."

Life is hectic for the chefs. "Every func-

tion we do is 'the last'; the last Oktoberfest, the last Trafalgar Night, the last New Year's Eve party. As people leave, there are lots of farewell functions."

Every month Gurkha officers host a lunch for about 40 people in the Crown and Anchor function room on the 27th

floor of the Prince of Wales Building, with its spectacular views over Hong Kong harbour. The lucky few tuck into a Gurkha *bhat*.

Sgt Lilbahadur Gurung, senior Gurkha chef, who cooks for 50 to 60 Gurkhas in their special mess, enjoys the challenge. "We eat *bhat* most of the time," he said. His favourite dish, it consists of rice, dhal, lentil soup, vegetables, two types of meat, chutney and other ingredients.

An Army chef for 15 years - he spent his first two years in the transport regiment -

Sgt Lil, as he is known, will return to the UK in June on a posting to 240 Signals Squadron.

For the Gurkhas, service in the British Army is often very much a family business, and he hopes his children, Chitra (15), Narendra (12) and Yogmari (8) will become Army chefs. They are back in Nepal.

Sgt Lil enjoys English food - his favourite dish is fish-and-chips - but confessed: "English food is not so easy to cook."

ARMY COMPULSORY DRUGS TESTING

Report: Laurie Manton



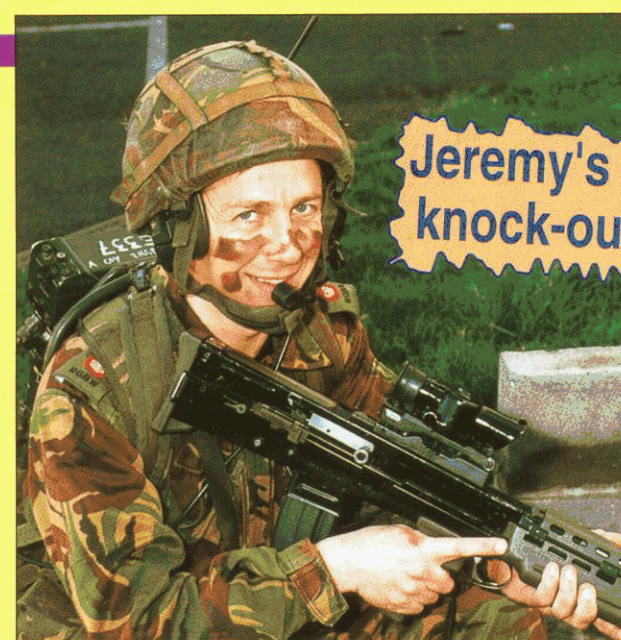


## Cardiff Baywatch?

Paying a flying visit to London, **Gena Lee Nolin**, from the television series *Baywatch*, had a special request: she wanted to meet some British soldiers. More than happy to oblige was the 1st Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot), which was carrying out public duties in the capital and Windsor. Providing a truly Welsh escort were (left to right) Ptes **Vincent Dark**, **Paul Woolley**, **Wayne Ogilby**, **Martin Hayle** and **Mark Jones**.

## Aussie Gavin gets the needle

Before moving to Britain in 1993 and joining the RAMC, Capt **Gavin Macgregor-Skinner** was in practice as a vet in Brisbane. Originally sent to Bosnia as a medical staff officer for the troops, his veterinary instincts soon came to the fore and he began checking the 26 Army patrol dogs and ensuring that no diseases were spreading from local farm animals to British soldiers. Now Gavin – seen injecting a horse, assisted by local vet **Vladimir Ilioc**, – has been taking on the difficult task of trying to help the nation's shattered herds and flocks after four years of conflict.



## Jeremy's a knock-out

New commander of A Company, 2nd (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment is Maj **Jeremy Cook**, a staff nurse specialising in anaesthetics at Cheltenham General Hospital. Originally a member of the RAMC serving with a TA field hospital as a nursing officer in a field surgical team, Jeremy became Assistant Medical Officer for 2 RGBW in 1991, and says he relishes the new challenge.



## Skinner's winner!

Sgt **Bob Gleed**, (right), attached to Support Squadron, Headquarters National Support Element in Split, receives an Efficiency Medal for 12 years' service with his home unit, Bristol-based 39th (Skinners) Signal Regiment. Presenting the award to Bob, who this month completes a six-month tour in Split, is Brig **Roy Ratazzi**, commander HQ NSE.

# PEOPLE



WO1s **Adrian Hanlon**, 2 Division (left) and **Geoff Binnington**, pictured with the certificates which they earned as two of the first three Master Drivers to qualify as Advanced Driving Test examiners. Their colleague, based at HQ Land Command, is WO1 **Keith Barnett**.

## Mastered it



## Right Royal trio

Service by three generations in three Royal corps is represented in this picture, taken at **Andrew McCormack's** REME pass-off parade.

With him are his grandfather, **Fred Sear**, who served 27 years in the RASC and RCT, and uncle, WO2 **Clive Sear**, Royal Signals.

## "OAR-DEAL"?

Putting his all into a charitable cause was SSgt **Bob Harvey** of LO Troop, 1st (UK) Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, based in Vitez. He and 2nd Lt **Gareth Oliver** led a team of ten soldiers in an arduous and physically demanding – but successful – 24-hour sponsored row which raised DM 2000 in aid of cot death research. Invaluable support was given by 14 Signal Regiment (EW).





# Is it the call I'm seeking?

"BLOW, bugle, blow; set the wild echoes flying." Thus wrote Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

"Blow it, don't suck the bleeding thing!" the Sar'nt Major politely suggested to the scruffy duty bugler.

Merely two different approaches to the same problem, of sending a message by precise musical code. And of course Tennyson had a point, for nothing can be more poetic and evocative than the "sweet sounds of the bugle".

Its wistful tones echoing across some foreign field, or sounding a threnody for a departed hero, can tear at the heart strings of even the toughest old sodger. Blasted out at dawn on a freezing day it is, or was, the intolerable sadistic servant of Sar'nt Majors down the ages.

I say "or was" because much less is heard of the bugle's sweet sounds these days. Just dial a few numbers and you can, in a trice, summon the pioneer sergeant or rustle up a few fatigue men without aid of music; turn a few knobs or press a few buttons and you can send a complete armoured division to Kingdom Come.

Along with the cavalry trumpet the bugle is becoming inefficient... it is almost inaudible against the roar of traffic, jet aeroplanes and, in battle, the cacophony of modern fire-power.

'Twas not always so. Trumpeters, fifers, drummers, and later buglers were vital in conveying orders to the troops, but not until the 18th century did those precise codes develop.

In the 16th and 17th centuries drummers, fifers and trumpeters used signals comprising pre-arranged tunes, only later to evolve into formal calls recognisable by all and sundry, whether of Colonel Skinner's Light Horse or the North Surrey Fusiliers.

And very important persons these musicians were, living a life a cut above that of the ordinary soldier.

But you see the problem posed by those precise musical codes, I'm sure. If Trooper George cannot distinguish between *Rule Britannia* and *I've Got a Luverly Bunch of Coconuts* (or as we say in the trade, has an ear like a boot) then he's in trouble.

Worse still if Sgt Wellington can't tell *Orderly Sergeants* from *Water Your Horses*. And so on up the rank structure until the mind boggles at what Maj Gen Hushpuppy would make of *Halt, Lie Down*. Another Balaclava at least.

It is so much simpler to recognise a call if

given the words associated with it, or the words if given the music. At first each soldier fitted his own personal doggerel words or rhyme to help him identify a call.

Later, as with the tunes, the words gradually came to general use throughout the Army. By about the early 18th century all except soldiers with a musical ear recognised a call only after the rhythm of the tune suggested the correct pre-selected words. "Di-dah di-dah" equals "Get-out-of-bed". "Dah-di dah-di da-di daah" sung quickly is "Sergeant Major's got the Horn" (*The Alarm*).

But you see a further problem, I'm sure. If Gdm Bird-brain is not only tone-deaf but word-deaf into the bargain, then he's got a problem.

Military history is full of heroic one-man attacks on heavily-defended positions,

of gallant advances in the face of massive artillery fire, last-ditch stands against all the odds, not to mention abortive cavalry charges.

One wonders, just wonders, how many of these brave deeds were accountable to tone or word deafness, mistaking a "di" for a "dah", and therefore the *Charge* for *Officers' Dinner*. Some calls are so alike that in the heat of battle many a boob must have been made.

Even peacetime has its hazards. Buglers in particular have always been the battalion characters,

and artful dodges were common even in the so-called harsh discipline days of the 1920s and 1930s.

Buglers of poor technique, to avoid the punishment of an extra guard duty, would stand at-the-ready on the barrack square, puffing and blowing in tortured mime while a friend blew sweet sounds of *Defaulters* from a nearby vehicle or handy doorway. Ventriloquists could expect worse than extra duty if caught.

In the old Victoria Barracks, Belfast, the chapel porch gave on to the barrack square. In pouring rain it was known for buglers to sound after-dark calls from this porch, and usually get away with it. Bugler Biggs didn't. The Padre,

who must have been at his devotions, emerged suddenly to investigate the trespass, ramming the mouth-piece and half the bugle well past the culprit's tonsils. Never did *Last Post*, with its final sighing cadence, die on such a wail and a whimper.

The oh-so-superior trumpeters of the regimental band would often, when conditions were safe, wait for the duty trumpeter to inhale his initial deep breath prior to sounding a call then, from a window, chip in with the appropriate tune decorated with cracked notes, belches and blasts. The trumpeter meanwhile, committed by his exposed position to endure the treachery to the bitter end, wilted visibly in anticipation of the wrath to come.

Then there was Bugler Forster of the 60th Rifles, a regiment renowned for its high standard of bugling. Forster could make his bugle talk. It was an extension of his own inner feelings and passions, an elongation of his lungs, throat, tongue and lips. Part of him.

His *Reveille* was a soothing and abject



were not noted for their innate musicality so it was years before we twigged that if the words of a call began with a difficult letter like B, P or S he would likewise stutter on his opening note. *Rouse* caused him agonies of impotence with its:

"GGGGGGet out of bbed, get out of bbed, You lazy bbbbastards, gget out of bbed."

Casual passers-by were thin on the ground at that time of day, poor lad. There were no passers-by, nor bugler present to do for him as he had done so beautifully for others, when we buried him near the outer perimeter of the Calais defences in May 1940.

Surprisingly the words of calls which have come down to us are almost childishly innocuous, with little or no foul language used. Fowl yes, for "You've got a face like a chicken's arse" is perfect verbal representation of *Quarter Call*.

Others to survive the centuries, differing sometimes to allow for regimental traditions, are:

*Cookhouse*: Come to the cookhouse door boys, come to the cookhouse door.

*Mess Call* - Oh pick 'em up pick 'em up hot potatoes, hot potatoes, pick 'em up pick 'em up hot potatoes oh.

*Picquet* - Come and do a picquet boys, come and do a guard, be on time or else boys, it's seven days hard.

*Fatigues* - I called him, I called him, he wouldn't come I called him, the dirty sod's in

bed with China Nell.

*Sick Call* - Sixty-four Ninety-four he won't never go sick no more, the poor blighter's dead.

*Officers* - Officers come to HQ, Officers come to HQ, do, do, do.

*Officers' Dinner* - The officers' wives get pudden an' pies, the soldiers' wives get skilly.

Fifty years on and I love them all. It will be a sad day if the calls of trumpet and bugle have no place in our Army's future. The telephone and radio have so far failed wholly to dislodge them from favour, but what when every soldier is in touch with every other soldier by a television set strapped to his wrist? Will it then be a case of:

*Trumpeter, what are you sounding now? (Is it the call I'm seeking?)*

*Lucky for you if you hear it at all For my trumpet's but faintly speaking.*

A cavalry officer, one J Francis Barron, wrote the words of that famous ballad in the

days when soldiers lived, and died, to the sound of trumpet and bugle, the old calls having come down to them "by word of ear"; they were not committed to paper until well into the 19th century.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, his instinctive dread and mistrust of the bugle call, the old sodger never forgets, and recalls them, near his end, with a surprised and somewhat shamefaced nostalgia.

Accursed *Reveille*, bloody *Defaulters*, *Cookhouse* (more swill), *Orderly Room* (Oh God), *Orderly Sergeants* (What does Sar'nt Major want now?), *Mess Call* (yet more swill), *Post Call* (Letters from Lousy Lou boys, letters from Lousy Lou), *Retreat* (Stand still you oafs), *Last Post* (Go and whitewash it boy), *Lights Out* (just as you reach the all-is-revealed page of an Agatha Christie).

Little episodes in a soldier's life. Memories of long ago when the trumpet and bugle plagued us from dawn until dusk and later; when the regimental call and whatever followed it presaged no good at all for most of us.

Get up, fall in, fall out, jankers, fall in, fall out, advance, retire, stand up, lie down, prepare for bed, go to bed, and turn those bleeding lights out...

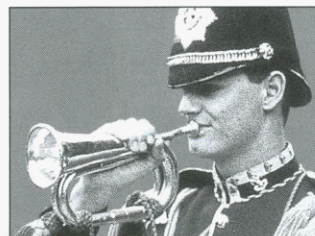
Dear dead days beyond recall. But perhaps things have changed a little, eased off, and refuge is now possible from the scourge and tyranny of the omnipotent bugle. I believe so, yet die in the saddle and there is still no option even for the dear departed.

Cpl Bootear *will* rest in peace by order of the Ministry. Bang, Bang, Bang, and a brazen lament to see you on your way. No escape unless you specify in your last will and testament "no bugling by request".

As an oh-so-superior bandsman myself I must remember to drop a line to my solicitors. The *feu-de-douleur* will not apply to this old sodger but, please sirs, no bugling at my crossing of the bar.

And yet. And yet. Ah well, damn it, why not? It will be the one clear call in half a century of service the sounding of which will require me to do absolutely nothing. So sound off old pal, sound off.

*Blow bugle, blow; set the wild echoes flying, Bugle blow; Answer echoes, answer. Dying... dying.*





# Are you over 18?

## Interested in joining the Ministry of Defence Guard Service as a Civilian Security Officer? (Grade 5)



Career opportunities now exist within the following areas:

**Arborfield, Andover, Beaconsfield, Bicester, Bordon, Didcot, Hermitage, Frimley, Middle Wallop, Sandhurst, Shrivenham, Solent and Winchester.**

Duties include checking identification of personnel, patrols inside and outside of buildings and checking vehicles moving in and out of the camp area.

Excellent benefits package with opportunity for dog handling and NVQ training.


**Salary Scale: £8,094, after training £8,780 rising to £10,762 pa plus shift disturbance allowance and weekend premiums.**

*Application forms are available from:*

**CSO2, HQ 145 (HC) Bde, Wavell House, Cavans Road,  
Aldershot, Hants GU11 2LQ.**

**Tel: 01252 347721 Fax: 01252 347769**





A team inspects the target during live-firing in the desert

# Sand . . . and mod cons

ALL THE facilities an infantryman could possibly want were available when C Company Group of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, deployed from Cyprus to the barren, rocky deserts of central Jordan . . . but the luxury had to wait.

The British soldiers took part in Exercise Golden Sands to train with the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF), concentrating on dismounted desert warfare skills through an intense programme of live-firing.

An advance party reached the Al Qatrana training area to rendezvous with the equipment-filled ISO containers which were to be the group's life-blood for the following three weeks. A desolate wadi floor was transformed into a tented city, complete with open air showers and toilets, kitchen, mess tent and sleeping accommodation.

While the camp was being set up, platoon commanders and the Permanent Range Team reced the hundreds of surrounding wadis and jebels for suitable live-firing areas.

Work started in earnest when the main body of C Coy arrived three days later, the training being broken into three phases: a

joint UK/JAF live-firing package lasting eight days; a 48-hour exercise; and a joint firing demonstration.

Live-firing began with zeroing and familiarisation with JAF weapons, followed by four days on the physically tough and mentally demanding Jebel Saqrae area. Section attacks, ambushes, anti-ambush drills, anti-tank stalks, and withdrawals followed in quick succession, each manoeuvre watched closely by a Jordanian section which then emulated the British tactics.

It culminated in the first chance the unit had had to practise company-level operations since Exercise Intrinsic Action in Kuwait.

Maj Gen Hew Pike, Deputy C-in-C Land Command, flew in to watch the company's performance during the high-pressure 48-hour exercise.

Highlight of Golden Sands for the JAF soldiers was the joint demonstration, a flanking attack which allowed them to show off their skills to many high-ranking officers, including their Chief of the Defence Staff.

It went off well and ended with much

hand-shaking, presentations and feasting.

The dismantling of the camp and the repacking of the containers left the company to spend a very cold final night huddled in small groups under a star-studded sky.

A two-day R-and-R package involved a journey to Aqaba on the Red Sea, one of the best diving sites in the world. Some men travelled to Wadi Rum to see the region's spectacular desert scenery.

As the company was hosted by the JAF, the entry fee for Jordan's premier tourist spot, the rose red city of Petra, was waived, saving the soldiers £20 each. They also had a chance to swim in the Dead Sea.

Any discomfort endured in the Al Qatrana camp was forgotten when the group arrived in Amman for the flight back to Cyprus. When the anticipated Hercules C-130 was delayed by 24 hours, the entire company, to its delight and amazement, was put up in the magnificent luxury of the five-star Forte Grand Amman.

But most lasting of C Company's successes on Golden Sands was the excellent relationship forged with the soldiers of the 2nd Company, The Al-Hussan Battalion, JAF.



# Steaming ahead in Bosnia

THREE British soldiers serving in Bosnia acted out every school-boy's dream by driving a 140-ton steam engine once used on Hitler's eastern front.

Vintage German trains have been a lifeline for the people of central Bosnia, keeping power stations supplied with coal from the Kreka mines at Tuzla.

British money and engineers from the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) have helped to restore the engines, which were the only means of supplying power plants after stocks of diesel for more modern trains dried up during nearly four years of civil war.

Three keen steam enthusiasts – Lt Col Paul Brook RLC, and TA soldiers Cpl James Bromfield and Cpl Gavin Martin – drove a 1942 Krupp Series 33 steam engine up and down a section of track in the marshalling yard at the mine. The locomotive was originally handed over to former Yugoslavia as war reparation.

Col Brook, who owns a steam roller he restored himself, described the experience as "fantastic". The two corporals are both members of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland.

Twelve venerable old steam engines were recommissioned to serve the power stations during the war. With help from the ODA, all were in running order within six months. Now the fighting is over, it may not be long before the diesels are back in use... and the veteran Krupp engines again consigned to schoolboy dreams.

**Roll of honour: Four names have been added to the memorial in the dining room of the Richard Hale School, formerly Hertford Grammar School. It now includes the names of 57 Old Hertfordians who gave their lives during the Second World War, a grievous price for a school with only 220 pupils. The four additional stone tablets were dedicated during an Armistice Day service.**



**Day of the train: from left are Cpl James Bromfield, Kreka mines chief engineer Mustafa Saracevic, Lt Col Paul Brook, and Cpl Gavin Martin. Behind them is one of the old steam engines pressed into service when their modern counterparts in Bosnia ran out of diesel**

## Statue appeal tops £10,000

PORTSMOUTH City Council's £40,000 appeal to pay for a statue of Monty has passed its first major landmark.

More than £10,000 has been contributed so far towards the city's plans to honour the memory of Fd Marshal Montgomery. The appeal was launched last summer by Monty's son, Viscount Montgomery.

The money is being used to put two larger-than-life statues outside the D-Day Museum at Southsea: one of the great military commander, the other depicting a soldier of the Second World War.

Organisers say that many of the contributions have been sent by veterans who visited Portsmouth in the past two years for commemorative events marking Second World War anniversaries.

Cheques and donations should be made out to the Monty Statue Appeal, c/o Col (Retd) Bill Stevens, Portsmouth City Council, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AL.

# Ballymena big band is Jed's 230th

RECORD producer Jed Kears, whose Bandleader label is on many of the military CDs, tapes and records reviewed in this magazine, has just made his 230th military recording.

The Band of the Royal Irish Regiment hired London-based Jed and engineer Ray Prickett to craft their latest military music offering while it was being put together in the band's hall at Bally-

mena in Northern Ireland. Jed and Ray have worked with many star names in the business, including Petula Clark, the Searchers, Dana, and the Muppets.

"We've produced thousands of records with all sorts of stars over the years," said Jed. "Undoubtedly the worst person to work with was Miss Piggy."

"It was easier recording 2,369 musicians from the massed bands

of all the British Forces in one go."

Jed is on the lookout for the next *Amazing Grace* (a pipe version by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in 1972 was so popular it forced its way into the pop charts), so he listened very carefully to what the Royal Irish band came up with. "We haven't been disappointed yet," he said.

The new CD should be ready for its first airing in February.

## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, January 1947

### GUARDS DOG

**Latest story about the imperturbable Guards sentries in London concerns one who was nipped in the calf by Princess Elizabeth's favourite Welsh Corgi, Susan. He stood firm, without batting an eyelid. The Princess did not know of the incident at the time. When she did, the sentry received an apology and Susan a severe reprimand.**

## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, January 1972

### FAR EAST FALL OUT

**It was the end of an era, and the beginning of another. The end of the vast military organisation in Singapore and the beginning of Anzuk, the British, Australian and New Zealand force. Far East Command bowed out with a parade at Sembawang.**

# Blandford's cover story reaches last chapter

TWO more commemorative postal covers have been released by the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford, Dorset.

The final two in the Signals series, they depict the corps afloat, when detachments provided communications on Royal Navy ships for amphibious warfare, and scenes from the Falklands campaign of 1982.

The war in the South Atlantic was the first major operation in which the British Army used satellite communications.

Special editions of the covers have been signed by Gen Sir Michael Rose, who commanded 22 SAS at the time and negotiated the surrender of the Argentine forces on the islands. All the covers have been flown by RAF Hercules to RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falklands.

Special editions of the naval cover bear the signature of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, a former commander of the RN Signal School at HMS Mercury in Hampshire.

The two new covers are numbers 18 and 20 in the series created to raise funds for the museum being created at Blandford. Details from The New Museum Project Office, Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH (tel 01258 482258).

# We're not averse to a bit of flattery . . .

PRESSURE on space means that *Soldier* seldom publishes poetry, but here's an exception.

Loyal reader Constance Burrows from Eastbourne in East Sussex has put pen to paper to tell us what a good job we are doing . . . a clear case of flattery overcoming editorial discretion.

Constance, now in her 85th year, is the daughter of a regimental sergeant major of the old King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. She still regards herself as a "daughter of the regiment" and is delighted the name

has been resurrected. This is what she wrote:

*Soldier*, how did we of Great Britain e'er manage without you? Over fifty-one years you have kept us informed. Long may you continue, with news of old and new. Describing in detail our Army transformed. Important new weapons, protection and transport now needed. Ever correct, as improvements proceed. Recording as, step by step, plans have succeeded.

Couldn't have put it better ourselves, Constance . . .



**A Capt Lee Smart cartoon from *The Balkans Survival Book*, now available in Bosnia, Germany and the UK**

## REUNIONS

### APTC Association functions:

**SW Branch** at Falfield, near Gloucester, on February 7 (details: Bob Marshall, 01747 860207); **NW Branch** at Blackpool on March 14 (details: Jim Blackley, 0151 9285102); **Eastern Branch** on April 4 (details: Frank Turmel, 01473 785291); **NE (York) Branch** on May 16 (details: Rocky Holling, 01226 207046); **SE Branch** at Aldershot on May 31 (details: Steve Monk, 01252 834274).

**5 Kings/2 T Force** mini regional reunions planned in Feb, Mar and April; visit to Germany-Denmark, May. Annual meeting scheduled for October 26. Details from K V C Moore, The Granary, Church Road, Bacton NR12 0JP (tel/fax 01692 651086).

**50th Missile Club RA** annual reunion on May 17 at Butlin's Fun Coast World, Skegness. Open to ex-members under any of its three titles – 50 HAA, 50 Med, 50 Missile Regt – and support units from

REME, ACC, R Signals, RAOG etc. Details from A J Todd, 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries, Scotland DG1 1TN (tel 01387 262378, evenings only).

**11th Squadron RCT (1973-77):** Reunion scheduled for September 6 in Cannock, Staffordshire. Details from M G Wedlake, 87 Lagham Road, South Godstone, Surrey RH9 8HF (01342 893071).

**The Canadian ATS Association**

## SEARCHLINE

James Hill, 9 Urd Street, Glasgow G32 7RA seeks news of **Capt Weeks, 15th Light AA**, part of 7th Armoured Division. Mr Hill's father was Capt Weeks's batman.

Local historians researching liberation of the **Maas river area** of south-east Holland, **October 1944-February 1945**, seek veterans from artillery units operating there, in particular the **3rd, 8th, and 9th Army Groups Royal**

is holding an annual reunion in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada on September 12-14. Details from Marnie Chamberlain, 26 Dunraven Avenue, St Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2M 6A7. Please reply by March 1.

**Band of 8th KRI Hussars:** Ex-members interested in proposed reunion in **1998** are asked to contact Colin Ridgers, 117 Vanner Road, Witney OX8 6LL (01993 774694).

**Artillery**, several field and medium regiments, and a few heavy regiments RA. Diaries, accounts, experiences and photographs wanted. Replies to Hugo Levels, Ulensvaaren 47, 6286 GC Neer, Holland.

Notes, letters, photographs and experiences of British soldiers who fought or were stationed in **Lemförde, Lower Saxony** between April 1945 and July 1948

## DATES

### APRIL

**26:** British Model Soldier Society annual show, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Holborn, London.

### JULY

**15-27:** Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets from box office on 0171 244-0244.

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

# Funny way to help charities in Bosnia

A CARTOON book published to raise funds for charities in Bosnia should be available by now in Tuzla, Banja Luka, Split and Sarajevo. It will also be sold by Naafi in Germany and the United Kingdom.

Cartoons in *The Balkans Survival Handbook* (sub-titled "IFOR . . . NEMA PROBLEMA!") have been compiled from two cartoon series, "The Smarter point of view" by Capt Lee Smart, R Signals, and "Foame and Parrrts" by Pte Richard Parrrts.

Richard's main character, Lt Styreen Foame, was based on "Tom", originally created for *Soldier* by Kevin Lyle.

Editor Maj Andy Williams has linked the drawings with text which records the main events, formations and players in the West's considerable efforts to restore peace to the Balkans. There is an introduction by Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker and a foreword by BBC reporter Martin Bell.

Charities to benefit from sales include Child Advocacy International, based in Stoke-on-Trent; Leeds-based KIDS; and Connect, a small Edinburgh-based organisation which helps to create employment for the war-wounded in Bosnia.

Cost of the book is £5 in the UK, DM 10.00 in Germany and Bosnia.

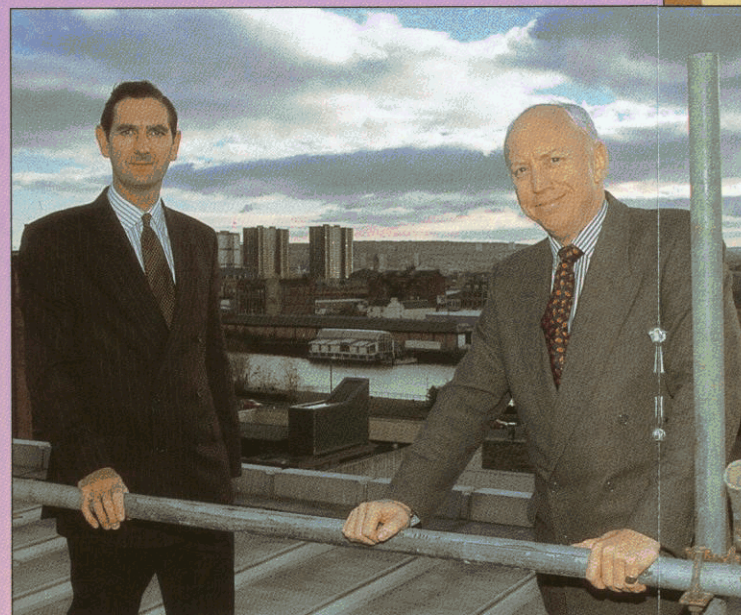
## MSM

SSgt J Baker RA, Sgt R E Mercer RA, SSgt R G C Balcombe, D and D, WO2 J W Legge, LI.

are sought for an archive being created in the town. Replies to Samtgemeinde, Altes Amt Lemförde, zH Herrn Mastnak, Bahnhofstr 10a, 49442 Lemförde, Germany.

The Bristol branch of the Burma Star Association wishes to hear from anyone who knows words and music of *The Road to Mandalay*. Replies to Ernest Webber, 25 Abbots Avenue, Hanham, Bristol BS15 (tel 0117 9676817).





Above – View from the top: Lt Cols Graham Hodgkinson and Ruairidh Rutherford of the APC implementation team on the roof of Kentigern House, with the Clyde and the Gorbals in the background  
Left – Col Richard Smith, former COS APC

# CENTRE PIECE

TUCKED behind a rather anonymous building in Glasgow is Crimea Street – a name redolent of the British Army's past.

Inside its neighbour's walls, however, Army history of another kind will be made.

For this is Kentigern House – home of the Army Personnel Centre (APC) – where, from last month, in a revolutionary move, the organisation of both officers' and soldiers' pay is being integrated.

"By the end of July, the manning and career management, personnel records and pay and pensions – Regular, Territorial, Reservist or pensioner – will be dealt with here.

"Not only that, we will become the first administrative, as opposed to operational, headquarters to move north of the border," Lt Col Ruairidh Rutherford of the APC implementation team told *Soldier*.

All of the functions formerly and currently carried out by 19 offices on nine sites spread throughout the country – including those already situated in Glasgow – will be drawn together at the centre, fellow team member Lt Col Graham Hodgkinson added.

Manning and Record Offices (MROs) and Fixed Centre Pay Offices from Ashton-under-Lyne, Leicester, Chester, York and Exeter, combined with the transfer of the headquarters from London, will follow the Department of the Military Secretary's December move from Stanmore to Glasgow over the next few months.

"The work done by the extremely loyal workforce spread throughout England has served the Army extraordinarily well", said former gunner Col Richard Smith, outgoing COS APC.

"We are very sad we are losing so many



Korean Campbell, who deals with Territorial Army pay at the APC, and Tony McManus of the centre's enlistment and discharge, conversions and retirements section, pictured in Glasgow's George Square

on the sites, but the new people we are taking on will be undertaking a training package based on the skills built up in England over a number of years and maintaining them for the future."

Ultimately, there will just under 1,000 civilians and 136 military personnel working at the APC, Col Smith said.

"The Army officer here provides the detailed current knowledge of what the Army is doing, so that the correct people can be placed in the correct jobs in an Army that is increasingly operationally committed," he added. "Once they are at

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

war it is a bit late: it is more and more important in the smaller Army to ensure that those we slot to a posting are exactly the right people."

While the upheaval with the transfer of sites is going on over the first half of this year, said the colonel, soldiers in locations such as Bosnia can be reassured that service to the field Army will not be degraded – "our workforce, both here in Glasgow and in the south, understand how vital that is."

And what about postings to Glasgow?

In 1995, Col Smith said, he had spoken to a group of officers to "sound out" their



Present. . . Meg Caldwell and Steve Docherty, who were recruited locally to the APC's document handling centre (DHC) at its inception last March, with some of the 38,000 brown boxes containing soldiers' records currently housed in the centre's vast hard copy store

Future. . . Maj John Lebetter, SO2 DHC (inset) holds one of a series of laser discs which, stored in a much more compact network equipment room, will each be capable of holding the same amount of records material as 26 filing cabinets

## BUSY LIZZIE

Liz Harrison, the APC's deputy project manager personnel, had the task of recruiting staff for the centre. An initial advertising campaign resulted in 7,000 requests for application forms, which then had to be sifted when returned . . .



opinions on a possible move. Their initial feelings were that it would not be the most popular of postings, but, having dispelled the image of the infamous Gorbals, and extolled the city's advantages including its transport system, friendliness, culture and burgeoning inward investment, he had several "converts" on his hands.

"In my opinion," he said, "service in Scotland has been one of the best-kept secrets by elements of the Army. Glasgow will soon be one of the most sought-after postings."

Kentigern, the city's patron saint, traditional founder of its cathedral – and bearer

of the name outside the Army Personnel Centre's base – could be forgiven a satisfied smile.

● With the formal establishment of the centre at the beginning of December, and its launch as a Defence Agency the following day, Col Smith's near 18-month stint as head of the APC implementation team came to an end.

His association with his recently-adopted home city, however, will be continuing: as one of 13 colonels within the new organisation, he will be responsible for the careers of senior officers.

## They can handle it...

IN ANOTHER part of Glasgow is the APC's Document Handling Centre (DHC) – physically separated from Kentigern House, explained Lt Col Ruairidh Rutherford, because, "with the space it needs, we would have had to kick everyone out!"

There, mail is initially sorted manually, then put through a high or low volume scanner as necessary, where data is kept in two forms: electronic and – for 45 days – as a hard copy, said SO2 DHC Maj John Lebetter, AGC.

Eventually, the system will be linked electronically to Kentigern House.

The DHC's hard copy store constitutes "the Army's largest filing cabinet": a staggering quarter of a million files, contained in 38,000 brown boxes, cover ten linear miles of shelving.

However, Maj Lebetter explained, these will eventually be superseded by laser discs – each containing 900 files, or the equivalent of 26 filing cabinets.





Lances at the shoulder, the cadre course marches on parade

# Lancer Leigh's going places . . . to Norfolk

WHEN Tpr Leigh Beutell marched smartly on a parade to mark the completion of the latest potential JNCO cadre course run by the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), he was surprised to hear his name called out by his commanding officer, Lt Col Nick Everard.

And to mark his selection as best trooper, Tpr Beutell was promoted, with immediate effect, to the rank of lance corporal and invited to lead the march past.

For him and the other soldiers involved on the cadre it had been a difficult two weeks. Under constant pressure, they took part in navigation exercises and NBC training, gave lectures on military skills and completed a mini-exercise on Salisbury Plain.

Based at Bovington and other locations, 9/12 L is about to complete its tour of duty as the last Royal Armoured Corps Centre

Regiment before it moves to Swanton Morley, near Norwich, to take on a new role as the British Army's third armoured reconnaissance regiment.

Once established in Norfolk, the regiment will re-equip with vehicles from the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) family including Scimitar armoured cars and Striker anti-tank guided missile launchers.

With soldiers currently spread across four barracks in three camps, the Lancers, who recruit predominantly from Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Northamptonshire, have had a busy two years.

The regiment's A Squadron has provided all the armoured vehicles used by the RAC Centre, Bovington, including infantry, artillery and engineer variants. Before

**Report: Laurie Manton  
Pictures: Mike Weston**

moving to Norfolk, B Squadron was stationed at Warminster as the RAC Demo Squadron of the Combined Armoured Training Centre's battlegroup.

Seventy soldiers of C Squadron are based at the RAC Gunnery School in Lulworth to support gunnery courses that pass through the range area. Their work is labour-intensive as they have to prepare tanks and equipment for the students to practise on. After each day's training, the soldiers have to get the tanks ready for the next day.

The RAC Training Squadron is staffed by D Squadron, 9/12 L and is responsible for Phase II training of all RAC recruits. It is the largest squadron in the Royal Armoured Corps with, often, more than 200 recruits under command.

The squadron will be replaced by a com-

posite unit consisting of soldiers drawn from all the regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps.

Lt Col Everard said the regiment was in a state of flux as it prepared to move.

"Because the Army needs a third armoured recce regiment, some of the training functions we presently carry out, such as vehicle maintenance, are to be met by a civilian contractor," he said.

"We were all due to leave next April, but the civilianisation process has slipped back to April 1998. We have to provide something in the interim, so we are leaving behind a strong rear party – about one-quarter of the regiment – to cover those functions until the contractor starts work.

"The rest of the regiment will be up and running at our Norfolk base as scheduled by April."



Above – Taking a well-earned break from driving their Challenger 2, Scimitar and Spartan vehicles, respectively, are LCpls Paul Parrott, Dibs Derbyshire and Cpl Snowy White; Lt Jonathan Dawson, Tpr Paul Bradford and LCpl John Rickett; and LCpl Steve Whawell and Tpr Nick Whitworth



Left – Tpr (now LCpl) Leigh Beutell marches off the cadre course

Below – Members of C Squadron's Light Troop check a boresight on Challenger 2. Left to right are LCpl Ric Rickett, Tpr Terence Hopkins and Cpl Baz Brignull

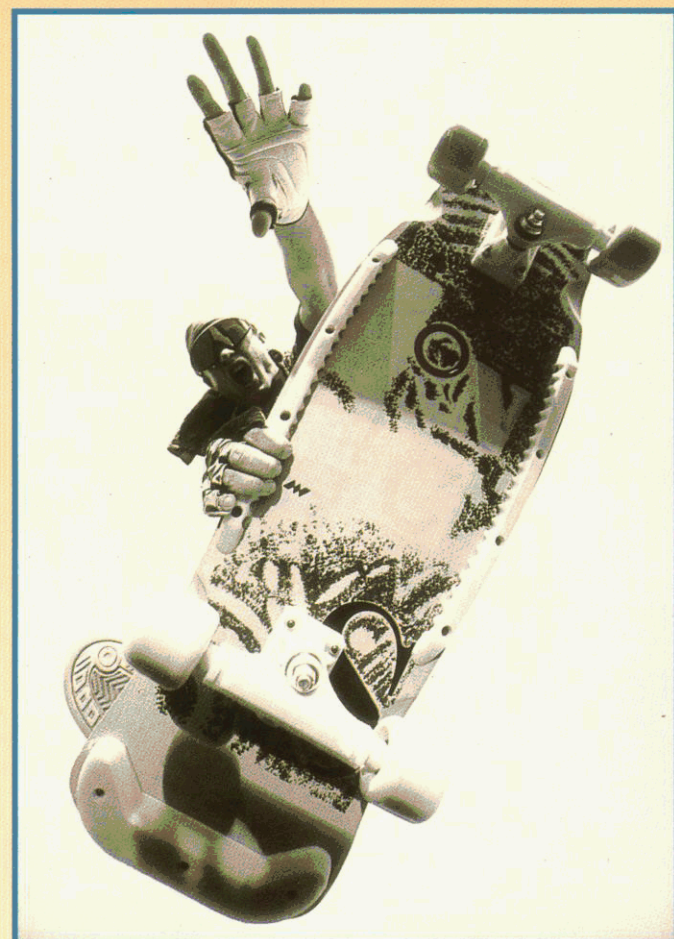






Cool nerve and a steady hand went into LCpl Darren Cooper's photograph taken minutes after the HQNI bombs in October

Image of the year – by Sgt Brian Gamble



Cpl Giles Penfound's winning picture in *Soldier's* "Own choice" category

# Steve's double take

IT WAS fortunate for Sgt Steve Baillie RLC that one of his photographic colleagues went by car to the prize-giving of the Northern Ireland Joint Service photographic competition.

Steve collected so many awards and certificates that he needed help to get them home after the ceremony at HQNI in Thiepval Barracks.

For the second year running Steve was honoured as Northern Ireland's Military Photographer of the Year.

"Competition was much tougher this year," he told *Soldier*, "with more entries, partly due to the generosity of the sponsors and their excellent prizes.

"Competitions are a terrific gauge for photographers to assess their work against others in the same profession."

Lt Gen Sir Rubert Smith, General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, presented the prizes and thanked the sponsors for their support.

Praising the quality of entries, he said: "The judges must have had a difficult time deciding winners from such an excellent standard of photography."

FOLLOWING the success of last year's inaugural competition, and the publicity it received in this magazine, the overall standard of entries for the 1996 event was reckoned to have improved.

Many of the prize-winning pictures will be familiar to *Soldier* readers, having appeared in past issues.

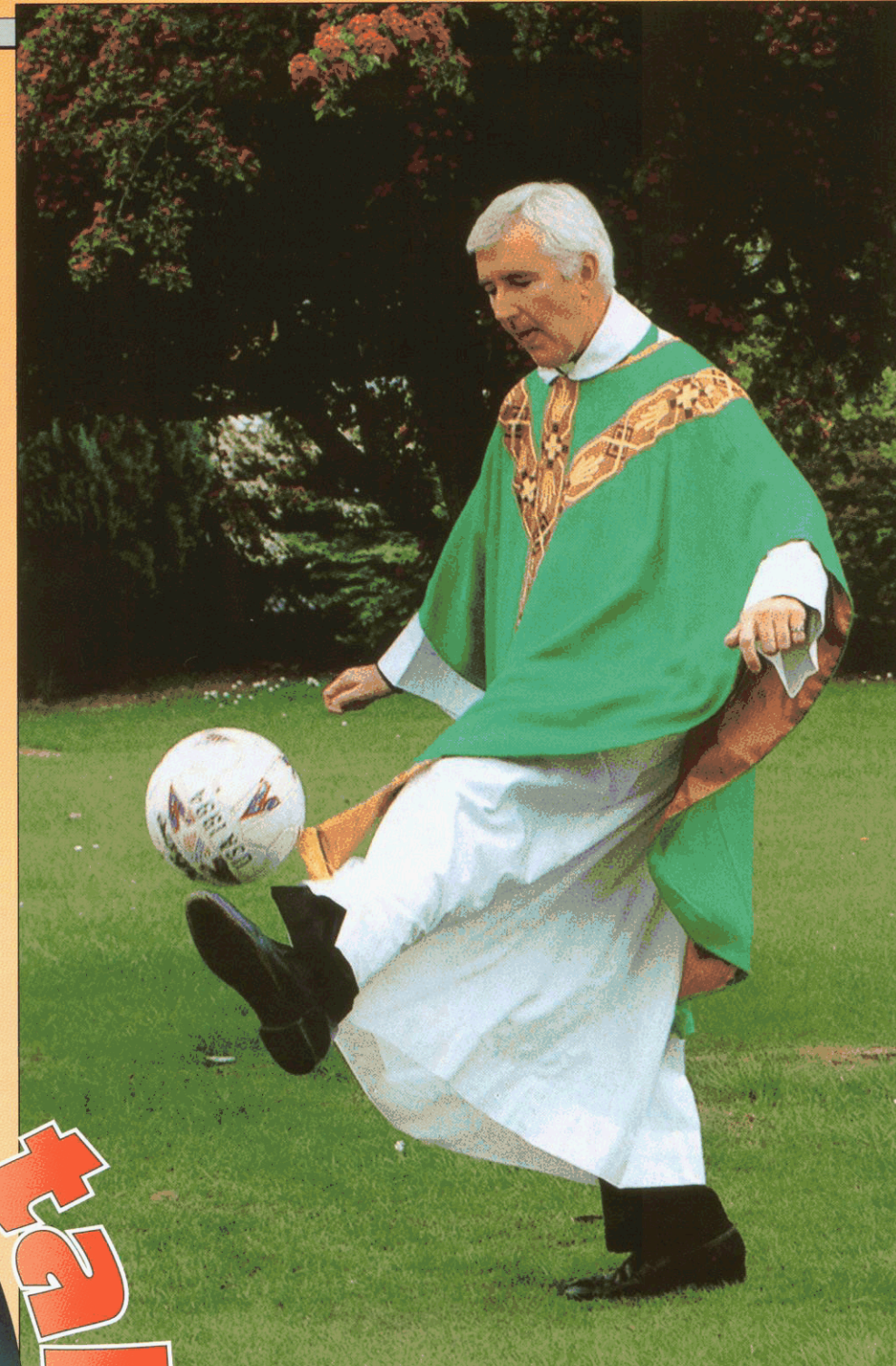
The winner in the best military portrait category – a camouflaged face – features on the cover of the 1997 *Soldier*/British Army calendar.

LCpl Darren Cooper's dramatic picture (above), taken minutes after last October's IRA bomb attack at HQNI, managed only the runner-up position in the image of the year category.

His consolation was that the photograph, showing HQ personnel evacuating casualties against a background of flame and smoke, had already been judged a winner by the national newspapers which ran it on their front pages.

"Let's have even more entries next year, particularly from our colleagues in the other Services," said competition organiser WO2 Andy Mason.

Report: Terry Champion



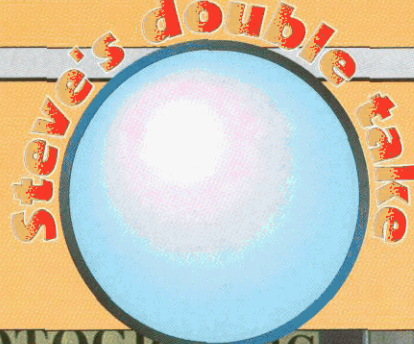
On the wing and a prayer – this light-hearted picture of military padre the Rev Alf Hayes was included in the portfolio that earned LCpl Simon Denny the runner up spot in the main competition



Northern Ireland's Military Photographer of the Year – Sgt Steve Baillie

● Results and more pictures on next page





On watch – a photograph from Sgt Steve Baillie's portfolio



Above – Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith, GOC Northern Ireland, presents an award to Sgt Brian Gamble, who took the Image of the year

Below – Best colour – another winning image from Photographer of the Year Sgt Steve Baillie



## Northern Ireland Joint Services photographic competition results

**Northern Ireland Military Photographer of the Year**, sponsored by Kodak: Sgt Steve Baillie RLC.

**Runner-up:** LCpl Simon Denny RLC.

**Highly commended:** Cpl Giles Penfound RLC.

**Best monochrome**, sponsored by Ilford: Sgt Brian Gamble RLC.

**Runner-up:** Cpl Giles Penfound.

**Highly commended:** Cpl Nigel Green RLC.

**Best colour**, sponsored by Agfa: Sgt Steve Baillie.

**Runner-up:** Cpl Nigel Green.

**Highly commended:** SAC Smith RAF.

**Best military portrait**, sponsored by KJP: Sgt Steve Baillie.

**Runner-up:** LCpl Darren Cooper RLC.

**Highly commended:** LCpl Simon Denny.

**Best Northern Ireland amateur**, sponsored by Fuji: LCpl John Skillen, 1 Cheshire.

**Runner-up:** LCpl Yvonne Coffey, 3 R Irish.

**Own choice**, sponsored by Soldier Magazine: Cpl Giles Penfound.

**Runner-up:** Cpl Nigel Green.

**Service family life**, sponsored by Naafi: SAC Smith.

**Runner-up:** Cpl Steve Taylor, 2 Para.

**Digital image**, sponsored by Photo-Services: Category declared null and void due to lack of entries. The prize was used for highly commended in the next category.

**Image of the Year**, sponsored by the GOC: Sgt Brian Gamble.

**Runner-up:** LCpl Darren Cooper.

**Highly commended:** Sgt Steve Baillie.





Framed by excavator and rocket launcher at the Albemarle Barracks site are (left to right) Bdrs Mark Collins and Martin Murphy; Ian Riley, deputy project manager for contractors Birse; and Lt Col Tony Jude, project sponsor from the Army

# Trench fever at Harlow Hill

THE peace of an isolated Army base in the heart of the Northumberland countryside is being disrupted by the clangorous sounds of a huge building programme.

Albemarle Barracks, Harlow Hill, present home of 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery, is being re-vamped in the biggest project being carried out by HQ Land Command in the 1996-97 financial year.

Costing £19 million, the programme to re-role a base set up to train infantry to one housing an operational artillery unit is being overseen by Trafalgar House Construction Management – the main contractor being Birse Ltd.

With 40 specialist sub-contractors being used for back-up, 250 workers can be on site at any given time.

"As one of the biggest jobs in the area, it was a most sought-after contract," said Army project sponsor Lt Col Tony Jude.

During the latter half of last year JCB excavators were as common a sight at the barracks as the Multiple-Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) used by 39 Regiment have been in the past.

Most of the regiment, however, has been lucky enough to avoid the disturbance, since it coincided neatly with a six-month United Nations tour of duty in Cyprus.

"It was a blessing having them out of the way," said Col Jude. Not so lucky were

Capt Andy Cochrane and his rear party: they had to negotiate six trenches on the way to work each morning. One major feature of the project has been digging out the old infrastructure of pipes and mains and replacing them with the latest systems.

Above ground, the barracks has taken on a different shape as new building and refurbishment works have converted the former training centre to the needs of a gunner regiment equipped with MLRS.

New buildings include a huge workshop for the REME; a large store for the RLC staff; a gymnasium; offices, garages and stores for the unit's specialist locating battery; a vehicle servicing bay, a hot wash and two vehicle cold-washes. A service road has been built around the site to keep heavy traffic away from family homes.

An existing hangar has been gutted and refurbished to house two rocket launchers, which form the heart of the 500-strong unit, equipment and offices. It is expected to prove a real boon in the winter, allowing



Hangar round: the new home for the MLRS, equipment and offices

men to maintain their hi-tech weapons under cover.

Five blocks of rooms for single soldiers have been converted into flats, each with its own washing and shower area.

"This brings them up to standards which are right and proper for the modern professional soldier," said Col Jude.

Sleeping accommodation for senior NCOs has also been upgraded. Eighty-one married quarters have been "brought up to scale" with new showers, and 41 new garages are being built for the private cars of soldiers and their families.

The work is expected to be completed by the summer. In the meantime, it will be a case of "Watch out for that trench!"



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Cycling break: soldiers of 2 CS Regt RLC pause on the high road from Canada to Wyoming



California dreaming: Cadets from Manchester and Salford UOTCs pose for a team picture during a rock-climbing expedition in America, funded by 5 Division and the Ulysses Trust. The party, led by 2nd Lt Matthew Birch and OCdt Neil Weatherstone, visited two of California's best-known climbing areas, the granite-rich desert of Joshua Tree and the Yosemite Valley wilderness in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

From left to right are 2nd Lt Matthew Birch, WOCdt Jenny Monkman, OCdt Alex Thompson, WOCdt Heidi Pennington, OCdt Alex Ripley, OCdt Neil Weatherstone, and WOCdt Sally Headen.

Another party from the OTC, led by cadet Ben Morris, trekked in the remote mountains of the Hindu Kush in northern Pakistan.

## People in high places

IF it is there, climb it. That could have been the theme which linked several recent adventurous training expeditions mounted by Army units in Europe, Africa, America and the Indian sub continent.

Closer to home, a team of instructors from the **Joint Services Mountain Training Centre** at Ballachulish in Scotland made a swift raid on the Orkney Islands to scale the Old Man of Hoy, at 460ft the largest sea stack in Britain.

The ten-man team, setting off at two-hourly intervals, all made it to the top of a rock considered a must on every climber's CV. The Service party, which included Capt Mac Mackay APTC, SSgts Andy Phillips and Kim Hewitt APTC, and Maj Fergus Murray ACF, used the original extreme grade route to the top.

□ □ □

Twelve members of the **3rd (United Kingdom) Division HQ and Signal Regiment** swapped Bulford and the wide open spaces of Salisbury Plain for the even wider spaces of Kenya. Their mission on Exercise Iron Tusk was to make an unaided ascent of the 16,550ft Mount Kenya.

Despite altitude sickness and severe hail and sleet storms near the summit, the party reached the peak and



Hoy there: Services climbing instructors who scaled the Old Man of Hoy in the background



Top spot: OCdt Simon Hindmarch (centre) enjoys the view in the Rocky Mountains. He was one of three officer cadets from Leeds University Officers' Training Corps who rounded off a spell at BATUS in Canada by taking part in adventurous training in the Rockies

stayed there just long enough for a photo session.

□ □ □

Seven **Rheindahlen**-based soldiers led by Maj Marco

Ciotti RLC trekked across the High Tatra mountains from Slovakia to Poland during a ten-day adventurous training expedition in the heart of Eastern Europe. The members of

Exercise Tatra Backdrop were drawn from HQ UKSC (Germany), 24 Transport and Movements Regiment RLC, 16 Signal Regiment, and 11 Signals Unit RAF.

The High Tatras are the most northerly part of the Carpathian Mountains, with many of its peaks over 2,000m. High point of the expedition was an ascent of Rysy (2,499m), allowing the climbers to step across the border on to the highest point in Poland.

□ □ □

Eight members of 2 **Close Support Regiment RLC** chose the hard way to get from Eureka, on Canada's border, to Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, 740 miles away. They cycled all the way on Exercise Montana Diamond.



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## Fall in, you Suez vets!

AS a 1939-46 veteran I was not involved in the Canal Zone but in answer to Mr Len Oliver's call (Nov 25) for suggestions as to what to do next to get a medal, may I suggest that you all get together and hold a big parade... outside Number 10.

After all, you didn't beg to go to the Zone, so why should you have to beg for your medals? — **L R Swindale (ex-RE), Burton.**



WO Tam Balloch—last of line?

## Cameronian stakes claim to be last

HERE we go again! Once more someone is claiming (People, Dec 9) to be the last Cameronian to retire from the Army.

Hard luck, Maj Peter Eydes — your information is incorrect. I, 23909201 WO Tam Balloch, now of the Highlanders, God willing still have four-and-a-half years to do on the Long Service List at the Army Careers Office in Glasgow.

I would like to think that I am the last Cameronian serving. Does anyone out there who served with the 1st Battalion care to challenge this? — **WO Tam Balloch, 26/90th, Glasgow.**

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



RGBW in Jordan — Page 17, Bugle feature — Pages 14-15

# My idea for long service awards

I DO agree with WO2 Hurst's views on equality in the case of Volunteer Reserve Forces awards (Dec 9), especially on post-nominal letters for long-service awards.

Shortly after the revision of the honours system was announced I wrote to the Prime Minister suggesting that, at no cost, the adoption of letters after the names of all those who held long-service awards would please thousands of people.

However, apart from an acknowledgement there has been no further development.

My idea was that we retain the wealth of long-service

awards currently in use but give collective names to two groups.

Those in relation to Regular service might be called the "Queen's Service Decoration" (QSD) and the part-timers might have the "Voluntary Service Decoration" (VSD).

As well as the Armed Forces and their Reserves this would include the Police, Fire Ser-

vices, Ambulance Service and a host of voluntary organisations.

Thus we would maintain our colourful long-service collection (there are at least a couple of dozen different awards in current use) while recognising more readily the valuable service to the nation given by all these bodies and individuals. — **Lt Col (Retd) A R Tinson, Fleet, Hants.**

## Cadet forces, too

ONE award not mentioned by WO2 Hurst was the Cadet Force Medal, presented to both adult instructors and commissioned officers on the completion of 12 years' unbroken service.

As a commissioned chaplain with the Army Cadet Force I have always been puzzled by the fact that we hold a TA B Class commission from the Royal Army Chaplains' Department — not an ACF commission — but are awarded

the Cadet Force Medal for 12 years' meritorious service.

On a personal level I am proud to be associated with the Army Cadet Force and the young people benefit from membership of this, the Army's own youth organisation.

I do however agree with WO2 Hurst that the time may well have arrived for the introduction of a Reserve Forces Decoration or medal which could be a tri-Service award for all ranks, including cadet forces. — **Rev Gareth T Jones CF3 (ACF) (Padre Angus and Dundee Battalion, Army Cadet Force), Perth.**

## BREAKDOWN OF HONOURS

A BREAKDOWN of the operational honours and awards (Nov 25) provides an interesting but perhaps misleading picture of rank percentages in today's Army — officers, 53 awards; NCOs, 28; privates, 2. — **R B Mills, Köln, Germany.**

*Soldier* welcomes letters for publication from all readers, whatever their status. Letters must be brief, typed or written clearly and include the correspondent's name and address in block capitals, not necessarily for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to edit for length, clarity or style.



# This Great War book takes some beating

YET another book in a long line about the Great War and its effect on this century – but what a book.

It was published to coincide with the excellent seven-part television series on BBC 2, so providing the viewer-reader with a fine supplementary record.

The text is straightforward and reads well; the superbly-produced photographs, espe-

cially those showing battle areas where men and animals

endured terrible conditions for months on end, are for the most part bleak, awful

and unforgettable. How soldiers endured this frontal-style fighting in a sea of mud and filth while under bombardment is beyond comprehen-

sion. But Haig, his commanders and Lloyd George, the

prime minister, pushed them on “as if the sun were still shining”.

Just one more push, they urged.

Passchendaele, an example of the futility of such assaults, cost a quarter of a million British casualties; the end

result was the taking of a heap of mud and rubble which was once a village.

It was a victory without tactical or strategic value and left the British Army with morale at an all-time low. Haig was promoted to field marshal.

For a readable and graphic account of the “war to end all wars” this book will take some beating. – JM

**1914-18 - The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century** by Jay Winter and Blaine Baggett. BBC Books, hardback, £25.

# Is it a bird? Is it a train? No – just a Jeep

BACK in August 1948, *Soldier* published a letter from Private John D Kay seeking information on a “British jeep” that he had heard about.

The editor replied that a British jeep was indeed being tested by the Ministry of Supply at Chobham but it was “not necessarily the final version”. The reply was accompanied by a photograph of the prototype Nuffield Mechanization “Gutty”, forerunner of what was to become the Austin Champ.

Almost half a century after Pte Kay’s enquiry a new book has been published that answers all the questions relating not only to that vehicle, but to two others that served the British Army as contemporaries for 18 postwar years between 1948 and about 1966.

In *Quarter Ton* Pat Ware tells the story of the wartime Jeep that survived in service well into the 1950s, the Series 1 Land Rover and the

Austin Champ. It is essentially a work of reference, with chapters describing the development and production of the three types, the variants that were made and the uses to which they were put. In addition, there are lists of contracts, numbers of vehicles produced, and full technical data.

Such a format inevitably results in some duplication; but this avoids the need to jump from one chapter to another when trying to find the answer to some query and, as the author tells us, “I did not intend that the book necessarily be read from cover to cover like a novel”. This is really too modest because it is a fascinating read, with interesting slants on the people behind the vehicles’ concepts and developments.

Few types of vehicle have

made such an impact as the Jeep. It was a true original, with nothing like it before it burst on an unwary world.

As the authors tell us, there is no doubt that had the Jeep not existed, there would have been no Land Rover, no Mudlark and no Champ.

By the end of the war production of the standardised Jeep had reached 639,245 (277,896 from Ford and 361,349 from Willys), in addition to amphibious and other derivatives.

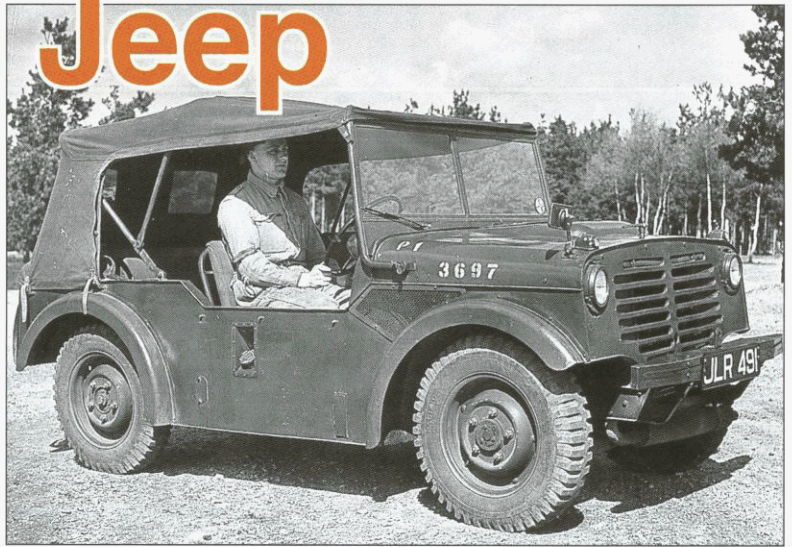
To the users, there must have

seemed no end to the roles the Jeep could fill. It could wade when waterproofed; it could be armed with a wide variety of weapons, and could be used as a railway locomotive, stationary power unit and even a chaplain’s altar. The British and Australians went so far as to start work on a Jeep that could fly!

The British Army’s initial delivery of Jeeps in 1941 saw action for the first time in the Western Desert where the potential was immediately recognised. The rest is history and legend.

The book is profusely illustrated with nearly 300 period black-and-white photographs, many hitherto unpublished, plus about 50 full-colour pictures of vehicles now in private ownership.

Private Kay, who wrote to *Soldier* in 1948, would have appreciated it, as will anyone today with an interest in military vehicles. – BJ



Prototype of a British Jeep being tested at Chobham, Surrey, in April, 1948

**Quarter Ton: Ford and Willys Jeep, Austin Champ, Land Rover Series 1. The Story of the Quarter Ton 4 x4 Utility in British Military Service. 1941-1958** by Pat Ware, published by Warehouse Publications, 5 Rathbone Square, Tanfield Road, Croydon CR0 1BT; hardback, £28.50 (inc p & p).

## BOOKS IN BRIEF

**Redcoats for the Raj** by Donald Featherstone. Wargamer, Second World War tank veteran and author of more than 50 military history books turns his hand to fiction with evocative tales of a Victorian barrackroom in India in 1868.

**From Blue to Khaki** by R Harvey Blizard. How a young “erk” became an officer with the Royal

Signals in Burma, with particularly memorable account of life in a troopship. Pentland Press, Bishop Auckland, hardback, £15.

**Traitor of Arnhem** by Allan A Samm. First-hand account of the battle by a soldier who had been attracted to the KRRC because of its black buttons (less to polish). Minerva, paperback, £7.99.

**Impossible Victories** by Bryan Perrett. Ten unlikely battlefield successes, from the Peninsular War, 1811 to Vietnam, 1967. Arms & Armour, hardback, £17.99.

**On the Origins of War** by Donald Kagan. Sub-titled “... And the Preservation of Peace”, a masterly study of four major conflicts by the Yale professor.



A 13-part postcard series on the new regiments and corps of the British Army of the 1990s

## THE QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS

The Queen's Royal Lancers formed up on the union of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers and the 17th/21st Lancers at Tidworth on June 25, 1993.

Both its predecessors had been created from amalgamations which took place in 1922: the 16th/5th from the merger of the 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers and 16th (The Queen's) Lancers, and the 17th/21st from the 17th (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Lancers and the 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers.

Known within the regiment as "the Motto", the Lancers' cap badge is the famous Death's Head with the motto "or Glory", chosen to commemorate General Wolfe's death in 1759.

And the QRL's lance was adopted by the British Army shortly after the Napoleonic Wars, during which Polish lancers used the weapon to lethal effect. The pennon colours of red and white are taken from the Polish flag.

Lances are still carried on ceremonial occasions. The regimental tradition of crimping the lance pennon dates



back to the Battle of Aliwal in 1846. After the battle they were so thickly encrusted with blood they appeared to be "crimped".

Steel shoulder chains worn by the lance guard are a feature of cavalry undress and are the last relic of armour

worn by British cavalymen.

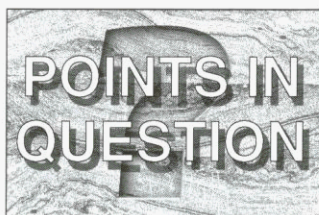
After the amalgamation parade and presentation of a new Guidon by the Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, at Tidworth, the regiment moved to Germany in an armoured role.

The postcard illustrated was reproduced from a water-

colour painting by William R Younghusband. It shows:

- Officer: Tank dress (coveralls).
- Lance guard: No 1 dress.
- Challenger main battle tank.
- Background: Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire.

For details of this and other postcards depicting regiments and corps of the British Army, send SAE to: Geoff White Ltd., 19, Rushmoor Lane, Backwell, Bristol, BS19 3JA.



**Q:** Can anyone shed light on the numbering system for Regulars (1447) and volunteers (1448) in 1945? (Bob Lambert, Dec 9).

**A:** I ENLISTED as a volunteer for the Reconnaissance Corps for the duration of the war on September 18, 1944 and was allocated the number 14485752. I kept this number until I was commissioned on December 15, 1969 – some duration! When the Reconnaissance Corps was disbanded I was transferred to the RASC and then had the distinctive S/ added to the front of my number.

Like many of your readers I, too, am still waiting for my Suez Canal medal (1951-52). – Maj Ian Harding, Plymouth, Devon.

**A:** I VOLUNTEERED for the Rifle Brigade on my 17th birthday in April, 1945 and all the volunteers' numbers started with 1447; mine was 14478927. Incidentally, I



### Dragon badges

**Q:** THE cap badge of Capt Albert Lam of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (Dec 9) seems to be a facsimile of the badge of the Royal Berkshire Regiment – a China Dragon.

Has anyone noticed this and

bought my first copy of *Soldier* in 1946 and haven't missed one since. – F R Taylor, Hove, Sussex.

**Q:** Query about the insignia of a REME staff band drum major pictured in *Soldier* (Alec Coleman, Dec 9).

**A:** The drum major's badge is a



is it normal to appropriate another unit's badge? – J Levine, Brighton.

● There is obviously a reason for the use of the oriental dragon on the Berkshires' badge. Explanations invited. – Editor.

drum above a crown above four reversed chevrons on the right sleeve, while a pipe major wears a set of pipes above a crown and chevrons, irrespective of rank. – H Whalley, Manchester Branch, Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums).

**A:** Mr Coleman suggested the man might be a squadron QM

corporal of the Household Cavalry but he is wearing REME collar badges and collar badges are not worn by the Household Cavalry.

In the late Fifties or early Sixties regulations were issued concerning the appointment and promotion of drum majors. The basic rank on appointment was sergeant and the insignia four chevrons, points up, surmounted by a drum, on the lower sleeves.

Promotion, by recommendation and time, could be to SSgt and WO2 rank. For the SSgt, a small crown would be added to the basic insignia and for the WO rank a large crown.

I am now puzzled as I have photographs of drum majors, some wearing the crown below the drum and some the crown above the drum. As the drum is a badge of appointment should it not be subordinate to the crown?

However, in a photograph of a CSgt drum major of the Grenadier Guards in No 2 Dress, he is wearing, from the cuff upward, four chevrons, crossed swords, grenade, small crown and drum. The drum is almost at his elbow. If it's the Guards it must be right. Or is it? – E Osborne, Surbiton, Surrey.



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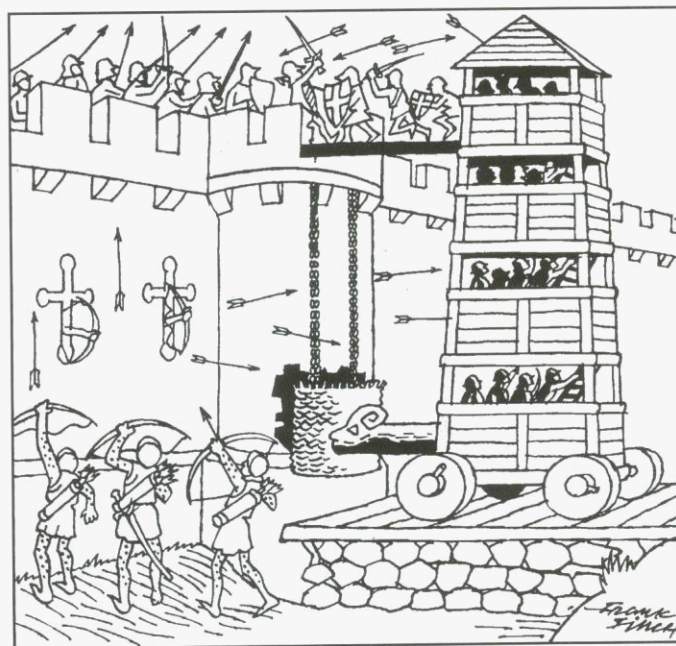
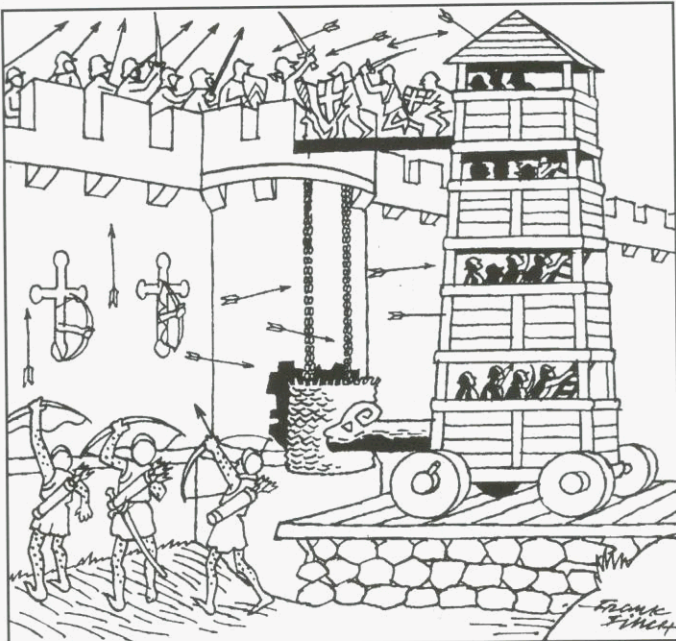
else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

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Competition No 650 (Nov 25 issue): First correct entry drawn was from Maj M Keogh, HQ ACF, Shrewsbury, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs E Gaskin, of Stockton-on-Tees, and Maj (Retd) D T Maber, of Hythe, Kent. The ten differences were: right-hand tree in picture; front left leg of chair; line of piano above soldier's head; skirting board on right; line of piano above leg on right; soldier's hip pocket; soldier's left leg; piano pedal; soldier's boot; design of mat near rear left leg of stool.



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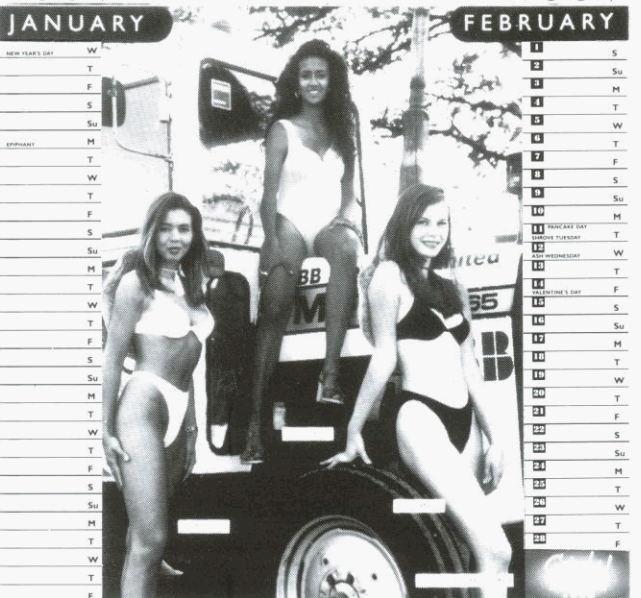
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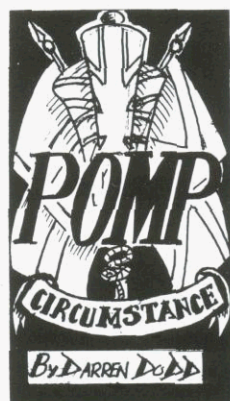
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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

DECEMBER 7, 1996

**FIVE-way tie for first prize (23 goals, £1,080 each):** W02 QA Cardy, HQ 15 (NE) Bde, York; W02 GR Cottam, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester; Cpl DM Quick, 1 D and D, BFPO 22; W02 CC Tutill, SEAE, Arborfield; Tpr CW Wilson, The Light Dragons, BFPO 30.

**TWENTY-way tie for sixth prize (22 goals, £30 each):** Sgt JA Barron, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down; Cpl DJ Crichton, 101 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 26; LCpl SE Cumberlin, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down; Sgt CW Dainton, HQ 160 (Wales) Bde, Brecon; SSgt GR Endean, HQ E-in-C, Chatham; W01 NJ Francis, HQ 15 (NE) Bde, York; Maj DG Halstead, Electronics Branch REME, Malvern; Cpl MP Henders, ATR Glencorse; Sgt AG Kyle, ITC Wales, Brecon; Capt AC Luck, 2 OS Regt RLC, BFPO 47; Sgt AG McGibbon, 1 COLDM GDS, BFPO 17; SSgt

JB Oldfield, 230 Tpt Sqn RLC (V), Edinburgh; W02 JE Palmer, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, BFPO 15; Tpr CJ Roberts, 2RTR, BFPO 38; Sgt PG Rowland, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Cpl MJ Smith, 175 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 801; SSgt K Steele, 89 PC Regt RLC, BFPO 28; SSgt G Underhill, AGC Trg Centre, Worthy Down; LCpl SR Weaver, RDG, Tidworth; Sgt WRD Wilson, 1 Bn REME, BFPO 36.

**DECEMBER 14, 1996 THREE-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,500 each):** SSgt MJ Kelly, QRL, BFPO 36; Cpl GJ O'Fee, RDG, Tidworth; Cpl AJ Wall, Royal School of Signals, Blandford.

**FIVE-way tie for fourth prize (19 goals, £300 each):** Maj SN Jackson, 2 Signal Regt, York; LCpl L Kinghorn, SEME, Bordon; Fus TF McCormick, 1 RHF, BFPO 38; SSgt JAC Powell, HQ QMG, Andover; Sgt MG Vannan, Lowland Band, Edinburgh.

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# Title stroll for Army

SIX COMBINED Services boxing titles changed hands at Aldershot without a punch being thrown and helped the Army to win the Inter-Services team championship for the 14th consecutive time, writes **Laurie Manton**.

A procession of boxers – five Army and one RAF – entered the ring without an opponent to be declared winners of their bouts.

Two special bouts between boxers from 27 Regiment RLC and 3 (UK) Div Signal Regiment, hastily arranged to fill a gap in the programme, lasted only a little longer.

There were mixed fortunes for Army boxers in the Combined Services proper.

Backed by a partisan crowd, LBdr Andy Jessiman went the distance against the agile RAF flyweight, Cpl Darren Fox, but lost unanimously on points.

Pte Kevin Bennett won the light-welterweight title when he beat SAC Steve MacKay with a second round knock-out after steadily building up points during the first round.

Despite having only three weeks to train after a tour of duty in Northern Ireland, Army middleweight Pte Mick Barker looked menacing against Mne Dean Edwards.

Both fighters worked close-in during the second round and exchanged a flurry of punches in the third. In the fifth and final round – under



Despite landing a succession of heavy punches, LBdr Andy Jessiman (left) lost to Cpl Darren Fox (RAF)

new ABA rules bouts are now contested over five two-minute rounds in place of three three-minute rounds – the referee told the Royal Marine that he was supposed to be boxing, not wrestling.

Barker suffered heavy punishment in the dying seconds and lost on a majority decision.

Combined Services light-

heavyweight champion LBdr Vinny Jones had a score to settle with his opponent, SAC John Gosling. The last time they met in the ring, he was knocked out by the RAF boxer, who is renowned for his big punch.

As the two fighters sized each other up in the first round, Jones scored steadily. In the second, Jones, jabbing with impunity, bloodied his opponent's nose. Gosling fared little better in the third round before a hard right hand knocked him out.

The referee stopped the heavyweight contest when Cpl Paul Vella was shaken by a punch from LAC Neil Hoskins of the RAF.

In the final bout, Spr Danny Watts demonstrated why he is a double ABA champion at super-heavyweight.

Supremely confident, he answered every lunge by JT Paul Fiske with a solid jab to the face. The start of round two was delayed when one of the ropes collapsed, followed soon by Fiske, who went down for a count of eight in this round and took a standing count in the third.

Watts clinched the fight in the fourth when the referee stopped the contest. The large

sapper, still only 20, is set to leave the Army next year and turn professional.

**Light-flyweight** – Pte P Charlton, wo; **bantam** – SAC O Spensley (RAF), wo; **feather** – Pte D Dugan, wo; **light** – Cpl V Powell, wo; **welter** – Pte S Brown, wo; **light-middle** – Cpl C Bessey, wo; **fly** – Cpl D Fox (RAF) bt LBdr A Jessiman, pts u; **light-welter** – Pte K Bennett bt SAC S MacKay (RAF), ftbc 2; **middle** – Mne D Edwards (RN) bt Pte M Barker, pts m; **light-heavy** – LBdr V Jones bt SAC J Gosling (RAF), ftbc 3; **heavy** – LAC N Hoskins (RAF) bt C P Vella, rsc 1; **super-heavy** – Spr D Watts bt JT P Fiske (RAF), rsc 4. **Inter-Services Trophy**: Army. **Cameron Cup**: LBdr V Jones. **Best runner-up**: Pte M Barker

## MORE LOTTERYSALES SOUGHT

If a couple of thousand more Army Sports Lottery tickets were sold, cash prizes on offer would rise significantly, according to lottery manager Maj Alan Cassie.

"There are, currently, just under 20,000 tickets in circulation," he said. "If the figure reaches 21,000, the top four prizes will be increased."

"Should ticket sales reach 22,000, then the prize money will increase again and an



Rising star: LCpl Sarah Smith hopes to gain selection for the GB skeleton team in the 2002 Winter Olympics

## Sarah's best

IN THE first women's skeleton World Cup event of the season, LCpl Sarah Smith finished in eighth place, just .64 of a second ahead of team-mate Pte Miranda Mortimer (RAMC), writes **Tim Wakefield**.

Both soldiers set personal best times, in Smith's case a remarkable achievement. Her own new £5,000 sledge was damaged in a pre-race training session and she competed on a British Aerospace-designed trial sledge.

"I found it a bit skittish

and difficult to control on the final practice runs, but we made some overnight adjustments and I was pleased to record a personal best," said the 25-year-old tank transporter driver.

In the French men's skeleton cup, Sgt Roch Rochester (RA) was second overall, ahead of Austrian world champion Franz Plangger.

Rochester was supported by Cpl Steve Anson (REME) and Bdr Adrian Collins who also finished in the top ten.

# Cricketers sign off on high note

ARMY cricket finished off its season on a high note, the team winning all seven matches on their Hong Kong tour and then learning that skipper Capt Chris St George is to lead Combined Services next summer, writes **Rupert Ross-Hurst**.

Despite last-minute changes which entailed desperate telephone calls to Canada and Canterbury and resulted in the inclusion in the squad of Capt David Webb (QRH) and LCpl Richard Cornhill (PWRR), the tour party arrived in Hong Kong raring to give a good account.

A net session at Kowloon Cricket Club preceded the first match against the Vagabonds and Pakistan Association. The Pakistanis have the best league team in Hong Kong and this was to prove the Army's stiffest test, but Chris St George scored more runs in this game

than he had on the whole of the previous tour to Hong Kong.

In the next game, the Army bowling was too strong for Kowloon, the three Cornhill brothers taking six wickets between them and LCpl Steve Hole finishing off the innings with a hat trick. The Army knocked off the runs in 13.4 overs for the loss of one wicket.

The venue for the match against the Hong Kong XI was changed on the day from Kowloon CC to Mission Road because torrential rain had swamped the drainage system.

Reduced to a 38-over game, the Army batted first and piled on 310-7. Despite 64 in 27 balls (the first nine being "dot balls") by Australian Rod Bannister, the Hong Kong XI were never up with the rate.

Two one-day games followed against the Hong Kong U19 Development XI at Mission Road and the Hong Kong CC. In the first, the Army were too strong and won convincingly.

The second proved slightly less one-sided, although the scores suggest otherwise.

St George, who had batted at No 11 the previous day, opened the innings and scored 181, ably assisted by David Webb on 55.

The next match, against the Hong Kong Cricket Association

President's XI, was very close and, but for a quite magnificently taken catch by Webb, who dived forward full length to dismiss Stuart Brew when he was about to win the game, the result could have been different.

The Army overwhelmed the Combined Forces and Police at Kowloon CC in the final match of the tour.

Sgt Darran Cornhill set the scene by losing three balls in an adjacent building site and was asked not to hit them so hard.

The occasion was notable for the fact that the Army innings was opened by Richard and Steve Cornhill with brother Darran at three – thought to be a first in Army representative cricket – and that Bally Blagrove had returned to Barbados having played in every game throughout the season at Army U25 and Army senior levels.

**Army 242-7, Vagabonds and Pakistan Assoc 237-9.** Army won by 5 runs; **Army 103-1, Kowloon CC 101.** Army won by 9 wickets; **Army 310-7, Hong Kong XI 223.** Army won by 86 runs; **Army 299, Hong Kong U19 106.** Army won by 193 runs; **Army 301, Hong Kong U19 154-7.** Army won by 147 runs; **Army 257-9, President's XI 233-8.** Army won by 24 runs; **Army 320-7, Combined Services & Police 125.** Army won by 195 runs.

## RESULTS

### Football

**Massey Trophy** – Infantry 2, RE 1; R Signals 1, Infantry 0; RE 0, APTC 1; AGC 4, RLC 2; RA 4, AGC 0; RE 6, AAC 0.

**Army Challenge Cup – Major units:** 22 Regt RA 2, 38 Engr Regt 1; 1 Para 0, 3 RSME Regt 4; 2 PWRR 4, 3 R Irish 5; R Sch of Sigs 11, CATC BG 0; 8 R Irish 2, 7 R Irish 3; HQNI/15 Sig Regt 2, 5 R Irish 1; HCMR 1, 5 AB Bde Log Bn 8; RMCS 2, RSA/14 Regt RA 6; 3 CS Regt RLC 1, 1 DWR 4; 1 RWF 2, 3 (UK) DSR 0; RSA/14 Regt RA 1, 1 QLR 3; 27 Tpt Regt RLC 3, 22 Engr Regt 2; 1 Cheshire 8, 9 R Irish 0; 1 A and SH 4, 5 Regt RA 2; RAC Centre 0, 3 RSME Regt 3; 36 Engr Regt 2, 7 Para RHA 4; 1 LI 2, 33 Engr Regt (EOD) 3; 1 RS 5, 1 RRW 0; QRH 5, 1 KOSB 2; 5 AB Bde Log Bn 1, SEAE 5; RDG 2, R Sch of Sigs 4; 9 Regt AAC 2, 39 Regt RA 8.

**Minor units** – ATR Glen-course 5, 19 Mech Bde Sig Sqn 4; 5 Fd Amb RAMC 2, HQ Engr Resources 2; DMS Trg Centre 5, Army Winchester 3; MWF Chilwell 3, 238 (London) Sig Sqn 2; PCD RLC 2, ATR Basingbourn 3; ATSA Chertsey 2, MOD (A) London 8; BVO Ashchurch 2, 42 Svy Engr Gp a5; ATR Pirbright 5, Gurkha Demo Coy 0; 29 Regt RLC 12, EED Malvern 14; Fd Wksp REME 4, 21 (AS) Sig Regt 0; CATC BG LAD 4 3 Fd Wksp REME 3; JTC Wales 1, ATR Lichfield 3; 216 (Para) Sig Sqn 6, 160 Pro Coy RMP 0; MCTC 7, 24 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn 2; Depot R Irish 2, 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn 1; ATR Lichfield 7, 5 Fd Amb RAMC 1; Comms & Sy Gp (UK) 1 MCTC 2; 216 (Para) Sig Sqn 1, 14 Fd Wksp REME 2; 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn 0, Depot R Irish 1; MWF Chilwell 0, ATR Basingbourn 7; ATR Pirbright 4, F Coy Scots Guards 0; 16 Fd Amb RAMC 1, 42 Svy Engr Gp 2.

### Squash

**Inter-Corps championship** – Div 1: 1, RLC A 95; 2, REME A 78; 3, RE A 62; 4, R Signals 46; 5, AGC A 41; 6, APTC A 25 (relegated). Div 2: 1, AAC 106 (promoted); 2, RLC B 99; 3, RE B 71; 4, REME B 71; 5, Int Corps 66; 6, AGC B 56; 7, RAC 13 (relegated). Div 3: 1, Inf A 113 (promoted); 2, RA A 106; 3, APTC B 83; 4, Inf B 72; 5, AMS 42; 6, RA B 30; 7, AWS 19.

**Edinburgh Sports Club 60th Anniversary Tournament** – Army 6, Edinburgh SC 0.

### Hockey

Army 6, Basingstoke 1.

### Boxing

Army beat Met Police 6-2, Western Counties 7-1 and R Marines 5-2.

# No justice for Services side

Combined Services 0, Chelsea 1

THE Combined Services team put on a superb display of brisk, attacking football against a useful Chelsea side containing five full professionals and two Georgians from Tbilisi before a sparse crowd at Aldershot, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Team coach Sqn Ldr Nigel Quincey must have been delighted with the team's commitment and long periods in control.

He will also feel confident of their chances of retaining the Kentish Cup, when the

full squad will be available.

The Services opened confidently and their build-up play created numerous half-chances.

But the visitors broke the deadlock with nine minutes remaining when the Services defence was caught square and Chelsea substitute Sherrin hammered the ball into the net. Services then hit the bar.

The Services management team must have been delighted with this first get-together of the season and the final score did not do them justice on the night.



# Gunners rise to the Challenge

RDG 6, 7 Para RHA 26

THE final of the Army Rugby League Challenge Cup kicked off to a furious start, with tough and uncompromising tackling from both sides, writes Steve Tranter.

Early pressure came from the Royal Dragoon Guards, who managed to get the ball to 7 Parachute Regiment RHA's 22-metre line. But the gunners, taking advantage of missed tackles, swept the ball to the left wing, where Corrigan sprinted 50 metres to score.

Moving strongly through the centre, Rowan beat three tackles to score a try which was converted by Tye, giving 7 RHA a 10-point lead after only four minutes.

It looked as though the Aldershot-based Airborne Gunners were going to run away with the match, but the strong-running RDG side refused to lie down.

Army stand-off Tpr Mark Wilson was beginning to make an impression, ably-supported by full-back Luck, who made powerful runs through the centre.

Carter, at loose forward, sparked a mini-revival but scoring points was a problem for the RDG. When they handed the ball over on the sixth tackle on their opponent's 22-metre line, O'Hare punished them by running in a cracking try.

Good interplay finally brought the RDG a try by scrum-half Longbottom, converted by No 8 Gregson.

The second half started with the RDG creating most of the pressure and showing good ball-handling skills, but the finish was never quite there. Brennan increased 7 RHA's lead when he went over after some good work by the forwards.

In a final flourish, Brennan crossed the tryline again to make the final score 26-6.

A caption (*Soldier*, Dec 9) recorded that the gunners beat the loggies in the Inter-Corps ten-a-side double header. The result should have read RLC 26, RA 20.



Touchdown: Cpl Chris Gallagher avoids being tackled by two 7 RHA players

## Army team tries hard

Hampshire U21s 13,  
Army U21s 5

THE second Under-21 County Championship rugby match of the season at Havant began the way most games involving younger players do, with speed and enthusiasm, writes Tom Wye.

It was obvious that a missed tackle or fumbled ball would lead to a score and, in the event, it was the Army who fumbled first, letting Hampshire in for the first try which they converted.

The red-shirted visitors gave away penalties which the home team converted into a 13-0

lead. During the last quarter of the first half the soldiers got their act together and were rewarded by a well-taken try scored by Cfn Andy Thompson (27 Regt RLC) to make it 13-5.

The second half saw some fine tackling as both teams threw caution to the wind. Only spectacular and, at times, desperate tackling kept the score down.

It was a relieved Hampshire, and a disappointed Army, who heard the final whistle.

Army U21 20,  
Eastern Counties 21

The Army got off to a flying

start and totally dominated the first half of the final county game of the season at Aldershot.

Tries from Spr Bruno Green (35 Engr Regt) and two conversions and two penalties by OCdt Bryn Davies of Sheffield University OTC saw the home team chalk up a 20-6 lead at half-time.

The second half belonged to the visitors, who grew in confidence as the Army started to play as individuals. This lack of cohesion saw Eastern Counties score a dropped goal and run in two tries, the last of which was converted to give them a lead of a single point.

Special mention should be made of Emma Bowes-Crick, from Frimley Park Hospital, who has been the Army physio for four years.

Covering for both sides when told the visitors' physiotherapist had gone Christmas shopping, Emma, of course, coped in the best traditions of the profession.

## Golden Jenny 'top woman'

NORTHERN Ireland-based LCpl Jenny France (RMP) has been named Sportswoman of the Year for 1996 by the Combined Services Sport Board.

Jenny, a member of 172 Provost Company RMP, won three gold medals at the Euro-

pean Under-21 tae kwan do championships in Cork.

Also an Army champion in the sport, she hopes to qualify, in her specialities of sparring, long kick and high jumping kick, for the world championships later this year.



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Smiles in the rain: The Duchess of Gloucester brought a splash of colour and a cheerful smile to a rain-soaked 122nd Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Guests at the parade, held just before Christmas, included Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, and Lady Guthrie.

The Sword of Honour was awarded to Junior Under Officer Robert Chisholm, who is to serve with The Light Infantry. OC Emma Woodhams, who joins the Intelligence Corps, won the Queen's Medal.

Picture: Terry Champion

# SOLDIER



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