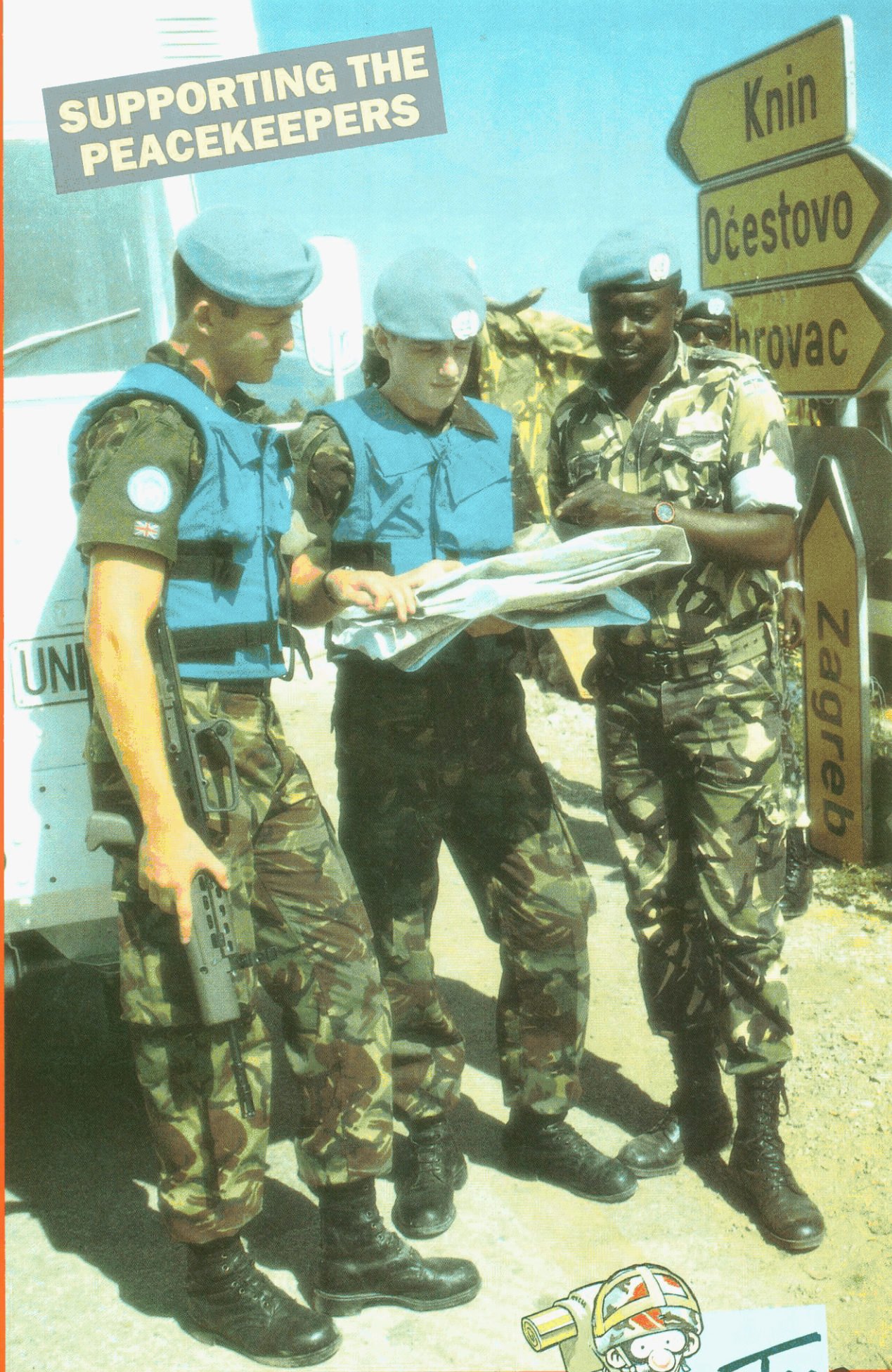


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**SOLDIER** is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed in the UK for HMSO. Photoset by RSB Typesetters, Worpleston, Surrey. Crown Copyright 1992. Views expressed in **SOLDIER** are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

UK news trade distribution: SM (Circulation Department), 6 Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London SW16 2PG. Telephone: 081-677 8111. Fax: 081-769 9529 or 081-677 0136.



Ready to go: Soldiers of 1 Cheshire unveil a Warrior resprayed in the distinctive United Nations white livery at their Fallingbostal barracks

# Cheshires lead Grapple group

MORE THAN 1,800 British troops being sent in October to war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina to protect United Nations relief convoys have been given a secondary role to protect the evacuation of prisoners of war released from detention camps into UN hands, writes **Laurie Manton**.

Operation Grapple will involve an infantry group based on the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment from Fallingbostal, reinforced by 100 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment at Lemgo to bring it up to a strength of 750 personnel.

A squadron of Herford-based 9th/12th Royal Lancs equipped with Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicles and a strong sapper contingent from 35 Engineer Regiment at Hameln are included in the group.

A significant National Support Element (NSE) will also deploy. It consists of:

- A squadron from 10 Regiment RCT at Bielefeld to move soldiers, stores and equipment – and other smaller elements for movement control and port operations;
- One company from 5 Ord-

repair of vehicles and equipment;

● Royal Military Police elements for transport movement control and escort duties.

Medical support will be provided initially by 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance, already in Croatia, which is to be replaced Hohn-based 1 Armoured Field Ambulance.

Other headquarters, operational and administrative support units will be involved, but Ministry of Defence officials stress that the make-up of the Logistic Support Group will remain flexible and its organisation may change as a result.

To decide on the concept of operations and

locations for the four national battalion groups – British, French, Canadian and Spanish – planning teams have held meetings in Zagreb with Gen Satish Nambiar, who commands the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia and Bosnia.

The British team was led by the Director of Military Operations, Brig David Jenkins

● Turn to Page 5



nance Battalion RAOC, Paderborn, to supply stores and equipment;

- A REME workshop to provide maintenance, recovery and

**FRONT COVER:** Watched by Pte Richard Baggridge, RAMC (left), ambulance driver Dvr John Paul Collins, RCT checks his position on the map with Sgt Kamau of the Kenyan Army at a United Nations checkpoint in the hills above Knin, Croatia. Story and more pictures on the British Medical Battalion serving with the UN peacekeepers in Pages 24-27. (Picture: Terry Champion)



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Hong Kong Governor Mr Chris Patten shares a joke with Commander British Forces Hong Kong Maj Gen John Foley and men of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade on Castle Peak Ranges. Mr Patten, who is Commander-in-Chief of British Forces Hong Kong, spent a day touring the garrison and visited elements of all three Services

## Iron Div flag is back at Bulford

THE LARGEST military formation in Britain was formally recognised on September 22 when the 3rd (UK) Division hoisted its flag for the first time at its headquarters at Bulford, Wiltshire.

Commanded by Maj Gen Hew Pike, the Iron Division, as it has been known since the First World War, will eventually number 15,000 when its three brigades at Tidworth, Aldershot and Colchester are at full strength.

The flag of the 3rd Armoured Division was struck in Germany on September 15 and delivered to Gen Pike at Bulford by a team of its signallers who ran in relay.

The 3rd Division was based at Bulford before moving to Germany in 1977. It will now form part of the British contribution to Nato's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), which formally comes into being at Bielefeld on October 2.

The Bielefeld ceremony, which will be attended by Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, first commander of ARRC, will also mark the disbandment of the 1st (British) Corps, currently commanded by Gen Mackenzie.

Also present will be Gen John M Shalikashvili, Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Headquarters of the new 12-nation Rapid Reaction Force will be at Bielefeld, home to 1 (BR) Corps since 1953. The ARRC HQ is expected to move to Rheindahlen within the next two years.

## Kuwaiti loan

BRITAIN is to provide two loan service officers to help the Kuwaiti MoD manage its mine clearance projects. Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton said: "I look forward to further developments in our relationship, including agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding which could lead to the provision of British equipment for the Kuwaiti armed forces."

## Cheshires

● From Page 3

and Maj Gen Geoff Field, Director General Logistic Policy (Army).

A recce party led by Lt Col Bob Stewart, CO 1 Cheshire, has also visited Zagreb. There are no plans to send Army Air Corps helicopters in the area.

The British contingent – the largest element of the 6,000-strong UN force – will take with it more than 40 Warrior infantry fighting vehicles.

The 25-tonne vehicle, which can carry seven fully-equipped infantrymen, will be up-armoured with Chobham. Most of the vehicles taking part were in service in the Gulf with 1 Staffords.

The battle group will also be armed with 81mm mortars and Milan anti-tank missiles. A broadening of the rules of engagement will allow commanders to use force to protect their mission.

Combat engineers will make up most of the 300-strong sapper contingent. They will be responsible for construction tasks and clearing mines from convoy routes. Attached will be other Royal Engineers specialists in bomb disposal, mapping and search.

Personnel are to be flown to the region, but the battle group's vehicles and equipment will be moved by sea.

The 1 Cheshire group is expected to be replaced on roulement after six months.

● The codeword Grapple has been used before ... for British Forces testing H-bombs on Christmas Island in 1958.

## 'We're keen to get on with it'

THE BRITISH force deploying to Bosnia-Herzegovina will be commanded by Lt Col Bob Stewart, CO 1 Cheshire, whose battalion will supply the largest contingent.

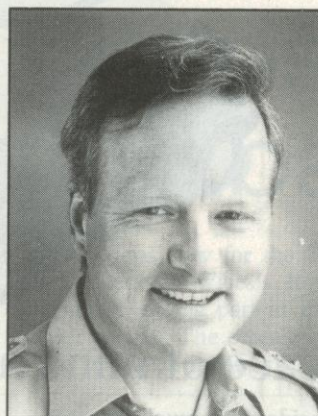
"We've been on standby now for some three weeks and that has been frustrating," he said as the United Nations announced its acceptance of Britain's offer of troops to protect humanitarian convoys.

"Being professional soldiers we are now keen to get on with the job, although there is of course a degree of apprehension as we do not know quite what we will be facing."

Lt Col Stewart said the battalion was fortunate to have Warrior. "It is a superb vehicle and can take a great deal of incoming fire, particularly now that it has been up-armoured with Chobham. It will provide a high degree of protection for the soldiers, our most precious asset."

Accompanying Lt Col Stewart on a detailed recce of the area in which the Cheshire group will be operating were Lt Col Malcolm Wood, CO 5 Ord Bn, and Maj Tim Abraham, OC B Coy, 9/12 L.

British troops will make up a substantial element of the 4,000-strong multinational force promised to the United Nations. Each national group will operate under its own



Lt Col Bob Stewart

command in its own theatre, reporting to a yet-to-be-appointed UN military chief.

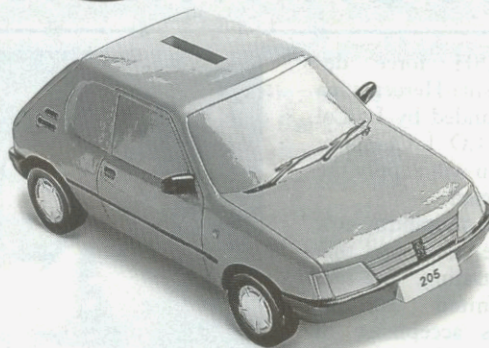
Although precise rules of engagement in self-defence have yet to be defined, Lt Col Stewart is satisfied that soldiers under his command will be given every opportunity to defend themselves should that be necessary. He added: "We are a defensive force and shall be going to Bosnia hoping not to fire our weapons."

Specialist training, much of it geared towards the escort role, will include winter protection drills to combat the expected severe weather.

In a message to families, Lt Col Stewart said he would do his very best to look after all the men under his command. A families support system will operate during the deployment.



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# Signals aid for Albania

WITH WORLD attention focused on the former Yugoslavia, 7 Signal Regiment at Herford has not forgotten the stricken people of Albania.

The unit has just completed its third successful aid relief mission, taking urgently-needed medical supplies, clothes, shoes and toys to Gjirokastra in Southern Albania.

Led by 2nd Lt Rob Gibson and Lt Andy Parsons, the 7 Signals Regt team – Cpls Tam Smith and Frank Nash, LCpls Ian Saunders and Nill Pirrie, and Sigs Neil Caddy and Craig Newman – took the supplies to Albania via Northern Italy in three large trucks and a Range Rover loaned by Cpl Mark Stanton, a veteran of mercy trips to Albania and Romania.

The signallers delivered heart monitors, sterile dressings, syringes and other medical equipment donated by a German hospital at Herford. Earlier this year the regiment presented the Albanian town with an ex-Army ambulance.

The mercy mission was funded by the regiment with help from a number of sponsors, including Naafi, who provided insurance for the vehicles.



Northern Ireland Security Minister Michael Mates talks to Pte Paul McMahon during a visit to B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry at Fork Hill, South Armagh. Behind them is Pte Christopher Witherington. Mr Mates was accompanied by Lt Col Mark Elcomb, CO 2 LI

## Worthy move from Eltham

HEADQUARTERS of the Director of Educational and Training Services (Army), including the Service Children's Education Authority, is to move in November from Eltham Palace, London to Worthy Down, HQ of the Adjutant General's Corps. The future of Eltham is under discussion.

# TA battalion swaps berets and badges

FIRST official duty for the Territorial Army's 6th/7th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) taking part in Exercise Second Strike was to hold a farewell parade. The ceremony took place to mark the battalion's demise in the form of 6th/7th Queens.

During a drumhead service at Wretham Camp, Thetford, all ranks removed their navy blue berets bearing the badge of The Queen's Regiment and replaced them with khaki berets carrying the embroidered cloth badge of the new PWRR.

The new regiment was formed by the amalgamation on September 9 of the Queens and The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

Because the amalgamation was brought forward by six months, Regular and TA soldiers will wear cloth badges until next summer when metal badges and embellishments are ready.

The commander of 2nd Infantry Brigade, Brig John Holman, himself a Queensman, said it was a day to remember. All ranks attending the parade will receive a certificate to mark the occasion.



All smiles as Capt John Gilfoyle (front right) takes back the old Queen's Regiment berets from A Company personnel



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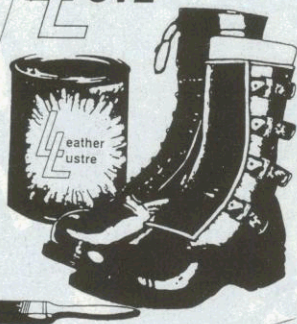
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## Cargo shell proves itself on the range

**PROOF** firing of the M483 bomblet round by a Directorate of Land Service Ammunition (DLSA) team on a special "cargo-shell" artillery range in Norway produced very encouraging results.

The round, designed to be fired from 155mm calibre guns, was used in anger in the Gulf War. It contains a "cargo" of 88 bomblets which detonate on impact.

Because of the danger of some bomblets not functioning properly, it cannot be fired on normal artillery ranges.

At Hjerkin, however, the Norwegians have constructed a fully instrumented impact area, 600m by 400m, on which the performance of each bomblet can be monitored. The cargo shell dispenses its bomblets at a height of several hundred feet above the impact area. They fall on to the target, exploding on the surface.

Acoustic and electro-optical sensors plot the exact time and place of the detonation of all 88 bomblets, providing data which tells a DLSA team how the carrier shell and its payload are performing. This information is then analysed by the DLSA Proof and Surveillance team whose job is to assess the performance of in-service ammunition.

Didcot-based DLSA is required to monitor the performance of a sample of the ammunition at Hjerkin every two years. Firing takes place under an agreement between DLSA and the Norwegian Army, and is done by the Norwegian artillery, many of whose soldiers are conscripts.

The latest firing was attended by Maj Bob Gillson, RA and WO2 (SQMS) Nobby Clark, RAOC from DLSA's Proof and



Watched by WO2 Nobby Clark (left), a Norwegian soldier sets the fuze on an M483 cargo shell



An M109 ready to fire on the Hjerkin range

Reliability Branch, Maj Maurice Ewence, RA from the Ordnance Board and



Maj Gillson

Mr Jim Thwaites of QA/Heavy Ammunition. Maj Gillson said the proof firing of 34 M483 shells was very encouraging. "The performance of the complete round was well up to specification," he reported.

DLSA plans to continue using the impressive Hjerkin facility for the M483 round and is looking into the possibility of firing MLRS rockets there.

## Kineton EOD site sets the standard

A NEW £4m bomb disposal training facility – the most advanced in the world – was opened at the Central Ammunition Depot Kineton on September 16 by the Duke of Kent.

The 100-acre site – named the Felix Training Area after the radio callsign used by all British bomb disposal personnel – will be used by the Army School of Ammunition to train EOD operators from all three Services and from other countries.

It features houses, a working railway station, pub, hotel, garage and farm, each fitted out to provide realistic training. Houses, for example, are centrally heated and furnished, real trains run past the station, and the hotel has beds.

Thirty-six officer cadets from the University of London OTC camped out between the wolves and the big cats in Regent's Park Zoo for three weeks while clearing bushes, small trees, concrete and railings from a derelict area of the zoo.

Emergency hand-operated watermakers are to go into service with Army Air Corps, Royal Air Force and Fleet Air Arm crews. A £1.1m order for the personal survival pack reverse osmosis units has been placed with CT United Kingdom Limited.

## London bomb disposal HQ returns

AFTER AN absence of 25 years, the headquarters of 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (Volunteers) returns to London from Greenhithe in Kent.

Under the Options for Change restructuring, the regiment would provide virtually all the Royal Engineers' bomb disposal support to national defence in the event of war.

Headquarters of 101 will be in Hudson House, Catford – already home to G (London

Scottish) Company, 1/51 Highland and 217 (City of London) General Hospital RAMV (V) – and the regiment will have units based in Holloway (217 Sqn), Acton (220 Sqn), Rochester (221 Sqn) and Greenhithe (222 Sqn).

An additional support squadron, 198, will be administered by Central Volunteer Headquarters RE at Minley.



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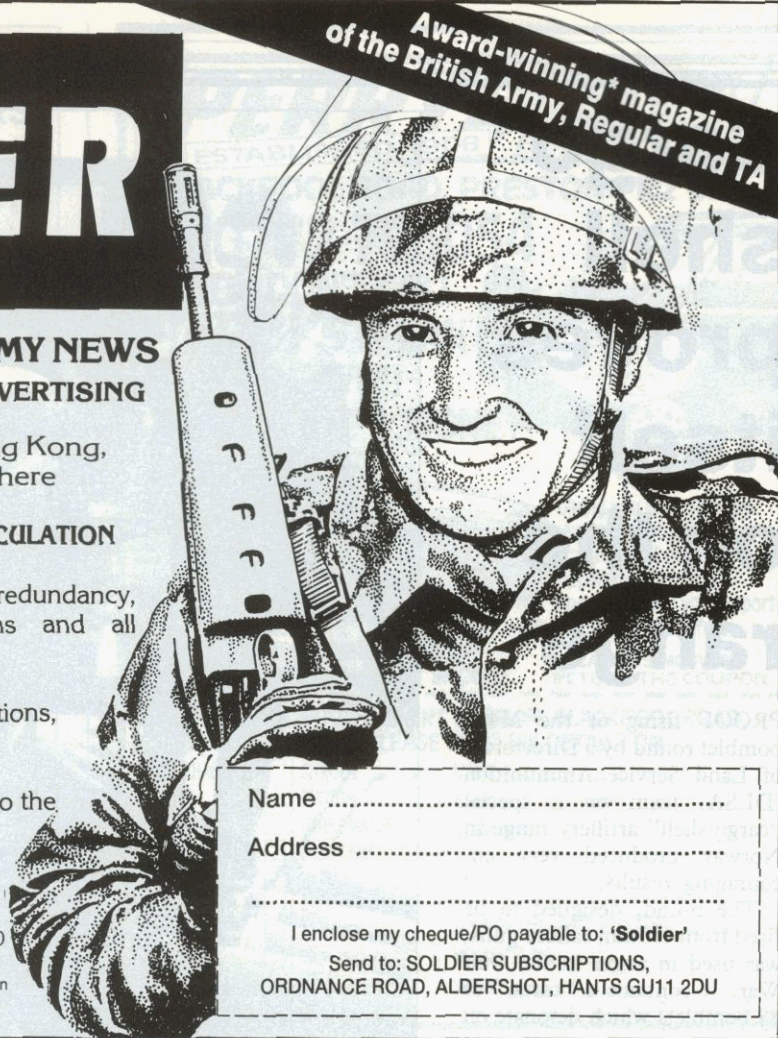
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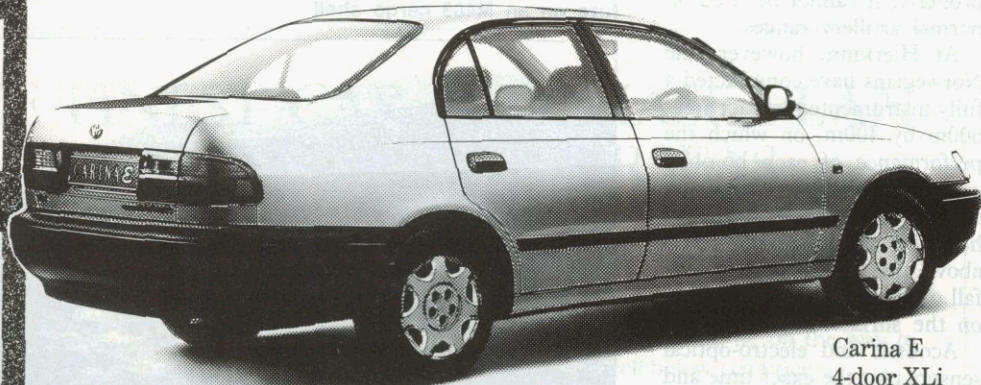
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## Freedom march marks Yorks silver jubilee

The Colour Party of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions, Yorkshire Volunteers, marches past during a Freedom parade in York to mark the regiment's 25th anniversary. The salute was taken by the regiment's Honorary Colonel, the Duchess of Kent, who was later presented with a silver Yorkshire rose to mark the occasion

# Award for Kuwait mines hero

AN ARMY bomb disposal expert has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct for his part in the rescue of two badly injured Kuwaiti boys trapped in an Iraqi-laid coastal minefield.

Cpl Christopher Winter, from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) at Chattenden, was serving with the UK EOD cell in Kuwait at the time of the incident in June 1991. He left the Army earlier this year.

Sgt Dennis Rogers, RAF, who crawled through densely

laid anti-personnel mines to reach the boys, received the George Medal.

Throughout the ordeal Sgt Rogers received guidance and encouragement from Cpl Winter, to whom he was attached by a line.

The citation says of Cpl Winter: "In spite of the extremely dangerous environment and the harrowing sight

of injured children he remained calm and professional throughout. His bravery, common sense and prompt response are typical of his service in Kuwait during the aftermath of the Gulf War."

Despite both boys losing limbs in the minefield, they were extracted in time for military medical teams to complete a successful rescue.

## First BAOR barracks handed over

THE FIRST major British Army barracks vacated as a result of the drawdown in BAOR have been handed back to the German authorities.

Barossa and Peninsular Barracks at Deilinghofen near Hemer were home until recently of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment and the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Built in the 1950s for the Canadian Army, they were occupied in 1970 by units of 6th Armoured Brigade, and have been the home of many infantry battalions in the past 20 years.

Hard work by 3 RTR and 3 RRF resulted in the barracks being the first in BAOR to be cleared, cleaned and handed over.

Work has started on new barracks off Queen's Avenue in Aldershot. Tournai Barracks, adjacent to Lille Barracks, will help replace Montgomery Lines. The complex is part of the £100m rebuilding of Aldershot Military Town.

A statuette has been unveiled in the Victorian complex recreated in Blaenau Ffestiniog's Llechwedd slate caverns to celebrate the historic links between The Royal Welch Fusiliers and the North Wales town. The 5ft tall figure is a painted wood carving of a RWF goat major and goat in 1854 uniform. The Corps of Drums and Regimental Goat of 3 RWF attended the unveiling.

## Rhino Trophy is tribute to 6 Bde

Brig Christopher Elliott (front, second from left), last Commander 6th Armoured Brigade, presents the 6th Brigade "Rhino" Trophy to Maj Gen Simon Lytle, Director AAC, and Maj Gen Scott Grant (left), Director General Army Training. On the right is Lt Col Simon Fogden, Commanding 3rd Regiment AAC, some of whose pilots are in the background.

The trophy, a permanent memorial to 6th Brigade which officially disbands at Soest on September 30, will be competed for annually in a tactical missile firing competition by the Army Air Corps.

In addition, a trust fund has been set up to provide an annual prize.







## Coldstream family on royal parade

Four generations of the **Matheson** family went "on parade" at the Royalty and Empire exhibition in Windsor recently. The picture shows Maj **Fergus Matheson**, accompanied by his daughter and grandchildren, standing next to a waxwork of his father, Ensign Matheson (later to become Gen Sir **Torquihill Matheson**), depicted carrying a State Colour of the Coldstream Guards at the diamond jubilee celebrations of Queen Victoria in June 1897. Commands heard by visitors to the exhibition in Windsor's central railway station (start and finish of so many of Queen Victoria's travels) were recorded by Maj Matheson's son, **Alexander**, now also a major in the Coldstream.

## Jeff calls it a day

Maj **Jeff Jeffreys**, pictured here with the **Duchess of Kent** at the unveiling of 4/7 DG's regimental war memorial at Cruelly, Normandy in June, has retired after more than 50 years' service to the Crown.

He first donned uniform as a cadet in 1940, transferred to the Home Guard two years later, and joined the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards in 1946 after a short spell with the Reconnaissance Corps.

Maj Jeffreys served continuously on the active list for 35 years, then became Regimental Secretary and curator of the museum. He was due to retire in 1990 but remained at his post to see through the formation of The Royal Dragoon Guards from the amalgamation of the 4th/7th and the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.



## Switched on trio!

Three bright sparks from 504 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (Works) (V) pause for a light-hearted photograph during a training camp on Gibraltar. From left to right are Sgt **Stephen Hyde** and SSgts **Peter Jarvis** and **Steven Armstrong**, whose unit is sponsored by Central Volunteer Headquarters RE at Minley in Surrey.

Picture: SACW Jules Hague, WRAF



# PEOPLE

## RWF in filmaction



Six members of the 3rd (V) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers volunteered for duty on the Somme to help out BBC Wales. They played the part of soldiers involved in First World War battle scenes for a television film to be shown in the spring. Pictured during a tea break on set in trenches dug in the Pen Rhyn slate quarries in north Wales are (from left) Fus **Dale Taylor**, CSgt **Ned Huntley**, Fus **Dave Phillips**, Cpl **Mike Henning**, Cpl **Kevin Burke** (who was carried to safety on a stretcher by the hero) and CSgt **Eddie Henning** with members of the production team and cast.

## Aintree tribute



When members of 55 Signal Squadron (V) based at Aintree, Liverpool heard that a former member of the Permanent Regular Staff, the Yeoman of Signals, SSgt **Gary Grove** had died in a road accident, they unanimously decided to honour his name in a special memorial trophy to be presented annually to the unit's best detachment.

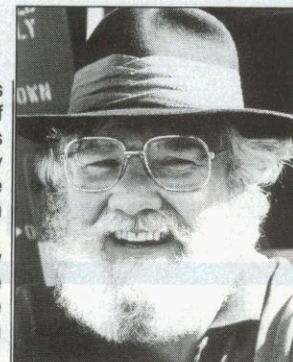
Falklands veteran Gary, 33, had been promoted to warrant officer and transferred to SHAPE HQ in Belgium, where he was killed while walking to his quarters when a drunk driver mounted the pavement.

His parents, **Joseph** and **Beryl Grove**, accepted an invitation from OC Capt **Alan Dudley** (back, second from left) to make the first presentation of the cut glass goblets to (front) Sig **Tony Davitt**, detachment commander Cpl **Mike Melia**, Sig **Alan Scott** and Cpl **Steve Lunberg**. Also in the picture are PSI Sgt **Mervin Wright** (back left) and Sgt Maj **John Lloyd** (back right).

## Ex-ATO in hot seat

Mr **Larry Hollingworth**, the Chief of Operations for the United Nations High Commission for Relief (UNHCR) in Sarajevo is often in the news. What is not generally known is that he is a former Army officer. An RAOC ammunition technical officer, he retired as a lieutenant colonel two years ago from the Longtown Ammunition Depot near Carlisle.

During 30 years in the Army, Mr Hollingworth saw service in 19 countries. Since joining UNHCR, he has organised relief efforts in the Gulf and to the Sudan. He says his Army training has been invaluable.



## Their nest idea so far...

Maj **Bill Jay** and his nest box team receive a £600 cheque from **Deidre College** of Shell (UK) after winning an award under the company's Better Britain campaign. The team, all members of the Bulford Conservation Group, have scattered more than 180 nest boxes over Salisbury Plain in the past few years, encouraging the spread of such species as barn, long-eared, tawny and little owls, buzzards, kestrels, doves, tits and wag-tails.

## Edinburgh double

Two Black Watch drum majors were on parade together for the first time during the Edinburgh Tattoo. On the left is Drum Maj **Andy McPherson**, and on the right Drum Maj **Peter Robson**, Senior Drum Major of the Scottish Division. More pictures and story in Page 15.



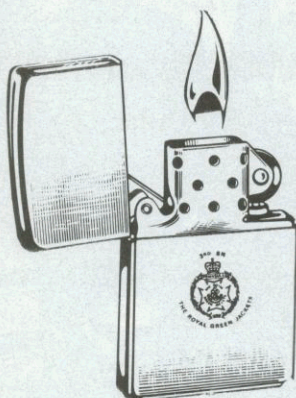
Dog handler LCpl **Colin Kale** (right) of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and **Matt** – both currently serving in the Dog Section at the School of Infantry – won the Challenge Cup for the best military team at the Army dog trials held at the RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray. Enjoying the moment are dog section colleagues Cpl **Murph Murphy** (left) and LCpl **John Gaylor** (centre).

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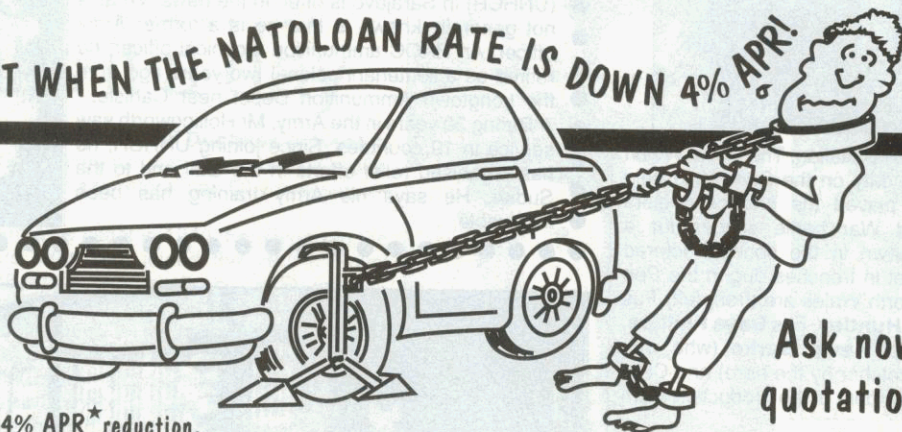
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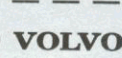
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# Edinburgh Tattoo 1992



Massed Bands perform the spectacular grand finale to the Edinburgh Tattoo

## A Scots Guards' celebration

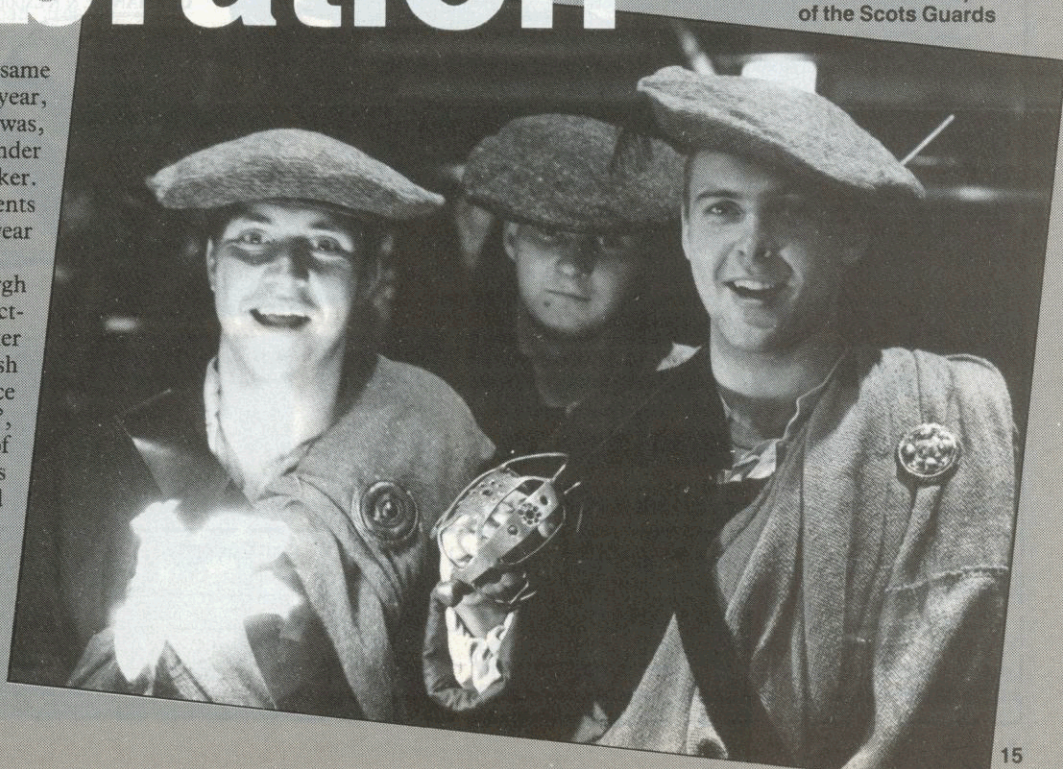
Below – Dressed as Scottish clansmen of 1642 are, from left, Gdsm Grant, Gdsm Murdoch and LCpl McKenzie of the Scots Guards

THOUGH not blessed with the same exceptional weather it enjoyed last year, the 1992 Edinburgh Military Tattoo was, nevertheless, a resounding success under its new producer, Maj Michael Parker.

The tattoo highlighted various events in the Scots Guards' illustrious 350-year history.

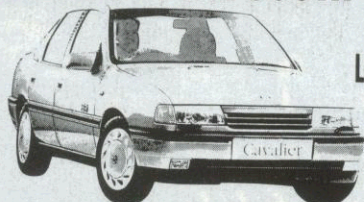
Against the backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, lit by flaming braziers, attractions included the spectacular Mehter Band from Turkey and massed Scottish country dancing. The Royal Air Force Regiment depicted "Airfield Action", complete with the simulated launch of two Rapier missiles and the REME's Land Rover Race was hotly contested by 8 and 15 Field Workshops.

The Band of the Royal Marines was joined by the Massed Bands, Pipes and Drums and the Kevoch Choir for the Grand Finale before the strains of *Donald Blue* played by the Lone Piper brought the tattoo to its traditional close.





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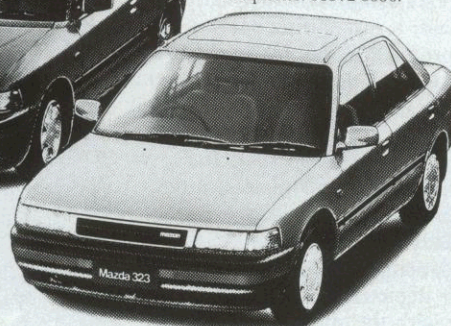
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**PANTHER'S FIRE**



# Jaeger attack!

GERMAN infantrymen of the elite 511 Jaeger Battalion joined British troops for a two-week exercise on Salisbury Plain.

Exercise Panther's Fire proved a significant test for elements of Nato's new multinational Rapid Reaction Corps, and was one of the first joint exercises for units assigned to the embryonic formation.

Senior commanders of both nations, including Gen Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff, and Lt Gen Helge Hansen, Inspector of the Bundeswehr, watched the German unit from Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein exercise with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment during the climax to Panther's Fire.

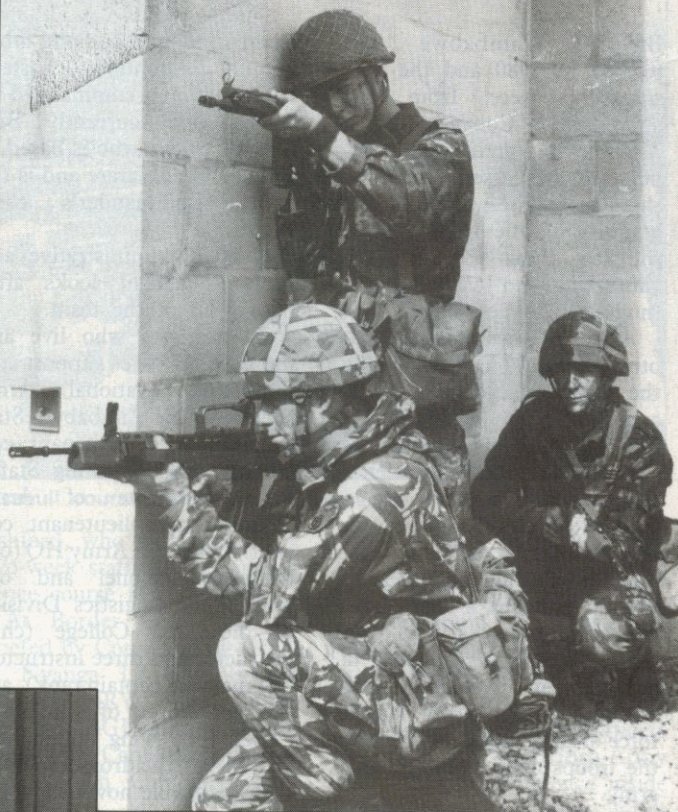
Supported by elements of the

17th/21st Lancers in Chieftain main battle tanks, the international force fought its way through the multi-million pound FIBUA fighting village at Copehill Down.

This phase of the 19th Infantry Brigade exercise enabled the German soldiers to practise skills involved in clearing an enemy from an urban area.

Fifteen of the visiting soldiers were once members of the former East German army.

The 12-nation Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), which comes into being at Bielefeld, Germany on October 2, will be commanded by Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie.



Top of page – A German Army medic (left) covers his colleague who is carrying a casualty to safety in Copehill Down FIBUA

Above – LCpl Karl Yellop, RE takes aim while Gfr Sven Kurzhal (standing) gives added fire power. Spr David Shield of 34 Field Squadron RE waits at the rear

Left – Three top soldiers pleased with the outcome of the FIBUA attack are (from left): Lt Gen Helge Hansen, Gen Sir Peter Inge and Lt Gen Boes, Commander 1st German Corps







Staff college students in the tactical trainer

British military training teams have provided a valuable and unbroken service in Zimbabwe since 1980. But the country has much to offer in return...

# Zimbabwe: A quality posting

BMATT Zimbabwe was formed in 1980 and the first members were from the successful Commonwealth Monitoring Forces which supervised the ceasefire between the Rhodesian Army and the guerrilla armies of Robert Mugabe (now President of Zimbabwe) and Joshua Nkomo (now a Vice-President).

Although there have been other training teams, notably the Chinese, North Koreans and Pakistanis, only BMATT has provided unbroken service to the Zimbabwe Defence Forces.

The team has changed in size and role over 12 years, but what remains constant and clear is that it provides a marvellous opportunity for service overseas. There is a real sense of achievement in training and advising the new army and air force of Zimbabwe and training the troops of the Mozambican army.

Work is fulfilling, interesting and very beneficial, and the quality of life is excellent. The weather, the people, country and loan service pay all help to make this a happy, rewarding and satisfying posting.

BMATT Zimbabwe is divided into two main parts, one

based in Harare and the other in the country's Eastern Highlands. It is commanded by a brigadier, currently Brig Garry Barnett, who is based in Army HQ in Harare and is the Army Commander's chief adviser.

A small administrative and support element looks after both parts of the team.

The officers who live and work in Harare support the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) at the Zimbabwe Staff College (three lieutenant colonels on the Directing Staff), the Directorate of Army Training (one lieutenant colonel), Q Branch Army HQ (one lieutenant colonel and one major), the Logistics Division of the Staff College (chief instructor and three instructors - of major or captain rank), and the Air Force of Zimbabwe (AFZ) (one wing commander and three squadron leaders).

Primary role now of Harare-based personnel is to advise the ZNA and the AFZ, rather than become involved in hands-on training.

More and more the aim is for the Defence Forces to take on the tasks that BMATT have performed for them.

This is clearly demonstrated



Gen Sir Peter Inge watches BMATT Zimbabwe at work in the field

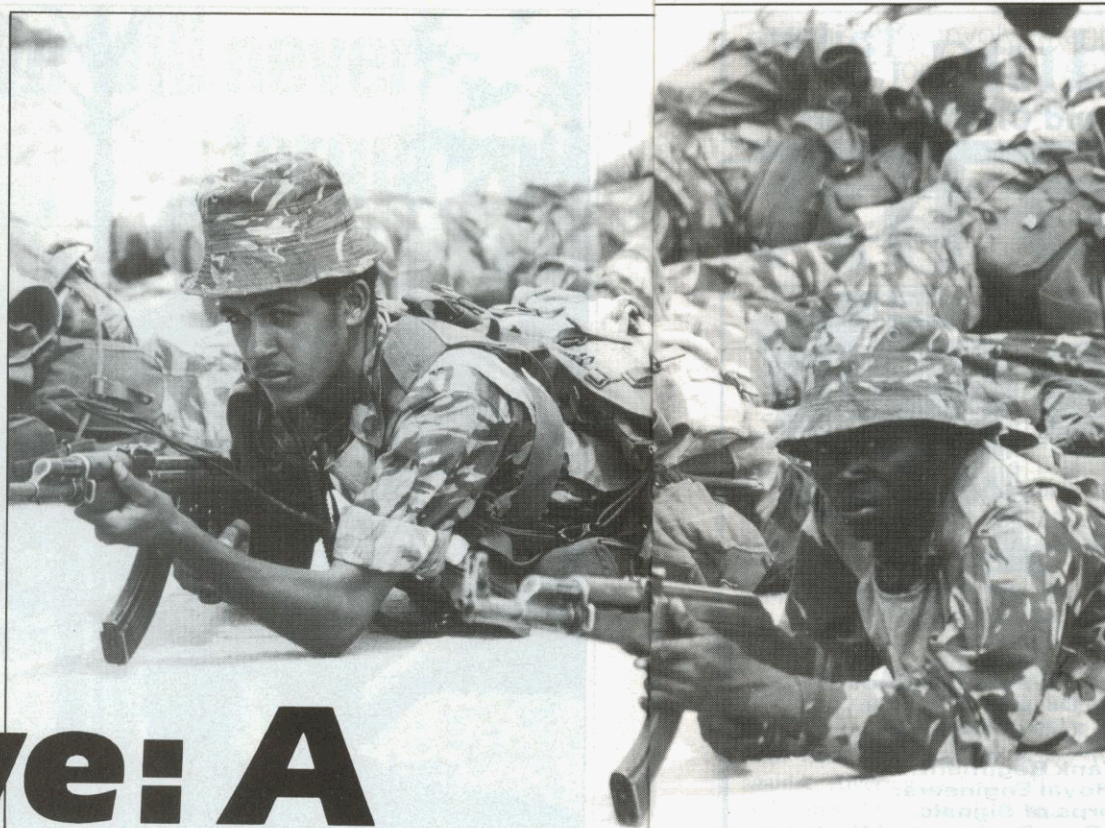
with the Command and Staff Course which was run by BMATT Chief Instructor and eight Directing Staff (DS) last year, but next year is to be wholly run by ZNA with support from just two British DS.

The other half of BMATT Zimbabwe, the Mozambique Training Team (MTT), is based at Border Camp Nyanga in the Eastern Highlands. MTT is a tri-national unit made up of 25 British officers and NCOs, and 100 members of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) and the Armed Forces of Mozambique.

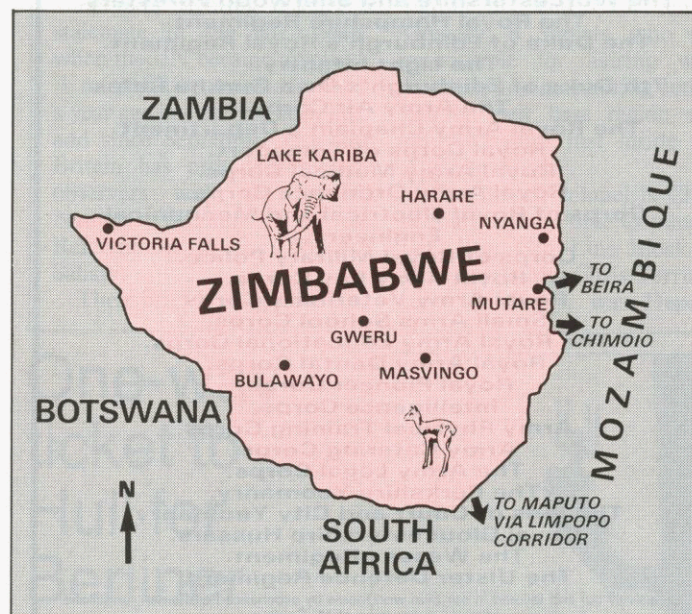
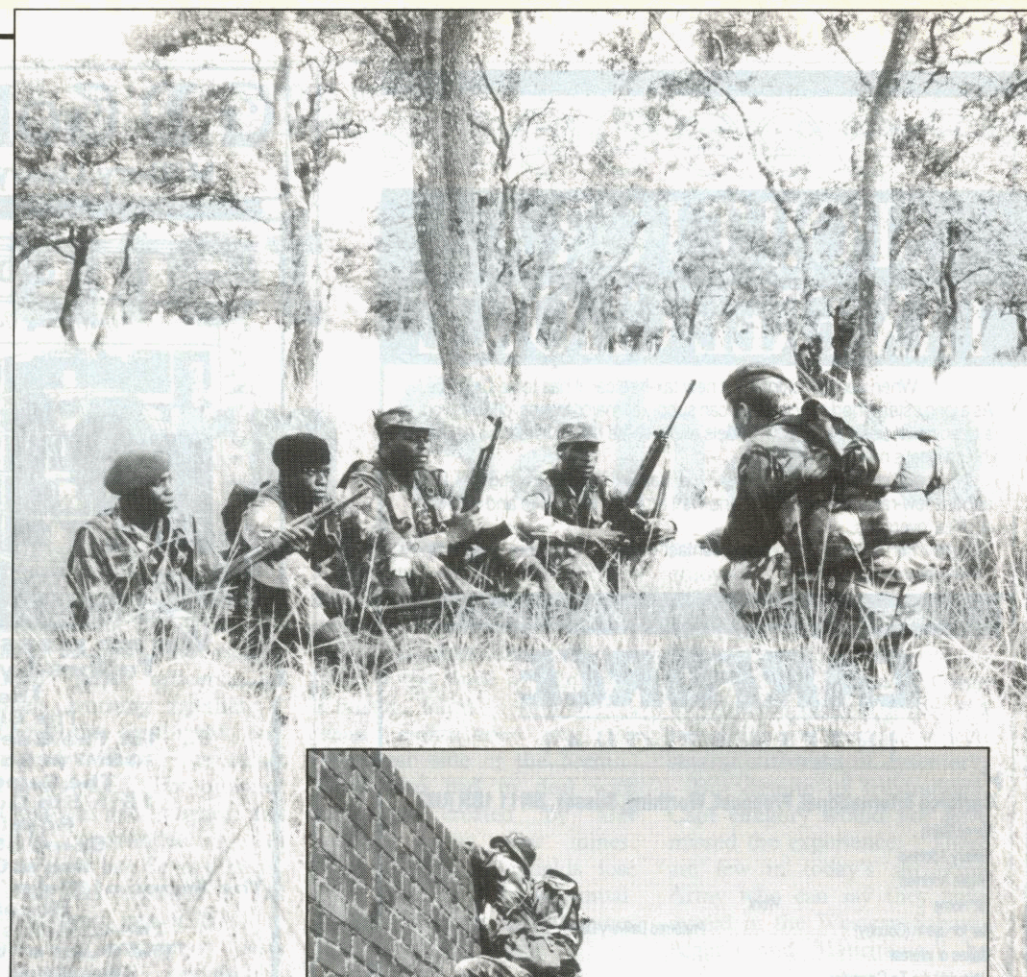
The team was set up in 1985 and its mission is to train soldiers for operational duties securing the Limpopo Rail Corridor from attack by Renamo. The corridor is an important trade and communications link for Zimbabwe through Mozambique.

Soldiers recruited from all over Mozambique are trained at Border Camp. They are met by their British instructors at the Mozambique border, and taken by road to Nyanga.

After three weeks the NCOs, from CSM to Section 2iC, are selected and they then complete a further 13-week training



Above - Soldiers from Mozambique undergoing training at Nyanga  
Right - A Zimbabwe National Army unit in training in the bush



package which takes them from basic individual skills through to company level live firing exercises.

The multi-national team instructs on a range of Eastern bloc weapons including AK47, RPG7 and the 82mm mortar.

Since the Mozambicans speak Portuguese, all training is done through interpreters, which can cause problems, particularly with driver training.

After a final passing out parade, the newly trained company returns to Mozambique to take its place in the Nyanga Brigade. Some of the

captains have an opportunity to visit Mozambique as from time to time BMATT supplies an officer to the ceasefire verification team at Chimoio.

Gen Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff, made a representational visit to Zimbabwe in late July and in addition to visits to the ZNA and discussions with the Zimbabwe Minister of Defence and Service Chiefs he saw some of the work of BMATT Zimbabwe both in Harare and Nyanga.

In Harare he also met Majors Mike Russell and James Lang from the Intelligence Centre at

Assault course training is the same the world over

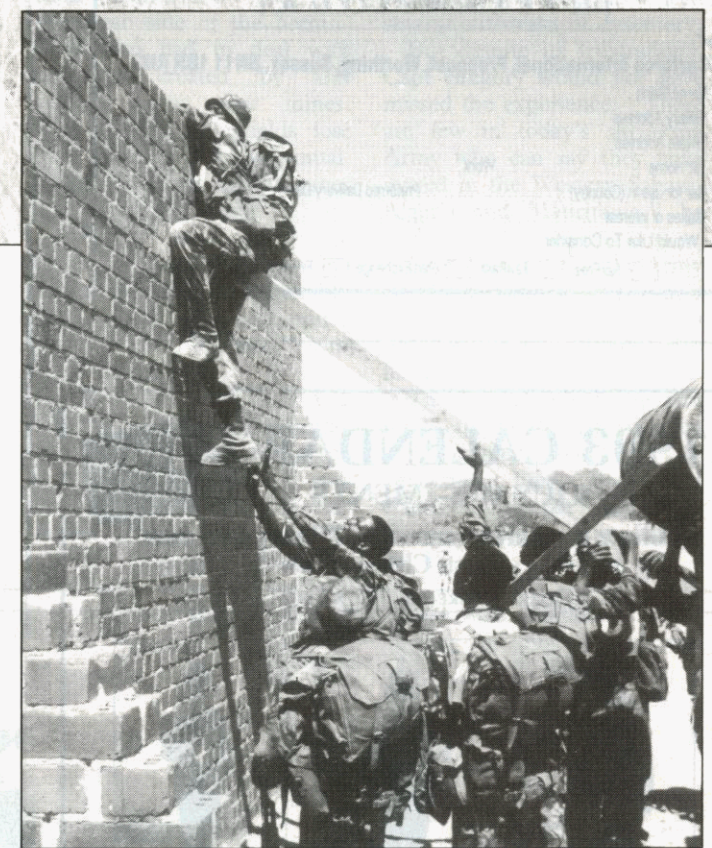
Ashford, who were running a two-week staff officers' intelligence course for the ZNA.

At Border Camp he was briefed by Commanding Officer Nyanga Lt Col Richard Goodall, RRW, Capt Simon Bedford, RGJ and, in Portuguese, by Capt Baschio, the Mozambican Company Commander.

Fortunately Sandhurst-trained Lt Francisco Mabute was on hand to translate. CGS demonstrated his mortar skills by acting as Number 2 of a mortar detachment under the watchful eye of Sgt Ishmael Gidzi of the ZNA.

As one would expect BMATT Zimbabwe is well motivated despite the occasional frustrations. These pale into insignificance when taken with the satisfaction of doing a worthwhile job which shows off the professionalism of officers and NCOs of the British Army and inspires confidence inside Zimbabwe. The future holds many challenges and much will depend upon decisions taken in London, Harare and Maputo.

Assuming the team continues in its present form there remain wonderful opportunities for officers and SNCOs to serve in BMATT Zimbabwe.







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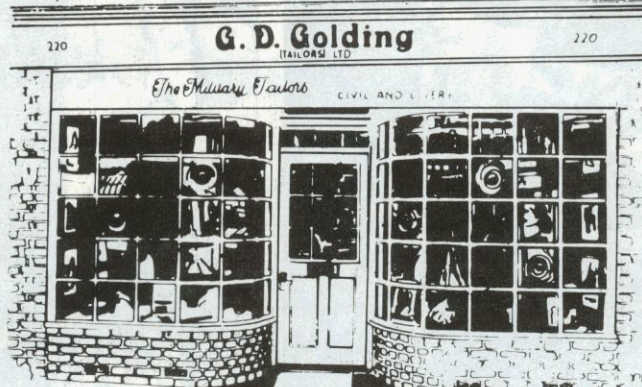
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British Army involvement with the United Nations in Bosnia and Croatia has been making the headlines for months. Another less publicised conflict is also involving British Army personnel in a UN peacekeeping role . . .

# All quiet in the Western Sahara

WHILE international attention is focused on Croatia and the Gulf, a group of 15 British officers has started the third six-month rotation tour with the United Nations in the Western Sahara.

Operation Minurso involves 229 officers from 25 nations deployed along a 1,000-mile sand berm built by Morocco against Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas who claim the mineral resources of territory left by Spain in 1976 and then taken over by Morocco and Mauritania.

Sporadic fighting reached a stalemate in the late 1980s, when the UN became involved. A referendum expected almost a year ago has not yet been held and since September last year Britain has provided military observers with the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in the Western Sahara.

Their brief is to observe and

maintain the ceasefire pending the referendum, a unique operation in that for the first time each of the five permanent member nations of the Security Council have officers, all colonels, working together.

The British contingent comprises six soldiers, five sailors and five airmen. The previous two rotations had 14 majors and captains commanded by Col Jeremy Cox, late Scots Guards, who has been replaced by Col Peter Rogers, late RHG/D.

All have important posts which make their contribution significant, said Capt Simon Gregory, R Signals, who was responsible for liaising with Polisario and monitoring activities in their base region and refugee camps just inside the Algerian border.

The British colonel is Chief of Staff to the Force Commander, Brig Gen Luis Block of Peru, while Maj Chris Terrington, Int Corps, was Deputy

Chief Operations Officer.

Settling arguments over the ownership of camels which wandered into unmarked minefields and were blown up was part of the work of Maj John Clutson, REME, who was a team commander on the Moroccan side of the berm.

He also had to deal with problems created by UN vehicles going over mines. Even marked minefields lose their meaning as the continually shifting sands spread mines into uncharted areas.

"We lost three vehicles to mines but had remarkably few injuries despite a considerable danger from unplotted mines after 16 years of war," said Capt Gregory.

"Life is far from jolly and nobody in their right mind would volunteer in the hope of an easy life," he said. "It is a very different mission to the normal UN task - there are few luxuries and little of the

back-up support normally enjoyed."

It was still a hot spot even if fighting had stopped. In August the temperature rises to more than 55C. Disease borne by immense swarms of flies is a fact of life and there have been several outbreaks of dysentery.

But despite its frustrations, Capt Gregory would not have missed the experience. "There are few in today's shrinking Army who can say they have served in the Western Sahara, Algeria and Mauritania," he said.

Capt John Tosh of the Army Air Corps has an even rarer distinction. He has flown an uprated version of the Hip helicopter.

The aircraft used by the UN forces are all Russian-supplied and include the Mi 17 helicopter. Capt Tosh now claims to be the only AAC officer with flying time for the Mi 17 in his log.

## One-way ticket to Hull for Berliner

The 86ft-long dining coach of The Berliner, the famous British Military Train, leaves the German rail network for the last time at the port of Emden as it is lifted into the tank deck of the Army landing craft *Arakan* for its journey to Hull.

The Berliner, which during 46 years of the Cold War made a daily return journey along the Corridor between Braunschweig in the then West Germany and West Berlin's Charlottenburg Station, is to go on display at the Museum of Army Transport, Beverley.

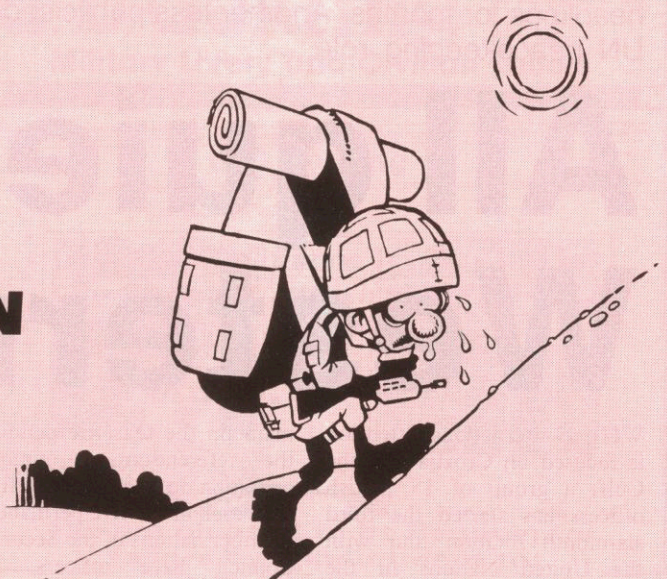
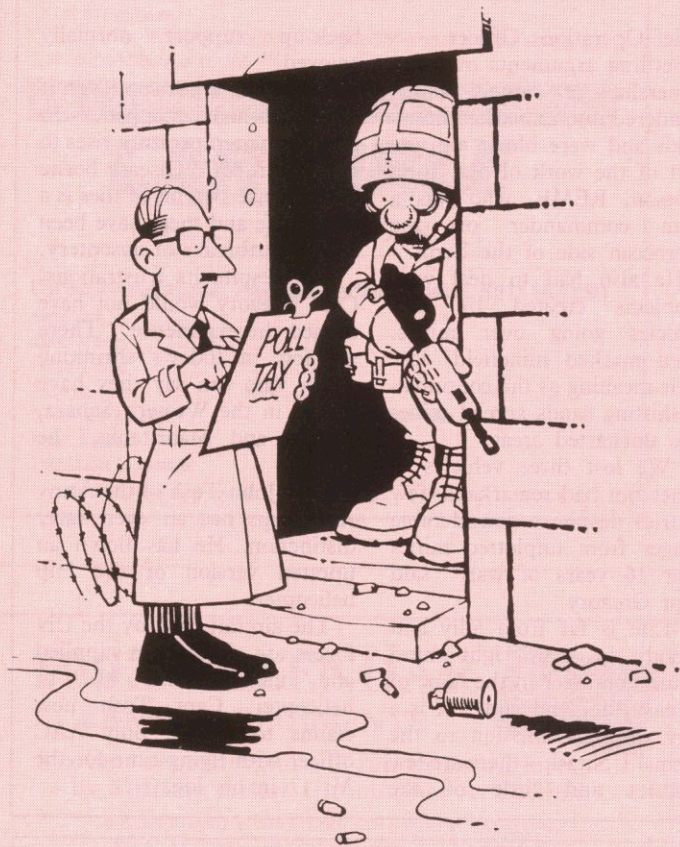
The ship also carried a coach from the British Military Ambulance Train destined for the RAMC Museum at Aldershot.



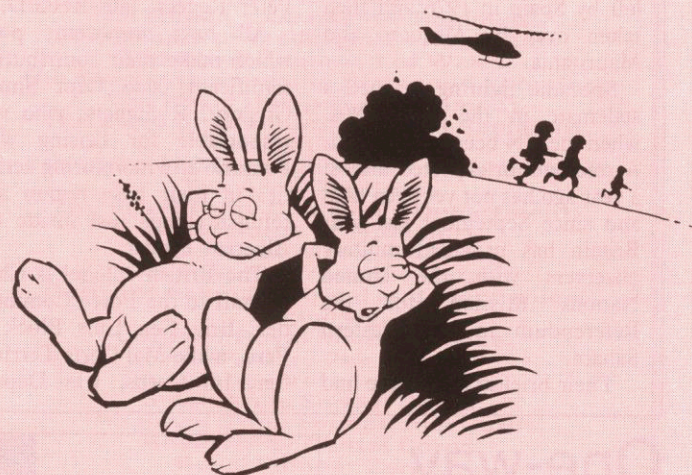


# Tom

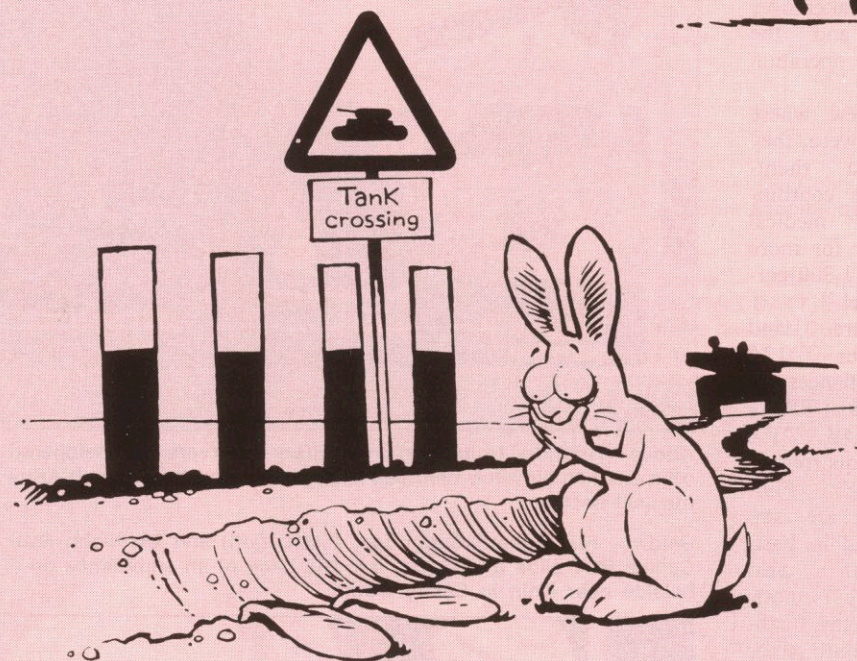
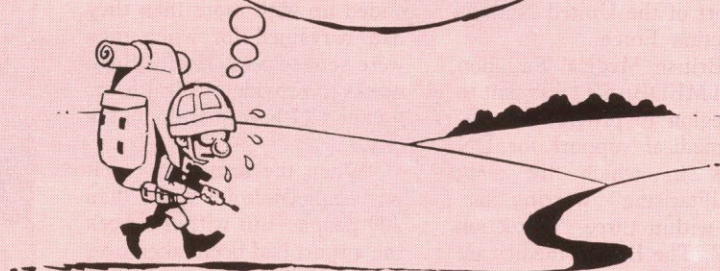
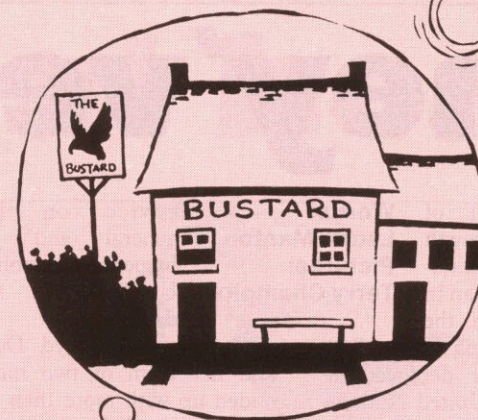
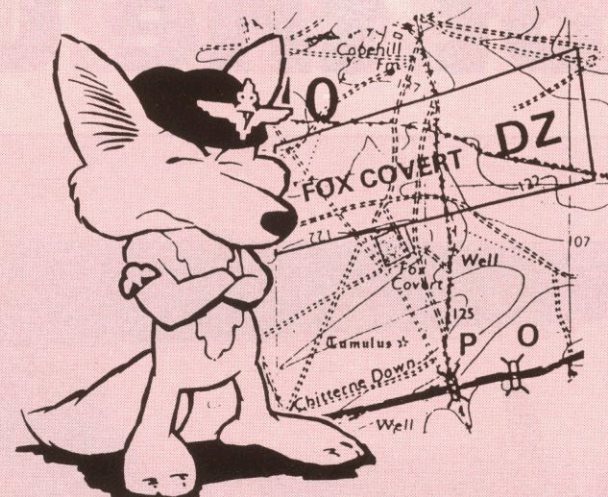
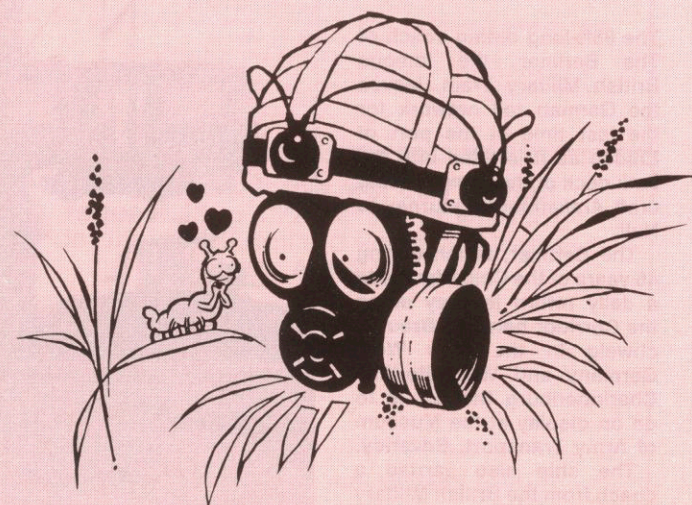
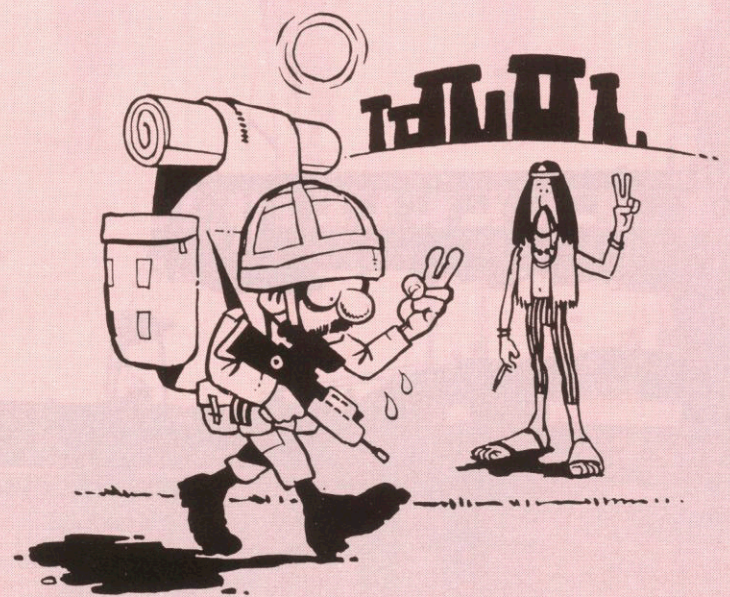
## ON SALISBURY PLAIN



'plain' - n. large area of level country: devoid of hills.



'I'd have gone left flanking myself.'



by  
Lyles ©



# They've got the UN's health at heart

THE PURSUIT of peace is a growth industry, perhaps nowhere more so than in the republics of the former Yugoslavia where British troops have deployed in support of the United Nations Protection Force.

A British Medical Battalion (BRITMEDBATT) was sent to the region to provide second-line medical support for UN troops in which they are "demilitarising" warring factions within three "protection areas". The British medics are involved in health care, casualty treatment and evacuation.

To each of four sector headquarters has been deployed a platoon-sized force of 25-30 men including a doctor, nursing officer, section commander, signaller, medics, drivers, a cook and mechanics.

Some of the 15 battalions in UNPROFOR, such as the French and Belgians, have their own field surgical teams, but others, including the Nepalese and Jordanians and civilian police, have not. For them, BRITMEDBATT provides first-line medical support.

The medics' original mission has been overtaken by events and the commanding officer of 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance, Lt Col Lois Lodge, describes the current mission as "nebulous".

"An awful lot of what we are now doing was perhaps unforeseen," she said. "When we first arrived, there were no major problems in Sarajevo and there were very few United Nations military observers. Now the observers are flooding in and we are doing their first aid training."

"The Force medical officer, Col David Wright, knew there would be gaps and we are filling them."

The battalion is now providing environmental health

**Words:** advice on both general and food hygiene to establish a UNPROFOR standard.  
**Laurie Manton**  
**Pictures:** UNPROFOR standard.  
**Terry Champion**

Maj Vanessa Lloyd Davies and her team of two medics ended up with more than they had bargained for when they were sent to Sarajevo for three weeks to provide medical cover for the UN headquarters in the city.

"When the team arrived, it was responsible for fewer than 200 people. But within a week the airport had been taken over by UN troops and the humanitarian aid operation began."

"Before they knew where they were, they found themselves coordinating medical cover for more than 1,300 personnel."

Three Land Rover 130 ambulances are based at BRITMEDBATT's headquarters in Zagreb. Four each are stationed in East, West and North sectors, with the furthest South sector at Knin having five.

More than 700 UN soldiers, including Russians and Ukrainians, have been treated so far by the RAMC medical section at Pleso camp. Busiest time for the centre was when Sgt Ken Lamb and his section took two ambulances to meet a United Nations casevac flight from Sarajevo.

BBC reporter Martin Bell and four military observers wounded by shell splinters were treated at the British medical centre by Maj Lloyd Davies and a team of medics.

BRITMEDBATT shrugs off negative publicity concerning the UN deployment. Said Col Lodge: "Actually it's great to be able to work with people who were once your enemies. We have an Argentinian battalion in one of the sectors and I haven't yet met one who isn't absolutely charming."



Above - Wounded United Nations military observers are stretchered off a German air force Hercules at Zagreb airport by a British Army medical section

Below - Pte Richard Baggridge, RAMC (left) and Dvr John Paul Collins RCT slide a stretcher into the back of an ambulance on a hillside near Knin in Sector South



"One of the padres told me he found it depressing to see what was happening in the region. He said we couldn't stop them fighting and wondered what good could come of it."

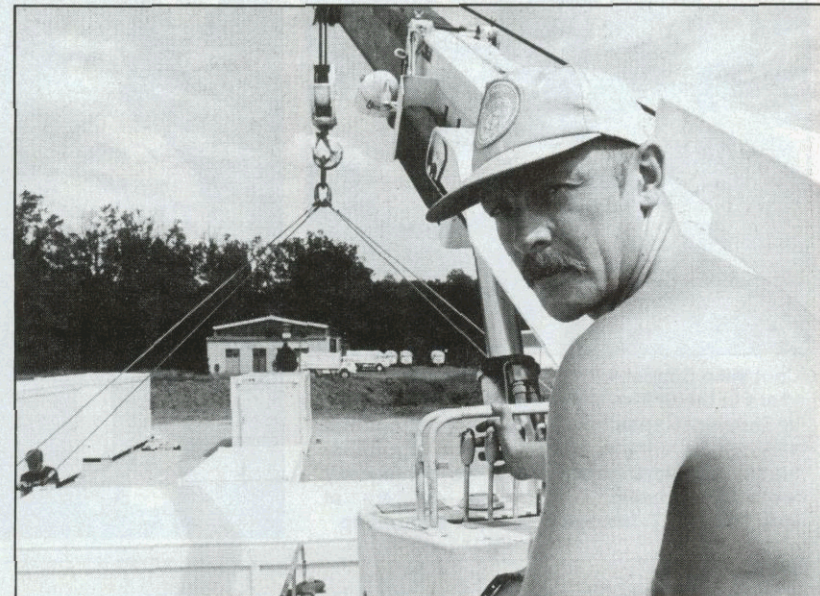
"I said perhaps the good is the UN getting national forces working together, building relationships within its framework, when some of the

participating countries used to be enemies."

Col Lodge admitted that British troops were on a very steep learning curve as far as UN deployments were concerned.

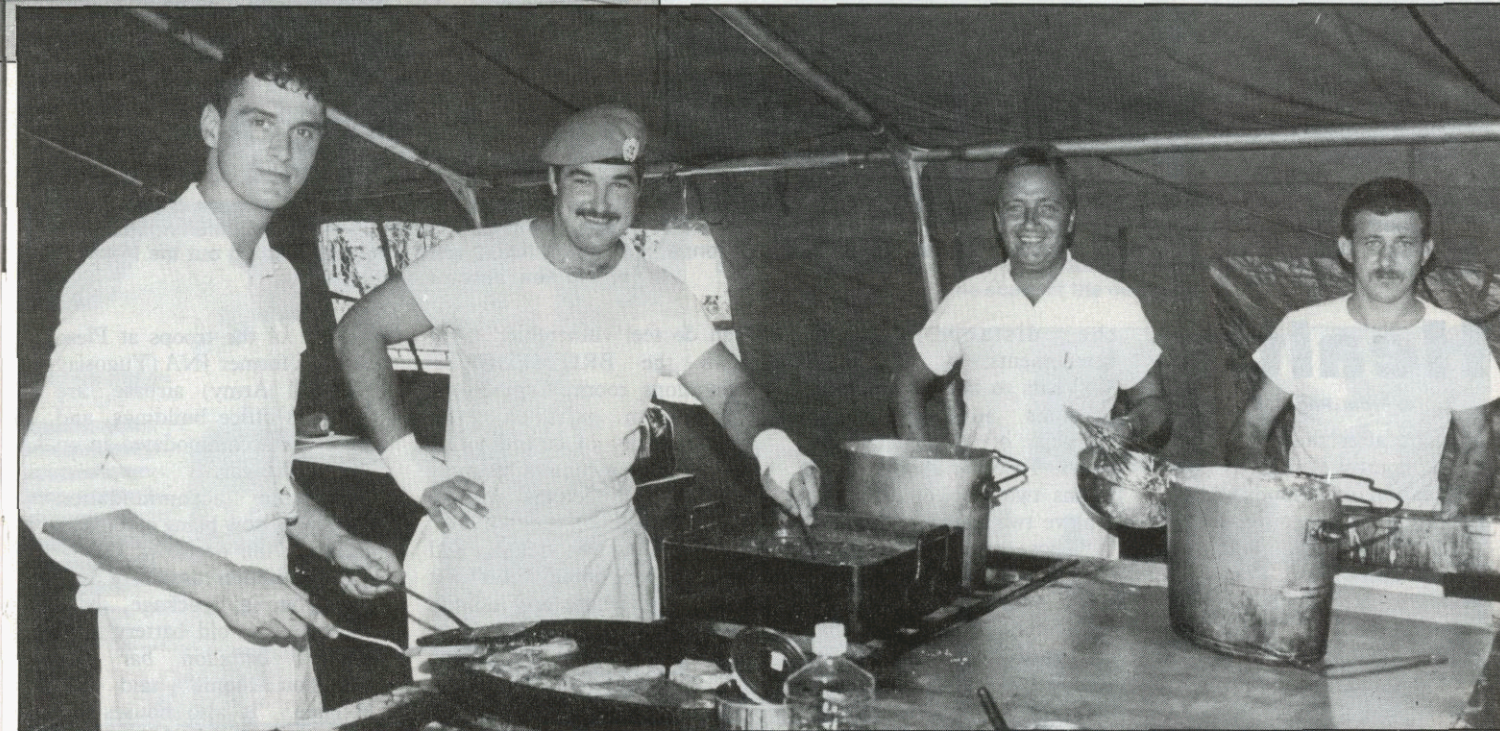
She was previously Chief Medical Officer for the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

"That was an established



Above - LCpl Colin Jones, 3 Field Workshop REME, operates a crane to lift new portable accommodation blocks into position at Pleso camp

Below - After three months operating a field kitchen in support of BRITMEDBATT, these four Army Catering Corps chefs are now operating a joint mess hall with Dutch Army cooks at Pleso. Left to right are: LCpl Les Dodds, Pte Lee Pinner, WO2 (Master Chef) Graham Atkin and Sgt Geordie Goodings



post, but UNPROFOR is more difficult. It is probably the first mission that has been so spread out. The headquarters keep moving around and there are no telephone lines between Serbian and Croatian lines so we can only use satellite phones.

"It is very difficult when compared with the British Army environment where you

know the system, how the organisation works and how to use it. We are effectively writing the operating procedures for whoever comes after us," she said.

Before handing over to 4 Armoured Field Ambulance at the end of the year, the medics will have experienced the extremes of weather.

Having sweltered in

temperatures of more than 90 degrees F, they face heavy snowfalls and sub-zero conditions as winter sets in. Meteorological Office records indicate that troops based in the southern sector around Knin will have the heaviest snowfalls, but not necessarily the lowest temperatures.

"There will be problems," warned Col Lodge. "The

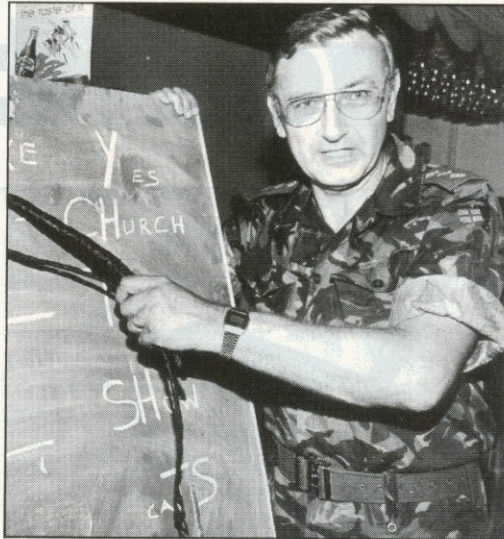
infrastructure has broken down so the roads are not as good as they could be. Once they have frosted over and cracked up, they will be worse."

Man in charge of transporting supplies is the Zagreb MT officer, Capt Paul Bessey, RCT, who has a team of 17 based at Pleso to operate the resupply runs to the sectors

• Turn to next page



# BRITMEDBATT'S RCT SQUADRONS ARE IN THE THICK OF IT



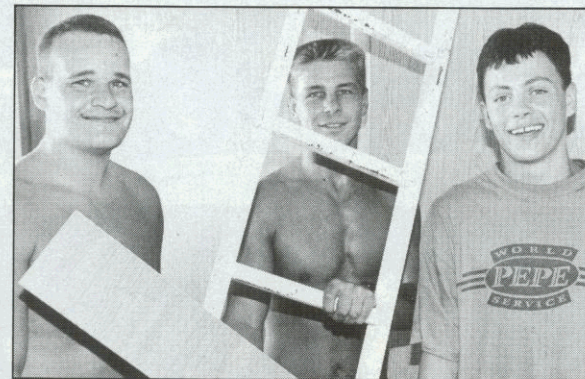
Capt Mike Charlesworth, RAOC served for three years in the British Embassy in Belgrade where he learned to speak colloquial Serbo-Croat. His services have been called upon during cross-border transfers of wounded. He gives daily lessons in basic Croatian to soldiers at BRITMEDBATT headquarters in Pleso camp



Maj Mac McHale, 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance's Quartermaster, on his bike with his staff



Two types of medical transport. The Land Rover 130 airfield crash rescue ambulance (left) has just arrived in theatre and will replace the one-tonne ambulance variant (right)



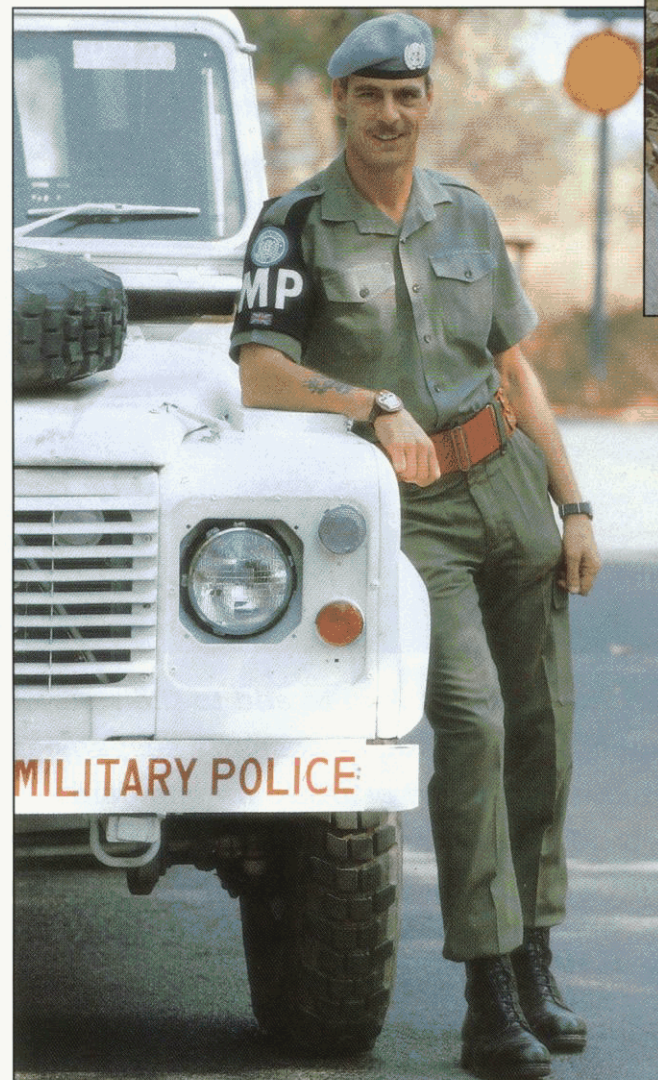
When there is work to be done, everyone chips in. Pte Chris Wragg, RAOC, Cfn Colin Gray, REME and Pte Mark Franklin, RAOC were involved in fitting out the interiors of the new accommodation units



Three signallers earned themselves the dubious distinction of becoming the first British troops to come under fire. And, if that weren't enough, it happened twice in less than 24 hours.

Lt Craig Sutherland, Sgt Keith Hibbins and LCpl Roy Goddard, of Blandford-based 30 Signal Regiment, were in a Land Rover taking supplies to Sector East headquarters in the ruined city of Vukovar when a grenade was thrown in their direction. Men and vehicle survived unscathed.

Said Lt Sutherland: "Next morning, on our return to Zagreb, we were targetted again and a shot hit the back of our vehicle as we drove through no man's land at a crossing point between Serbian-held territory and Croatia"



WO2 Barry Woodman RMP is one of two military policemen supporting BRITMEDBATT in Croatia



MoD press officer Pat Pearson stands in the ruins of a church that was destroyed at Topusko. British troops stationed in the UN protected areas have been shocked by the scale of the destruction



These British soldiers are based at a former JNA barracks in Topusko in support of Sector North headquarters

## Health

● From Page 25

and look after the vehicles.

"My control element is here at Pleso and our responsibilities stretch into the four sectors where we have teams of three Royal Corps of Transport drivers to drive and maintain the ambulances. We also provide a rolling driver for the medical quick-reaction team at Zagreb med centre."

Including logistic support and signals, the British force has more than 100 vehicles and 47 trailers.

Most of the drivers come from 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance, but others are attached from Catterick-based 60 Squadron RCT and 68 Squadron RCT from Rheindahlen.

One of the operational difficulties facing the drivers is

the distance between detachments.

"Visits to two of the sector locations involve one-way journeys of more than five hours. To cover all our sectors means two days of driving to achieve two hours of business.

"Those are long distances for drivers who do the resupply runs twice a week, but fortunately we are able to share driving duties with signallers who have to visit the locations," said Capt Bessey.

Drivers have to show great responsibility when negotiating their way through militia and Serbian checkpoints around the ceasefire line.

"After crossing near Karlovac, you are faced with a lonely 250km drive along roads with little traffic, through Serbian-controlled territory," said Capt Bessey. "You pass lots of armed men. Although there have been no problems so far,

you do feel vulnerable."

In the BRITMEDBATT operations room, Capt Roger McBroom shares the responsibility of co-ordinating the reinforcement and resupply of medical sections in the sectors.

"We know who is where and what they are doing," said Capt McBroom, whose ops room is open 24 hours a day.

The quartermaster, Maj Mac McHale, has established an equipment table for BRITMEDBATT. It is based on 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance's field equipment brought with the unit from its base at Gaza Lines, Catterick.

He has also had to get used to indenting for stores through the United Nations system. Units deploying with the UN are expected to be self-sufficient for the first 60 days of any operation, but now all supplies will be provided by the UN.

Most of the troops at Pleso camp, a former JNA (Yugoslav National Army) airbase, are living in office buildings, and some are accommodated in an aircraft hangar.

Portable accommodation blocks are now being erected to cater for the overflow.

"The sappers, as part of their 'get you in' package, have converted an old battery shop into a battalion bar and television room," said Maj McHale. "It also houses the Forces' post office and a Naafi shop."

"Before the JNA troops handed over to the Croats they trashed the barracks, removed taps, broke wash basins and smeared excrement all over the walls of the buildings. The base required a big clean-up operation to make it habitable."

● Next issue: Log Spt Coy and 30 Sig Regt



# Tax Free Temptation.



There are three Escorts which attract particularly admiring glances: the XR3i, the Cabriolet and the RS2000. Their sleek styling is enhanced with bodyside mouldings, body colour bumpers and alloy wheels.<sup>†</sup> But their beauty is more than skin deep.

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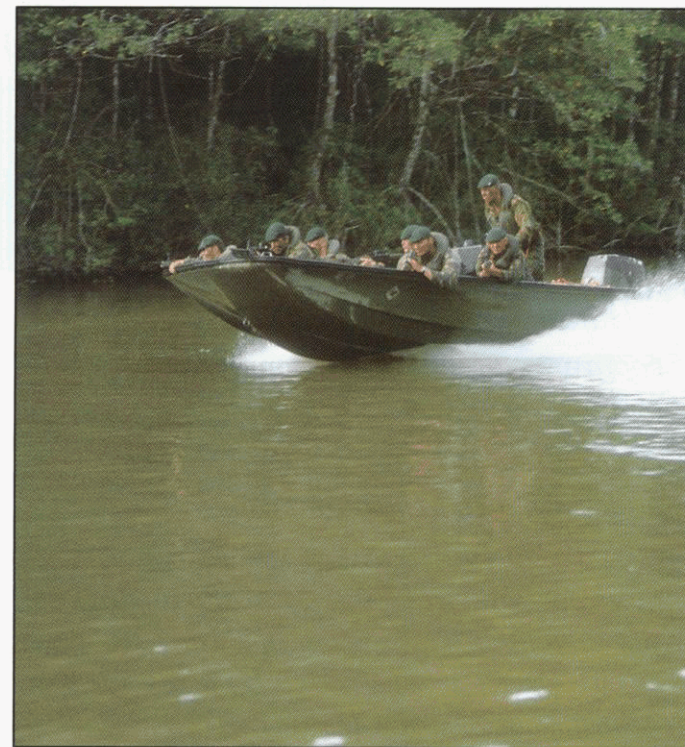




Above – Sometimes progress is easier along rivers

Left – A Scorpion of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers negotiates the jungle

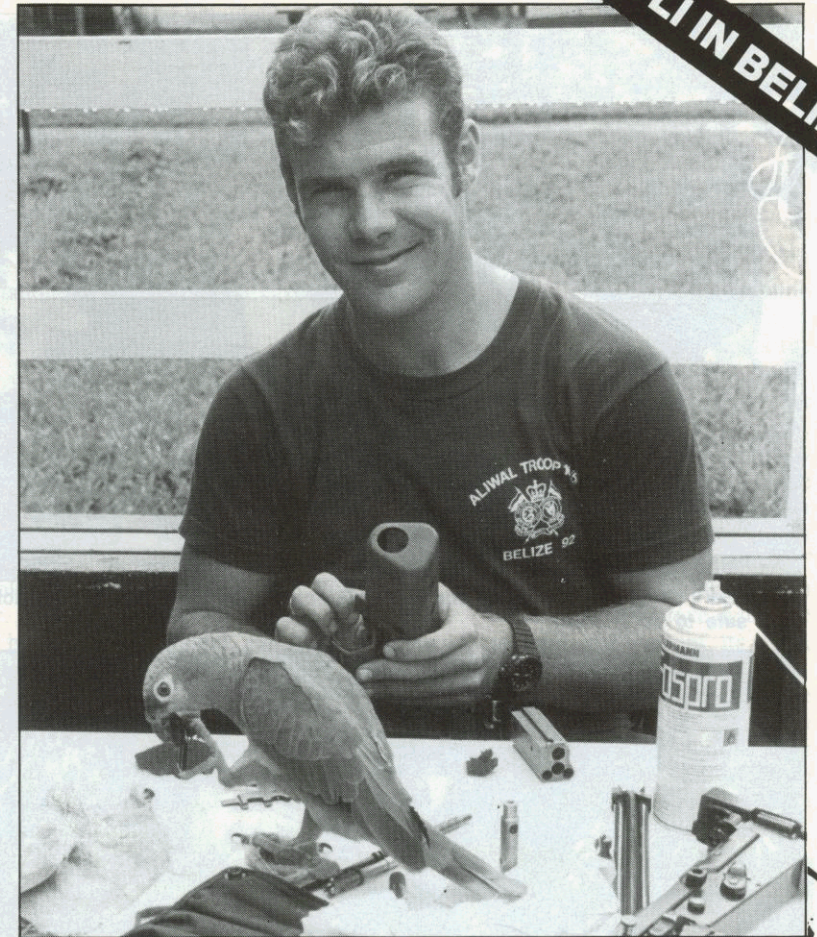
Below – Elements of 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE carry out a river patrol



# IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE!

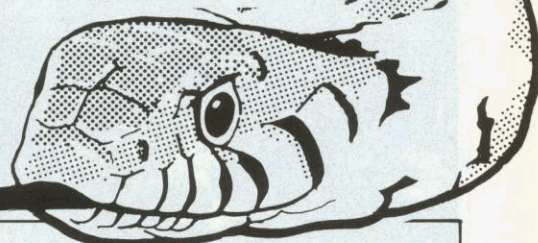


Pte Gary Gibson makes friends with a leaf insect



Roger Parrot helps Tpr Scouse Williams clean his rifle

1 LI IN BELIZE



## Battalion is symbol of UK's commitment

THE FIRST NIGHT in the jungle is the worst. As a soldier tries to sleep the jungle is waking up; predators stalk their prey and unnerving noises shatter the peace.

Newcomers have been fully briefed on the venomous reptiles, poisonous plants and dangerous insects that live there, and his imagination can run riot.

First forays into the jungle are non-tactical, said Lt Martin Smith, an ex-RSM and now 2iC of C Company 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry. Once newcomers had settled in at Salamanca Camp they were sent into the jungle for two nights to gain confidence, learn from mistakes and get used to the noises.

"Sometimes you can't sleep because of the bullfrogs, particularly after a torrential

downpour. By six o'clock the cicada beetles are so loud you've got to shout to be heard, and sometimes the whole sky is alive with fireflies giving a fireworks display," he said.

But after a while they get used to it. "You've got to," said Pte Danny Green.

With experience, soldiers learn to imitate the hunters as they wait motionless and silent to ambush their own targets. They ignore centipedes whose trail will burn like acid if they crawl over the skin. They do not jump as much as before when a bat darts nearby. They are not constantly slapping mosquitoes and resist scratching bites which may become infected.

Before deploying to Belize, 30 men of the Light Infantry attended the Jungle Warfare

THE THREAT has receded on one other border which British soldiers guard – the Belizean frontier with Guatemala.

Since a friendlier government came to power a year ago Guatemala has recognised Belize's independence, but the opposition has begun court action to maintain a claim to the former British colony and the theatre is by no means stable.

Britain's commitment to defend Belize against aggression is confirmed by an infantry roulement battalion, the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, and supporting arms on a six-month resident tour, plus a logistic support battalion. The West Indies guard ship and RAF flights of four Harriers and four Pumas give naval and air cover.

Support includes Scorpions

of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers; 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers; and the fire power of the 105mm light guns of 7 Parachute Battery, Royal Horse Artillery.

As in Northern Ireland, civil authorities provide the tasking for operations. The British presence is in support of the Belize Defence Force (BDF), whose soldiers act as guides and interpreters for every patrol, and have powers of arrest.

The BDF denies a safe haven to Guatemalan guerrillas, but the authorities' main effort is in limiting drugs operations. British forces provide invaluable reconnaissance, search and back-up facilities for the BDF, who during 1 LI's tour seized £20m worth of cocaine in transit through the country.

**Words:**  
Gordon Skilling  
**Pictures:**  
Mike Perring

●Turn to next page



# Why the watchers must remain vigilant



Ptes Gary Gibson, Andy Lucas and Danny Green learn from Isidro Choc which vines are safe to drink from



Pte Neil Rooney treads warily while on jungle patrol

## JUNGLE

● From Page 31

School in Brunei for seven weeks then set up their own school for the battalion in Belize with the help of Mayan Indians, who teach jungle survival.

Some roots, flowers and vegetation can be eaten, as can snakes, if the head and poison sac is removed first.

Liquid is an ever-present consideration. Even when it is not raining, combat suits with their high nylon content are soon wringing with sweat. Soldiers must learn which vines give water to help replace vital fluids. Some are poisonous, others offer water which tastes earthy but is otherwise pure and very refreshing.

"We carry three or four water bottles because we sweat buckets on patrol," said Pte Green. "At least in the

monsoon season you can collect plenty of water in your poncho."

Soldiers soon learn that it is hard work to fight their way through the jungle on a seven-day patrol, weighed down with 80-90lb of ration packs and extra batteries. Patrols are overt and villages often offer a hut for the night. But professional standards are not relaxed and one night is always spent tactically.

One skill constantly exercised is first aid, but there is little a soldier with his limited resources can do for the cholera - and even leprosy - which is present among inhabitants of some of the squalid villages they visit.

But soldiers are invariably generous with their rations.

"We take the pop, biscuits and crisps and give the Mars bars and the rest to kids standing with their hands out," said Pte Dave McKenna, the

CO's northern area driver.

With primary jungle ten minutes away, Salamanca is a platoon commander's dream.

Unlike Salisbury Plain, where visibility is good and control relatively easy, contact drills can become confused when a patrol steps into the jungle. Sound navigation is vital, especially at night.

British soldiers are effective because they learn to operate in the jungle, said 2nd Lt Oscar Selgado, who, like most Belizean officers, attended Sandhurst and Warminster.

BDF officers also attend West Point and American staff courses. Whereas American tactics were geared to conventional warfare, the British adapted better to counter-revolutionary warfare, he said.

One young officer who quickly attuned to the jungle was 2nd Lt Guy Blakeney, an old Etonian who was unsure what to do in his year out

between school and Exeter University until he saw a recruiting poster and decided the Army would do nicely.

He joined The Royal Green Jackets and was with 1 LI in Belize for experience.

"It's hard work but fun," he said. "The first couple of nights in the jungle are a bit of a nightmare and the lads don't think they can hack the temperature and environment.

"You see huge ants all over the place and sprinkle foot powder round your basha to stop bugs coming in, but you've got to grin and bear it when snakes run over your legs.

"In theory a snake won't go for you by day because all its senses are messed up by the heat. At night the cold-blooded animals come out, but you get used to it quickly. It is part of being an infantry soldier. You have to get on with the job."

● More from Belize in next issue.



Above - Watching a Guatemalan army camp on a main supply route is a duty at Cadenas OP

Right - Pte Shane Binney on stag overlooking the Guatemalan border

WHEN THE 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry was last in Belize in 1974 there was no threat from Guatemala. Back again for a second tour, CSgt Andy Trehwella noticed a much greater emphasis on jungle training and patrolling near the border.

Only half the battalion was present in 1974, split between Airport Camp and Holdfast near the western border.

Today, A Company is based at Rideau Camp in the south, providing a static observation post at Cadenas which overlooks a Guatemalan army camp and the main supply route to the Caribbean, watching for a repetition of the troop move-

ments which caused the crisis in 1976.

Vigilance is maintained, though official contact is more relaxed and the 1 LI Intelligence Officer has even visited the Guatemalan camp.

An OP from A Company is also manned on Hunting Cay to monitor shipping.

Rideau houses battalion headquarters and administers Salamanca Camp, a former logging site two hours away to the east where an energetic fun day on July 23 marked the battle honour earned at Salamanca in 1812.

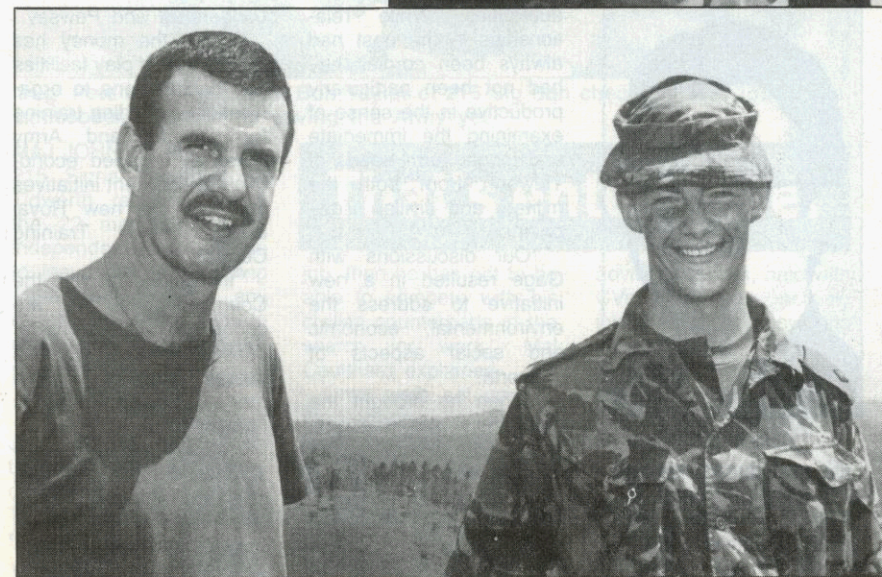
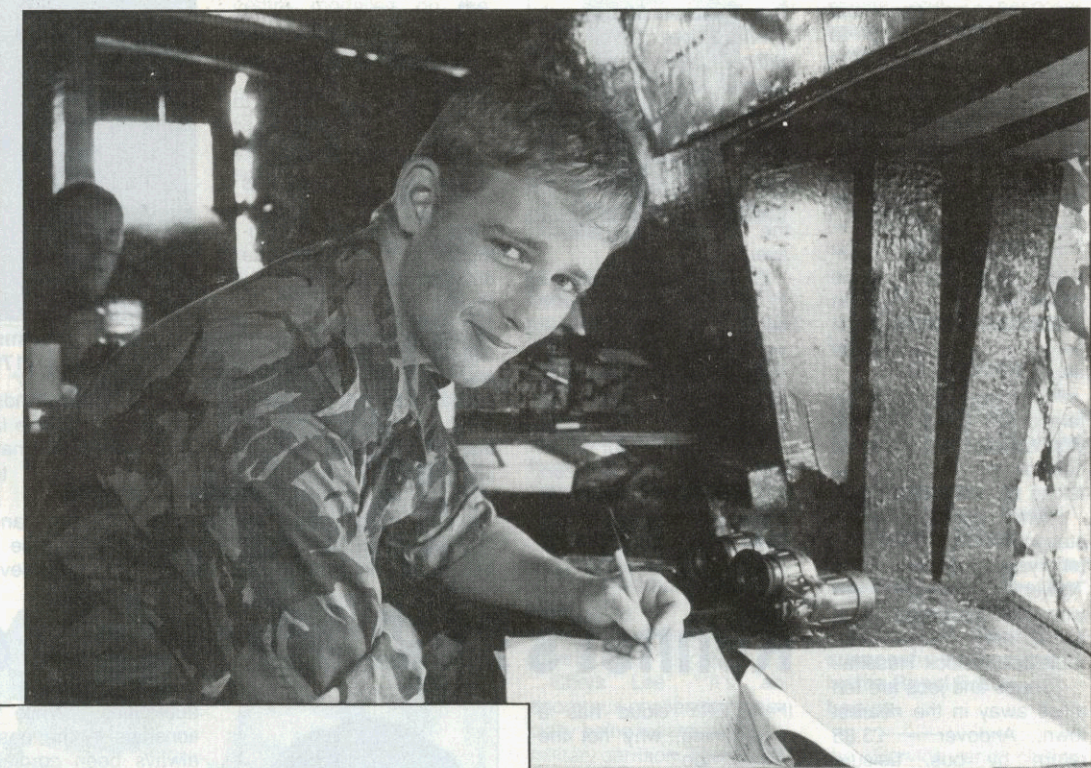
C Company manned Salamanca for the first half of the tour, and changed places with

B Company at Airport Camp for the second half.

Support Company holds the fort at Holdfast, ready to defend the main east-west route from Guatemala to Belize City.

A well known face was ready to welcome them to the Bel-Brit, a pub run in the nearby town of San Ignacio by former 1st Battalion MT sergeant Wally Wollacott. In 1974 he fell in love with the country and one of its girls, whom he married.

He transferred to 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles for his last six months earlier this year and has set up his dream pub... next door to his mother-in-law!



CSgt Andy Trehwella (left) and 2nd Lt Guy Blakeney



Former 1 LI Sgt Wally Wollacott and his wife, Doris May, run the Bel-Brit pub in San Ignacio





# WILTSHIRE OUTPOST BUILDS A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR ITS SERVICE INHABITANTS

## Tidworth goes to town on a brighter future

WITHIN the next five years Tidworth, with its huge Army population, will become the largest town in the Kennet district – but for years its facilities have not kept up with its growth.

Its current population of 12,500, of whom 10,000 are Service personnel and their families, will grow to more than 14,000 by 1997.

Brig Gage Williams, Commander 1 Infantry Brigade, called his presentation to the Adjutant-General's Conference in London earlier this year, "A Town Like Tidworth".

It highlighted the problems facing a garrison which for various reasons had suffered from what can only be called social deprivation.

At the brigade headquarters in Jellalabad Barracks Brig Williams told me of his considerable worries on taking up the appointment.

"When I arrived the fire station had been closed for ten years. There is no Tidworth ambulance service, so we have had babies born in lay-bys en route to Odstock Hospital.

"Shops and jobs are ten miles away in the nearest town, Andover – £3.85 return by bus. Leisure activities and community facilities were spasmodic and inadequate to cope.

"With the increasing population we needed to address the whole situation of Tidworth redevelopment.

"There is no infrastructure to cope with a future town of this size, especially when some of the Army personnel are away for as many as 270 nights a year.

"Eighty-five per cent of the population are under 35, 59 per cent of children are four or younger."

Brig Williams's first move was a market research survey of the garrison which showed that over the

years up to 84 per cent of Tidworth's married quarters were either grade 3 or 4 with 70 per cent having no upstairs heating – the only garrison with MQs in such a state.

The percentage of Tidworth's grade 3 and 4 MQs is now down to 66 per cent.

With 37 per cent of wives without jobs and most unable to claim benefit, those with work were earning less than a third of the £10,000 national average. Only 51 per cent could find part-time work, against the 73 per cent national average.

Civilians carrying out a 12-month research into the education, health, support and welfare agencies needed for Tidworth's redevelopment unearthed stark facts and figures.

Zouch School, for example, had a 100 per cent turnover of pupils from September 1991 to July 1992. One child stayed just four days and some with

special educational needs attracted no funding.

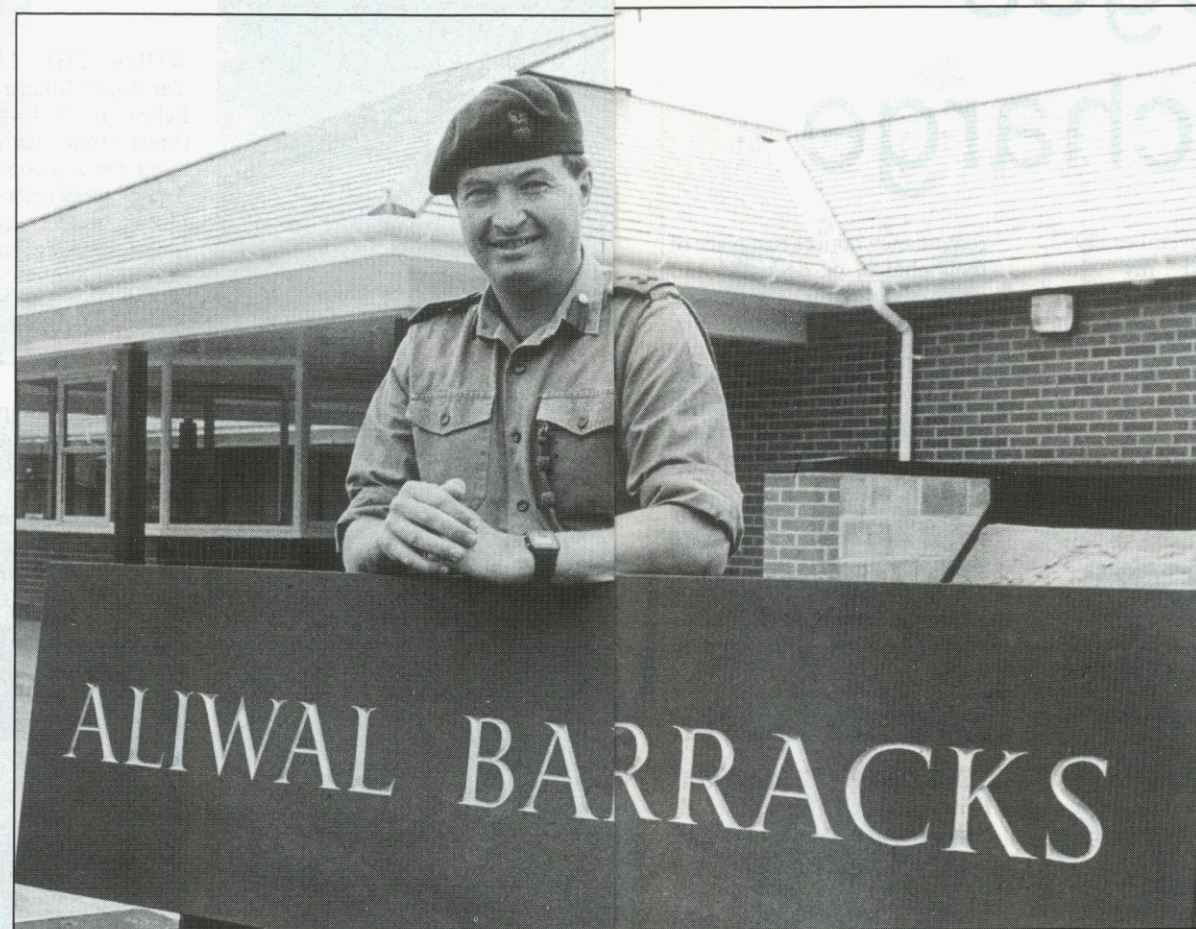
There was an obvious need for better crèches, playgroups and school facilities and a scheme to help young mothers with husbands away and with no close extended family.

The study report recommended ten essentially-funded posts and a number of community projects.

In just 20 months Brig Williams – who moves on to become Director Resettlement later this year – has made enormous strides to start establishing a community in the picturesque but isolated Wiltshire countryside.

Projects undertaken in conjunction with Kennet and Wiltshire councils include playpark refurbishment and the conversion of the closed Globe cinema into a community centre.

Extra funds have been found for child care, a job shop and a citizens' advice bureau. Wiltshire Fire Ser-



Brig Gage Williams at Tidworth's new Aliwal Barracks, home of 17th/21st Lancers

vice has bid for funds for a fire station, but the lack of ambulance and maternity facilities is still to be overcome.

Brig Williams and his caring team realise that if they do not achieve the

social conditions they are aiming for, the Army will lose trained Servicemen.

It is an enormous task – but if it succeeds, Tidworth could be challenging to take over the title of "Home of the British Army".

## Kennet's £150,000 vote of confidence

IF EVERY cloud has a silver lining, why not the poll tax too?

Everyone, single and married, pays the community charge – so should not funding for Tidworth amenities such as street lighting and playparks come from the local authorities rather than the Defence budget?

This was the thinking when Brig Gage Williams sought the co-operation of Kennet District and Wiltshire County Councils.

"It was our fault, we just had not asked," said Brig Williams. "It struck me we were not only guilty of taking a negative attitude but also of missing a wonderful opportunity."

In the words of Phillip Owens, Kennet Council



Phillip Owens

chief executive: "The arrival at Tidworth of Brig Gage Williams heralded a new and very welcome change in relationships between the Army and the civilian

authorities. While relationships in the past had always been cordial they had not been particularly productive in the sense of examining the immediate and longer term needs of Tidworth from both the military and civilian viewpoint.

"Our discussions with Gage resulted in a new initiative to address the environmental, economic and social aspects of Tidworth.

"When he brought the problems to our attention it was fortuitous because the council was reviewing its four-year district strategy."

An immediate result was to set aside £150,000 to help fund immediate improvements to Tidworth,

Ludgershall and Pewsey.

So far the money has been used for play facilities and contributions to organisations providing training for civilians and Army wives and helped economic development initiatives such as the new Royal British Legion Training Centre.

"In conjunction with the County Council we are contributing to the cost of consultants to produce an overall blueprint of the future of Tidworth," said Mr Owens.

Despite limited resources, if the momentum could be maintained there was very chance of a "significantly improved environment" for everyone living there, he said.

## Legion centre fills the gap

A MAJOR gap in the help Tidworth Garrison could offer its Service personnel was a training centre for those about to step into the cold world of job-hunting.

But Brig Gage Williams approached Royal British Legion chief executive of training David Travers, late RGJ, and found the answer.

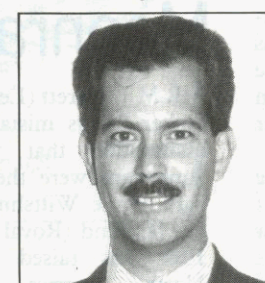
Now soldiers at Tidworth can take advantage of the RBL Training Services centre modelled on the Legion's impressive facility at Ellesmere Port.

The project is the result of close co-operation between the Services, local authorities and civilian agencies, and was supported by Wiltshire TEC.

"Once the first phase is up and running – it is due to open on September 28 – we will be looking at a



Chrys Lee



Brian Oxley

second phase, which will include an extension to the centre," said David Travers.

The centre is housed in a converted barrack block which was gutted to make way for lecture rooms, a large crèche, and space for hands-on experience in some skills.

Responsibility for this innovative project now rests in the hands of RBL's Brian Oxley and Chrys Lee, their national training and development officer.

Chrys Lee: "It's an enormous challenge, especially being located within a military garrison. The needs and requirements have to be tailored to meet the demands of serving and former personnel and their spouses and dependants."

"All courses will be available to local wives and dependent students."

"To start with our aim is to offer a range of ten-week modular information technology courses and industrial work experience attachments. Our RBL recruitment team will be on hand, and for those who want in-Service courses and distance learning packages, open learning access points will be available during the day and on selected evenings."

The training centre will also assist soldiers who want to study while away on posting, and those relocating within the UK.

"We realise that flexibility is very important in our studies and career counselling," said Brian Oxley.

An important aspect of the service offered is personal profiling and accreditation of skills.

About 37 per cent of Tidworth's wives are unemployed, and 73 per cent want to work. Some already possess information technology and office skills, and more wish to acquire this experience.

Brig Williams has a vision of Service wives working from home in a form of tele-cottage industry. It is an idea not new to British Telecom and Mercury, and pilot schemes have already taken place in Scotland.

"It would make a lot of sense to have a tele-cottage centre here," he said. "It would help both

● A European Commission grant of £1,375,000 – half the design-build costs – is to be made in support of the new training centre at Tidworth following a successful application by the Royal British Legion.

the Service and civilian communities, and enable wives to use their portable skills worldwide."

After reading in SOLDIER about RBL's training work, Bryan Mills of MOTEC – which is involved in providing courses in the transport industry in Telford and Edinburgh – contacted Brian and Chrys. Discussions are now taking place to establish what MOTEC can offer.

For details of all courses write or telephone RBL Training Services, 1st Infantry Brigade HQ, Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, Wilts SP9 7AB (tel: 0980 841642; fax: 0980 841308).



SSgt Pete Street and RSM Bob Taylor of 215 Sig Sqn check the unit Job Club's noticeboard. Neither is leaving the Army yet

MAJ JOHN Coulthard, OC 215 Signal Squadron at Tidworth, reckoned that if the 22 members of his independent command due to leave the Army during 1992 were to have any chance of finding a job in civvy street, he had better do something about it.

So he did. The squadron's very own Job Club was created on the day the first redundancies were announced. Twelve of his men were on the list.

"If I am to give each one the best chance to find a

## That's enterprise!

job, then he has got to be able to compete with his civilian counterparts in the search for work," Maj Coulthard explained.

Links were set up with the Department of Employment Job Centre in Salisbury, and ex-Royal Signals Ray Burgess donated £2,500 worth of computer systems and software from his company, ADACS.

It was soon dispensing

advice, booklets, help with CVs and letters, actively job hunting and answering advertisements. The club also provides clerical support, a telephone answering service, laser printer and fax facilities.

The majority of those 22 have now left the unit – and all have found jobs.

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well at Tidworth.



## Backbadge celebrates historic about-turn

FURTHER to RSM Dineen's letter regarding backbadges (August 10), the White Horse of Hannover was worn by other ranks at the back of the bearskin cap by the Royal Scots Greys.

It was not worn by officers because it commemorates an action in the 18th century in which a sudden order, "Sections about - charge", was carried out so quickly that the officers had no time to regain their positions and lead their troops.

The 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment (28th) had the size of their backbadge increased when this feat was repeated at Festubert in 1915.

The 2nd Battalion (61st) also earned the privilege of the backbadge for their gallant back-to-back stand at Chillianwallah in 1849.

Incidentally I still have the 1945 Christmas number of SOLDIER, bought while on Brussels leave, price two francs. I believe there were 200 to the pound then! - **G Ewens, Morden, Surrey.**

## No 'privileges' on my discharge

IT HAS been stated that voluntary redundees under Options for Change are receiving no preferential treatment over those being discharged after 22 (or more) years' service. My case proves otherwise.

My Army service ceases in January 1993 after 22 years, although I will depart from my

unit in mid-November 1992, having received my exact entitlement of termination leave, resettlement course and outstanding privilege leave.

The request for my last six months to be served at a post near where I reside was refused. The redundees within my unit are either posted within weeks of receiving their

redundancy notices to a place of their choice, or de-kitted and given six months' "gardening leave" in which to find a job.

I requested to depart two weeks earlier than I was entitled to and was refused, even though my replacement is at present serving within the unit.

So please let us hear no more that all is equal across the board when it most certainly is not. - **SSgt B D Evans, 22 Engineer Regiment, Swinton Barracks, Perham Down, Andover.**

## Moonrakers' American connection

MR M J Everett (Letters, September 21) is mistaken in his assumption that the Royal Americans were the predecessors of the Wiltshires.

The 62nd (Royal American) Foot was raised in British North America in 1755, re-numbered 60th in 1757, and became The King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1881.

Recruited originally from Americans, Germans and Swiss, the 60th, which combined the function of a colonial corps with that of a foreign legion, became the repository of all the foreign flotsam in British service and it was not until 1824 that this element was eliminated.

The 2nd Bn, 4th Foot was raised in the West of England in 1756, re-numbered 62nd in 1758, and became The Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) in 1881.

The Moonrakers were in every way the archetypal English county line regiment whose only connection with the Royal Americans was to inherit their original number of 62nd.

There can have been no greater contrast than that between the raffish green-jacketed (from 1798) 60th and the stolid red-coated 62nd. - **R A Hamilton, Southport.**

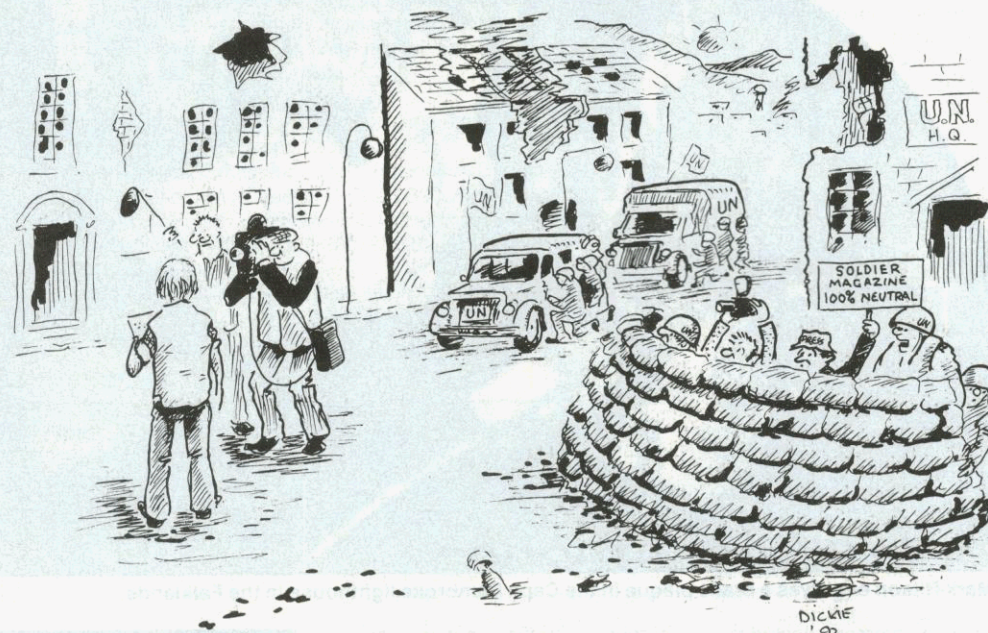
## Berlin born

YOUR story "German joins British Army" (September 7) reminds me that when I served in Berlin 1959-1963 there was a corporal in my REME unit, Berlin Workshops, who was born and bred in the city and had served in the German Army.

His name might have been Manton but I cannot remember for sure. Perhaps someone can confirm. And was he the first?

Best wishes to all ex-members. - **Alexander (Jock) Allan (ex-SSgt), Edinburgh.**

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"We always dive for cover when Kate Adie appears... both sides open up!"

BRITMEDBATT in Croatia - Pages 24-27

## Watches tell their own tale

IT WAS interesting to read Mr W Parish's letter (August 10) about the watch he had acquired with Eighth Army battles scratched in the back of the case - a time capsule indeed!

We have in the War Room several watches, both GSTP and WW, a few with similar scratchings, and of course they all provoke speculation on their history.

It is difficult to research the subject of G 1098 stores: watches, compasses and optical instruments. It would be a good idea if owners of ex-government items of this sort could pool information.

We are therefore forming a "G 1098 Group" so that, through newsletters, information can be exchanged and an archive established.

Would readers who like the idea please contact me. - **Brian Jewell, War Room, Collection and Sound Archive, Broadwater House, 30 Park Parade, Harrogate HG1 5AG (tel: 0423 500704).**

## Korea move that wasn't

YOU reported (SOLDIER to Soldier, September 7) that 12 Field (Nova Scotia) Squadron RE and 65 Corps Support Squadron RE, who have become part of the revamped 28 Engineer Regiment at Hameln, were returning to the regiment after an absence of 35 years.

Contrary to the article, 65 Corps Support Squadron or its predecessors never served in Korea or Christmas Island.

According to the squadron histories lodged in the corps' library, until 12 Fd Sqn moved to Hameln recently they had never even served together under the same regimental command.

It was 64 Fd Pk Sqn, formed in Benghazi in 1951 largely from volunteers in 22 Engr Regt, that moved as part of the newly-formed 28 Engr Regt in June 1951 and stayed together with 12 Fd Sqn until the regiment and 64 Fd Pk disbanded in 1957. 28 Engr Regt re-formed in 1971 at

Hameln as an amphibious engineer regiment with 64 as one of its squadrons, as it still is.

After a period in limbo, 65 Engr Pk Sqn re-formed in 1953 in BAOR and has remained there ever since. It just missed meeting up with 12 Fd Sqn in Osnabrück, when it moved from there to Hameln a month before the Fd Sqn moved to BAOR. - **Lt Col (Retd) R G Macmillan, Headquarters, Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham.**

## This doesn't figure...

I MUST take issue with the stated number of 3,000 National Servicemen (September 21) having served with 1 KOSB during the Korean War.

If the figure is correct, given that the percentage of NS conscripts in the battalion in Korea, April 1951 to August 1952, varied between 60 and 65 per cent, it would equate to at least five complete rotations

## Paras' double value

UNDER the heading "Paras' role questioned" (Letters, September 7) Sgt Robert Cameron noted that ten per cent of 400 men of 2 Para were out of action after the drop during Exercise Pegasus Fury.

Perhaps, never having served with a Para battalion, he does not realise that even with ten per cent out one Para battalion is worth at least two infantry battalions.

Maybe that is why some famous regiments are fighting to keep their identity.

If all infantry and guards units were to pass "P" Company then perhaps it would alter the balance of things.

Time will tell whether the Paras will ever drop in on active service again. Perhaps the sergeant will still be serving when it happens. - **Peter Keating (ex-4 Para), Denton, Manchester.**

## Rare badge?

AS A specialist collector of RAMC militaria and an ex-medic, I find that practically all Medical Corps badges are very hard to find. I have raised the point with dealers without receiving a satisfactory answer.

Remembering that medics accompany all military actions, why is there such a shortage of insignia and badges? - **R G Hazell, Sydenham, London.**

One explanation is that the badges and insignia of "front-line" units such as infantry or armoured regiments are considered more collectable. - **Editor**

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**HYUNDAI**



## Falklands lighthouse refurbished

A VICTORIAN lighthouse, the first steel-framed, kit-form structure to be built in the Falkland Islands, has been refurbished by 51 and 50 Field Squadrons, Royal Engineers.

The Cape Pembroke lighthouse guided South Atlantic shipping from 1854 until damaged by the Argentinians in the 1982 Falklands Conflict.

This year, the islands celebrate four significant anniversaries – the Falklands Conflict (10th); Falkland Islands Defence Force (100th); Stanley Cathedral (100th) and first sighting by a British ship (400th) – and the sappers decided to refurbish the lighthouse as the Mount Pleasant garrison's main contribution to the islanders' Heritage Year 1992.

This involved painting the structure inside and out, repairing and replacing safety handrails and removing the oil lamp unit for display within the structure.

To put the finishing touch to the project, two brass plaques were engraved by Cpl Mark Ritson of 50 Field Squadron commemorating the restoration work.

One plaque is semi-circular and depicts compass bearings and distances to Montevideo, the United Kingdom, Ascension Islands, St Helena, Nelson Straits, South Georgia, South Orkneys and the Antarctic Peninsula.

The other is a representative vista, viewed from the lighthouse towards the north-west, and marking all prominent landmarks in the Falkland Islands from Volunteer Point to Sapper Hill.

They were unveiled by Falklands Governor, Mr David



Cpl Mark Ritson engraves a brass plaque in the Cape Pembroke lighthouse in the Falklands.

Tatham, in a ceremony hosted by Mike McAlpine, OC 50 Field Squadron.

## Driving home a message of safety

ROAD SAFETY lessons for Service children in Germany should be a lot of fun when the Grolsch Breweries trailer calls at their schools.

They can drive a number of 12v battery-powered kit cars specially designed to introduce road awareness in children at an early age. The pint-sized cars have an accelerator pedal and a forward and reverse gear, and come complete with road traffic signs,

barriers, traffic cones and line-marking machine.

Unit road safety officers who want to use the cars for road safety events at schools, fetes and open days in BAOR can get more information from the Master Driver, HQ 4 Armd Div on Herford Mil 2582 or 2522.

## Ranked with the best

WITH A little help from SOLDIER and the Royal Artillery Regimental Museum, the Rank Organisation in America has been delving into the 58-year history of its famous gongman trademark.

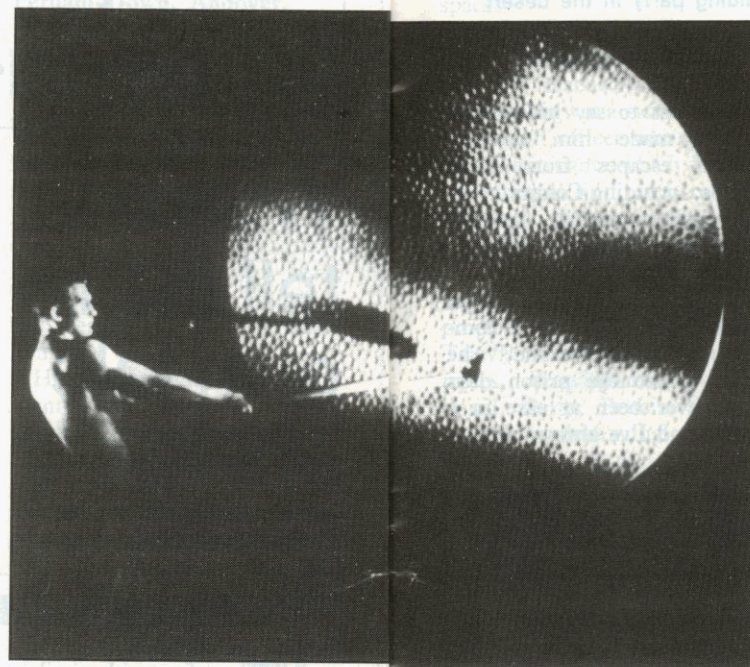
In 1934 British cinema magnate J Arthur Rank called in boxing hero Billy "Bomber" Wells to strike the gong in the original 14-second opener to his films.

Billy, by then in his mid-forties, was an ex-bombardier who had gone on to hold the British heavyweight title for eight years, longer than any man until the advent of Henry Cooper.

This year Brian Hartley, an executive with one of Rank America's subsidiaries in California, started researching the history of the gongman, but drew a blank on the story of Wells's Army career.

A British expatriate who had served in the Territorial Army, Hartley turned to SOLDIER – and with the help of our own archives and those of the RA Museum, we were able to fill in a few details.

Born in London in 1889, Wells joined the Army and in 1908 was sent to India where he served with No 1 Mountain Battery, Royal



Bdr Billy "Bomber" Wells strikes the gong for J Arthur Rank

Garrison Artillery – forerunner of 2 Heavy Battery RA – in Punjab. Later he was posted to No 6 Mountain Battery at Quetta, later 57 Bhurtpore Locating Battery.

After becoming All-India Boxing Champion he was bought out of the Army by the man who became his professional manager. He won the British Heavyweight Championship on April 24, 1911 when he knocked out Iron Hague at the National Sporting Club.

Bomber Wells held the title until he was knocked out by Joe Beckett on February 27, 1919, having successfully defended his title 13 times.

He was the first British heavyweight to win outright a Lonsdale Belt, which was acquired from his family and presented to the Royal Artillery in 1971.

## DIARY

**Until October 18:** Falklands War exhibition at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

**Until November 29:** Assignment Falklands exhibition depicting the role of the sappers during the war, Royal Engineers Museum, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.

### OCTOBER

**4:** Aldershot Militaria Society exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey (details from 0252 716303).

**9-11:** Independent Education '92, Business Design Centre, Islington. Information pack from 071-782 6390. See Pages 32-33.

**31-November 1:** Fourth Birmingham International Tattoo, National Indoor Arena (ticket hotline: 021-200 2222).

### JANUARY 1993

**30:** Victorian Military Society "British India" fair, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2 (1030 to 1630). Details from Dan Allen, tel: 0635 48628.

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

### ● 27 Field Regiment RA:

Former members who wish to attend disbandment parade at Munster Orthe (Munsterlager) on November 28 should contact WO2 Spense, HQ Bty, 27 Fd Regt RA, BFPO 20 (Dortmund Mil ext 3360).

## SEARCHLINE

● Anyone who remembers the late LSgt **Bernard Joseph Hendy**, RE, who served with 1st Army in North Africa, Italy and later Greece during the Second World War, is asked to contact his son, Mr B Hendy, 1 Murton Barn, Graveney, Faversham, Kent ME13 9DU.

● **RA reunion:** With a view to a reunion, Mr John Squires of 26 Widley Court, Fort Fareham Road, Fareham, Hants PO14 1BZ (tel: 0329 289957) wishes to contact Mick and Jill Coulson, Gerry and Elaine Causer and Mick and Ann Tavener – with whom he lost contact on demob in 1968 – or any members of 10 Assy Bty, 50 Msl Regt or 36 Hy Air Regt RA.

## MILITARIA

● Maj (Retd) G W S Brodsky, Elysium, 8598 Moxon Terrace, Sidney, BC, V8L 1K6, Canada, wishes to obtain a copy of the 18th Hussars Regimental History by Col Barnett. Any condition.

● Ian Hayes, 1a King John's Road, North Warnborough, Basingstoke, Hants RG25 1EE, seeks the loan of photographs for a book on the history of Aldershot Garrison and neighbouring camps.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Brigadier** – P P Rawlins – To be DA/MA Bonn, Sept 10.

**Colonels** – J N Barclay – To be CO Army Legal Aid BAOR, Sept 7; R D Kinsella-Bevan – To MoD, Sept 7; M A Orwin – To MoD, Sept 7; T B Thomas – To SHAPE Staff (BAE), Sept 10; J R B Cook – To be CO 8 Sig Regt, Sept 7; C W Haskell – To be Comdt AA Coll Chepstow, Sept 7; M C Dorward – To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, Sept 7.

**Lt Cols** – J C Campbell, REME – To MoD, Sept 7; J A Forrest, RCT – To be Comd Tpt & Mov HQ Wales & WDist, Sept 7; P J J

Kington, R Signals – To NACISA, Sept 7; P Lawless, AAC – To be CO 9 Regt AAC, Sept 11; C J Nisbet, RA – To SHAPE Staff (BAE), Sept 7; R A F Pearson, 17/21 L – To be DA Sofia, Sept 7; T N Tyler, REME – To be Comd Maint – 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Reg, Sept 7.

### Retirements

**Brigadiers** – C T Garton, late R Signals, Sept 8; A A Hedley, late 16/5 L, Sept 12.

**Colonels** – Sir Brian Barttelot Bt, late Coldm Gds, Sept 12; J F Johnson, late RE, Sept 12.

## REUNIONS

● **4th Bn, The Northamptonshire Regiment (1939-46):** The 46th annual reunion dinner will be held at Higham Ferrers Working Men's Club, High Ferrers, Northants, on October 2. Tickets (£6) from Maj V Harding, Old Barn Cottage, Oasby, Grantham, Lincs NG32 3NA (tel: 05295 345).

● **Queen's Lancashire Regiment:** October 2-4, Warrington October Revolution weekend, culminating in annual service of commemoration and thanksgiving, march past and receptions. Details from RHQ QLR (tel: 0925 33563 am Tue-Fri; 0772 651345 Mon-Fri 0800-1630).

● **Port Clearance Society:** Second annual meeting and dinner on October 9 at Hezebrook Officers' Mess following seminar on FMA tasks and achievements in out-of-area operations. Details from Lt Col A M Campbell REME, Chief Instructor, School of Equipment Support (Army), Arborfield, Reading RG2 9NN (tel: 0734 763485 or Arborfield Mil 2485).

● **Air Despatchers:** Eighth reunion at Air Mounting Centre, 29 Tpt and Mov Regt RCT on October 17. Past and serving air despatchers wishing to attend should contact WO2 B Lawson, RCT, 47 AD Sqn RCT, RAF Lyneham, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 4PZ.

● **ACC Old Comrades Day:** October 21, starting 1115 with service of dedication at Royal Garrison Church of All Saints, Aldershot, followed by lunch at St Omer, visit to School of Catering, Apprentice College open day display, and reunion tea. Details from Corps Secretary on 0252 348119/348120.

● **No 2 T Force Unit (5 Kings and att):** Annual general meeting October 31. Details from Hon Treasurer, Reg Walker, 15 Wedgwood Road, Barlaston Park, Stoke on Trent ST12 9BB (tel: 0782 373320).

● **3rd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, 4 Coy 1950-55:** Reunion dinner in Birmingham on October 31. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Anlaby Park Road North, Hull HU4 7QE (tel: 0482 503649).

● **Scottish Horsemen:** 79th and 80th (Med) Regiments (The Scottish Horse) RA and pre-1939 and post-1946 Scottish Horsemen will hold a reunion at Dunkeld in early November. Details from Secretary, Scottish Horse Club, 19 Crown Terrace, Aberdeen AB1 2HD.

● **QOH Regimental Association weekend:** Midlands reunion dinner, Birmingham, November 7; lunch November 8. Details from Regimental Secretary, HHQ QOH, 28 Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW (tel: 0926 492035).

1993

● **Windsor School, Hamm, Germany:** Reunion for pupils/teachers planned 1993. Contact Bob Jordan, Greenacre, Shepherds Lane, Compton Down, Winchester, Hants SO21 2AB, for details and newsletter.

● **144 Field Ambulance RAMC (V):** Disbandment/reunion at 11 Wenlock Street, London N1 7NT on March 6-7. Ex-members of 44 and 144 Fd Ambs wishing to attend should send sae for details to Capt (QM) J P Hamill, 144 Field Ambulance RAMC (V), 11 Wenlock Street, London N1 7NT or telephone 071-253 1101.

● **RAOC footballers past and present:** RAOCFA will play its last fixture under the corps flag on March 31 and to mark the occasion a reunion dinner will be held at CAD Kineton in March. Details from Maj Richard Attard (Bicester Mil 3049) or Maj Ray Goff (Kineton Mil 3492).

## El Alamein tickets available

SOME tickets are left for the 8th Army Veterans' Association's El Alamein 50th anniversary service in Westminster Abbey on October 14.

All Second World War veterans and their families are invited to apply, and tickets will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

The Queen will be attending the service, which is one of two major events marking the El Alamein anniversary, chosen by the British Army as its main commemoration of the Second World War.

Applications for tickets should be sent, with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to The El Alamein Ticket Office, Room 705A, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR. They should reach the ticket office by October 1.

A second service, at El Alamein on October 25, is to be attended by the Prime Minister.

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# It's a funny old world...

# Stirling: Boy legend, knight and eccentric

IN HIS foreword to Alan Hoe's biography of David Stirling, Gen Sir Peter de la Billière describes him as "a legend in his time and eccentric in his day".

He was undoubtedly an eccentric as he certainly deviated from the conventional norm, but had he not been, the Special Air Service would probably never have been formed.

He was only a second lieutenant in The Scots Guards attached to 8 Commando in the Middle East when he approached the C-in-C, Gen Sir Claude Auchinleck, personally about his ideas for a strike force behind enemy lines in the Western Desert.

There was already a deep reconnaissance force in the form of the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG), but this was not an attacking force.

Against all odds, particularly the staff in GHQ, he formed a



Sir David Stirling

group of 65 volunteers, trained them by trial and error to parachute from an elderly Bombay transport aircraft and took them into battle in a howling gale against all advice but with the support of his men. Only 27 survived and

these were evacuated by the LRDG without having caused any damage to the enemy.

Despite this disastrous start he persisted, with the help of the LRDG and Auchinleck, to raid enemy airfields and communications with amazing success.

Gen Sir Bernard Montgomery said of him: "The Boy Stirling is mad. However, in war there is often a place for mad people. Who but the Boy Stirling could think up such a plan?"

It is interesting to note that Stirling is not shown as contributing to the only semi-official History of the SAS by John Strawn, so one must assume the first 225 pages of this biography give for the first time his own account of the formations and actions of L Detachment SAS Brigade (later to become 1 SAS) up to the time of his capture. This is stirring stuff which makes a fascinating story and this book



David Stirling (right) with a raiding party in the desert

is recommended for this aspect alone.

Needless to say his restless nature made him attempt several escapes from PoW camps, including Colditz, none of which succeeded, but his incarceration had a profound affect on him.

"I experienced a great loneliness despite one's companions in misfortune," he said. "Since the prison days I've never been at ease in a crowd and I've always been at

my happiest in wide open spaces."

After the war he tried his hand at many projects but they failed or reached only partial success. He was a visionary and not a staff officer who needed good lieutenants which he did not always find and readily admitted: "I am not a very good businessman."

Readers may well find the last 270 pages tedious with such projects as Capricorn Africa, Television International Enterprises, Watchguard International, Better Britain Society and True Individual Society

covered in too much detail.

Sir Fitzroy McLean, who served with Sir David Stirling in the SAS, said of him: "He was a leader, a man of action and a man of ideas, he left an enduring mark on the military thinking of his age."

He was knighted for his services shortly before he died last year and Fd Marshal Lord Bramall observed: "He was a true knight." - PSN

**David Stirling: The Authorised Biography of the Creator of The SAS** by Alan Hoe. Little, Brown, £17.50.

## IN BRIEF

**"By the Orders of the Great White Queen"** by Ian Knight. The author of the classic *Brave Men's Blood* has drawn on eye-witness accounts to paint a vivid picture of the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War through the eyes of the British soldier. Greenhill Books, £18.95.

**Hitler's Panzers East** by R H S Stolff. American professor's reassessment of the Nazi leader's war tactics in which he perceives Hitler as an ultra-conservative strategist driven by a siege mentality. Alan Sutton Publishing, £16.99.

**The Sparks Fly Upward** by Geoffrey Armstrong. Informative and fascinating reminiscences of the North African and Burma campaigns by a Royal Artillery colonel who was awarded the DSO, MC, and a Mention in Despatches. Gooday Publishers, Thetford, Norfolk. Available from Col G Armstrong, £15.95.

Axmas Cottage, Faygate Lane, Ruspur, Horsham, Sussex RH12 4RF, price £14.95 plus £1.50 p and p.

**Victorian Colonial Warfare: India** by Donald Featherstone. Dramatic, illustrated collection of first-hand accounts from the 1843 conquest of Sind to the Indian mutiny of 1857-58. **Victorian Colonial Warfare: Africa**, by the same author, is a similarly evocative compilation of contemporary descriptions of the "small wars" in 19th century Africa. Cassell, £16.99 each.

**All Valiant Dust** by Peter Ross. The author, who died in 1991, graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, joined the Royal Tank Regiment in 1940, won the MC in North Africa and ended the war as a captain. His story is told with compassion, humour and style. The Lilliput Press, 4 Rosemount Terrace, Arbour Hill, Dublin 7, £14.95.

# Letters from the Peninsula

IT IS ALWAYS a joy to read contemporary letters written from the scene of war.

Those of *A Guards Officer in the Peninsula* - the letters of Ensign The Hon John Rous (later the 2nd Earl of Stradbroke) of The Coldstream Guards - are no exception.

They come from a family steeped in military service. The present Military Secretary, Lt Gen Sir William Rous, is John Rous's great-grandson and his son James is presently serving in the regiment.

Letters, however, need editing and this has been admirably done by Ian Fletcher, whose 13 years in the British Library have obviously trained him in the need for meticulous research, in which this book abounds.

Nor does he refrain from

questioning or correcting John Rous's observations and as Gen Rous observes in his foreword, "his introduction to each chapter places them in their historical perspective and this produces this most readable book".

John Rous joined the Coldstream Guards in 1810 at the age of 16 and went to the Peninsular War in 1812 in time to take part in the famous victory at Salamanca. In 1813-14 he took part in the battles of Victoria, Nive and Nivelles and the investment of Bayonne, including the infamous sortie by the French two days after an armistice had been signed.

He returned to his family seat at Henham in July 1814 on a well-earned year's leave, only to be recalled nine months later

as a captain in the 2nd Battalion in Wellington's army which faced Napoleon at Waterloo.

John Rous, however, took part only in the Battle of Quatre Bras, where he was wounded either by his horse falling on him or by a shot in the leg (for some reason the cause is not known) which prevented him taking part in the Battle of Waterloo the following day.

As in so many letters to parents, Rous spared them lurid details of the battles in which he took part but otherwise gave very interesting accounts which are elaborated by Fletcher.

Most interesting of all are his comments concerning his domestic life, such as food. "We dined last night upon a piece of mutton that had marched 15 leagues the same

day and was no sooner killed than was put in the pot."

On health: "I am bitten all over by fleas and bugs." Weather: "It has rained or snowed nearly every day for the last month." Promotion: "I shall never mention the word promotion, it is quite at an end" - although soon after he wrote: "I should get promotion in six months."

Fortunately Fletcher has edited out the family news and "horsechat" as Rous had a considerable stable of horses.

This is a well-researched and interesting book which is thoroughly recommended. - PSN

**A Guards Officer in the Peninsula** edited by Ian Fletcher. Spellmount Ltd, Tunbridge Wells, £15.95.

SERVICE in the Victorian Army was not always compatible with a long life. Apart from the perils of the battlefield, death from disease was common in some parts of the world.

As a consequence, the wives led insecure lives. Many re-married a number of times as their husbands succumbed.

Geoffrey Regan has illustrated this social aspect of military life in the latter part of the last century by a poignant yet amusing story in *The Guinness Book of Military Anecdotes*.

Using as his source a book by Gen Sir Neville Lyttelton, he relates that in India burial followed death rapidly and in one case a widow's re-engagement was equally hasty.

Her husband's funeral took place on the day after he died. On the same day, the colour sergeant of the company proposed to her.

She burst into tears and the NCO, thinking perhaps he had been too hasty, said he would come back again in two or three days.

"Oh, it isn't that," said the bereaved one, "but on the way back from the cemetery I accepted the corporal of the firing party."

In this entertaining and intriguing compilation of more

than 450 anecdotes from a wide range of historical sources, the main characters range from the common soldier to the likes of Wellington and Napoleon, and from Basil the Bulgar Slayer to Lilly Litvak, Soviet fighter ace.

Here are glimpses of courage, cruelty, eccentricity, tragedy, wit and humour - such as the tale of the officer who not only had to provide the paymaster with a certificate stating that he was alive, but was asked to get it backdated to show he had been alive in the previous month.

Montgomery inevitably makes an appearance.

Geoffrey Regan relates that in 1944 the CIGS, Fd Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, commented to King George VI at a social function that the problem with Monty was that "every time I meet him I think he's after my job."

The King replied: "You should worry. When I meet him I always think he's after mine."

Two years later, Regan adds, Monty got Brooke's job - although he never quite made King. - CH

**The Guinness Book of Military Anecdotes** by Geoffrey Regan. Guinness Publishing, hardback, £14.99.

# Man of compassion in an age of war

BY TODAY's standards the letters of Sir Vincent Hunter Barrington Kennett-Barrington were like his name, extremely long.

But they were far from tedious, being full of descriptive writing about his work among wounded soldiers in six campaigns from 1870 to 1886.

Kennett-Barrington was a Victorian humanitarian who took on the role of convoy agent with the National Aid Society, forerunner of the Red Cross, and the English branch of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, later the St John Ambulance.

His job was to ensure the delivery of medical aid donated by these organisations to the war zones of Europe.

He was a gentleman who typified the best of Victorian values. But although his background was upper-class and his education at Eton and Cambridge, he had a common touch and fully comprehended the agony and problems faced by wounded soldiers.

Over 16 years he organized help for the wounded in the Franco-Prussian War, the second Carlist War, the Turco-Servian War, the Russo-

● Turn to next page



## ● From Page 41

Turkish War, the Suakin Campaign and the Servo-Bulgarian War.

His lengthy letters to his wife and mother tell of the countries he visited, "the poor wounded soldiers" and of the doctors – some of whom might better be described as butchers – who attended them.

But despite his wealth of detail he still finds time to discuss sartorial niceties such as requesting his brother to acquire for him "two pairs of dog-skin gloves from Grants, not lined, size 8½..." He was writing from France in the Franco-Prussian War!

Similarly in a letter to his "Darling Ma" he describes finding "two poor chickens" with their legs tied and how he fed them bread and water.

A kindly and well-meaning man indeed and one whose compassion for humans and animals alike was marked with a knighthood in 1886. – JM

**First Aid to the Battlefield – Life and Letters of Sir Vincent Kennett-Barrington** edited by Peter Morris. Alan Sutton Publishing, £14.99.

# Cocking a final snook

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So let's have a wake, involving all the regimental music, with a few specially written for the occasion, for this is surely a final snook, cocked at whomsoever it may concern.

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opera *Rienzi*, and you have the official regimental music of today. But more, much more, to come from the past.

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Then *Death or Glory*, which is R B Hall's famous march, and *Omdurman* written by Mr Harrod to commemorate the 21st Lancers' Sudan battle of 1897. Not in the Sousa league I'm afraid, but...

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Two military towns associated with the cavalry are celebrated in the marches *Tedworth* (old name for Tidworth) and *Barnard Castle*. To vary the menu we have the *Post Horn Gallop*, an *Adagietto* for flute by Ted Huggens, and the now famous *Serenade* by Derek Bourgeois.

The finale is a *Regimental Fantasia* I compiled many years ago to include all the music – that is, the slow and quick marches, trots and gallops, trumpet calls for both regiments – ending with an evocation of soldiers past and battles long ago, with the muted trumpet calls, the Charge (even now a terrifying sound) and a reprise of *The White Lancers*.


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

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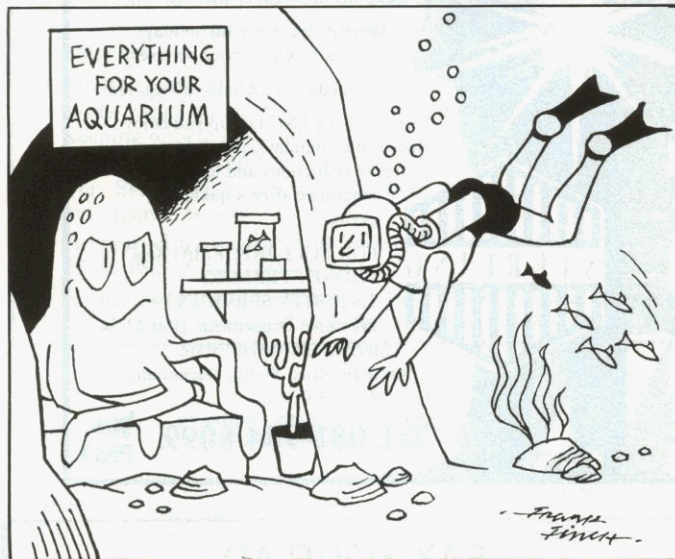
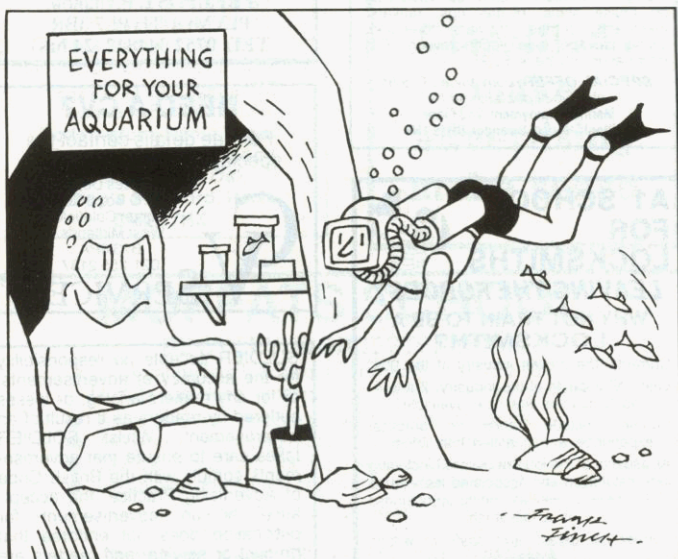
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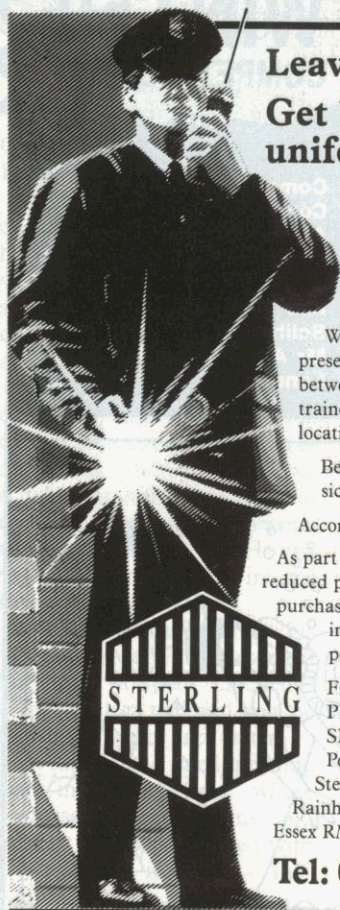
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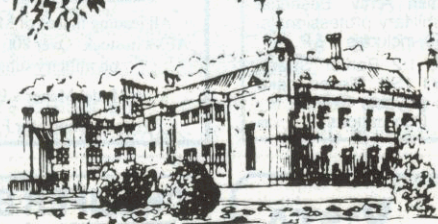
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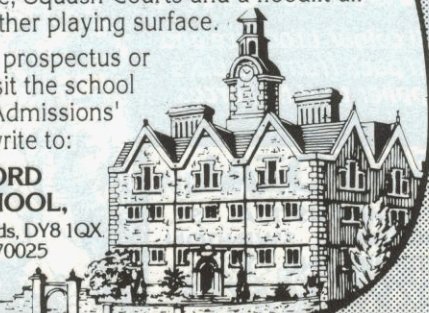
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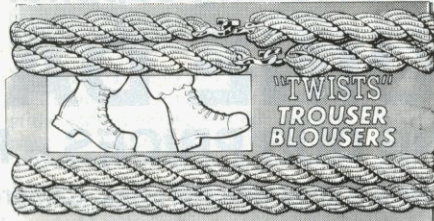
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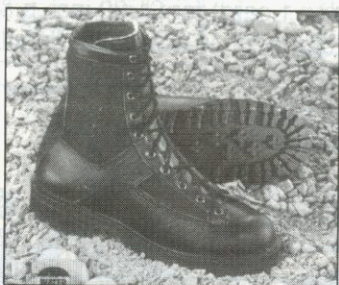


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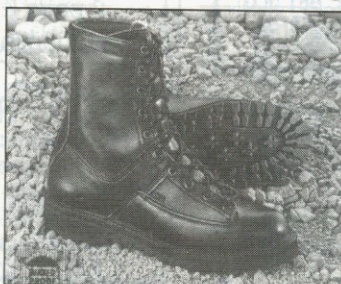
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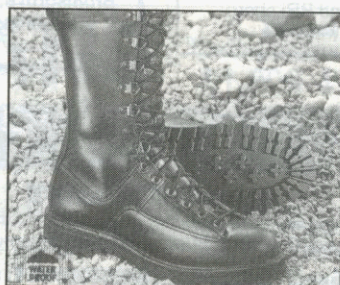
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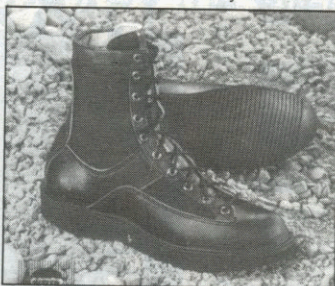
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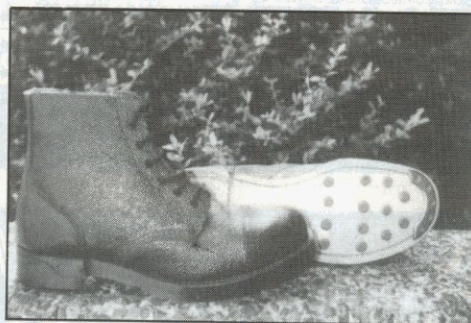
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# Yeomen ride off with cup

THE ROYAL Wessex Yeomanry marked their 21st year by becoming the first Territorial Army unit to win the United Services Polo Cup since the competition started in 1960.

In an exciting and emotional match at the Guards Polo Club, Windsor Park, the part-timers defeated The Queen's Own Hussars from Hohne by seven goals to two.

The final at Windsor matches the winners of the UKLF and BAOR inter-regimental tournaments. German champions QOH travelled from Hohne and played on borrowed mounts.

Lt Tim Verdon scored a hat-trick of goals and Capt Paul

Lucas one as the Yeomanry had the best of the first chukka. But the Hussars got into the match as they became accustomed to their ponies and goals from Capt James Rogerson and Lt Col Michael Bromley Gardner were scant reward for their fight-back.

Further goals from Verdon put the result beyond doubt as the Royal Wessex Yeomanry recorded a memorable victory in the presence of their Honorary Colonel, Gen Sir John Waters, C-in-C UKLF.

**Royal Wessex Yeomanry:** Capt P Lucas, Lt J Gordon, Lt T Verdon, Capt A Dabell. **Queen's Own Hussars:** 2nd Lt R Martin, Capt J Rogerson, Lt Col M Bromley Gardner, Capt R Gourlay.



Lt Tim Verdon (pictured on the right) and Lt Col Michael Bromley Gardner, CO of The Queen's Own Hussars, in action at Windsor Park



Lt Tim Verdon, captain of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry polo team, receives the United Services Cup from Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple at the Guards Polo Club

# Late burst gives Army right start

## Army 3, Uxbridge 1

TWO GOALS in the last seven minutes gave the Army a win in their opening representative match of the new football season at Aldershot Military Stadium, writes Pat Massey.

It was a victory they just about deserved, and the late goals capped an entertaining match in which both teams contributed pace and skill.

Cpl Sean Gilman (RAOC) and Cpl Shane Smith (REME) might have put the Army two ahead in the opening ten minutes, but were denied by visiting 'keeper Sean Dawson.

Uxbridge took the lead when Cfm Mark Taylor (REME)

made a fine stop only to be beaten when the rebound was squeezed in off the upright.

A long throw by skipper Sgt Kevin Parkins (RCT) on the right was flicked on by Gilman, partially cleared, then lashed into the net for the equaliser by Smith.

With time running out Army Footballer of the Year Pte Peter Batey (2 Para) hammered in a cross and, two minutes later, Smith scored his second.

## Camberley Town 1, Army 4

The Army survived several close shaves in the opening minutes of their fixture at Camberley before getting their



Sgt Alan Higgins (left), R Signals, defends during the Army's 4-0 defeat by HM Prison Services at Aldershot

act together.

Sig Jim Strouts (R Signals) opened the scoring after Shane Smith had created the opening in the 20th minute, and the same players were involved before Cpl Steve Reeves (RE) netted the Army's second.

Camberley Town pulled one back in a goalmouth scramble after SSI Nigel Wiscombe (APTC) had done well to block a free kick, but the Army ended

well on top thanks to further goals from substitute Cpl Jason Smith (AAC) and Shane Smith.

## Carshalton Athletic 3, Army 1

For 45 minutes the Army were made to look second rate by Carshalton Athletic, conceding three goals and lucky not to fall further behind. Two excellent saves by Cfm Mike Taylor prevented a first half disaster.

# Skiers finish first Down Under

FOUR ARMY skiers were included in a six-man British Combined Services Alpine team that went to Australia in August in search of snow.

They had been invited to compete in the Australian Defence Forces championships at the country's most famous resort, Thredbo in New South Wales.

Strong winds and snow

storms made training difficult, but the team took part in the RAAF championships at Perisher a week before the main event, easily winning both the slalom and the giant slalom competitions on short and not

overly technical courses.

British Olympic skier Capt Hugh Hutchison (RE) took the individual honours, followed by Cpl Craig Bonnington (RAF) in second place.

The races at Thredbo were long and more difficult, but the British Combined Services still managed to win both slalom and giant slalom – and the overall title – by an impressive margin.

Hutchison and Bonnington continued where they had left off at Perisher to finish first and second in both races.

To round off the tour manager Capt Keith Mills (RN) entered the team in a competition at Perisher involving Australian and Austrian national skiers, and again the British party excelled, winning the team competition.

Others in the party were 2nd Lt Peter Cooper (AAC), Sgt Geordie Dryden (QOH) and Cpl Les McMillan (RE), the three men who led the Army to victory in the Inter-Services downhill competition in Austria last winter.

# Dragons flying high for Britain

A FOUR-MAN team from the Flying Dragons freefall parachute team flew to China at the beginning of September to represent the United Kingdom in the world parachuting championships.

The Queen's Regiment's Flying Dragons will retain their name despite the regiment's amalgamation with The Royal Hampshire Regiment because the new Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment is keeping the Tudor Dragon with wings spread in its cap badge.

In the UK national cham-

pionships in August the Dragons won gold in the four-way rotations canopy relative work event, and later won the same competition in the Army championships.

Team leader Sgt Maj Bradley Reader has completed more than 2,300 jumps. Other members of the team competing at Anyang in China are Cpl Sean Best, with more than 4,500 jumps to his credit one of the most talented parachutists in Britain; LCpl Robert Fahy; and Horsham-based TA soldier Pte Ian Markham.

Picture: Mike Perring





Digging in: 40 Fd Regt RA on their way to a semi-final victory over 14 Fd Regt RA at Braemar

## Gunners' royal triumph

A ROYAL audience enjoying glorious Scottish weather watched 40 Field Regiment RA's powerful and experienced tug of war team win an invitation competition at the Braemar Highland Gathering.

The gunners were one of nine top Service teams invited to take part in front of the Queen and a capacity 20,000 crowd.

Also involved in the tournament,

split into two qualifying groups, were FOD Dulmen, RAMC Training Group and 14 Field Regiment RA.

Cottesmore and Lyneham represented the Royal Air Force, HMS *Sultan* and HMS *Collingwood* the Royal Navy, and US Forces Edzell gave the tournament an international flavour.

One pool was dominated by 40 Fd, with Dulmen joining

them in the semi-finals, while RAF Cottesmore were equally impressive in the other group, from which 14 Fd Regt also qualified.

As expected, 40 Fd and Cottesmore had little difficulty in winning their way through to the final, which lived up to all expectations.

The first end was two minutes of total commitment, with the airmen getting a strong

drive going. It was checked only by some desperate gunner defending before coach WO2 Jimmy Clark got 40 Fd to counter-attack mercilessly.

The gunners, having cracked the RAF champions, went on to take the second end with comparative ease and WO2 Clark had the honour of receiving the John Miller Challenge Shield from the Queen.

## National champs!

ARMY canoeists concluded a highly successful season by becoming the civilian national marathon racing champions, Inter-Services sprint champions and Inter-Services marathon runners up.

The national marathon championships were held over a testing 15-mile circuit on the River Dee at Chester in appalling weather conditions. The course included a portage where paddlers had to run their boats around a weir obstruction.

Strength in depth was the Army's key to success in beating Britain's best civilian canoe clubs, a first for a Services team. In the singles events Sgt Alan Heath (RE) came a highly credible sixth in the Division 1/2 National/International competitors class. In the domestic Division 3/4/5 Capt Duncan Capps (RCT)

### Army canoe team wins marathon

romped to victory by two minutes, and in the same class LSgt Ivan Key (Gren Gds) finished fourth and Maj Tony Bradborn (Coldm Gds) was the first-placed veteran.

In the novice Division 6/7, newcomers Cpl Jim Ross (RE) and LCpl Andy Beegan (RE) took first and second positions respectively in an excellent display of team paddling. The doubles event was held the following day and Heath teamed up with LCpl Vinnie Gallagher to again achieve sixth place in Division 1/2. In Division 3/4/5 Capps and Bradborn (RE) managed to

work their way back to second position after a poor start. Ivan Key/LCoH Wolfy Woodfenden (LG) and LCpl Pete Stroud (RE)/Cpl Nigel Emmerson (D and D) also paddled well and finished in the top half of the field. In Division 6/7 Ross/Beegan were predictable winners and Spr Ginge Hazzard (RE) and LCpl 'Smudge' Smith (RE) were second.

The Inter-Services marathon was held over a 12-mile course with three portages on the River Trent at Newark. In the singles event Capps paddled clear of the field to become Inter-Services champion and LCpl Paul Rossiter (D and D) took third place. The doubles race was closely fought with Heath/Gallagher narrowly winning the sprint for the line.

Despite winning the men's events the Army were beaten into runners-up position by one

point because they could field no female paddlers and therefore scored no points in that part of the competition.

The Army were victors in the sprint championships held at Nottingham. Their strength was demonstrated in the singles 1,000 metres in which Gallagher, Heath and Capps took first, second and third respectively. Over 500m, however, Gallagher was the only Army paddler able to make the places, finishing second.

In the doubles Heath and Gallagher achieved first in the 500m and were narrowly beaten into second over 1,000 metres.

LCpl Justin Brooks (REME) finished second in the Canadian singles event.

New paddlers – particularly female canoeists – are encouraged to seek selection by competing at the Army championships next July.



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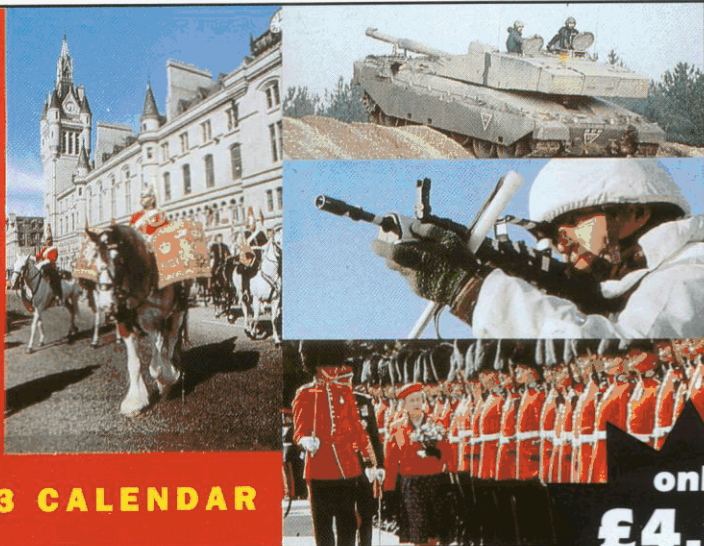
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**Pte Neil Rooney heads a 1 LI jungle patrol in Belize. Behind the Light Infantrymen is the 1,000-year-old Xunantunich temple**

Picture: Mike Perring