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The Queen presents new Colours to the 1st and 2nd Battalions Grenadier Guards on Horse Guards Parade, London. The Queen is Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment. Parade commander was Lt Col Gerald Lesinski, CO of the 2nd Battalion. Lt Col Robert Cartwright commands the 1st Battalion.

Army team flies to aid of stricken Cambodia

Mine menace

THE SOLDIERS who make up Britain's contribution of military observers to the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cambodia face a very real danger from mines and

other unexploded ordnance left over from the civil war, according to a British Army mine warfare expert.

As **SOLDIER** went to press, 35 military observers, including

29 Army officers drawn from all regiments and corps, deployed to Cambodia.

Before they left, they attended a mine-awareness briefing which highlighted the danger in the light of recent military experiences.

Man in charge of the briefing team was mine warfare instructor Capt Mark Cox, Royal Engineers.

"Such is the effectiveness of the weapon, 50 per cent of American casualties in the Gulf

FRONT COVER (Main picture) - A soldier of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment negotiates a rope obstacle on an assault course at Fort Lewis, USA, where the

battalion took part in Exercise Trumpet Dance. **INSET** - A 1 DERR platoon caught in mid-stream during an inter-platoon competition at Fort Lewis. See Pages 26 to 29. (Pictures: Terry Champion)

● Turn to Page 5

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A10 deaths verdict considered

THE GOVERNMENT is urgently considering the implications of the verdict of unlawful killing returned by a jury at the inquest into the deaths by friendly fire of nine British soldiers in the Gulf.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind told the House of Commons that the Ministry of Defence would make all its papers available to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

He also asked the House to join him in extending its deepest sympathy to the families of the soldiers killed when their Warrior armoured vehicles were hit by Maverick missiles fired by United States A10 aircraft.



Commander Transport 1st (British) Corps, Brig Martin White takes the salute as the Desert Rats of 7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT march past at Antwerp Barracks, Sennelager on their Gulf Medal parade. Brig White and Lt Col Kelvin Tutt, the commanding officer, presented 257 medals,

including a Mention in Despatches to Sgt John Baglee. Climax of the parade, which was attended by families from Fallingbostel-based 16 Tank Transporter Squadron RCT, was a drive-past by 12 Scammell Commander tank transporters, each loaded with a Challenger main battle tank.

Cambodia

From Page 3

were caused by mines, and there have been 84 mine casualties in Kuwait since the war ended."

In Cambodia mines are destroyed rather than defused.

The UN's Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is expected to last 18 months with troops being rotated at six-monthly intervals.

Weather denies Everest climbers

THE BRITISH Services attempt to reach the summit of Everest by the treacherous West Ridge route ended in failure.

Appalling weather intervened after the team had

established a camp at 27,500ft, close to the top. The first attempt from Camp 6 was scheduled for May 20, but had to be postponed for 24 hours when the weather worsened.

Three days of storms

between May 18 and 21 exhausted the lead climbers and sherpa porters and their supplies of oxygen, gas and food at Camp 5, where tents were destroyed by very high winds.

This made untenable the vital supply line to Camp 6, which was by now endangered by avalanche conditions in the Hornbeam Couloir. The route had become extremely dangerous.

His climbers having done everything possible to reach the summit by the difficult and dangerous West Ridge, expedition leader Col Mike Kefford took the heartbreaking decision to abandon the attempt on the summit.

Last reports reaching SOLDIER from Nepal said that the climbers had withdrawn safely to Namche Bazaar, south west of Everest, and were expected to return to the UK from Kathmandu on June 15.

The failure of the British Services Everest expedition was particularly disappointing, coming barely a week after more than 30 climbers had reached the summit in good weather by easier routes.



Troop leader Capt Harry Upton shows Prince Michael of Kent over a Saladin armoured car belonging to D Squadron, The Royal Hussars at Episkopi. Prince Michael spent two days in Cyprus as president of the SSAFA Council, visiting SSAFA staff, Servicemen and their families. The Prince, who served with The Royal Hussars, also called on the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment

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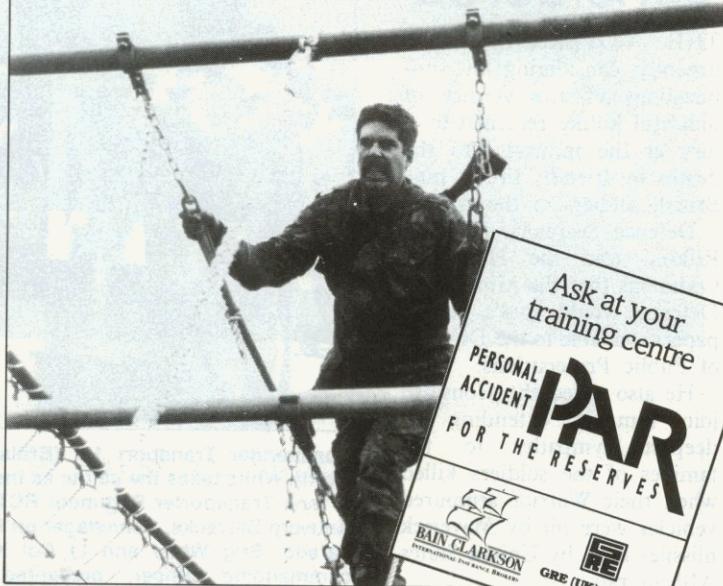
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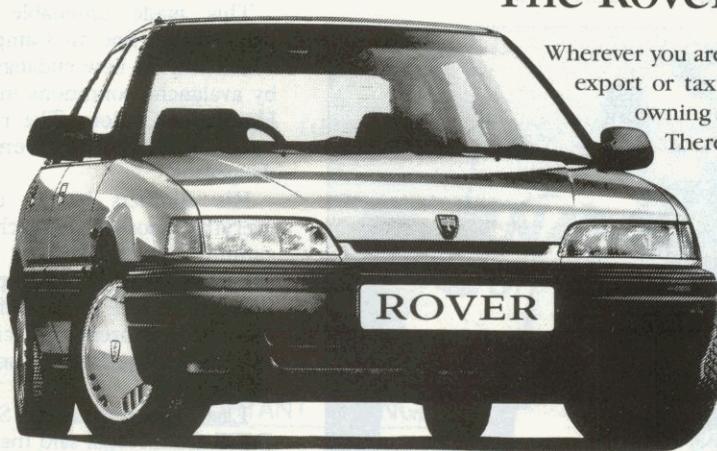
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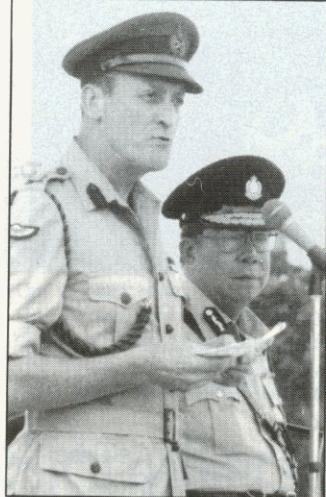
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Army boosts seed appeal for starving Kurds

HUNDREDS of thousands of packets of British vegetable seeds are being flown to desperate Kurds following an appeal by Lt Col Ben Tyler from SEME, now on a six-month emergency tour in



Maj Gen John Foley (left), Commander British Forces, hands over responsibility for the final border section to Royal Hong Kong Police Commissioner Li Kwan-ha, and men of 1/2 GR march away from the border for the last time

Zakho with the Military Co-ordination Centre in northern Iraq.

He wrote to his commandant, Brig Peter Besgrove, who put out the appeal and was promptly inundated. Seed

merchants SE Marshalls of Wisbech and Suttons of Torquay responded with pallet loads, and soldiers and school children weighed in with thousands more.

The Royal Air Force and

USAF have undertaken to deliver them to Kurds facing starvation after the worst winter for 30 years and the destruction of their villages by Iraq. There are no other crop seeds available to them.



Last patrol quits the China beat

BRITISH Army involvement on the Hong Kong-Chinese border ended formally on April 22 when responsibility for the final sector at Sandy Spur was handed over to the Royal Hong Kong Police by Maj Gen John Foley, Commander British Forces.

The garrison became fully involved in the operation against illegal immigrants in November 1974, and by the time 1/2 Gurkha Rifles withdrew in April, had made 41,709 arrests.

At one time four battalions were committed to patrolling the rural perimeter from Castle Peak in the west of Tolo and Sai Kung in the east. Reinforcements from the United Kingdom and Brunei were necessary as the flow of illegals surged during 1978 and 1979.

During this period up to 400 Chinese a day were captured and returned to the mainland.

"Since then," said Gen Foley

in his handover address, "these operations have become, to a large extent, routine, with the battalions of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade providing the manpower for the task, supported by the helicopters of the Royal Air Force and Army Air Corps, and also the boats of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Gen Foley paid tribute to the contribution made by the Chinese soldiers of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) and the Hong Kong Military Service Corps.

He said the garrison would remain ready to support the police as required, and would continue to make anti-illegal immigrant patrols at sea.

"We are ready to bolster support on the flanks or in depth in the Frontier Closed Area; and we shall maintain a reserve company in support of the RHKP border force until October 1992."



Armstrong motor cycles and their 3 ADTR riders line up at Sennelager for a display of their skills during the annual demonstration put on by the 3rd Armoured Division for the Staff Colleges. Visitors from the five United Kingdom colleges included the Duke of York, studying at the Army Staff College, Camberley. About 6,000 soldiers from the Division took part

Iron Division skills on show

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In brief

Germans honour 21 Sigs



Cpl Charlie Hawkins, R Signals, of 609 TACP at Bulford, with a laser target marker during the joint RAF/Army Exercise Highland Cardinal in mid-Wales. Cpl Hawkins, a specialist in forward air control, directed British, American and Dutch aircraft onto armoured targets represented by life-size inflatable T72 tanks. The dummy tanks, one of which can be seen in the background, were concealed in the mountains and valleys near Rhayader

Signallers exercise Freedom

WEST Midlands-based 35 Signal Regiment celebrated its 25th anniversary by exercising its Freedom of Birmingham. The parade brought traffic in the city to a temporary halt.

Under the command of Lt Col Brian Foxon, five squadrons of troops, led by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals and followed by the regiment's specialist vehicles, marched past a dais in Temple Row. The salute was taken jointly by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and GOC Wales and Western District, Maj Gen Michael Regan.

The regiment is to be re-equipped with the Ptarmigan communications system and roled to Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).



Maj Gen Michael Regan and Birmingham Lord Mayor Bill Turner take the salute in the city centre

Woofers win Nato Reserves title

TOP HONOURS in the 1992 Reserve Forces Association UK military skills competition at Leek Training Camp in Staffordshire went to Worksop-based E Company, the 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

Thirty-eight teams from

Britain, the Netherlands and Germany took part, with R(Aux)AF from RAF Marham finishing second and Workington's D Company, 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment third. Marham won the women's competition, followed by 207 General Hospital, and the

Dutch were the best of eight Nato teams. Gen Sir John Akehurst, Nato's former Deputy Supreme Commander in Europe, and currently RFA president, presented the prizes.

Competition organisation was by the RFA's NCO committee under the direction of SSgt Barry Mills, RAOC.

TO MARK its long association with Germany, 21 Signal Regiment has been presented with a *Fahnenband* (friendship banner) by the German Government.

The banner was received by commanding officer Lt Col Howard Ham at the regiment's reconstitution parade at RAF Wildenrath, from where it has provided communications for RAF Harrier and Support Helicopter Forces in Germany.

In July, 21 Signal Regiment is moving three of its five squadrons to Colerne in Wiltshire, one is going to RAF Laarbruch, and the fifth is to disband.

• • •
Energy savings of up to £1/2 million a year have been identified by an Army Catering Corps study.

Under the direction of Army Catering Services UKLF, a monitoring system installed at HQ UKLF's Junior Ranks' Mess has reduced energy consumption by more than a third since April, and managers hope eventually to halve the kitchen's annual energy bill.

• • •
Nine youngsters under training at the Army Apprentices College Chepstow have been selected to take part in British Schools Exploring Society expeditions to Iceland and Greenland this summer. Two RAEC officers, Lt Damien Plant and 2nd Lt Paul Maskell, will lead the parties, due to leave on July 14 and return on August 24.

• • •
Blue Dragoon, a ten-man catamaran built by the 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards, finished 55th in the annual three day, 100-mile River Wye raft race from Hay-on-Wye to Chepstow. An entry from the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, finished an hour behind.

Hussars in the Med



Lts **Gavin Jones** and **Ben Gedney** of The Royal Hussars (PWO) find their sea legs on the flight deck of HMS *Beaver*, with which their regiment has close links. In the background is HMS *Arrow*. The two officers and Capt **Michael Ward** joined the ship's company as they sailed from Gibraltar to Cyprus on passage to the Gulf.

During the exchange the Hussars flew in

D-Day veterans return

D-Day veterans Maj (Retd) **Kenneth Macksey MC** (left) and Col **Hans Von Luck** recall the battle with Maj Gen **Christopher Wallace**, GOC 3 Armoured Division, before a re-enactment of the beach landings on June 6.



Following father...

Hayley and Sharon Coates have followed in the footsteps of their proud dad, WO1 **Rod Coates**, and marched into a career in the Army.

Twenty-year-old Hayley (centre) is the latest to sign up at Preston Army Careers Office and becomes the town's first recruit to join the Adjutant General Corps. She will train as a military clerk.

Elder sister Sharon (right) is already a lance corporal in the Regulars after spending five years in the Territorial Army. She decided to step into uniform full-time after being called up as a reserve for the Gulf War. Based in Tidworth, she is currently on stand-by for peacekeeping duties in Yugoslavia. WO1 Coates is the Garrison Sergeant Major at Fulwood Barracks, Preston.



That's a close shave...

Tpr **Brian Ducker** (centre) became a dab hand with the clippers during the Gulf War, doing 40 haircuts a day for his Desert Rat colleagues. Now he is at it again in sunny Cyprus, where he is serving with the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars. Tpr **Gary Wilkinson** gets the Ducker treatment while Tpr **John Rhodes** looks on.

Fortunately for the Hussars, Brian, a Northumberland farmer's son, has no intention of leaving to become a full-time barber.



Green Jackets' birthday roll-call

The name of every man serving in The Royal Green Jackets on January 1 last year has been recorded for posterity on a giant illustrated scroll now hanging in the regimental museum in Winchester. The detailed work of art was commissioned and compiled by Lt (former RSM) **Bob Maddocks** (top) to commemorate the 25th birthday of the regiment.

Pictured delivering it safely to museum curator Maj **Ron Cassidy** (right) is artist **Alex Summers**. Lt Maddocks was helped in the mammoth task of collating and checking hundreds of names by CSgt **Martin Lyle**.



Picture: Mike Weston

New Colonel for LI

Thirty years after being commissioned into The King's Shropshire Light Infantry, Maj Gen **Michael Regan** (pictured) has been appointed Colonel of his regiment, The Light Infantry. Currently GOC Wales

and Western District, Gen Regan has his headquarters at Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury, which was where he first joined his regiment in 1962 as a newly-commissioned second lieutenant. It was then the KSLI Depot.



TA's fittest man?

Cpl **Phil Piggott** reckons he is the fittest man in the Territorial Army - with the record to prove it.

A PTI serving with B Company, 5 RRF in Birmingham, Phil:

- Came seventh (out of an entry of 3,000) in the national Champion of Champions competition at Loughborough University.
- Ran from John o'Groats to Land's End.
- Is training for a world record attempt on the powered treadmill running contest at Birmingham's

international Tattoo in October.

And just to fill in the time, he and five mates from Sheldon-based B Company, are cycling the 900 miles from John o'Groats to Land's End this month to raise money for Birmingham charities.

Phil says the key to peak fitness is "a good diet of high-fibre and carbohydrate, and no smoking". His job also helps - he is a self-employed fitness consultant and hopes to open his own health centre in Birmingham.



Picture: Stuart Birmingham

Artists 'captured' Liverpool RCT unit

Liverpool-based Territorial Army unit 156 Transport Regiment RCT joined forces with fine art students **Lyn Clarke** (left) and **Nicola Smith** under a placement scheme more usually arranged between Liverpool Polytechnic and local businesses.

The two students recorded the volunteer soldiers on exercise and training sessions, and their sketches, paintings and sculptures were displayed at the regimental headquarters in Mather Avenue at the beginning of June.



PEOPLE



Chefs from 1 Wessex who won the South West District TA field cookery competition will hold the title for a long time to come. Soon after the event their district merged with South East to form Southern District. Pictured are (back, from left) Cpl **Jimmy Billet**, commanding officer Lt Col **Peter Cable** and Capt **Richard Butt**, and (front) Pte **Mark Doughty**, LCpl **Stuart Moore** and Pte **Mark Edwards**.



REME celebrates 50 years

MORE than 3,500 soldiers, families and guests braved torrential rain and a cutting wind at Sennelager to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The birthday parade was one of a number of events arranged worldwide to celebrate the formation of REME on October 1, 1942.

It was attended by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, who inspected the parade and took the salute.

As 600 soldiers marched off, they were followed by a parade of vehicles led by the new Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle

(CRARRV), later named Rhino by Fd Marshal Vincent.

Finale to the parade was a flypast by three Gazelle and three Lynx helicopters, all flown by REME pilots attached to the Army Air Corps.

Examples of mobile repair groups were displayed by 71 Aircraft Workshop and 5 Armoured Workshop. There was a special celebration of the work carried out by the 3,500 REME soldiers who served in the Gulf during Op Granby.

A message for REME from

the Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief, said: "Every officer, soldier and member of the civilian staff serving today has good reason to feel great pride in the reputation which your predecessors created for the corps and which you continue to enhance."

"The formation of a single equipment support organisation will face the corps with many problems and challenges, but I am sure that it will rise to them with its usual energy and imagination."



Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, inspects REME soldiers attached to the AAC

Farewell to 4/7 DG

Duchess inspects final parade before merger

THE DUCHESS of Kent joined officers and men of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards at Hobart Barracks, Detmold for the 300-year-old regiment's final parade.

For the royal visitor, Colonel-in-Chief of 4/7 DG, it was also a day of farewells. Addressing the parade, she spoke of her long and happy association with the regiment and wished it a successful amalgamation with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards later this summer.

The Duchess is to become Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the new regiment, The Royal Dragoon Guards, which will be based at nearby Paderborn, headquarters of 5 Innis DG.

Welcomed by commanding officer Lt Col Charles Thwaites, the Duchess of Kent was guest of honour at the parade. Other VIPs included Commander 1st British Corps, Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Brig Robert Baddeley, Colonel of the regiment, and former commanding officers.

After the Colonel-in-Chief had inspected the parade, the Regimental Standard was trooped through the ranks for the last time. The Duchess also presented Gulf Medals, had lunch at the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, and met young soldiers.

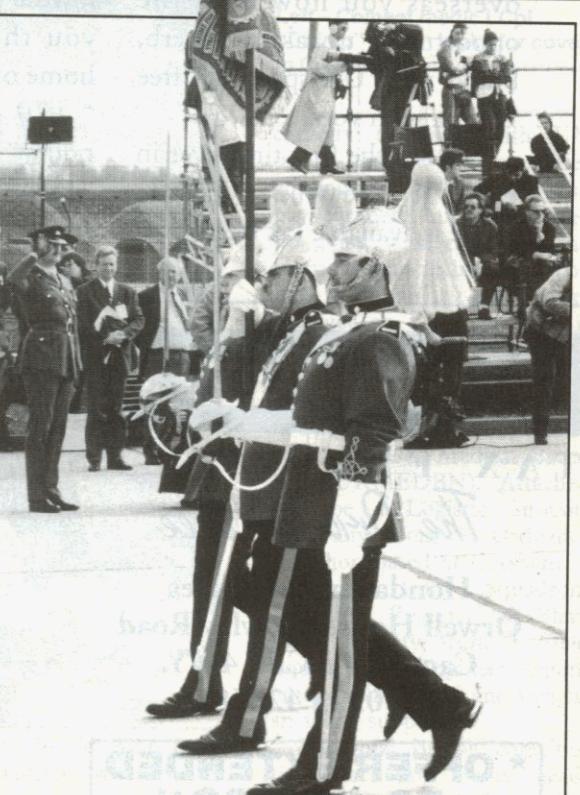
The amalgamation is not the first for either 4/7 DG or 5 Innis DG. Elements from each fought together in the Crimea and both world wars.



Above - The Duchess of Kent pauses to talk to soldiers during her inspection of the final parade

Right - The Regimental Standard is trooped for the last time

Below - The Duchess of Kent presents Gulf Medals



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Croatia medics learn Copehill way to survive

SAFETY rather than fighting was the theme of an intensive three-day package which the medics of 24 Field Ambulance completed in the Copehill Down Fighting in Built Up Areas training village on Salisbury Plain.

The 140 unit and attached personnel are waiting to join an advance party of 12 colleagues already in Croatia under the command of Lt Col Lois Lodge tasked with providing medical facilities for 14,000 troops in the multi-national United Nations peacekeeping force.

The exercise was designed to make the medics aware of the conditions they will probably encounter. While they will be protected by other units, they have all re-armed with SA 80 and at Copehill Down they brushed up on infantry and engineering aspects of surviving in a town liable to be mortared or shelled.

As well as patrolling and checking buildings which could be structurally dangerous or booby-trapped, they had to deal with a marauding tank, a mortar attack and a simulated air strike by Royal Air Force Hawks.

The Catterick-based medics also exercised their primary role of saving life while having to defend themselves and their patients.

"We could be piggy-in-the-middle between different forces, but are not expected to take on tanks or gunmen," said Sgt Graham Peters. "But if we go out with a battalion as a combat medical team and don't have infantry skills and drills, we are liable to go down ourselves."

"We are preparing for a largely unknown task, so we have to be ready for everything," said 24 Ambulance's 2iC Maj Bruce Oxley, recently posted in from Düsseldorf. "We cannot be better prepared, but there is nothing like hands-on experience."

One person receiving first-hand information on the situation is Capt Vanessa Lloyd-Davies, whose husband



Above - Medics of 24 Field Ambulance learn to protect casualties and themselves during street fighting in the FIBUA

Left - Combat medic LCpl "Chimp" Moran looks for cover in Copehill Down village



Maj Andrew Jacks, Regimental Medical Officer for the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, is attached to 24 Fd Amb from The Life Guards, where she is RMO.

"Andrew went out in a Staff

capacity to liaise with UN troops about where casualties go, how they get back and who pays for them, but he has ended up going with casualties and treating them in hospital. You have to be a Jack-of-all-trades and get on with whatever is going on. This training at Copehill will make all the difference for us."

The Field Ambulance will be called the UK Medical Battalion (UKMEDBN). Attached will be a Logistic Support Company from 9 Ordnance Battalion based at Corsham, a detachment from 2 Squadron, 30 Signal Regiment at Blandford, a party from 3 Field Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment from Tidworth and various ancillary support.

The total British contribution, including Force headquarters under Col Christopher Price, will be about 300.



Picture: Andy Burridge

Pte Stephen Davies, a TA soldier, watches a nest through his binoculars

Terriers protect rare kite from egg thieves

RAZOR-sharp fieldcraft and surveillance skills were honed in mid-Wales this spring as Army volunteers stepped in to protect nests belonging to red kites, one of Britain's rarest birds of prey, writes Mervyn Wynne Jones.

Following the success of a similar exercise last year when the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) asked the Army for support, soldiers mounted a round-the-clock nest-watch operation at a number of remote sites.

Their aim was to deter egg collectors who have hindered the RSPB's red kite conservation programme by raiding nests despite the fact that the birds are protected by law as an endangered species.

The troops built concealed observation posts and spent six weeks watching the nests until the eggs had hatched.

The volunteers were mostly part-time Territorials of the 3rd and 4th Battalions, The Royal Regiment of Wales, from Cardiff and Swansea, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, Wrexham, 119 Recovery Company, Prestatyn, 53 Signal Squadron, Brecon, 203 General Hospital, Cardiff, and 217 Air Defence Battery, Cwmbran.



A red kite, detail from a drawing by Welsh artist Dee Doody

with their time, but they are also able to practise some basic military surveillance skills."

One man who did know what to expect was TA officer Maj David Jones, a senior tutor in psychiatry at a Cardiff hospital, who has been a member of the RSPB for 35 years.

Working in eight-hour shifts for a week at a time, the soldiers ate and slept in an old barn loaned by a local farmer. Wintry conditions meant that the birds laid their eggs late.

The red kite, a large russet-coloured bird with a distinctive forked tail, was once to be found in large numbers throughout Britain, including the streets of London, where it thrived on rubbish and carrion.

It was persecuted to the point of near extinction and by the turn of this century there were just five pairs left, all in mid-Wales.

Conservationists stepped in to help and 63 young were successfully reared by 77 breeding pairs in the remote mountain valleys of mid-Wales.

Its rarity makes the kite's eggs much sought-after by collectors, most of whom plan their raids with great precision. At least 350 are known to the RSPB.

The 'public' face of Otterburn

TO SOME, the Otterburn Training Area is an anachronism. It is an important part of the Northumberland National Park, as it has been since the 1950s, yet it is still used for military purposes, as it has been since before the First World War, writes Bob Higson.

With its 58,000 acres of rolling hills abutting the Scottish border, it is not a particularly cosy place, as generations of soldiers would testify. According to the season – and sometimes on the same day – snow, sleet, rain and hail can be driven in horizontal formations across the bleak landscape. Conditions are best described as "bracing".

For centuries the area was too exposed and too isolated to attract much interest in development. Out of sight and out of mind, it was an ideal place in 1911 for the establishment of an artillery range for the newly-formed Territorial Army.

Today, however, with the pressure of overcrowding all too evident elsewhere, the factors that preserved Otterburn from progress have made it an asset of increasing value. Open spaces are at a premium in modern Britain, so it is hardly surprising that they attract apparently conflicting interests.

The business of balancing military requirements with the needs of the environment and the recreational use of the park is one of the principal concerns of Lt Col John Charteris, Commandant of Otterburn Training Area.

He and his staff work closely with the National Park authorities, achieving a degree of harmony surprising to those who believe military training and national parks to be incompatible. In fact some National Park officials believe that MoD ownership has been a vital factor in preserving a traditional style of hill farming in the area.

The 58,000 acres of MoD land are divided into 31 sheep farms, and every effort is made to keep them tenanted and viable. Thousands of pounds are paid out annually in



Lt Col John Charteris, Commandant Otterburn Training Area, talks to the BBC's Look North programme in the Coquet Valley



Northumberland National Parks head forester Mike Bell examines Otterburn access details on the noticeboard at Harbottle village post office

adapted to the surroundings to make them indistinguishable from the stone-built farms.

But National Parks do not exist solely for sheep. They are important for recreation. The question of public access is the most recent example of the way in which Training Area

and National Park work together.

Training takes place on week days and weekends throughout the year (with a month's break in the spring in deference to lambing) and the extent of public access varies in accordance with the ranges being used.

To help improve public knowledge, and indeed awareness of the opportunities

Otterburn offers, a joint initiative has been launched.

Two information points have been opened, one at the Border Reiver tea shop and souvenir store in Otterburn Village and the other in the Harbottle Post Office on the other side of the training area.

Maps are displayed and pamphlets available to explain which roads and paths are permanently open, and which may be closed for training purposes by barriers and the flying of red flags.

Otterburn has 63 miles of public roads, bridleways and footpaths – 40 of which are open at all times. This total will increase by about ten miles once public paths have been agreed and officially declared on 8,000 acres of the Cheviot Dry Training Area in the north of the range.

Royal Engineers have carefully cleared the area of unexploded shells in an on-going EOD programme

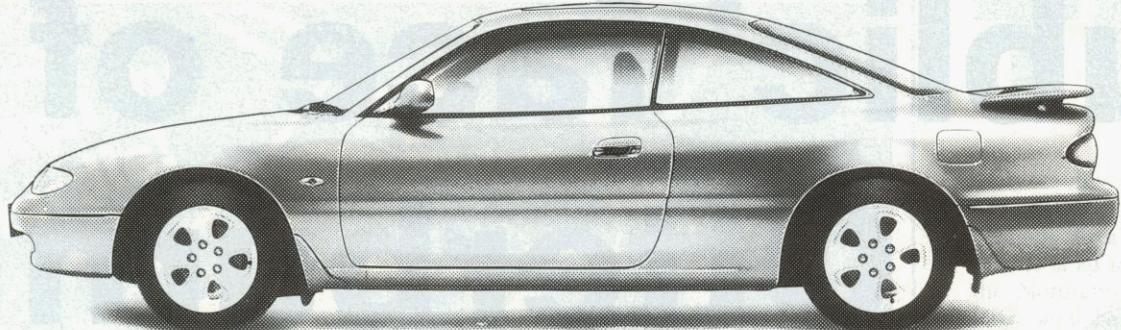
since it was last used as an artillery impact area in the early 1950s.

There is a long history of military involvement at Otterburn. The Romans were there in the First Century AD, pushing Dere Street, their highway to Scotland, through the western side of the training area.

In these more peaceful times, ways are being found to ensure that the 30,000 troops who train annually at Otterburn can continue to do so in relative harmony with the shepherds, hill walkers, hikers and sightseers who share this remote and beautiful place.

• A leaflet entitled *Walks on MoD land* has been published to raise public awareness of access to Army training areas at Otterburn, Castlemartin (Dyfed), Thorney Island (West Sussex), Dartmoor, Salisbury Plain and Lulworth Cove in Devon.

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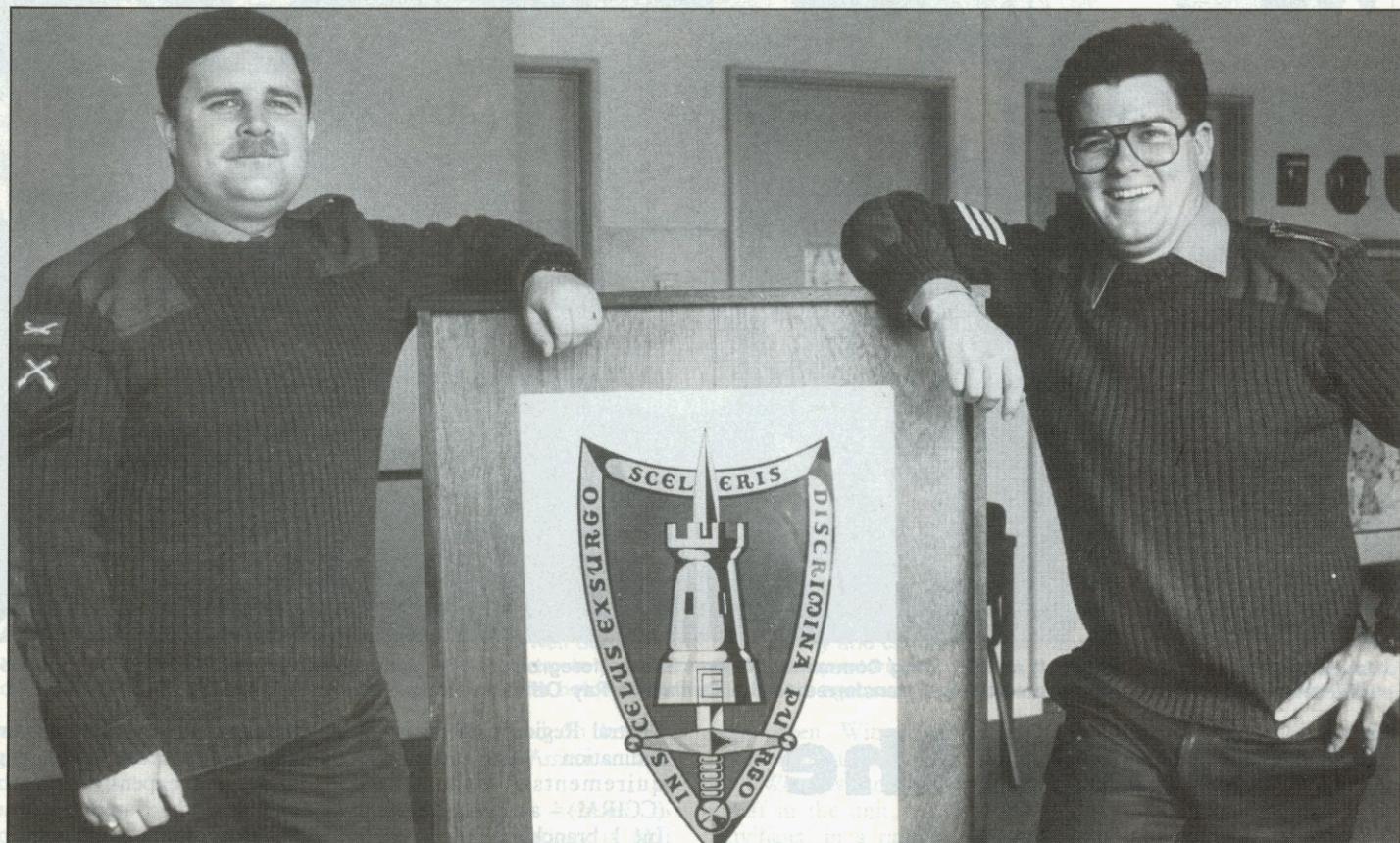
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Despite the demise of the Warsaw Pact, the role of Nato's headquarters in the Netherlands is still to deter war and defend central Europe. In the first of a two-part series, writer **Phil Wilcox** meets the British contingent at AFCENT. Pictures by **Mike Perring**



Sgts Paul Harvey (left) and Terry McGuire, intelligence division. Freely translated, the AFCENT shield bears the motto of Charlemagne: "I fight against the wrong and purge all traces of evil."

Holding the centre line

AN OLD water tower for a long-disused coal mine in a town in the Netherlands is a landmark that can be seen from Germany.

These days, festooned with electronic equipment, it plays an equally vital part as the communications tower for Nato's Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT).

Situated in Brunssum, Limburg, in the heart of north-west Europe close to the Belgian and German borders, AFCENT is the headquarters of one of the four major subordinate Commands under the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

At present, the other three Commands are AFNorth, Oslo (covering northern Europe),

AFSouth, Naples (southern Europe) and UKAIR, High Wycombe.

Originally established in 1953 in Fontainebleau, AFCENT, like other Nato military agencies, was forced to move into its present location – the former Hendrik State Mine, closed when it became non-viable – in 1967 after France had withdrawn from Nato's integrated military structure.

Despite the hypothetical scenario having to be re-written virtually overnight because of the dismantling of the Warsaw Pact, the Brunssum HQ's role is still to deter war and to defend central Europe as far east as possible.

At AFCENT, not only do British soldiers work side by

side with their RAF counterparts – and indeed are under the command of RAF personnel in some cases – but also work alongside military colleagues from Belgium, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and the USA.

"There is no doubt in anyone's mind that we are living in a dangerous world, with things changing at a most phenomenal rate," said Col Peter Pearson, AFCENT's Chief of Public Information.

"As far as the former members of the eastern bloc of the Warsaw Pact are concerned, we in Nato are the only stable point they can turn to."

With more than 2,000 staff at the "combined" HQ constituting forces from more than one

nation, as well as a joint force all under one roof, AFCENT's integrated nature was a model for the multinational Nato of the future, said Col Pearson.

"Multinational means formed units of a single nationality under a single command," he explained.

"At AFCENT, we are primarily a planning HQ at the moment, planning for the implementation of the forces structure, however it falls out. There will be different structures for different threats: we will leave the head in place and cut out the fist. It will be quite revolutionary."

Col John Wardle, late Scots Guards and currently Chief of Land Operations at the HQ,

● Turn to next page



Maj Harold Halcrow (extreme right) and CO Wing Commander Rupert Birtles (foreground) with members of the UKDSU team. Cpl Ann Price (third left, front) was recently promoted and transferred to the Command Pay Office in Hong Kong

Holding the centre line

● From Page 19

explained a little more about future strategy.

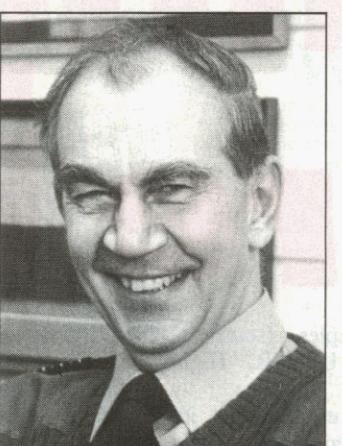
"The whole business of decentralisation in Europe has completely removed us from the front line," he said. "As things have moved on, so we have had to come up with new structures and concepts.

"There isn't a threat to the central region as such, but the threat is still very real to our sister regions in the north and south. Our attitude and our whole planning process now is in preparing forces to do a variety of missions, putting them into an assembly area. It is very much a continuum of what 7th Armoured Brigade went through in the Gulf."

With the reductions in the defence budget, said Col Wardle, greater flexibility and mobility were necessary to move forces where they were wanted quickly and easily.

As the Gulf and Falklands conflicts had shown, equipment had to be tried and tested, up-to-date, high-tech, and user-friendly.

Training was absolutely vital, since AFCENT forces had to be prepared "for a variety of missions with a variety of intensity". And training on high tech equipment



Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Skingsley: in the hot seat

had to be carried out with other nations in other languages, with different technology.

"It's a fascinating period in the central area at the moment. We have to make sure that the nervous system still exists, at the same time having the ability to put the skeleton back together when it is needed.

"It is particularly difficult when one doesn't have a specific threat: I think it is very important that we don't take too much apart, so we can put it together again quickly."

Making a vital contribution to any war scenario at the HQ are Sgts Paul Harvey and Terry McGuire of AFCENT's intelligence division.

Sgt Harvey, an infantryman with the Argylls before embarking on a totally different sort of job at AFCENT, divides his time between being NCO to the rather grandiosely-titled

Central Region Collection Co-ordination Intelligence Requirements Management (CCIRM) – and Chief Clerk to Int 1 branch.

"Basically, when we go to our War HQ, we have an intelligence collection plan given to us," he said. "We wait until the agencies or the corps call us, then push the plan out to the agencies, who produce the goods for the people who require them.

"We collect all the requests in, prioritise them and action them. A general, for example, might want to know what is happening in a certain area. His staff will task us to find the information. We send the request to an agency and hopefully get the information back," said Sgt Harvey.

For an infantry soldier to be at AFCENT is very much a bonus, he admitted, and it had been a culture shock to meet and work alongside people of different nationalities.

"There are no disciplinary problems here," said Sgt McGuire. "There is an all-ranks bar where a WO1 can rub shoulders with a colonel – and it must be one of the only HQs where a private is better off

than a married man. "Items such as newspapers and magazines are expensive but, by and large, there are more benefits than drawbacks to working here. For instance, it is just ten minutes to the border, Aachen is 15 minutes away, and it only takes two hours to get to Luxembourg."

CCIRM is mainly based on an exercise and war role, Sgt Harvey explained, though these days the exercises are of a generic type.

Central Region is traditionally commanded by a German Army officer, with a four-star RAF officer as his deputy.

Current incumbent of that hot seat is Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Skingsley, who took up his post three years ago.

"It's a happy HQ, and an interesting and attractive posting for British service personnel," he said.

"When I came here, the cold war was still very much a reality, with a million men on either side threatening each other. The German government subsequently did an analysis of all documents which covered their plans for attacking the West. Since then, it has been necessary for us to re-plan totally the strategy for the central region under a team led by Col Wardle."

As with every other nation at AFCENT, this would inevitably lead to a running down of equipment and manpower – the third time in his 37 years with the RAF that Air Chief Marshal Skingsley had had to deal with



HIVE (Help Information Volunteer Exchange) co-ordinator Karin O'Neill and assistant Ann Halcrow, wife of UKDSU 2iC Maj Harold Halcrow



Cpl Neil Scrivens with wife Tracey and children Samantha and Christopher in their married quarter in Brunssum town. UK quarters are smaller, they say. Ironically, Cpl Scrivens, a collier before enlisting five years ago, now finds himself working on the site of an old mine

they were liberated. So they are pro-British, pro-American and pro-Nato."

Another great believer in Anglo-Dutch relations is Maj Harold Halcrow, R Anglian, 2iC of AFCENT's UK Delegation Support Unit (UKDSU).

"We get on very well with the locals: we play sport with them and against them, hockey, rugby, football and cricket," he said.

There will be a new force structure and a reduction in readiness requirements.

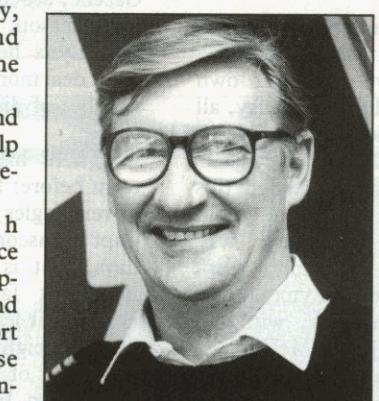
Air bases in the region (the Nato airborne early warning force, for example, is close to AFCENT and is managed from HQ) have been on six-hour alert for many years.

That pressure is to be relaxed, as is the requirement for land forces to be ready for action within four hours.

"We are not specifically preparing to defend an all-out attack on the central region, but, with the possibility of something happening elsewhere, we are making use of crisis management – preventing a crisis elevating into a war by deploying forces wherever needed."

Having settled in Kent, he finds the hilly land south of Brunssum very similar. It, too, is excellent walking and cycling country.

"People working here find the Dutch have long memories. After being subjected to sustained bombing during the war, they were reduced to eating bulbs in this area until



Col John Guthrie, ex Scots Guards and RAOC, represents Canada's small (36) contingent at AFCENT. Originally a Scot, he went to Canada 30 years ago and is now a naturalised Canadian

over their administration. I can

see that happening more and more frequently as the rundown gathers momentum."

Sgt Sean Duffy, recently transferred from the infantry, is chief clerk on the Army side in UKDSU.

Married with two children, who are being educated at AFCENT's American school, Sgt Duffy said his family had settled in within two months.

Like most of his colleagues, he waxed lyrical about AFCENT's amenities. He could keep fit during his lunch break by swimming, jogging or enjoying a sauna.

Sgt Duffy's praise for the family aspects of AFCENT are a compliment to the hard work of assistant families officer WO1 Chris Hiron and his colleagues. With more than 500 families spread over 1,000 sq km, they are kept busy.

WO1 Hiron, who spent 17 years in Germany, said: "I've driven past this place so many times and never knew it existed. AFCENT has a unique quality of life, and I try to keep it that way in settling Army and RAF personnel into housing. On the whole, the standard of accommodation is better than ordinary garrison housing. I am also first point of contact for any welfare problems."

Also ready to give advice on any questions for all nationalities and services based on the AFCENT complex is RAF wife Karin O'Neill, co-ordinator of Brunssum's HIVE – the equivalent of a Citizen's Advice Bureau.

She is assisted part-time by Maj Halcrow's wife, Ann.

"Nearly 200 people come through here in an average month," Mrs O'Neill said, "with queries ranging from the best place to hire a camel to more private matters."

"We like to think we are a focus for the community we serve."

● To be continued

Bathtime inspiration behind the AAC Eagles

Lynx team ready with a ripple backflip

SOME PEOPLE sing in the bath. Others have been known to play with plastic ducks or submarines.

Capt Colin Dunscombe dreams up increasingly more daring and spectacular helicopter routines.

What is more, he and his seven colleagues who make up the Army Air Corps Eagles '92 display team put them into practice.

First formed 24 years ago as the Blue Eagles – a precision formation display of Bell 47 Sioux helicopters – the Eagles display team currently consists of four Westland Lynx.

Team leader and solo display pilot Capt Dunscombe said: "This is our first season, and we work well as a team. I hope we will be able to stay together in the future."

The eight flying members – all instructors from the Lynx conversion flight at the Army Air Corps in Middle Wallop, Hampshire – are supported by a manager/commentator and two permanent ground crew.

"We were formed as a team in February and have been practising regularly since then," said Capt Dunscombe, who was part of Saddam

Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston

Hussein's infamous human shield in Kuwait City.

"Since we have our own jobs to do during the day, all practices take place before or after work."

Apart from the leader, this year's team consists of "right seat man" SSgt Dave Williams (his co-pilot); Capt Peter Terrett, Lynx Flight flight commander, with co-pilot Sgt John McHale, a heli-weapons instructor; WO2 Mick Galston, an instructor on Lynx flight, whose co-pilot is SSgt Gary "Ginge" Smith; and pilot and co-pilot Sgts Ray Crowe and Kevin Watson.

"My charter," said Capt Dunscombe, a former tankie before starting as a sergeant pilot in 1976 and becoming an instructor ten years ago, "is to promote the Army Air Corps to the world at large and the aviation world in particular.

He agreed, however, that despite the '92 team appearing less frequently than their predecessors, it was perhaps more aesthetically pleasing to have four identical helicopters taking part in the display.

"I feel I am continuing a great tradition," said Capt Dunscombe.

"After all, apart from the Red Arrows, the Eagles are the second longest-running flying display team in the United Kingdom."

Some exhilarating new display manoeuvres have been introduced for this season, including the "ripple back-

flip" where three of the team perform a backflip from the hover in close succession.

This summer, audiences at airshows from Southend to Plymouth Hoe, not to mention Berlin, and Deelen in the Netherlands, will be treated to this and the team's unique solo "Eagle roll" – courtesy of Capt Dunscombe – which has not been flown in public since 1984.

In the meantime, with the first major airshow on the calendar under their flying belts – recently held on their home territory at Middle Wallop – the Eagles and their leader are already looking ahead.

"It isn't easy coming up with something new," said Capt Dunscombe, "and thinking of how things can be improved is very much a team effort."

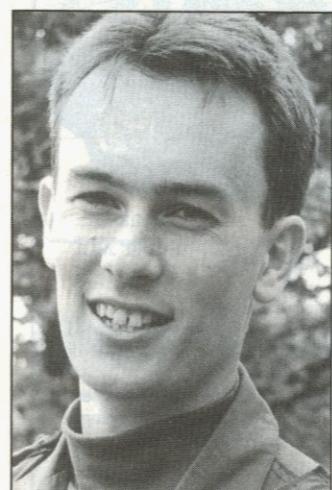
With the Eagles' silver jubilee on the horizon next year, perhaps they all ought to take a long bath ...



Upside down world of the Eagles

Acrobatic Lynx over Middle Wallop

Left: Dunscombe's daredevils: Eagles leader Capt Colin Dunscombe (second from left) with team members Capt Peter Terrett, SSgt Dave Williams, SSgt Gary "Ginge" Smith, Sgt John McHale, Sgt Kevin Watson, with (kneeling) WO2 Mick Galston and Sgt Ray Crowe



Eagles team manager Dave Morgan. Though not part of the display team (these days he generally stays on terra firma as the Eagles' commentator), he has participated in Middle Wallop's 80-strong massed helicopter approach. "The worst thing is people closing in from both sides," he said. "With the tips of the blades going at 500mph there is no room for error."



Ready for the off: last-minute preparations for display

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A long and dusty trek on foot for these Gurkhas of 7 GR who were acting as "Zimbanees" irregulars

Paras drop on Plain to rescue 'Zimbanees'

MORE THAN 400 soldiers from the 2nd Parachute Battalion Group were dropped on Salisbury Plain at the start of Exercise Pegasus Fury.

Aim of the exercise was to practise Aldershot-based 5 Airborne Brigade in its specialist role as the Army's Out of Area (OOA) force, which can be deployed anywhere in the world at short notice.

For the purpose of the exercise, Salisbury Plain training area became the fictitious country of Zimbanees, where deep political unrest had left British workers and their families in danger from an irregular nationalist guerrilla force played by 7th Duke of

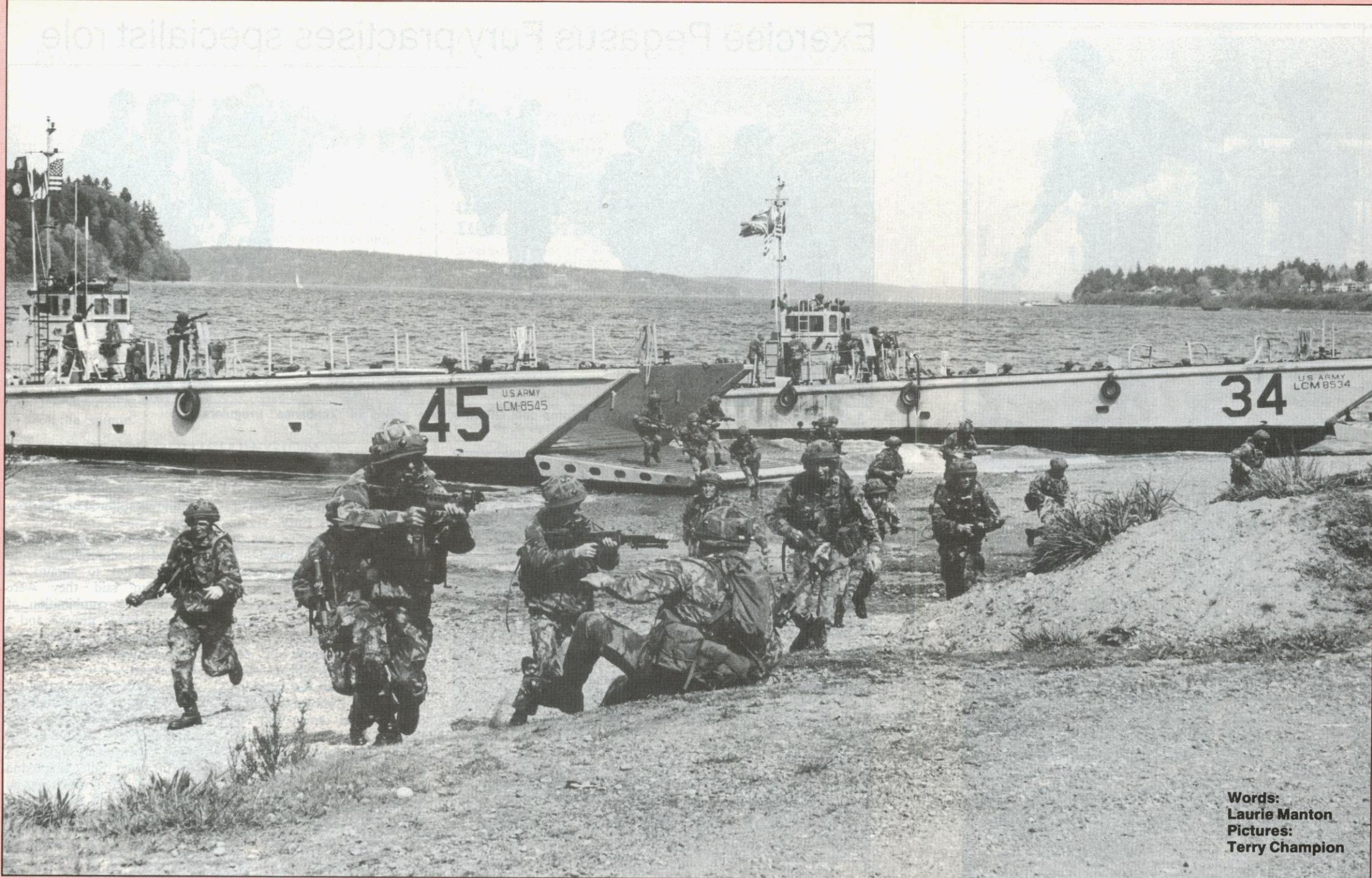
Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles. The paras reached all their objectives despite a spate of injuries suffered on the drop zone.

Thirty-seven paratroopers suffered injuries ranging from broken bones to sprains. A spokesman said they were caused by a combination of hard, sunbaked ground and a sudden change in wind direction and speed as the men left the aircraft.

The injured were ferried off the DZ by a combination of Scout helicopters, Samaritan ambulance APC and a Supacat-towed variant of "Flippet" – a fork lift pallet trailer adapted to carry stretchers – which was on trial for the first time.



Lt Tim Muir of 59 Movement and Control Squadron RCT points out the route to the crew of a Blues and Royals Scimitar landed by Hercules at Keevil airbase



Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion



Above: D Company soldiers search for a target during an engagement against the US Rangers. They are equipped with MILES, a multiple integrated laser engagement system that adds realism to battle training

Left: Hit the beach! D Company, 1 DERR come ashore from Washington Army National landing craft and fan out to secure the beach head

Right: Commanding Officer, Lt Col David Stone



DERR invited to a Trumpet Dance

IT IS not every day that a British Army infantry battalion takes part in a live-firing exercise that includes computer-generated targetry, never mind having the backing of US Marine Corps tanks and United States Air Force ground attack aircraft.

The occasion was Exercise Trumpet Dance and the unit in question was the Catterick-based 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

Aim was to confirm aspects of the operational readiness of

the battalion through a series of challenging advanced training activities in an unfamiliar environment.

The battalion battlegroup, totalling more than 600 personnel, included Territorial Army soldiers from 2nd Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Volunteers), and more than 30 recruits in training from Depot Prince of Wales's Division at Lichfield.

Troops were based at Fort Lewis, home of the US Army's 1st Corps. This remarkable 86,000-acre training area con-

tains every conceivable facility from specialist ranges, woodlands and lakes, to airfields, gymnasiums and schools.

Four hours drive away lay the most advanced hi-tech facility of all - the Yakima Firing Centre which bristles with electronic gadgetry that would not be out of place in a game of space invaders.

The live firing of tank, artillery and mortar shells added to the realism of the exercise.

"It's impressive," said the CO, Lt Col David Stone. "In 27 years' service, I have never seen such an adequate and extensive range facility.

"We have nothing compar-

The five-kilometre square manoeuvre box is smothered in computerised targetry. Enemy actions and reactions are generated from a control tower to suit changing tactical scenarios.

The live firing of tank, artillery and mortar shells added to the realism of the exercise.

"It's impressive," said the CO, Lt Col David Stone. "In 27 years' service, I have never seen such an adequate and extensive range facility.

able in the UK or Europe."

A number of sub-exercises took place within Trumpet Dance including Exercise Red Recondo in which the battalion's recce platoon worked alongside Green Berets of the US 1st Special Forces Group.

Recces platoon commander Capt Robert Llewellyn-Smith and his men spent the first three days of their attachment in a Special Forces isolation wing.

They were given details of their mission and a detailed package of terrain analysis, and

told to produce a battle plan, later approved by an American commander.

Special Forces' attention to detail is legendary. A number of eyebrows were raised when Tom discovered rehearsals for the attack were to include US medics practising, for real, the necessary skills of inserting intravenous drips into soldiers' veins . . .

After metamorphosis from recce platoon to Special Forces A team, the troops were flown by Chinook helicopter to a remote Montana mountaintop. They were given details of their mission and a detailed package of terrain analysis, and

After OP teams carried out close-target reconnaissance, the platoon launched a successful attack on its objective, a microwave communications tower.

"To be able to draw from the expertise of the Special Forces was excellent training for us," said Capt Llewellyn-Smith.

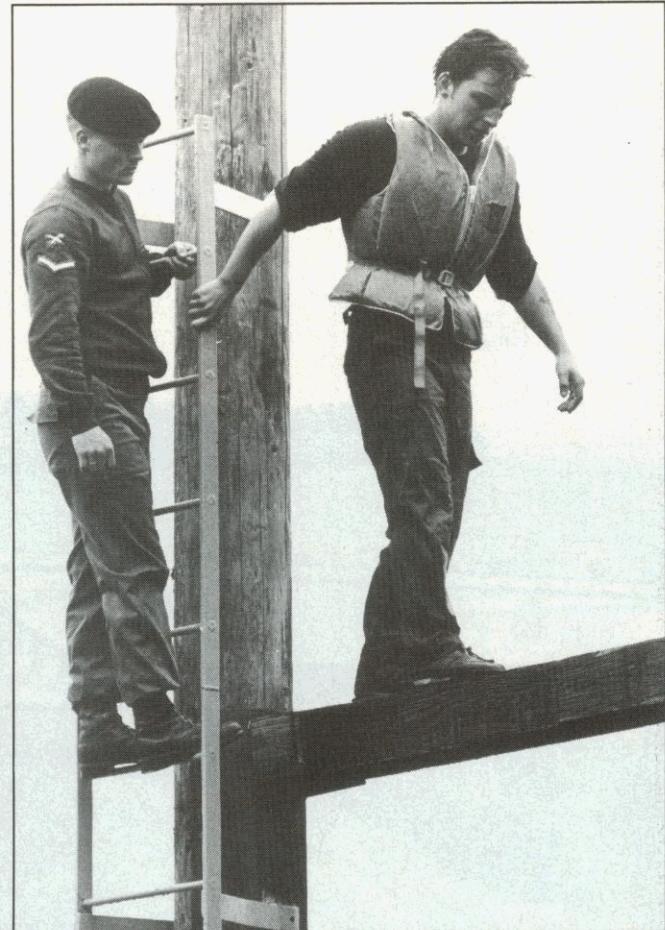
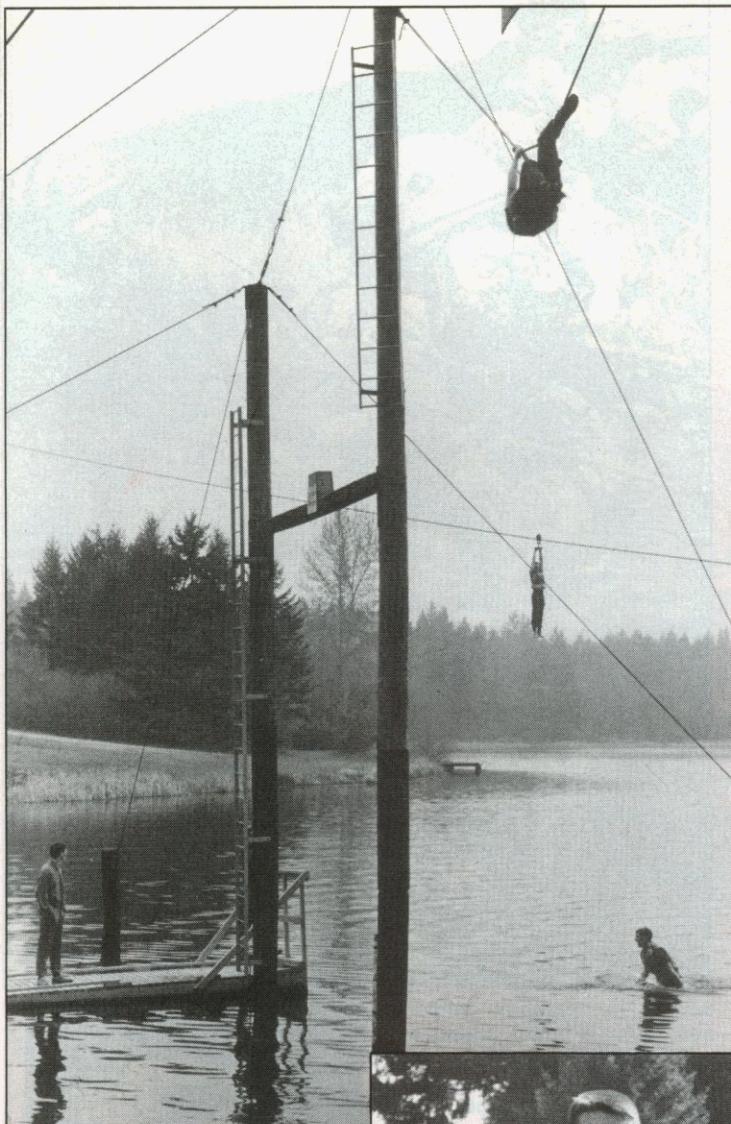
Not everything went according to plan for the battalion. One exercise - involving skiing - had to be cancelled, but there were no complaints. Freak weather conditions for the time of year left soldiers baking in 80

degrees and no snow in sight.

All the companies had the chance to take part in an amphibious landing using Washington Army National Guard landing craft to transport them to a beach head where they were opposed by a force of US Rangers.

Man in charge of the enemy was Lt Charlie O'Connor, DERR, who was also responsible for turning people off! Attackers and defenders were fitted with MILES, a multiple integrated laser engagement

● Turn to next page



Above: High above the water, a soldier prepares to walk the beam

Left: In America everything is big, and that includes the confidence course

Trumpet Dance

• From Page 27

system which produces a high-pitched whistle to indicate soldiers have been hit.

"It is more realistic than umpires pointing to soldiers and saying 'you're dead,'" said Lt O'Connor, who carried a device to switch off the MILES hit indicator.

A busy programme left soldiers with little time to contemplate the prospect of amalgamation with the Glosters, but the battalion is not too downhearted.

Explained Col Stone: "To be quite honest, our view of amalgamation is that we would rather have not, but given that it was probably inevitable, we are delighted it is with the Glosters.

"We get on well and they are a sister regiment in what was the Wessex Brigade and is now the Prince of Wales's Division. We share the same operational role and garrison and both sides say, if it had to happen, thank



An infantry section sets a cracking pace during the march and shoot competition

heaven it's with each other."

Exercise Trumpet Dance culminated in a record-breaking multiple engagement of MILAN missiles.

"Since converting to airmo-

bile infantry last year, the one aspect of operational training we had been unable to practise was live firing of this weapon," said Col Stone.

"Before an invited audience

at a range on Fort Lewis, we fired 16 missiles simultaneously in a counter-penetration scenario that simulated an anti-armour ambush. The results were spectacular and a record."



Support staff at Fort Lewis include (left to right) Lt Col Ron Bevan, 2 GR, Maj Vince Rodgers, RRF, Cpl Mick Wilkes, RE, Sgt Alan Stewart, RCT, WO2 (RQMS) Ben Lawrenson, 2 Gren Gds, and Sgt Pete Adams

Why BATSU migrates south in the summer

IT IS not usual for Army units to migrate in the autumn, but this is precisely what happens to the British Army Training and Support Unit (BATSU) based in Canada, writes Laurie Manton.

The unit's summer base is Camp Wainwright, a 240-square-mile training area on the wide open prairies of Central Alberta, where infantry units are put through a gruelling training series called Exercise Pond Jump West.

Wainwright has many advantages over training areas in the United Kingdom and Germany - the most important being its size and the reduced restrictions on live firing.

But temperatures in Alberta plummet to minus 42 degrees in winter, so the BATSU

team load their vehicles on to a train and move south to Fort Lewis in Washington State on the west coast of America.

There the unit assumes responsibility for logistic support to British infantry battlegroups taking part in Trumpet Dance exercises.

Comparisons between the two training bases are startling. Fort Lewis is home to more than 23,000 soldiers, 60,000 dependants, and 5,000 civilian employees. Wain-



As British Liaison Officer, Lt Col Ron Bevan is required to know his way around all the US military departments in a base that is six times the size of Salisbury Plain

wright has a population of fewer than 5,000.

Commanding officer of BATSU is Lt Col Ron Bevan, 2 GR, who said: "Fort Lewis is the fifth largest city in Washington State and covers an area the size of more than six Salisbury Plain training areas."

Training officer, Maj Vince Rodgers, RRF, coordinates all the training of units taking part in Exercise Trumpet Dance.

"Before a battalion arrives,

I bid for joint or cross-training with American troops, who love working with Brits. We get tremendous support from our hosts who provide us with support, including landing craft, tanks, TOW missile units and aircraft."

Local deserving causes have much to thank the staff of BATSU for. The unit's chosen charity is the Tone School, a shelter for underprivileged children. Raffles and collections produced several hundred dollars for the school and a large consignment of unwanted children's clothing was taken down from Canada.

WO2 (RQMS) Ben Lawrenson, Gren Gds, gave up his Christmas to help man a soup kitchen feeding down-and-outs in one of the poorer areas of Seattle.

It's already earned its stripes.



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stylish Renault 19, to the roomy Renault 21 and luxurious Renault 25.

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SD 18/05



MoD takes initiative on Service excellence

THE MINISTRY of Defence has announced a significant new initiative to help those leaving the Armed Forces find a second career in civilian employment.

The Access to Excellence programme has two main features, a campaign to inform the employment market generally about the qualities of Service leavers, and an enhanced job-matching service run by the MoD under the title Services Employment Network.

Launching the campaign in London, the Duke of Kent told an audience of more than 200 business leaders that the MoD was seeking to enter a closer partnership with employers.

He said: "The qualities and skills which we instil in our people throughout a Service career, of whatever length, are wholly transferable to civilian employment. We are promoting a scarce and valuable human resource, and it is in your interests to know what is on offer."

The presentation's key points were that Service personnel are the best trained workforce in Britain, and that many employers have had very good experiences when employing Service leavers.

For the next three years the numbers leaving the forces will be substantially greater, so the means of access to this valuable resource is being enhanced.

The new Services Employment Network will be a central point of contact, co-ordinating the work of many well-established organisations such as the Officers Association and the Regular Forces Employment Association.

The new network has details of the pool of people leaving the Services, whether or not under the Options reductions, and matches them to employers' needs in an efficient, free service.

In each of the three years from April 1992 the number of personnel leaving the three Services will be just over 30,000, of whom around 3,000 in each year will have been made redundant.

The Services Employment Network is in St George's Court, 14 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1EJ (tel: 071-632 4444).



Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, the Adjutant General, and the Duke of Kent at the launch of the MoD's Access to Excellence programme

Cabinet offers fresh deal for women



Ready and willing to help at the Aldershot Jobs Fair in the Duchess of Kent gymnasium were Regular Forces Employment Association staffers (from left) SSgt Steve Berryman, AGC (SPS), Mr Tony Wood from the Reading Employment Office, Sgt John Allison, AGC, and Sgt Brian Anderton, QOH

Newsletter answers those special needs

PARENTS of children with special needs will be interested in a newsletter produced by the Forces

Children's Support Group (FCSG). You can obtain a copy by writing to the FCSG, 5 Lathbury Road, Oxford OX2 7AT.

And a new information pack put together by Jan Illingworth, SSAFA's special needs adviser, the Directorate of Personal Services, the Services Children's Education Authority (SCEA), and the Guild of St Helena is also available in the form of six colour-coded booklets.

Combat Stress, the Service Children with Special Needs organisation, Royal School, Hampstead and the Cambridge Widows' Home.

During the drawdown the guild's work will be more important than ever. Details can be obtained from the Guild of St Helena, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ (tel: 071-414 3461).

• • •

An Armed Forces (Liability for Injury) Bill tabled by Lord Swinfen in the House of Lords on May 11 seeks to change the law so that in cases involving the Armed Forces, a plaintiff need not in all cases show negligence on the part of the Crown.

Second reading of Lord Swinfen's Bill was scheduled for June 9.

• • •

The Royal British Legion's magazine is to be made available on cassette for the blind and visually handicapped. If you know any members who would benefit, write, with his or her membership number, to the Editorial Department, Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

EMPLOYMENT Secretary Gillian Shephard's announcement of a new Cabinet sub-committee on women's issues is potentially very good news for Service dependants.

The new body, which replaces the ministerial group on women's issues, should give the Royal British Legion, Federation of Army Wives, SSAFA and other organisations concerned with the welfare of Service families, a legitimate channel to the highest levels of government. DSS anomalies, child care, training, the Citizen's Charter... all affect the lives of soldiers' wives in different ways to civilian women. The new mechanism should boost campaigns for a fairer deal.

In my view



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Royal Corps of Signals.
The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.
Royal Irish Rangers.
The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.
The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.
The Royal Regiment of Wales.
The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters.
The Royal Hampshire Regiment.
The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.
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The Royal Army Chaplain's Department.
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Royal Army Medical Corps.
Royal Army Ordnance Corps.
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Good for you KOSB wives!

HOORAY for the wives of The King's Own Scottish Borderers, the old 25th of Foot, which goes back to 1689, and especially to Mrs Kate White (Letters, May 18).

I understand there have been many protests up and down the country but few appear in your magazine or the national press.

There have been many rumblings in local papers, regimental associations and old comrades' clubs, and even the Defence Committee of MPs has revealed its disquiet at the profound sense of grievance and unfairness which the regiments feel.

I refer of course to the British Infantry of the Line. We all realise that the Army has to be reduced, but it can be done in a better way than reported in Options for Change.

We all hope the new Defence Secretary will look at this question again. The rest of the Army can take the strain, but once our infantry regiments are

placed in the mixing bowl and given silly names or march into history, they are almost forgotten. Mention the Middlesex Regiment or The Rifle Brigade to our young men today and you will get the answer I got: "Who are they?"

Our infantry regiments are the finest in the world and I include in this our Guards, Paras, Commandos, SAS and Gurkhas.

Their peculiar clannish regimental spirit is admired by many other countries. They are the backbone of our Army and deserve better treatment than this. I would like to see more protests in your magazine like Mrs White's. — W A West (ex-sapper), Holbeach, Lincs.



Cpl Joe Ellison, 43rd RTR: beret two fingers above left eye

Two fingers to the beret

I AGREE with D Wilson ("Sloppy berets rankle", May 4). We were taught that you had to wear your beret two fingers above the left eyebrow. If you did not comply you were put on a charge. — Joe Ellison (ex-43rd RTR), Newcastle Upon Tyne.

I MUST disagree with part of Laurie Manton's letter (May 18) in which he refers to the "pseudo medal" worn by Dunkirk veterans.

I also do not approve of the many commemorative medals being produced and worn but consider the Dunkirk Medal to be an exception.

This commemorative medal was made available to members of the British Expeditionary Force who took part in the Dunkirk Campaign by the French authorities because the British Government declined to make an award themselves for this momentous battle, though this was done for every other major campaign of the Second World War, whether they were victories or defeats.

We all know that Dunkirk was technically a disaster, none more so than those of us who were there, but so was Mons in the First World War. The men of the BEF of 1940 were proud to wear their Mons Star.

The BEF of 1940 fought to the best of their ability with

out-of-date weapons and equipment and many of them were untrained men with only a few months' service. Vital air support was almost nil, although the "Few" RAF who were involved did their job magnificently.

The armchair warriors in high places were glad to forget that Dunkirk ever happened but those of us who fought there do not forget.

At the Dunkirk Veterans Association's annual pilgrimage I wear my Dunkirk Medal with pride beneath my official gongs as I pay my respects to the many comrades we left behind. — K T Clarke, Henley-on-Thames.

LAURIE Manton classifies the Dunkirk Medal as "pseudo". It is neither sham, spurious, unreal or of abnormal form and is, in fact, a commemorative medal of French origin.

In 1970 the rules governing the award of that medal were amended to include eligible British personnel.

British Army Certificates of Service do not include individual actions and therefore the medal and accompanying diploma is the only tangible proof to pass on to one's family.

However, it is agreed that the wearing of large numbers of such medals does attract ridicule. The rule book of the Dunkirk Veterans Association has a clause agreeing that owing to the special nature of the DVA, the Dunkirk Medal, which is also the badge of the association, can be worn, together with one other, below the 1939-45 Star, or on the right side of the chest, when on parade.

Branch officers have the authority to refuse to give their members permission to participate in parades unless the policy is adhered to. This has helped us to reduce considerably the wearing of commemorative medals.

Perhaps others could follow suit. — Tom Noyce, Chairman, London Branch, Dunkirk Veterans Association.

What about the Suez veterans?

THE LETTER from Mr Percy (May 4) on do-it-yourself commemorative medals does not apply to Suez veterans. We want a real medal or none at all.

Moreover, we do not think the awards system will be compromised or debased by one being granted to us. The reasons are not egotistical but based on military practices and criteria, past and present,

which have been detailed by many writers to SOLDIER.

A final thought concerns the British children who were "horrendously" bombed in the Second World War. Later it was from their ranks that the conscripts were found to provide the greater part of the Middle East Land Forces.

Got it in the neck twice, you might say. — C L Golder, Bolton.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



• Inside AFCENT — see Pages 19-21

The great commemorative medal debate:

WORN WITH PRIDE

RASC boys stationed at Buller

IN THE article "Farewell to Colerne" (March 23) you state that RASC Boys' Company re-formed at Aldershot after the Second World War.

As a "company" this may be true, but a detachment of RASC boys was stationed at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, in September 1943, where they were members of the same football league as RAOC Boys (Gun Hill, Parsons Barracks) and RAMC Boys (Crookham Common).

They were among the very few British personnel stationed in the town as practically all other personnel were Canadians.

As far as RAOC boys are concerned, they were re-accepted with effect from December 1942 (Squad 1, with an intake of 12).

I joined in September 1943 in Squad 4 at the age of 14 years nine months. In July 1944, due to bombing, RAOC Boys moved to HQ RAOC Training Establishment in Leicester, while Army Technical College boys moved from Arborfield to Donnington for the same reason.

RAOC boys led a pretty nomadic life, moving on every three months to the headquarters outstations, learning their business. — P D Wood (ex-Cdr RAOC), RAF Rheindahlen, BFPO 40.

Let Tom wear Saudi medal

MY PLEASURE in reading that the Saudi Government is issuing a Liberation Medal (May 4) turned to dismay on seeing that the Toms can't wear it.

Why not? Precedents were set years ago with the Turkish Crimea Medal, Khedives Star and Sudan Medal and those issued by Oman and Brunei. It is also an insult to the Saudis.

How about an answer from the powers-that-be, preferably in language that those who earned it, including my son, can understand? — D Warner, Wadebridge, Cornwall.

SOLDIER to Soldier

A rare bit of Welsh pageantry

THREE hundred British Army bandsmen drawn from battalions of The Prince of Wales's Division will take part in a spectacular military display at Cardiff Castle on two dates at the end of July.

The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of The Staffordshire Regiment, will be among an audience of up to 3,500 at the July 31 performance. Secretary of State for Wales David Hunt will take the salute at the first performance on July 29.

Front-line Gulf War veterans will be among the bandsmen delighting the crowds with a colourful display of precision marching and music. The Colours of 17 battalions, including most of the Army's Welsh infantry units, will be unfurled on the Castle green.

A highlight of each parade will be the rare appearance together of several regimental animal mascots including a dog, four goats and a ram. The standards of more than 40 branches of the Royal British Legion and various regimental associations will add to the pageantry.

The events will be the last at which all units of the Lichfield-based Prince of Wales's Division will be seen together before regimental amalgamations begin later this year.

Right note for SSAFA

SERVICE families will benefit from a gala concert to be compered by Richard Baker at the Royal Academy of Music, London, on July 15.

The varied and enjoyable programme entitled appropriately "Music of Land, Sea and Sky" and performed by distinguished artists is in aid of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association and Forces Help Society.

All seats are £15 and remittance, payable to SSAFA KCD 3, should be sent to R F Lewellen, 7 Devonshire Court, 26a Devonshire Street, London W1N 1RJ, stating how many seats are required and enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Pilgrimage to Koggala

NEARLY 150 veterans, wives and friends toured Sri Lanka to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the defence of Ceylon and to attend the unveiling of a memorial at Koggala to those who died.

The group taking part in the Sri Lanka Salute 1942-1992 included representatives of all branches of HM Forces and associates from the Commonwealth. Services were conducted at a number of cemeteries.

Further similar tours have been arranged for August and October 1992 and February, August and October 1993. Details are available from Ron G Harrison, 36 Hartley Down, Purley, Surrey CR8 4EA (tel: 081-660 6459).

Essay offer from Queens

CASH prizes and trophies are being offered by The Queen's Regiment as prizes in an essay competition for boys and girls up to and including the age of 18.

The subject "What does my county infantry regiment mean to me", is intended to encourage interest in the present regiment before it amalgamates with The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

It is also intended to stimulate enthusiasm in the new regiment, the yet to be officially announced Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire).

Details can be obtained from Maj Bill Marshall, Regimental HQ, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY (tel: 0227 763434 ext 4254).

A gathering of commandos

MORE than 40 former members of No 1 Combined Training Centre met at Inveraray, Argyll, for the first reunion since the Second World War.

The weekend event included visits to Inveraray Castle, international commando training base during the war, and to the Combined Operations Museum in the grounds.

Among those attending was Mr Tadusz Mankiewicz, who served at Inveraray with the Polish Forces after escaping from occupied Poland under a German troop train and joining the French Resistance.

Other guests included the Duke of Argyll and Mr James Jepson, the museum curator.

Just deserts

Author Nigel Pearce (centre) with Desert Rats Brig Patrick Cordingley (left) and Brig Arthur Denaro at the London launch of *The Shield and the Sabre*, the story of the British Army's part in the Gulf War. Brig Cordingley commanded 7 Armoured Brigade and the then Lt Col Denaro was CO of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. The book will be reviewed in the June 29 issue of SOLDIER.



Picture: Mike Perrin



Thirty-six canvases by one artist depicting incidents and characters from the Battle of Waterloo go on show at the Halcyon Gallery, Birmingham, from June 25 to July 4. The collection, "The Day of Waterloo", is by David Cartwright, one of only two British artists since 1815 to celebrate the battle in a series of paintings in one exhibition.

Renowned for his atmospheric Napoleonic and Crimean battle scenes, Cartwright is the son of an Army officer who won the Military Cross in 1944.

Roosevelt tradition

WHEN Gen Frederick M Franks, US Army, delivered a series of lectures to audiences in the United Kingdom in May he was fulfilling one half of an annual exchange programme with a tradition dating back 45 years.

The Kermit Roosevelt Lecture Tour was established at the end of the Second World War with the aim of fostering a better understanding and a closer relationship between the military forces of the USA and the UK.

The lecture tour fund was established in memory of President Theodore Roosevelt's son, Maj Kermit Roosevelt, who served in both the British and US armies.

Gen Franks, Commanding General, US Army Training and Doctrine Command, was the 46th lecturer to visit the UK, with Gen Sir John Waters, C-in-C UK Land Forces, conducting the reciprocal tour in America.

Tour lectures were delivered by Gen Franks at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst; the Royal College of Defence Studies; the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham; the Joint Services Defence College, Greenwich; and the Staff College, Camberley.

The lecture tour fund was established in memory of President Theodore Roosevelt's son, Maj Kermit Roosevelt, who served in both the British and US armies.

Love and intrigue

A LOVE letter from a Shropshire Roundhead to his wife and a Royalist spy's notebook will be among items in a new display opening at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, on June 25.

The free exhibition, running until January 31, 1993, is part of the largest London-based commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of the English Civil War.

Weapons and equipment will also be on show in a display which will counter the myth of long-haired Cavaliers fighting short-haired Roundheads. There was no such thing, it appears, as a typical Royalist or Parliamentarian in either beliefs or appearance.

Exeter blitz remembered

ALTHOUGH Exeter had no strategic importance in the Second World War it was bombed ferociously by the Germans because of its beauty.

The 1942 blitz, in retaliation for the bombing of Lübeck, was the first of the so-called Baedeker raids on cathedral cities mentioned for their beauty and historical interest in pre-war travel guides.

A German radio broadcast reported: "This Exeter is a jewel. We have destroyed it."

Now the city has mounted a 50th anniversary exhibition, which lasts until October 31, in the Rougement House Museum.

SEARCHLINE

• El Adem Radio Service: Calling all members of The El Adem Radio Service (TEARS) based at RAF El Adem between 1958 and 1970. Please contact John Moir on 0705 595489.

DIARY

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

JUNE

6: Garrison 92, Warminster summer show including massed bands and displays.

12-14: Rhine Army show, Bad Lippspringe, near Paderborn.

13: Queen's Birthday Parade. Colour Trooped by 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

27: RAF Halton show, near Wendover, Aylesbury.

JULY

1-6: Armed Forces Week, a tri-Services event on Plymouth Hoe.

6-12: Public events at Royal Citadel, Plymouth, to mark completion of its renovation and 30th anniversary of Commando Gunners.

8-25: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box Office: 071-373 8141).

11-12: Men at Arms display, Military Vehicle Museum, Exhibition Park Pavilion, Newcastle upon Tyne.

15: Charity concert in aid of SSAFA, Royal Academy of Music, York Gate, Marylebone Road, London NW1 (details from 081-399 7764).

17-25: Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

18-19: Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society tenth annual rally, Whitbread Hop Farm, Beltring, Maidstone.

29 and 31: Prince of Wales's Division Massed Bands display, Cardiff Castle (tickets from Massed Bands Display Office, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE, tel: 0222 227611 ext 8244).

AUGUST

4-8: Exhibition of regimental silver, Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield.

7-29: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card hotline tel: 031-225 3661 or Tattoo Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB).

SEPTEMBER

6-13: Farnborough International Air show.

12-13: Wessex Regimental Tattoo, Devizes, Wiltshire.

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels — J L Longman — To be D and MA Bangkok, May 22; P D Macintyre — To FG and IMRO (N), May 18; J N B Stuart — To be Comdt DNBCC, May 18; J S Hendry — To RMCS, May 21; P A Kirby — To HQ 1 (BR) Corps, May 18; I S Creamer, late RAMC — To HQ UKLF, May 26; B A Hopkin, late RADC — To 10 Dent Gp as CO, May 28; P E B Daniel — To be Comd 2 Group RCT, May 25; M W Stott — To CDE, May 26; C W Paskell — To MoD, May 29; A J Hawkes, late RADC — To 5 Dent Gp as CO, June 5; P R Horobin, late RADC — To 2 Dent Gp BAOR as CO, June 5.

Lt Cols — G W Henderson, RRF — To MoD (A), May 18; N S Southward, 13/18 H — To HQ Berlin Inf Bde, May 21; P R P Swanson, Queens — To HQ AFCENT (Staff), May 22; P D Verge, RCT — To MoD (A), May 18; S F Sherry, RE — To be CO 28 Engr Regt, May 18; J R C Harper, RADC — To 12 Dent Gp, May 26; C M Purkis RADC to 6 Dent Gp as CO, May 25; B C Neeves, RCT — To BMATT Zimbabwe, May 25; J A Macfarlane, R Signals — To be CO 37 Sig Regt, May 30; P J J Mason, REME — To MoD, May 25; T J Magee, RAMC — To DMED as Comdt, June 1.

Retirements — **Brigadiers** — C J Garrett, late

RAMC, June 1; A B S H Gooch, late LG, June 1; W A Le Blanc-Smith, late 4/7 DG, May 26.

Colonels — R D Nicholas, late LI, May 21; J E Nowers, late RE, May 26.

Lt Col — K R Young, RAMC, May 28.

REUNIONS

• Royal Tigers Association: The Royal Leicestershire Regiment annual reunion will be held at Leicester on June 20-21. Details from the Secretary, TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester (tel: 0533 622749).

• 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars: The 73rd annual reunion dinner-dance of the Regimental Association takes place at Newcastle upon Tyne on June 27, followed the next day by a church service and parade. Details from Home Headquarters, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NP (tel: 091-261 1046 ext 3140).

• Northamptonshire Regiment Comrades Association: Annual reunion at Northampton on July 4-5. Details from the Secretary, Gibraltar Barracks, Barrack Road, Northampton (tel: 0604 35412).

• Falklands reunion: Ship's company of HMS *Hydra* (1982), an ambulance ship during the Falklands war, will be holding a reunion in Portsmouth on July 11. Anyone casevac to Montevideo welcome. Contact J Erskine, The Elms Guest House, 48 Victoria Road South (tel: 0705 823924).

• Staffordshire Regiment: Annual reunion on September 5 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (SAE please).

• Canadian Women's Army Corps Veterans: The 34th annual reunion will be held on September 25-26 in Toronto, Canada. CWAC Veterans reunion brochure from chairman Mrs Shirley Wood Heesaker, 201 Niagara Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1C9 (tel: 1-416 781-2872 or 781-3821).

• 12th Devonshire Regiment (6th Airborne), 1940-1945: The 46th reunion will be held at the Countess Wear Lodge, Topsham Road, Exeter, on October 3. Contact social secretary Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (tel: 0392 874596).

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

Op Corporate: the commanders' view

"IT HAS been said that if the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, then the Falklands War was won on the training fields of Brecon and Dartmoor."

So writes Brig Hew Pike, who commanded the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment during the campaign, in his contribution to *Ten Years On: The British Army in the Falklands War*, the companion book to the National Army Museum's special 1992 Summer Exhibition.

The book comprises chapters by some of the leading participants in the war, opening with one by Lord Bramall, who outlines the planning of the campaign from the Chief of the General Staff's viewpoint.

He tells how in an astonishingly short time, "indeed in well under a week . . . a task force of over 100 ships, and building up to 28,000 men, began to steam south under the British flag . . ."

Julian Thompson, commander of 3 Commando Brigade and named by Gen Moore as "the man of the match", has chosen to write his contribution in the third person and with disarming self-criticism, parti-

cularly about the battle for Goose Green, in which Col "H" Jones of 2 Para was killed.

"There is no doubt that Thompson made three mistakes in this battle . . . First, he should have taken his tactical headquarters, and commanded in person," he writes.

"Secondly, he should have taken another battalion or Commando with him. Third, he should have taken at least a troop of CVRT. Had he done all three, the battle would have been over far quicker.

"This is not intended as a criticism of Jones or Keeble. Merely that their Brigade Commander asked more of 2 Para then he should have done."

Maj Gen Michael Rose, who was CO of 22nd SAS Regiment, describes the intelligence gathering and destruction of enemy aircraft on the ground.

He also tells of a lesser-publicised part played by the SAS, the psychological pressure by radio on the Argentine HQ in Port Stanley that culminated at 1100 hours on June 14, when the Argentines contacted the SAS and invited a negotiating team to discuss a cease-fire on East Falkland . . .

"General Menendez was persuaded to surrender his sea, air and land forces to the British throughout the entire Falkland Islands."

The crisis had lasted just over ten weeks, but it was not yet the end of the story. Much had to be done to restore the islands to a habitable state and this was the task of Sir David Thorne, the Military Commander of the islands. It stretched resources to the limit, and even a 1936 bakery from the Aldershot Museum had to be sent out to Stanley!

As can be expected, the illustrations are first class and it is gratifying to see that SOLDIER librarian Bill Stroud comes in for special mention for his efforts in providing photographs.

An excellent chronology, order of battle, index and a list of related literature being published in 1992, add up to making *Ten Years On* a work of considerable value at a modest price. – BJ

Ten Years On: The British Army in the Falklands War
edited by Linda Washington. The National Army Museum, London, paperback, £8 (by post UK £9.50, USA and Canada £10.50).

went to France with 48 Division.

He was taken prisoner with most of his battalion after the defence of Cassel on the Dunkirk perimeter on May 29, 1940 and was dispatched with other officers to Oflag VIIIC at Laufen near Salzburg, thence to Oflag VIIIB at Dössel Warburg, Westphalia.

"It is hard to do justice to my first impressions of this extraordinary camp that was to be my home for the next two years. The Feldwebel – Scarface, as I came to know him – was waiting to welcome me as if I was an important guest at a four-star hotel."

Chaplain's duties took the author out of the camp on periodic visits to working parties living in *lager*, of which there were some 190 on farms, outstations of Stalag XXA.

It was an exhausting and demanding business but it had compensations, some of which

He was sent to Stalag XXA at

Torun, Poland, a camp for British NCOs who were *nix arbeiter* (non-workers), an entitlement that went with their rank.

"At an early stage I and one or two others decided that . . . we had a ministry among our fellow prisoners, and that was to be our work," he writes.

Wild's decision was made easier by the encouragement of his wife, Mary, extracts of his letters to whom are liberally interspersed through the pages of his book.

Enlisting in the Army Chaplains' Department at the outbreak of war, David Wild was posted to the 4th Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and

The hens come home to roost

MALE soldiers – abruptly deprived of their machismo and their trousers – are unlikely to appreciate the first paragraph of Kate Muir's *Arms and the Woman*.

What follows, however, is a carefully researched, cogent and well presented argument for giving women a greater role in the Armed Forces. It should be required reading for every man who has women under his command.

Muir acknowledges the male-perceived "reasons" – pregnancy, periods, passion, physical weakness, stamina, motivation – for the minimal integration of females, and demolishes them.

As the Gulf War confirmed, there is no area of the Services – with the important exception of the infantry – beyond the capabilities of women.

Ramboesque muscles are not a prerequisite for fighting wars at long range with computer-controlled missiles. Those same missiles blur the difference



Girl with a gun: Dvr Joanne Hunsley on the Gulf Medal parade of 27 Regiment RCT at Aldershot

between front line and rear (as they did in the Gulf), exploding another reason for keeping women out of the teeth arms.

"To lose the skills of 51 per cent of the population in a gender bar is somewhat inefficient," says the author with compelling logic.

Prevented from serving in combat units, the woman soldier has found herself in a Catch 22 situation. No experience at the sharp end – no promotion to higher command.

If a job offers neither long-term challenge nor worthwhile promotion, the best women will leave. That is a waste of a high-grade resource.

It may be territory which the Army finds increasingly difficult to defend – not least because the Royal Navy is

Russian Army Lines of Communication was considerably more physically demanding than the imprisonment. But at last the survivors reached Odessa and repatriation on board a Canadian Pacific Liner.

The author overcame the devastating effect of a five-year ordeal better and quicker than many others. Within months he returned to Eton College, where he had been assistant master and chaplain, becoming a house master until his retirement to Somerset in 1969. A fitting and deserving epilogue to the adventure. – JNE

He had discovered that women could drive as well, if not better, than men. – JNE

Prisoner of Hope by David Wild. The Book Guild, hardback, £12.95.

Arms and the Woman by Kate Muir. Published by Sinclair Stevenson, hardback, £15.95.

BOOK REVIEWS

Lively days of a Blue Bonnet

SOLDIERS' memoirs abound and come in two forms.

There are those written by generals either out of vanity or from a sense of duty to set down their experiences for the benefit of future generations of commanders and in the hope that the work will become a standard reference for students of warfare.

The second type is written by soldiers somewhat down the scale and, of course, both forms can be incredibly boring.

This is not an adjective that can be applied to *One Blue Bonnet: A Scottish Soldier Looks Back*, in which Brig Frank Coutts tells of his life, starting from an upbringing in Glasgow during the 1930s as son of a Church of Scotland minister, and closing with his days in retirement but still a leading figure in the campaign to save Scottish regiments.

Between, we are taken through a fascinating active life of service that began as a policeman on the beat in London. He was embarking on this career when the Second World War broke out and he joined the London Scottish.

The Army seems to have brought him a few smiles. On one occasion his unit was billeted in the prestigious girls' school, Roedean. "The bell in each room which invited us to 'Ring if you require a mistress in the night' sadly brought no response."

He was commissioned from the ranks into The King's Own Scottish Borderers and posted to the 4th Battalion which became part of 155 Brigade in the 52 (Lowland) Division, whose role was intended to be the Army's "mountain" formation destined for Norway.

Ironically, after the ordeals of mountain training in Scotland, the Division's first action in Europe was below sea-level, on the flooded islands of the Scheldt in November 1944.

After the war Frank Coutts became a regular Army officer instead of returning to the Metropolitan Police. He also played rugby at international level for Scotland.

The Army took him from the jungles of Malaya to the streets of cold-war Berlin. Then,

" . . . out of the blue, came a posting as Colonel of Lowland Brigade, which was cancelled a few days later by appointment as Commander 155 (Lowland) Brigade in Edinburgh. My old job – I just couldn't believe it."

One Blue Bonnet is highly readable and one of the best autobiographies by a soldier for some time. – BJ

One Blue Bonnet: A Scottish Soldier Looks Back by Brig Frank Coutts. B and W Publishing, 7 Sciennes, Edinburgh EH9 1HH, paperback, £7.95.

Gulf book misses its mark

The Gulf War: A Photographic History is by any standards the mother of all disappointments.

Dustjacket notes suggest that this book combines the unrivalled resources of The Press Association with the insights of the leading media commentator in the United Kingdom.

Its photographs are described as stunning and its commentary as incisive with the recommendation that of all the books published on the subject, this book will, with its unique combination of photographic excellence and accurate analysis, provide an invaluable record for both historians and general readers alike. It doesn't, and there are several better books already in print.

A promising cover design is let down badly by the contents, which border on the mediocre. One chapter describes the land war as Operation Desert Sabre. It wasn't. Sabre was the name of the battle plan of Britain's 1st Armoured Division, itself a part of the overall American Operation Desert Sword.

No individual photographers get a credit, which is a pity because their pictures form the bulk of this work. – LM

The Gulf War – A Photographic History by Michael Dewar and The Press Association. Robert Hale, £14.95.

Chaplain's ministry was in Stalag XXA

THERE have been many books by ex-prisoners of war of the 1939-45 era, but very few, if any, written by padres.

Army chaplains and doctors were in a unique and, some might say, privileged position, for under the Geneva Convention both were classed as "Protected Personnel" and entitled to repatriation.

Some chose to remain as prisoners and David Wild's *Prisoner of Hope* is the autobiographical account of the war by one self-sacrificing Army chaplain.

Enlisting in the Army Chaplains' Department at the outbreak of war, David Wild was posted to the 4th Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and

made him almost forget his prisoner status: "Riding on from Stirnau for a mile and a half we came to the pleasant village green of Neukirch where our guard stood us each a beer outside the 'local' . . ." However, these were good moments in an otherwise grim existence.

There was considerable apprehension in the camp as it became obvious that the liberators would be the Russian Army. This was the time of the Yalta Conference, ". . . and in the dark I heard one man remark in a loud voice, 'It only needs Churchill to call Joe Stalin a bugger, and we're all in the cart' . . ."

In the event, getting away from Torun and along the

Russian Army Lines of Communication was considerably more physically demanding than the imprisonment. But at last the survivors reached Odessa and repatriation on board a Canadian Pacific Liner.

The author overcame the devastating effect of a five-year ordeal better and quicker than many others. Within months he returned to Eton College, where he had been assistant master and chaplain, becoming a house master until his retirement to Somerset in 1969. A fitting and deserving epilogue to the adventure. – JNE

He had discovered that women could drive as well, if not better, than men. – JNE

Prisoner of Hope by David Wild. The Book Guild, hardback, £12.95.

Arms and the Woman by Kate Muir. Published by Sinclair Stevenson, hardback, £15.95.



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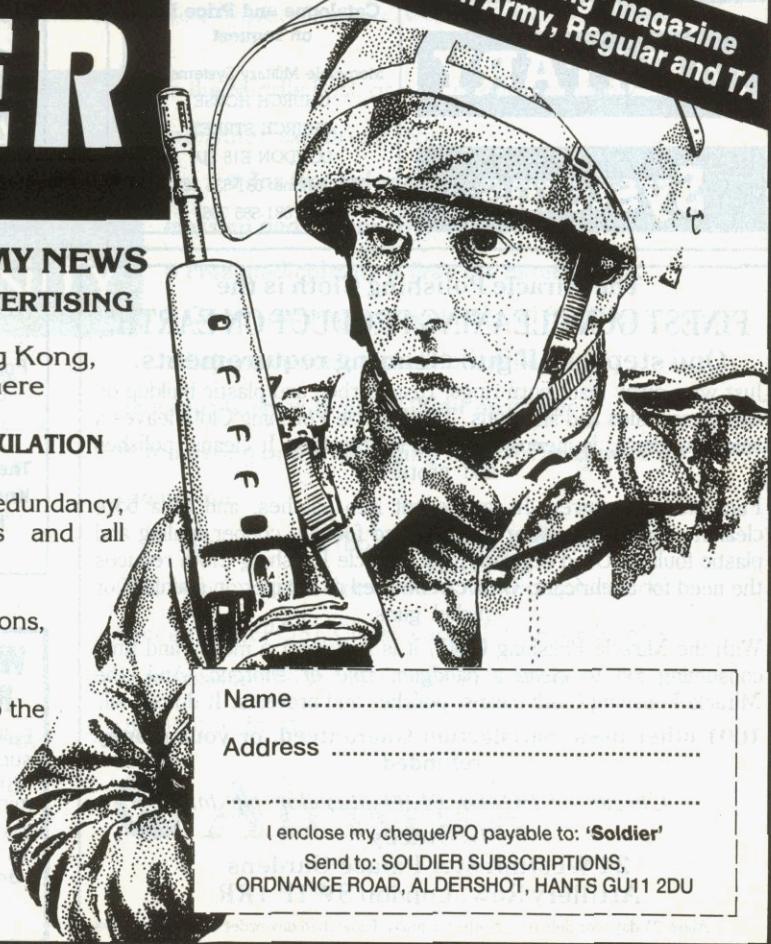
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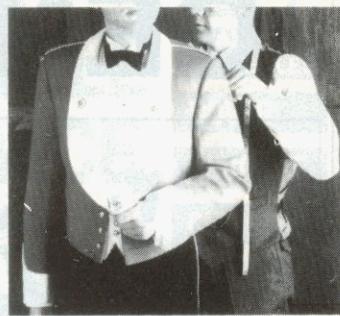
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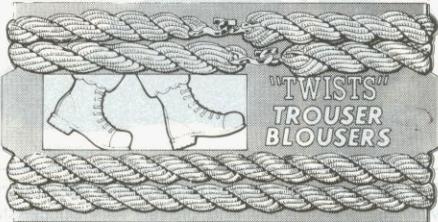
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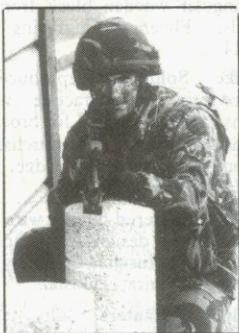
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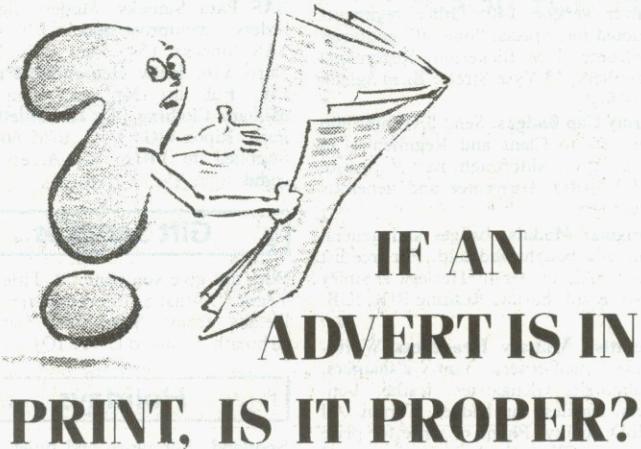
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Gulf War militaria bought by historian, e.g. badges, propaganda leaflets, photographs, printed ephemera and souvenirs etc., Laurie Manton, c/o Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. T/C

Help!! "The Tiger Triumphs". Does anybody have a copy to sell or lend. Please contact: Mrs L Tomlinson, 7a Meadow Way, Kings Langley, Herts WD4 8EH. 21-27

Items of interest to The Manchester Regiment. Badges, collars WBC. Anything considered. Please state price required. Mr R Boardman, 1 Goodwood Avenue, Fulwood, Preston PR2 4TZ. 23-25

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Sappers on target in corps shoot

THE ROYAL Engineers achieved a new record score of 747 out of 800 in winning the 20th Inter-Corps target rifle match at Bisley.

They were pushed all the way by The Ulster Defence Regiment who finished second on 740 and the REME who were third with 739.

At the half-way stage on the short ranges the sappers and REME were tied on 376 (out of 400), with the UDR just four behind, but the engineers edged ahead with some high scoring over 900 and 1,000 yards on Stickledown range.

Highest individual score was 193 (ex 200) by Maj Dick Ellis (RE). Fellow sapper Maj Roger Bailey won the reserve match with a score of 182, and perfect scores of 50 were achieved by Ellis and Sgt Paul Quilliam (also RE) at 600 yards.

In a practice sniper match which followed, Sgt Alan Hoy (1 R Irish) shot the day's highest score with 195 (ex 200), followed by Pte Scroggie (2/11 UDR) on 192. Perfect 50s were

returned by Scroggie at 300 and 600 yards, by the UDR's Capt Cummings and LCpl Doak at 600 yards and by Cpl Thwaites (Para) at 300.

Milocarians run into form

THE LONDON-based tri-Services Milocarian Athletic Club has recorded its best cross country season for some years, finishing sixth out of 17 senior teams in the 15-race Chiltern

League, and winning the veteran category. More than 50 Army, RAF and Civil Service athletes, from apprentice to group captain, wore the Milos' blue strip during the season.

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Top man takes sabre title

WITH British Olympics sabre hopeful LCpl Willie Williams on the sidelines, Army Fencing Union president Lt Col Witek Nowosielski-Slepowron (150 Regt RCT (V)) took full advantage to win the sabre discipline in the Army championships at Aldershot.

Williams, serving with the Depot Regiment Royal Engineers at Chatham, is rated number two in Great Britain.

Second was Capt Mark Kitto (1 WG), with Maj Charles Ottowell (L1) third.

Ottowell, from RAF Odiham, performed well in all three disciplines and won the senior Champion at Arms title.

Cpl Chris Davey (3 RTR) won the foil and Cpl Shaun Morgan (22 Engr Regt), a reserve for the Barcelona Olympics modern pentathlon team, took the foil title.

LCpl Hartley of Birgelen-based 13 Signal Regiment made his trip from Germany worthwhile by winning the Under-20 foil and epee competitions, and the junior Champion at Arms honour. Sig Bartlett (11 Signal Regt) won the U-20 sabre and LCpl Heanes (22 Signals) was the most improved fencer.

The six-man team competition was won by 2 Queens and the three-man event by the Household Cavalry.

Epee - 1, Cpl Shaun Morgan (22 Engr Regt); 2, Capt Dominic Mahony (LG); 3, 2nd Lt Craig Manley (RA); 4, SSgt Peter Whiteside (Arborfield).

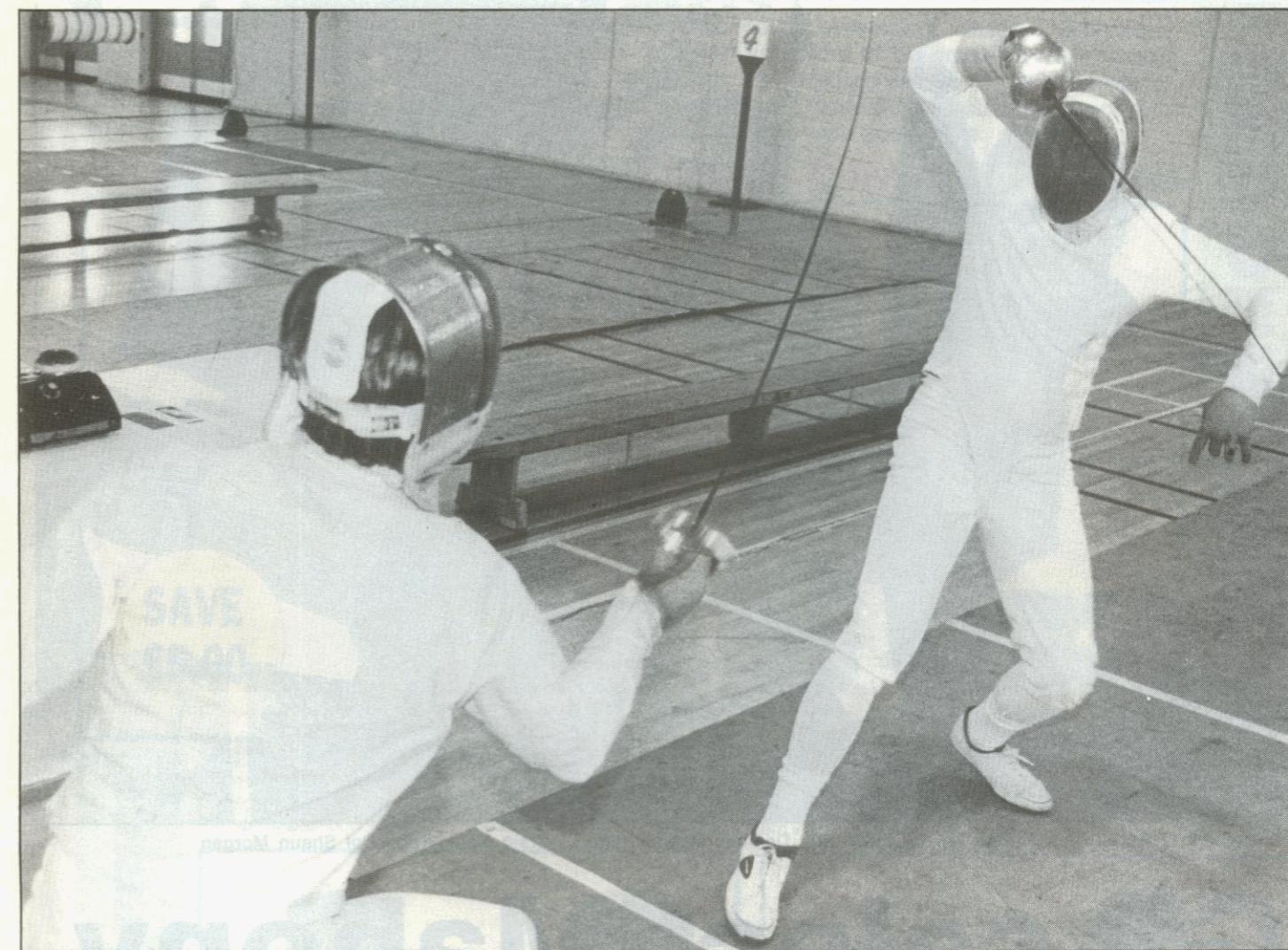
Foil - 1, Cpl Chris Davey (3 RTR); 2, Lt Col Neil Sutherland (78 Engr Regt (V)); 3, Maj Charles Ottowell (L1); 4, Capt Mark Whelan (Queens).

Women's foil - Sgt Bowman (COP Bicaster); 2, Sgt Edwards (154 FAD Wuffin); 3, Cpl Emmerson (CAD Kennington). **Epee** - 1, Sgt Edwards; 2, Sgt Bowman; 3, Cpl Emmerson.

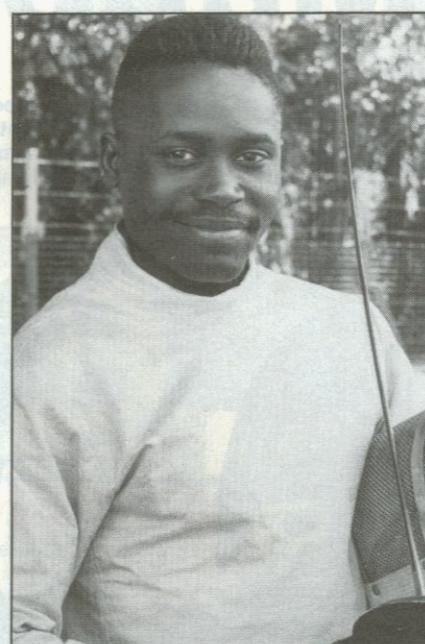
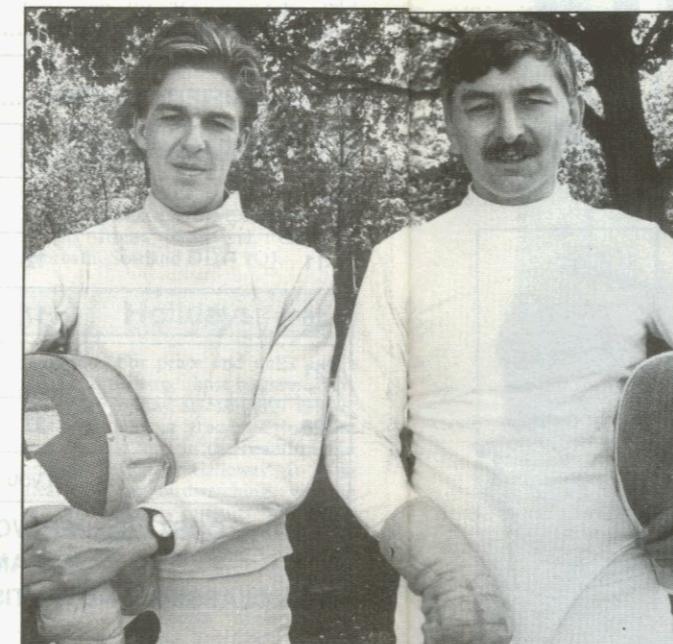


Clockwise from above: Maj Charles Ottowell, senior Champion at Arms; Capt Mark Kitto (left) and Lt Col Witek Nowosielski-Slepowron in action in the sabre competition; British number two LCpl Willie Williams; Capt Kitto (left) and Lt Col Nowosielski-Slepowron after the sabre competition in which they filled the first two places.

TROPHY



Pictures: Mike Perring



Soldiers' gold bid thrown by RAF

THE ARMY were runners-up at the Inter-Services judo championships at RNEC Mandon in Plymouth, finishing behind the Royal Air Force and ahead of the Royal Navy in both A and B team competitions.

Army medals were won by:

Gold - SSgt Morton (U-60kg); SSgt Chapman (U-86); Pte Macdonald (women's heavyweight).

Silver - SSgt Coleman (U-78); Cpl Morrison (U-86); Sgt Dancy (U-95); Sig Young (women's lightweight); LCpl Nicholson (women's heavyweight).

Bronze - Pte Hockley and LCpl Hill (U-60);

LBdr Airlie (U-65); LCpl Nicholls (U-71); LCpl Nicholls (U-95); Sgt Pritchard (O-95); Pte Harford (women's lightweight); LCpl Turner (women's heavyweight).

● A Taekwon Do Club formed five months ago in Catterick Garrison by CSgt John Parks, serving with 1 DERR at Bourlon Barracks, Catterick Garrison, N Yorks DL9 3AD, now has a membership of 50. CSgt Parks wants to hear from others interested in forming a Forces Taekwon Do Association.

A RUGBY tour of America's Deep South by 30 members of Herford-based 7 Signal Regiment surpassed all expectations.

The three-match trip took a year to organise, but paid off when the signallers won all three games and enjoyed some remarkably generous southern

hospitality. The tour started in New Orleans, where the tourists defeated a first division side by 28 points to 22, continued in Mobile, Alabama, where the Battleship RFC - then preparing for the All American Championships - were beaten 18 points to 16 in

90 degrees of midday heat, and ended at Pensacola, Florida, where 7 Signal Regiment beat a US Naval Air Base team by 30 points to three.

4 RRW win derby

The annual derby between the 3rd and 4th Volunteer

Battalions of The Royal Regiment of Wales took place at the Gnoll Ground in Neath where the Howells Cup donated by the Honorary Colonel of the 4th Battalion, Col Peter Howells, Chairman of TAVRA Wales, was won for the second year in succession

by the 4th Battalion. Sgt Ian McCullif, the 4 RRW captain, received the cup from the commanding officer of 3 RRW, Lt Col Neil Jones.

Conditions were perfect, which helped the 4th Battalion win with a convincing score of 22 points to four.

Sigs warm to southern hospitality



Pictures: Mike Perring

In training at Arborfield are (from left to right) Capt Dominic Mahony, 2nd Lt Craig Manley and Cpl Shaun Morgan

GB select Mahony for Barcelona

CAPT Dominic Mahony (Life Guards), who won a modern pentathlon bronze medal at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, has been chosen to compete at Barcelona in Britain's four-man team.

Also going to Spain are Seoul colleagues Graham Brookhouse and Richard Phelps, and Greg White, who took part in the team world championships last year.

The Army had hoped that Mahony, a former British fencing champion with the epee, would be joined in the national team by Royal Artillery officer 2nd Lt Craig Manley, the British junior champion, and sapper Cpl Shaun Morgan, Army record holder in a number of swimming events and the current Service epee champion.

Manley and Morgan have

been named as reserves for Barcelona.

All six – Mahony, Manley, Morgan, Brookhouse, Phelps and Whyte – took part in an unusual training session at the Army Modern Pentathlon Training Centre at Arborfield, near Reading, when a crowd of spectators and media representatives were specially invited to create an Olympic-like "buzz" as the squad concentrated on shooting, the mid-point in the competition following a hard day of fencing and swimming.

Mahoney booked his seat on the aircraft to Spain by performing well at the World Cup and British qualifying event at Corby over the spring bank holiday weekend. His win in the fencing discipline – in which he beat the Russian Anatoly Starostin, a former

Below – Checking his score is modern pentathlete Cpl Shaun Morgan, named as a reserve for the British Olympic team at Barcelona



Olympic champion – signalled his return to top form, and he was just seven seconds outside his competition best in the 300m swim.

The squad's last test before Barcelona is at Berne, Switzerland, in mid-June in the final World Cup competition of the season.

SOLDIER



Captured by the camera as it flies upside down above the clouds, a Westland Lynx helicopter from the Army Air Corps Eagles display team goes through its paces in the early morning sky over Snowdonia. See Pages 22-23.

Picture: Stewart Andrew