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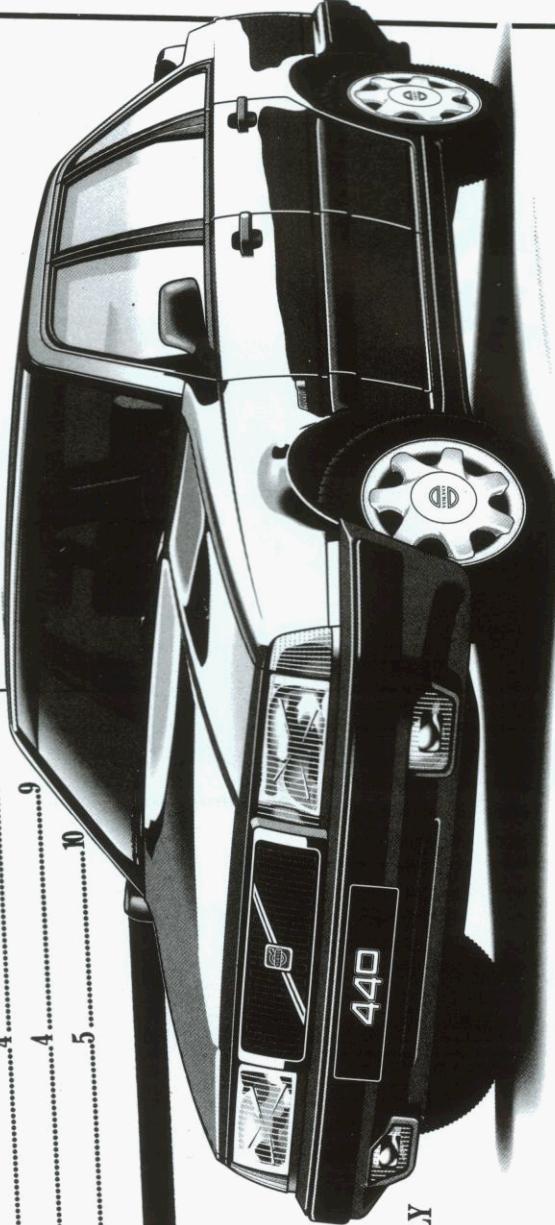
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December 14, 1992
VOL. 48/25

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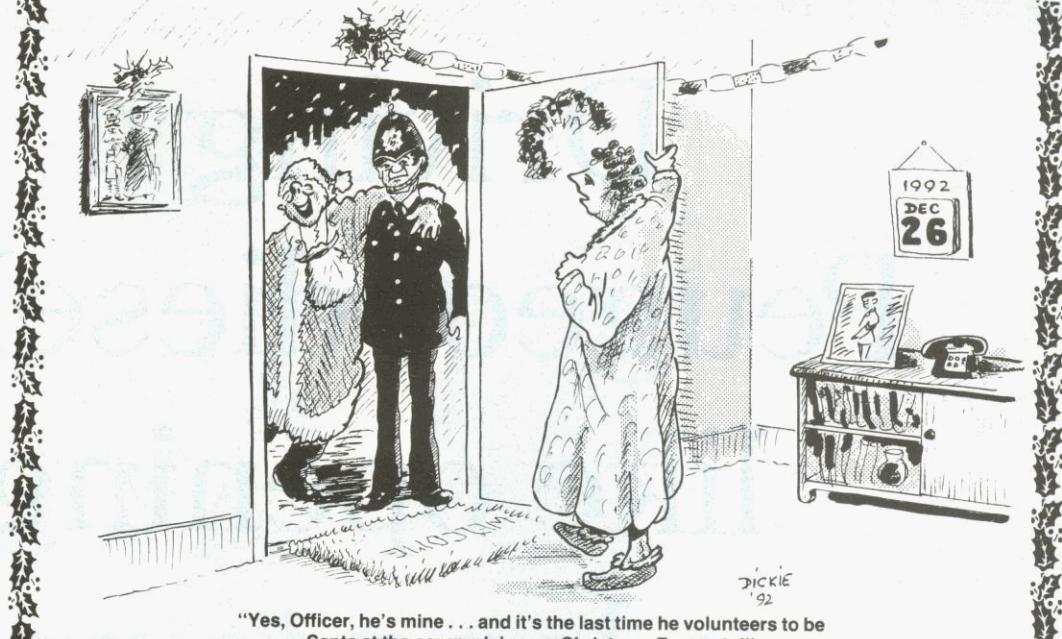
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A Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year



"Yes, Officer, he's mine... and it's the last time he volunteers to be Santa at the corporals' mess Christmas Eve party!"

FRONT COVER: We asked Spr Claire Jarman to help us send seasonal greetings to all our readers and advertisers, and a very pretty parcel she made of it. Claire and her fellow posties at the Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Depot, Mill Hill, have been busy with Christmas mail since mid-October, peaking in November when more than 100,000 packages passed through their hands. (Picture: Mike Perring)

Our next issue, published on December 18, will be dated January 11.

BRIT CONVOYS BREAK THROUGH

BRITISH troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina escorted their first humanitarian aid convoy to the besieged town of Tuzla on November 19.

With snow already falling on high ground, the 80-mile mountain road from the 1 Cheshire group base at Vitez to Tuzla has become increasingly hazardous.

Nine four-ton Bedfords reached Tuzla after an 11-hour journey, delivering 36 tons of food, blankets and plastic building materials. A tenth truck slipped off the icy track into a river bed. Its crew was uninjured.

The convoy was escorted by a platoon from A Coy, 1 Cheshire in Land Rovers, six Scimitars of 9/12 L, three Spartans of 42 Fd Sqn RE and an armoured ambulance.

On the return journey to Vitez the convoy came under machinegun and mortar fire from Serb positions east of Kladanj - where A Coy, 1 Cheshire is manning a forward

DRIVERS of 17 Squadron RCT brought some early Christmas cheer to the roadside when their DROPS vehicle slid off an icy track while they were taking supplies from the support base at Tomislavgrad to the 1 Cheshire headquarters at Vitez.

Condemned to a freezing night on the mountain, they started a bonfire and shared

base - and three civilians were injured when their lorry collided with a Spartan.

There were no British injuries and no fire was returned.

Before the first convoy, commanded by Maj Martyn Thomas, OC A Coy, 1 Cheshire, the mud and rock route was reconnoitred to establish the strength of wooden and concrete bridges along the way.

It was believed that most would bear the weight of the British Army's 7.76-tonne

their rations with civilians also stranded in temperatures down to minus 18 degrees.

Next morning SSgt Gillie Porter, REME, the squadron artificer, and helpers decorated a 5ft fir tree with compo cans and paper, and spelt out "Merry Christmas" in fern leaves - a message now seen by all who use route Triangle.

Scimitars, but that some would not support regular crossing by the 25.3-tonne Warrior.

Maj Jamie Sage, RE, OC 42 Fd Sqn, 35 Engr Regt, inspected the stone piers supporting the wooden bridge at Kraljeva Sutjeska and said it would collapse under sustained use by Warrior. The small hamlet 19 miles due east of Vitez marks the beginning of the mountain route.

Local experts say the road will become impassable in the depths of winter, and that

● Turn to Page 5

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Troops help in Windsor rescue

SOLDIERS worked alongside firemen and staff at the scene of the devastating fire at Windsor Castle last month.

Members of the newly-formed Household Cavalry Regiment – based in nearby Combermere Barracks – and of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles helped to salvage valuable paintings, furniture and books.

At one point, the Gurkha sentry situated on the north terrace had to be withdrawn, since there was a danger of part of the castle collapsing on top of his sentry post.

Officer of the Guard, Capt (QGO) Rambahadur Gurung, whose detachment had only just started a tour of public duties at Windsor, said: "We changed guard at 11.30am and, just after taking over, the policeman on duty told us that fire had broken out in the north-east wing of the castle and asked us for assistance.

"I turned out all the guard and, with no chance to remove our greatcoats, we doubled to the scene of the fire.

"When we arrived, we saw smoke and flames spreading rapidly towards the state apartments. We moved into the apartments and helped to form human chains, moving from room to room to salvage the contents."

He and his men were relieved during the afternoon and stood by at the guardroom. On Sunday morning, another detachment from 7 GR took over.

The Household Cavalry Regiment was informed of the fire by the staff captain and was asked to send 20 men and two four-tonners, said the adjutant, Capt Nick Lane-Fox.

"By 6pm there were nearly 200 men from the regiment at the scene and virtually all the four-tonners in the fleet had been deployed. They were there till 10pm."

Following the fire, 120 people from the HCR assisted in replacing books in the castle's library.



Picture: Sgt John Harding

The pace of guards at Buckingham Palace went up a step or two when the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles took over the Queen's Guards from the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Soldiers from 7 GR will carry out public duties at the Palace and Windsor Castle until the New Year

Breakthrough

From Page 3

Tuzla, an industrial town of 130,000 mainly Muslim residents and swollen by up to 70,000 refugees, will not survive if an alternative route cannot be found.

Final reconnaissance of the Vitez-Tuzla mountain road was carried out in four Land Rovers led by Lt Col Bob Stewart, CO of the Cheshire group.

Travnik, a town neighbouring the British base at Vitez, came under fierce bombardment from Serbian artillery as the Serbs overran villages to the west.

Lt Col Stewart has been racing against the onset of winter to get as many supplies as possible to warehouses of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

After the first snows there has been a mild spell which greatly helped the relief effort. Several areas now have a surplus of supplies, others have not been so fortunate. Bugojno has so far received 47,000

tonnes and needs another 205,000.

After UNHCR soft-skinned vehicles had been fired on and prevented from completing a convoy on November 25, supplies were returned to Gorni Vakuf.

The following day Lt Col Stewart sent Maj Martyn Thomas with two Warrior-borne platoons plus support vehicles to Ilijas, 15km northwest of Sarajevo, to try to establish a main route through the Serb lines to Kladanj.

Lt Col Stewart's attempts to find a route through Serbian lines were thwarted by an anti-tank ditch, but, acting on intelligence gained by 2iC Maj Tim Park from Bosnian soldiers, the Cheshires found a road which not only skirted Serbian positions, but will enable Vitez-Tuzla convoys to make the journey in half the time on a surface capable of bearing three times the loads possible on the mountain routes.

Big bonus for home savers

THE SERVICES Home Savings Scheme (SHSS) which took effect on December 1 is designed to give personnel a massive incentive to buy their own homes.

One of a number of initiatives first announced in February following the report of the Housing Task Force, it offers a Ministry of Defence-funded bonus for those who save regularly.

Provided the account is maintained for at least five years, the saver will be eligible, when he or she buys a house, for the MoD's Home Savings Allowance (HSA), adding £1 for every £3 saved in the SHSS account.

The HSA bonus will be paid on savings and interest earned.

Service personnel who opt to join the scheme may save any sum between £50 and £200 a month, paid directly into an account opened with one of four participating financial institutions – Gartmore Money Management Limited, the Bank of Scotland, Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, and Skipton Building Society.

All full-time members of HM Forces are eligible provided neither they nor their spouse already own a house. The Home Service element of The Royal Irish Regiment and personnel on Local Service Engagements are not eligible.

Preferential rates of interest have been negotiated.

Depositors may leave the scheme at any time, but will not be entitled to HSA if they have participated for less than five years or do not intend to use the money for a house purchase.

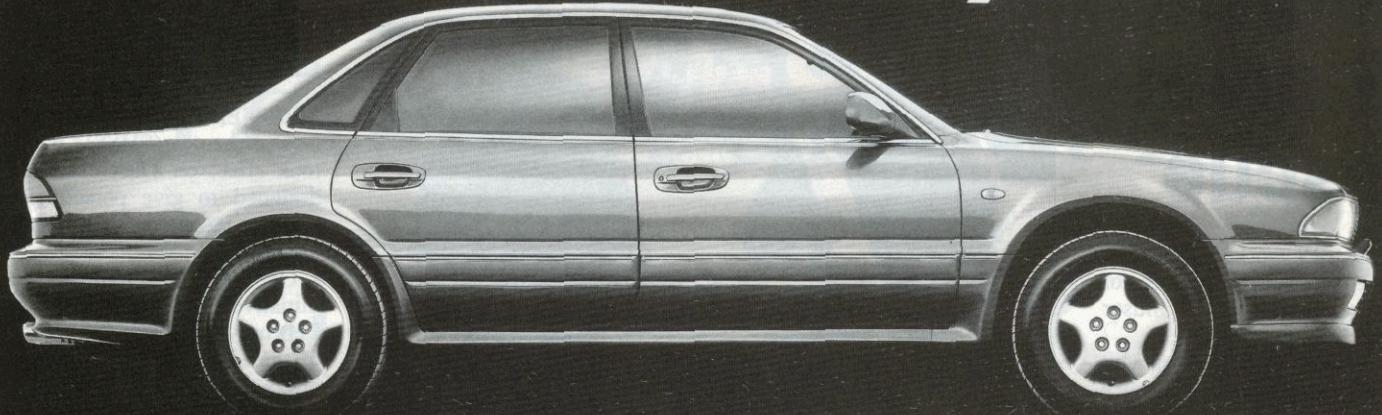
A Serviceman or woman who puts away the maximum monthly amount (£200) for 20 years could receive a sum of £111,740 towards buying a home.

● More details on Page 34.

Evicted

SEVEN Army families were evicted from MoD accommodation in the UK between April 1, when figures were first kept centrally, and September 30, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton told MPs.

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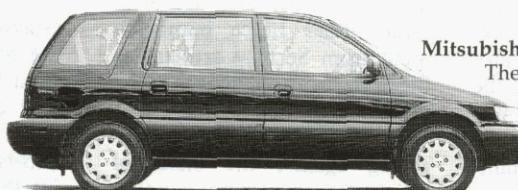
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Tanks, guns to be chopped

TANK numbers are expected to be reduced by 299 and artillery pieces by 68 when planned reductions in the Army are completed.

The figures were given in Commons written answers by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton.

The exact quantities of armoured combat vehicles and armoured vehicle lookalikes to be deployed on the completion of planned reductions in the Army was still under review.

There would be a small increase in the typical strength of a battalion — currently between 628 and 927 — depending on its type and role.

• Fewer people are leaving the Services by premature voluntary release than at any time since 1987, Mr Hamilton revealed in another written answer. Army figures available up to September 1 show that for the current year the percentage of officers leaving by PVR was 2.6 and, for soldiers, 7.1.

These compare with 3.6 and 7.4 respectively for 1991-92 and 4.7 and 9.9 for 1989-90.

Lottery boost for Army sport

SOLDIERS will be able to have a flutter and boost Army sports coffers following Army Board approval for a lottery to start on September 1 next year.

Serving personnel exclusively will be eligible to buy a maximum of three 75p tickets — deducted from pay at source — for the chance of winning weekly prizes of £2,000, £1,500, £500, £250, £150 and £75.

A lottery manager is to be appointed by the Army Sport Control Board in April to run the venture, which is based on a similar project introduced by the Royal Navy a year ago.

The self-supporting lottery will be based on Football League scores during the winter and County Cham-

Hong Kong remembers



Prince Charles, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Wales and 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, both of whom are stationed in Hong Kong, and the Governor, Mr Chris Patten, led the Remembrance Sunday service at the island's cenotaph. Both regiments provided contingents at the ceremony, and 1 RRW are pictured above marching off

Three die in air crash

ONE soldier and three RAF aircrew died in a mid-air collision involving an Army Air Corps Gazelle helicopter and a Royal Air Force Puma as they came in to land at Bessbrook in south Armagh.

Puma passenger Maj John Barr, 36, of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, who was visiting the Province, was killed.

One of the three RAF dead, Sqn Ldr Michael Haverson, 39, was in the Army Air Corps from 1971 to 1987.

Two soldiers in the Gazelle were injured.

GOC moves in

MAJ GEN Patrick Cordingley, who led the 7th Armoured Brigade in the Gulf War, has taken over as GOC Eastern District at Imphal Barracks, York. He succeeded Maj Gen Michael Walker who has become Assistant Chief of the General Staff.

pionship cricket matches in the summer. Each ticket will bear three numbers which equate to three league soccer teams or county cricket batsmen printed on the ticket.

Full instructions will be printed on each ticket, and winners will be notified automatically during the week following each lottery.

It is hoped that several hundred thousand pounds will be generated each year for Army sport, with grants becoming available at every level from unit teams to international competitors.

The lottery will reduce the burden of sport on Army Central Funds and the pressure on sponsors, currently supporting Army sport to the tune of some £250,000.

Personnel wishing to join the scheme (there will be a waiting list if the lottery is over-subscribed) will be able to do so by filling in a form, and may leave at any time by giving the manager one month's notice. Tickets remain valid after a subscription is stopped until all credit has been used up.

Full details will be given by the ASCB in due course.

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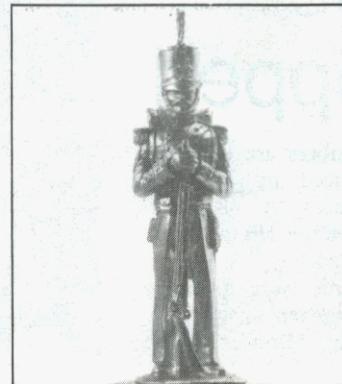
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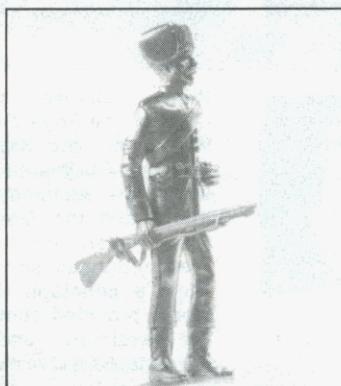
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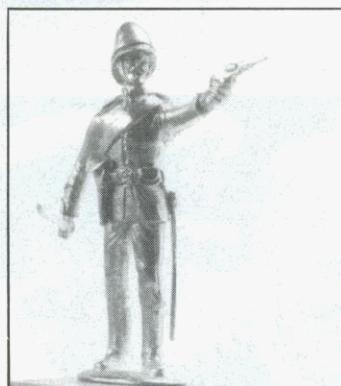
Sergeant
Royal Military Artificers
1811



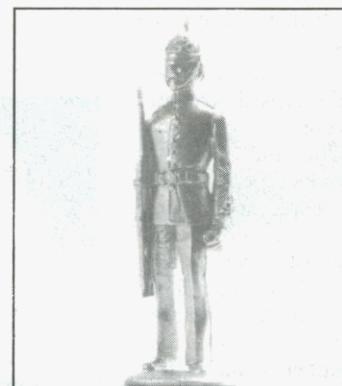
Sergeant
Royal Sappers and Miners
1854



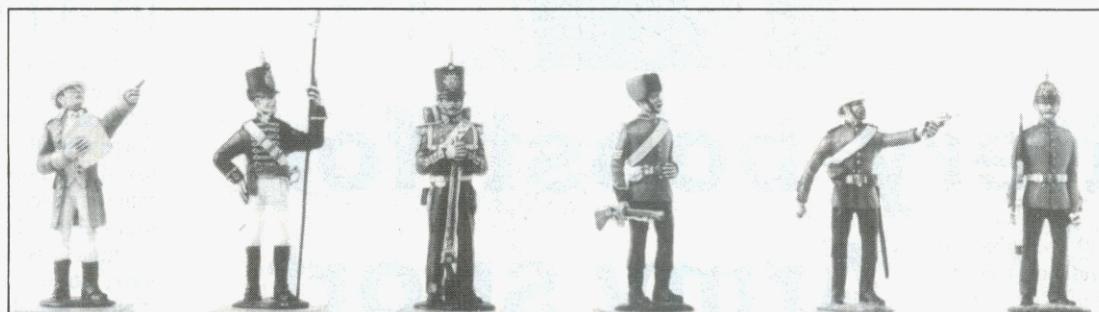
Sergeant
Royal Engineers
1869



Officer
Royal Engineers
1879



Sapper
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1900



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Photographs by Graeme Storey Shetland.



Scottish Kingsmen

16/5L keeps up its hit rate

D SQUADRON, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers has fired its guided weapons for the last time on the ranges at Otterburn. The regiment is due to lose its GW role when it amalgamates with 17th/21st Lancers in June and converts to Challenger tanks.

During the Gulf War 16/5 L provided medium recce for the 1st (UK) Division, operating deep behind enemy lines. D Sqn fired Swingfire missiles in action.

For the exercise at Otterburn, D Sqn was allocated 94 wire-guided Swingfire missiles for its eight vehicles. A third of the firings were carried out at night and an overall hit rate of more than 80 per cent was achieved.

The night firings were visually spectacular, with the missile motors producing spears of flame as they flew down the range and showers of sparks when they hit the target.

On the rare occasions when a missile failed to respond to the controller's joystick com-

The first platoon of King's Division recruits passed out from Glencorse Barracks in Penicuik near Edinburgh on October 29 in an historic parade marking the beginning of a new era at the ancient and picturesque Scottish barracks. Ladysmith Platoon, commanded by Lt David White, Kings, was the first King's Division intake

under the new plans for recruit training. Recruits joining the King's Division were formerly trained at Strensall in Yorkshire. Glencorse will now provide phase one training for both Scottish and King's Division soldiers and will change its name from the Scottish Division Depot to Army Training Regiment Glencorse on April 1.



Striker firing Swingfire in the build-up to the Gulf War

mands, it could be destroyed in flight - a facility not available for the missiles fired during the war in the Gulf.

The regiment first used guided weapons in 1974 mounted on Ferret, later replaced by AFV 438s and still later by Striker on the introduction of the CVR(T) series of vehicles.

D Sqn has consistently achieved an 80 per cent hit rate over the past ten years and is the only British Swingfire squadron to have used the system in battle.

D Sqn arrived back at Wimbish, Essex in August after a six-month tour in Cyprus as the United Nations Force Scout Car Squadron.

Hussars mark new Freedom

THE 14th/20th King's Hussars have been given the Freedom of the Borough of Preston during a ceremony which marked the final formal parade by the regiment before its amalgamation on December 4 with The Royal Hussars to form The King's Royal Hussars.

About 90 members of 14/20 H were on parade including the commanding officer, Lt Col David Wood, the regimental band, guidon party and guard of honour.

After inspecting the guard, Preston Guild Mayor Harold Parker presented the Colonel of the Regiment,

Maj Gen Sir Michael Palmer, with a scroll commemorating the Grant of Freedom. In return the regiment gave the borough a cased cavalry sword.

The parade also marked the final formal regimental duty for Maj Gen Palmer, who hands over his responsibilities to the Colonel of the new amalgamated regiment, Maj Gen John Friedberger.

Despite the merger, The King's Royal Hussars will retain strong links with Lancashire. A home headquarters will remain in Preston and the Freedom of Preston will pass to the new regiment.

Scots DG's family welcome

CATTERICK-based Royal Scots Dragoon Guards pride themselves on being a family regiment and this was apparent during the inaugural visit of the regiment's new Honorary Colonel, Maj Gen Charles Ramsay.

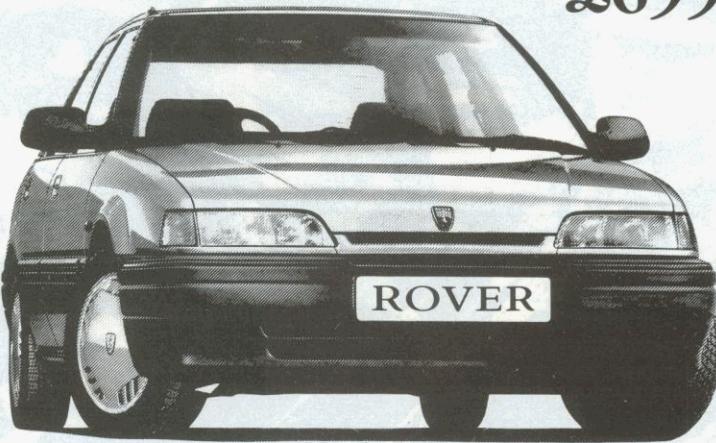
The general, who commanded the regiment in 1978/79, was welcomed to Cambrai Barracks by a ceremonial barrack guard commanded by his elder son, 2nd Lt William Ramsay.

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Source: WHAT CAR? July 1991



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Source: HUDDERSFIELD DAILY EXAMINER
February 1992



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4 WFR makes proud exit

THE TOWN of Kidderminster echoed to the sound of marching feet and martial music as Territorial Army soldiers of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment said a sad but proud farewell on their final parade in Worcestershire.

Led by the Regimental ram mascot, Private Derby XXVI, and the Corps and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, the battalion was exercising its Freedom of the town for the last time. It is one of five TA infantry battalions disbanding under Options for Change.

For the battalion's soldiers, the occasion was doubly sad, for their commanding officer, Lt Col John White, a Regular officer of The Devon and Dorsetshire Regiment, died a week before the parade after a brave fight against cancer.

He was honoured the day before his death with the presentation of the OBE at his home by the Lord Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester, Col Thomas Dunne. The award was to have been announced in the New Year Honours List.

The regiment's eight-pointed



THE QUICK reactions of a British Loan Service officer in Brunei saved the life of a Bruneian teenager and earned him a commendation from Commander British Forces Hong Kong.

Capt David Jenkins, AGC, serving with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, was sitting by the swimming pool at Bolkiah Garrison Officers' Mess when he heard a spectator scream. He saw the body of a girl lying face down in the water and, without hesitation, dived in to rescue her.

The 14-year-old girl was blue in the face and had stopped breathing.

Capt Jenkins revived her with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage, then got her to hospital. Doctors there said that Capt Jenkins's prompt actions had undoubtedly saved the girl.

Carrying the Colours of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment on its disbandment parade at Kidderminster were (left to right) Lt David Soley with the Queen's Colour, Escort warrant officer WO2 Mick Caffrey and Lt John Westwood, Regimental Colour

star badge still has a TA presence in the county. Kidderminster-based B Company becomes part of 5 LI (V), but retains its cap badge and becomes the custodian of the old battalion's colours.

In addition, the Shirley-based C Company comes under command of 5 RRF and Redditch-based HQ Company becomes HQ Company and RHQ of 37 (V) Signal Regiment.



Maj Gen Huw Pike, GOC 3 (UK) Division drove an all-terrain Supacat while visiting 5 Airborne Brigade Logistics Battalion. Gen Pike is pictured in the Supacat on Longmoor Training Area, with Gen Mick Ralph in the co-driver's seat and Maj John Ball in the back

Taken to the cleaners

A Warwickshire-based company is helping to keep the British Army's vehicles spick and span.

Smith Brothers and Webb Limited have supplied 17 Britannia automatic vehicle washing machines to Service units throughout the United Kingdom.

The two most recent installations were at Catterick and Bulford Garrisons, where they will be used to clean vehicles ranging from staff cars to buses.

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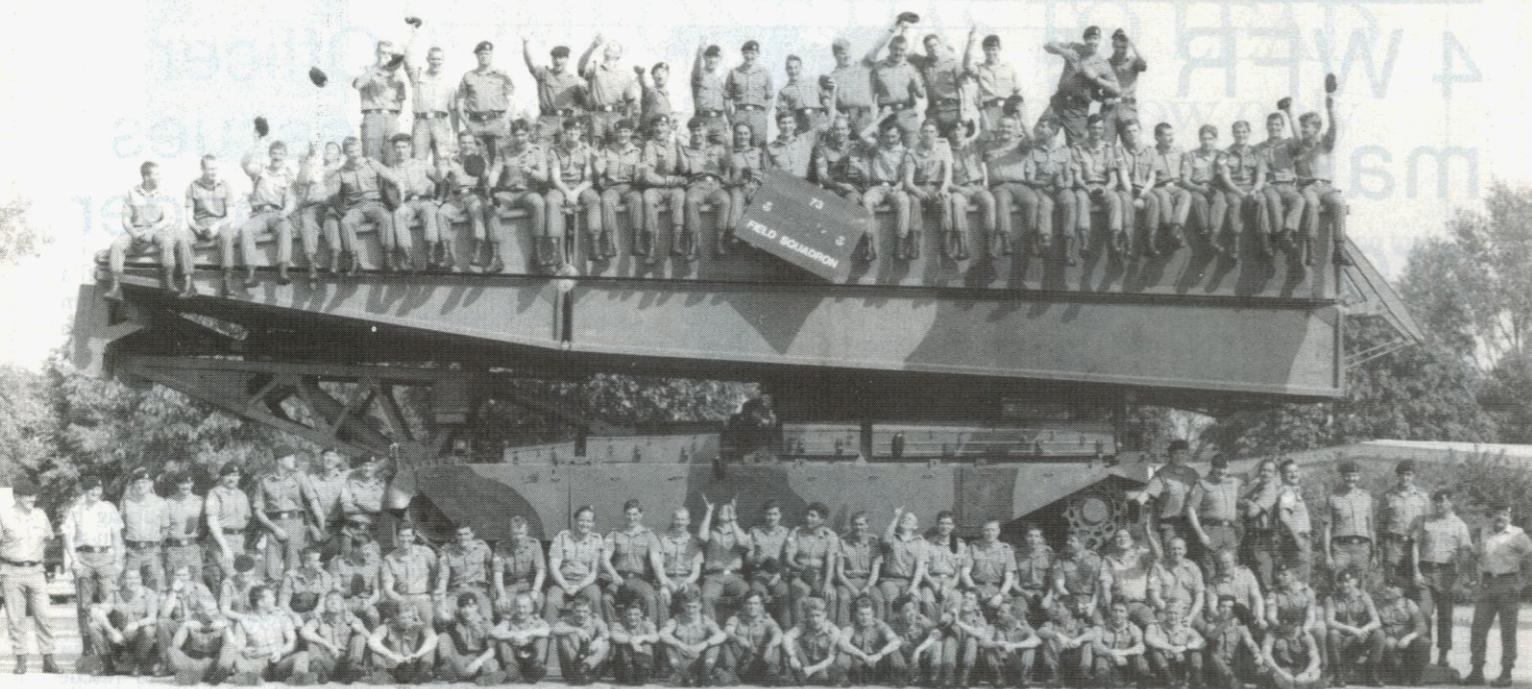
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Officer rescues teenager



The big 'un

Surgeon's honour



The commanding officer of 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC, Col **Jeremy Feggetter** has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Queen, one of only two such appointments Army-wide. His unit is based at Fenham Barracks in Newcastle and recruits from the Tyne, Wear and Teesside areas. As a Queen's Honorary Surgeon (QHS), Col Feggetter, who served in the Gulf with more than 30 of 201 General Hospital's soldiers, can be called to attend the Queen when she is in the area.



Warminster visit

Maj Gen **Jerry White** (left), who commands the United States Army Infantry Centre in Fort Benning, Georgia, meets his British counterpart, Maj Gen **Bryan Dutton**, Director of Infantry during a visit to Warminster. Gen White also visited the School of Infantry while in the area.

WHAT A GOOD IDEA

A bright idea earned Capt Bob Nicholson (right) of South Cerney-based 47 Air Despatch Squadron RCT a cheque for £1,000 under the Army Department's technical suggestions and awards scheme. Watched by the OC 47 Squadron, Maj Jim Hunter (centre), Capt Nicholson received his award from the commanding officer of 29 Transport and Movement Regiment RCT, Lt Col Ritson Harrison. Capt Nicholson thought up the idea of constructing reusable slave boxes for use during air despatch training. The boxes are filled with ballast to simulate stores and ammunition on platforms dropped by parachute from Hercules aircraft.



Dan's in the frame

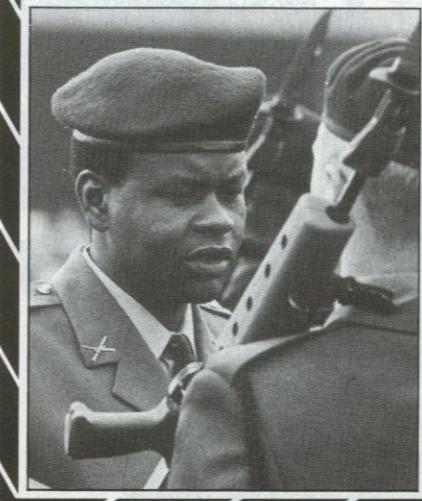
Fus Dan Kenyon, RRF is pictured with his former art teacher, Sue Cansdale, at the exhibition of her paintings inspired by letters he wrote her from the Gulf War. More than 700 people visited the exhibition at Morpeth, Northumberland.

Sixty children from the local Chantry School, who sent cards and a birthday parcel to Dan during Operation Granby, were entertained by him and CSgt Gus Angus of 6 RRF during a question and answer session enlivened by a display of captured Iraqi equipment.

Prints of Sue's paintings, some of which were featured in SOLDIER last year, are available from the artist (tel: 067072 214).



Former SWAPO chief inspects RCT parade



Reviewing Officer with a difference at a passing out parade at the Depot and Training Regiment RCT, Aldershot is Lt Col **Martin Shalli**, a Namibian Army officer attending the Army Command and Staff course at Camberley.

Lt Col Shalli began his military career in 1974 as a platoon commander with the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) in the liberation war against South Africa. He later took charge of all military operations in Namibia. Following the United Nations-supervised ceasefire and free elections, he joined the Namibian Armed Forces.



Action men!

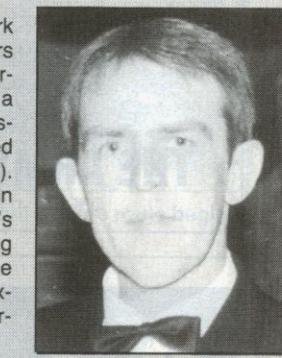
Three officers who met at a level crossing during the 1st Artillery Brigade's Exercise Whirligig found they all had something in common. Not only had all three served with 39 Heavy Regiment RA, but all had been on active service with the regiment. Col **Tim Hoggarth** (centre) saw action in Borneo, while Maj **Gareth Pugh** (left) and Maj **Robin Wardall** fought in the Falklands and Gulf Wars respectively.

That's my boy!



Maj **Brian McDonnell**, R Anglian, had a surprise meeting with his son, **Brian** when the young able seaman's submarine, HMS *Talent*, steamed into Gibraltar for a port visit. Maj McDonnell, a staff officer with Headquarters British Forces Gibraltar, met the sub in a pilot boat. Said Brian Junior: "I knew my dad was on the Rock, but I honestly did not expect him to come aboard while we were at sea ... he much prefers to have both feet firmly on dry land!"

Good works . . .



WO2 **Michael Hill**, Clerk of Works at Headquarters Bielefeld Garrison in Germany, has received a National Certificate of Distinction from the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB). The prestigious award is in recognition of WO2 Hill's achievement in gaining very high marks in the Institute's national examination in quantity surveying and estimating.

PEOPLE



Picture: Terry Champion
The two daughters of the late Lt Gen Sir Humphrey Gale, Joy and Prudence Kynaston, attended the opening of a new Aldershot barracks named in their father's memory.

RCT barracks opened

The £3.5m Gale Barracks is the first phase of a massive rebuild in the Aldershot Garrison area. It houses 41 Squadron RCT, which provides transport support to all Aldershot military units.

The barracks, opened by the Director General of

Transport and Movement, Maj Gen **John MacDonald**, is the last to be built before the Royal Corps of Transport is absorbed into the Royal Logistic Corps next year.

Pictured (left to right) are Mrs Joy Kynaston, Maj Gen John MacDonald, Mrs Prudence Kynaston and OC 41 Squadron, Maj Dave Roberts, RCT.

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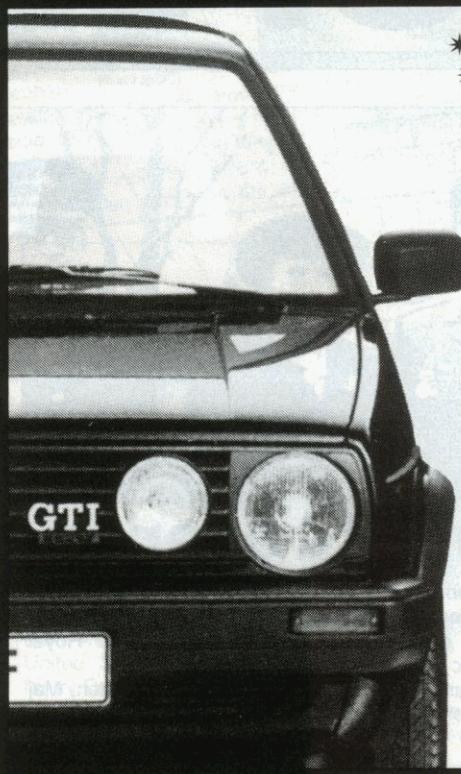
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Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Weston

Spr Mike Tong on duty at the start of Triangle main supply route (MSR) and the mountain roads to Prozor. The southern Square route begins nearby. Beyond Vitez a safer and quicker route has now been found to Tuzla

Mission of mercy on the Circle Line

HUMANITARIAN supplies now getting through war-torn Bosnia to isolated communities start by following the "Circle Line".

This first step in the main supply route to Vitez is not as easy as travelling on the London Underground. It goes straight into the snow-covered Dinaric Alps.

Containers and pallets arrive by sea and air at Split, headquarters of the British contingent, and after an easy 120km the convoys reach Tomislavgrad. This is the nub of the whole British operation, because without the work of the Royal Engineers, RCT and RAOC based there, nothing would arrive at its destination.

The headquarters of this National Support Element is in a school deserted by pupils and staff after heavy shelling a year



Dvr Joanne Townsend and Cpl Paul Thornton of 17 Sqn RCT in the cab of the lead vehicle of a convoy setting out from the depot at Tomislavgrad for the northbound MSR

ago. Dubbed by soldiers "Bash Street School", it is run by 5 Ordnance Battalion, commanded by Lt Col Malcolm Wood, who has under his command

360 Supply Company RAOC, an Equipment Support Workshop Company Group from 7 Armoured Workshop REME, and 17 Pioneer RCT group.

There are two routes to the next major town, Prozor, where Bosnians massacred Muslim extremists not long before the British arrived in theatre. At other places they fight alongside each other against the Serbs. Soldiers find the politics difficult to understand.

Both the northern route, Triangle, and the southern route, Square, involve negotiating 5,000ft of Alps and rough, unmetalled tracks. Triangle is shorter, but more difficult, while Square has dangerous potholes and a choke point in the town of Jablanica.

The two routes join at Prozor from where route Diamond continues to Gorni Vakuf. There, B Company of 1 Cheshire stands ready to defend the "back door" in case a hasty withdrawal is necessary.

● Turn to next page



A DROPS convoy makes its way up main supply route Triangle

Circle

From Page 15

This is also the base for a squadron from 7 Armd Wksp, standing by to support the group's Warrior assets.

Only after another 50km can the lorries descend into the valley in which is located Vitez, home to the main body of 1 Cheshire, with 140 men of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, the 9th/12th Royal Lancers and a Royal Engineer squadron.

From Vitez, the stores run the gauntlet of Serbian artillery to reach outlying communities.

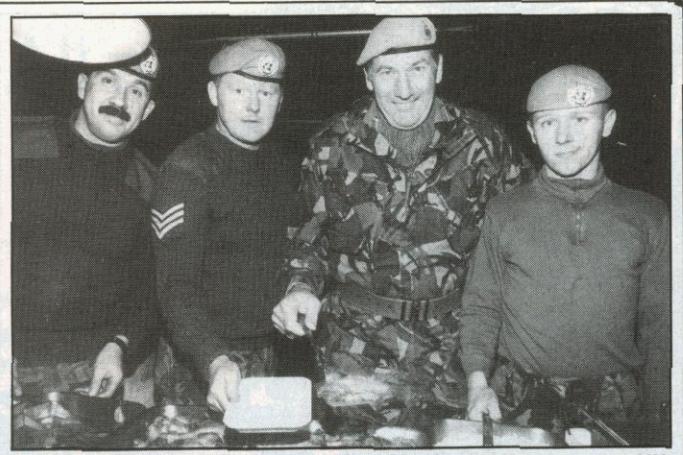
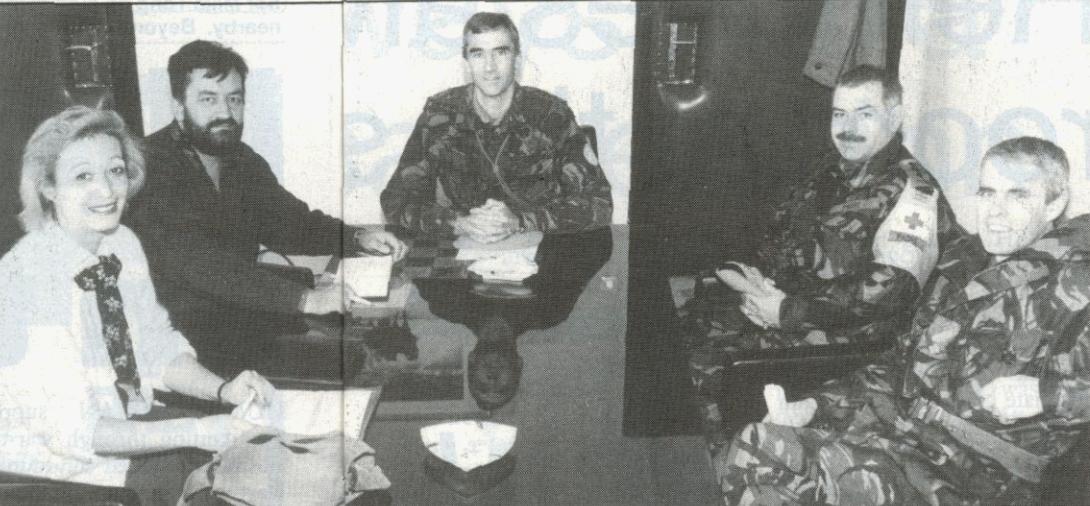
The teeth arms number 800, while the supporting elements total half as much again. Now the latter have provided the essential infrastructure for Operation Grapple, they could support a brigade group.

When the first RAOC vehicles arrived at Split, the drivers immediately dumped their own loads, picked up food and clothing, and set off for Vitez. The distance is only 250km, as far as from 5 Ord Bn's Paderborn base to 3 Armoured Division Transport Regiment's home in Duisburg.

In Germany this journey may take 2½ hours, but in Bosnia it will be nearer ten.



Dot Cotton's "transport cafe", run by Sgt Jed McGinley, Dvr Gaz Defty and LCpl Steve Bates, provides tea and snacks for RCT drivers



Lt Gen Sir Michael Wilkes (second from right), Commander UK Field Army, serves up dinner in the cookhouse of Tomislavgrad's "Bash Street Barracks". From left to right are Cpl Ed Edwards, Sgt Billy Williams, Gen Wilkes and Pte Adrian Puttock

NEGOTIATION rather than fighting is the strategy of British troops of the United Nations Protection Force 2 in Bosnia, said Lt Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, Commander UK Field Army, at the National Support Element base at Tomislavgrad.

"When we do come under fire the chaps are able to defend themselves, but we do not aim to get into a fighting situation. We are not here to sort out their problems.

"But we can make sure that the humanitarian convoys come through and this in some way can alleviate the suffering of these poor people who are caught up in this violence."

On a four-day visit to the

British forces, Gen Wilkes said the British Army would have to get used to the United Nations style of operation because that was the way of the future.

"I don't think anyone is pretending we can do anything about this disastrous situation. We are not here to sort out their problems.

"But we can make sure that the humanitarian convoys come through and this in some way can alleviate the suffering of these poor people who are caught up in this violence."



Tomislavgrad posties LCpl Tom Gould (left) and Cpl Stewart Probert of 1 PC Regt RE handle 1,000 blueys a day. There are four more posties based at Split and two at Vitez



Above - Storage rack accommodation but up in Sapper City, Tomislavgrad, by 44 Fd Spt Sqn, 35 Engr Regt. Back (from left) are Spr Martin Holden and Spr Lee Cammock, front Cpl Colin Smith and Cpl Mark Lobley

Left - Lt Col Malcolm Wood (centre), the Rev Charles McCartney and Capt Paul Larkman (left) of 35 Engr Regt attend a liaison meeting with local officials in Tomislavgrad

Loggies run the front line gauntlet

LOGGIES preparing the ground for Operation Grapple had an interesting couple of weeks before the infantry and armour arrived in theatre.

Deploying into the middle of somebody else's war had generated difficulties not experienced in the Gulf conflict, said the commanding officer of 5 Ordnance Battalion, Lt Col Malcolm Wood, at the headquarters of the British National Support Element at Tomislavgrad.

In Bosnia few places are

completely secure. "Not many kilometres away to the east and west there is conflict, so we are working a line through someone else's salient," he said.

Col Wood's first recce in mid-September established that it was impossible to cross checkpoints from the Serbian side, so he had to opt for a line of communication stretching more than 250km from Split to Vitez. Two stretches of the road cross mountains.

His logistics assets are spread

along the route, with key components strategically sited to keep it all working.

A sub-unit based on 360 Supply Company, an amalgam from Germany, deals with stores arriving in theatre with the help of personnel from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RCT.

The headquarters at Tomislavgrad, half way to Vitez, is co-located with 17 Squadron RCT, which runs a whole series of transport loops from Split through Tomislavgrad and

forward to Vitez.

Mountainous terrain south of Vitez prevents the recovery of the A (fighting) vehicles back to Tomislavgrad, so a workshop company from 7 Armoured Workshop REME has been established at Gorni Vakuf, sharing with a company of infantry.

Various mixes within the sub-units include bath and laundry, ration and petroleum units. A section of Royal Pioneers from Minden provides Brigade defence in Split and an element from the Pioneer Labour and Support Unit employs 160 civilians, among whom interpreters give a vital service.

Accommodation standards vary. Soldiers based north of the Bosnian border have been known to refer disparagingly to Split as "Slipper City". Certainly, after the temperature of the mountains has dropped below freezing, troops in Split were still enjoying balmy weather on the palm-lined front of the former international holiday resort.

At Tomislavgrad the loggies took over a rat-infested warehouse containing 9,000 tons of commercial flour which

had to be removed before they could move in.

There was just one working toilet in the school housing the supply headquarters and no heating, no showers and a leaking roof, said one soldier.

The factory allocated to 17 Sqn RCT was full of ammunition which had to be moved so the force would not appear to be helping local soldiers.

The 350 based at Gorni Vakuf live in a modern, though crowded, warehouse.



Sappers from 35 Engr Regt use local timber to make repairs to main supply route Triangle above Tomislavgrad



Your cue... Sgt Mark Shrives gives the thumbs-up to fellow DJ Sig Jason Stone as they go "live" on local radio

Sig tune's a hit

AN ARMY communicator in Tomislavgrad got his message across on local radio so well that the station ditched the Zagreb news bulletin and gave him two hours' prime time each week.

Tp Sgt Mark Shrives runs satellite communications and HF with detachments from 30 Signal Regiment and 211 Signal Squadron of 11 Armoured Brigade. But he and Sig Jason Stone have built up a big local following with their breezy Top Twenty

Megamix programme.

Sgt Shrives was arranging for the installation of welfare telephones at the town's post office when he saw the radio station and thought the lads would like more up-to-date music than the station was broadcasting.

The station's DJ liked Mark's first half-hour trial and promptly signed him up for two hours, live, the next day.

Soon he was being greeted in the street by the signallers' customary, "Oi, Oi!"



SSgt Kevin Elloway at "Redoubt" camp

keeps a stock of soup and biscuits especially for refugees.

As soon as he receives containers to house the 60 engineers based there, he intends to make tents available to stranded refugees.

One group of 20 people fleeing the fighting was taken in, fed and given blankets. Later they were transported to Tomislavgrad to be accommodated by Bosnian authorities.

The sappers expect to help many more refugees.

"We see so many tragic scenes we must distance ourselves and not get emo-

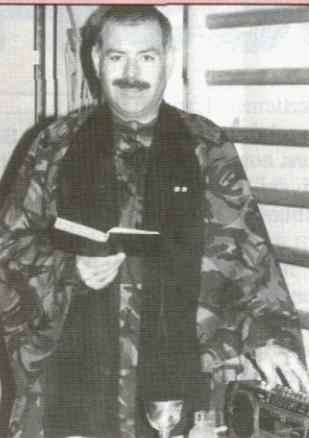
All are welcome at Rev Charlie's table

PADRE Charlie McCartney is bringing ecumenical understanding to a country divided by fierce loyalties.

From a strongly Irish Protestant tradition himself, he has welcomed Roman Catholics to his services and communion table at Tomislavgrad, where the British National Support Element is based, and has arranged for soldiers to attend the local Catholic chapel where he himself has taken communion from the local priest.

With his background of clearly defined articles of religion, Padre McCartney knew he was taking a controversial step. He explained:

"These are not normal times we are living in. A war is going on and when priests extend the hand of friendship to me, I am going to grasp it, despite my own church's standpoint on the Mass."



Rev Charles McCartney

Army chaplains offer communion to all members of the church. They also try to mark Christmas in war zones. Padre McCartney, chaplain to 35 Engr Regt, recorded carols so that he would be able to hold services in Bosnia.



LCpl John Duff drives a Volvo MWT backwards with the bucket down to break up ice on a supply route so that a Danish convoy can get traction



Spr Wells on guard at Redoubt camp



Happy Eater One, a sure sign of 44 Fd Spt Sqn. From left are Capt Alex Hay of Combat Spt Tp, Sgt Wally Glipwell and 44 OC Maj Martin Grimshaw

Help from 'Down Under'

STAFF at the headquarters of the British National Support Element at Tomislavgrad are getting on so well with the local military that the commander of a Bosnian battalion often drops in to brief them on his dispositions and mark-up the operations map.

He is an Australian.

The Bosnians would like to see the British military effort directed against the Serbs, so they have to be constantly reminded that the UN forces are present to provide humanitarian aid for all ethnic groups.

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RESETTLEMENT... not, perhaps, the most popular word in the British Army, but one which, as drawdown continues, is becoming ever more familiar.

Though the shadow of redundancy – no respecter of rank – looms large over many military households, help is at hand in a number of ways.

A veritable "army within the Army" has been built up to ensure soldiers are given the best possible opportunity of finding suitable employment in the outside world.

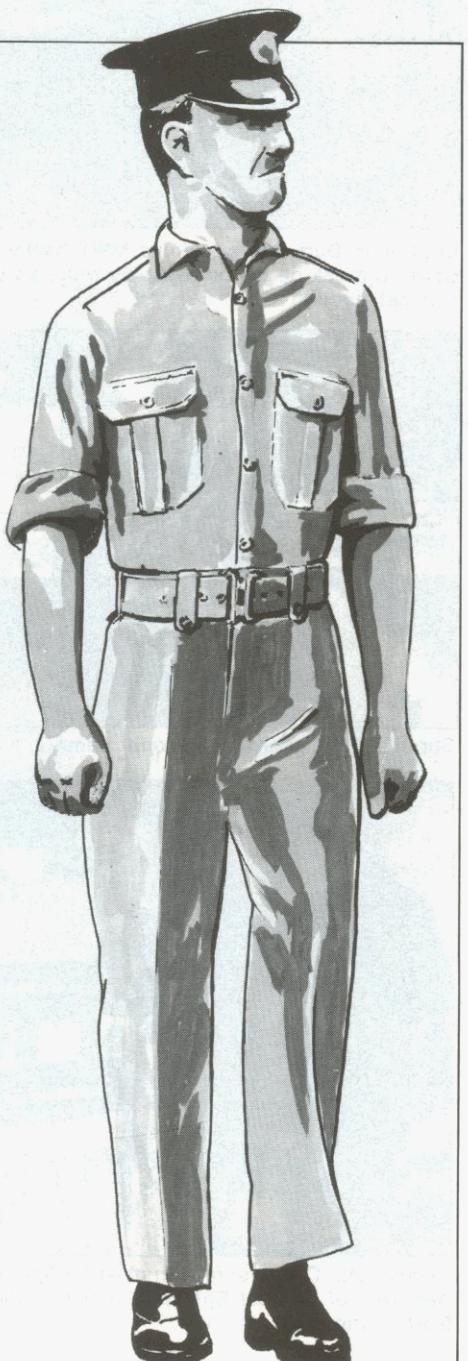
Speaking to SOLDIER in his first week after taking over the reins as Director Resettlement, from Maj Gen David Burden, Director General Resettlement, Brig Gage Williams said: "Industry is being alerted to the fact that, over the next two years, there will be more leavers than at any time in recent Army history.

"A lot of them will be of a higher quality than ever seen before. Whether officers, NCOs or private soldiers, many of them would have reached higher rank if they had been allowed to continue to serve."

So where can Army personnel who are leaving the Service turn to for assistance?

Over to Lt Col John Cockram, SO1 (Briefings and Training) at MoD's Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation (TSRO).

"We hold initial counselling sessions with staff as far ahead as two years before they go out, or eight months before someone is due to be made redundant, to find out what strengths and transferable skills they have."



"They then attend resettlement briefings – lasting between one and three days – either in the UK or overseas, consisting of anything from job search skills such as writing CVs to advice on finance, housing and regional prospects."

Also, a soldier has the option of doing a job attachment, lasting five consecutive or individual days, in his area, to gain work experience in a field which may be of interest to him.

A final counselling session is held six months before a soldier is due to leave, by which time he should have made a decision on career direction.

Soldiers are then entitled to 28 days' worth of training, either in one of the TSRO resettlement training centres or on an MoD-sponsored course, covering anything from personnel management to computer systems.

Or they might opt for a four-week "civilian attachment" with a firm of their choice, Lt Col Cockram said.

The second phase of redundants (including those who volunteered in the autumn) are due to be told their fate at the end of February and will leave in

October. They will receive specific briefings on job search and the financial aspects of redundancy."

Around 30,000 highly-trained men and women leave the Armed Forces every year, he said. More than half of them were between 20 and 30 years of age.

"My 'sleepy hollow' has now changed dramatically, so I have had to expand the number of briefings provided and

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12 HQ London District

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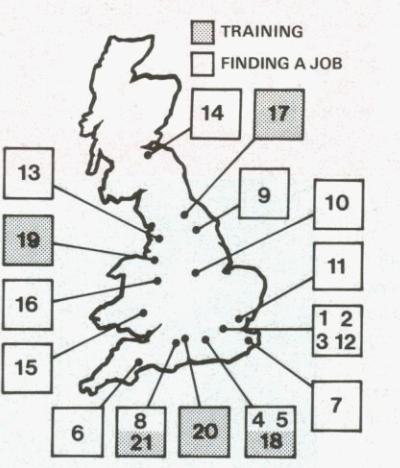
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numbers are rising as the value of the SEN begins to be appreciated – and of course will do so even more when the second and third phases of drawdown take place."

People eligible for SEN's service can now be taken on its books from six months before, and one year after, discharge, he added.

With the explosion in demand for courses – not to mention the need for a facility to match leavers with appropriate potential employers – computerisation is essential.

Maj Mike Savage, SEN's SO2 Management Services, is in the process of setting up an information system which will eventually collate attendance, bids and allocation statistics.

"With up to 35,000 briefings a year currently being run – and likely to increase much more – we have to ensure that people have a genuine interest in attending," he says, "and are not going to every single briefing which is laid on, irrespective of their needs."

One criticism during Phase One of Options, Maj Savage added, had been the length of time taken to notify soldiers about when they were going to be eligible for a briefing, enabling them to plan ahead.

Both this aspect, and the process of job matching, had been considerably speeded up by the use of computers.

Early feedback from an experimental "discharge survey" run by Maj Savage has been encouraging: of those returned so far, well over two-thirds of the applicants report that they have gained employment,

and 60 per cent of those are in full employment.

A positive aspect is that a number of soldiers have said that their civilian bosses have become more aware of Army resettlement measures and the benefits that these can bring them.

Marshal Tannous Corporate Communications Limited has been contracted by the MoD to work "in-house" on the marketing of second careers for Service personnel and the promotion of SEN itself.

Donald Campbell, former Para officer and now one of the firm's PR consultants, said: "We point out to employers that, with the soldier's record for reliability, flexibility and self-discipline, not to mention one third of their Army careers spent in training of one sort or another, they cannot afford not to employ them."

As the brochure – aimed at potential employers – prepared by the firm proclaims, Service personnel are "the best-trained workforce in Britain".

On the whole, the jobs are there. For example, an estimated 7,000 will be "up for grabs" in the cable television business in the next five years.

But, as one Services Employment Network representative said: "There is a perception that Army personnel tend to be cocooned. Soldiers must be careful not to undersell themselves when going for a job."

"It is up to the individual to make the transition successfully, by making the most of their specialised talents."



Right - People of Colchester turned out in strength to watch the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment exercise its Freedom of the town for the last time before merging with the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Nine mayors from the regiment's recruiting area watched the parade, the salute being taken by the Mayor of Colchester and Brig Bill Dodd, Deputy Colonel of the regiment

Spirit of Mons drum lives on

THE POMPADOURS have passed into history. The 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment took its final farewell of Colchester with drums beatings, flags flying and bayonets fixed, watched by the mayors of nine towns which have granted the battalion their Freedom writes **Gordon Skilling**.

It has now merged with the 1st Battalion, also based in Colchester, and the Celle-based 2nd Battalion.

Gone is the distinctive yellow

and black Bedfordshire arm flash, but some traditions will linger. The 1st Battalion has adopted the 3rd's famous Mons drum and will continue the custom of carrying it on important parades.

The Salamanca Eagle, captured from the French 62nd Regiment in July 1812, will be carried by whichever battalion is stationed in England.

The old 3rd Battalion was formed from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (16th) which amalgamated with

the Essex Regiment (44th and 56th) in 1958. One of the Bedfords' most potent symbols was the Mons drum, the sole survivor of those taken by the 1st Battalion to France in August 1914.

The battalion, which had given a good account of itself at Mons, was amazed to learn it was in danger of being outflanked and would have to retreat. The drum was left by Drummer Smith with a Belgian woman who used it as a hat-stand throughout the occupation, during which Germans were billeted in her house. All the other drums were lost.

Towards the end of 1918 the 1st Bedfords found themselves back in the area and recovered the drum. When the battalion trooped its Colour at Namur - site of its first action and battle honour in 1695 - Smith was on parade with the instrument.

Behind the Mons drum was carried an eagle which had once adorned the standard of the French 62nd Regiment of the Line. The first of four French eagles to be captured during the Napoleonic wars, it was seized by Lt Pearce of the 16th Foot at the Battle of Salamanca in 1812.

Regular requests for its return have been politely refused.

The actual merger of the two Royal Anglian battalions was formally marked by a parade at Meeanee Barracks when the battalion's Colours were trooped for the last time by four guards of 60 men in combat kit before their Colonel, Maj Gen Patrick Stone.

Many returned for the final parades, some from Africa and America, and 1,500 watched the sad event. As a special honour, 400 Old Comrades joined the march past, and the 7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment provided pipers to highlight the old Essex recruiting connection with Ireland.



A positive step forward

THE MEN who were the Pompadours are coming to terms with losing their identity. Younger officers and junior soldiers adapted quickly, but it is a wrench for old sweats like RSM Andy Twell, who joined as a 15-year-old in 1971.

"It is sad to lose the distinctive nickname, especially as it goes so far back to the favourite colour of Louis XV's mistress," he said.

"It was a shock to be told that an operational battalion

was going, and for several days afterwards it was like walking around in a morgue."

But the 3rd Battalion had to concentrate on doing its job well, and the professionalism of its soldiers showed on their successful tour in Londonderry.

Flexibility was a strength of the battalion, said RSM Twell. "Some find this hard, but we have not been scared to bend the rules so that something was done in a day instead of three."

The men who were Pompadours have taken a positive attitude to their new identities.



The Mons drum and Regimental Colours of 3 R Anglian appeared on a thanksgiving parade at Hyderabab Barracks, Colchester, before the Colours were laid up in Warley Chapel



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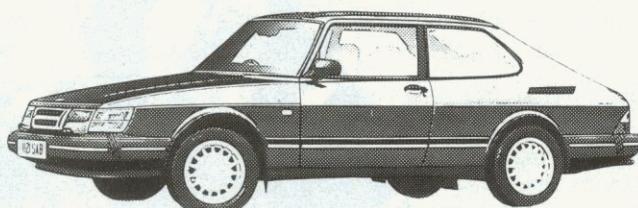
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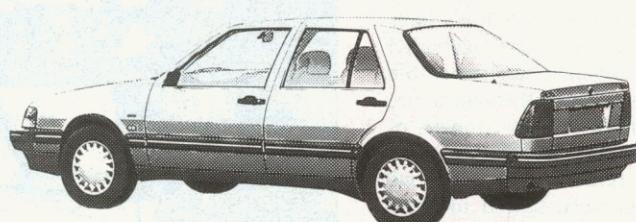
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4th Royal Tank Regiment at Suffield

The Chieftain of D Squadron Leader Maj Crispin Ellison in action on the range



Last round for the prairie Chieftains

SHORTLY after noon on a September day this year on the plains of Canada, Lt Col Martin Speller created a piece of military history.

It was his finger which was on the button as the last Chieftain 120mm tank round was fired at British Army Training Unit Suffield (Batus).

Not only that, the occasion marked the final appearance for his regiment, the 4th Royal Tank Regiment, as a battlegroup – and the end of a long association with The Gordon Highlanders.

Elements from both regiments had been deployed to

Batus on Exercise Medicine Man 6, sixth and last of the 1992 series.

Also making up the total manpower of some 1,037 were representatives from several other British regiments, and the Royal 28e Regiment of Canada.

More than 250 vehicles were deployed in the field during the exercise, which closed the circle for the 4th. It was the first battlegroup to deploy to Batus when it opened 20 years ago, so becoming the first and last to use Chieftain there.

The only survivor from the 1972 deployment was Lt Col

Pictures: Mike Klinec

Speller, then a troop leader and now 4 RTR's commanding officer.

Many a disparaging word is said about Chieftain, he says, but it has still produced results many years after its "sell-by" date, and its throaty roar to many a tank park will be missed in the future.

On the final day of Operation Gazala – ultimate phase of Medicine Man 6 – all 31 tanks descended into Crowfoot for the last time, silhouetted against a quickly-setting winter sun.

Even those who had sweated

blood for those unyielding lumps for many years were forced to pause, Lt Col Speller reports.

With the 4th and 38 (Seringapatam) Battery, 40 Field Regiment RA joining forces, the battlegroup had a distinctly Scottish flavour to it.

This was compounded by the former renewing its acquaintance with the Gordon Highlanders, whom it had taken across the Rhine at Rees in 1944.

The battlegroup quickly gelled into a sharp and efficient team.

● Turn to next page

4th Royal Tank Regiment at Suffield



An AVLB of 21 Engineering Regiment, supported by tanks of 4 RTR, prepares a river crossing



A tank of B Sqn, 4 RTR, and men of B Coy, 1 Gordons, in the assault



Pte McLean, B Coy, 1 Gordons

Last round

From Page 25

Unfortunately, the Canadians' armoured personnel carriers became unserviceable and were forced to leave the prairie. And with their country's vast commitment to the UN, the company was not able to be supported at Batus.

"We were genuinely upset to see them having to withdraw from events before Exercise Goshawk had begun: the battlegroup wished them God-speed and good luck in their tour to Bosnia," said Lt Col Speller.

The first 11 days on the prairie were taken up with special-to-arm training. By Day Three of the exercise most tanks in the battlegroup were in

some state of disrepair.

However, by Day Ten, 95 per cent were fit and remained so until the end.

"One can only hope that, on initial deployment, the 24-hours-a-day working of tank crews and vehicle mechanics will come to an end with Challenger. Time will tell," said Lt Col Speller.

Following the all-arms exercises – Gopher and Burrowing Owl – when new skills and old were learnt and re-learnt, the battlegroup was brought together as one mighty fighting machine for Exercise Goshawk and Operation Gazala.

Goshawk stumbled into life at dawn on Day Eleven and accelerated into a crescendo of a battlegroup attack in the afternoon.

In the span of a few hours, a



Above – Cpt Tim Allen, 2IC of D Sqn, 4 RTR, in command of a Chieftain, leads the battlegroup over a bridge prepared by 21 Engineer Regiment
Left – A troop leader's tank from D Sqn leads B Coy, 1 Gordons into action

corner of the prairie and severely "walloped".

The battlegroup is now dispersed to the winds, and 4 RTR has returned to Osnabrück. In 1993, it is due to amalgamate with 1 RTR.

"Next time we go to Batus," said Lt Col Speller, perhaps a little ruefully, "we will return as a new regiment to carry on where our predecessors left off."

And the last word on those much-maligned Chieftains?

"They might be old and unreliable," said 4 RTR's adjutant, Capt Patrick Kidd, "but they are a good-looking tank; a man's tank. I cannot believe it is all over . . ."

rather clumsy amalgamation of vehicles had moulded itself into a cohesive form capable of defeating any group of North Albertans! Sure enough, the enemy was dislodged from its final position that evening.

The rout of an even larger

and abetted by the sappers from 1 Field Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment – who bridged the River Suffield using every asset they had to give the battlegroup a smooth passage – the North Albertans were again harassed in every



Men of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers arrive at Split airport ready to join the United Kingdom forces already in Croatia and Bosnia as part of the United Nations humanitarian operation

Right - Men of the Cheshire group in Vitez are winning local support. Making friends with a youngster is LCpl Ian Barnett

Below - A woman draws water from a well near Tomislavgrad as a Scimitar of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers passes behind her at the head of the first movement of British armoured vehicles from the Adriatic port of Split to the Cheshire group base at Vitez



THE BRITISH ARMY IN BOSNIA - PICTURE SPECIAL

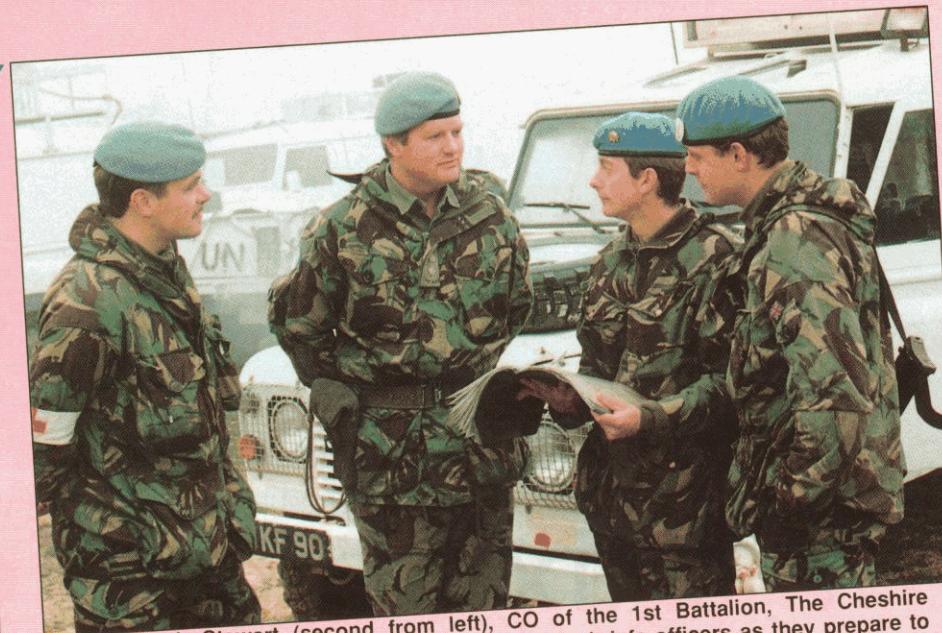
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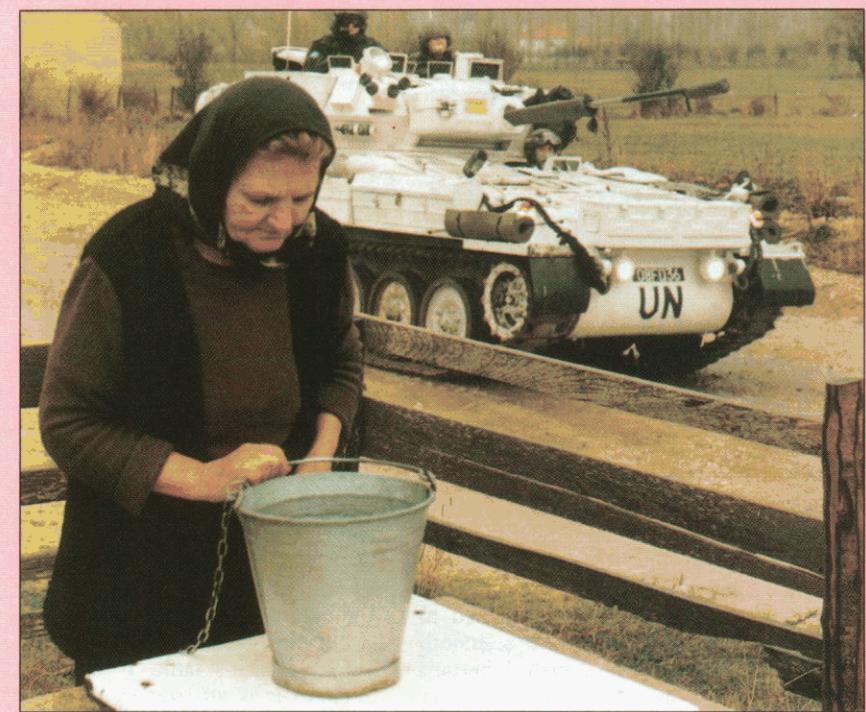
Spr Michael Griffiths (foreground), Spr David Leonard (in turret) and Spr Winny Bridge on guard duty at the Tomislavgrad depot established by British troops



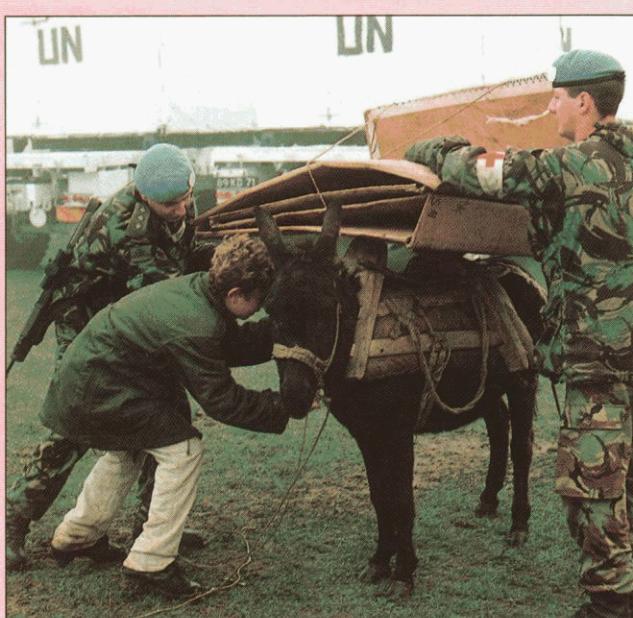
Scimitars of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers recce party wait to move off near Tomislavgrad. The first large movement of British vehicles between Split and Vitez was completed in atrocious weather



Lt Col Bob Stewart (second from left), CO of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment and commander of the Cheshire group, briefs officers as they prepare to leave the camp at Vitez. One of the battalion's patrols was fired on near Tuzla



Left - British soldiers erect a perimeter fence around their base at Tomislavgrad. It will be used as a staging post for supply convoys on their way from Split to Vitez. Tomislavgrad is only a short distance from the Serbian front line



Right - Make and mend: Two members of the Cheshire group advance party at Vitez help secure sheets of cardboard on the back of a ten-year-old boy's four-legged transport



EOD operators with Wheelbarrow, the remote control robot that allows them to inspect suspect devices from cover

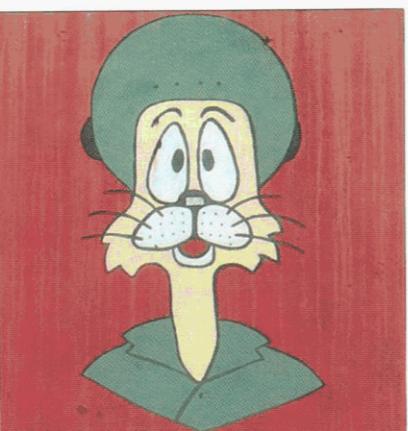
In a fix, fetch Felix!

WHEN the first terrorist improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were employed in Ulster in the early 1970s it seemed inappropriate to use "Rickshaw", the normal radio indicator for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, to request assistance from 321 RAOC Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company.

Felix - the cat with nine lives, who as a Hollywood cartoon character survived explosions and all manner of animated mayhem and came back for more - seemed more appropriate.

Soldiers on patrol were told: "If in doubt call ATO out." On the radio the call for ATO - the RAOC's Ammunition Technical Officers - was simply "Fetch Felix".

The helmeted cat character adopted by 321 EOD Company RAOC came a few years later and was the creation of a self-taught cartoonist who in the



Felix the cat features prominently on 321 EOD Coy's signboard

1970s was a staff sergeant serving in the unit.

Bryan Shepherd, who retired as a major, was in the detachment in

Londonderry during a quiet period caused by the Protestant Workers' Strike in 1974. With time to spare he doodled on scrap paper and created the helmeted, slightly scruffy and surprised looking Felix subsequently adopted by the company.

The current CATO - Chief Ammunition Technical Officer - in Northern Ireland recalled that SSgt Shepherd initially illustrated incidents the company had encountered during EOD operations.

Felix and the cartoons reflect the morale, good humour and modesty of a close-knit unit that approaches each IED target with utter professionalism and a complete lack of bravura.



321 EOD Company RAOC completes its 21st year...

In the front line against the bombers



NATURAL modesty allied to a need for security ensure that the men of 321 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company dedicated to neutralising terrorist bombs and booby traps in Northern Ireland maintain a low public profile.

But their 21 years of service in the Province, marked on November 9 by messages of

congratulation and gratitude, exposed them again as the British Army's most decorated peacetime unit, writes Will Fowler.

The company, currently commanded by Maj Ian Jones RAOC, is composed of men drawn largely from the RAOC, augmented by men from the Royal Signals and Royal Corps of Transport. Based throughout Northern Ireland, they have specialised vans equipped with radio communications, access equipment, armoured EOD suits and Mk 8 Wheelbarrow remotely controlled EOD vehicles.

The Wheelbarrow is a small tracked vehicle which can be radio controlled or operated by signals passed through a cable. It is equipped with TV cameras and EOD weapons which allow team members to examine and attack a terrorist device while they remain in cover. But visual examination and manual neutralisation of bombs require a

unique mixture of courage, steady hand and eye, and professional expertise.

In the early days of the terrorist campaigns in Northern Ireland the bomb disposal men had very simple

equipment - wire clippers, Stanley knife, shotgun, 84mm Carl Gustav with TPTP rounds, visored helmet, flak jacket and groin protector. It was in the first four years that the unit suffered its heaviest casualties, with 14 killed.

The introduction of the Mk 1

Wheelbarrow vehicle in 1972 marked the beginnings of a vehicle that was to be developed into a life saver not only in Northern Ireland, but in operations across the world.

Sadly, successful terrorist attacks attract more media coverage than successful EOD operations. While TV and still pictures showing explosions and destruction look spectacular, a battered car or van with polythene sacks of ammonium-based explosives stacked outside does not look as dramatic, even though it represents lives and property saved. Though no one can put a price on a human life, material damage can be assessed, and between April and June 1991 terrorist attacks caused £1,500,000-worth of damage in homes in Northern Ireland.

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) can vary from small incendiaries intended for attacks on commercial property and under-car booby traps to huge vehicle-borne bombs. The largest to date was a trailer which bogged down on September 3, 1991, as it was being towed cross country to attack a permanent vehicle check point (PVCP) at Annaghmartin in County Fermanagh. The device, made up from ammonium nitrate-based explosive, weighed 8,000lb.

Between these extremes is a range of devices which include the Mk 15 grenade (coffee jar bomb) and the improvised grenade launcher known in the Army as the PRIG (Projected Recoilless Improvised Grenade) which first appeared in 1991.

The Mk 12 mortar which first appeared in 1989 is a horizontally mounted tube which fires an anti-armour warhead. The Improvised Anti-Armour Grenade (IAAG) is a hand-thrown device which has been used to attack Security Force vehicles.

Many of these terrorist devices are based on existing conventional munitions like the German Armbrust or Soviet RPG-6 anti-tank weapons. In addition, conventional munitions such as RPG-7 anti-tank rockets have been defused.

IEDs can be made from black powder, ammonium nitrate-based explosives or Czech-made Semtex plastic explosives. The nitrate based explosives detonate at up to 4,000 metres per second, while Semtex, which is used for bombs and as a booster charge and for the warheads of anti-vehicle grenades, detonates at 8,000 metres per second.

The EOD team may be called to investigate an incident because a Police or Army patrol has spotted something suspect, the public may have telephoned in, or the terrorists may have telephoned a warning. When the EOD team has arrived they deploy the Wheelbarrow to examine the IED and then conduct a target appreciation to decide how to attack it.

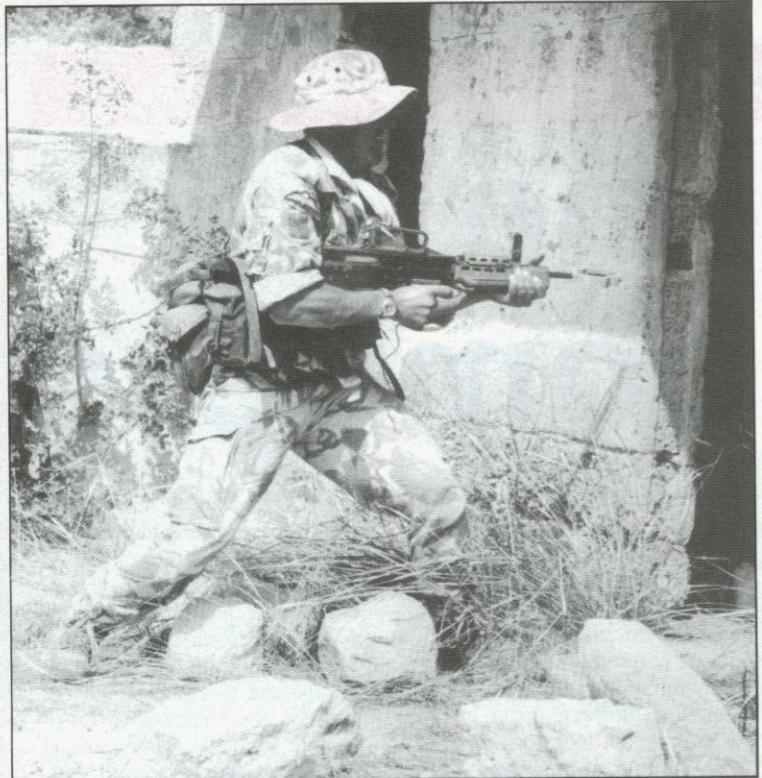
Though there is no general rule for terrorist devices, those used in the country are often very large timer- or command-detected, while urban attacks can involve small charges precisely targeted, though large, timer-initiated ones have been used to attack commercial property. In all IED targets there is the extra threat of a secondary device placed to kill or injure members of the Security Forces.

When the IED has been neutralised the explosive is disposed of and RUC forensic experts examine the design and components.

The 321 men of EOD Company also deal with any conventional munitions.

During 21 years of operations in Northern Ireland, 321 EOD has won two George Crosses, 33 George Medals, 65 Queen's Gallantry Medals, more than 100 Mentions in Despatches, 16 OBEs, 21 MBEs and 19 BEMs.

In that time, 17 EOD operators and three team members have paid with their lives for their dedication to duty, and 22 have been injured. More than 40,000 calls in the Province have been answered, 4,700 of them involving bombs.



Cpl Carl Binns storms into a house clearance in the FIBUA village

Para medics get down to the basics

TAKE more than 100 assorted medics, technicians, drivers and clerks, sprinkle with a handful of physicians, surgeons and anaesthetists. Remove from normal duties and transport to the sunny hills of Cyprus.

Tell them they are on an exercise called Lion Sun, and ask what they think of it so far.

There is total accord that this is a "good thing". What follows is a worthwhile exercise performed by a small, enthusiastic group of soldiers welded together by the red beret.

For four weeks the soldiers of 23 Parachute Field Ambulance carried out largely unfamiliar training under their commanding officer Lt Col Hugh Lantos. His aim for the unit was for the unit to get back to basic military skills and to prove that technicians can also be good soldiers.

For the first phase, the unit was split into three troops which rotated through a series



Lt Col Hugh Lantos RAMC, CO 23 Parachute Field Ambulance

of tasks. While the HQ element was based at Radio Sonde Camp in Episkopi, sub units trained at Dhekelia and in the Troodos mountains.

In the mountains the troops learned navigation and abseiling and practised leadership and command tasks. In Dhekelia good use was made of

Along the way they had to clear a village in a FIBUA

LCpl Andrew "Taff" Higgs leads a fighting patrol through Paramali village

ranges, and helicopter drills were practised. The groups rotating through Radio Sonde were taught battle drills.

It all came together in the final days of Lion Sun when the commanding officer held Exercise Red Mist, the scenario

for which involved the three troops forming patrols to fight their way from a base high in the hills above Episkopi to a secluded cove on the Mediterranean. There it was intended to take them off by landing craft.

Aldershot-based 23 Parachute Field Ambulance is a highly specialised unit. It exists to provide second line medical cover to 5 Airborne Brigade

situation, abseil down cliffs, survive ambushes, recover hostages taken by an enemy and, finally, clear a minefield before reaching their goal. At every step there were directing staff present to make sure the troops had a hard time of it and military skills were up to scratch.

One of the patrols, knowing that the enemy soldiers were in the vicinity, captured one of them in the dead of night. There was a degree of embarrassment all round when it was discovered the captured soldier was from a different unit on a different exercise.

LCpl Duckett stands guard over the prisoner from the wrong exercise...

and is the only field ambulance unit to have its own surgical teams.

Modern wars have seldom been static and today's medical cover needs to have flexibility of movement. More than half of the unit's medical staff are parachute trained and there is great competition among attached personnel to qualify for a red beret.

There is a good chance that 23 Parachute Field Ambulance will increase in size in the not too distant future and volunteers will be required to fill new vacancies. Lt Col Lantos says the type of soldiers he needs will be men who are dedicated to their task, good technicians, and have the psychological and physical fitness needed for a unique type of soldiering.

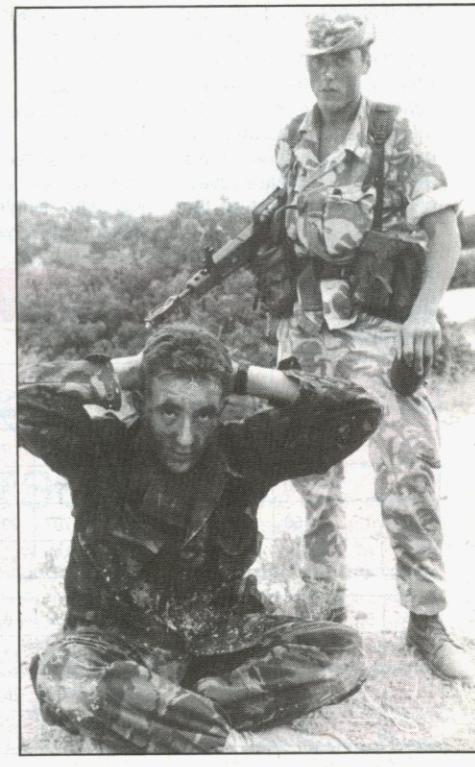
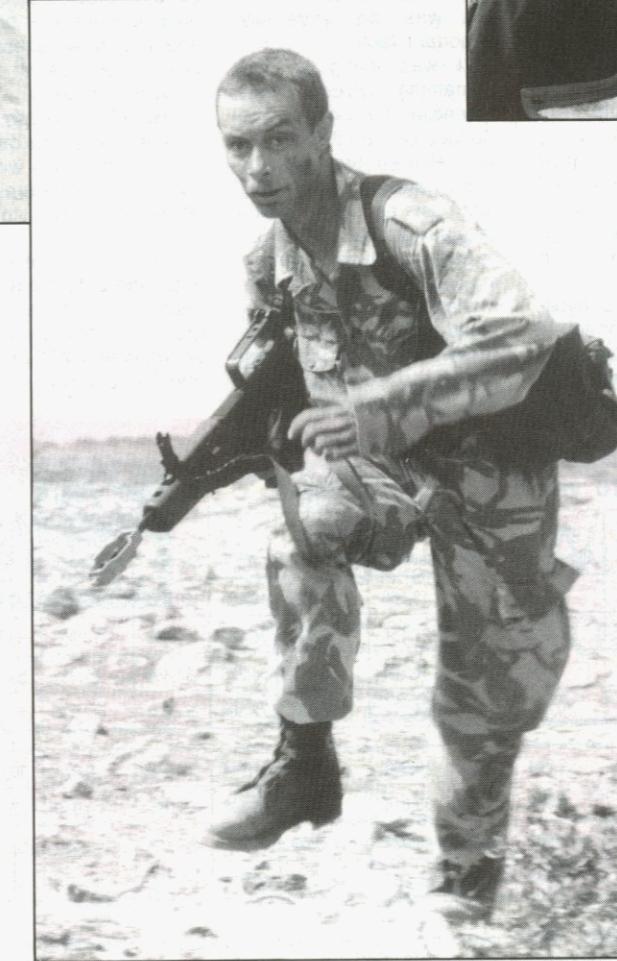
Story: Terry Stockton
Pictures: Chris Fletcher



Above - Aerial view of Paramali FIBUA village

Right - 2ic Maj Andrew Muilford, RADC, 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, on a helicopter reconnaissance over the Cyprus training areas

Below - LCpl John Dixon, a combat medic and Gulf War veteran, springs into action during Exercise Red Mist



LCpl Duckett stands guard over the prisoner from the wrong exercise...

SERVICES HOME SAVINGS SCHEME

An 'innovative, radical' measure



Lord Cranborne (left) makes a point to Gartmore's Anthony Myers

MORE than 300,000 leaflets outlining the advantages of the Services Home Savings Scheme (SHSS) are to be distributed through the chain of command.

Every unit admin office should have the details and be able to provide copies of the rules and regulations governing the scheme.

You can join by filling in MoD Form 1024 and sending it to one of the participating financial institutions. Incidentally, savers may change financial institutions once in any savings year.

In an introduction to the leaflet, Fd Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, Chief of the Defence Staff, describes SHSS as an innovative and radical new measure to make home purchase less difficult for Service families who "follow the flag".

"It will require a serious commitment to saving, but the package we have put together compares favourably with other savings schemes currently on the market and presents the best opportunity we have ever had to increase levels of home ownership in the Services."

Services Home Savings Scheme

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	100	6,854	2,284	9,138	15,706	5,236	20,942	27,136	9,046	36,182	41,902	13,968	55,870
	150	10,281	3,426	13,707	23,559	7,854	31,413	40,704	13,569	54,273	62,853	20,952	83,805
	200	13,708	4,568	18,276	31,412	10,472	41,884	54,272	18,092	72,364	83,804	27,936	111,740
10%	50	3,627	1,209	4,836	8,833	2,944	11,777	16,308	5,436	21,744	27,038	9,013	36,051
	100	7,254	2,418	9,672	17,666	5,888	23,554	33,616	10,872	43,488	54,076	18,026	72,102
	150	10,881	3,627	14,508	26,499	8,832	35,331	48,924	16,308	65,232	81,114	27,039	108,153
	200	14,508	4,836	19,344	35,332	11,776	47,108	65,232	21,744	86,976	108,152	36,052	144,204

Assumptions • The interest rates shown are compounded annual rates. • Basic rate tax at 25% has been deducted at source from interest credited to the account. • The SHSS allowance has been calculated at the rate of £1 for every £3 saved.

A very special holiday

MANY families will miss Maj Alan Cardy who has spent two years as a special needs officer with the Service Children's Educational Authority in Eltham.

One of his last jobs for the Guild of St Helena was to run the annual holiday for children with special needs. It is free, sponsored by the guild, organised by SCEA and supported by volunteer helpers.

The 1993 guild holiday will take place in the UK from June 12 to 19. Bookings and details are available from SCEA, 1b, HQ DETS(A), Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR (tel: 081-781 4262 or Woolwich Mil 4262).

The Children with Special Needs Newsletter has taken on a new format and a new look.

Distributed to about 130 families this informative publication is edited by Ann Cowan, backed by an editorial committee drawn from the three Services, and all of whom have children with special needs.

For details, write to Anne Cowan, 5 Lathbury Road, Oxford OX2 7AT.

A Special Needs Booklet, initiated two years ago by the Forces Children's Support Group with the help of Jan Illingworth, SSAFA special needs adviser, is available through SCEA, SSAFA, Education Officers and military hospitals.

Happily, Phil has become the first ex-Serviceman to complete a contract for one of the 500 DIYSO houses on offer.

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone: 0276 29653



Playgroup merit scheme launched

THE FIRST accreditation scheme for day care projects, playgroups and nurseries in the United Kingdom has been launched on behalf of the Pre-School Playgroup Association (PPA) by Tim Yeo, Under Secretary of State at the Department of

Health. Aimed at raising the quality of care for our under fives, the scheme will award a "kite mark" to those who reach a set standard.

It is being sponsored by Avon Cosmetics (UK) Limited, long-time supporters of the Pre-School Play-

group Association. Groups seeking accreditation will need to work their way through an evaluation manual.

Materials for self-assessment cost £70, an indication that groups need to take it seriously. Second stage of the process is an

Timely start for DIYSO

THE DIYSO (Do-It-Yourself Shared Ownership) Scheme came just in time for ex-soldier Phil Price and his family when they returned to the United Kingdom from Germany after 29 years in the Army.

Phil wanted to settle in Kent, but after years on the local authority waiting list he discovered six months before discharge that the rules had changed – because he would receive a gratuity from the Army he would no longer be eligible for a council house.

He could not afford to buy a house outright and was unable to secure a discounted MoD married quarter.

It has not yet been confirmed that the unused DIYSO units will be carried forward into 1993-94, or that further allocations will be made. The slow uptake has been partly because the scheme did not get off

their new house.

Phil's experience shows how important it is for Service personnel to receive their money within a day or two of discharge. In his case it took several days because his papers were not processed on time, a delay which cost him £500 in MQ 10.

If you are based overseas and have not yet seen the excellent Do It Yourself Shared Ownership poster and housing application forms, ask JSHAO, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN, to send you some. They should be displayed on noticeboards in every HIVE, wives' club and community centre.

the ground until July.

Ring the JSHAO, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN, for details.

A number of two- and three-bedroom properties are to become available in the next few months in the London boroughs of Barnet, Waltham Forest, Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth, Ealing, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Greenwich, Haringey and Hillingdon. Write to Housing 21, RBL Village, Aylesford, Kent, for more details.

Now that winter is here, cast-off sleeping bags and blankets would be welcomed by the homeless folk – including ex-Service people – who call in at Toynbee Hall, St Martin's or St Botolph's in London.

Contact Dr T Beauchamp at Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, London E1 (tel: 071-377 0866) or ring me at SOLDIER.

Briefly . . .

State your intent

A NEW proforma has been issued for Servicewomen who wish to apply for maternity leave or be discharged on family grounds. The form is a statement of intention and an undertaking to repay Service salary over and above Statutory Maternity Pay.

The 37-week period may be reduced if the Service woman starts her maternity absence before the 11th week of confinement.

Some units have been taken to task for not informing Service personnel of the Final Tours of Duty package, under which disturbance allowance can be claimed for a move to the area in which the qualifying individual is to settle.

The second career flow chart is now available to all personnel leaving the Services. It is a comprehensive action plan, indicating the routes all should take.

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From left to right, Cdr Bob Cribb RN of JSHO, Tracy Snook of Moat Housing Society and Phil Price, first ex-Serviceman to complete a DIYSO contract

Injury Bill progresses

LORD Swinfen's Armed Forces (Liability for Injury) Bill went through its committee stage on November 15, is due to reach the report stage on December 9 and will have its third reading in the House of Lords on December 16.

Significant changes in the Bill will include making the Crown responsible for proving that it is not liable for causing the death or injury in question.

Back to school – with SOLDIER

AS MORE and more Service families come to terms with redundancy, a big question for some parents is how to continue their children's schooling in the private sector of education.

Service parents were among 4,000 who visited Independent Education 92 in London, the largest exhibition of its kind, organised by the *Sunday Times* in association with the Independent Schools Information Service.

For the first time, SOLDIER was represented at the exhibition. Service families gathered at the magazine's stand to seek advice from Maj Mike Ranson, of the Army's schools branch, and Carol Heaton, from the Federation of Army Wives.

The courses are held in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department Centre, which is threatened with closure.

However, pending further information on the subject it is business as usual – and a new programme of courses has been drawn up to cover the period until March 1994.

The range and content is wide and varied. The Army Welfare Seminar, for example, is suitable for

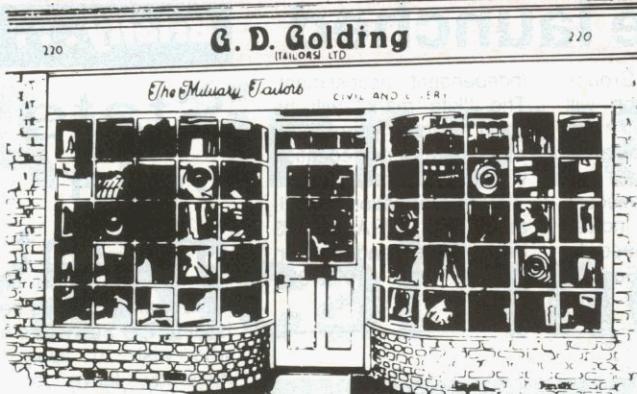
Wives' courses

UFOs, HIVE workers and Service wives and subjects include SSAFA, marriage, FHWS, debt, bereavement, and counselling skills.

Applications should be made to The Warden, RACHD Centre, Bagshot Park, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5PL (tel: 0276 71717 ext 2842, or Bagshot Mil 2842).

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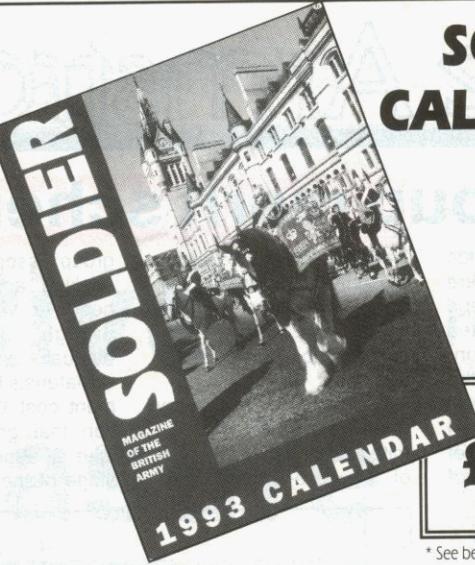
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LETTERS

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Now we deserve a medal!

I MUST write and congratulate your staff, especially librarian Bill Stroud, for such dedication and efficiency in making SOLDIER the top magazine and best value for money.

I was asked by a friend if I knew where I could get information about the National Service Medal. I knew I had read about it in your magazine, so I wrote to you thinking it would take about a week to get a reply.

I posted the letter at 9.30 on a Wednesday morning and received a reply at 7.30 on the Friday morning with all the information I required. That is what I call dedication. — Bob Kelsey, Inverness.

Negative

YOUR correspondent A Denton (November 16) referred to this country's negative attitude towards the wearing of the National Service Medal.

May I point out that there are soldiers who have completed five, seven and 12 years' Regular service who have not received a medal for services to their country.

If this is a negative attitude on my part then there must be quite a few thousand ex-Regulatrs with the same opinion. — R G Hazell, Sydenham.

Not entitled

I WAS called up for Army Service on December 6, 1945 for the duration of the emergency. I spent two-and-a-half years in uniform, 18 months of that with BAOR in Germany.

I was not entitled to a medal or badge to mark my time in uniform, so why should National Servicemen who entered the Army after I was demobbed, some to serve only 18 months, be entitled to a commemorative medal? — R Green, Grimsby.



Proud

I READ with approval A Denton's letter regarding the new National Service Medal, which I too have proudly purchased.

I served just over two years in the RASC 1953-55, but I have not forgotten the huge number of National Servicemen we lost in Korea, Cyprus and Malaya.

We should be allowed to wear it where it should be worn. — K Bucknall, Yeovil.

● It is perhaps timely to remind readers that the National Service Medal, co-sponsored by the Royal British Legion, is commemorative rather than awarded and as such can be worn only below official medals. It costs £23.50 and application forms can be obtained by sending an SAE to Award Productions Ltd, Dept BL, PO Box 30, Haslemere, Surrey GU26 6UT. — Editor

All tied up after the war

IN ANSWER to the query by A S Page (Letters, November 16) about battle dress regulations, an Army Council Instruction issued in November 1944 announced that a collar-attached shirt was being introduced in place of the then existing collarless shirt and a khaki-coloured tie would be issued when stocks became available.

The ties were permitted to be worn when on leave or for walking out and when working in offices and attending lectures or indoor instruction. They were not allowed to be worn on parade.

When the tie was not being worn the blouse (BD) had to be buttoned-up to the neck.

I can well recall this because it came as quite a surprise to me when I returned from the Far East in 1945 to be issued with collar-attached shirts and a tie. — J A Bond, Deal, Kent.

Tailor-made

THE FIRST blouses tailored for collar and tie were the 49 Patt BD, but general issue may not have been until 1950-51.

The correspondence about the Bulford Kiwi reminded me of my service on the Plain in 1938-39.

As a boy trumpeter I was told that the driver of the lorry bringing the bread from Tidworth to Bulford at break of day always left a loaf for the Kiwi.

It must have done him good because obviously he is still going strong. — D R Hordle, Northwich, Cheshire.

Grappling with names

OP GRAPPLE, the name for the British Army's humanitarian mission to the former Yugoslavia, was used for the Christmas Island atomic bomb tests in the 1950s. Should operation names be used twice? — T M Brown, Nottingham.

● The name Grapple given to the current operation in Bosnia was chosen at random by computer. The original Christmas Island operation took place 40 years ago in 1952, so it was felt there was no danger of confusion. The MoD decided there was no practical reason why the name should not be used again.

Smart set

I DID my National Service with the Royal Signals from 1947 to 1949 at Catterick and Trieste, Italy. At no time were we allowed out in open necks with regulation dress.

Up to my demob at Aldershot we had to wear ties with our khaki battle dress, or else the Military Police would want to know the reason why. — D J Howard, Gosport, Hants.

REUNIONS

1993

● **REME Association:** Annual reunion at Pontin's Seacroft Holiday Village, Hemsby-on-Sea, Norfolk, over bank holiday April 30 to May 3. Cost £71 per person. Booking forms from Secretary, REME Association, Isaac Road, Arborfield, Reading, Berks RG2 9LN (tel: 0734 763219 or Arborfield Mil 2219).

● **Royal Pioneer Corps Association:** London lunch at Duke of Yorks, Chelsea, June 5; Corps weekend and AGM June 19-20. Details from RPC Association secretary, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE (tel: 071-834 0415).

● **Malayan Campaign 1948-60:** A commemorative remembrance service is planned by the Planters Associations of Malaysia to be held at Batu Gajah Christian Cemetery on June 19. To pay homage to those who fell during the Malayan Emergency and Borneo-Indonesian Confrontation, as well as the Second World War, a 21-day pilgrimage to Malaysia and Singapore, leav-

ing on June 6, is being organised for all those who served and relatives of the fallen. Details from Peter Dawson, 9 Park Avenue East, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5JZ.

● **Guards return to Malaysia:** A party of former 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards will return to Malaysia with wives, leaving on June 13 and spending two nights each at Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and the Cameron Highlands and six at Penang, with commemorative services at Kuala Lumpur and Batu Gajah Cemetery. Details from Reg Counsell, Coldstream Guards Association, 76 Bradley Road, Patchway, Bristol BS12 5HR (tel: 0272 699667).

● **Bari pilgrimage:** A combined Airborne/RN Holiday/Pilgrimage to Bari, Italy, costing about £500, is planned for the 50th anniversary in September 1993 of the loss of HMS *Abdiel*. Details from Maj C M Steggles, Airborne Forces Security Fund, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment), Maj Gen Reynolds writes: "... you will find all our precious emblems and customs present in the new regiment. It is very much our regiment and I beg all of you to give it your fullest support. It deserves nothing less."

The journal, which recorded the story of the regiment from 1966 to 1992, had two editors in that time - Maj Guy Weymouth who retired in 1984, and Lt Col John White for the past eight years.

Last word from Queens

MAJ GEN Mike Reynolds, last Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, reveals that his views on a "very grave injustice" will be made known in a history of the regiment published next year.

In a message published in the 72nd and final edition of the regimental journal, he writes:

"Something which was unthinkable only 18 months ago has happened and our proud regiment is no more than a memory. But I do not wish to dwell on the recent past - a summary of what happened and my own views on the very grave injustice done to our regiment can be found in *The History of The Queen's Regiment* which will be published next year."

The book has been compiled by Maj Jonathan Riley. Of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (formed by the amalgamation of the Queens with

SIX SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment will remain immaculately turned out long after the battalion's current tour of public duties ends.

To mark the tour of duty in London, 1 Kings commissioned a set of six traditional metal soldiers, produced in a limited edition of 200 box sets.

Priced at £42, plus £2.50 p&p, the sets are available from 1 Kings, Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow TW4 6EZ.

Also available are individual marching Kingsmen at £5 each.

The boxed figures depict an officer in barrack dress wearing

the regiment's distinctive blue shirt; a drummer in scarlets; a mess orderly in green livery; and three figures in No 1 Dress - drill sergeant with pace stick, corporal reading orders and Kingsman at the slope.

Sherman on the move

A SECOND World War Sherman tank's connection with the 3rd Armoured Division is to survive the division's relocation from Germany to the United Kingdom.

The tank, which saw service with the 3rd in Normandy in 1944, is being transported from its position at the entrance to San Sebastian Barracks in Korbecke to Bulford, headquarters of the new 3rd (UK) Division.

On loan from the Imperial War Museum, the Sherman was restored in 1977 by 5 Armoured Workshops after being rescued from an artillery range in Germany. It has stood outside San Sebastian Barracks ever since.

Poet's 100th year marked

FORMER soldier-poet Geoffrey Dearmer is set to celebrate his 100th birthday next March and his war poems are to be published in a special edition to commemorate the occasion.

The ex-City of London Fusilier is the last surviving poet of the First World War. He fought at Gallipoli, where his brother was killed, and then in Flanders. His mother died of typhoid while serving with an ambulance unit in Serbia in 1915.

Mr Laurence Cotterell, who raised the money to pay for publication, said donors included Fd Marshal Lord Bramall and The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.



Bound for Britain: the 30-ton Sherman starts its journey from Korbecke to Bulford

94 Loc Regt WOs' and Sgts' Mess

● The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 94 Locating Regiment Royal Artillery has a number of items presented to the mess since 1959 when the regiment was stationed at Celle, Germany. Due to the regiment going into suspended animation, donors or their families who want the items returned should contact WO2 (RQMS) J Turnbull, QM(T) Department, 94 Loc Regt RA, Roberts Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8QU (tel: 0980 665252).

APPOINTMENTS

Brig A D Pigott to be Chief of Staff Headquarters ACE Rapid Reaction Corps in the rank of major general, from November 2.

Colonels - B G G Nicholson - To be DA/MA Jakarta, Nov 13; R A McDowell - To be Senior Chaplain HQ EDIST, Nov 9; M E Sibbons - To be OIC REME MRO, Nov 9; D H Godsall - To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, Nov 13.

J W Davey - To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, Nov 23; R H J Forsyth - To MoD(A), Nov 23; P A Goddard - To be DA/MA Muscat, Nov 22; A M T Moody - To be DA/MA Belgrade, Nov 30; B M Gordon-Smith - To MoD(A), Nov 27.

Lt Cols - S N L Fogden, AAC - To RMCS, Nov 9; E A M Graham - To be D Adv Kampala, Nov 9; A

J Heagerty, RACHD - To RMAS, Nov 12; D R F Innes, RE - To be CO 22 Engr Regt, Nov 12; N P Knudsen, REME - To MoD, Nov 9; C J Parslow, DERR - To CMTT Ghana, Nov 9; A J Postance, RAOC - To MoD, Nov 9; V G Strivens, R Signals - To be CO Royal School of Signals, Nov 9; P E Townsend, AGC(PRO) - To be Comdt RMP Trg Cen, Nov 9; K M Tutt, RCT - To MoD, Nov 9; W R M Watson, RRW - To be Comdt Sennybridge Trg Area, Nov 9; C H White, RAOC - To be CO JT Sup Unit, Nov 11; M H Auchinleck, Scots DG - To HQ AFCENT (Staff), Nov 11; T G B Fish, R Signals - To HQ Trg Grp R Signals, Nov 9; J S M Walker, KOSB - To be CO Oxford Univ

OTC, Nov 9.

R T Carman, RAOC - To be CO 15 Ord Bn COD Donnington, Nov 23; D W Dobson, R Signals - To HQ RSME, Nov 23; A J Figg, AGC(PRO) - To be Comdt Pro HQ 1(BR) Corps, Nov 23; D R Kersley Baker, RA - To RCB, Nov 23; R McAllen, RACHD - To be Senior Chaplain HQ LONDIST, Nov 23; J A Murray, RACHD - To be Senior Chaplain HQ Wales and WDIST, Nov 23; I Turner, R Signals - To 2 Signal Bde, Nov 24; I A Vere Nichol, RA - To be CO 14 Fd Regt, Nov 26.

Retirements

Colonel - P Webb, late R Signals, Nov 13; M P Walker, late R Signals, Nov 30.

LCT Ardennes, 1960: Anyone who sailed to Singapore with 76 Water Transport Squadron RASC, January-April 1960, is asked to contact Gordon Northcott, 8 Minden Crescent, Helensvale, Queensland 4210, Australia.

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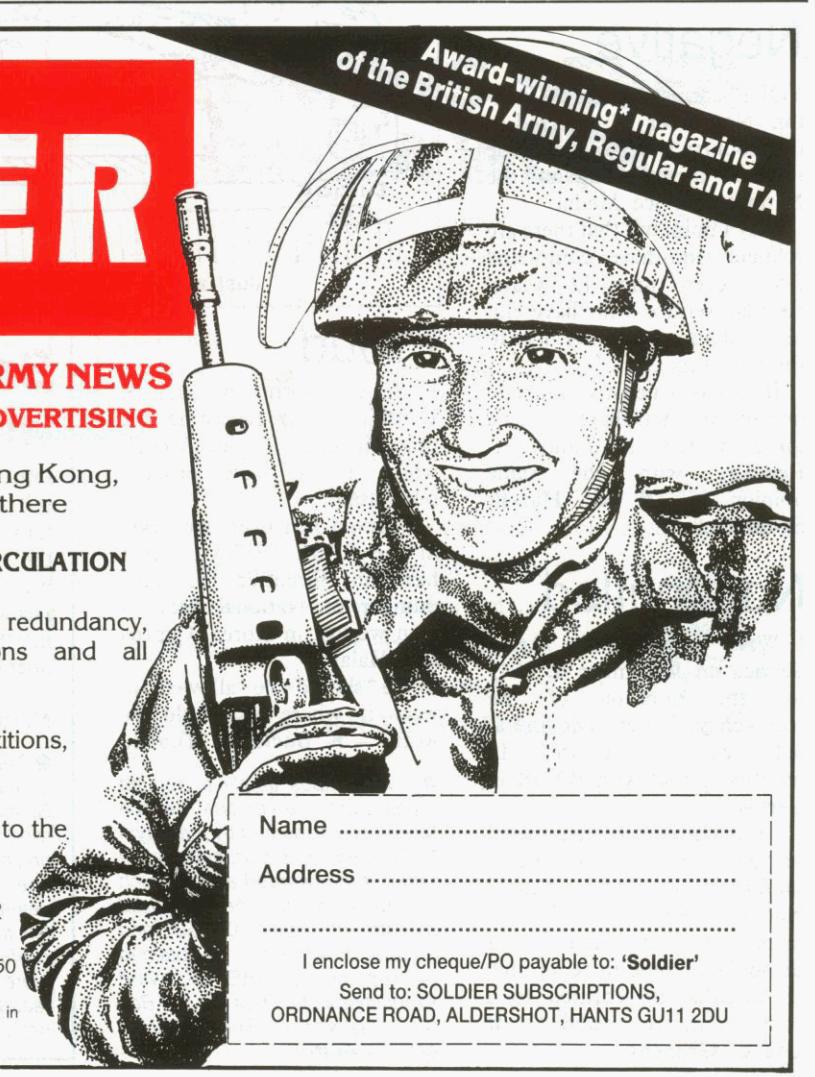
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Peace on Earth — but watch your back!

FOR EVERY soldier, Christmas is a time of traditional rejoicing, of warm comradeship – and of rum sauce on the puddings. For most it will be a day of leisure in the family circle, a day of enjoyment and over-indulgence.

For others, it will be a time for nostalgia, tempered by distance from home.

For a few it will be a day of leisure mixed with duty, which is especially true this year for troops deployed in Bosnia on Operation Grapple. Their short-lived Christmas enjoyment will be tinged with some uncertainty and the possibility of severe weather while they escort aid convoys for the United Nations.

In Northern Ireland soldiers will remain vigilant against the terrorist even in the season of "peace on earth and goodwill towards men".

Although the British Army

Drawing from SOLDIER's extensive archives Laurie Manton looks at the British Army's Christmas Past

has never fought a major action on Christmas Day, it must stand prepared. And in war be ready to surprise, or be surprised.

In the "good old days" armies usually spent Christmas in quarters, breaking off campaigns to fight the common enemy – winter. But there were exceptions to the rule.

In the 15th century the Turks were routed at Kumanibiza when the Christian Hungarians unexpectedly attacked on Christmas Eve. Charles XII, warrior King of Sweden, fought his greatest victories against the Russians – and carried out his most bitter retreat – during the festive season.

Napoleon defeated the Austrians in Northern Italy, chased Sir John Moore to

Corunna and retreated from Moscow – but always returned to Paris at Christmas to deal with home affairs, leaving his troops dying daily of cold and hunger.

But the spirit of medieval chivalry and the bonhomie of the festive season lingered down the centuries, even in war. At the Battle of Dunkirk in December 1658, Cromwell's troops, commanded by Maj Gen Sir John Morgan, fought with the French against the Spanish, who were themselves helped by refugee British Royalist troops.

As the armies approached each other, the English on the French side overshot their mark and came within range of the enemy. They halted, but as the battle had not officially been joined, nobody committed

the ungentlemanly act of firing a shot.

"We were so near the enemy that the soldiers fell into great friendship," wrote a British soldier. Maj Gen Morgan endured this for a while then bade his brigade tell the friendly enemy: "No more friendship; prepare your buffcoats and scarfs, for we will be with you sooner than you expect us."

Whatever the privations of war at Christmas, the British soldier has always enjoyed the compensation of traditional fare.

Nearly always, that is, for although "tons of plum pudding, mountains of jars of mince, a Smithfield of salted beef and a brewery of porter" sailed from Britain for the first Christmas in the Crimea, it all disappeared on the voyage.

In 1884 the Egyptian Camel Corps concocted Christmas puddings without suet, since cows and sheep of the Nile Valley did not grow fat.

The resulting mixture was not, apparently, a success, for it was recorded: "If the Dervishes had rushed the camp that night they would have found themselves confronted by men as mad as their own mullahs."

In the besieged Ladysmith, Christmas morning 1899 began with the Boers firing several shells which landed where church parades were usually held. Two of the shells were painted in Free State colours and engraved "With the compliments of the Season".

The first shell was empty; the second was full of plum pudding.



Italy 1943: These young tank soldiers of the Eighth Army were pictured rolling out the barrel ready for Christmas. Great efforts were made to deliver seasonal goodies to the front line



Malaya 1953: Men of the Somerset Light Infantry might have spent Christmas Day on patrol in the jungle, but there was still plenty of pudding to enjoy when they returned

scenes were still top favourites.

"Pictures of regimental heirlooms occasionally break the monotony," said SOLDIER.

There was a bit more originality during the Second World War when the Christmas "airgraph" card often consisted of a single sheet of paper crudely printed with sprigs of holly, leaving a space for the addressee and sender. Subtle difference in the message was "A Merry Xmas and a Happier New Year".

Rank sometimes carries its own privileges. Gen Montgomery's airgraphs, sent from the desert, bore his own portrait.

Hitler decided to spread a little Christmas spirit by showering thousands of propaganda Christmas cards on the Allies. Typical was one showing the face of a wistful

child asking: "Daddy, why didn't you come home for Xmas?"

On Hitler's own cards the Nazi symbol ominously replaced images of holly and Father Christmas.

Men of C Company, The Green Howards are unlikely to forget Christmas 1949. They were operating in primary jungle, mostly flooded.

Their Christmas drop, including rum, beer and puddings, fell into treetops at least 50ft high. An Auster aircraft dropped saws, which also lodged in the trees. Explosives were requested – and used.

The sad result was that the Christmas puddings were blown into a torrent and lost. The company finally sat down to a Christmas Dinner on New Year's Eve.

In 1958, the Army's Record Offices provided SOLDIER with lists of hundreds of men whose names were a reminder of Christmas all year round.

Among them were Pte Christmas and Sgt Tree, WO2 Stocking and Pte Snowball, and Cfn Chicken and Gnr Stuffin.

For years, the magazine carried its own humorous Christmas message, often in rhyme. In 1947, the magazine sent a greeting to members of obscure military units, demonstrating the wide selection of postings available to soldiers.

These included epidemic mobile teams, paddy purchase departments, pack bullock companies, preventative ablution centres, liquidation staffs and . . . reproduction sections!

What are their modern equivalents, we wonder.



Aldershot 1938: Father Christmas helps to stir the pud at the Naafi bakery. Staff prepared and packed 50,000 puddings for dispatch to troops serving all over the world

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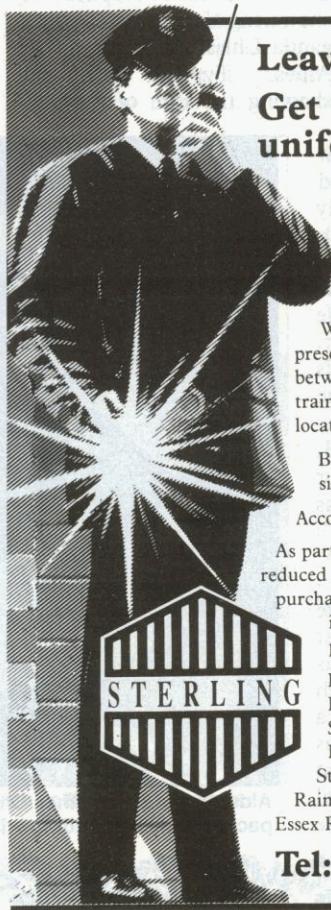
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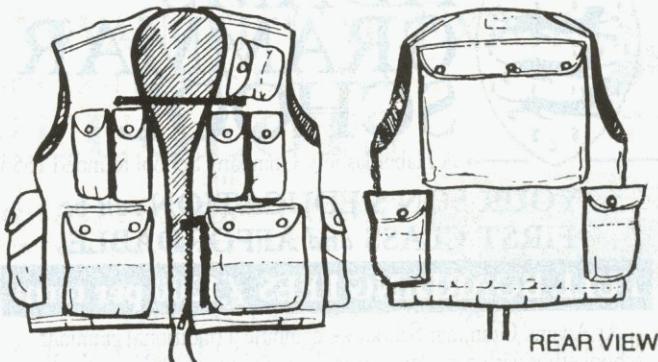
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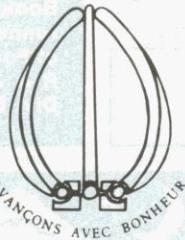
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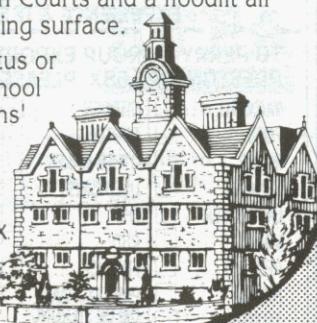
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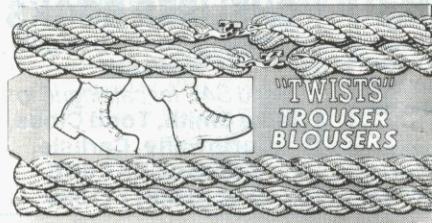
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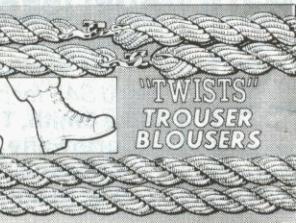
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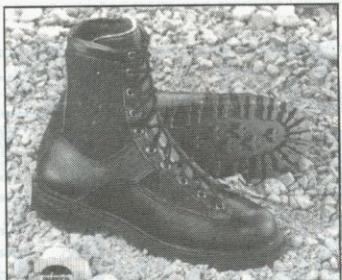
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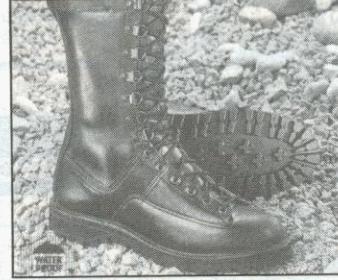
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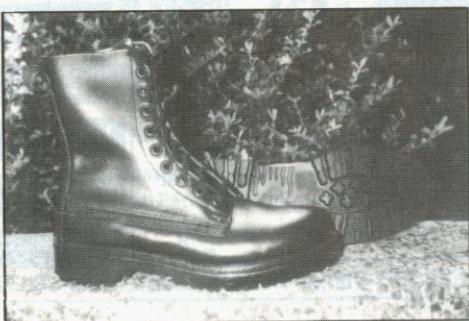


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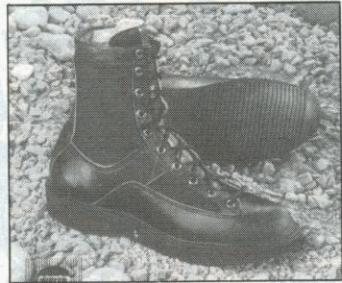


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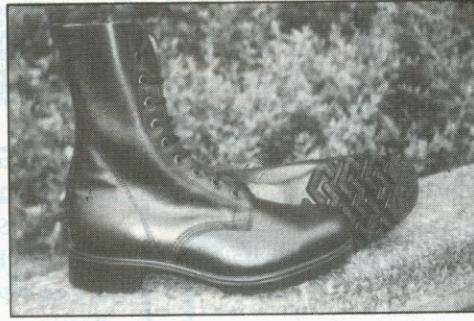
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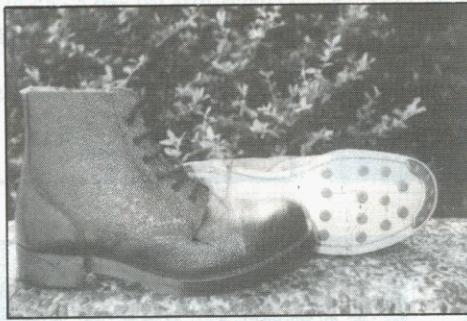


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Lonely 33-year-old would like to write to a British soldier anywhere. I have short brown hair and brown eyes, I'm 5'2" and of medium build. All letters will be answered. P389

Hello, I'm Debbie. I'm 28, single and work in a home for the elderly. If there is a soldier who would like a friendly letter occasionally then please drop me a line soon, thanks. P390

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To all single male squaddies. I'm Julie, 25, unattached, good personality and enjoying a laugh. If you are interested in writing I would like to hear from you, a photo of you would also be nice. P379

Sharon, 27-year-old divorcée with two children. Interests include pottery, reading, music and the cinema. Seeks serving Para any age for genuine friendship. Photo not necessary. All letters answered. Write soon. P380

Male, aged 20, seeks fun-loving female to write to. My interests are swimming, cycling and night clubs. So come on girls, could be your lucky day. All letters replied, photo if possible. P381

Required two buddies, for her and me, she's 42 and I'm 43, we're blonde and bubbly, I'm Lyn - she's Pam, so pick up a pen, and write when you can. P382

My name is Marion, I am 32, separated. I have brown hair and green eyes. I would like to write to soldiers of my age, I wish to meet someone for relationship. P383

Would any men out there like to write to Cathy (33). If you have a taste for adventure, good sense of humour and enjoy life, get writing. You won't be disappointed. P384

Hi, I'm Ian, 28, witty, charming, debonair and - yes you've guessed it, a liar! All the usual likes and dislikes, wine, women, and song. So girls, if this sounds appealing, drop me a line. P385

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Scheme for the regulation of Charities.

Ref: BWG-150587-SC

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft scheme may be obtained from them (ref: RLB 150587-SC) at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within one month of today. ^{18/18}

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Ref: BWG-150243-SC

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Novice luge winners on right track

THE FIRST of the Army's winter sports competitions – the Saab-sponsored novice training week held in conjunction with the Great Britain Luge Association at Igls in Austria – produced some promising results.

Ex-QMSI Jim Evans, now with the British Olympic Association and newly elected to the National Olympic Committee, ran the week, and Sgt Keith Yandell and LCpl Loft Whitehead (his leg still in plaster from a crash earlier this year) were there to give guidance.

Clear winner of the novice competition over four *laufs* with one discard was 2nd Lt Simon Orr (1 A and SH), with Gnr Smudge Smith second and 2nd Lt Triton Vance (RM, att 1 A and SH) third.

An exceptional performance in the women's competition gave Dvr Chalkie Dawson (RCT) the runner's up position. But for a poor series of starts she would comfortably have become the British novice champion.

Selection for the Army development squad should put her on track for selection for the 1996 Olympic Games.

The seniors also raced, with Keith Yandell looking to take the British crown from Nick Ovett. But errors on his first *lauf* cost him dear.

Although his next two runs were the fastest of the week, he failed by just 3/100th of a second to take the championship. His performance, however, was good enough to earn him selection by GB for the 1992/93 World Cup series.

A further luge novice training week is planned for Winterberg in February, details of which can be obtained from Lt Len Chaganis, 32 Armd Eng Regt, BFPO 104.

Autumn double

WINNERS of the Cinque Ports Trophy at the RE (BAOR) autumn golf meeting held in Berlin were 28 Engr Regt's B team, who pushed their A team into second place. Of 33 four-man teams, 11 were entered by the newly formed 65 Fd Pk Sqn RE.

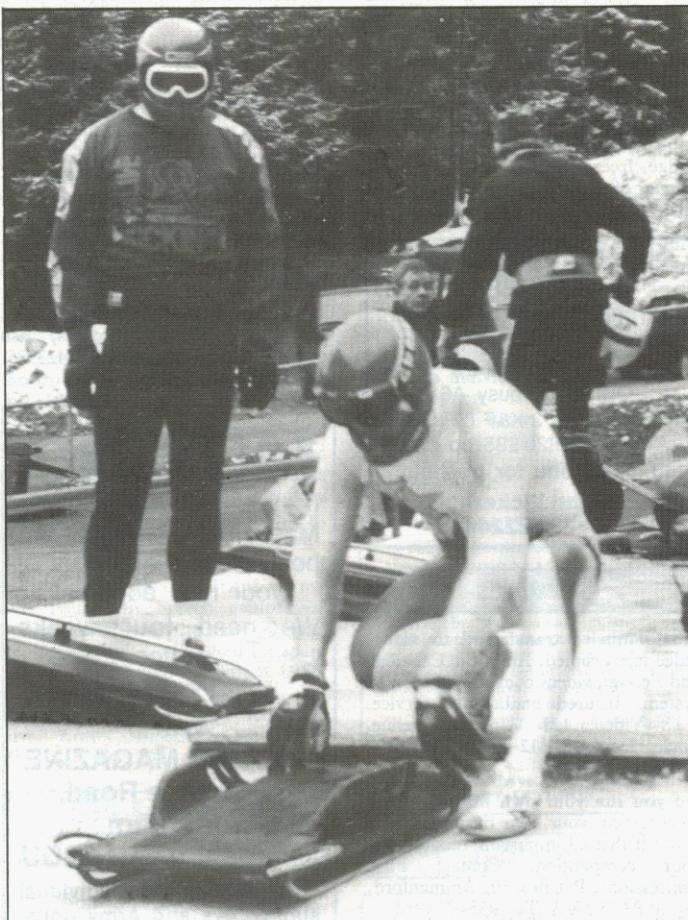
Skeleton potential

WITH skeleton racing on course to become a Winter Olympics medal event, the Army has encouraged novice training and selection for World Cup competitions.

In both, the policy has been highly successful. The novice school held at Igls, Austria in November produced excellent results, and six BAOR sliders have been selected for the 1992/93 World Cup circuit.

Ten novices starting on the ice for the first time made remarkable progress and after six days were able to compete in their first Army novice competition, sliding the full length of the 1km track.

Most recorded times compa-



Skeleton novice Cpl Steve Robinson about to make his winning descent at Igls in Austria

table with the back end of the international open championships held on November 8.

Outright winner was Cpl Steve Robinson (4 ADSR) with an amazing two-run combined time of 1min 59.9sec, fast enough to have put him 40th in the world in open competition. Second was Cpl Paul George

(3 ADSR) and third LCpl Mark Riding (4 ADSR).

The other notable performances were by women, Mrs Gabby Wood (2min 2.4sec) and Cpl Sam Robertson (3 ADSR, 2min 6.9sec) recording faster times than the Swiss ladies. Clearly, both Gabby and Sam have Olympic potential.

REME lift their game

REME, wooden spoonists in last year's Corps Quadrangular Tournament at Minley Manor, bounced back at Harrogate to finish as the only unbeaten side after a week of uncompromising football, writes Pat Massey.

They opened up with a 2-1 win over the gunners, the defending champions, while on a neighbouring pitch the sappers were denting the hopes of R Signals, the sponsor corps and last year's runners-up, with a 3-2 victory.

There were goals galore on the second day, with REME wallop the sappers 5-1 in a big upset, and the signalmen trouncing the gunners 7-1.

The final round of matches ended in deadlock, RE drawing

1-1 with RA, while R Signals, needing only a single goal to lift the trophy, could manage only a 0-0 draw with REME, who thus became the new champions.

An Army XI 1, Territorial Army 2

The Territorial Army scored the winner four minutes from time against a Regular Army reserve side at Aldershot.

A thoroughly entertaining game looked likely to end scoreless until the final 20 minutes, when Pte Tagg (RAMC) broke the deadlock for the Regulars.

But the TA stepped up the pressure and Cfn Browning (CVHQ REME) and Rgr Trainer (C Coy, 4 R Irish) scored to give the TA a second

R Signals 0, Infantry 2

A goal in each half was sufficient to give the Infantry victory over the Royal Signals in an entertaining and highly competitive match.

Cpl Rob Clarke (PWRR) scored in the 35th minute with a fierce shot from the left edge of the penalty area and Gdns Neil Treble (Gren Gds) put the match beyond doubt 15 minutes from the end with an unstoppable shot.

The Infantry defence, well marshalled by Pte Peter Batey (2 Para) stood firm despite sustained pressure.



Army long-distance runner WO2 Steve Lønnon is keeping himself in shape while on Op Grapple duty in Bosnia. Steve, who was second in the Inter-Service marathon championships in September, is RSM of the National Support Element based at Tomislavgrad. Posted to 5 Ord Bn for Grapple, Steve has led the outstanding FOD Dulmen running squad in recent years

Picture: Mike Weston

Rod retains track trophy

SGT ROD Finch (AGC, att 3 Para) has retained the Army Athletic Association's Cotterell Cup for senior track events.

The performance which won him the track athlete of the year accolade for a second successive season was his 3min 50.8sec

Signallers win relay

COTTERELL Cup winner Sgt Rod Finch recorded the fastest individual time at the Army cross-country relay championships at Rushmoor Arena on November 7. He completed his lap in 16min 15sec to lift 3 Para into 14th place.

The Major Units title was won by 2 Signal Regt, with 1 ADSR second and 1 R Anglian third. FOD Dulmen filled first and second places in the Minor Units, with Ord Sqn Cdo Log Regt third.

The junior and youth races were won by AA Coll Chepstow, and Aldershot Garrison took the women's title ahead of 251 Sqn and York Garrison.

Sappers' clean sweep

THE ARMY Inter-Corps squash championship took place over three days at the Waverley Squash Club, Farnham.

Team commitment and strength in depth is what is needed to win and the Royal Engineers had both. They won all their matches to regain the trophy which they have now held three times in the past four years.

Their team was chosen from Spr Nick Turton, Cpl Nigel Hissey, Capt Derek Collins, WO2 St John Webster, WO1 Jim Inglis, Maj John Chick and SSgt John Baldock.

The RAOC were runners-up.

The Royal Signals and

Infantry B teams won Divisions

2 and 3 respectively and will

look forward to promotion next season into a championship which will change format slightly because many strong corps' squash teams will have

been absorbed into the newly-formed AGC and RLC. However, the championship will remain the biggest Army squash event with more than 100 players participating.

Services title for U-21 team

THE ARMY's up-and-coming Under-21 hockey players won their championship at the Inter-Services indoor tournament at HMS Collingwood, near Portsmouth, while the senior side, depleted by postings, commitments and operational tours, lost their chance of the title when they were defeated by the Royal Air Force.

Although beaten 4-1 by the RAF in their opening match, the seniors played well. Despite trailing 5-7 at one point to the Royal Navy they went on to defeat their hosts 8-7 in a highly entertaining game.

In the final match the RAF convincingly beat the Navy to claim the 1992 indoor championship.

The Army U-21 squad, fresh from a training weekend at Aldershot under manager Maj John McMeekin and coach WO2 Terry Duffy, impressed everyone from the outset.

Against the RAF, the defending champions, they were in control by halftime and finished with a flurry of goals to win 10-4.

With the Navy-RAF match ending in a 4-4 deadlock, the Army needed only to avoid defeat in their last match to claim the title. They did so handsomely, beating the Navy 6-3 after leading 4-1 at the interval.

It was an outstanding performance from the young Army players, who worked hard in training and responded well on the day.

The U-21 squad will lose only two players – LCpl Atkins (38 Engr Regt) and Pte Ericson (AGC, att 12 RSME) – to the senior ranks between now and the 1993 outdoor championships.

Army Under-21: Dvr Dyche (27 RCT), LCpl Powell (REME, att 17/21 L), LCpl Atkins (38 Engr Regt), Cfn Hazelden (REME, att 22 AD Regt), Spr Webb (22 Eng Regt), LCpl Amies (1 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn), Sig James (team captain, 2 Sig Regt), Pte Carney (ACC, att PCD Mill Hill), AT Lynas (PMC Arborfield), Pte Ericson (AGC, att 12 RSME), AT Williams (AAC Chepstow), AT McKee (AAC Chepstow), Spr Colman (38 Engr Regt), AT Tucker (PMC Arborfield).

Austria match ends in sadness

THE ringside death from a heart attack of a veteran Hungarian coach brought the Army's boxing match against Austria at Worgl on November 14 to a sad and premature end.

With the teams level at four bouts each when the tragedy happened, the deciding contest involving LCpl Jeff Ollerhead (1 Kings) was abandoned midway through the first round.

The Army squad put up an exceptional performance against a strong Austrian side boosted by two Hungarian internationals. There was also a Turk in the team.

Team captain LCpl Chris Bessey was in terrific form



Army coach WO2 Mick Gannon (left) and his team in the ring at Worgl, Austria

against the Hungarian Kangly and earned a unanimous points decision.

Unluckiest of the Army contingent was LCpl Vinny Powell, a clear victim of the computerised scoring system used for the match. He patently won his featherweight contest

but got the rough end of a majority verdict that made nonsense of the system.

Match details

Austria v Army: Bantamweight – Pte Bob Basford (1 Staffords) beat A Friedl, rsc 2; feather – LCpl Vinny Powell (59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE) lost to M Dimter, pts m; light – Pte Sam

Boreham (2 PWRR) beat A Daboussi (Turkey), pts u; light-welter – Spr Tommy Winspear (36 Engr Regt) beat W Goller, ko 3; welter – LCpl Chris Whittaker (38 Engr Regt) lost to C Triendl, pts m; middle – LCpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RCT) beat L Kangly (Hungary), pts u; Fus Tony Marsden (2 RRF) lost to H Salzburger, pts m; middle – LCpl Lee Innes (3 Trg Regt RE) lost to E Zolt (Hungary), pts m.

Riders second in Stockholm

A UNITED Kingdom team finished second to the Italians in the annual international military riding competition, this year hosted by the Royal Swedish Life Guard Dragoons in Stockholm on the superb facilities used for the 1990 world equestrian games.

The host nation provides the horses for the event, competed for every year by Britain, France, Italy, Portugal and Sweden. Teams of four draw for horses and are given 50 minutes for the trainer to match riders to mounts.

Once the combinations have been declared, riders have just 15 minutes on their horses before each phase of the competition, which includes dressage, cross-country and show jumping.

A list of British Service riders was drawn up in May, and a final selection was made at the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray a week before the event.

Maj Charlie Lane and Bdr

Corky Corfield from The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, and Staff Cpl Dick Waywood and CoH Sean Maxwell of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment were chosen from a high-quality trial, with Capt Sandy Sanderson, Chief Instructor at Melton Mowbray, named as the team trainer and Maj Richard Persse, RM as chef d'équipe.

The UK team was third after the dressage, less than ten penalties behind the French leaders. Only eight out of 20 horses went clear inside the time in the cross-country phase, with Lane and Waygood



The UK team in Stockholm. From left are Maj Charlie Lane, CoH Sean Maxwell, Capt Sandy Sanderson, Maj Richard Persse, Bdr Corky Corfield and Staff Cpl Dick Waygood

having excellent rounds.

Maxwell got round with one

refusal while Corfield fell heavily half way round. With Lane leading overall in the individual competition, the UK team was now second, just two penalties behind the Italians.

The British held their nerve over the daunting 12-fence course in the show jumping, in which only three horses went clear. Italy, with the best horses, won the event, France finished third, Sweden fourth and Portugal fifth.

WRITERS' CHOICE

SGT Michael Dixon, Britain's most successful Olympic biathlon skier, has been nominated as the national Sports Writers' winter sportsman of the year. He is to receive the prestigious award at a gala presentation dinner in London on December 14.

Dixon, serving with 35 Engineer Regiment, has also been named as the Army's 1992 winter sportsman of the year. He finished 12th, the best-ever British result, in the 20km individual biathlon race at the Albertville Olympics.



Two soldiers on separate humanitarian missions meet outside a battered Croatian church close to UNPROFOR 1's Sector North headquarters in Topusko. Capt Christopher Sheppard, RAMC (left) heads the sector's British Army medical contingent, Capt Michael Ward, Royal Hussars is one of 150 ceasefire line monitors provided by the European Community Monitoring Mission



When staff from SOLDIER last met the new man in charge of the Sarajevo office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees he was surrounded by hundreds of Iraqi soldiers.

Then, as Capt Jeremy Brade, 6 GR, he was attached to 1 RHF, part of the prisoner-of-war guard force in the Gulf.

Now, after serving as a ceasefire observer with the European Community Monitor Mission (ECMM), Jeremy (pictured) has returned to Sarajevo to mobilise UNHCR staff and negotiate the passage of relief convoys through barricades around the Bosnian capital.

His work in the region began earlier this year when he left the Army after ten years in uniform.

Minden medics take over

IT'S ALL change at the British Medical Battalion serving with the United Nations Protection Force in Croatia, where 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance is in the process of handing over to Minden-based 4 Armoured Field Ambulance.

BRITMEDBATT is responsible for providing second-line medical support, including

health care, casualty treatment and evacuation, for UN troops serving in three "demilitarised" protection areas.

The battalion's adjutant, Capt David Little, told SOLDIER that by late November, 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance's medics had treated more than 2,700 patients including war casualties.

"Our ambulances drove almost 600 journeys moving casualties between locations, while our dentists treated more than 400 personnel," he said.

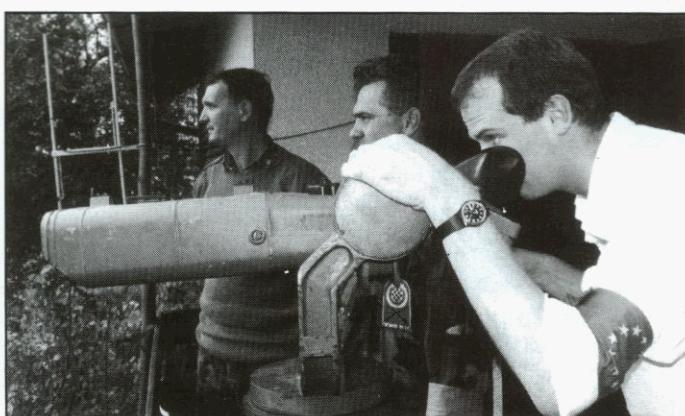
BRITMEDBATT's first commanding officer, Lt Col Lois Lodge RAMC, hands over command to the CO of 4 AFA, Lt Col Paul Edmondson-Jones, on December 17.

Monitor on watch

WATCHED by Croatian soldiers, Capt Michael Ward monitors military activity in the former Yugoslavia.

The Royal Hussar is one of 41 British officers serving with the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM) along the 1,126km ceasefire line. The mission reports ceasefire violations and carries out a mediating role between warring factions.

Eleven Royal Signals personnel, including Commander Communications, Lt Col Martin Stretch, are responsible for



providing satellite and other communications for the mission. They are deployed in Zagreb, Belgrade, Split and Nacise.

Comms personnel have been drawn from a number of signals

units, including the Army Apprentices College Harrogate, 7, 14 and 30 Signal Regiments, 1, 3 and 4th Armoured Division and the Signals Directorate of the Ministry of Defence.

Warrior infantry fighting vehicles and other British Army armour on the quayside at Split after arriving by sea from Emden, Germany in the ro-ro ferry *Rosa Dan*. Warriors and Scimitars will spearhead the 1 Cheshire group's efforts to protect United Nations relief convoys taking food and other humanitarian aid to starving towns and villages in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Other Op Grapple pictures inside

Picture: Press Association

