

OCTOBER 31  
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# ARMED FOR SOLDIERS

MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
BRITISH  
ARMY



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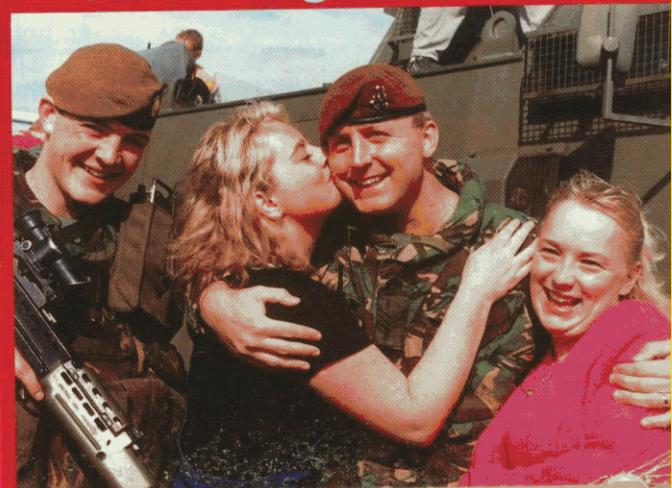
## A PRAYER FOR RWANDA



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- Highlanders' welcome
- Coldstream in Hungary
- Women at war exhibition

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**VOLVO**



Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**October 31, 1994**  
**Vol 50/22**

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## Managing Editor

Chris Horrocks	Ext 2355
<b>Editor</b>	
John Elliott	2356
<b>Assistant Editors</b>	
Laurie Manton	2362
Gordon Skilling	2360
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**FRONT COVER:** (Main picture) Padre Andrew Phillips administers the last rites to a child in Rwanda. Reports and more pictures on the British contingent's work appear in Pages 23-29. (Picture: Terry Champion.) (Inset) Sgt Gary Wills and Gdsm Mark Perkins of The King's Royal Hussars enjoy the more relaxed approach adopted by their regiment to patrolling in Northern Ireland since the IRA cease-fire. KRH soldiers invited members of the public to stop for a chat and look inside their Saxon armoured vehicles during a community fair at Ballysillan in North Belfast.

● **THE HIGHLANDERS:** Soldiers of the Gordons and the Queen's Own Highlanders have merged to create Scotland's newest infantry regiment. *Pages 12-13.*

● **LIGHT DRAGOONS:** Helping to restore a fragile normality to a region of Bosnia shattered by ethnic fighting. *Pages 14-15.*

● **COLDSTREAM GUARDS:** An historic

visit to Hungary ended with the gift of a goose. *Pages 16-17.*

● **ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS:** If the Army needs it, the RLC will deliver – anywhere. *Pages 18-19.*

● **5 AIRBORNE BRIGADE:** Para medics, signallers, REME and sappers have brought order out of chaos in a Rwanda torn apart by civil war. *Pages 23-29.*

## Smiling

## face of Rwanda



Maj Mark Hisketh RRF, a staff officer serving with the British Operation Gabriel contingent in Rwanda, brings a smile to the face of an orphan in Kigali. See Pages 23-29

# Sapper cited for South Georgia rescue mission

A ROYAL Engineer serving with the South Georgia Garrison has received a commendation for bravery following the rescue in atrocious weather of a Japanese trawlerman.

LCpl Ralph Hart, from the 51 Field Squadron detachment on the remote South Atlantic island, was one of two Rigid Raider helmsmen who risked their lives in high seas to assist a medical team recover the seriously ill crewman from the trawler *Niitaka Maru*.

Now back in the United Kingdom with 51 Sqn, part of Ripon-based 38 Engineer Regiment, LCpl Hart received



LCpl Ralph Hart

a Commander British Forces' commendation for his courage during the incident.

A young gunner has received a Royal Humane Society award for saving the life of his best friend.

Nineteen-year-old Gnr Richard Fox, serving with K Battery of 5 Regiment RA in Catterick, was leaving a pub near his home in County Durham when his friend, Robert Deakin, was hit by a car.

He was bleeding heavily and stopped breathing, and Gnr Fox was unable to find a pulse. Using first aid training he had received in the Army, he



Gnr Richard Fox

cleared the airways of the seriously injured man, gave mouth to mouth resuscitation until Robert started breathing again and his pulse returned.

Robert suffered multiple compound fractures, including skull and pelvis, and was told he might never walk again, but Gnr Fox encouraged him and took him swimming to get him back on his feet.

Picture: Terry Champion

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# Army lags behind in ethnic monitoring survey

A PROMISING response to the ethnic monitoring of Service personnel has been reported by the Defence Analytical Services Agency although the Army lags behind the other two

Services. While the Royal Air Force has returned 65 per cent and the Royal Navy 55 per cent of the forms, the Army has returned 52 per cent.

Ethnic origin questionnaires

have been dispatched to all serving personnel, and as high a return as possible is necessary so that useful statistics can be produced.

Personnel who have not

received a form should request one from the Survey and Census Unit AS (SCU), Room 143, Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP.

## Housing estate plans on schedule

MINISTRY of Defence plans to convert its housing estate to private ownership are still on schedule despite a technical difficulty over the transfer.

National newspaper reports that plans for the transfer have been abandoned have been emphatically denied by MoD sources.

The merchant arm of NatWest bank has been brought in to advise the MoD's Housing Trust team on the way forward, and it is thought the switch to private ownership will be achieved by the original deadline of April next year.

Following difficulties that had arisen over the concept of a non-profit housing trust, other avenues are now being examined. An announcement from the Defence Secretary is anticipated soon.

The MoD married quarters' estate of 68,000 homes is valued at £3.5bn.

## Rangers take to the Falklands

THE DEPLOYMENT of a 40-man platoon of Territorial Army soldiers from Northern Ireland for a four-month emergency tour in the Falkland Islands has gone so well that 15 of the part-timers have already said they want to join the Regular Army.

Rangers from the 4th/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers joined a company of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment in a unique experiment to evaluate the use of Reserve units in a new operational role.



The Duke of York and Mayor of Ballymena take the salute as The Royal Irish Regiment marches past after receiving the Freedom of the borough. Prince Andrew, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, opened a new training wing at the Royal Irish base in the town where he was received by the Colonel, Gen Sir Charles Huxtable

## Marines head Spearhead group in Gulf

A BATTLE group of almost 1,100 British soldiers has returned to the Gulf to support Kuwait against the threat of Iraqi aggression.

The spearhead battalion, comprising 645 members of 45 Commando RM at Arbroath, is supported by 7 Battery of 29 Commando RA, also at Arbroath, with elements of the Commando Logistic Regiment from Plymouth, 38 Engineer Regiment at Ripon, 30 Signal Regiment at Bramcote, 29 Regiment RLC from South Cerney, and 237 Signal Squadron from Hullavington.

Two Royal Navy frigates and 12 Royal Air Force Tornados

do aircraft have also been deployed, at the same time as a 4,000-strong force of US troops and a French frigate. There are 19,000 US military personnel in the region, with another 44,570 standing by in reserve.

More British troops would be sent if the confrontation – caused by extensive Iraqi military manoeuvres close to the Kuwaiti border – deepened, said Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

During the 1991 war, Britain deployed a division of 25,000 troops with 170 tanks and 84 artillery pieces to the Gulf region.

## Head of M4 appointed

HEAD of the new Directorate of Manning branch established to ensure equal opportunities within the Army is Col Tricia Purves.

The branch, known as M4, will specifically monitor racial, religious and female issues and is based in Empress State Building, London.

The branch will take on some of the responsibilities of the Directorate of Women (Army) which disbands on October 31 when the Director, Brig Joan Roulstone, retires.

## Cadets praised

BRIG Barry Stevens, Commander 160 (Wales) Brigade, paid tribute to the effort of youngsters who took part in the cadet Cambrian Patrol competition in Wales's Black Mountains.

Powys ACF won the open trophy and Gwent ACF junior cadets the Challenge Cup.

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## RLC regiment forms royal guard



Picture: Mike Weston

Above - A full ceremonial rehearsal for 61 drivers, including 17 Gurkhas, from 10 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, as RSM Colin Woodley puts them through an inspection at Aldershot's Omer Barracks prior to mounting four 48-hour Queen's Guards in London for the first time. The Guard, at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and the Tower of London, is a means for the specially-selected squad, based at Colchester, to mark the 200th anniversary of the raising by Royal Warrant of the Royal Waggoners, the first properly implemented Army transport unit.

Right - RLC soldier takes over from Grenadier Guards at Buckingham Palace



Picture: Ptno London District

## Flag signals new era at Blandford

A NEW era in the history of Blandford Camp began on October 17 with the arrival from North Yorkshire of the regimental flag of 8 Signal Regiment, which is disbanding in March.

The occasion marked the beginning of the transfer of Royal Signals soldier training from Catterick to the Royal School of Signals at Blandford Camp, which is being enlarged to accommodate as many as 1,000 extra soldiers.

Nine soldiers ran in relay from Catterick to deliver the 8 Signal Regiment flag to Brig John Griffin, Commander of the Royal School of Signals and the garrison.

## Sappers leap into action

CONSTRUCTING a quarter-million litre bulk fuel installation, a 13-bay bridge and a 25m outdoor range took 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE just 12 weeks during Exercise Waterleap 94 at Wainwright, Canada.

Plant operators of 1 Troop dug up seven different multicore communications cables and had problems with heavy rain and a high water table before completing the fuel installation on schedule.

SSgt Geordie Blair and 2 Troop had to modify the bridge before seating it on two concrete abutments constructed by Cpl Scouse Linton, while Cpl Taff Atkinson realigned roads to match.

A stop butt wall, covered firing point and troop shelter were required at the range, where Cpl Jock Marren built a wall solid enough to stop a 105mm shell.

The squadron carried out its own annual personal weapons and combat fitness tests as well as adventurous training at Mount Robson Park before returning to Plymouth to prepare for its Norway deployment in January.

## Gurkhas march into Maidstone



Picture: Mike Weston

Maidstone marchers: Members of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, parade through the town centre of Maidstone, Kent to mark their move into Invicta Park from Kitchener Barracks, Chatham - where they had been separately located - to join the rest of 36 Engineer Regiment. Taking the salute was Regimental Colonel Maj Gen Richard Peck and the mayor, Cllr Fred Winkles

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Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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## Princess Royal meets veteran despatchers



The Princess Royal meets veteran air despatchers who flew at Arnhem 50 years ago. She was visiting 29 Regiment, RLC at South Cerney, Cirencester. Princess Anne also met their modern-day equivalents, and postal and courier and Army movements personnel who had served in Bosnia and Rwanda

TRAINING Support Command (Germany) at Sennelager has increased effectiveness and made savings by rationalising many independent training organisations under a single command.

The command provides a central focus for training for the Army in Germany, primarily for 1 (UK) Armoured Division, and comprises a small headquarters with four subordinate elements.

The Combined Arms Field Training Group co-ordinates collective and specialist training at Hohne, Dortmund and Hameln as well as Sennelager.

The Combat Manoeuvre

## TSC(G) in command

Simulation Centre focuses on the Brigade and Battlegroup Trainer and will include a Combined Arms Tactical Trainer and embryonic Higher Formation Trainer.

Primary role of the Security Operations and Training Advisory Team is to train units for internal security emergency tours, but it also has a role

assisting training in scenarios such as former Yugoslavia.

More coherent administrative ties between several independent organisations is made possible through the Training Support Unit. Commanded by Brig Alan Behagg, the TSC(G) allows a better co-ordinated approach as well as a uniform training standard.



CSgt Steven Grogan of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, receives his UN medal for service in Bosnia from Regimental Col Brig Dick Mundell. Another picture of the medal parade at Picton Barracks, Bulford, appears on the back cover

### IN BRIEF

## Grapple praise

BRITISH soldiers serving with the UN Protection Force in central Bosnia were praised by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames during a visit to military units deployed on Op Grapple.

The minister, who was accompanied by Gen Sir John Wilsey, Joint Commander, and Brig Andrew Ridgway, Commander British Forces, said he was "greatly impressed" with all that was being achieved by the British and other UN forces in Bosnia, both as peacekeepers and impartial brokers between former adversaries.

• • •

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind visited the newly-independent states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – the first British defence minister to do so. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in each country, strengthening the defence ties between the UK and the individual states.

• • •

Lt Gen Ehud Barak, Chief of the General Staff of the Israeli Defence Forces, has paid an official visit to the UK. He was received by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge.

• • •

A cheque for DM20,667 (about £8,435), representing the Rheindahlen Support Unit's 50 per cent share of profits from the Rheindahlen Bowl, was presented to Lt Col Vince Iwaneck, the unit's commander, by Richard Burton, area manager of Naafi – which jointly manages the Bowl – to go towards the RSU's sports amenities fund.

• • •

London-based consultants Unisys are to provide the Quartermaster General's Headquarters with a system to manage all spares procurement for the British Army. The £2m contract includes consultancy, systems, implementation and support.

• • •

More than 500 Regular and volunteer soldiers from Royal Logistic Corps units around the country competed at the corps HQ, Deepcut in the annual military skills competition. Winners of the Regulars' Trophy were 16 Regt, Bicester, with Croydon-based 151 Support Regt (V) B team taking the TA honours.

Picture: Mike Weston

# General agreement



Sitting on the dotted line at Tedworth House, Wiltshire, are Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn (left), Commander UK Field Army, and Gen Philippe Morillon, commander of the Force d'Action Rapide and former commander of UNPROFOR in Bosnia. The agreement encourages an exchange of knowledge and experience which will result in a better level of understanding and co-operation when French and British troops are involved in the same theatre, such as Bosnia and Rwanda.

## Historic handshakes

Two moments of British Army history are captured for posterity as Royal Engineer WO1 (RSM) Mike Melnyk (left) takes over from WO1 (RSM)

Kevin McCreadie PWRR as RSM at ATR Bassingbourn – the first time the barracks there has had a non-infantry man in the post. A more poignant handshake took place at a farewell dinner at Bordon Garrison, where, after a lengthy reprieve, Bordon's Infantry Wing finally closed and relocated to the Driving and Maintenance School at Bovington. The wing's senior instructor, Maj Gordon Rae RS, presented a souvenir framed print of Warriors in action in the Gulf to Garrison Commander Col Tony Meagher.



## Nick on the draw!

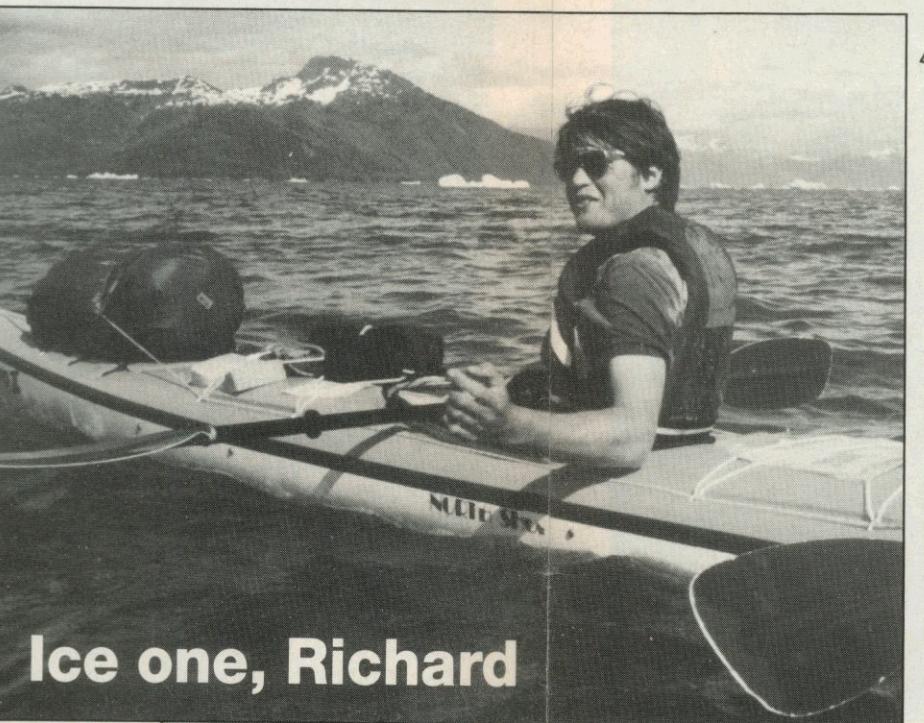
First out of hundreds of entries in a month-long prize draw to celebrate the opening of Naafi's new car showroom in Sennelager was lucky Sgt Nick Washbourne of locally-based 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery. Pictured with wife Karen and Naafi credit services manager Ian Walker, Nick plans to use his windfall for a family holiday in New Zealand or South America.



## Billy's (half) marathon task

HONG KONG

When the Hong Kong half-marathon team took to the field in the world championships in Oslo, WO1 Billy Holmes APTC from HQ British Forces was their proud manager. Billy, who was appointed by the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association in recognition of his contribution to middle distance running in the Colony, has since been posted back to the United Kingdom.



## Ice one, Richard

Pictured paddling in deepest Alaska is Tpr Richard Eccles of the Royal Dragoon Guards, who was taking part in a Raleigh International expedition. Kayaking across Prince William Sound while trying to avoid gigantic oil

tankers, even bigger icebergs and killer whales was only one of the hazardous activities in the 11-week venture, which also included marking a glacier trail, a 58-mile trek and climbing the 3,300ft Hope Mountain.

## Woman of note

Leaving the MoD after 45 years may be quite a blow, but it looks as if Jean Oakley has taken it literally. When she retired at the end of last month from Coleham TA Centre – where she had worked for 12 years – she was presented with a mounted silver bugle by Col Peter Sharland, CO 5 Li(V). Jean, who previously worked at Harlescott Camp and Belle Vue, is due to receive the Imperial Service Medal later in the year.



## Romance in the ranks



There's no camouflaging the affectionate looks which newly-engaged Terriers Cpl Paul Nash and Spr Lisa Capeling of South Shields-based 105 Field Squadron, 72 Engineer Regiment are exchanging. Paul took Lisa by surprise when he broke ranks while on parade, sank to one knee and proposed to her. "I couldn't believe it," said Lisa, who immediately accepted, before being plunged into a two-week regimental exercise in Norfolk with her fiancé.

## PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE



## Soaring sapper

Picture: RAF Lossiemouth

Helping with a works project at RAF Lossiemouth paid off for Spr Andrew Gray when he won a reward: a ride in the back seat of a Tornado from XV (R) Squadron. The routine low level training flight was "the thrill of a lifetime" for Andrew, a member of 237 Field Squadron (Airfield Damage Repair) RE(V).

# Ceud mille fàilte The Highlanders

SCOTLAND's - and the British Army's - newest regiment was formed at a private ceremony in Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh on September 17.

Men of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons) received their new Stag's Head cap badges as their famous old regiments, The Gordon Highlanders and the Queen's Own Highlanders, passed into the annals of British military history.

In a unique ceremony, all junior non-commissioned officers and private soldiers donned for the first time the staff cap badge worn previously only by officers and senior NCOs.

The regiment's motto, *Cuidich'n Righ* (Help the King), is now the only Gaelic slogan used by the modern Regular Army.

Private soldiers of the new regiment will be known as Highlanders and will wear the Gordons' kilt.

Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Colonel of the regiment and currently commanding NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps, inspected the low-key amalgamation parade which marked the formation. The two Standards of Colours were united and a drumhead service was led by the Chaplain General, the Rev James Harkness, the first Church of Scotland minister to hold this appointment.

The new regiment draws together more than 200 years of tradition, tracing its past to the origins of the Seaforth Highlanders, the Gordons and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

First commanding officer of the Highlanders is Lt Col Hughie Monro, last CO of the QO Hldrs.

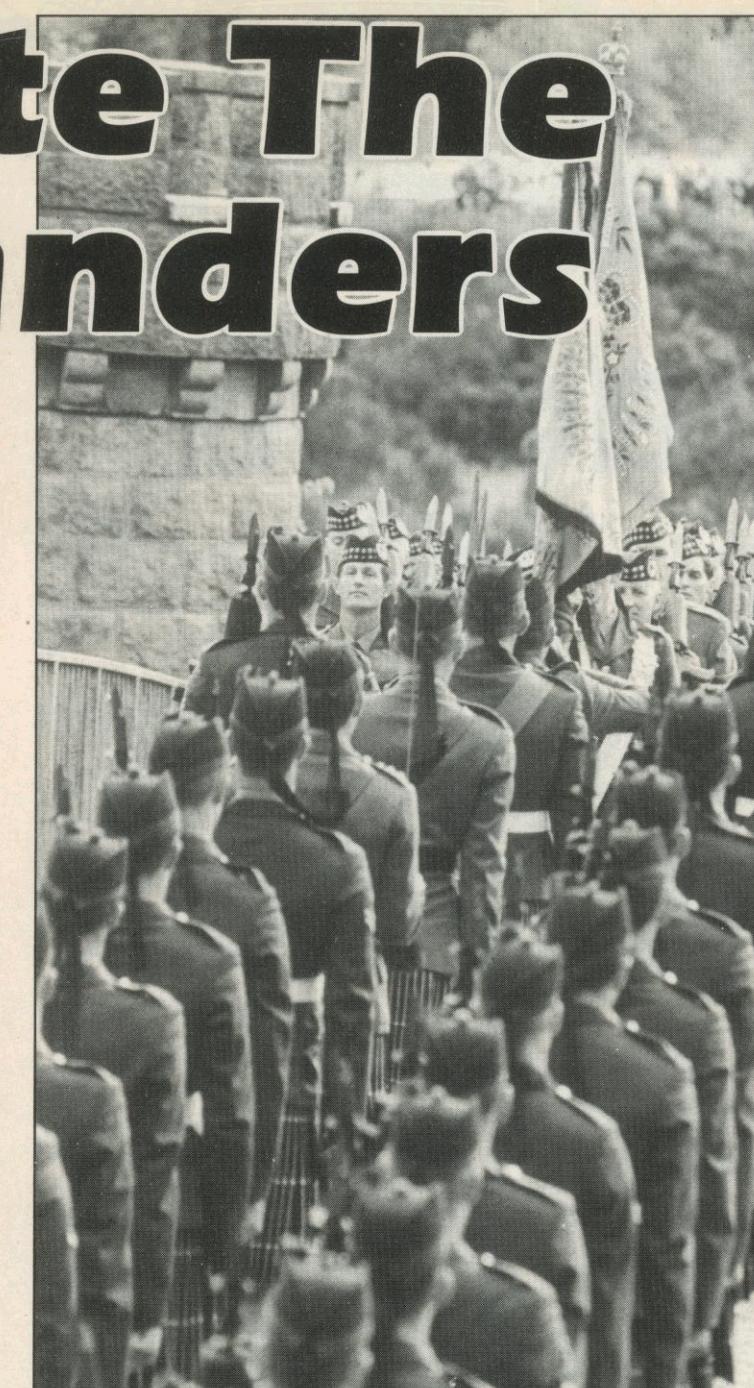
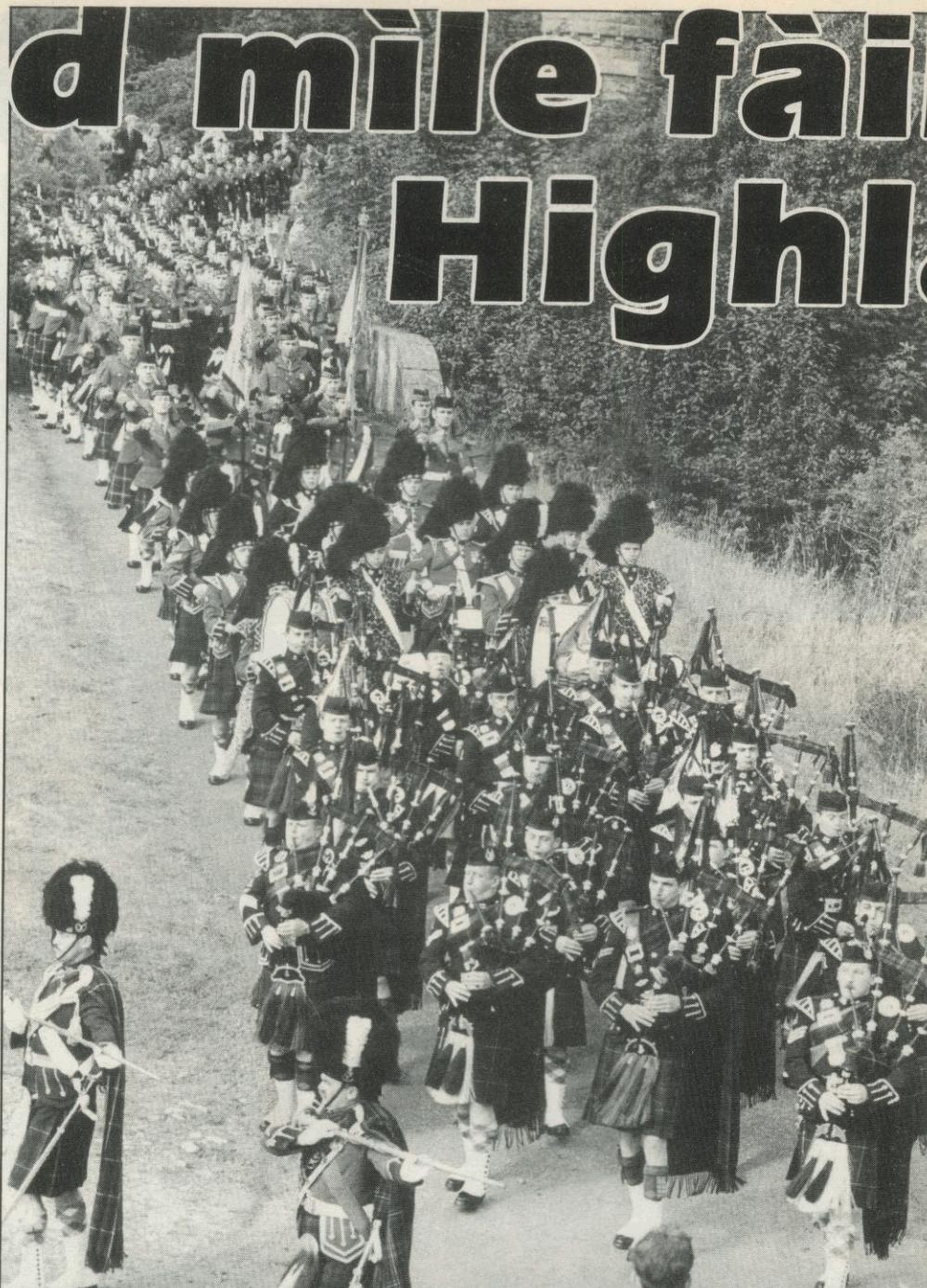
Three days earlier the Gordons and the Queen's Own Highlanders met for the final time at Telford's Bridge over the River Spey at Craigellachie. Commanding officers, Colour parties and ceremonial guards were accompanied by the Drums and Pipes of the Gordons and the QO Hldrs' Pipes and Drums.

Lining the route across the bridge were soldiers of the new regiment's mutual Territorial Army battalion, the 2nd Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers.

The ceremony demonstrated the friendship that existed between the two regiments, the Old Bridge at Craigellachie being mid-way between their respective recruiting areas.

Disbands of both the Gordons and the Queen's Own Highlanders under Options for Change were bitterly opposed in Scotland.

By December, the Highlanders will be ready for their first operational tour, to Northern Ireland. Training began the day after amalgamation.



Above - A soldier receives the Stag's Head cap badge of The Highlanders

Left - Two proud regiments meet on the Old Bridge - midway between their traditional recruiting areas - three days before their amalgamation

Below - Dress rehearsal for the amalgamation parade. Lt Col Hughie Monro, CO 1 QO Hldrs, and soon to be first commanding officer of the new regiment, behind the Colours

Pictures: Mark Owens



**HEADLINE TRANSLATION**  
*Ceud mile fàilte* - A thousand welcomes to The Highlanders

Left - Lt Col Ian Chant-Sempill (left), CO 1 Gordons, and Lt Col Hughie Monro, CO 1 QO Hldrs, toast each other with a dram of malt whisky on the Old Bridge at Craigellachie



# Dragoons help bring peace to Maglaj

IT IS QUITE a hike to the lofty heights of a medieval fort overlooking the battered town of Maglaj, but the view is fantastic as soldiers from D Squadron, The Light Dragoons know well.

They have been there several times while on foot patrol in the area.

A year ago Maglaj was under constant attack from Bosnian

Serb artillery and its inhabitants spent much of their time in bunkers. There were no British soldiers there then.

The February 23 peace agreement changed all that. It has had a dramatic effect on daily life within the Maglaj finger, a stretch of countryside occupied by Bosnian Croats and Muslims and bordered on



Callsign Yankee 43. Crewing this Scimitar CVR(T) are Tpr Grant Cuthbertson (gunner), Cpl Innes French (commander) and LCpl Peter Bell (driver)

three sides by Bosnian Serb-held territory.

Now families gather in relative safety to talk on street corners or tend the crops grown on every available strip of earth in the town. Such activities are not without risk. Sporadic shelling and sniper fire still kills and maims civilians, but not at the rate it did before.

The Light Dragoons' squadron leader at Maglaj is Maj Oliver Ellwood. He and his men are responsible for assisting in the implementation of the peace agreement by policing the BiH/HVO buffer zones south of Maglaj and Zepce.

"We achieve this by manning checkpoints between the two zones. We can ensure fair play by the two different police



Lt Mark Polhill AGC makes friends with children at Maglaj. He has been helping restore a grandstand at a handball stadium. Light Dragoons have played football and basketball matches in the town

forces, as well as monitor movement," he said.

"Up to 300 people a day may pass through and there are special arrangements for the passage of tradesmen and the movement of troops.

"We also patrol the demilitarised zones as a confidence-building measure and investigate allegations of wrong-doing. One of my patrols has been to Fojnica to

check out complaints by Muslims that HVO soldiers have been burning their homes," he said.

The buffer zones are particularly dangerous areas in which to operate, encompassing heavily mined former confrontation lines.

"We use set routes cleared by local guides and do not deviate from them. Our predecessors, C Squadron, lost three vehicles to mines. Touch wood, we have avoided such problems," said Maj Ellwood.

The squadron escorts aid trucks taking supplies to Maglaj, Zavidovici and Novi Sher, and has also explored alternative routes out of the area in case main roads are blocked.

Using a local BiH guide, Capt James Hamilton led a three-car patrol - two Scimitars and a Spartan - across mountainous tracks in one of the buffer zones. After some hours of probing, he found the track had been washed away by a flood.

"We couldn't go any further in our vehicles, but we have been able to prove it is possible to get through on foot if it were necessary."

Light Dragoons also man an OP at position Delta 4, from which troops can monitor

fighting around the Blisna, a Serb-held feature dominating much of the area.

"We took over from No 3 Company, Coldstream Guards who were given a hard time by the Serb guns and who returned fire on many occasions," explained Maj Ellwood.

were targeted in the early days of the tour.

The soldiers of D Squadron are based in part of a former school building, just 800m from BSA trenches and machine-gun positions and

Two later incidents were dealt with with similar firmness. On occasions, fire around and over the British base has been heavy enough to cause



This Light Dragoons recce party found its route washed away. The stop sign is riddled with bullet holes. From left are Capt James Hamilton, Tpr Steve Newby, Neil Winter and Grant Cuthbertson, LCpl Peter Bell, Cpls Bob Cooperwaite, Innes French and Curtis Collins (Canada)



Tpr Darren Clegg, Tpr Dale McKenzie, Tpr Shaun Fisher and Sgt Glenn Jackson (front), LCpl Tom Jones (right) and LCpl Mark Artley and LCpl Paul Gedge (top) service a Samaritan ambulance



Maj Oliver Ellwood (left), Light Dragoons' squadron leader, talks to Muslim commanders through interpreter Layla (right)

"I took the view that I would ignore them providing their fire was not endangering my soldiers, but if it did, I would return fire heavily."

"One of my foot patrols found itself pinned down by sniper fire so we deployed our quick-reaction force to extricate the patrol and identify the sniper's position. This was achieved and 30mm Rarden cannon shells fired by one of our Scimitars quickly disposed of him. After that things were quiet for while."

The Light Dragoons have played a personal part in helping the community, carrying out temporary repairs to a primary school so that lessons could start again.

troops to be evacuated from the upper floors of the school.

Soldiers are told not to watch fire-fights involving heavy machine-guns, mortars Bofors anti-aircraft guns and tanks in case rounds fall short.

Foot patrols are carried out in Maglaj to give soldiers a chance to build up a relationship with local people. From them they can discover if the town's infrastructure is functioning; for example, if electricity and water are available.

The Light Dragoons have played a personal part in helping the community, carrying out temporary repairs to a primary school so that lessons could start again.

Jacob marks Coldstream link with old foe

# FIRST STEPS OVER THE TOP

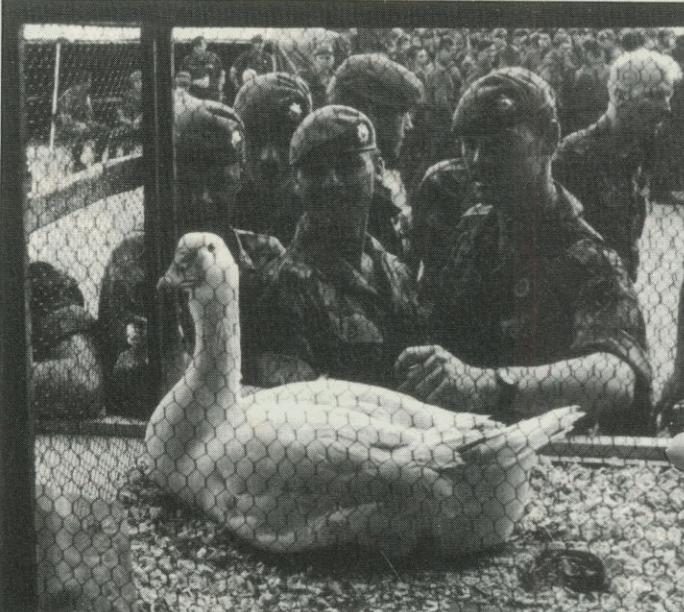
JACOB, the legendary goose of the Coldstream Guards, was reincarnated on a former Soviet training area in the heart of Hungary to mark a moment in history - the first bilateral exercise involving Hungarian soldiers and troops from the Western Alliance.

The original Jacob won his place in Coldstream history by raising the alarm and rushing to the attack when disaffected French settlers were creeping up on a sentry post during troublesome times in Canada in 1838.

He returned to London with the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards and was often seen, wearing his personal gorget, accompanying sentries on guard duty until his untimely death under the wheels of a wagon in 1846.

Jacob Mk II was presented by the Hungarian 62 Mechanised Infantry Brigade to 7 Company, Coldstream Guards at the conclusion of a historic ground-breaking meeting between what were once potential Cold War foes.

The Coldstreamers were the first formed body of British soldiers to visit Hungary since 1686 when the Christian



Jacob the goose attracts an admiring audience of Coldstreamers after his presentation to 7 Coy

nations of Europe combined to evict the Turks from Buda, which now combines with Pest, on the opposite bank of the Danube, to form the national capital.

There were photographers and TV cameras everywhere. Well before the end of the visit, company commander Maj Alexander Matheson had lost count of the number of interviews he had given.

Exercise Hungarian Venture



Lt John Mayhead on parade with the Colours

Palace, but the attentions of the Hungarian media were something else. There were photographers and TV cameras everywhere. Well before the end of the visit, company commander Maj Alexander Matheson had lost count of the number of interviews he had given.

The Hungarians were unstinting in their welcome and hospitality, laying on sightseeing tours, folk dance concerts, even a wine tasting.

At one visit to an air corps unit, Capt Richard Banham, a qualified Lynx and Gazelle pilot, who had just returned to 7 Company from an attachment to 3 Regiment AAC, joined the small band of British pilots to fly a Hind MI 24 attack helicopter.

Phase I of the three-week exercise took the Coldstreamers to Hodmezovasrhely, home of 62 Mechanised Infantry Brigade, in the south of the country near the Serbian border. There they engaged mainly in dry training and had the opportunity to drive Hungarian vehicles.

The day before leaving, 7 Company paraded, with the



The men of 7 Company, Coldstream Guards march through Hodmezovasrhely in Hungary

16



Above - No 2 Platoon, 7 Coy, takes over a Russian-built T-55 tank for a team picture

Right - Army pilot Capt Richard Banham, Coldm Gds, with the Hungarian instructor who took him for a flight in a Russian-built Hind MI 24 attack helicopter. His verdict: "brilliant"

Colours of the 2nd Battalion which it now holds, in Hodmezovasrhely for the oath-taking ceremony of 600 Hungarian conscripts. This impressive joint parade was watched by a vast crowd and attended by Mr Gyorgy Keleti, the Hungarian Defence Minister.

For the second phase, the company was lifted by Russian-built Hip helicopters, 320km north-west to a central training base near Lake Balaton for two days of exercises with the Hungarian UN training company. The company was formed in July as another step towards Hungary's ambitions of taking a greater role in the outside world.

Platoons from both compa-

nies tackled six stands, each of which was designed to test a particular aspect of UN peace-keeping activities. For some of the Coldstreamers, who were recently in Bosnia with the 1st Battalion, it was an interesting comparison with the real thing.

The company was joined by members of the FIBUA staff who have been conducting Bosnia training at Copehill Down.

Next stop for 7 Company

was a well-appointed tented camp at the Zero Point military base, site of one of the country's most advanced ranges and, until the demise of the Warsaw Pact, a preserve of the Soviet Army.



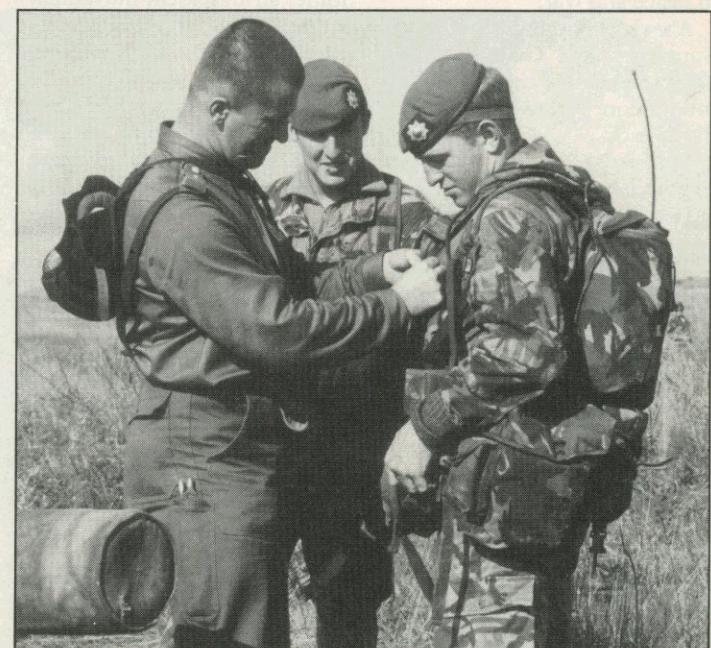
This was the scene of the final exercise - a live-firing demonstration by British soldiers, Hungarian T55 tanks and BTR 80 APCs, shooting in line together at a common enemy.

It was watched by senior officers of the Hungarian Army and military representatives of practically every NATO country as well as a good few from the old Eastern Bloc, including Russia.

For 7 Company it was a question of being first over the top in what may well become a regular exchange between Hungarian and British forces. But being first is nothing new to the Coldstream.

As it says on the regimental motto - *Nulli Secundus, Second to None*.

Report and pictures:  
Robert Higson



Gdsm Craig Lees, a Coldstreamer from the village of Coldstream, is presented with a Hungarian tank unit badge



Sgt Keith Sample in Hungarian head set



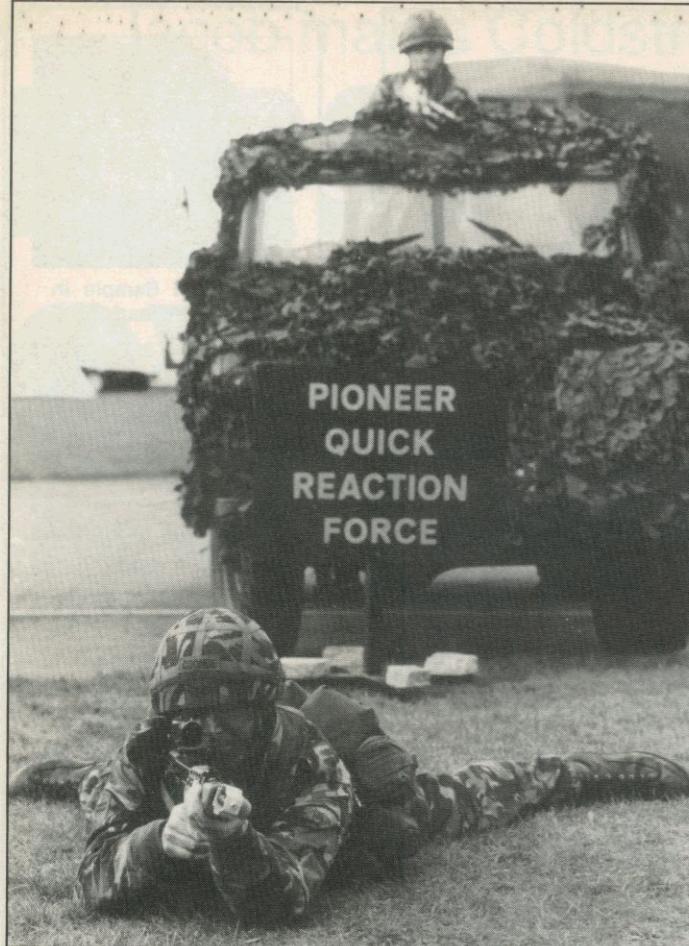
Maj Alexander Matheson, company commander



Guards chaplain Kingsley Joyce. The Hungarian Army is considering a chaplains' department after a long period of enforced atheism



Maj Gen Rob McAfee, DGAT, there at the same time as 7 Coy



Above - Pte Leon Sullivan and the MT section have driven armoured Land Rovers on Northern Ireland tours

Left - Fast movers: 23 Pioneer Regiment's quick reaction force goes through its repertoire for the cameras



## Army's largest corps puts its wares on show

# WE'LL DELIVER . . .

TWO ROYAL Logistic Corps regiments opened their doors last month to demonstrate how they sustain the British Army in peace and war.

Abingdon-based 3 Close Support and 4 General Support Regiments provided the foundation for the displays.

Soldiers from 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC showed how swiftly a quick reaction force could be deployed and how they would operate a graves section in time of war. Their Pioneer and Labour Support Unit (PLSU) demonstrated how civilian labour was employed in theatres of operation world-wide.

A display on Bosnian, Northern Ireland and Arctic deployments was staged by 4 GS Regiment and the Logistic Support Battalion of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force, which showed off its Hagglund VB206 vehicles capable of operating in all

types of winter terrain at very low temperatures.

Moving a military force may require a mix of port and maritime, air despatch, movement control and tank transporter assets. In the United Kingdom, these are provided by 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, 47 Air Despatch Squadron 29 Regiment and 19 Tank Transporter Squadron.

Ensuring safe and rapid delivery of mail, both private and official, to British troops deployed all over the world, is the responsibility of the RLC's Postal and Courier Service.

Its soldiers (motto "Swift and Sure") operate in Forces Post Offices ranging from purpose-built offices within garrisons to a tent manned by a single soldier supporting troops on exercises or operation from the Arctic Circle to the deserts of Saudi Arabia.

Last year, BFPO air mail carried nearly 20 million let-



Director General Logistic Support, Maj Gen David Burden, speaks to Lt Louise Mallin and LCpl Dave Gurney about Northern Ireland operations

ters. In the same period, more than 800,000 parcels were delivered.

A new Logistic Tracking System (LOGTRAKS) has been introduced. Using satellite communication, it can

track vehicles and loads in operational theatres. When it deployed last winter, 60 Artillery Support Squadron was the first unit to be equipped with LOGTRAKS. Each truck is fitted with a

mobile data terminal and computer processor which can be used to pass messages from vehicle to base station and between vehicles.

From a visual display of assets at Division and Brigade headquarters, operators can obtain details of a vehicle's position, speed, direction and load, as well as the locations to which loads have been delivered.

A second batch of LOGTRAKS has been funded for use by 4 GS Regiment which provides logistic support to 3 (UK) Division.

The RLC was formed in 1993 on the amalgamation of the Royal Corps of Transport, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps, Army Catering Corps and the postal and courier services of the Royal Engineers.

With a strength of 16,700 soldiers, the RLC is the Army's largest single regimental grouping, representing 16 per cent of the Regular manpower.



Cpl Steve Gray of 11 (EOD) Regt RLC with a "Buckeye" remote vehicle



Demonstrating the Army's war graves service at Abingdon were (left to right) Lt Guy Bartlett, Ptes Lee Deller, Gary Dunning, Denis Heathcote and Cpl Steve Harrod. The skeleton didn't give its name

Exhibition tells a colourful story

# Women at war



Woman in white: An officer on Exercise Hardfall, an Arctic survival course, in Norway in 1986

TODAY, women are serving with the British Army in Northern Ireland, the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and many other locations at home and abroad.

During the Gulf War of 1990-91, Servicewomen were deployed to Saudi Arabia in a variety of roles, working as drivers, clerks, chefs, medical personnel and accountants as well as intelligence, security and provost staff.

Other post-1945 areas of conflict in which women have served include Malaya, Kenya, Aden, Cyprus and the Falklands. In the First and Second World Wars uniformed women made a huge and vital contribution.

But the female of the species has not always had the official, regulated status in the Army that we now take for granted.

A new exhibition at the National Army Museum tells the story of women in British land forces – and on the fringes – from the 17th century to the present day.

Until the latter part of the 19th century, Army wives and camp followers acted as cooks, washer-women, laundresses and seamstresses and helped with elementary medical care.

During the Napoleonic Wars, long before an organised medical service, soldiers' wives, acting as nurses, were often first on to the field, searching for their wounded husbands.

Napoleon said an army marched on its stomach – and women helped supply the food. "Mother Ross", who enlisted in the 2nd Dragoons in 1693 to look for her sweetheart in the Army in Flanders, became a sutler when her female identity was discovered, stealing pigs and poultry to sell to the

troops. Having fought in several actions and been wounded twice, this famous former "she-soldier" was accorded full military honours on her death in 1739.

Dr James Barry, who served with the Army Medical Department from 1813 until retiring on half-pay with the rank of inspector-general in 1859, was found to be a woman – but only when she died.

Following the Crimean War, in which Dr Barry served with distinction along with the likes of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, the Army decided to extend the employment of Army wives. Women were paid to wash, clean, sew, nurse and teach.

It was not for some time, however, that the Army recognised the importance of having its own, trained, women medics.

The Army Nursing Service was set up in 1881. Females were sent to the 1879 Zulu War and the Sudan War of 1883-84.

The 1899-1902 South African War, with its desper-



Wheel meet again: An ATS motor-cycle messenger in the Second World War

ate need for nurses in ever-greater numbers, resulted in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) being established.

In 1907 followed the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY),

in 1909 the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD).

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), formed in 1917 and renamed a year later Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC),

was initially divided into cookery, mechanical, clerical and miscellaneous sections.

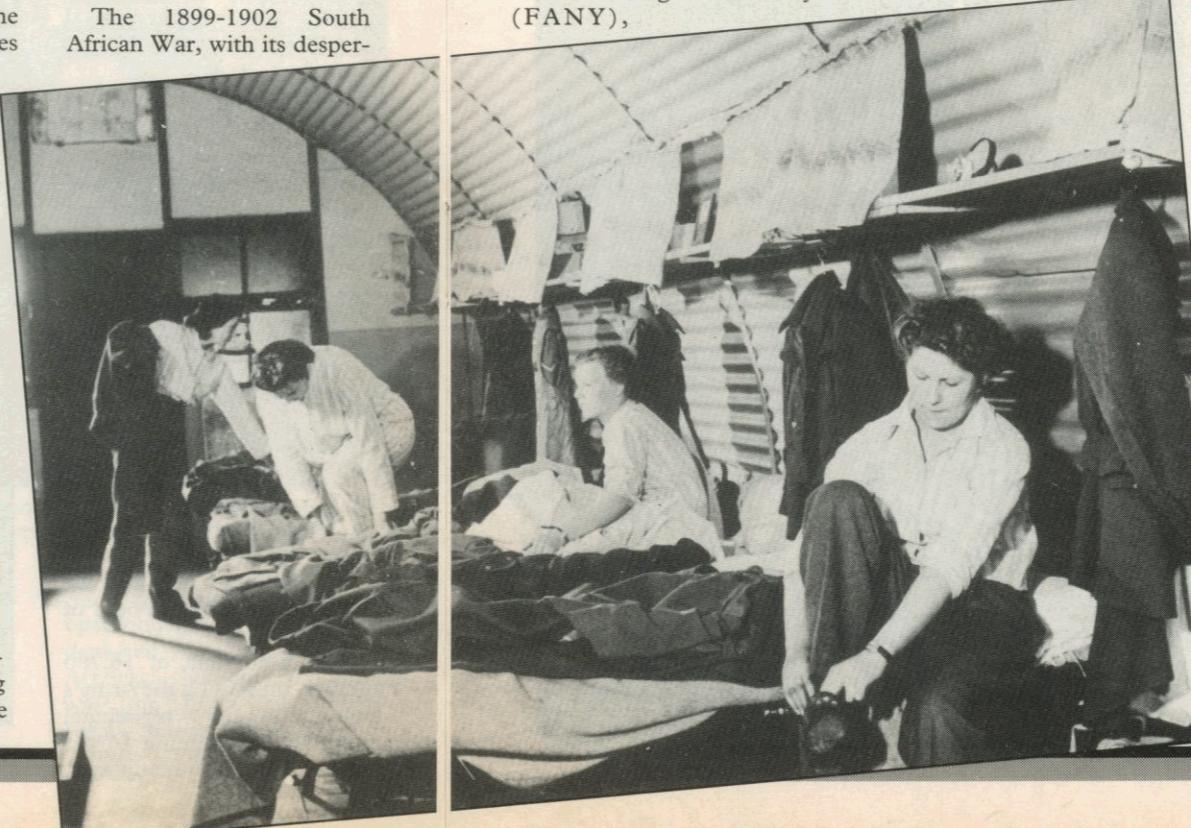
Its members were soon working as telegraphists, printers, shoemakers, storekeepers and map-makers, many serving in France. Some, attached to the Intelligence Branch at St Omer, were nicknamed "Hush-Waacs".

Many women of the various services were killed in action in the First World War and some won the Military Medal.

When 1,000 QMAACs were inspected by the King and Queen on June 12, 1918 it was the first review of a women's army in Britain.

This royal thread of the National Army Museum's free exhibition (entitled *The Right to Serve*) is continued with

Snappy dressers: ATS anti-aircraft crew pull uniforms over their pyjamas as they hurry to take up positions at the gun site after the sounding of an alarm



the display of the present Queen's ATS uniform and the WRAC uniform of the Duchess of Kent.

The inter-war years, Second World War, postwar and 1990s are all covered extensively and the theme is brought up to date with the integration of the WRAC, formed in 1949 as a Regular force, into the Adjutant General's Corps – and the red-hot issue of marriage and motherhood.

The last symbol of the WRAC, the Director Women (Army) departs on October 31 and an Equal Opportunities office is opening under a female colonel.

The military's attitude towards the female sex has come a long way since the 17th century – but it has made ever greater strides since Christabel Pankhurst declared in September 1914: "You are not now utilising to the full the activities of women."

● This article was compiled with the assistance of the National Army Museum, who also provided the pictures.

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## World War II Commemorative Lighters



Winston Churchill  
1940 250 WC



Battle of Britain  
1940 250 BB



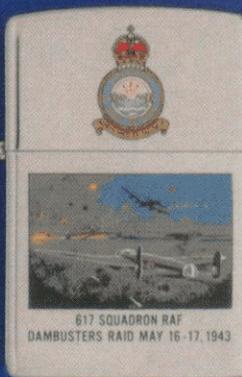
Bomber Command  
1941 250 BC



Montgomery & El Alamein  
1942 250 MO



US 8th Air Force  
1942 250 US8



Dambusters & 617 Sqn  
1943 250 DB



6th Airborne D-Day  
250 AP (front)



British 2nd Army  
D-Day 250 B2



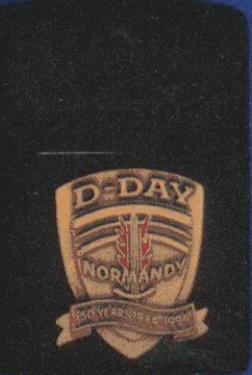
US 101st Airborne  
D-Day 250 SE



US 82nd Airborne  
D-Day 250 AA



1st Airborne Arnhem  
250 AP (reverse)



Allied Forces  
D-Day 236 DD

236 DD



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Maj Alastair Nicol (right) and Cpl Phil Boffey lend helping hands

# Mission improbable - to restore health of a nation

NOT many goals are scored in Kigali Stadium these days.

It is now the headquarters of 600 British and 400 Canadian soldiers of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda, and both turf and track are covered by tents and equipment.

The stadium sheltered up to 20,000 refugees during the fighting and when UN soldiers arrived, the stench from

human waste was indescribable.

Discarded needles and bandages littered the ground, and a body had to be removed from storm drains behind the cooking area.

When the British arrived in Kigali under Lt Col Mike Wharmby the streets were deserted. Now life is returning to normal,

people are tending their farms, queuing for transport and lining the roads to sell their wares.

The panic and mass migrations following the tribal war has abated, and the security provided by the United Nations troops is tempting some to return home, though many fear

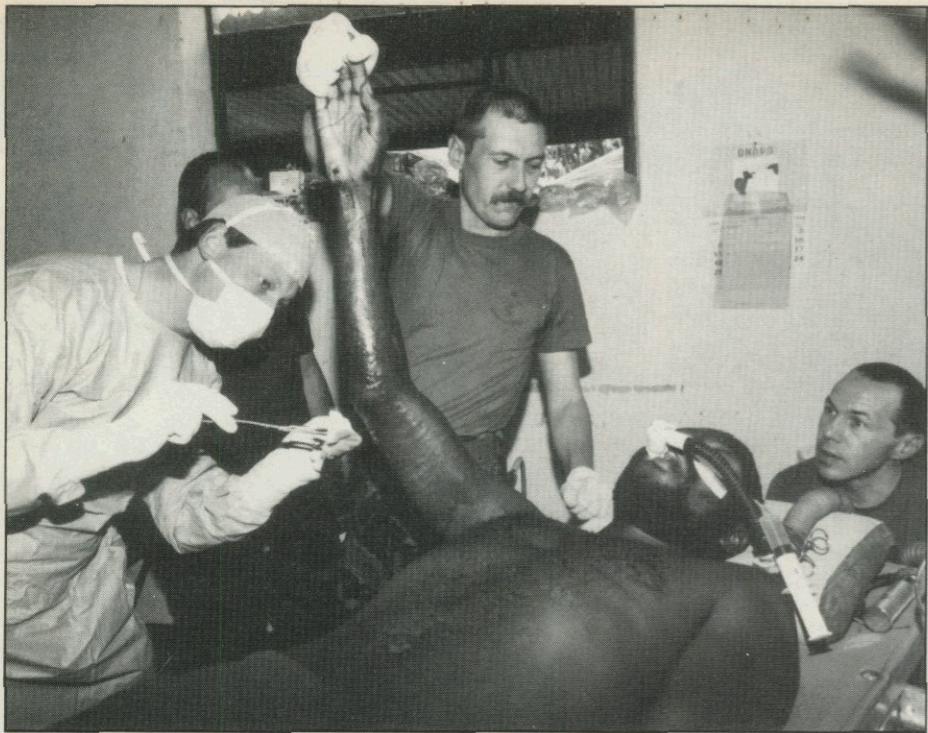
unfounded rumours of further massacres.

The Tutsi-dominated Rwandese Patriotic Front army ousted the Hutu government and Hutu refugees fear reprisals. During the vicious civil war, Hutu militia extremists - the *Interhamwe* - attempted systematic genocide against Hutu moderates as well as the Tutsis.

The dead are said to number one million, and mute evidence

● Turn to next page

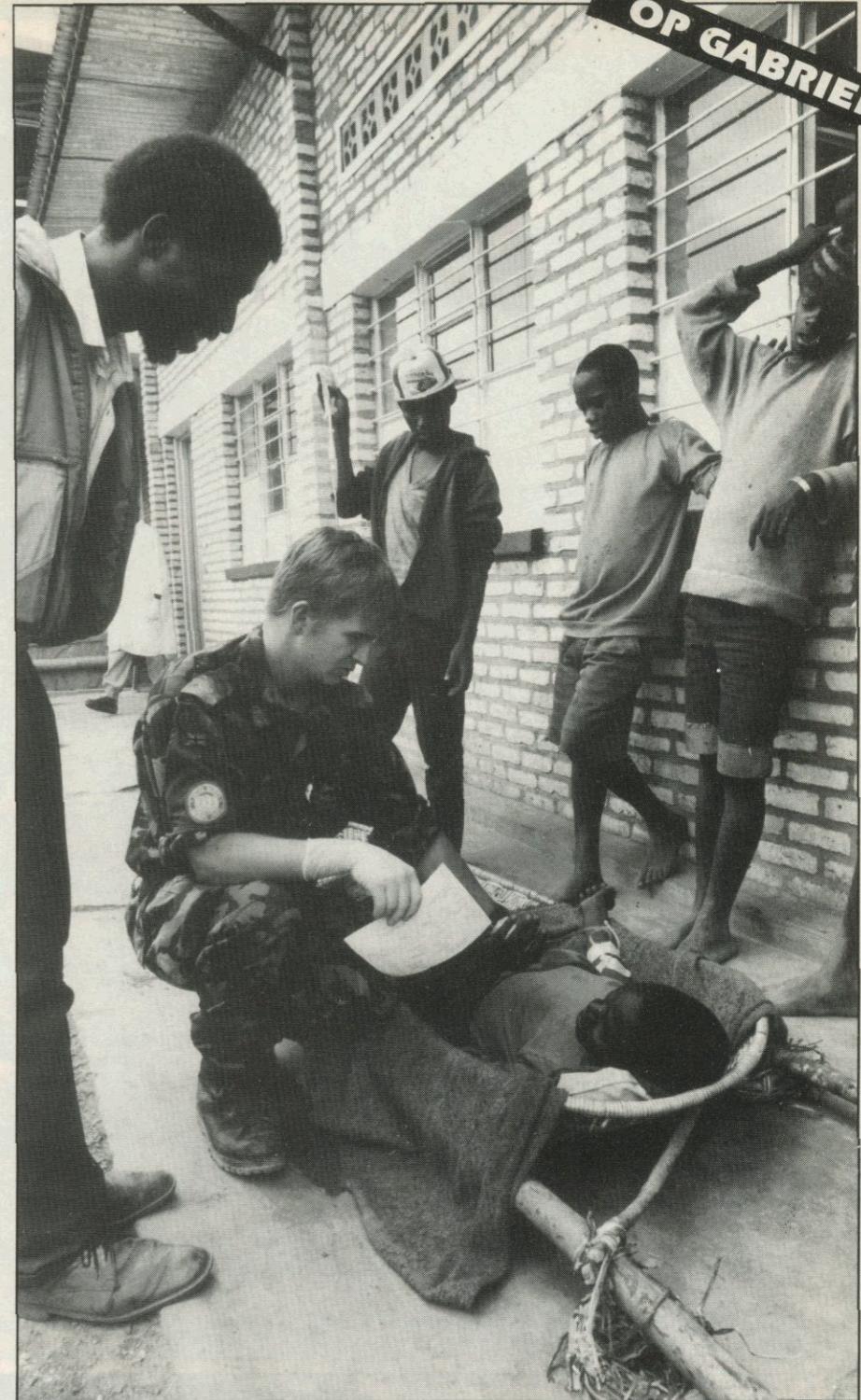
Report: Gordon Skilling  
Pictures: Terry Champion



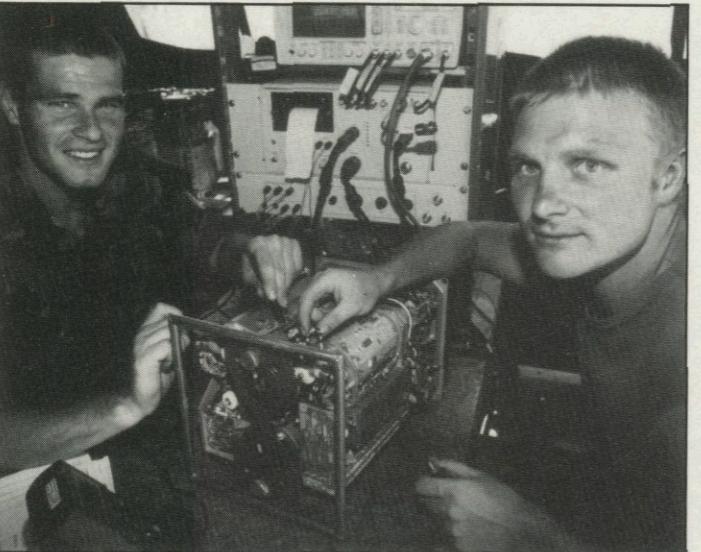
Lt Col Nigel Corner is delighted at how clean this patient's arm is after initial surgery. Anaesthetist Maj Sandy Kidd monitors while WO2 Jim Pearson give support



Kigali stadium, home for British and Canadian force headquarters. During the war, 20,000 refugees sheltered here



Above – Maj Mike England assesses a patient carried on an improvised stretcher to the medical section at Kibeo refugee camp



Technical challenges are surmounted by Sgts Andrew Cooper and Paul Gayler at 10 Airborne Workshop

ence of atrocities are still surfacing. There are at least three mass graves each containing 7,000 bodies in the south east of the country. When rain exposed a mass grave at one camp, special engineering equipment and supplies of lime were hurriedly provided by the UN.

Britain's Operation Gabriel contingent, built round 5 Airborne Brigade Logistic Battalion, was rushed to Rwanda in August to provide vital services destroyed during the war. Coming off an exercise, the force was ready to move in five days – a week earlier than the UN expected.

First priority for the Army's environmental health teams was to minimise health risks to the British contingent and establish rigorous preventative measures.

Deaths from disease among the refugees fell dramatically. Even so, Maj Sandy Kidd, an anaesthetist with 23 Parachute Field Ambulance contracted dysentery.

Preventing disease was one of the main thrusts of Op Gabriel in the short term and an essential element of this was achieved by sappers of 9 Parachute Squadron RE providing elementary sanitation and clean water.

tection against infectious diseases.

The force is divided into three, with sub-units often comprising a mix of services. No 1 Troop of 9 Airborne Squadron, with a strength of 38, is supported by a five-man 23 PFA section and based at Byumba in the north.

The headquarters and support element shares the stadium in the capital, Kigali, with the 1st Canadian Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, which provides support to the UN Force headquarters a few hundred yards away in a hotel.

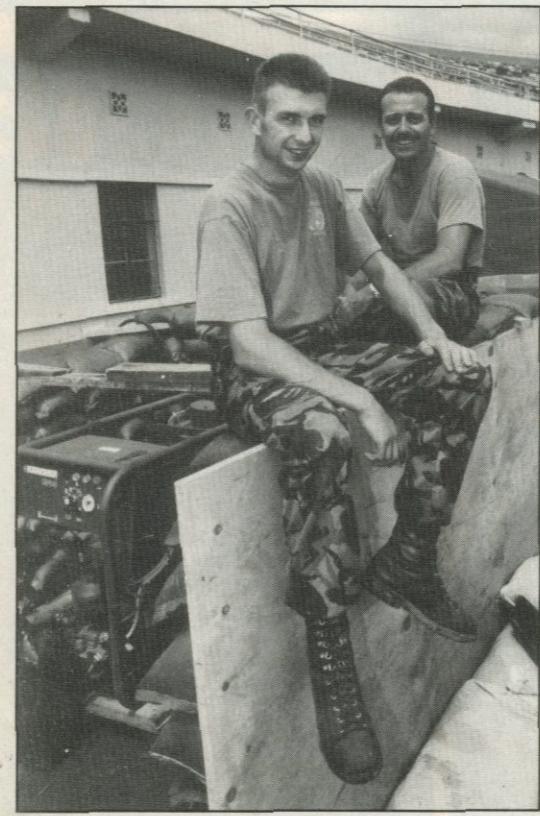
In addition to 101 HQ staff, there are 51 Royal Engineers, 24 members of 30 Signal Regiment and 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, and a platoon from the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

The five soldiers of the mobile bath and laundry unit from 91 Squadron, 9 Supply Regiment, have an effect on morale far greater than their numbers suggest, but for Western soldiers one of the greatest local luxuries is to be found on the far side of Kigali, where the 76 technicians of 10 Airborne Workshop REME under Maj Ian Duncan keep UN vehicles roadworthy.

Vehicles regularly appear

rainy season starts, so Maj Iain James, OC 9 Parachute Field Squadron, decided to replace suspect wooden culverts with concrete pipes reinforced by rocks and packed earth.

Drivers of the Force Transport Squadron, based on 63 Airborne Close Support Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps and commanded by Maj Mike Russell, use these roads to deliver aid and return refugees to their homelands. The young soldiers treat refugees gently – not so much with kid gloves, rather with medical rubber gloves as pro-



Left – Cpl Taff Read and Dennis Lamb of the mobile bath and laundry unit provide some of the few home comforts available at Kigali stadium

from 2 PWRR and elements of other units.

The French-Canadian commander of the UN Force, Maj Gen Guy Toussaint, is ful-

providing everything from demining to road construction, a REME workshop which is the only game in town when it comes to fixing things, and a transport fleet I have depended on."

Lt Col Wharmby is very conscious of the fast-approaching withdrawal and is taking steps to ensure the departure of his troops does not leave a vacuum.

"We could stay here forever and there would still be more to do. Somebody has to draw a circle and limit what we want to achieve."

The British have achieved

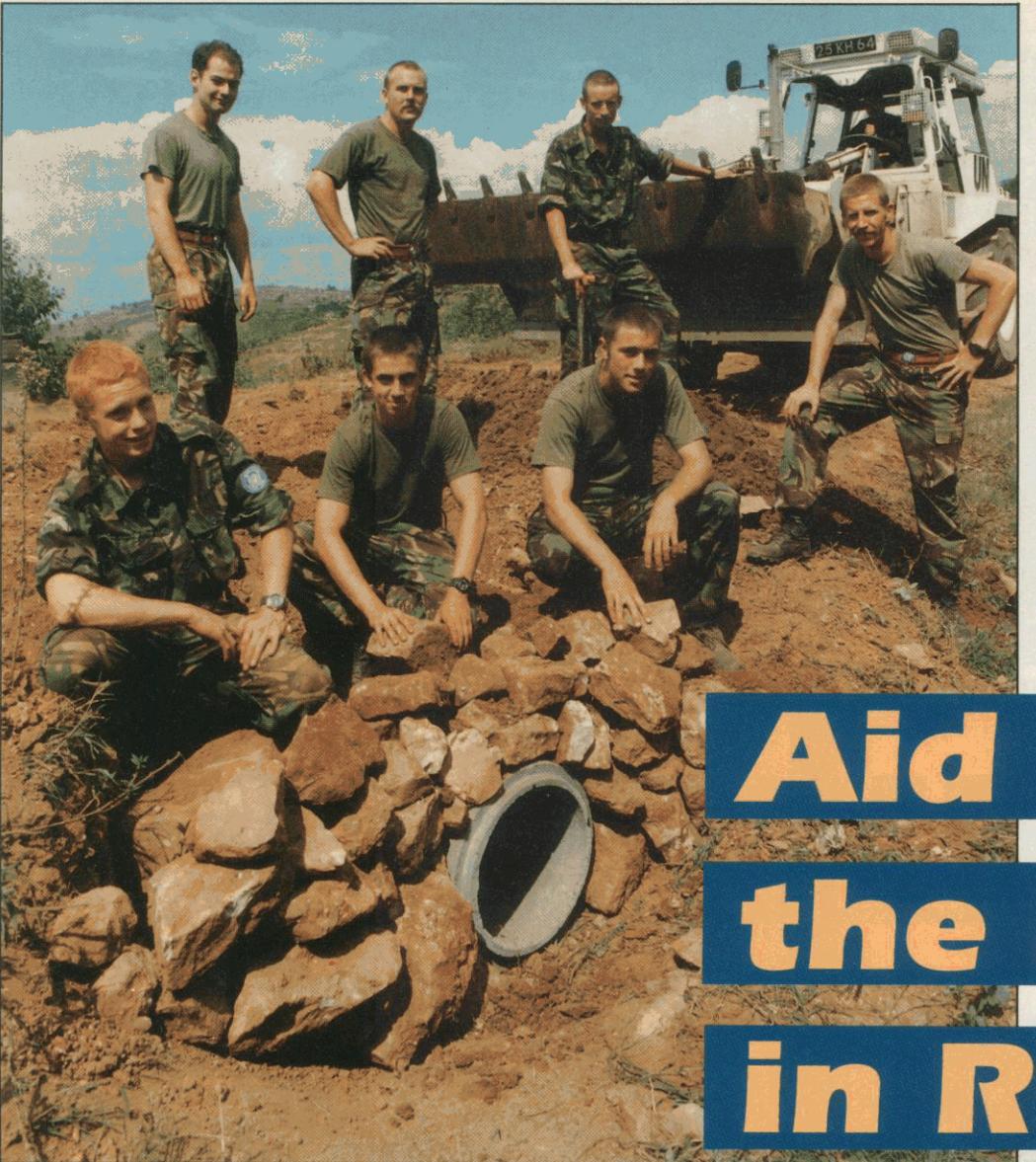
some in his praise for the work carried out by the British soldiers, but knows he has them only until November 17.

In the highlands to the west of the country the bulk of 23 PFA, with 149 doctors and paramedics, is based at Kitabi, supported by 58 sappers, 16 REME personnel, 20 soldiers

more than was expected and made the most of their surroundings. When they are not working, many appear to be running up hills or round the Kigali stadium track. A volleyball court and five-a-side soccer pitch have been marked out.

Typical of squaddies wherever they are, they adopted orphans in their spare time, rebuilding and cleaning to give them a fresh start. Thanks to them, many orphans have new hope and Rwanda itself is coming to life again.

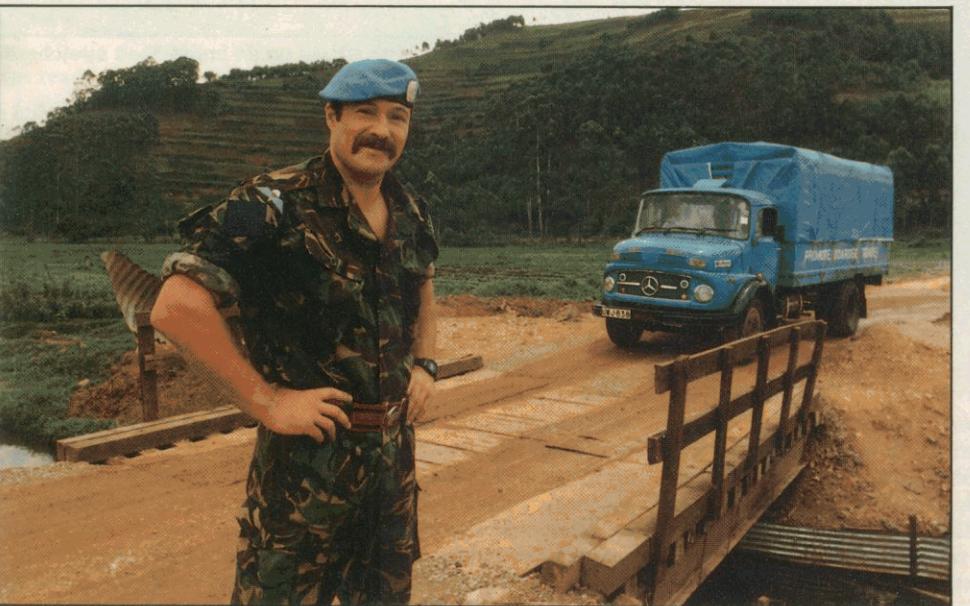
● See also Pages 26-27 and 28-29



Above – Sappers of 1 Tp, 9 Para Fd Sqn construct concrete culverts to keep re-supply routes open during the rainy season

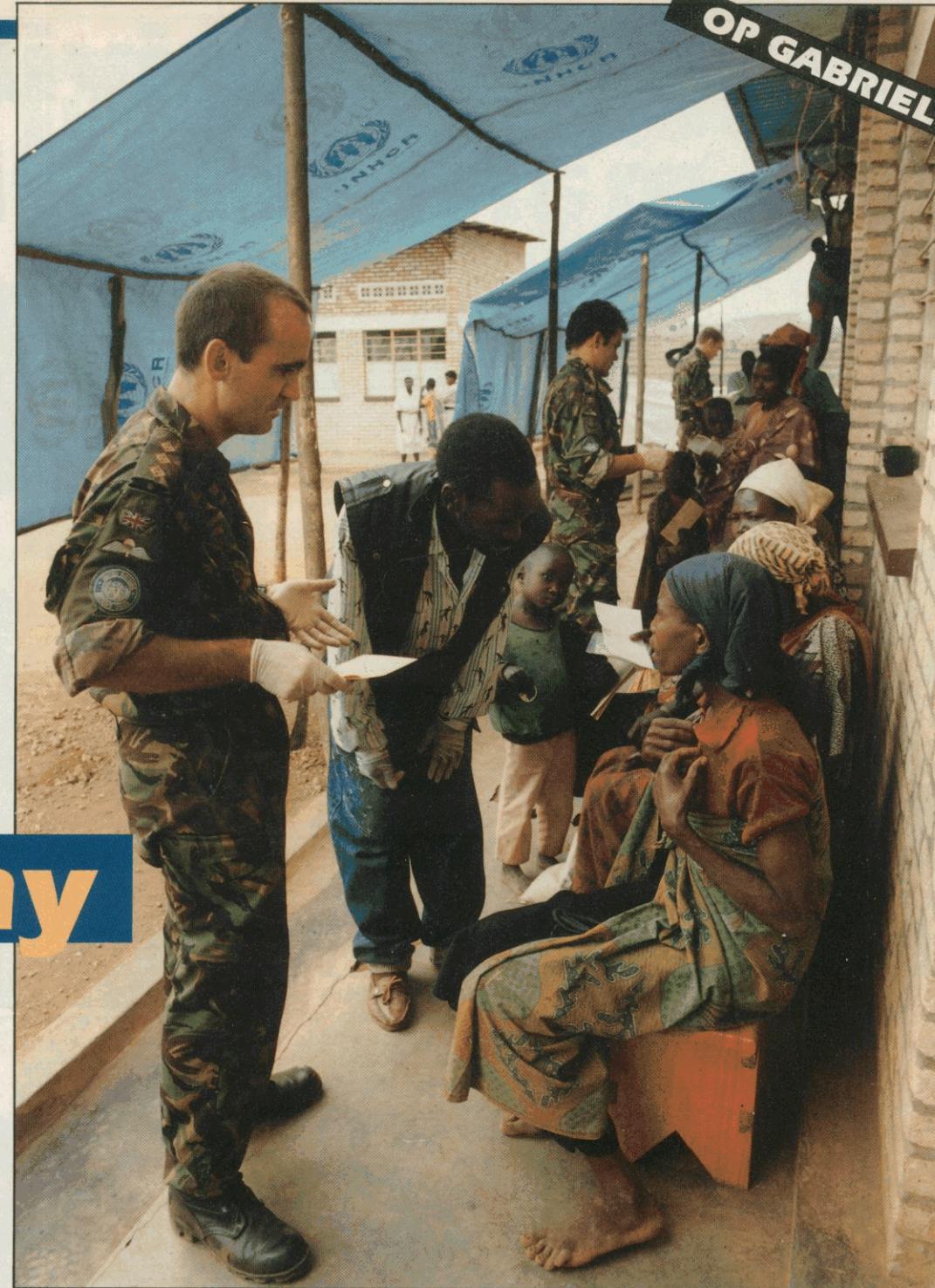
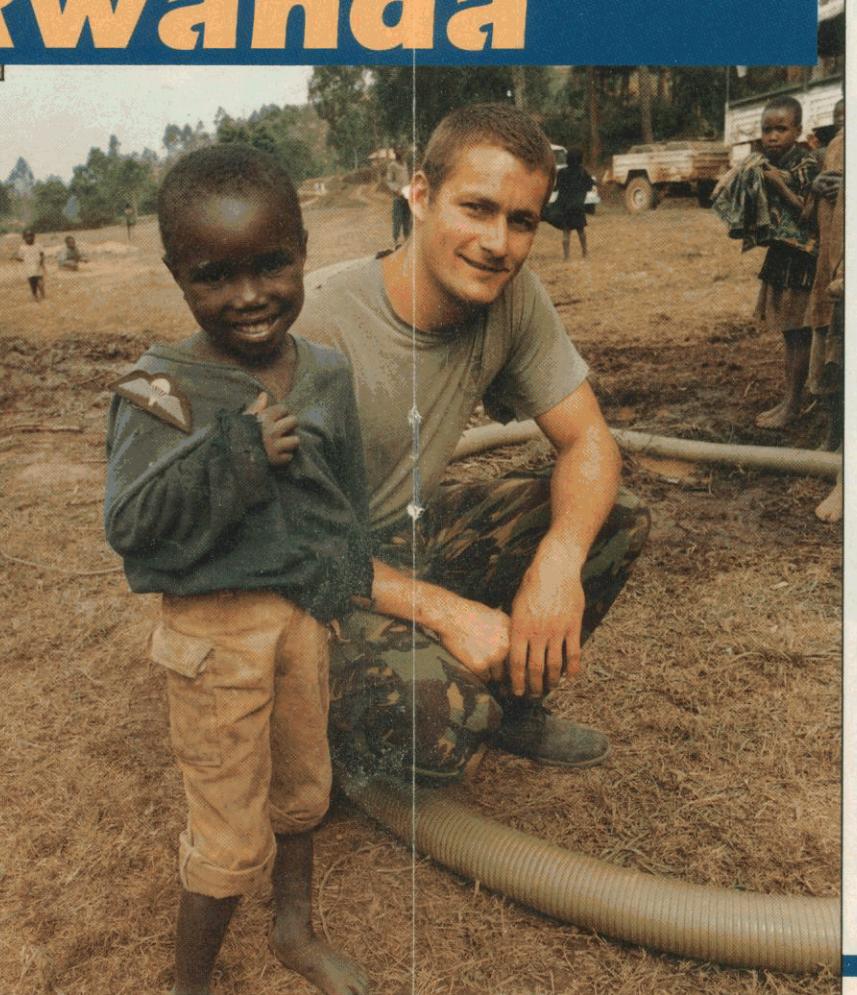
Right – LCpl Craig Marshall and sappers of 2 Tp, 9 Para Fd Sqn found a potential recruit among children watching them produce clean water for the Kibeo refugee camp

Below – SSgt Lindsey Horton in front of the new "Pegasus" bridge at the vital aid crossing from Uganda into Rwanda



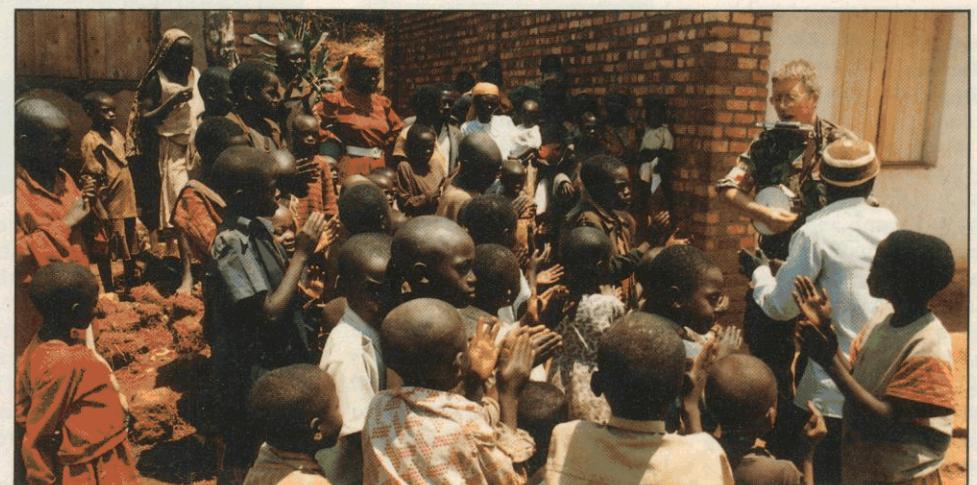
Spr Ian Worland (standing) and Spr Colin Campbell check machinery at the reverse osmosis plant, which provides clean water

## Aid in action – the British Army in Rwanda



Above – Capt Tim Penney tries to find out what ails the next patient at the Kibeo refugee camp

Below – Padre Capt Andrew Phillips has children joining in George Formby songs at a refugee camp in Rwanda



# Trauma of civil war leaves its mark on British force

AFRICA has left its mark on many British soldiers serving with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda.

Lt Col Alan Hawley, commanding officer of 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, will never forget the morning a

whopping great bruise on her forehead where somebody had hit her. As I drove past I wanted to pick her up, put her in my ammunition pouch, and take her home with me."

The Rwandan attitude to life and death disturbed Lt Col

Nigel Corner, a surgeon with the Field Surgical Team. After a difficult delivery of a stillborn girl, perfectly formed and full term, he found the mother and her relatives had no interest in the child. They were merely relieved that the mother had survived otherwise certain death and could continue feeding

her other children.

"I was sad, but I had never seen a happier family - they were ecstatic," he said.

The field surgical team employed basic surgery. An orthopaedic surgeon would throw up his hands in horror at having no X-rays, but Lt Col Corner successfully did without by using 30-year-old techniques.

Instead of fit, burly paras, doctors could be dealing with babies little more than the size of their forearms.

"It is coping with the young which has been most stressful for my soldiers," said Lt Col Hawley. "Most of us have got kids and every now and then we came across a child who reminds us of our own."

"There is something terribly unfair. Adults can take their chance, but children always seem to be the innocent victims."

But there were compensations: such as when a mother and child at death's door were brought to a camp and walked away after successful rehydration; when the death rate fell dramatically; when an orphan received a cuddly toy sent by soldiers' wives.

Lt Col Hawley's moment came when he spotted a four-year-old girl dressed in sacking.

"I have two girls myself and she had all the femininity, coyness and vulnerability of girls anywhere. She also had a



Lt Col Alan Hawley, CO 23 Parachute Field Ambulance



found that witch doctors had burned lines in the back of his neck and head to release the pain," he said.

Watching a baby get better caused problems. Pte Chris Auker-Hawlett, a chef at Kitabi who used his days off to help the medics, was shocked by the state of one child.

"He had meningitis, dysentery and malnutrition, and when we cleaned him up we

you think you will never make a difference," he said. "But you do have an effect. You have to accept that not everybody will live and you can only help so many. For what we have out here, we are doing an excellent job."

When diagnosis was difficult because of the language problem, medics resorted to sign language.

"Young medics will carry

Capt Sam Pambakian makes a diagnosis at Camp 106 while Pte Mark Martin looks on

Left - Statistics brought to life: Pte Simon Carlyon records the illnesses of refugees seeking treatment

with them memories which are horrible, but which are the way of life and death in Rwanda," said Maj Sandy Kidd, an anaesthetist with the Mobile Field Surgical Team.

He felt Op Gabriel had been a nearly perfect humanitarian response. The British had identified problems, done their best to start solving them, and prepared the way for other relief organisations in the long term.

With its ability to deploy quickly and survive unaided in the field with minimum resources, 23 PFA has been an ideal vehicle for the Rwanda deployment. It dealt with 70 surgical cases in the first half of the three-month deployment and treated 20,000 patients.

The effect of the British presence, however, has been much wider. At least 200,000 people benefited from effective standards of hygiene and sanitation imposed by British medics.

● More from Rwanda in next issue

## There's gold in them thar ditches...

IF THE next gold rush takes place in Rwanda, the soldiers of 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers may claim to have had their shovels in at the start.

Traces of the precious metal were found in the north of the country and hopeful prospectors dug deep pits along a stream - damaging a clinic's water pipe in the process.

Sappers keep a wary eye open for the glint of gold but are more concerned with finding the breaks in the pipe.

Once a rupture is found and repaired, they look for the next break - usually revealed by water welling up further down the valley. The pipe is 600m long and Lt Vincent O'Neill considered excavating a completely new channel as the easiest answer.

The men of 1 Troop quickly completed their initial task of replacing a strategic bridge on the Ugandan border and concentrated on other engineering jobs such as improving minor routes.

It is challenging, if basic, work, and satisfying for the airborne sappers to see a positive result - running water in a clinic, or lights going on again after a generator has been repaired.

Even more satisfying was seeing the dysentery rate in an overcrowded orphanage fall dramatically.

Basic hygiene was alien to the clinic staff, but Cpl John Reid found it harder to stomach the attitude of some Rwandans than the mess he had to clear up.

He was particularly angry at their reluctance to bury



Few delusions that they will find gold spur on 1 Tp of 9 Parachute field Ambulance as (clockwise) Spr Terry Brennan, LCpl Andrew Scot, Spr "Yorkie" Craven and LCpl Duncan Keys hunt for breaks in a clinic's only water supply pipe

### ... but 9 Sqn sappers have more important priorities

the dead unless they were paid to do so. The sappers refused and told them to get on with it.

"Once we finished an isolation ward and a dysentery toilet, we still had to force the staff and children to use them properly. The children would drink out of the drains because this was natural for them," said Cpl Reid.

The death rate soon dropped from five a day to none, allowing the sappers to concentrate on smartening up the orphanage, adding murals and rebuilding steps.

At the massive refugee camp at Kibeho, 9 Sqn sappers providing clean water were one of the single biggest factors in saving life among nearly 100,000 people.

Cpl Ian Tooley and his section laid on 30,000 litres of filtered and chlorinated water to the camp - and gave much of their lunches to the children who crowded round them!

# Poppies still flourishing in Kent - and the world



AT THE eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month each year, traffic in Britain used to come to a halt as a mark of respect for the dead of both world wars.

Times, inevitably, have changed.

In the more reckless, fast-paced 90s, where the internal combustion engine is a necessity and not a luxury, staff at the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal headquarters at Aylesford, Kent, are constantly reminded of that.

The historic village on the River Medway where they are situated, with its 14th century bridge, finds itself these days nestling virtually at the confluence of three heavily-used motorways, with their accompanying level of decibels.

To bring them to a stop voluntarily even for two minutes might be a blessing...

Yet the principle of that symbolic silence for the men and women who laid down their lives in the cause of peace is undimmed, as sales of the internationally recognised blood-red paper poppies con-



tinue to increase by the year.

"We are a national institution, and long may that continue," said appeal manager Maj Tony Morgan at poppy headquarters, based in the grounds of the RBL village.

"The First World War was long ago, and the Second World War the same, but demand for the Legion's various services (provided almost

entirely through the income from the poppies) does not get any less."

Apart from help in obtaining war disability and war widows' pensions and other allowances for ex-Servicemen and women and their dependants, the RBL uses funds for branch committees to distribute in cases of hardship.

Apart from these recipients, more than 2,000 permanently



Above - Appeals manager Maj Tony Morgan (left) and fund-raising chairman Ian Cannell in the poppy warehouse with a gigantic reminder

Right - Former RE staff sergeant Ron Potter tests his strength at the RBL's Churchill Rehabilitation Centre, watched by his wife Mary and occupational therapist Anuraj Varshney

Below - Going in the right direction: Frank King, formerly RASC, in the RBLI sign shop



Picture: Mike Weston

incapacitated or elderly and infirm persons in need receive regular quarterly allowances courtesy of the RBL. Others might have telephone alarms fitted in their homes, or could take advantage of a property repairs loan scheme.

Legion services based at the Aylesford headquarters also include a Small Business Advisory Service and a pilgrimage department. Based in the RBL village itself is The Royal

British Legion Industries (RBLI), where more than 250 people, the majority registered disabled, are employed.

(Taking into account its poppy factory in Richmond - whose 105 mainly disabled ex-Servicemen and women or their dependants produce 40 million poppies every year - the Legion is the largest private employer of disabled people in the United Kingdom).

Products coming out of

RBLI include timber pallets, engraved souvenirs, metal signs with computer-cut letters ranging from Neighbourhood Watch to those for motorway use and, among other printed material, the programmes for the Legion's annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

The Legion also sponsors, and gives proportional financial backing to, a supportive employment programme, involving 170 persons ranging from a blind employee in a Jobcentre to an ex-Falklands soldier in a paint factory, said RBLI manager Douglas Scott.

"We have to strike a balance here between running a commercially viable operation and not putting too much pressure on our employees," he added.

"However, our delivery dates must be on schedule, otherwise our credibility goes."

Also on site at the RBL village are the recently-opened Gavin Astor House, a 36-bed nursing home with 30 single rooms with all the accompanying amenities and the Churchill Rehabilitation Centre, run by retired squadron leader Des Butters and established in 1982 by the RBL to commemorate the Legion's 60th anniversary.

Here, former Service personnel, attending either as day or residential (two weeks) patients undertake courses of treatment to help them overcome or lessen their disablement.

In another part of the village, ex-commando gunner Richard Evans manages the RBL's Disabled Men's Industries.

"We rent premises from RBL Industries, and we have more than 100 workers throughout the country, from Cornwall to Yorkshire, together with a small staff here looking after stock processing," he said.

A survey earlier this year had shown that there was a definite need for therapeutic help for disabled ex-Service personnel.

"The youngest we have is 18, a major's son, the oldest is 87. We don't give them any favours in any way."

"We have to pay all the carriage, and we survive through a

REMEMBER THE DEAD BUT DON'T FORGET THE LIVING

Remembrance Day Sunday 13th November

grant from the Legion."

In the Poppy Appeal offices, clerks deal with hundreds of orders for goods going out, such as wreaths, and the all-important recruitment of volunteer collectors in branches throughout the regions.

A short distance away, in the purpose-built warehouse which covers an acre, two separate sections handle the 21-week cycle for wreaths and poppies.

"We deal with 90,000 wreaths throughout the year," explained warehouse manager John Cox, who has been with the RBL for 31 years.

Up to 40 million poppies are dispatched annually, including many to places as far as Santiago and Baghdad, where every patriotic British resident likes to show pride in his country.

Indeed, when BBC newsman John Simpson was reporting during the Gulf War, he requested a poppy to wear during the period leading up to Remembrance Day.

A boxful was sent to the on-the-spot appeal organiser - and the entire press contingent ended up wearing them.

"The Poppy Appeal is every bit as important today as it was at the time of the first Poppy Day on November 11, 1921," said Maj Morgan.

"While we still have British troops in, say, Bosnia, so the need will go on for many years to come."

During that time, the "legion" of faithful voluntary collectors - who helped towards the achievement of an all-time (£14m-plus) record total last year, will hopefully increase.

And, should any of the drivers hurtling down one of those three motorways in the vicinity of Aylesford happen for any reason to glance at the back of one of the vast signs directing them to, perhaps, the Channel Tunnel, there is a distinct possibility it might bear the words "RBL Industries".

## Help us help the Rwandan children

WE ARE 30 soldiers serving with the British contingent as part of the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda. The contingent has adopted an orphanage and during our spare time we

help with repair and medical work. To allow our work to continue we intend to hold a charity auction in Kigali on November 12, with all profits going to the Save the Children

Fund. We are asking British companies to donate items and send them directly to us at Auction Appeal, BRITCON Sig Tp, Op Gabriel, BFPO 615. Larger items to SSgt Vince McNaught, Q Troop, 216 Para Sig Sqn, Arnhem Bks, Montgomery Lines, Aldershot GU11 2AU (tel: 0252 349417). - BRITCON Sig Tp, Kigali.

## Firepower on D-Day

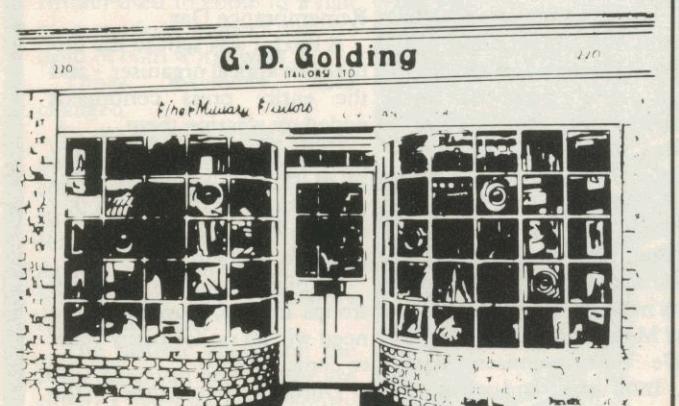
IN YOUR D-Day issue you carried a photograph of a sapper with ("curiously") two Lee Enfield rifles.

Many men, British, American, German, carried extra weapons.

Reloading a Lee Enfield with clips of bullets from pouch or bandolier could be time-consuming. Hence it gave you the edge to have extra firepower in close combat.

Germans used Sten guns; we and the Americans MP47s if available - anything that came to hand. One round could make all the difference. - G Tosio, Teignmouth, Devon.

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## Last 17-pdr fired in anger

MANY years have passed since the phasing-out of the 17-pdr anti-tank gun.

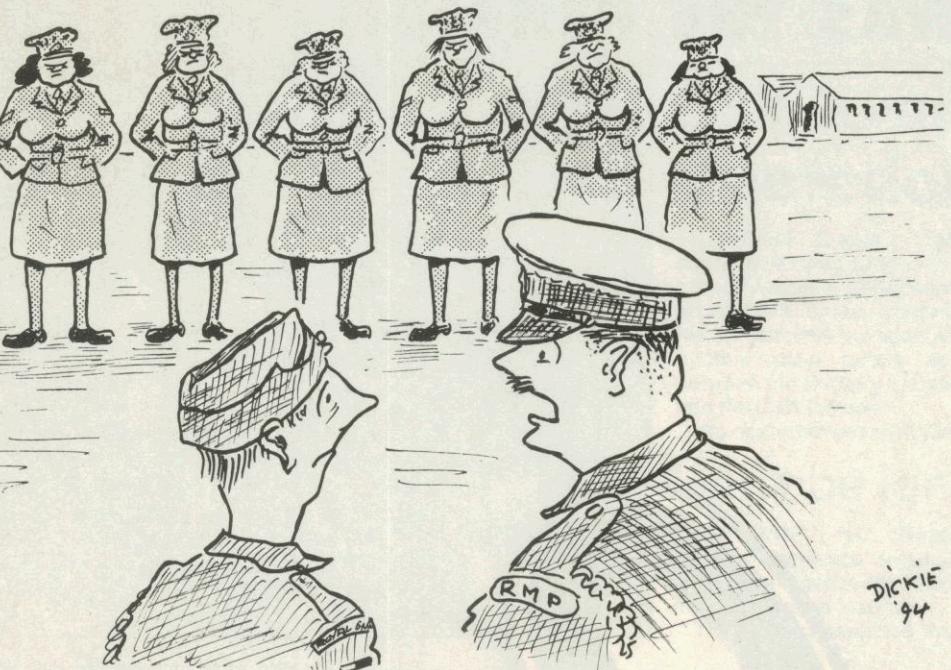
The last Royal Artillery unit to see action while so equipped was "A" Indep Anti-Tank Troop RA in Korea, September 1950 to March 1951.

However, I believe that the second battery I served with in Korea, 120 Light Bty, equipped with 4.2in mortars,

was the last gunner unit to use the weapon against an armed enemy - with a 17-pdr borrowed from The Royal Norfolk Regiment.

I believe the infantry continued to use the 17-pdr until it was replaced in the 1950s by the BAT. But were we the last gunner unit to fire it in anger? - James W Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"Right then, Jenkins ... which one took advantage of you after the garrison dance?"

• Women at war - Pages 20-21

## 'Sheriff' wears badge with pride

WITH great interest, as always, I search through the pages of *Soldier* for articles covering events involving the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucester, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment and other units.

The "final decision" was fortunately made by people with the serving soldier in mind. - Sgt P Harrison, "The Sheriff", HQ/Provo Sgt, A2/B Echelon, 1 RGBW, BFPO 543.

### Dragon cat

REGARDING regiments with more than one badge, the 5th Seaforth Highlanders had a wildcat as a cap badge and in 1914 the badge of the 11th (Lonsdale) Bn of the Border Regiment was a dragon.

I speak for most when I say that a badge has been produced which everyone serving is both proud and pleased to wear. This has to be the best

The original silver was later changed to brass. - H Whalley, Manchester.

I realise of course that it takes all kinds to run a railroad and simply grit my teeth and shudder when I hear it on the ham band.

Your magazine is a wonderful link with the past for an old "Jimmy" who just cannot forget a great career as a signaller. - C R Davis (ex-WO), PO Box 22, Carrying Place, Ontario K0K 1L0.

## Over but not out

YOUR correspondence on phonetic alphabets brought back memories of my time as a gunner signaller in the 4th Canadian Field Regiment in the Second World War and 25 years as a RadOp in RCCS in peacetime.

The "Over and out" bit always irritated me, almost as much as Morse operators who insisted on using both AR and VA at the end of a transmission.

During the Second World War, when I was 11, I was picnicking at Pepperbox Hill, between Southampton and Salisbury, when a lone Messerschmidt came out of the sky with machine-guns blazing.

It was shot down by a Spitfire from the Southampton area and the pilot, who baled out, was met by a very irate reception committee of soldiers from a local camp. I believe they were Sherwood Foresters.

I have often wondered whether he saw his homeland again. Does anyone know? - R Murphy, Didcot, Oxon.

## The flags of D-Day

AS AN ex-para of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, I read *Soldier's* D-Day edition with great pleasure.

I have one point regarding the cover - the Canadian flag, the Maple Leaf, is very prominent in the background, but this is not the flag we fought under at the time of D-Day.

Then, we had the Canadian Ensign with the Union Jack in the top left corner and in the centre the crests of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada on a red background.

We did not have our present flag until the mid-1960s. As you know, the Maple Leaf has become prominent in world peacekeeping operations, and we are justly proud of it. - Charlie Ball CD (ex-RSM), Richmond, BC, Canada.

• The flags which were part of the D-Day issue front cover montage were taken by Soldier photographer Mike Weston inside the Musée Memorial at Bayeux, Normandy, earlier this year. They were a colourful representation of the current flags of many of the Allied nations who fought in the Second World War. - Editor

## Foresters and a pilot

ALTHOUGH ex-Merchant Navy, I am a long-term subscriber to *Soldier*.

My interest stems from being born and brought up on a garrison camp - Porton Down - with Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers in my family.

During the Second World War, when I was 11, I was picnicking at Pepperbox Hill, between Southampton and Salisbury, when a lone Messerschmidt came out of the sky with machine-guns blazing.

It was shot down by a Spitfire from the Southampton area and the pilot, who baled out, was met by a very irate reception committee of soldiers from a local camp. I believe they were Sherwood Foresters.

I have often wondered whether he saw his homeland again. Does anyone know? - R Murphy, Didcot, Oxon.

# IT WASN'T THE BULLET THAT CRIPPLED HIM. IT WAS THE PENSION.

Hopefully nothing serious will ever happen to you.

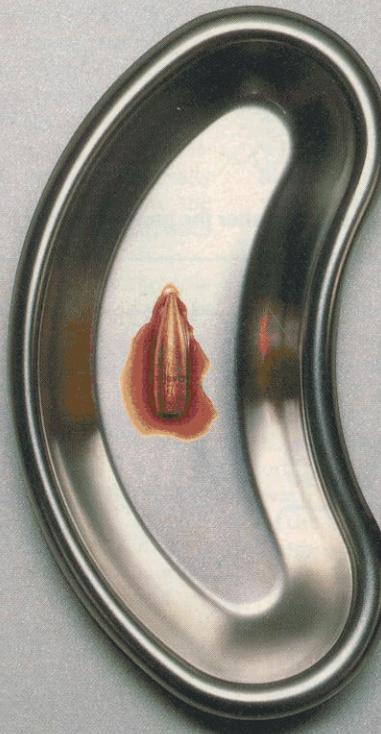
But if you were permanently injured, you'd soon find out that service pensions are seldom enough to live comfortably on.

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# Take a bow, Op Gabriel

BRITISH soldiers serving in Rwanda will probably blush with embarrassed pride when they are shown a letter received by the Chief of the Defence Staff.

Dr Joanne Porter, who worked with Merlin, a non-governmental relief organisation (NGO) in south-west Rwanda, was so impressed by the men of 5 Airborne Brigade that she wrote to Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge to tell him so.

Soldiers and officers of the British contingent had made important and far-reaching contributions to water and sanitation in many camps, provided curative care, and restored a semblance of normality to the local hospital and

health structure, she wrote.

"They offered a superb surgical field hospital service at Kitebe and were always willing to help with the transport of the sick and the injured..."

Despite a lack of communication between NGOs, the paras organised fact-finding missions and reported weekly on refugee numbers and movements, food, water and medical supplies – and took on areas not covered by NGOs.

They saved the day when the NGOs required massive help with an emergency meningococcal vaccination campaign for 150,000 people at Gikongoro, providing both man power and

vehicles at very short notice. pumps when the British Force had departed.

Most importantly, says, Dr Porter, they "gave a sense of stability" to the area after the French Army contingent had left.

She singled out two individuals who were particularly helpful to Merlin – Maj Alistair Nicholson and Maj Mark Trevelyn "who proved highly organised, dependable colleagues". She was also indebted to Lt Col Nigel Corner for help with surgical cases.

"Without them our work as NGOs would have been very much harder, and a lot less fruitful. "Please pass on my greatest thanks to all of them and I hope to have the pleasure of working with the British Army in the field again."

Now, if that isn't enough to make our lads in Rwanda hot under the collar...

## SOLDIER to Soldier



**In memory of a hero**  
UK liaison officer Capt Simon Etherington pauses at the memorial erected in Stari Vitez, central Bosnia, to Cpl Barney Warburton RE, an EOD specialist killed while trying to defuse a home-made mine. The granite block was carved by Bosnian stonemason Ruzid Stipo, and the plaque states that Cpl Warburton "died in the service of peace". Since a peace agreement was signed, British sappers have been clearing the centre of the old town, devastated last year by a car bomb.

Errors came to light and were corrected.

The result is not only a highly readable and inspiring regimental history but a book which looks and feels good.

Copies are obtainable from The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry Museum, The Keep, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 1EG.

The price is £24 – but anyone who can persuade the museum that they served in the DCLI themselves, or are related to anyone

## Royal Marines feast of music

IF YOU appreciate your music presented with panache and precision and you want to help Service charities and the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children at the same time, make a place in your diary for the 1995 Mountbatten Festival of Music.

Featuring the Massed Bands, Corps of Drums and Fanfare Trumpets of the Royal Marines, the concerts will be staged in the Royal Albert Hall on the evenings of February 15, 16 and 17.

The programme will include a wide selection of traditional and modern military music.

Tickets, ranging from £5 to £19, will be sold only by the Royal Marines Concert Office, RM Corps Secretariat, HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth, Hants PO2 8ER (ticket enquiries on 0705 547205).

## And it feels good, too...

POST WAR austerity still dictated the quality of book production when *The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1939-45*, by Maj E G Godfrey MC, was originally published by the Regimental History Committee.

The book was produced on poor quality paper and printing technology was primitive by today's standards.

Images of Upton upon Severn have recently re-published the work using better paper, a clearer typeface and a slightly larger format. During proof-reading cer-

anti-terrorist operations. Laurie Milner in the Research and Information Office (tel: 071-416 5354) would like to hear from anyone willing to donate personal equipment (including captured souvenirs) badges, film or documents relevant to the period.

## Bells appeal

THE ARNHEM Bells Appeal's UK section is still looking for a final £50,000 to complete the purchase of the largest bell, paid for on the appeal's behalf by the City of Arnhem.

Four new bells were added to the restored carillon of the St Eusebius Church in Arnhem in commemoration of all who fought in the battle. Details on 071-621 1122.

## DIARY

Now open: The Right to Serve exhibition, history of women in the Army, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

### OCTOBER

24-Nov 5: Gurkha art exhibition, The Gurkha Museum, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester. Curry tasting Oct 24-29.

### NOVEMBER

12-13: Salisbury Militaria Society 23rd annual exhibition, Red Lion Hotel.

17-19: Army Arts Society Festival, Rheindahlen (entry forms from HIVEs).

20: QARANC Museum Open Day and Christmas Fayre, Royal Pavilion, Farnborough Road, Aldershot, 1100-1500.

1995

### FEBRUARY

15, 16, 17: Mountbatten Festival of Music featuring Massed Bands, Corps of Drums and Fanfare Trumpets of Royal Marines, Royal Albert Hall, in aid of Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and Service charities. Ticket enquiries on 0705 547205.

## REUNIONS

● 7th and 3rd (V) Bns, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment (TA): Annual reunion at the Armoury, Stockport on October 29. Past and present members of the 3rd, 4th or 7th Battalions and A Coy, The Mercian Volunteers welcome. Tickets (£3) from Secretary, 95 Hazelwood Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4NB.

● Trucial Oman Scouts: Launch of the official history of The Levies/Scouts takes place in the National Army Museum, Chelsea, on November 18. Former members urged to attend. To book buffet at £10 a head contact Officers' Association (tel: 0985 842603) or All Ranks Association (tel: 0634 404528).

1995

● 1151-1157 Boys' Battery reunion: Reunion, to include wives and members of the ex-India Boys' Battery, will be held in Royal School of Artillery WOs and Sgts' Mess, Larkhill, April 7-9. Anyone not on mailing list should contact Mr T C Holden, 3 Kilburn

Street, Watershedding, Oldham OL1 4JF (tel: 0161-633 8194).

● Mrs M P Coombs, 7 Wood Stanway Drive, Bishop's Cleeve, Cheltenham, Glos GL52 4TL (tel: 0242 673484) wishes to hear from anyone who served during the Second World War with her late father, Sig later Capt Sydney Coombs from Birmingham. He served 1940-42 in the Royal Signals, and trained as an officer in the RAOC (35th Course, January-March 1943 under Capt A S Davidson, Lt K A Naylor and CSM J E Hall). Landed soon after D

## CLOSURES

● ITB Ouston, formerly JIB Ouston, will draw down by April 1995. Units or individuals who have made presentations to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess and would like them returned are asked to contact the PMC, WOs' and Sgts' Mess, ITB Ouston, Albermarle Barracks, nr Harlow Hill, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE15 0RF. All claims are to be made in writing by January 10. Postage, packing and insurance to be paid for by those requesting return.

On closure, ITB Ouston will move to ITC Catterick.

## APPOINTMENTS

Maj Gen M A Willcocks to be Chief of Staff ACE Rapid Reaction Corps, from Sept 30, in succession to Maj Gen A D Pigott CBE.

Maj Gen E F G Burton OBE to be Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff Operational Requirements (Land Systems), from Oct 31, in succession to Maj Gen C B Q Wallace OBE.

Maj Gen C B Q Wallace OBE to be Joint Headquarters Implementation Team Leader from Oct 3.

Brig T J Granville-Chapman CBE to be Assistant Chief of the General Staff in the rank of major general, from Oct 3, in succession to Maj Gen M J D Walker CBE.

Brig D J M Jenkins CBE to be Commandant Royal Military College of Science in the rank of

major general, from Oct 24, in succession to Maj Gen E F G Burton OBE.

Maj Gen E F G Burton OBE to be Comdt CATC, Oct 1; D A K Biggart – To MoD, Oct 10.

Colons – G R S Broke – To MoD, Sept 26; J W M Ellery – To be Comdt CAS, Sept 27; G D MacDougall – To MoD, Sept 26; P S Purves – To MoD, Sept 26; S M Siddall – To MoD, Sept 26; R D

Vellacott – To be DA Kenya, Sept 27; H M Fletcher – To RHQ Para, Sept 30; M E A Syms – To be Comd HQ RLC TA, Sept 28; J Goodsir – To HQ Landcent, Oct 10.

Lt Cols – M H Auchinleck, Scots DG – To be CO Northumbrian OTC, Sept 26; L H Bryan RACD – To Pool of Chaplains UK, Sept 27; N St J Hall DWR – To be CO 1 DWR, Oct 1; L S I Inge RE – To HQ RSME, Sept 26; M W Jones AGC(ETS) – To RMCS, Sept 26; P J Luard RGF – To RMAS, Sept 26; R N B Quicke LD – To CO ATR Winchester, Sept 26; M H Somervell, Coldrm Gds – To HQ SDist R and L Staff, Sept

26; A J Whistler RRF – To be CO 2 RRF, Sept 30.

A W E Brister AGC(ETS) – To HQ UKSC(G), Oct 10; B K Bayley RAMC – To 22 Fd Hosp, Oct 10; I D Crate RAMC – To BMH Rinteln and 21 Fd Hosp, Oct 10; P Roberts RAMC – To 19 Airmob Fd Amb, Oct 10.

## RETIREMENTS

Brigadier – R M Giles ACC, Oct 15.

Colonels – W C A Kennedy, late R Signals, Sept 30; R A Langstaff, late Int Corps, Oct 1; M E Sibbons, late REME – Oct 3; J Egan, late RAMC – Oct 14.

Day with 17 AOD and served in Brussels.

## SEARCHLINE

● Recently formed 49th West Riding Division Association – The Polar Bear – seeks new members. Contact the Secretary, H M Conn, 144 Woodman Road, Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5AL.

● Family seek news of Michael Turley KOYLI, who served in Burma campaign. Believed to have enlisted at Hull or Grimsby and to have been an Army boxing champion. Replies to Fred Turley, Flat 1, 12 Selden Road, Worthing, Sussex.

● The family of the late WO1 Thomas Dryland 2048050 RAOC seek information about him, in particular details relating to his death on November 7, 1949 on the Tel el Kebir road in the Canal Zone, Egypt while on security duties. Replies to Mr B Pullen, 42 Shackleton Road, Gosport, Hants PO13 9SG.

● Mrs M P Coombs, 7 Wood Stanway Drive, Bishop's Cleeve, Cheltenham, Glos GL52 4TL (tel: 0242 673484) wishes to hear from anyone who served during the Second World War with her late father, Sig later Capt Sydney Coombs from Birmingham. He served 1940-42 in the Royal Signals, and trained as an officer in the RAOC (35th Course, January-March 1943 under Capt A S Davidson, Lt K A Naylor and CSM J E Hall). Landed soon after D

● V Squad, Apprentice Chef Wing ACC 1956-59: Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the following is asked to contact Maj M C Hann RLC or Lt Col (retd) T Sillett on Aldershot (01252) 348000 or Pirbright (01483) 798416 for a reunion dinner at Aldershot in November: Ex Apps J M White, R W White, D White, Payne, Matchett, Bilborough, Whitcombe, M Rogerson, Merrison, C Rowlands, A L R Graham and Jeffries.

**TRAITOR** Kim Philby's widow, his fourth and last wife, benefited by £150,000 from the recent sale of his jottings through a London auction house.

So it would appear that the ace spy, the notorious "third man" in the Burgess and Maclean affair who escaped to join them in Moscow and who died in 1988, had the last laugh on this country after all.

Volumes like *The Guinness Book of Espionage* can only tell about the spies of yesteryear and, up to a point, how they operated. But the question

## Spying's still big business

arises: Is spying dying?

Judging by the millions spent on new buildings for MI5 and MI6 – despite the end of the Cold War and the implied demise of the KGB – it is safe to say that the second oldest profession is as active as ever.

This book is tailored towards the armchair agent, with its short histories of traitors, spies, secret marks to indicate safe meeting places, dead letter boxes and, according to author Mark Lloyd, a catalogue of the very latest in espionage technology.

He lists a number of well-known agents, including Mata Hari, whom he describes as one of the best-known spies in history, but one of the most ineffectual; Somerset Maugham; Lord Baden-Powell; Daniel Defoe; poet and playwright Christo-

pher Marlowe; and Sir Francis Walsingham, "credited with creating the first viable secret service in England".

For good measure, he throws in a 12th-century Japanese outfit called The Ninja who, according to mythology, had the quality desired most by all spies everywhere – that of making themselves invisible. Whether they were completely silent as well is not certain! – JM

**The Guinness Book of Espionage** by Mark Lloyd. Guinness Publishing, hardback, £14.99.

## 'Evil' strategy of the Bulge

IT HAS been a long-held belief that the US Army was caught unawares when the German forces drove into the Belgian Ardennes for the battle that lasted from December 16 to 23, 1944.

Should this assault have been such a surprise? The Allies, and certainly the intelligence officers at Eisenhower's headquarters, had the benefit of information based on German military radio traffic intercepted at Station X, Bletchley, and decoded through Ultra. These messages certainly would have been seen by commanders

privy to Ultra's revelations.

Why, then, with such advantageous information, augmented by aerial observation, did not the US higher command do something?

According to Charles Whiting in his new book *The Last Assault: 1944 – The Battle of the Bulge Reassessed*: "By mid-November 1944 it was amply clear where the German blow would fall – on Middleton's US VII Corps.

"And it was clear that Middleton's three divisions holding 60 miles of front were going to be decimated in the process... Why didn't Eisenhower reinforce these divisions, or place substantial armour reserves to their rear? He had armour enough to spare to do so."

To be fair, there was an atmosphere of euphoria along the US line and from top to bottom of command.

There should not have been such complacency. "Before the 'surprise' attack, German patrols roamed far and wide behind the US front. They kidnapped US officers, checked out US positions and even slept with local women behind the US lines."

The mysteries of the Battle of the Bulge are complex and Charles Whiting suggests there could have been some damning secrets revealed had Gen George S Patton lived and returned to the USA instead of dying as a result of a road accident in December 1945.

The author implies Patton could have disclosed that "Eisenhower had been prepared to sacrifice a whole US corps to get the Germans to come out of their present defences and fight in the open".

There is no doubt that Charles Whiting is a most able writer who produces highly

readable and graphically explicit books. His arguments are impressive, but in a work of this kind it is sometimes easy for the reader to confuse fact with the author's conjecture.

If and when all the information on the Battle of the Bulge is made available, a further reappraisal will almost certainly be needed. Whiting himself does not claim this is the last word on the controversy. – BJ

**The Last Assault: 1944 – The Battle of the Bulge Reassessed** by Charles Whiting. Leo Cooper, Pen and Sword Books, hardback, £17.95.

## VIDEOS

**Britain's Secret Warriors.** Documentary about this country's Special Forces, including action film, interviews and the story of the Iraq mission. DD 959. 55min. £12.99.

**The Red Beret: Stories of Britain's Airborne Forces.** Two-volume video covering all aspects including glider pilots, infantry and Special Forces, and timed to coincide with the Arnhem anniversary. DD 949. 120min. £14.99.

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**The Real Life Bodyguards.** Training and techniques, featuring escort duties, protective driving, IEDs, electronic counter surveillance, paramedicine and close quarter combat. DD 844. 58min. £12.99.

On December 23 the German threat of advance on Brussels, Antwerp and even Paris had been neutralised. The Americans were almost back where they had been on December 16, and "It had cost America 80,000 men, dead, wounded or captured".

The mysteries of the Battle of the Bulge are complex and Charles Whiting suggests there could have been some damning secrets revealed had Gen George S Patton lived and returned to the USA instead of dying as a result of a road accident in December 1945.

The author implies Patton could have disclosed that "Eisenhower had been prepared to sacrifice a whole US corps to get the Germans to come out of their present defences and fight in the open".

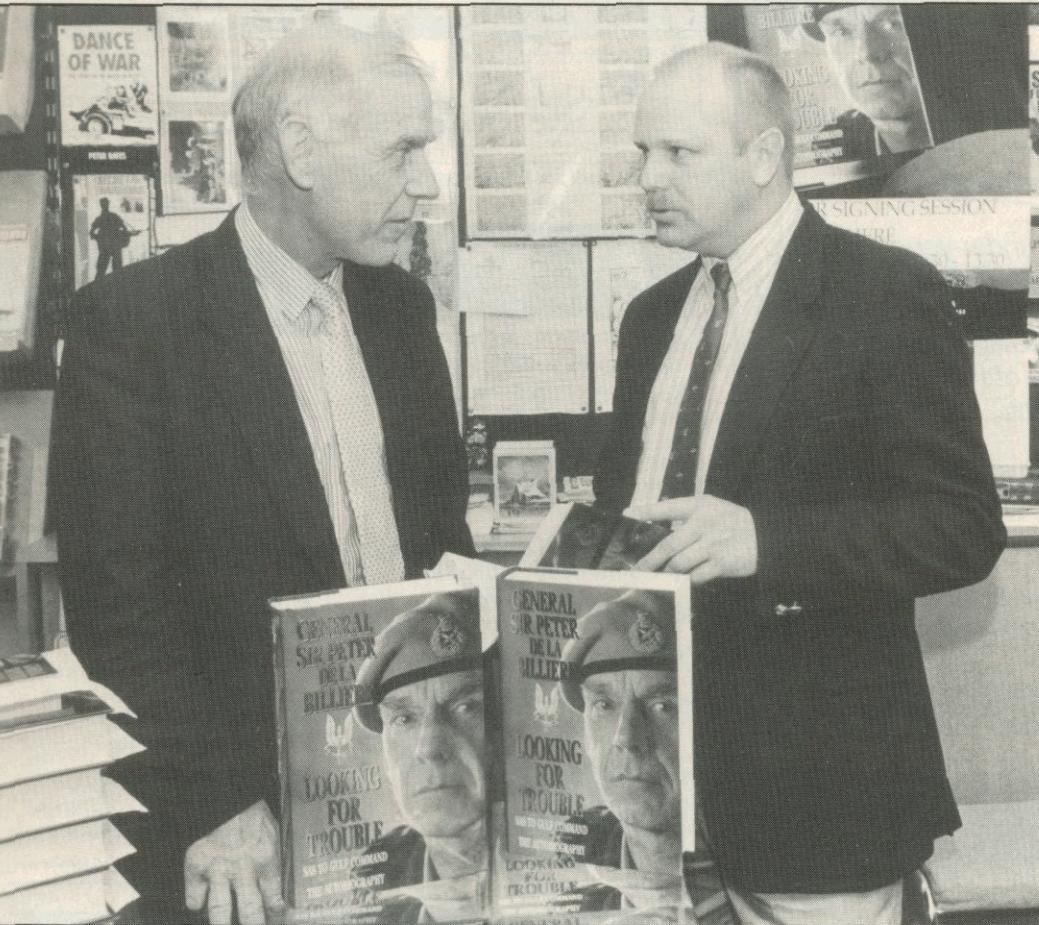
There is no doubt that Charles Whiting is a most able writer who produces highly

GEN SIR Redvers Buller has been acknowledged for the past century as a brave soldier who won the Victoria Cross and as an able administrator who founded the Army Service Corps.

He is also remembered as the Commander-in-Chief in the Boer War 1899-1902 who was superseded by Lord Roberts; and as the epitome of the military ineptitude and disasters in that war.

Geoffrey Powell's excellent and sensitive biography, *Buller: A Scapegoat?* contains much new material and reveals how a near conspiracy of the press, military rivals (Roberts and Hamilton in particular), politicians and landed interests succeeded in both destroying a fine officer and permanently damaging his reputation.

## Storm of an SAS general



Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, British commander in the Gulf, meets Campaign Books manager Nick Higgins, ex-2 Para, before signing copies of his autobiography *Looking for Trouble* in Aldershot. At one time the most decorated soldier in the British Army, Gen de la Billière fought with the Special Air Service in Malaya, Oman, Borneo and Aden, and commanded SAS operations in the Falklands. The story of his life follows *Storm Command*, his account of the Gulf campaign. *Looking for Trouble* is published by Harper Collins and priced at £19.99.

## Secret of the golden goose

CHURCHILL called Bletchley Park – Britain's wartime HQ of the nation's top code-crackers – his "ultra secret" and his "golden goose that never cackles".

But while the 581-acre secret base near Milton Keynes didn't make much noise, it produced some superb golden eggs containing unmatched nuggets of information that went a long way towards winning the war.

In *Britain's Best Kept Secret*, Ted Enever takes the reader on a guided tour of Bletchley Mansion and its wartime huts, telling as he goes something of the story of how teams of scientists and mathematicians solved the mystery of the "unbreakable" German Enigma coding machine.

He reveals as much as he can, since officialdom is, even 50 years on, still cagey about how the brains of Britain carried out their work.

But to give some idea of the magnitude of the task facing the cipher experts, the Germans could programme Enigma to produce codes which left the cryptographers facing millions of solutions. And that was with a machine designed at the end of the First World War!

It was the Poles who tipped off the British about Enigma and managed to smuggle a large typewriter to the UK at the outbreak of the war.

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Now the plan is to allow the public to visit the place where it is said the brains of Britain shortened the war by at least two years. – JM

**Britain's Best Kept Secret** by Ted Enever. Alan Sutton Publishing, softback, £6.99.

## Buller: His own worst enemy

Buller undoubtedly was a brave, able, well-loved and professional officer, but he did have major failings and made enemies easily.

Perhaps Buller would have survived if King Edward had given him the same support as Queen Victoria, who found him "honest and straightforward": I believe him to be a thorough gentleman, with considerable independence of character".

However, as Powell rightly comments: "There is no doubt that the individual who did the most severe and lasting damage to Buller's reputation was Leo Amery", who was one of the journalists who took lasting offence at Buller's preju-dice against their calling.

Furthermore, when Buller accepted the post of Commander-in-Chief South Africa in

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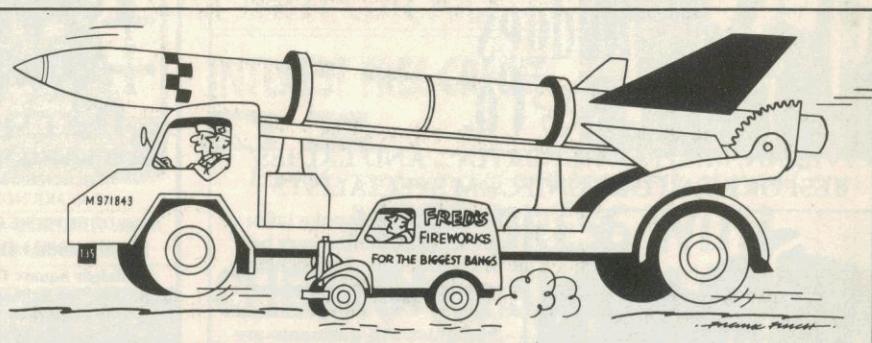
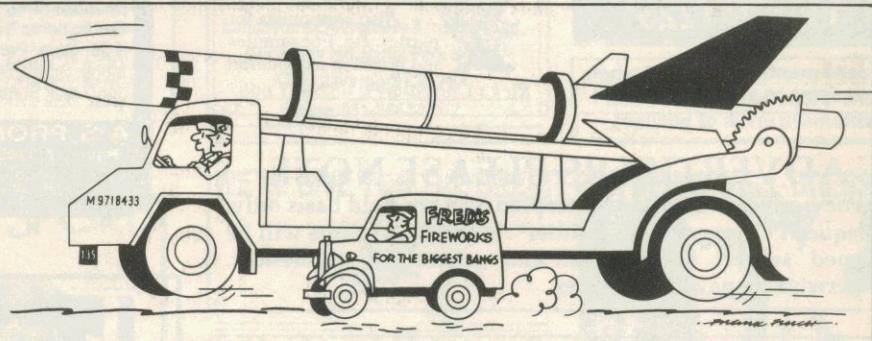
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Competition No 595 (September 19 issue): Congratulations to Mr N E Crouch, of Olney, Bucks, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr J W Kingstone, of Southwell, Notts, and Mr L G Napier, of Redhill, Surrey.

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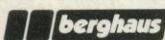
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22/94

Lynn, 26, 5'11", medium build, with brown hair and brown eyes. Interests: swimming, hiking, reading, writing and receiving letters. I'm fun-loving and enjoy a laugh and would like to hear from anyone aged 25-40. P102

22/94

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22/94

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18/23

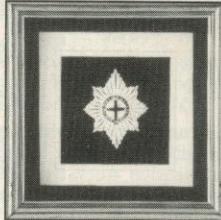
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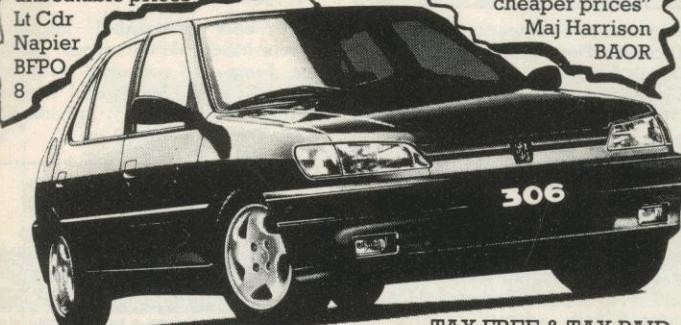
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All correspondence to: Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Helen, 19, dark hair, brown eyes, attractive, gsoh. Hobbies: writing letters, music, films and going out with friends. I would like a soldier pen pal, 19+, with similar interests, home/abroad. P89

22/94

Karen, 30, 6' tall, slim, short brown hair. Interests: aerobics, running, occasional weights, cooking, pubs and clubs. Would like a pen pal aged 25-35, over 6' with gsoh. P90

22/94

Alison, 23, 5'2", slim, long blonde hair and blue eyes. I like going to pubs, clubs and having a laugh. Single mum, one daughter, and work as a florist. I'd like pen pals aged 22+. P91

22/94

Tall, sporty, brunet, 39, not yet past her sell by date. Would like to hear from soldiers with a sense of humour, to prove that life begins at 40. P92

22/94

Andrea, 35, 5'1", brown eyes, brown hair, gsoh, friendly personality. Lives in London and enjoys music, travel, cooking, some sport and having fun. Soldiers aged 29-39 please write, photo appreciated. P93

22/94

Sarah, 25, 5'2", blue eyes and brown hair, lively personality. Lives in London. Interests: music, creative art, reading, some sport and having a good time. Would like to hear from soldiers aged 20-35, photo appreciated. P94

22/94

Rebecca, 16, 4'9", slim with dark hair. Hobbies: babysitting, going out, listening to music, dancing. Would like to hear from soldiers aged 18-20, anywhere. P95

22/94

Female, 23, 5'7" with blonde/brown hair. I've got a good (wicked) sense of humour, and enjoy music, driving, writing, travelling and much more. P96

22/94

I'm Dawn, 30, 5'7", blonde with grey eyes. I enjoy canoeing, helping with expedition training for Duke of Edinburgh's Award, reading, socialising, writing letters and having fun. P97

22/94

My name is Lisa, I'm 22, single, medium build, highlighted hair and blue eyes. I'd like to hear from any lonely soldiers aged 23-30. I enjoy sport, drinking and dancing. Get writing! P98

22/94

Louise, 26, 5'3" with brown hair and brown eyes. gsoh, likes pubs, clubs, music and animals. I work as a secretary and part-time as a barmaid. I'd like pen pals of any age. P99

22/94

Lady, 25, with attitude! Would like to hear from fellas anywhere, aged 25+. P100

22/94

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22/21

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EO194

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## First for new regiment

Sig Simeon Bamrook of 2 Signal Regiment jumps for the ball in front of Sgt Kenny Adams of The Highlanders Regiment who went on to win the Army sixes on penalties after pulling back a three-goal deficit. The Highlanders had been formed only two weeks before

# The Highlanders takes sixes cup north of border

FOR THE first time the Army six-a-side football trophy has been won by a Scottish regiment – and its newest one at that, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Just 19 days after forming, the Highlanders beat 2 Signal Regiment in a thrilling final which had to be decided on penalties.

The Highlanders finished runners-up to 3 RSME in

## Infantry blitz medics

THE Infantry overwhelmed Army Medical Services 9-1 with a feast of fast, fluent football at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot.

LCpl Kevin Jones (RWF) scored four goals, Cpl John Greechan (Hldrs) two, Pte Lee Bradbury (PWR) two and Cpl Rob Clarke (PWR) one.

A gallant AMS side never gave up and Cpl Martin Coates scored a consolation goal for them shortly before the end.

group A of the qualifying rounds, while pre-tournament favourites 2 Sig Regt conceded top spot to Chilwell Station in group B.

There was a tremendous tussle in the semi-finals when old adversaries 2 Sigs and 3 RSME fought out a 2-2 draw before the signallers went through 9-8 on penalties. In the other semi, the Highlanders eliminated Chilwell Station 4-3 in a thriller.

A 3-0 lead early in the second period of the final appeared to put the York-based signallers in the driving seat, but the jocks found new legs to pull back the deficit and edged home 5-4 in the penalty shoot-out.

Mr Harry Stead of Isostar presented the trophies, including the Thorpe Trophy to the School of Electronic Engineering for scoring 26 goals in seven games.

Former Army FA secretary Maj Alan Dobson chose Highlander Joe Harper as his Isostar Man of the Match.

Maj Peter Pittaway refereed the final in his last Army com-



WORLD-class middle distance runner Cpl Kelly Holmes is to remain in the Army.

She has been given the green light to concentrate on her high-profile athletics career and will carry out recruiting duties in the London area in the acting rank of sergeant.

The decision was greeted with considerable pleasure by Army Athletics Association secretary Maj Peter Lyons.

First event counting towards the 1994-95 Army cross country Runner of the Year Awards will be the Army relays at Tewkesbury on November 12.

The other four scoring events are the Army championships at Longmoor on February 1, the Inter-Services at RAF Halton on February 17, the Inter-Corps on March 8 and the Regular Army v TA v Wales match on March 11 at Mill Hill.

Individuals who want to take part in the relays but cannot form a unit team should contact Maj Lyons on Aldershot Mil 3575 to be included in a composite team.

Last year's Runners of the Year were Cpl Sarah Bradbury (160 Pro Coy) and LCpl Alan Shepherd (23 PFA).



## Barbados warm-up

THE ARMY women's hockey team got in two weeks of memorable out-of-season training by competing in the Banks international festival in Barbados. A party of 16 made a big

impression with some exceptional hockey to win their league. But the Rambling Rovers, as they were known, were knocked out in the semi-finals of the main competition.

## Airmen on target, again

THE ROYAL Air Force won the Inter-Services target pistol matches fired on Cheylesmore Range, Bisley Camp, for the fourth. In both standard pistol and centre fire team events, the

## What a racket . . .

Trainee football referees blow the whistle on the basic course at Arborfield run by SSgt Mick Beverley (right) with the help of ex-WO2 Richard MacCormack (front row, left), who found the noise almost too much to bear. AFA referees' secretary Brian Le Breton adjudicated. Eleven candidates were successful

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# Sennelager Sanby strikes again

CPL DAVE Sanby (pictured) has established almost exclusive rights to the Army Golf Association (Germany) stroke play championships.

He won the title, sponsored by Rover GmbH, for the fifth time at Sennelager (British



Army) Golf Club with a masterly performance over 36 holes.

Sanby (AGC), serving with 39 Regiment RA, fired a level-par 73 in the morning and followed it up with a 74. It was a brilliant exhibition in wet and windy

conditions which made the course play to its full length.

Championship pin positions added to the already well-defined Sennelager challenge.

Sgt Tam Slaven (AGC, HQ UKSC(C)), shot a career best sub-par 72 in the morning to mount Sanby's only serious

opposition, and WO2 Alec Thomson (RLC) got home in 78 later in the day. Thomson, in fact, was the only player to better his handicap over 36 holes, a testament to the difficult playing conditions. He finished runner-up to Sanby with Slaven third.



Lt Col Max Heron and Maj Paul Marsden in the coxless pairs

## Vet rowers in world company

A TEN-MAN Army team recorded their best ever results at the World Veteran Rowing Championships at Groningen in Holland last month.

Competing in the A (27-35 years) and B (36-42) categories, the Army rowers took several third, fourth and fifth places against international opposition.

The team, sponsored by Powersport International, warmed up at the De Hoop international veteran regatta in Amsterdam, winning the B coxed fours and A eights against crews from as far afield as Kiev.

Best Army result in the world event was the third place by Lt Col Max Heron and Maj Paul Marsden in the B coxless pairs. They finished just two seconds off the gold medal pace set by two Irish internationals and reduced the Joint Services record for this category by six seconds.

The B eight produced a storming run down the eight-lane, 1,000m course to finish fourth and also lower the Services' record by six seconds.

The Army's B coxed four also achieved a fourth place,

four seconds behind the winners and eight seconds inside the Joint Services record, as did the A coxless pair and B double scull.

The A coxed four were six seconds inside the JS record in finishing fifth, the same position as the A eight and B quadruple scull.

The world championships brought to an end a season in which the Army won 15 of the 23 events at the Joint Services regatta in May, including all three veteran events. The squad subsequently won 15 times at civilian regattas.

On the veteran side, Majs Tim Park and Jerry Allen (B double scull) and Heron and Marsden (coxless pair) recorded wins at Evesham, the inaugural Henley veteran regatta, Henley Town and visitors' regatta, and the Upper Thames sprint, both as separate pairs and combined as a coxed four.

Anyone who wants to know more about Army veteran rowing opportunities should contact Lt Col Heron on Aldershot Mil 2428 (fax 4132); or Maj Park on Warminster Mil 2641 for rowing in general.

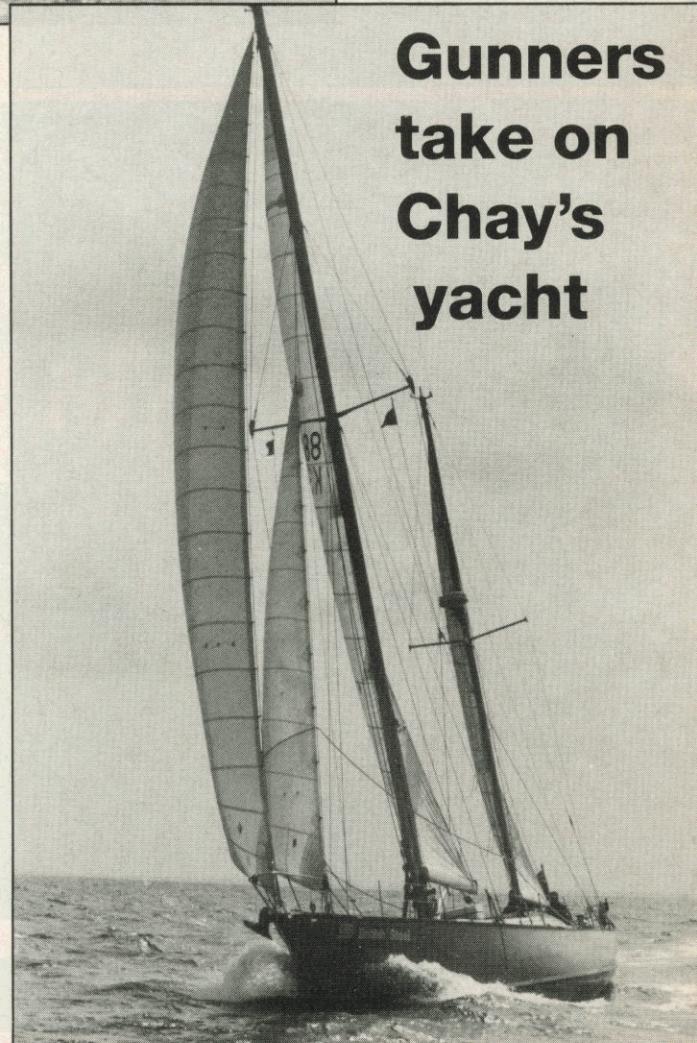
## Roadmasters

TEAMS from all three Services are expected to compete at the Army driving championships at Longmoor Camp from October 28-30.

Exercise Roadmaster takes the form of a competitive motoring test for crews of two in Land Rovers.

Clerk of the course Capt Bernie Stevens can be contacted on 0705 663944 for further details.

## Gunners take on Chay's yacht



On her way to second place overall in the 1994 Tall Ships Race is Chay Blyth's round-the-world yacht *British Steel*, now owned by the Royal Artillery Yacht Club and skippered by LBdr Simon Oatley.

*British Steel*, which has had a major refit this autumn, will spend the winter sailing to the Canary Islands and Madeira with adventurous training crews from HQ AFCENT, HQ ARRC, RAF Wittering, Manchester UOTC and 5 Regiment RA. LBdr Oatley, the permanent skipper, received the MBE for services to sailing in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.

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Led by a Spartan, two Scimitar recce vehicles of D Squadron, The Light Dragoons try out new mountain routes for British units based in the Maglaj finger in Bosnia. D Sqn, which was based at Maglaj, has just completed a six-month tour in Bosnia. See Pages 14-15.

Picture: Mike Perring



The Band of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, led by Bandmaster Christopher Way, trots the ranks of the 1st Battalion for the last time before disbanding. The final appearance by the band was at Picton Barracks, Bulford, where Brig Dick Mundell, the Regimental Colonel, presented United Nations medals to soldiers of 1 DWR who recently carried out a six-month Op Grapple tour.

Picture: Mike Weston