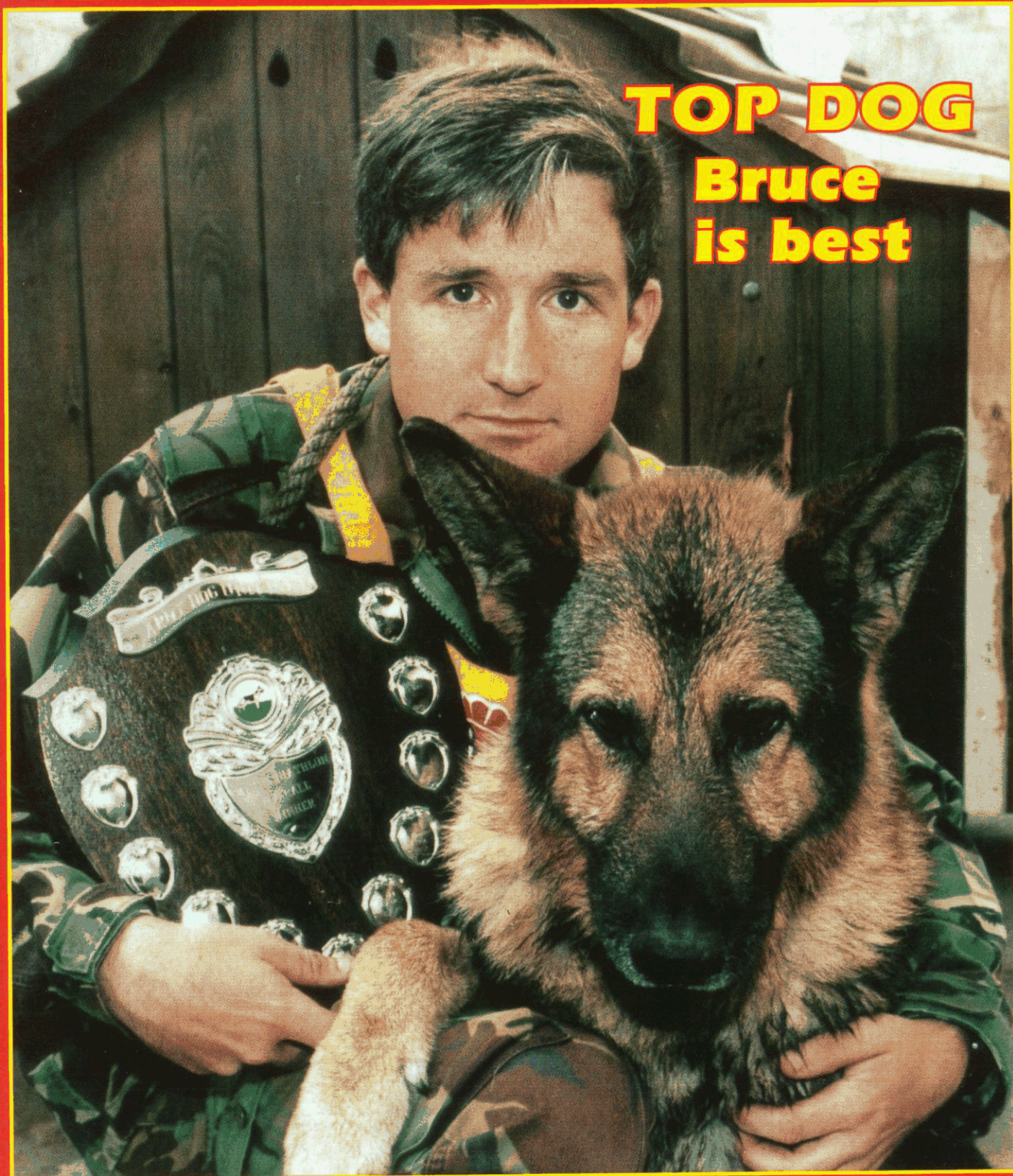


# SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

OCTOBER 28 1996

60p



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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

Oct 28, 1996 Vol 52/22

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Picture: Cpl Darren Cooper

With flame still erupting from the scene of the blast behind them, soldiers evacuate a casualty minutes after a terrorist bomb rocked the Army's headquarters in Lisburn, Northern Ireland

# Soldier dies after HQNI bomb blast

**MEDICAL personnel, first aiders and civilians were targeted when two car bombs exploded inside the Army's Northern Ireland headquarters on October 7. One soldier subsequently died of his injuries.**

The first bomb went off without warning at the car park near the Royal Logistic Corps headquarters building as people were leaving Thiepval Barracks in Lisburn at about 4.35pm.

It was followed 12 minutes later by a second bomb near the medical centre, where the injured were being taken.

WO1 James Bradwell REME died four days later in the Royal Victoria Hospital from his injuries.

Of 37 other people hurt in the blast, two men and a woman were severely injured but are expected to make a full physical recovery.

WO Bradwell (43), a married man with three children, was on his first tour in Northern Ireland and had been at HQNI for about two months after several years on attachment with The King's Royal Hussars and 14th/20th The King's Hussars.

His commanding officer, Lt Col Paul Musgrove REME,



The crater left by a car bomb in Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn

said: "His determination, enthusiasm and sense of humour gained him great respect from everyone. He was an excellent example to all soldiers.

"He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. We have lost an esteemed colleague and friend."

The bombs damaged the Naafi family shop, the church and a nursery, and showered a

school playing field with debris. Some children were injured.

A large car bomb was defused in Belfast city centre the previous week.

The GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith, has personally taken charge of the military investigation into the security aspects of the incident, for which the IRA has admitted responsibility.



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SQL PARTY 1





These members of 16 Signal Regiment were part of a team which won both men's and women's trophies in the non-German Regular Forces event at the 13th Mönchengladbach international military competition. Pictured are (front to rear) SSgt Kev

Smith, WO1 (RSM) Jim Boyle, LCpl Nigel Rogan, Sig Graham Hennessy and team administrator Sig John Walsh. The women, led by Capt Wendy Kirby, beat several teams of men in the event, which included grenade-throwing and an assault course

# Pesticide sprays linked to Gulf War health issue

**POTENTIALLY harmful organophosphate pesticides used to suppress fly-borne diseases on British desert bases during the Gulf War were more widely used than previously thought, the Ministry of Defence has acknowledged.**

Possible links with so-called Gulf War syndrome are to be investigated.

The admission of widespread spraying of organophosphate (OP) pesticides was contained in a letter on Gulf War health issues from Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames to Michael Colvin, chairman of the Commons Defence Committee.

Urgent investigations are to be conducted into the extent of the use of OP pesticides, which are known to be capable of causing illness.

Mr Soames said the situation arose because there were difficulties in getting sufficient supplies of pesticides delivered to Saudi Arabia in the early stages of Operation Granby, "and the overriding need to ensure that our frontline troops were fully protected against the very real risks of insect-borne disease in the

environment of the Gulf".

Authority was given for local purchase of some OP insecticides, but the MoD believed none had been used to treat British environments, and only one, malathion, had been used for Iraqi prisoners.

"We now have information that certain OP pesticides other than malathion were also used in the Gulf," the Minister wrote. These were dimethyl phosphorothionate, diazinon and azamathiphos.

## RESEARCH

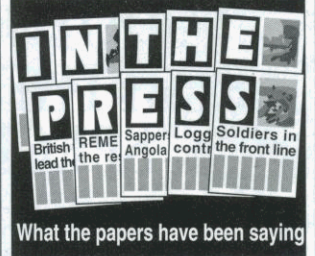
"We recognise that a number of veterans are ill following their service in the Gulf and this is why we have invited the Medical Research Council (MRC) to recommend to us an objective, scientifically-based research programme to enable us to determine whether there is any relationship between their illness and their Gulf service," said Mr Soames.

"The MRC have been advised of the latest information on the use of OP pesticides in the Gulf and will take this into account in making their recommendations to us on the content of the Gulf health research programme."

Mr Soames also pointed out that fly-borne disease, a source of much illness in previous operations in the desert, had been largely absent during the campaign to liberate Kuwait.

Pesticides were sprayed in British camps to counter a plague of flies. US units are understood to have used the same pesticides.

New information came to light as the MoD reviewed records of conditions to which British soldiers were exposed. The exercise was undertaken so the Department could provide authoritative input to a major research programme by the MRC into Gulf health issues.



## Top job 'will go to Army'

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill Norton accused the Government of "sea blindness" over the expected appointment of an Army general as Chief of the Defence Staff. The post is expected to go to Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff. The Royal Navy has failed to secure the top job for nearly ten years. — *Times*

□ A privately-prepared report by Maj Jay Tate RA recommending a national study into the threat to humanity from comets and asteroids will not be acted upon by MoD. — *Sunday Times*

□ Falkland Islands residents and British Forces serving there are being warned to guard against skin cancer because the Antarctic ozone hole has spread to cover the area. — *Independent on Sunday*

□ The Ministry of Defence headquarters in Whitehall, one of the UK's most secure buildings, is likely to be managed and refurbished by an outside contractor under a scheme in which private finance is injected into the public sector. — *Financial Times*

□ The crisis in the Russian Armed Forces is one of the biggest threats not only to Russia itself, but to its neighbours and the stability of Europe. What was once a trained, capable and disciplined force is now little more than a rabble — impoverished, corrupt and surly. — *Times*

□ Canada will put forward an international treaty to ban land mines by 2000 and invite other nations to sign it next year. — *Guardian*



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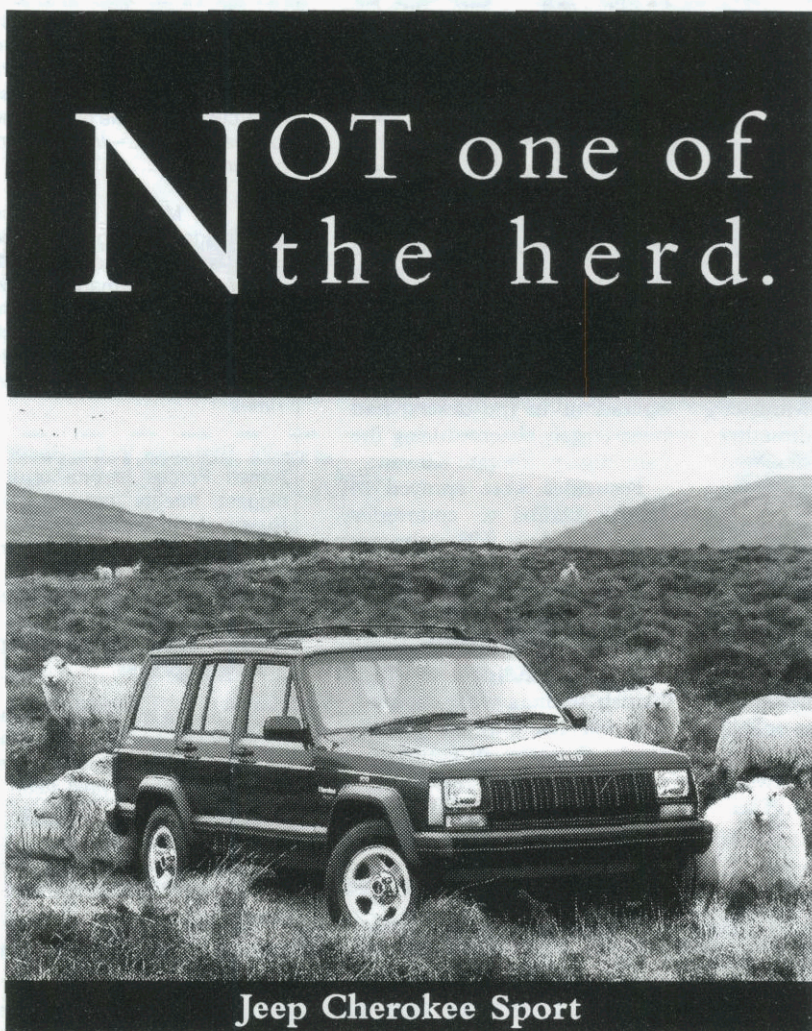
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SC1





# Floods keep REME crew on the hop

REME recovery mechanics based with the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards at Kljuc in Bosnia answered many calls for help when several days of heavy rain caused serious flooding in low-lying areas at the end of last month.

With flood waters reaching a peak along the Sana and Una river in north-west Bosnia, LCpl Oz Offord and LCpl Tony Garratt received their first emergency call when a civilian Land Rover skidded off a flooded track on the approach to Neames Bridge on the Sana, south of Sanski Most.

## DIVED IN

LCpl Garratt had to dive under the vehicle to fit a strap before the Land Rover could be hauled out by the team's Challenger recovery vehicle (CRARRV).

While they were involved in that rescue, a coach with 50 passengers got into trouble on the same stretch of road and had to be recovered.

Later in the day the CRARRV team returned to the bridge to assist a truck.

They also helped to rescue the crew of a Canadian Cougar armoured personnel carrier trapped in the floods (reported in *Soldier*, October 14), and soon afterwards, when another truck slid into the river, LCpl Garratt again attached himself to a lifeline and waded into the water to place recovery straps under a stricken vehicle.

## Capital show

Maj Jonty Palmer led troopers of The King's Royal Hussars through the streets of Budapest during a festival of hussars.

The KRH contingent, from Münster, joined hussars from all over Europe to celebrate the 1,100th anniversary of the forming of the state of Hungary. Swedish, Austrian, German and Hungarian hussars also took part in the colourful pageant.



Picture: Capt Jim Gallagher

The Princess Royal presents IFOR medals to soldiers at Divulje Barracks, Split, during a brief visit to Bosnia and Croatia.

She met soldiers from the regiments and corps of which she is Colonel-in-Chief: The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, the Royal Corps of Signals and the Royal Logistic Corps.

Princess Anne was met at Sarajevo by Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Joint Commander of UK Forces on Op Resolute. Accompanied by Brig James Shaw, Commander of 1 Signal

## Princess calls on Resolute troops

Brigade, she met soldiers of 7 Signal Regiment and the RLC in Zetra Stadium before flying to Banja Luka to meet troops of 1 WFR. She was escorted by Maj

Gen John Kiszely, Commander Multi-National Division (South West) to see a school renovated by British soldiers, and visited Priveja, Sipovo and a reboadcast station in the mountains.

Bad weather forced the Princess to go on to Split by road. There she had lunch with Brig Roy Ratazzi, commander of the garrison, and presented IFOR medals to 14 officers and soldiers.

Princess Anne also called on 230 Signal Squadron, 98 Postal and Courier Squadron RLC and 9 Regiment RLC.



# Green Howards give BATUS force hard time

THE Green Howards returned to Osnabrück from Canada last month after completing a successful Medicine Man exercise at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS).

They led the XIX Battlegroup – the Green Howards are the 19th of Foot – which included Osnabrück-based A and B Squadron, QRL, 1 Field Squadron RE, and 137 (Java) Battery RA from Hohne, in a ten-day programme of all arms live-firing.

Having destroyed all the targets to be found on the prairie, the battlegroup turned its

sights on a live enemy, the Munster-based King's Royal Hussars, with weapon simulators.

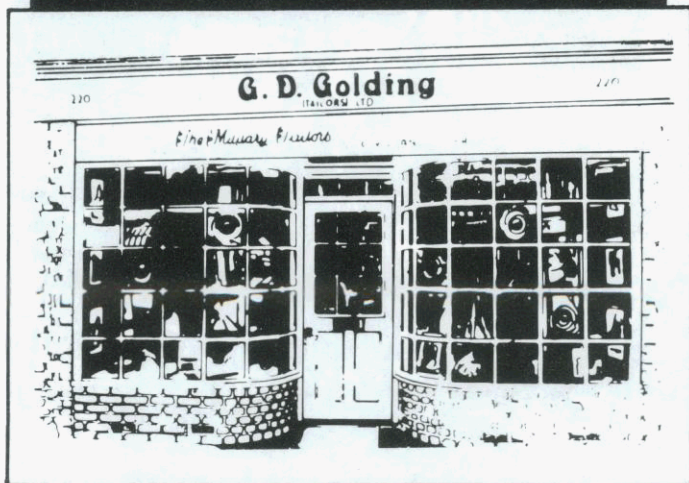
The KRH, fellow members of the 4th Armoured Brigade and the BATUS opposing force (OPFOR) for Medicine Man exercises during 1996, reckoned the XIX Battlegroup was its toughest opponent of the series.

Lt Col Andrew Farquhar, CO 1 Green Howards, said the exercise was the culmination of a year-long conversion to an armoured infantry role which provided a sound basis for the battalion's tour in Bosnia.



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# SOLDIER

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# SAS writers gagged by lifelong pledge of silence

SPECIAL Forces members have been told to sign a contract banning them from writing books about their work without permission from the Ministry of Defence.

The contract legally binds members of the Special Air Service and Special Boat Squadron to a lifelong pledge of silence.

The instruction by the

Defence Council also affects members of the two Territorial Army SAS regiments and some RAF personnel.

Members who refuse to sign will be returned to their former units.

Special Forces personnel sign the Official Secrets Act and have their own code of secrecy, but are not bound by it when they leave the Services.

Following the Gulf War, Gen Sir Peter de la Billière wrote two books, both approved by MoD, in which he gave details of special operations mounted during Operation Granby, including the capture of an eight-man patrol.

Other books written by survivors of that patrol became best-sellers, and films purporting to portray SAS operations

in the Gulf have also been made.

Currently ten "SAS" titles are among the top 100 best sellers and publishing houses are said to be energetically seeking new revelations.

The contract reflects concern among senior officers that the cumulative effect of publicity will undermine Special Forces' tactics and reveal classified information.

## Belize flight to rescue – again

BRITISH Army airmen in Belize, one of the Army's most isolated postings, have been responding to requests for emergency help from the Belizean authorities.

Tasked to support the Army's Central American jungle training team, 25 Flight, Army Air Corps helps the host nation whenever it can.

In the latest incident, a Gazelle helicopter from 25 Flight airlifted to hospital a young girl seriously injured in a flight.

Eight-year-old Jenny Schmidt was transferred from Punta Gorda in the south to Belize City's Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital where she is recovering from a suspected fractured skull.

Two days later the Army aviators responded to a plea for help in flying anti-pollution specialists to the scene of a road accident in which a petrol tanker had overturned, threatening rare plants and animals in the area.

Journey times by road to both incidents would have taken about ten hours. On both occasions the Army Air Corps was there within the hour, probably saving the girl's life in the process.

Earlier this year 25 Flight scrambled to assist a woman at risk from a difficult birth. Her baby was safely delivered on board the Gazelle by Army doctor Maj Chris Calcott during the flight back to Belize City.



Brig Robert Clark-Menzies, Commander Medical, Land Command, formally opens a new Army field hospital sited in a naval submarine base at Gosport, Hampshire.

Originally formed during the First World War, 33 Field Hospital RAMC has been in intermittent existence for the past 80 years.

In its last incarnation, as 33 General Surgical Hospital, it deployed to Saudi Arabia during

## Army hospital 'resuscitated'

the Gulf War and treated casualties from both sides.

Based in HMS *Dolphin*, traditional home of the Royal Navy's Submarine Service, 33 Field Hospital will support major operations by the newly-formed Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF). It is commanded by Lt Col Chris Baines.

## Ashford workshop closes

AFTER more than half a century in support of the Army at Ashford, Kent, the REME Workshop at Rowcroft Barracks has closed its doors for the last time.

Closure was part of a rationalisation programme drawn up by the Army Base Repair Organisation.

A study completed two years ago concluded that following Options for Change the Army had more capacity than it required for repair facilities.

At its peak the workshop employed 500 military and 500 civilian staff, repairing Army Land Rover and Bedford vehicles.

## Rising Phoenix

THE Ministry of Defence has decided to continue with the Phoenix unmanned aerial vehicle programme following the introduction of an airbag which successfully cushions its landing and prevents delicate equipment from damage.

Phoenix is due to enter service in 1998 to acquire targets for artillery systems. By relaying pictures from enemy-held territory, it will greatly extend the "eyes" of the artillery.

## Tri-Service helicopter school identified

A SINGLE tri-Service defence helicopter flying school for basic instruction has been established to train approximately 230 students a year from April.

Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force helicopter crews will continue to carry out advanced

training at their respective single-Service centres.

The new school, based at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire, will enable the Services to concentrate training on modern equipment as a prelude to the introduction of the more complex Apache and Merlin heli-

copters. It will be run by FBS Limited, a company comprising FR Aviation, Bristow Helicopters and SERCo Defence.

Bristow will continue to provide instructors, engineers and other support to the School of Army Aviation at Middle Wallop, as it has since 1963.



## Legion of youths shame the dinner party set

AFTER last year's two-minute silence, the Royal British Legion carried out an opinion poll which came up with some interesting results.

Among those least likely to observe the tradition was a significant section of the community which one might expect to be the most respectful, the Legion found.

About half those interviewed in the highest social classes said they had forgotten or ignored the silence.

As a result, the organisation is said to be targeting them in this year's Remembrance Day advertising campaign.

Why are the "chatting classes" apparently so diffident about remembrance?

It has been suggested that children growing up immediately after the Second World War may have become immune to their parents' talking about the subject, and that these people make up the AB social group.

It's an interesting thought. I grew up with the war constantly in the background. Adults would hark back to it around the dinner table, and any treat would be put in the context of past hardships.

I would be told to appreciate sweets, for example, because they had not long "come off the ration".

I have to admit that my brother and I heaved a sigh every time the salt and pepper were lined up behind the vegetable dishes as a visual aid. Grandpa's war stories were legendary... and often greeted with theatrical sighs.

But the experience didn't make us any less respectful in our hearts: Grandpa insisted on high standards of behaviour in the privacy of the home. I still feel uncomfortable staying seated if the National Anthem is played on TV, even when I'm alone.

What makes people disrespectful in their environment and its prevailing attitudes. We know today's Britain is shedding old attitudes almost daily. Sometimes it's for the good: no one wants to hold on to prejudices, for example.

I hope the Legion carries out a poll after this year's silence to see if it has been effective in influencing the dinner party set. I wish them luck,

but I think that what is needed is a radical change in the way in which the British live their lives.

Before we lose hope, though, there are signs it might happen. Among other results in the poll was an encouraging sign. Young people were more supportive of the silence than their parents.

Perhaps these young men and women, who have seen graphic pictures of wars in the Falkland Islands, the Gulf and former Yugoslavia have concluded that conflict is never worth the human cost – and remembering the dead isn't just a matter of respect but the key to trying to prevent it happening again.

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



Cari's column



Grin and share it: Cpl Phil Williams and PC Hew Williams (no relation), who will work in the new combined station

## Safeguards for our youngsters

YOUNG people, including those in boarding schools, who have lived away from home within the last five years, are being invited to write in confidence to Sir William Utting, who is reviewing safeguards for children under the age of 18.

"I would like to hear from those who felt well protected, as well as anyone who may have criticisms of existing arrangements," he says.

Submissions should be made to him at Children's Safeguards Review, Room 634, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG by November 30.

## Royal visitor drops in on ARRC wives

PRINCESS Alexandra paid a visit to the wives of Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) troops serving with NATO's peace-keeping force in Bosnia.

The Princess spent the morning at JHQ Rheindahlen, the German base of the ARRC headquarters and some of its supporting units.

She met wives from the 13 nations which contribute soldiers to the corps and learnt how they have been coping with the separation from their husbands – and £8.99p.

## Ode to be in England?

HEARTFELT cries from Army wives which will ring bells with many *Soldier* readers are among poems contained in a new anthology, *Poetic Forces*.

Here's one such example, entitled "Just a problem or two?", penned by Angie Sutcliffe.

To be a forces wife, Oh! what a lovely life.

March ins, March outs, Packing boxes full,

Never boring as a forces wife, Nothing's ever dull.

Searching for another job, Signing unemployed.

'Reason for leaving your last

place of work?"

Keep your cool now, don't get annoyed.

'Surely moving isn't a good enough reason,

Couldn't you travel to and from work just the same?"

Yeh! We'll travel 300 miles on a bus,

Do they think that we're playing a game?

Yes, these are a few of the problems

We face as we go on our way. But it's also a job to be proud of,

What, you thought we did it just for the pay?

Another contributor to the book, which contains more than 90 poems, ranging from the humorous to the bitterly ironic, is Gerry Wheatley, who served with the 1st Gurkha Rifles in India and French Indochina from 1945 to 1948.

His short poem, *Johnny Gurkha*, pays tribute to the Gurkhas he remembers who never made it home to Nepal.

● **Poetic Forces**, edited by Kerrie Pateman, is published by Poetry Now, 1-2 Wainman Road, Woodston, Peterborough PE2 7BU, hardback £12.99p, softback £8.99p.

## United front for red caps, blue helmets

A FANFARE of trumpets from the band of the Territorial Army's Northumberland-based 6th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers marked the opening of a police station claimed to be the first of its kind in Great Britain.

Located in newly-refurbished premises in Catterick, the station – manned and open to the public for 24 hours a day – will be shared by 150 Provost Company RMP and officers of the North Yorkshire Police.

Officers from both sides will staff the joint front-office during normal office hours (09.00-17.00).

Outside those times, members of the public arriving at the premises will be greeted by an RMP, who will be able to show them to a telephone linked directly to the civilian police control room, who can respond appropriately.

The theory is that customers in distress may well find dealing with a person much more reassuring and comforting than a voice.

If the customer is happy to talk face-to-face with the RMP, the officer will be pleased to help or advise the person, according to Catterick Garrison.

"I am sure the public will find my officers friendly, efficient and courteous," said Maj Andy Jordan, officer commanding 150 Provost Company.

Many of the people living in the huge garrison are military personnel, civilian employees or Service dependants, all of whom frequently see RMPs going about their duties.

Behind the front-office, the two forces have separate and secure working areas.

### Advantages

Advantages to the Catterick community at the station – for which Provost Marshal Brig Ian Fulton and David Burke, North Yorkshire's Chief Constable performed a joint ribbon-cutting ceremony – include wheelchair and pushchair access and private interview rooms.

"I had part of a building that I was not using but still having to pay bills for heating and lighting," said

Maj Jordan, who spearheaded the project for the RMPs. "Now the police pay those bills and we also charge a small ground rent."

The shared station was a tangible sign of the way the military and civilian communities were coming together, Brig Alastair Duncan, Commander Catterick Garrison, said.

"It will be a great benefit to the Catterick community," Brig Fulton pointed out.

"The RMP recognise the primacy of the civil police and are aware of their own areas of jurisdiction in the UK. These principles are well understood by all those working in this venture."

### In brief

● **Fd Marshal Lord Bramall** opened a new recreational facility – the Sandes Centre – for soldiers and their families at Bulford Camp. Located within the Beacon club which houses the Army wives club, it has a restaurant, games room, quiet room and TV area.

● **Erskine Hospital, Renfrewshire**, marked its 80th birthday on October 10 by launching a jumbo balloon donated by Compaq Computers, its neighbour at Bishopston for the past ten years.

● A plea to Army families, home and abroad, for old postage stamps has been made by Children in Crisis. "Leave a 1/4-in border around the stamps when you tear them off," says the charity's Deborah Oxley, who can be reached on 0171-978 5003.

● **Dame Vera Lynn**, President of the Royal British Legion's Ditchling, Sussex, branch, attended a thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral to mark the 75th anniversary of the Legion's Women's Section.

● The Winged Fellowship, which provides holidays for people with severe physical disabilities at centres in Southport, Nottingham, Chigwell and Netley, urgently needs volunteers to help out between now and Christmas. Tel 0181-303 2155.

● **QUAFF (Quarantine Abolition Fighting Fund)** has information on quarantine kennels and problem-solving. Details: tel 01243 267599.



Princess Alexandra (second from right) meets wives from the "ARRC family" at Rheindahlen

the knowledge that the men are involved on a deployment which carries a genuine element of danger.

Many ARRC wives have been asked to accept an unusually long period of absence from their husbands.

The majority of the 60,000 troops deployed on Operation

Resolute rotate after not longer than six months, but soldiers serving in the headquarters itself and its immediate support formations have a special role in the command of the operation, and their units have been required to stay in Bosnia for a full year.

Escorting the Princess throughout her visit was Lady Tor

Walker, wife of ARRC commander Gen Sir Michael Walker.

Brig David Judd, Deputy Chief of Staff G1/G4 in HQ ARRC, who returned briefly from Bosnia to represent Gen Walker, greeted the Princess on her arrival at the Reaction Forces Mess, where the wives of officers and soldiers were present.



# General appreciation

When a farewell presentation was held for **Jane Pearson**, personal secretary to 11 directors of the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington Camp, no fewer than six generals were in attendance. Pictured (left to right) with Mrs Pearson – who was presented with the Imperial Service Medal in recognition of her 27 years' service in the Civil Service – are Maj Gens **Richard Barron**, **Robin Brockbank**, **John Allen**, **Peter Reid**, **Sir Simon Cooper** and **Sir Michael Palmer**.



Picture: Mark Owens

## After you, John

Having a joke about just who is going to carry the luggage as they prepare to embark on a 14-day visit to Hong Kong were Sergeant Majors **John Shepherd** (left) and **Jim Purvis** of the District Specialist Training Team in Scotland.

From a nationwide selection of Army specialists in the field of hazardous materials, the pair were chosen to pass on their skills to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Regiment.



Picture: South Wales Echo

## Grand-dad's gongs

By the delighted look on his face, it was worth every penny of the £69 which young **Joshua Payne** saved over a period of six months to purchase the complete set of medals won by his grandfather, the late **Rev Frank Webster**, a war-time sapper who served in Italy and north Africa.

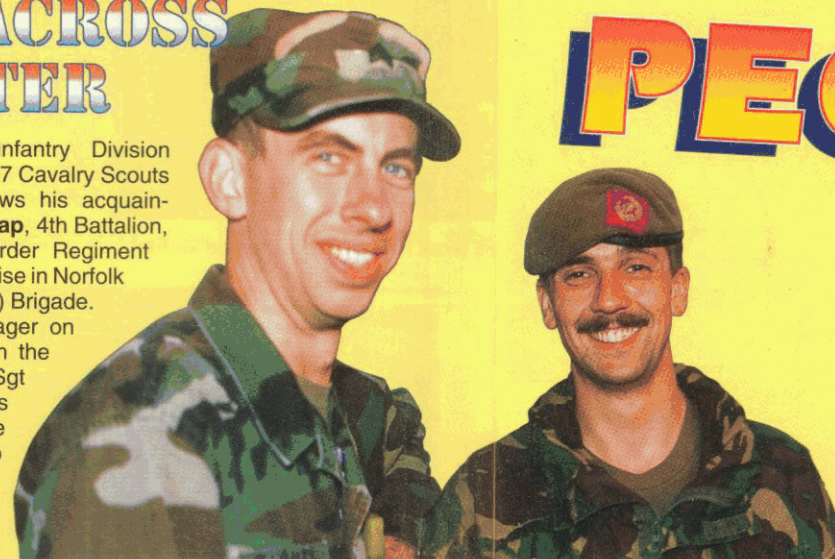
When he passed away, the medals were misplaced – hence the six-year-old's struggle to save up for replacements.

The family contacted the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), whose regimental 2iC, Maj **Keith Down**, was delighted to hand them over at a ceremony at Monmouth Castle, watched by Joshua's grandmother **Mary Webster**.

## HANDS ACROSS THE WATER

Sgt **Joel Fletcher**, an Infantry Division Squadron Leader with 1st 167 Cavalry Scouts (US National Guard), renews his acquaintance with CSgt **Graham Heap**, 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment during a peacekeeping exercise in Norfolk organised by 42 (North West) Brigade.

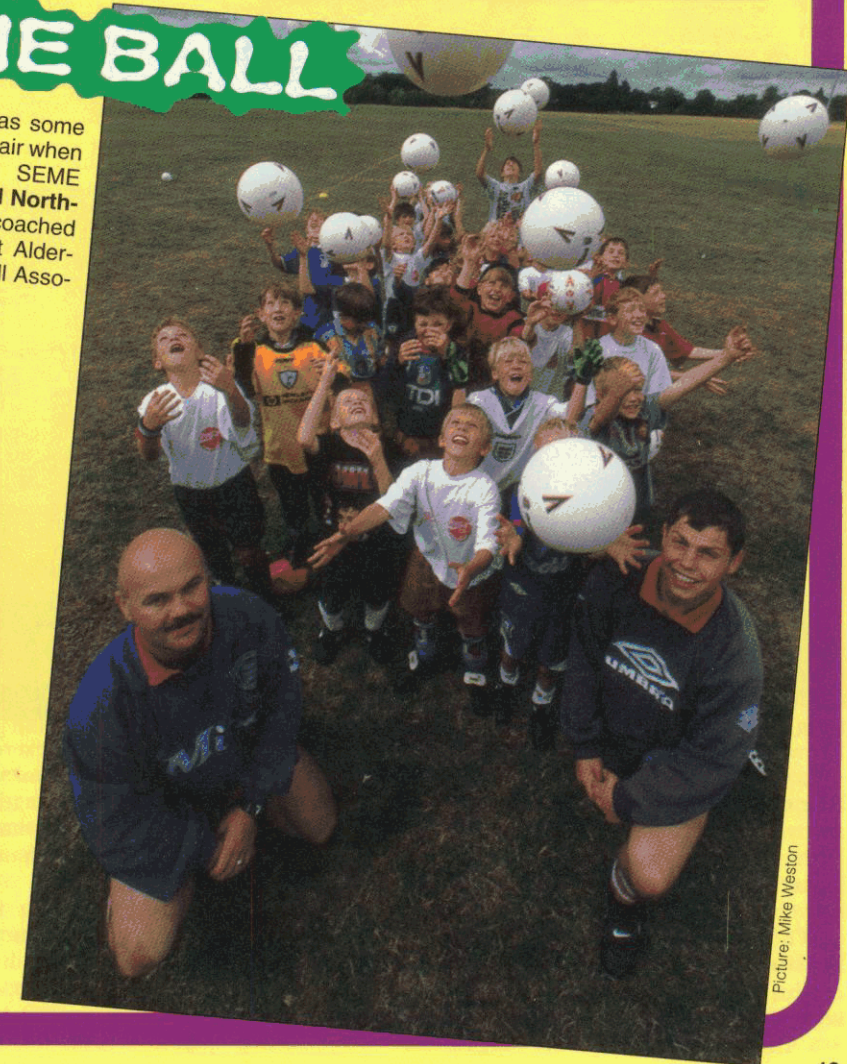
A water purification manager on an NCO exchange visit with the Cumbria-based TA unit, Sgt Fletcher, who said he was "very impressed" with the exercise, met CSgt Heap when members of 4 Kings Own Border were guests of the National Guard in Nebraska earlier this year.



## PEOPLE

## ON THE BALL

There was fun, as well as some more serious stuff, in the air when WO2 **Bronco Filsell**, SEME Bordon (left) and Cpl **Neil Northcott**, ATR Lichfield, coached youngsters of all ages at Aldershot at the annual Football Association soccer star awards.



Picture: Mike Weston



Picture: Capt Jim Gallagher

## Bosnian bride

Although wedding photographs are strictly not *Soldier's* normal fare, this one was too unusual to resist, as Pte **Lorna Allen** is pictured saying "I do" to Pte **Andre Buckland**.

The ceremony, conducted by Padre **Neil Llewellyn** in the regimental chapel built by members of 1 GS Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps in a huge warehouse at Kupres Camp, Bosnia, had the blessings of their parents back home in the UK. The couple are currently on an operational tour.



Picture: Joint Services Hong Kong

## The Hannas of Hong Kong

Pictured at the closure ceremony of 50 Hong Kong Workshop in Sek Kong is WO2 **Bill Hanna**, REME, with his father, former WO2... **Bill Hanna**.

The name is not the only common ground for the two men: both have seen service with the corps, and both have spent time in Hong Kong. Bill Senior went to school in the territory in the 1930s, when his father served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. And his rank and name? What else than Warrant Officer **Bill Hanna**!

His grandson, who served with the workshop for two-and-a-half years, left Hong Kong for a new posting in Gateshead last month – exactly 50 years to the day his father enlisted.

● Final parade – see Page 17



## Khan do!

Signing on the dotted line at Blackburn Army Careers Office was **Safeena Khan**, who, by starting training at Winchester to become a military clerk in the Adjutant General's Corps, will follow her two brothers into the Army. Pictured with Safeena are former Royal Military Policeman **Shabir Siddiq**, retiring recruiter Lt Col **Chris Day**, new recruits **Saheed Anwar** and **Asif Asad** and Maj **Lawrence Wright**, who is taking over from Lt Col Day.



# Polish connection gives proud service on Ulan Eagle

Report: Gordon Skilling  
Pictures: Terry Champion



**WATCHING** convoys of British vehicles pouring over the border from Germany into Poland was an emotional experience for Britain's naval and military attaché in Warsaw.

It wasn't satisfaction at the fruition of plans he had been making for two years which moved him; it was because Lt Col Richard Ciaglinski is himself a Pole.

The attaché was proud to see soldiers of the Desert Rats arrive in the land of his fathers to carry out high-intensity battle group and brigade-level training during Exercise Ulan Eagle.

Lt Col Ciaglinski's parents suffered terribly when Nazi stormtroopers launched their *blitzkrieg* against Poland in September, 1939, sparking off the Second World War. Three weeks later, the Soviet Union attacked Poland from the East and partitioned the broken country.

There was little love lost between Poles and either the Germans or Russians, although the people of Poland fondly remembered their close ties with the United Kingdom because of the number of their countrymen who joined the British Army and the Royal Air Force.

Lt Col Ciaglinski's father escaped to Romania and later joined the French Army. He was captured and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner. His mother, from Eastern Poland, spent 18 months in solitary confinement in Siberia.

When the Poles were released to help the Russians fight the Nazis, she joined the exodus through Persia and Palestine, joining the 2nd Polish Corps serving with the 8th Army in Africa. After the war, Lt Col



Lt Artur Tymoczko sports the distinctive Polish *rogatywka* (forage cap), which officers started wearing again after the fall of Communism. He enjoyed liaising with the Brits

Ciaglinski's parents moved to Scotland, where many Poles had defended the eastern coast against Nazi invasion. They later moved to Wales where their son was born.

LCpl David Gilmovitch, of 35 Engineer Regiment's 44 HQ Squadron, whose parents settled in Chester, was unable to visit the area where his Polish cousins live.

Maj Chris Sloane, OC 37 Field Squadron RE, also has Polish roots. His father, who helped the Poles capture Monte Cassino, changed his name on deciding to remain in Britain after the war.

The family of SSgt Michael Rutkowski, troop sergeant of 2 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC, hails from Gdansk (Danzig). His father, an officer with a Polish tank regiment during the Second World War, was a PoW before escaping to Edinburgh by boat. SSgt Rut-



Lt Col Richard Ciaglinski, attaché in Warsaw. Behind him is the only triple triple Bailey bridge built by British sappers in 20 years

kowski has never met his Polish relatives.

During the war, many Poles joined the Royal Tank Regiment . . . two are now Chelsea Pensioners. In March, 1945, 2 RTR came under command of the 2nd Carpathian brigade in Italy.

While supporting the Poles at Monte Cassino, 651 Squadron, Army Air Corps was awarded the motif of the Maid of Warsaw, a badge which is worn in the squadron today.

Many Poles who remained in Germany after the Second World War joined the Royal Corps of Transport, and the unique 617 Tank Transporter Unit was formed largely by them and proudly flew its own flag bearing the white Polish eagle.

Several soldiers within 7 Armoured Brigade and a clutch of Poles drawn from the Regular and Territorial Army – and Royal Marines – were assigned to act as interpreters during Ulan Eagle.

One of them, Maj Mark Zarembatymieniecki, had an unusual encounter at the start of the exercise. A tobacconist observed that he too had once been a major. Asked what arm, he replied "counter Intelligence" and offered to show the British officer a video of a NATO defence attaché in a restricted area.

## Friends . . . and partners

**PARTNERSHIP** for Peace exercises are not authorised to rehearse offensive operations, but under bilateral arrangements, a troop of engineers from each nation was able to build obstacle belts with mines and explosives during Ulan Eagle.

Two companies of engineers from the 3rd Polish Road/Bridge Regiment lent support to the Desert Rats, and a high standard of Polish medical support was available.

Much preparatory work was done for

Ulan Eagle as no Western army had trained on this scale in Poland.

A new agreement requiring a change in Polish law had to be drawn up: the most difficult part of the whole business was a memorandum of understanding to allow training and delegate jurisdiction.

Claims procedures, policing rights, the crossing of national boundaries, immigration and the right to carry arms had to be tackled and surmounted.

The training area was built by the Ger-



Border crossing: Maj Simon Justin, 2IC 2 RTR, and tanks, arrive at Jankowo railway station



Branch manager: a Polish officer who directed British vehicles on to the ferries



Swinging hosts: Polish military bands took part in a spectacular show for their British guests

"We are negotiating for a thin strip of land in the north where we can live-fire air defence missiles, and there is also the possibility of using other areas near Drawsko-Pomorski.

"These areas can be connected by tank training roads, so perhaps in the future we can link the various areas, training on one then moving to another."

Lt Col Ciaglinski was told that Polish officials had expressed appreciation for

how the British had requested and negotiated for facilities, rather than demanded them. So it was with a wry smile that the Welsh Pole heard the comment: "... 57 years too late, but better late than never!"

"We are a very friendly people when guests in our country act as guests," said a Polish liaison officer, Lt Artur Tymoczko of the 1st Polish Engineer Brigade.

The British Army looks forward to being invited back as friends.





# Don't they look splendid!

BIRKHALL, the Queen Mother's Scottish home, was the setting for an historic presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment).

With the Royal Family in residence at Balmoral, it was the first time Colours had been presented at Birkhall on Deeside.

As the Queen Mother stepped from the front door of her home, she was greeted by ranks of soldiers standing smartly to attention on her front lawn. The music of the Pipes and Drums of The Black Watch clearly delighted her as she smiled at every soldier she met.

She was heard to exclaim: "They're all my boys . . . don't they look splendid?"

Ninety-six soldiers, one for every year of her life, paraded in her front garden. The Queen Mother told the soldiers: "I am so glad to welcome so many members of my regiment to Birkhall and I do hope everyone will have a very happy day. I present these Colours in full knowledge that they will be looked after with courage and devotion".

New Colours are normally presented to regiments every 20 years. The Queen Mother has been Colonel-in-Chief of The Black Watch for 59 years and this was the third time she has presented Colours to soldiers of the Black Watch. The first was in 1937 at Balmoral and the second at Colchester in 1975.

The Queen Mother, who took the salute and wished the battalion well for the future, took care not to slip on the damp lawn as she inspected the lines of soldiers.



"They're all my boys . . . don't they look splendid?" Black Watch soldiers find it hard to suppress a smile as the Queen Mother's enthusiasm is conveyed to all on parade

After the ceremony the troops gave three cheers to the Queen Mother, their shouts echoing around the mountains and forests of Birkhall which provided a perfect setting.

The Black Watch, currently based at Fort George, Inverness, is due to deploy to Kenya this month for eight weeks' training.

**Pictures: Mark Owens**  
**Words: Graham Bardgett**

In February it moves to Hong Kong to become the last British Army Infantry battalion in the Colony and will be on parade when the flag is lowered at the handover to China on June 30 next year.

The 1st Battalion was last stationed at Fort George almost a century ago. It moved from Pirbright in Surrey to Fort George two months ago, having last been there as a battalion between 1904 and 1906.



The 1st Battalion, The Black Watch marches into the grounds of Birkhall for the presentation of Colours



The Queen's Colour is received by Capt Edward Jones



The new Black Watch Colours are draped across the drums for the dedication service by Maj Jim Williamson



Maj Steve Williamson, OC 50 Hong Kong Workshop, leads his men on parade at their base at Malaya Lines, Sek Kong

# Parade marks beginning of final drawdown

CHINESE civilian tradesmen with a combined 1,423 years of service to 50 Hong Kong Workshop REME were guests of honour when the unit held a closure ceremony at Sek Kong in the New Territories.

The parade also marked the beginning of the final withdrawal of British Forces from Hong Kong in preparation for the handover to China next June.

In what is the 50th anniversary year of 50 Hong Kong Workshop, the tradesmen watched as Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, took the salute. He was accompanied by Brig Stuart Middleton, Army Director Equipment Support, who was visiting the Territory from his headquarters in Andover.

British, Chinese and Gurkha soldiers from the workshop paraded and music was provided by the visiting Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers.

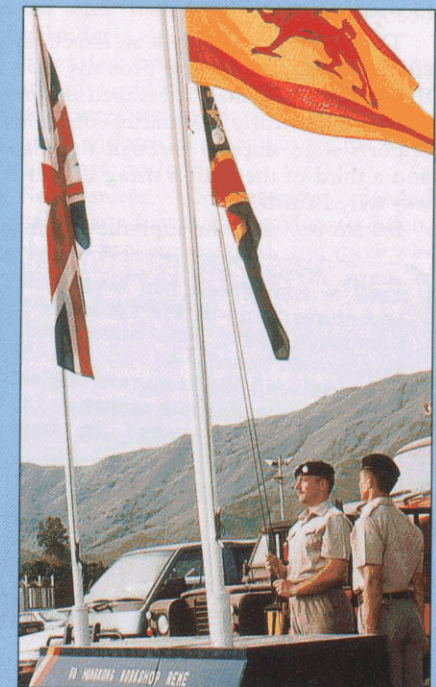
"It is sad that something so patently good has come to an end," said Maj Gen Dutton. "The workshop is a story of successful teamwork and its foundation and continuity has been its Hong Kong Chinese civilian element."

"The military element is small but multi-talented, and has entered into every aspect of Hong Kong life, including charity and welfare work."

He said the "can-do" spirit of the civilian workforce was much admired.

Formed in 1946 in Sham Shui Po, 50 Wksp moved to its current location at Malaya Lines, Sek Kong, in 1984.

At full strength it employed 77 military and 161 civilian personnel whose jobs involved the manufacture, maintenance, recovery and repair of equipment within



The flag is lowered for the final time during the closure ceremony

the garrison. Its excellent rapport with the local community was recognised in 1974 with the award of a Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

Longest serving employer was Mr Tong Yui, who worked in 50 Wksp for 45 years. Nearly 30 others had served for more than 20 years.



# Suez – a short-lived affair

**‘IN a way, it was like one of those exercises in which an umpire with a white armband comes along at the most exciting moment and orders both sides to stop fighting. That is always a disappointing moment, especially for the side which knows it is winning.’**

SO began this magazine's first report on the Anglo-French operation to capture the Suez Canal Zone, launched on October 31, 1956. It was over almost before it started.

The disappointment of troops prevented from finishing the job shrieks out of fading print 40 years later. The spoilsport in this case was the United Nations, which swept into Egypt on the back of worldwide condemnation of Britain and France.

Soon the UN's white jeeps, white railway coaches and white aircraft were everywhere, bringing to an end a military operation in which a "minimum force" achieved a "maximum yield".

Britain and France, angered by President Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal on July 26, 1956, and concerned about Egypt's rapidly expanding armoury of Soviet weaponry – Stalin tanks, MiGs and Ilyushin rockets – decided to re-occupy the zone.

Their pretext was to halt an Israeli invasion of the Sinai on the grounds that it threatened the Canal. It escaped no one's notice that nearly a quarter of British imports were shipped through the Canal and a third of the vessels using the waterway were British.

Britain provided the supreme command.

**‘ONE or two (Paras) had remarkable adventures, such as Pte Looker of B Company (3 Para), who landed in an Egyptian slit trench.**

**He realised while he was still 200 feet up that this was highly probable. The same thought appeared to have occurred to its oriental occupant, who got out and took up a threatening attitude with his musket on the edge of the trench, evidently waiting for a suitable moment to dispatch Looker for good.**

**At this point fate intervened on Looker's side as a late oscillation sent his 80lb weapons container crashing against the Egyptian soldier and bowling him smartly into the trench. Looker himself landed seconds later and in the ensuing struggle came out on top.’**

From *Pegasus*, the Airborne Forces journal, January 1957

**Lucky Looker**



Soldiers of 3 Para, their rifles at the ready, pose soon after their battle on a Soviet-made SU100 tank captured at Coast Guard Barracks. The tank was recovered and is on display at Bovington

der, Gen Sir Charles Keightley, C-in-C Middle East Land Forces, with a French deputy; Lt Gen Sir Hugh Stockwell, from 1st Corps in Germany, was to be the commander on land.

Britain also contributed the medium and light bomber force, fighter and ground attack aircraft, and 45,000 men – half of them reservists – to France's 34,000. More than 100 Royal Navy warships joined 30 French, hundreds of landing craft and 80 merchant ships. While the plan was built around an airborne operation, most troops reached Egypt by sea.

On land, Britain committed its 16th Independent Parachute Brigade, 3rd Commando Brigade, and 3rd Infantry Division. Armoured support was provided by the Centurion main battle tanks of the 6th Royal Tank Regiment.

## Musketeer

Not surprisingly, Overlord, the invasion of Normandy in 1944, was the model for Operation Musketeer, the taking of the Suez Canal.

The Allied air offensive began at dusk on October 31 and virtually destroyed the Egyptian air force within the next 36 hours.

With the Israelis having things much their own way in the Sinai and Gaza, the Anglo-French armada put to sea from Malta while the paras waited in Cyprus. The number of aircraft which could operate from Cyprus's restricted airfields limited the size of the airborne force, and the aircraft themselves, inadequate in number, were out-of-date, side-loading Hastings and Valetta freighters.

At dawn on November 5, 600 men of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment,



Gunners of 33 Para Fd Regt RA dig in their 25-pounder at El Cap... the furthest point on the Canal reached by British troops

led by Lt Col Paul Crook, and 487 French paratroopers dropped in three waves on Gamil airport on the outskirts of Port Said in a spectacularly successful operation.

First to reach the control tower was Pte Frank Eccles of A Company. He missed landing on the roof and was caught up in a palm tree outside the main entrance.

Close air support was a feature of the operation and a battle-winning factor. More than 400 sorties were flown by rocket-firing aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm, undoubtedly saving many casualties.

It took the airborne troops just half an



Lt Col Paul Crook, CO 3 Para, walks across the airfield towards the burning control tower. Behind him, a para replaces his helmet with his beret

British troops went ashore, closely followed by 6 RTR's Centurion tanks. An advance party of the Guards Independent Parachute Company, under command of 2 Para, sped to the Raswa bridges.

After several false surrenders the port capitulated that afternoon. A bridgehead now firmly established, all was set for a swift conclusion to Musketeer. An armoured column including 2 Para in "requisitioned" transport and led by the airborne commander, Brig Mervyn "Tubby" Butler, set off south to Suez.

In two days British and French troops advanced 25 miles down the canal. Allied casualties were 32 killed (the British lost 20) and 130 wounded. Egyptian dead on the Canal were estimated at between 650 and 1,000.

## Cease-fire

With British forward patrols within 25 miles of the Canal, soldiers heard on the BBC that the Government had ordered a cease-fire at midnight on the 6th. Butler's column made it to the Canal Station at El Cap. Military sources on the ground reckoned they could have finished the job within 48 hours.

"This was extremely irritating," wrote a 2 Para source at the time, "since there was little or nothing to prevent us from reaching Ismailia by dawn." The 1st Battalion was in theatre for just two days.

When the 29th Infantry Brigade arrived at Port Said on November 11, the 1st Battalion, The Royal West Kents was sent forward to relieve 2 Para at El Cap. The Royal Fusiliers took over from the Royal West Kents and in turn handed over to the 1st Battalion, The York and Lancaster Regi-

ment which finally withdrew on December 7 and returned to the UK.

Also involved in keeping the peace in Port Said were 19th Brigade, which included the Royal Scots, the West Yorkshire Regiment and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

For a few brief weeks El Cap was the centre of world news. British soldiers dug in there were besieged by hordes of visitors, military and media. Egyptian troops overtook their positions.

Remorseless US pressure speeded Britain's withdrawal. Prime Minister Eden, his health broken, resigned, and there was petrol rationing in the UK by Christmas. It was not a happy affair.

On the night before the final departure of British units on December 22, an intrepid Serviceman shinned up the flag pole behind the statue of De Lesseps – builder of the Canal – at Port Said and nailed to it an enormous Union Flag.

He cut all the ropes which remained attached to the pole and, as he slid down, left a thick smear of grease behind him...

The writer of *Soldier's* report of the invasion summed it up succinctly enough:

**‘The men in the red and green berets fought in the very highest tradition of their young corps. They did so with half the world watching conscience-in-mouth and the other half ready to jeer if they failed. They did not fail.**

**After the cease-fire, the British soldier found himself back in the old routine of keeping order in Egypt, with the usual unamiable cries in his ears. He knew the Egyptian mobs of old and how to handle them.**

**It was just another job to be done... but if UNO wanted to do it, they were welcome.’**



# Para MO was one of first to be hit in battle for airfield

**LT Sandy Cavenagh, medical officer of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, took part in the last air assault by British Airborne Forces. He was hit in the eye by a shell fragment soon after leaving the aircraft over Gamil airfield. In spite of his own discomfort, he continued to help the wounded in the regimental aid post until ordered to leave in a helicopter five hours later. Dr Cavenagh, now a GP in Wales, recalls the first frantic hour of the action...**

I WAS the least experienced parachutist in the Valetta aircraft, a cramped and awkward little twin-engined transport plane, in which the main wing spar crossed the main cabin at knee height.

Carrying, as we all did, more than 100lb of equipment in our weapons containers, there was a good deal of anxiety about getting out in time, since we knew that machine-guns covered both ends of the airfield which was just long enough to take a stick of 20 men.

It was a huge relief to follow my medical corporal, Dunbavin, out of the door into fresh air without a hitch. We were jumping from 600ft, lower than I had ever done before in my eight training jumps, and it was wonderful to feel the sag of deceleration as the parachute opened.

## Tongue of flame

The lovely colours, compared with the black and white photographs, were the first thing. Lavender sky, slate-blue sea, buff sand, airport control buildings exactly where they should be, an enormous black cloud of smoke streaming away from them, fed by a great tongue of flame. This was the paint store, just set on fire by a strafing from an aircraft strike.

It all went fine, but just as the container reached the bottom of its cord, I felt a smack in the right eye which then registered nothing but white fluff. This was probably five seconds after I had left the aircraft. The blow was too hard to hurt, but I knew that whatever hit me must have gone in a long way and probably out the other side.

Glow-worms buzzing all over, and a lot of shooting. I thought we must be giving them hell. In fact, our first detachments had barely landed and all the shooting was at us. More worrying, my weapon container had given a tweak as it fell to the end of its string, and whistled on to the ground.

When I landed, it was a mere 30 yards away and I hurried over to it, being surprised by a number of whip-like cracks among all the other noise. Then I remembered my father, who had been an MO during most of the First World War, saying that bullets passing close by made this noise.

More bullets came dotting across the sand towards me and I suddenly became furious.

My sergeant had insisted that I kept a pistol on my belt, not in the container. I had a tiny Red Cross armlet on my sleeve which no Egyptian – and the nearest must have been at least 200 yards away – could possibly have seen.

In defiance of the Geneva Convention, which allows medical officers to use their weapons only in defence of their patients, I pulled out my pistol and discharged it three or four times in the direction of the enemy, thinking: "That'll teach the bastards to keep their heads down." As I'm short-sighted and was one-eyed at the time, it was a pathetically stupid gesture.

As I shouldered my way into my rucksack, which was full of medical supplies, many of which were by now useless – all the transfusion fluids in glass bottles had shattered into powder – I looked upwards and saw dark puffs of smoke and flashes among the Hastings aircraft overhead, and thought rather dully it must have been one of those that hit me.

I got to my feet and walked in the direction of the control tower, meeting Cpl Dunbavin. A number of close whiplashes made me flop down behind an oil drum and I asked if he'd have a look at my eye, which he did, and pronounced it not too bad.

We reached the control tower and there was the OC of HQ Company, Maj Lawrence Scragg, directing us to our positions. "RAP (regimental aid post) in the back, Doc. What's happened to your eye?" "Some bastard shot me with an anti-aircraft gun," and then my batman appeared, a phlegmatic navy from Sussex. "Holden, show the Medical Officer to his place."

We went to a garage at the back of the



Lt Gen Sir Hugh Stockwell, commander of British and French land forces, drives with Maj Gen E M L Burns, Canadian chief of the UN emergency force, in the passenger seat. In the back is Gen Sir Charles Keightley, supreme commander of Op Musketeer



A rare colour picture from the archives of the Airborne Forces Museum. Lt Col Paul Crook with TAC HQ and captured SU100 at Coast Guard Barracks on November 6. Capt Hancock is in the passenger seat

control tower and broke in through the door with our weapons at the ready, coming face to face with CSM Baker, who was breaking out. Luckily nobody fired.

Inside I found Norman Kirby, the major in charge of the forward surgical team attached to us for the operation, and in the unassuming way that only people who really know what they are doing can, he took charge.

"Reception in here," he said, surveying the garage, which was big enough for ten or



A British patrol passes a burned-out vehicle soon after the Anglo-French invasion. Inset: Lt Sandy Cavenagh, 3 Para's medical officer

receive casualties. My own equipment was largely useless though I kept the instruments, dressings, and morphia syrettes – little syringes of morphia in micro tooth-paste tubes – which were still serviceable.

Our medical sergeant, Gordon Rabet, seized on an old lorry at the back of the garage which he got going in clouds of smoke and a lot of backfiring, and although it had flat tyres it did good service to and fro as the only ambulance dedicated to the task.

It wasn't long before the first casualties arrived. Nearly all were from B Company at the east end of the airfield, where they had dropped within a few yards of prepared Egyptian positions, some of them landing on top of or, indeed, behind the defenders.

## 'Heavy Drop'

We had with us what was known as the "Heavy Drop", consisting of anti-tank weapons and jeeps. As soon as they had delivered their guns and crews to the east end of the airfield they brought back the first casualties, some of the worst.

Their wounds were appalling. There was a sucking chest wound, a large mortar splinter in the knee, a divided brachial artery.

It seemed in no time at all the garage was half full of pale, shocked, quiet boys on stretchers with pools of blood, slashed uniforms and the picnic-yellow of shell dressings applied, sometimes one on top of the other, to try to control bleeding.

One of the 23 Parachute Field Ambulance orderlies came in with a precious load of equipment, having landed some distance behind the Egyptian lines and crawled back, being fired at heavily by both sides as he did so. For his efforts Pte Neill was subsequently mentioned in dispatches.

Presently Norman Kirby came into the

garage, having finished his first operation, looked around, and murmured, "I think we'd better organise some evacuation."

This was a vexed point. The whole operation had been brought forward 24 hours and all the planned medical arrangements and support were a day's sailing further away than anticipated.

Attached to the 3 Para group, we had Tubby Butler, the brigadier, and the brigade major, Charles Dunbar, their job being primarily to sort out the political scene as it developed. Charles had already foreseen the request for evacuation and a short time later a naval helicopter descended outside and took away five casualties.

Later a French Dakota took eight more back to Cyprus. Again, it was invidious selecting who should go, but Norman came out and helped. As we loaded a boy with a severe head injury, a fair-haired and very popular private in B Company, one of the battalion's best runners, he died. We removed his body and replaced it with a soldier in more urgent need of treatment.

Then I was told it was my turn to go, to get treatment for my eye.

There didn't seem much point in arguing, but it felt like desertion and I walked round saying a few desultory goodbyes, meeting Malcolm Elliott, our anaesthetist, who had taken a most pessimistic view of the whole operation from day one. "I wouldn't go walking around out there, Sandy," he said, "there's a lot of shit flying around."

But the next day he won a most distinguished Military Cross evacuating a party of C Company from a lot of what was flying around...

● Dr Sandy Cavenagh's book, *Airborne to Suez*, is reviewed on Page 30.



# Working on the railway - Italian-style

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"WE HAVE potentially the best wine cellar in Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Capt Luca Appolloni, commanding officer of the Railway Engineer Company of the Italian Engineering Regiment.

He was referring to a 5km tunnel on the Zvornik-Novi Grad to Kalesija stretch of the railway which runs east to west across northern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dark, damp and cold, the tunnel would make an ideal storage space for a few cases of Chianti, especially as the railway line through Republic Srpska territory has not been used since the onset of the conflict four years ago.

Supported by an Italian paratroop platoon which provides defensive security, the Italian Railway Company is nearing completion of its first project outside Italy in 50 years. The composite unit of about 100 men was formed specially for the project.

**Report: Capt Betty Dawson  
Pictures: WO Giuseppe Melillo**

The 3rd Engineer Company of the Railway Engineer Regiment (Reggimento Genio Ferrovieri), is normally based in Castel Maggiore in Bologna. Its task, allocated to the company by the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), was to repair 88km of track between Zvornik-Novi Grad and Kalesija, east of Tuzla. It also had to carry out much-needed maintenance work.

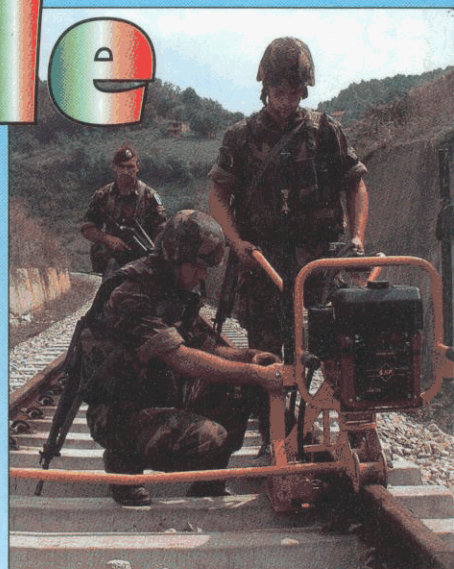
Falling within the American-administered Multi-National Division (North), the project comes under the direct command of ARRC's Chief Engineer, Brig John Moore-Bick. He is due to leave the theatre soon after the official opening of the refurbished line at the end of October.

The Italian sappers have been working alongside Hungarian engineers responsible for the landfill side of the operation. During the civil war, different factions used the railway embankments as fighting positions, digging under the tracks to build trenches reinforced by girders and leaving huge gaps on the track.

Before they could start work, the Italian engineers had to clear brush and scrub growing profusely along the line. Their explosive ordnance team had the delicate task of checking for unexploded devices and disposing of them.

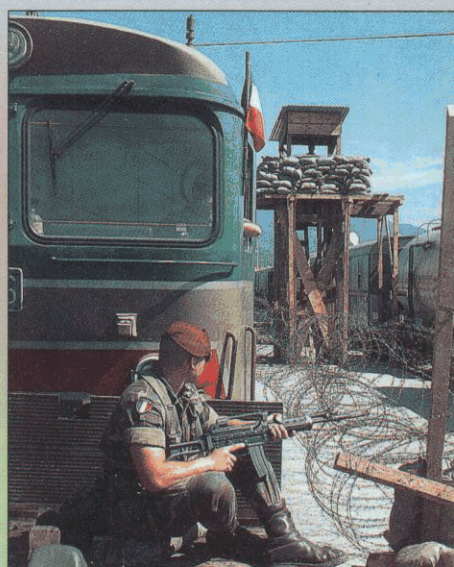
In all, the Italians had to replace track damaged or ripped up at 20 sites between Zvornik and Zivinici. Constructed originally by youngsters employed by Yugoslavia Railways (it was known as the Teenager Line), the stretch had been built using the most modern methods and materials. This meant that only the damaged sections had to be repaired by the ARRC engineers.

The fact that the line runs through several politi-



Above - Cpl Balestracci (right) and Cpl Piergiorgio Balbi check hydraulically the clips holding a rail to the ties of a repaired section of track. Guarding them is Paratrooper Cpl Francesco Paone

Below - An Italian paratrooper on security detail as the work train prepares to leave its base camp at the Zvonik station, Karakaj



cal and ethnic boundaries caused considerable difficulties, residents on either side being uncomfortable with the idea of free and easy access from one area to another.

It is believed the trans-Balkan railway line has been in use along its complete length for a period of only two months during its entire existence. Traditionally a conflict has followed fairly rapidly on it being joined up -



Members of the Italian Railway Engineer Regiment remove a damaged communications cable from a culvert at the eastern end of the 5km-long Krizevici-Kulina railway tunnel

starting with the First World War. The 5km Maria Giovanna tunnel, named in honour of Capt Appolloni's wife, has problems with condensation and cold. The temperature drops dramatically to about 12 degrees in the centre, where 30m of the roof had collapsed.

Debris had to be cleared by hand before the ceiling could be reinforced.

Sections of track had been blown apart by small explosions, and a 50m stretch had to be replaced because it had been distorted by the passage of tanks and tracked vehicles.

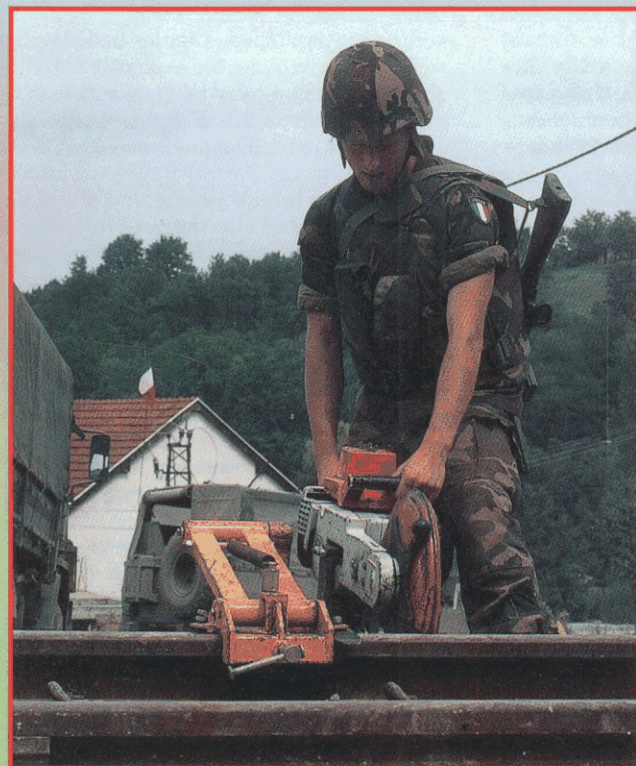
The Italian engineers arrived from Bologna in a self-contained train of 21 coaches. Dubbed the Quick Reaction Railway Convoy, it boasts separate wagons for communication, command, canteen services, kitchen, storage, water and billeting. Eight of its wagons are designed to transport specialist equipment.

A high level of organisation and team co-operation in a multi-national environment

was demanded for the project. During the summer the flak-jacketed sappers worked in temperatures of up to 98 F. Now their task is almost complete and ARRC has achieved its goal of providing easier access east to west across a politically sensitive region.

Crossing some of the most spectacular mountains, ravines, forests and rivers in Europe, the re-furbished section rejoins a 1,700km-long line which will link Italy to former Yugoslavia, Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia.

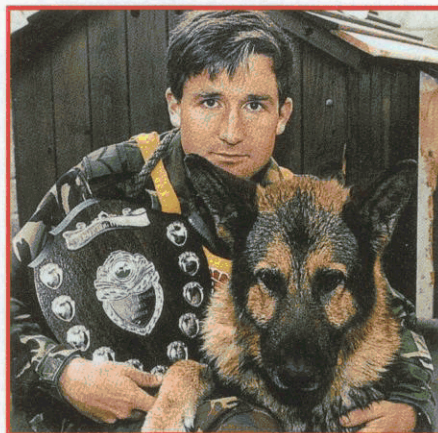
Another great railway journey of the world... courtesy of the Italian engineers.



Cpl Maggiore Scaglia Siro, of the Vice Comandante de Squadre, lines up his cutting disc before trimming a section of rail to size during repair work near Lazete, Srbska



The four-legged champion is one of 144 Army dogs



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# Unmarked grave was resting place of VC

A HEADSTONE has been erected on the previously unmarked grave in Leeds of Pte William Boynton Butler VC . . . thanks to some detective work by Alan Coles.

He was researching family history when he realised Pte Butler's body was buried in nearby Hunslet cemetery.

Through cemetery records he found the number of the plot, only to discover the grave itself was unmarked. Newtons, a local company of monumental masons, offered to provide a headstone free of charge if Mr Coles completed the research.

They were as good as their word, and the new stone was duly blessed at a ceremony attended by representatives of the PWO Association, the Royal British Legion, a Member of Parliament

and other interested parties.

William Butler, a private in the 17th Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment (PWO), attached to 106th Battery, won his VC near Lempire, France, on August 6, 1917.

He was in charge of a Stokes gun sited in trenches being heavily shelled when a faulty Stokes shell fired accidentally in the emplacement. Pte Butler picked it up and shielded it with his body while other men scrambled to safety.

When they were out of danger



The Butler VC headstone

he hurled the live shell on to the parados, where it immediately exploded, damaging the trench. Butler, a Leeds man born and bred, escaped with bruises.

Mr Coles, who served in the Dorset Regiment in the Fifties, transferred briefly to the Glosters in Korea as a reinforcement after their losses at the Battle of Imjin. His son-in-law, Sgt David Dodson, is serving at Osnabrück with 4 Regiment RA.

● The grave and headstone of a Boer War hero has been

cleaned and rededicated in St Bartholomew's Church at Wigginton, near Tring, in Hertfordshire.

Pte James Osborne won the Victoria Cross when his regiment, the 58th Foot (Rutlandshire) – later to become the 2nd Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment – became involved in a skirmish at Wakkerstroom on February 22, 1881.

Under heavy fire from 42 Boer soldiers, Pte Osborne rode straight towards the enemy to rescue a wounded colleague.

Two granddaughters were at the service which marked the restoration of the grave.

Buglers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and members of the Northamptonshire and Royal Anglian Regimental Associations were also present.

## More medals for 101's super seven

A TOTAL of 146 years of service in the Territorial Army was recognised when seven members of 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD)(V) received long service awards. All seven are members of 217 Field Squadron based at Holloway in North London.

Longest serving are Sgt Chris Wilton and Cpl John Holt, who received second bars to their Efficiency Medals. Other members of the "Super Seven" were Sgt Ian Bunting, Cpl Eddy Edwards, Cpl Solly Solomon, SSgt Muzz Murray and Cpl Roy Hill.

## Floating to the top

AN entry from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (militia) in the Lord Mayor of Cardiff's parade won first place in the military class.

Their float was a combined effort by 100 Field Squadron (Militia), 108 (Welsh) Field Support Squadron (Militia) and Workshop REME(V). The regiment's Corps of Drums also got into the act.

Ireland officers' mess at Lisburn to mark the retirement of the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Sir Hugh Annesley.

□ Ill health has caused Maj Gen Bob Cook, former Signal-Officer-in-Chief and professional head of the Royal Signals, to relinquish his post as the Federation of the Electronics Industry's director general.

□ The Rise of the Redcoat, a new permanent display, opens at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, on December 3. Admission to the NAM is free.

## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1946

### NEW SANDHURST

The famous wartime 161 OCTU is closing its doors. The pre-war college is coming back with a new name – the Academy. Once more Britain's Regular officers will receive their training at the famous school at Camberley, but the teaching will cover wider fields than before. The Academy hopes to turn out 850 officers a year. First intake, in January 1947, will be of about 400 cadets.

## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1971

### SMALLS VIRTUES

The new dark green shirts coming into service in late 1972, and the vests, pants and "long-johns" now being issued, have a special virtue. They do not show up like the old white – a few items of washing have given away many a section in the past.

## Footnote . . .

Generations of boot-bashing by soldiers guarding Buckingham Palace have left the parade and marching areas in need of repair. Now Tarmac has been awarded a £100,000



contract to lay down new surfaces at the Palace.

A hard-wearing red-tinted granolithic concrete is to be used for the marching areas,

while natural York stone paving will replace concrete slabs on perimeter footpaths and approach footways leading to the arches.

## REUNIONS

**RA Association (Exeter):** Annual dinner-dance, Royal British Legion Club, Little Castle Street, Exeter, on November 15. Details from L J Seatherton on 01392 874072.

1997

**Coldstream Guards:** 4 Company, 3rd Battalion (1950-55) is to hold

its fifth reunion dinner in Birmingham on April 19. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

**Royal Horse Artillery Association (Trowbridge branch):** 50th branch reunion dinner will take

## SEARCHLINE

Maj (retd) T R McClelland asks if the **Royal Hibernian Military School** memorial window dedicated in St Andrew's Garrison Church, Worthy Down (Diary, Sept 16), refers to the RHMS once situated in Phoenix Park, Dublin. His mother was born there and he

would be grateful for details. Replies to him at 41 Bessingby Road, Ruislip, Middx HA4 9BT.

News of 14668230 Pte **J Murden**, RAO, 338 FS Section, Int Corps, British Liberation Army, sought by Josette Chiebat, Grand'route 136, 7530 Gaurain Ramecroix, Tournai, Belgium, who knew him in 1945.

Bill Fleckney (14 Buckland Path, Buckland, Portsmouth PO2 7DB) wishes to contact **LCpl Roberts** under whom he trained at Boyce Barracks, 20 PTC, Crookham.

Former members of **36 Regiment, RA** not signed up for the annual reunion dinner-dance at Norwich University are invited to do so for next year. Name, rank, battery, station locations to Rick Adamson, 189 Vicarage Road, Blackrod, Bolton, Lancs BL6 5AA.

## DATES

### October

**31:** Suez: 40th Anniversary, lecture Maj Gen M W Walsh, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot, 7.30. Tickets (£6): 01252 349619.

### November

**3:** Royal British Legion (York Branch) Festival of Remembrance, Barbican Centre, York. Tickets on 01904 656688.

**9:** Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.

**10:** Remembrance Sunday service and parade, Cenotaph.

**16:** Classic military band concert, Band of RAF College Cranwell at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA. (details: 01406 425550).

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

## Samsung's Seoul mate

THE nephew of a Korean War veteran has been awarded the first Samsung scholarship administered by the Royal British Legion.

A £20,000 annual grant will help Martyn Simpson (24), a graduate from Rochdale, spend two years studying Asian politics in Seoul. As well as the scholarship for UK descendants of Korean War veterans, the Samsung conglomerate has given £100,000 to the British Korean Veterans Association to be used for welfare projects.

A ceremony to mark the award was attended by Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley; Col George Gadd, BKVA national chairman; Gen Sir Peter de la Billière; and RBL chairman Graham Downing.

## Canadian sacrifice recorded

A ROYAL Canadian Regiment exchange officer, Maj Rick Walker, marked his departure from Headquarters Infantry in Warminster by presenting the Infantry Mess with a limited edition scroll which commemorates a unique Second World War link between Britain and Canada.

CANLOAN was the codeword assigned to a special group of Canadian Army officers who volunteered to be seconded to front line British infantry units for the 1944 invasion of Europe.

Desperately short of junior officers at that point in the war, the British Army took on 623 Infantry and 50 Ordnance Corps officers who wore "Canada" flashes in addition to their British badges and joined lead elements of the 21st Army Group for the Normandy landings and subsequent battle for North West Europe.



Maj Rick Walker (left) presents the limited edition, framed CANLOAN scroll to Col Nigel Alderman, Chief of Staff, Headquarters Infantry. It will be displayed in the Infantry Mess at Warminster

The CANLOAN contingent suffered 70 per cent casualties and won 41 Military Crosses and numerous other distinctions. Several rose to command their adopted British units.

A national memorial in Ottawa bears the names and British regiments of the 128 CANLOAN offi-

cers killed in action while serving with British units.

Maj Walker, who spent three years at Warminster, was the latest in a long line of Canadian exchange appointments to the Operational Requirements Branch working on behalf of the Director of Infantry.

## Fermanagh tribute to a gentle giant

SOLDIERS on a tour of duty in Belfast held a memorial service at the Fermanagh graveside of a colleague who fought alongside them in the Gulf War.

Gnr Ross Elliott, aged 20, died in a traffic accident in Canada four years ago but was never forgotten by those who were with him during the liberation of Kuwait.

The troops from 47 Regiment RA, based at Girdwood in north Belfast, joined Gnr Elliott's family for a service conducted by Army padre Rev Aylid Thomas and Church of Ireland rector Rev Raymond Thompson.

Mrs Mary Elliott, Ross's mother, was given a crafted case containing her late son's medals.

"Ross was known as a gentle giant throughout the regiment," said Bdr Vincent Blair, who joined the Army at the same time as Gnr Elliott. He laid a wreath on behalf of the commanding officer and soldiers of 47 Regiment.

□ Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith, GOC Northern Ireland, and senior officers from all three branches of the Armed Forces serving in the Province, attended a special dinner night in the HQ Northern

## Poetry wanted

Ex-tankie Ian Eastham is compiling a book of poetry and verse depicting soldiers' experiences from the Second World War to the present day. Contributions would be welcomed by him at 6 Leesland Road, Gosport, Hants PO12 3NF (01705 503753).

## Back in service

FOUR aged armoured personnel carriers, relics of the Cold War and destined for the scrapyard, have ended up at Worthy Down where they will be used by the Adjutant General's Corps Training Group to exercise students in a simulated field headquarters.





Wading ashore are (from left) CSgt Kevin Whiteley, Sgt Tim Heron and Pte Trevor Thompson. All three "Dukes" come from Halifax

# Terrier Dukes take Highland beaches by storm

MONTHS of intensive training by the part-time soldiers of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment culminated in a seaborne assault in the Highlands.

As RAF fighters provided close air support, troops of the 3rd Battalion stormed the beaches at the start of Exercise Migrant Merlin, a tough, four-day test which put the infantrymen through a series of demanding situations in the mountains of Wester Ross.

Their two-week annual exercise began at Garelochhead off the Clyde with a week of preparations which included range work, tactics and smaller exercises. There was also a programme of adventurous training activities including dinghy sailing and rock climbing.

The Dukes have barracks in Sheffield, Barnsley, Halifax, Huddersfield and Keighley, and the first week ended with the platoons competing for a military skills trophy.

Commanding officer Lt Col Andrew Drake praised the way in which his soldiers

rose to the challenge and worked as a team, especially in learning the new skills of attacking from a landing craft.

There was high praise for the Territorial Army soldiers from the Duke of Wellington himself when he spent a day with the battalion and presented eight Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to members of 3 DWR.

Some of them have served recently with Regular units in Canada and Bosnia.



A quick meal for Pte Kevin Robinson, a university student from Huddersfield



Pictures: 2 Division Photo

Providing comms for 3 DWR are Cpl Brian Gillbanks (left) and Sig Eddy Topping of 55 Signal Squadron based at Aintree in Liverpool



## No-'tab'-le achievement...

Sgt Steve Timperley of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, achieved the spartan challenge of tabbing up and down Ben Nevis in a single day, totting not only a full-pack weighing 75lb but the regimental PT log and a further 45lb – plus a flask of tea!

His seemingly insane display – covering ten miles and a height of 4,408ft – paid dividends, raising £400 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.



Picture: RAF Cosford



Picture: Capt Jim Gallagher

## Heads they both win...

British Army football referee W0 Jim Hicketts, 22 Engineer Regiment, tosses the coin to start a special football match in Bosnia.

He was refereeing the first match between two schools wearing new football strips donated by boys' clubs in the Warminster area, following an appeal by him for kit for the children, whom he had invited to take part in training.

An engraving company sent more than 159 medals for the aspiring players, and a winners' cup was donated by "the people of Warminster".



## On a nutshell

Not content with the usual paper variety, Maj Mike Smith, Quartermaster, British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB) and chef Cpl Ian Meadow hand over a "coco-chegue" – written on a painted coconut – to Norma Fay Fairweather, organiser of the St John's Restoration appeal.

The unit raised £400 for the cathedral – oldest existing in central America, and built with bricks shipped from England, but now in urgent need of repair. In the process, the people of Belize City were introduced to the delights of Chelsea buns, flapjacks and sausage rolls on a typically English cake stall...

## Richmond Rats

Experienced off-road drivers Dave and Ksenia Lummis are preparing to set off in December on a 5,000-mile drive from the Royal Star & Garter Home in Richmond to the deserts of southern Libya.

During the Second World War Libya was the scene of fierce fighting. Thousands of Allied soldiers, including many from the Desert Rats – the 7th Armoured Division – fell in action there.

One of the couple's aims in mounting the month-long expedition is to visit the huge cemetery at Babga-garesh, outside Tripoli, as a mark of respect to those who died.

Pictured with two of the Star & Garter residents, former Desert Rats Bob Leither (sitting) and Bill Whelan, Dave and Ksenia hope to raise "a substantial amount" for the home. Further details: tel 0181-940 1351.







Beginning of the end of the Suez affair: a British sapper watches United Nations troops pour into Port Said

# Suez verdict: misadventure

ALTHOUGH the Suez affair of 1956 was undeniably a political blunder, it was an operation in which British forces completely fulfilled the role they were given by their political masters.

These two 40th anniversary books take different approaches – one an overall appraisal, the other a personal recollection – but reach the same verdict: misadventure.

*Suez: the Forgotten Invasion* has been written with the benefit of recently-released British Government documents which shed fresh light on the situation leading to the crisis, the military operation, and the backlash.

Large numbers of troops had been in Egypt from 1882 and there is no doubt their presence had provided a considerable stabilising factor.

In the early 1950s the British were still in the Canal Zone “by invitation” but events took a turn for the worse when Col Nasser, Prime Minister Anthony Eden’s *bête noir*, seized power and nationalised the Suez Canal Company.

Jackson explains that the tri-

**Suez: The Forgotten Invasion** by Robert Jackson. Airlife Publishing, paperback, £12.95.

**Airborne to Suez** by Sandy Cavenagh. Glady Publications, Brecon, Powys, paperback, £9.95. Profits to the Airborne Forces Security Fund.

partite conspiracy (Britain-France-Israel) for the invasion of Egypt stemmed from a meeting of French and Israeli leaders in Montparnasse, Paris, on September 30 and was verified by the signing by the three powers, in deepest secrecy, of a document called the “Protocol of Sèvres”.

The plan was for Israel to attack first on October 28 with the British and French subsequently intervening as self-appointed peacekeepers. The Israelis would accept the ultimatum and withdraw ten miles from the Canal.

It was expected that Nasser would reject the ultimatum, thus giving Britain and France a legally acceptable reason to occupy the Canal Zone.

British Chiefs of Staff came

out firmly against the immediate use of force on the grounds that there was no logistic support organisation.

Robert Jackson gives an excellent overall picture of the operation, including the unease felt when a US U2 observation aircraft and American ships were mistaken for Russian. The threat of a third world war seemed very real at the time.

Sandy Cavenagh, a 3 Para medical officer whose personal account of the airdrop appears in Pages 20-21, brought out *Airborne to Suez* in 1965. It is re-published now to mark the anniversary and to coincide with a BBC TV documentary.

He writes remarkably good accounts of the trauma and exhilaration of airdrops and battle, the shock of “friendly fire” from French *Mystère* fighters, and his doubts over the morality of the whole thing.

“It may have been only the doctors and padres in the Brigade who had their doubts. Certainly they were the only people who could afford to air them.”

The qualms expressed are

## IN BRIEF

**Head-dress Badges of the British Army** by Kipling and King. Just printed for the sixth time, these two volumes, with almost 3,000 illustrations, have a formidable reputation as the definitive work for the collector and researcher. Volume 1 (1800-1920) is £65 and Volume 2 (1920-1995), updated and enlarged to cover the Options for Change reorganisation, is £42.50, both prices inclusive, from H L and P King (Publishers), 3 Saxon Croft, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7QB.

**Our Bones are Scattered** by Andrew Ward. Grim yet enthralling story of Cawnpore Massacres and the Indian Mutiny of 1857. John Murray, hardback, £25.

**Warpaths: Travels of a Military Historian in North America** by John Keegan. Acclaimed opus by former senior military history lecturer at Sandhurst, now in paperback. Pimlico, £9.99.

**Immediate Action** by Andy McNab DCM MM. Autobiographical sequel to *Bravo Two Zero*. Needs no further recommendation. Corgi, paperback, £6.99.

**Reflected Glory** by Carney Lake. Life at the sharp end with 40 Commando, Royal Marines. Recommended. Orion, paperback, £5.99.

**Werewolf** by Charles Whiting. New paperback edition of the 1972 publication about the Nazi Resistance Movement, 1944-45. Pen & Sword, £9.95.

supported, perhaps surprisingly, by no less than the late Fd Marshal Montgomery, who wrote in the foreword to the first edition: “The few comments which the author makes about the bewildering political sense of those days are more than justified, as I well know.”

Both authors have chosen the words of statesmen to sum up the Suez operation.

Cavenagh quotes US President Eisenhower: “I’ve just never seen a great power make such a complete mess and botch-up of things.” Jackson relates that Churchill, when asked if he would have embarked on the operation, replied: “I would never have dared, and if I had dared, I would not have dared stop.”

Both authors have, in their separate ways, provided admirable accounts of a turning point in British history, when it was realised that gunboat diplomacy in the Middle East was no longer a viable option. – BJ



## No1 Dress sense is Smart thinking

BRAVO for Bill Smart's letter (Sept 30) about re-introducing No 1 Dress at the expense of the unloved and ugly No 2 Dress.

Soldiers have never liked it – in contrast to tailored Service Dress its colour is unappealing and the cut poor.

Many Regular units rarely use No 2 Dress, requiring it only for occasional major parades such as presentations of colours. No 1 Dress is smarter, requires less tailoring, and does not need a special shirt and tie.

Sadly it is easier for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven than for two or more Colonels Commandant to agree on any uniform matter, let alone the Army Dress Committee, so Bill will probably have to put up with No 2 Dress until Treasury cuts do away with it altogether. – **Lt Col RA Ingleby-Mackenzie SG, The London Regiment, Battersea, London SW11.**

## 34th of never

MY SON was reading my copy of *Soldier* and suggested I send you this page from my Certificate of Service (AFB108) to add a little more humour to life.

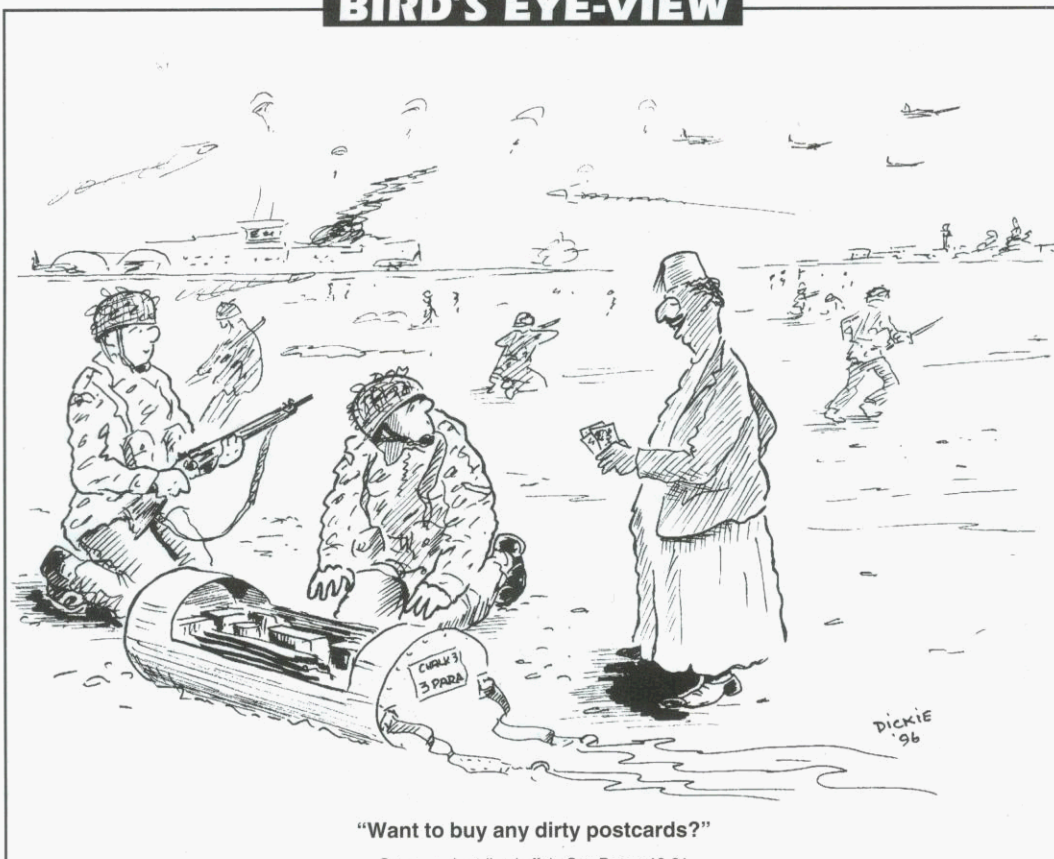
It relates to my re-enlistment from National Service to Reg-

Period		Rank on Discharge
From	To	
27.3.58	34.4.58	Gdsm

ular Service and under the heading "Previous Service in HM Forces" reads "Coldstream Guards, from 27.3.58 to 34.4.58, rank on discharge, Gdsm".

I am still waiting for this date to come round. Could it mean that I am entitled to 38 years' back pay, or have I been AWOL all that time? – **Edwin Harvey (Ex-3 Coy, 1st Battalion Coldm Gds), Seghill, Northumberland.**

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Suez – a short-lived affair. See Pages 18-21

## DHE managers bite off too big a chunk of houses

I STAND corrected. Since my last letter on the subject of married quarters management (*Soldier*, May 27), I have been informed that on April 1, 1996 the Accommodation Services Unit should have handed over to the Defence Housing Executive all responsibility for carpets and curtains in MQs.

This limits ASU's responsibility to the remaining furnishings and brings those of DHE more into line with those of private landlords/agents.

By rights I ought to be delighted by this discovery, but the transfer is "on hold" – as I understand it because of DHE union members' reluctance to take it on.

This to me is entirely understandable, given that there appears to be no intention to increase DHE local staffing to meet the demands of this additional responsibility.

As an example, our local DHE estate manager is responsible for about 200 properties scattered over a sizeable chunk of the West Midlands, and is

clearly hard-pressed. By contrast, my own private letting agents (two of them, both ex-Forces) confine themselves to the management of a maximum of 75 houses between them in Salisbury, because ten years of experience has led them to conclude that any larger number cannot be managed efficiently by such a small team.

With this small exception, I stand by my previous remarks and I have to say I will not be filled with hope for the future unless adequate resources are added to DHE's books to manage its workload to my satisfaction, which seems unlikely.

Meanwhile, the 30 per cent by which MQ rents are "rebated" does not take into account quality of management as a factor. – **Mrs Jennifer Sturtivant, c/o 5th (Warwickshire) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Coventry.**

## Poppy Day and medals

REMEMBRANCE Sunday is almost upon us and in the marching parties and among watching bystanders across the nation there will be many widows, sons and daughters who wear with great pride service and campaign medals awarded to their husbands and fathers, now deceased.

Canada's Criminal Code, Sub-section 419(b) makes it quite clear that it is illegal for anyone to wear the medals of a deceased person.

I would like to know what is the legal standpoint in the UK? – **Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.**

● Medals awarded to a deceased ex-Service person may be worn on the right breast by a near relative (eg widow or other next-of-kin). – Editor.

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



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

## THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY REGIMENT

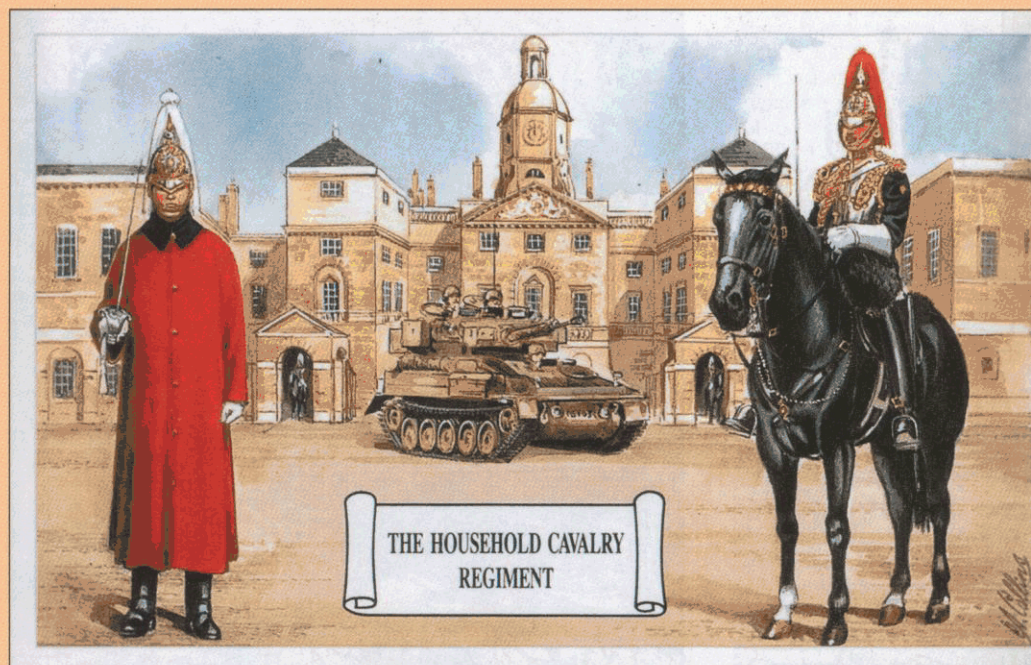
IT WAS at Windsor on October 19, 1992 that The Household Cavalry Regiment was formed from the union of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st (Royal) Dragoons).

Both units retained their own identities, uniforms and traditions.

The Life Guards trace their history back to 1660. In 1922 the 1st and 2nd Life Guards were combined as one regiment.

The Blues and Royals were formed as the result of the amalgamation in 1969 of The Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) and the 1st Royal Dragoons. Both these latter regiments were raised in 1661.

The Household Cavalry Regiment, based at Combermere Barracks, Windsor, is the armoured reconnaissance regiment for 3rd (UK) Division. The division has a dual role as part of NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) and the newly-formed UK Joint Rapid Deployment Force.



Illustrated here is a postcard, reproduced from a watercolour painting by Christopher A Collins, which shows:

- Trooper of The Life Guards in the long red cloak with blue

collar worn during inclement weather. His stout leather jack-boots extend above the knee and were originally designed as a protection against crushing in the close-order charge.

- Mounted officer in The

Blues and Royals wearing cuirass and helmet, vestiges of full armour and symbolic of a bygone age.

- Scimitar armoured tracked reconnaissance vehicle

- Background: Horse Guards

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

## A bridge too far for Lowlanders

A GAZELLE helicopter from 3 Flight, Army Air Corps at RAF Leuchars provided top cover while Lowland Volunteers had their picture taken during Exercise Barry Broadsword in Scotland.

Scenes from the film "A Bridge Too Far" were simulated as a major battlefield exercise took place at Barry Budden training range on the Tay Estuary, east of Dundee.

As Territorial Army soldiers of the Lowland Volunteers mounted an operation to defend a bridge held in enemy territory, paratroopers and Royal Marines reservists staged an attack, simulating heavy artillery fire and a full range of casualties. The battle ended with a dawn attack.

Maj Alan Middleton, the Lowlanders' training officer, said: "The exercise was a great success. It simulated battlefield conditions for everyone involved and gave the TA soldiers a thorough training in the realities of war."



Team photograph: Lowland Volunteers on Exercise Barry Broadsword





COMPETITION 648



# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These pictures are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the bottom picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 648, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by November 15. Do not include any-

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Competition No 645 (Sept 16 issue): First correct entry drawn was from Sgt Mitchell RLC (att 1 RGJ), Op Resolute, BFPO 548, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Capt Anne Tibbles, QARANC (V), of 306 Fd Hospital, and Mr R Earnshaw, of York.



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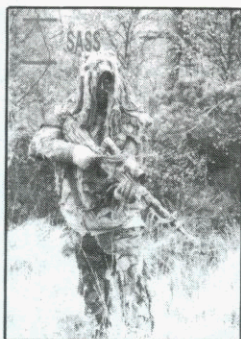
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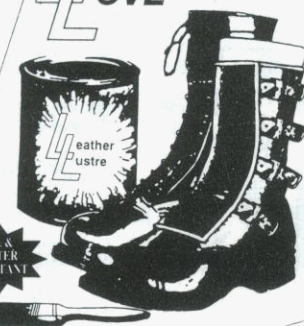
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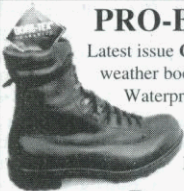
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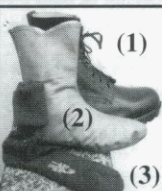
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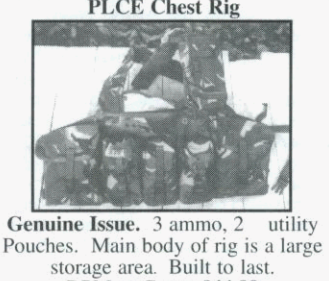


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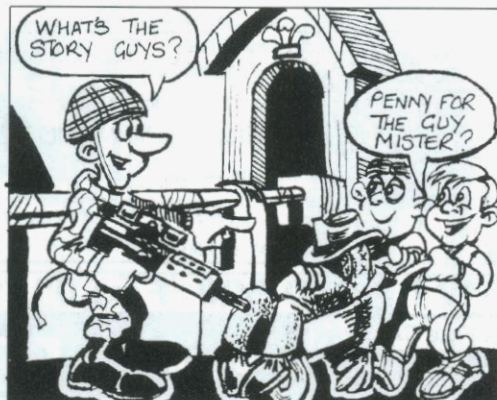
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**TWO-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,875 each):** Cpl C Johnstone, 99 PC Sqn RLC, BFPO 40; SSgt D Porter, SEAE, Arborfield.

**TWO-way tie for third prize (19 goals, £625 each):** WO1 M Adams, HQ 49 (E) Bde, Chilwell; LCpl R V Lewis, 1 D and D, BFPO 22.

**TEN-way tie for fifth prize (18 goals, £100 each):** Maj J D Bower, HQ ARRC, BFPO 40; Sgt R P Bright, HQ LANDCENT, BFPO 115; WO2 S D Brown, 100 Regt RA (V), London; Sgt J O Casey, RMP Trg Centre, Chichester; Sgt C S Clark, UK Force Arty AMF (L), Larkhill; Capt G F Manning, HQ AJTO, Upavon; LCpl D Nolan, 1 RRF, Caterick; Cpl K D Oxy, 2 R Anglian, Warminster, Pte M J P Price, 1 PW0,

Chester; Cpl S Rudd, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Hullavington.

OCTOBER 5, 1996

**TWO-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £1,875 each):** Col P C Cort, HQ QMG, Andover; LCpl M T Crowe, 7 Irish, BFPO 801.

**TEN-way tie for third prize (18 goals, £225 each):** Sgt R Campbell, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham; Lt A G Carnegie Brown, 29 Tpt Sqn RLC, BFPO 1; Sgt I M Hutchinson, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham; WO2 R Lewis, 101 Regt RA (V), Newcastle upon Tyne; SSgt M K Newman, 1 GS Regt RLC BFPO 47; LCpl P A Patterson, 8 R Irish BFPO 803; KCpl J E Rigg, 14 Signal Regt (EW), Brawdy; Sgt S G Taylor, 4 Fd Amb RAMC, Aldershot; WO1 M Walshaw, HQ NI, BFPO 825; WO2 R H Wilson, 105 Regt RA (V), Edinburgh.

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D3





The 1 PWO free-fall team: left to right, Ptes Brown, Saville, Baxter (team captain) and Ward

## 'Chuting stars display winning touch

DESPITE being primarily equipped and trained for display work, the free-fall parachute display team from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire entered this year's Army parachute championships.

Matched against teams with access to larger corps funds and manpower (1 PWO has a mere 550 officers and men), the four members who competed in the free-fall sequential formations intermediate event came through as clear winners.

"Entering the championships primarily helps to improve and broaden our overall parachute skills: this a terrific bonus," said one team member.

All volunteers, the battalion's nine-man display team, augmented by a Terrier from its York-based part-time 3rd Battalion, finance the displays themselves, with the aim of "flying the flag" for the regiment.

Team members buy their own parachute equipment in regimental colours and operate on a "part-time" basis, with every soldier fulfilling his primary function of infantry training and basic duties first and foremost.

During the working week they are employed within the battalion's rifle platoons.

At weekends they literally fly the flag at shows throughout the PWO's recruiting area in Yorkshire and beyond.

Formed in 1990 to "provide arena displays and promote public awareness of the regiment", the team performs at 40 shows and events each year.

Safety being the most important consideration, the team must be registered with the Civil Aviation Authority and licensed to perform at public gatherings.

Team members undergo an

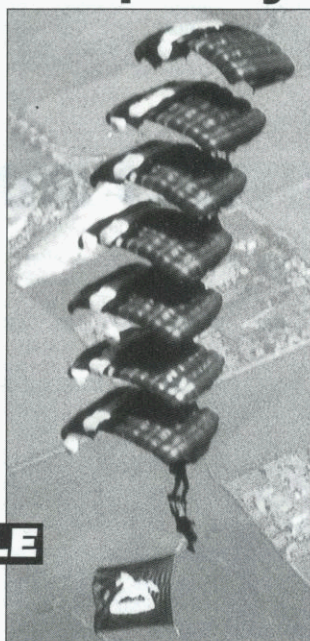
### SPORTING PROFILE

intense period of pre-season training each spring. This year, they spent 15 days camping at Sebastian on the east coast of Florida – each man making 40 jumps to prepare for the summer.

Display routines are usually carried out from 6,000ft above the arena, five men forming a free-fall group falling in a star formation, with smoke canisters providing smoke trails.

Simultaneously, the remaining jumpers deploy their parachutes at 6,000ft and build a four-stack of canopies, flying the regimental flag at the bottom of the formation.

On occasions they have been asked to land in arenas measuring as little as 70m by 70m, negotiating the surround-



Stacks of talent: 1 PWO's parachute display team form a seven-tier stack – and fly the regimental flag – somewhere over east Yorkshire

ing trees and buildings with a mixture of skill, judgement and courage.

The winning battalion team is currently serving with the battalion in Northern Ireland on a six-month emergency tour.

Its parachute equipment, however, will be undergoing a thorough service in preparation for next spring, when the intrepid tykes hope to carry out a training camp at the Army's Parachute Centre in Cyprus.

## Try, try, try again . . . and again

RMAS 44, Army U21s 12

IN their first game of the season, the Army Under 21s met formidable opposition in the form of a more mature Sandhurst team.

No fewer than 12 cap badges were representing the Army, many playing together – indeed meeting each other – for the first time, writes Tom Wye.

The scoreline would normally be interpreted as a one-sided débâcle, but nothing could be further from the

truth. The game was a ten-try spectacle, with the older, more physical RMAS team running in eight, but the Under 21s managed good tries in both halves of the game.

With a little luck they might have scored three more.

The sight of the diminutive Jamie Lambert and his fellow RGBW, Gavin McCarthy, taller by half an inch, throwing themselves at the rampant Academy forwards was inspirational to the other players.

Spr Hughes, who skippered the team, had an exceptional game, as did all the newcomers.

The veterans from last year's campaigns, Ptes Brown, Beard (RLC) and Morris (1 BW), showed they had retained their enthusiasm for the game and would be fighting for their places, not only in the Army team but also in the Combined Services side later in the season.

On the day, the home team

proved just a little too powerful, but the red-shirted youngsters left the field with their heads held high, knowing that they had acquitted themselves well.

On this showing, the Army Under 21s are in for a good season and everyone should book their tickets and car park spaces at Twickenham for April 2, when many of these players are likely to be lined up against the England Students in a curtain-raiser to the Army-Navy match.

## REME record breakers make it five

THE REME hockey team created history by becoming the first side to win the Inter-Corps tournament for a record fifth time in a row, writes Dave Mulholland.

Played on the Aldershot Astroturf pitch, the three-day competition was, as usual, fiercely-contested. Entries were slightly down, with the AMS having difficulty in fielding a team due to operational commitments.

The tournament was organised on a league basis, with winners and runners-up qualifying for the semi-finals. Two of the favourites met in the opening game in the shape of the RA and R Signals, the gunners winning 2-0.

REME beat RE 8-2 in a somewhat one-sided affair.

Entering the fray, like their opponents, for the first time, the AGC ran out 3-1 winners against the RLC.

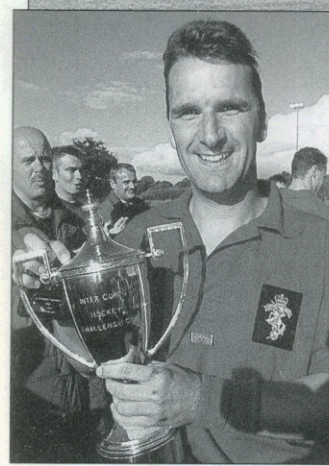
In their final game of the league REME lost 2-1 to the Infantry in a close contest in which the Infantry defence did well to deny the REME forwards.

The gunners virtually assured themselves of a place in the knockout stages by beating the RLC 8-1.

Day two produced one of the most exciting games of the competition when the AGC beat the signallers 4-3 to ensure their own qualification and end their opponents' interest.



Pictures: Terry Champion



REME captain SSgt Brian Gray

With six minutes to play the Signals led 3-1.

The next game went to form, Infantry beating the RE 4-2 to qualify, with REME, from Pool A.

AGC almost beat the RA, but had to settle for a 2-2 draw.

Watched by umpire WO1 (ASM) Nigel Wright, Sgt Robbie Wilkinson (REME), Capt Simon Hazlitt (centre), Infantry's Great Britain international, and Cpl Stu Greenwood get stuck into the action at Aldershot

Both teams qualified, the gunners winning the league on goal difference.

First semi-final was between the Infantry and AGC. The former had managed to get Great Britain international Capt Simon Hazlitt to Aldershot for the final day, and he played a key role in his team's 2-1 victory in a close-fought game decided in the closing minutes.

In the second semi, the RA took on REME – winners of the tournament for the past four years. Although their opponents started the better and were 1-0 up after a few minutes, REME fought back to win 2-1.

The final was a repeat of one of the pool games, with REME determined not to lose their

record against an Infantry team coached well by Capt Andy Nye and boosted by the presence of Hazlitt.

REME went ahead after 17 minutes with a goal from their captain, SSgt Brian Gray. A second from him after 30 minutes from a short corner routine put his side in the driving seat.

Final blow for the Infantry came from REME's prolific Cpl Stu Greenwood – missing from the first encounter – who converted a superb goal to ensure the trophy stayed with REME for another 12 months.

Both teams go forward to represent the Army in the Hockey Association Cup, the sport's equivalent of the FA Cup.

## Loggies hit the rest for six

ALDERSHOT-based 27 Transport Regiment RLC won the Army 1996 six-a-side football trophy after thrashing the winners of their group by six clear goals in a one-sided final at Aldershot, writes Derrick Bly.

The superb playing conditions produced 183 goals from 52 matches.

Group A was won by 7 R Irish, who beat 27 Regt 3-1 in the process. In the other group, 3 RSME, the 4 Division champions, finished ahead of QRH.

The Irish hammered QRH 5-1 in one semi-final while 27 Regt earned their passage by defeating 3 RSME 4-3, a win which provided some consolation for their disappointment against 3 RSME in the Div 4 final.

There was also consolation for the RSME side who were awarded the Thorpe Trophy for scoring 21 goals in their seven group matches.

Army players Glenister (4) and Zoldan (2) were in superb form for the loggies as 27 Regt comprehensively outplayed 7 R Irish in the final.

Skipper Glenister received the trophy from Brig Alan Thompson, vice-chairman of the AFA.

### Army 1, Farnborough Town 1

A strong Farnborough Town line-up provided the Army with testing opposition at short notice in the Military Stadium, Aldershot, when the Hellenic League failed to raise a team.

Spoils were shared in an entertaining game which coach QMSI Pat Russell used to look at new talent. There were first appearances for Gdsm Lennox in goal and midfielders Bdr Tye, LCpl Elliott and Cpl Tagg, and a welcome return for Sgt Basher Bates at the back.

Leading scorer LCpl Bob Hope broke the deadlock with a superb volley early in the second half. It was his fourth goal in four games.

The Vauxhall Conferencers made it 1-1 with a late strike which took a deflection.



# Buda-ful performance brings in the medals

A NINE-man Army team returned with four gold medals from the FISA World Masters rowing championships in Budapest.

Two of the team were also involved in wins with other clubs.

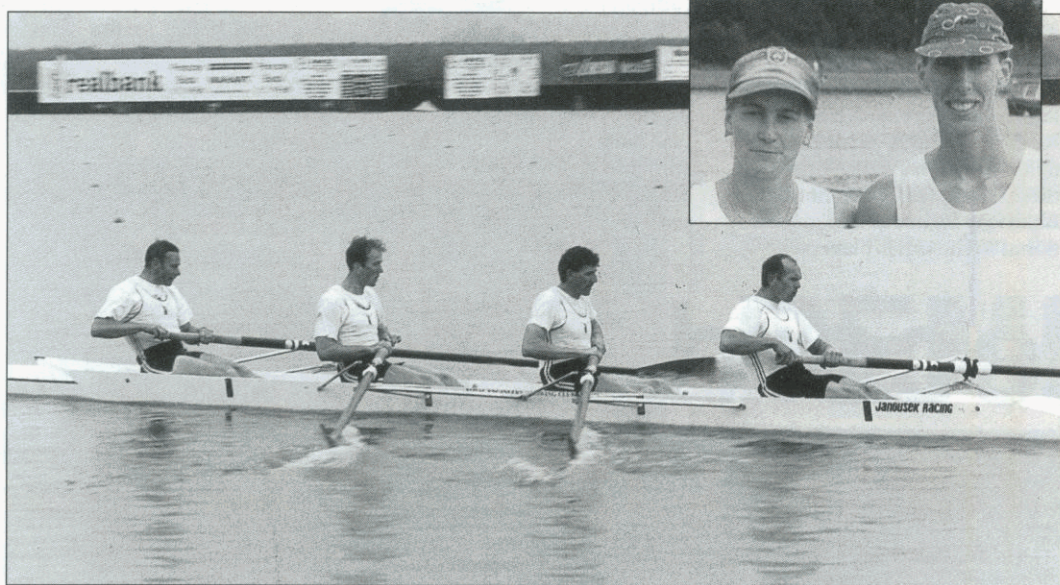
Lt Col Max Heron, Maj Nick Holland, Maj Paul Marsden and Capt Justin Neely teamed up in the same combination in the B (average age 36) coxless fours, which won two gold medals in Bled last year.

The Army four started at 46 strokes to the minute and by the time they had slowed to 38 were edging ahead.

Their lead was a length after 250m of the 1,000-metre course and a further push after 400 opened up a six-second lead.

Halfway point was passed in the fast time of 1min 30sec, and the four had the luxury of being able to sit on their lead to finish two lengths up in 3min 13sec.

Holland and Marsden also featured in the B coxless pairs. They had also won this event in 1995, and the pressure was on to achieve the double. Despite a poor start, they took the lead at halfway and went on to win by a length in 3min 33sec.



**Oars power:** On their way to winning the Veteran B coxless fours event at the World Masters rowing championships in Budapest are (left to right) Lt Col Max Heron, Capt Justin Neely, Maj Paul Marsden and Maj Nick Holland. Inset: Nearer home, Capt Caroline Kirman of the Army Rowing Club – who hopes to join the national squad for the forthcoming season – and Julie Bavington from Bedford Rowing Club represented England in the open coxless pairs at the Home Counties international regatta. They beat Scotland, Wales and Ireland

The third win, in the B quadruple sculls, a particularly competitive event, involved Lt Col Tim Park, Maj Jerry Allen, Flt Lt James Hunter-Tod and SSgt Neil Johnson.

They set a blistering pace, rating 41 strokes throughout the first 500m. Despite sustained attacks in the second half, they won by just over a

second in 3min 11sec.

Johnson also contested the final of the A single sculls, finishing fifth in a hard-fought race – two lengths down to the winner. It was a remarkable performance at this level. Currently the fastest sculler in the Army, he has had an outstanding season as a single sculler, having started as a novice in

May and winning at six open regattas during the summer.

The final event was the B coxed fours, contested by the same crew as the coxless four but with Rachel Foister of Tideway Scullers coxing. Again the crew went off fast and won by two lengths.

Maj Marsden also won in the D (average age 50) coxless fours in a combined crew with Broxbourne RC, boosting his championships tally to four gold medals.

Lt Col Park also combined in a C (average age 43) coxless pair with Geoff Peel of Thames Tradesmen RC.

At the halfway point they were lying third, but managed to grind down the leaders to win by a length.

● The 1997 championships will be held in Adelaide, with a new European championships in Munich. Contact Lt Col Heron on Chilwell Mil (745) 8302, fax 8318, for all veteran rowing details.

Information on the main Army squad, which has formed up with a view to retaining the pennant in the Head of the River race in March, and recovering the open eights at the Joint Services regatta, is available from Maj Marsden on Bordon Mil (729) 5584, fax 5497.

## Target for '97: more entries

AFTER last year's improvement, there was a disappointing decrease in entries for the 1996 Army small-bore target rifle championship at Ash Range, Aldershot.

The event consists of three stages, the first fired non-centrally at 25 yards, with stages 2 and 3 fired centrally, concurrent with Match 115 – the long-range match – and the PSK (prone, standing, kneeling) match.

Only seven competed in Match 110 (the Army championship) and 16 in Match 115.

Stage 1 leaders were Maj Peter Underhill (D and D) on 596, Capt Cameron Ferguson REME (590), but unable to attend for Stages 2 and 3) and Sgt Frame RLC (585).

Underhill won Stages 2 and 3, ahead of Capt Karl Frankland (RLC) who finished runner-up. Third was SSgt Williams (AGC), a point ahead of Frame.

In the Inter-Services long-range small-bore rifle championships, the Territorial Army, with 17 points, won the Gilbert Trophy for the Inter-Services team championship for the first time in ten years. They were also victors in the long-range match and second in both the PSK and 50m matches.

The Regulars were runners-up, scoring 16 points and winning the PSK. Last year's winners, the Royal Air Force, were third, but won the 50m.

For the third year in succession, the English Small-Bore

Shooting Union beat Combined Services in their annual match, and the Police Athletic Association repeated last year's win over the Regular Army, winning both the long range and 50m matches.

The RAF dominated the Inter-Services centre fire and standard pistol matches on Bisley Camp's Melville Range, winning the former for the fifth year and the latter for the seventh in succession.

Next day, the Combined Services, under Lt Col Richard Hoole (R Signals) took on Great Britain in the target pistol match. Losing the standard pistol event by 43 points, they won the centre fire by 24 points, GB collecting the trophy for the second year running.



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Chukka block: Pressed by the opposition, Maj David Amos attempts an awkward off-side shot during the annual grooms versus officers match held by members of the Cyprus Polo Association. The grooms won convincingly.

Picture: Capt Paul Betteridge



**SOLDIER**