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# ARMED SOLDIER

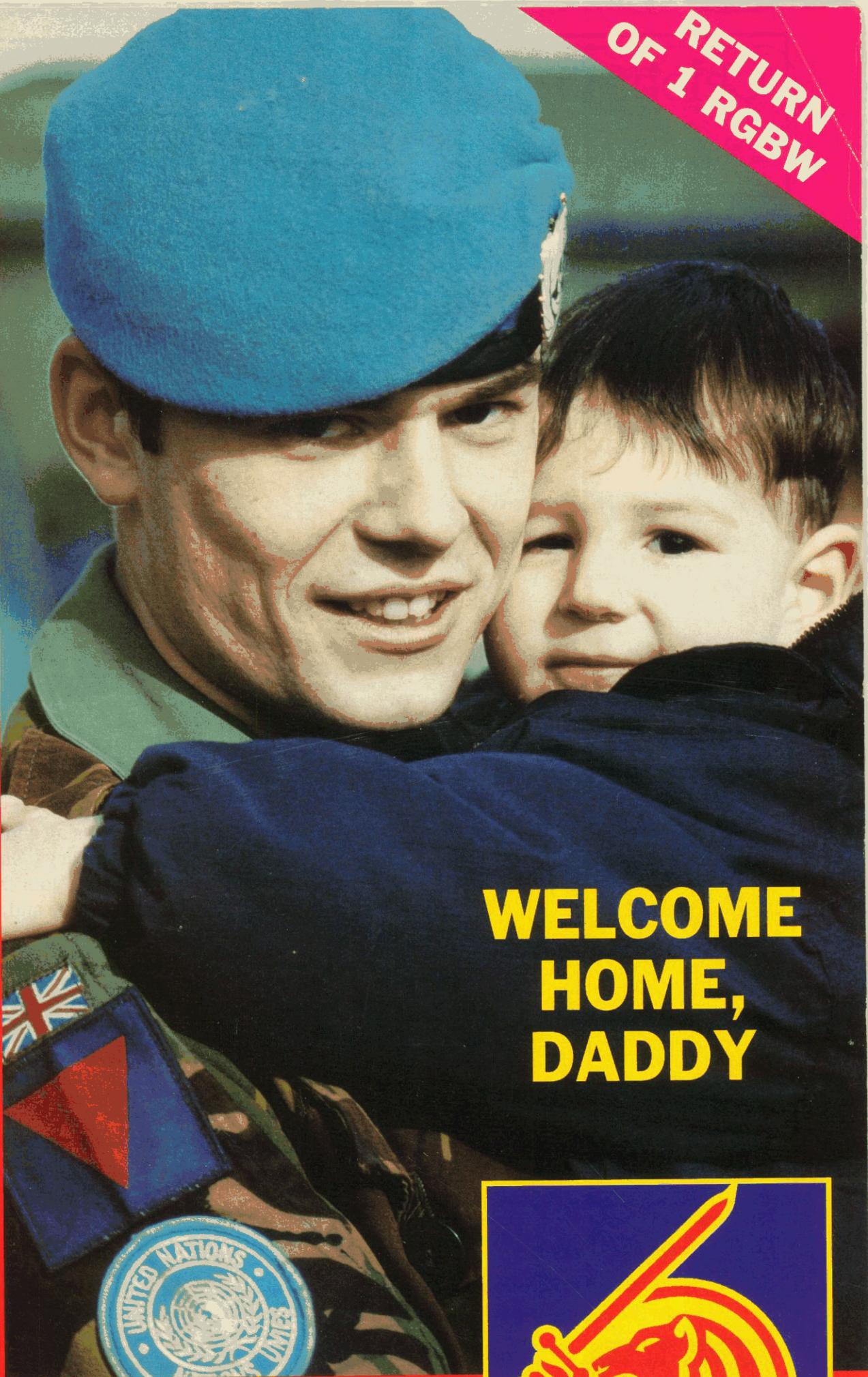
MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
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RETURN  
OF 1 RGBW



## WELCOME HOME, DADDY

- Land Command forms
- Training in South Africa
- 1 RHF on Op Grapple

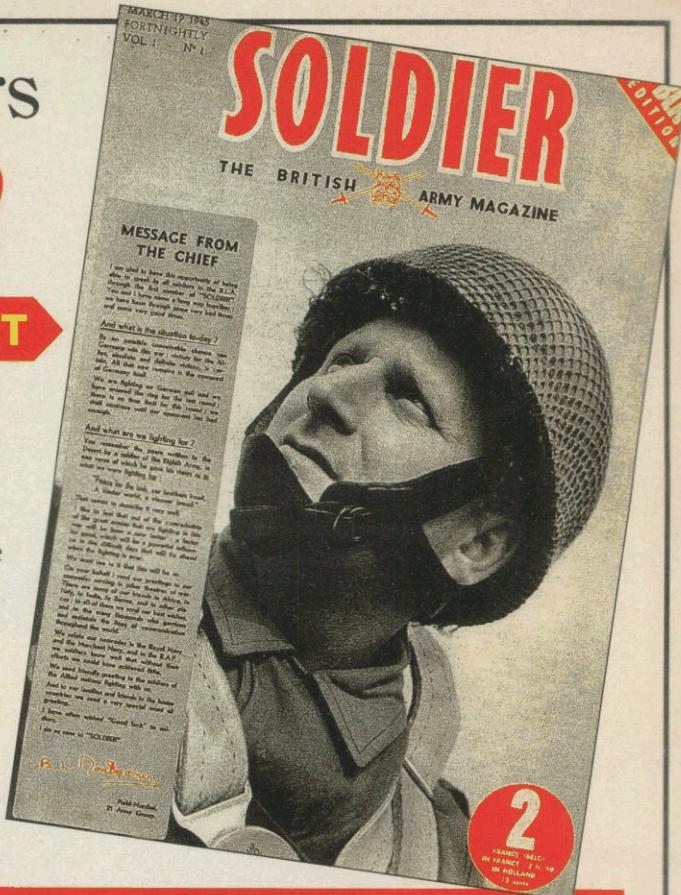


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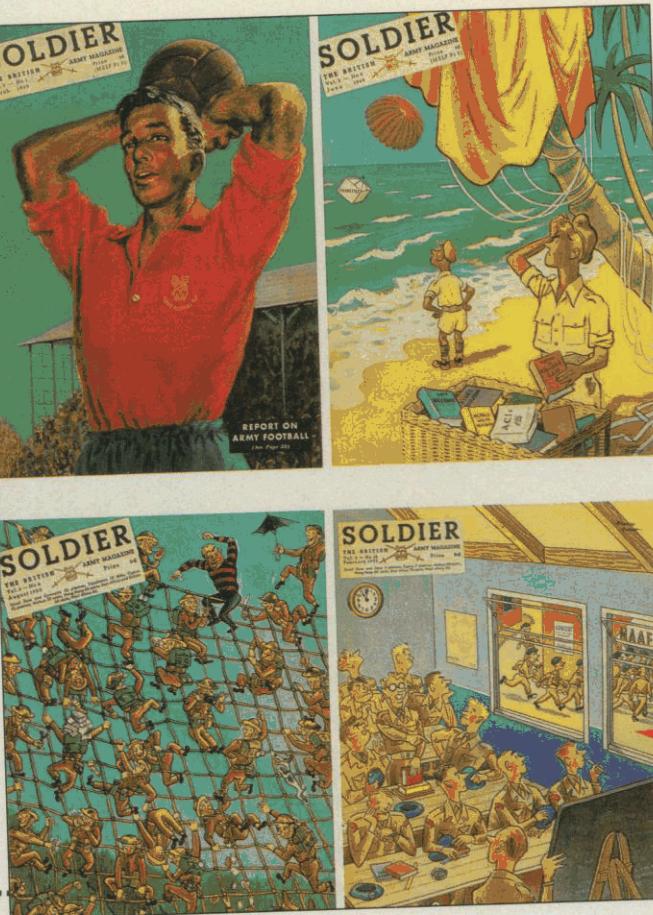
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

APRIL 3, 1995  
Vol 51/7

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**FRONT COVER:** Two-year-old Ryan Little was very pleased to see dad, LCpl Chris Little, safely home from an Op Grapple tour in Bosnia. Chris and the rest of 1 RGBW returned to Catterick after six difficult winter months. Many were based in the besieged enclave of Gorazde. See story in Page 11 (Picture: Chris Barker). Inset - The new Land Command logo. See Pages 12-13.

- **CHALLENGER 2:** While the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards prepare to receive the new tank, a Bovington unit has been eradicating teething problems. - Page 15.
- **TERRITORIAL ARMY:** How TA field commanders earn their spurs. - Pages 18-19.
- **SOUTH AFRICA:** British Army training teams are hard at work in the new democracy and Zimbabwe. - Pages 22-23.
- **BOSNIA:** The Household Cavalry Regiment tames the Wild West while 1 RHF keeps the peace. - Pages 26-28.

## Biggest reorganisation since 1945



Gen Sir John Wilsey, the first Commander-in-Chief Land Command, with soldiers of 1 RWF at Bugojno. Land Command provides British troops to the UN's Bosnia-Herzegovina Command

# Land Command joins the Big 3

IN THE biggest reorganisation of the British Army since the Second World War almost all fighting units around the world were forming a new Land Command on April 1.

The new force of 131,000 Regular, Gurkha and TA soldiers takes in:

- All operational elements of the present United Kingdom Land Force (UKLF);
- All Army troops in Germany;
- Army garrisons in Nepal and Brunei;
- British Army training units at Suffield and Wainwright in Canada and Belize;
- Training and liaison staff in Kenya.

With an annual budget of £3 billion, the new organisation has under its command all the Army's front-line fighting equipment, including attack helicopters, Challenger 2 tanks, Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, AS90 artillery and MLRS rocket systems.

Land Command's headquarters has been established

at Erskine Barracks, Wilton, formerly HQ UKLF, which ceases to exist. First Commander-in-Chief Land Command is Gen Sir John Wilsey, who formerly commanded UKLF.

The new organisation is one of three central commands in the Army. The other two are those of the Adjutant General (responsible for administration, personnel and training) and the Quartermaster General (supply and logistics).

Land Command operational forces assigned to NATO comprise 1st (UK) Armoured Division in Germany and 3rd (UK) Division in Great Britain, with their combat arms, combat support and combat service support elements.

These include 24 Airmobile Brigade based at Colchester, the UK element of the ACE Mobile Force (Land); and two



combat service support groups, one each in Great Britain and Germany.

The new command also contains infantry battalions and specialist units in Great Britain which remain under national command, but which can also support NATO.

All these elements are part of an infrastructure based on eight Army Divisions and Districts in Germany and Great Britain, plus independent commands in the rest of the world.

The command numbers 72,000 Regular troops, 3,000 Gurkhas, and 56,000 Territorial Army soldiers, supported by 12,000 MoD civilians.

The organisation is also responsible for 74,000 members of the Combined and Army Cadet Forces, including their officers and adult instructors.

Full story - Pages 12-13

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## Lord Henley opens Soldier 50 exhibition

LORD Henley, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence, opened an exhibition in the National Army Museum, Chelsea on March 15 to mark the 50th anniversary of *Soldier*.

The ceremony, which took place as this

edition was going to press, included a toast to the magazine by Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, whose father, Field Marshal Montgomery, had launched *Soldier* in 1945. The Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, cut a 50th birthday cake in the presence of

many distinguished guests and former members of staff. A report will appear in the next edition.

The National Army Museum exhibition will remain open throughout the summer. Admission to the museum is free.

## Gunner unit returns from Armagh

FOUR HUNDRED soldiers from 5 Regiment Royal Artillery were returning to their home base on the mainland from Northern Ireland – the first major troop relocation from the Province in more than a decade.

The move, which follows advice from Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, GOC Northern Ireland, and Royal Ulster Constabulary Chief Constable Sir Hugh Annesley, has been made possible by the reduced level of support needed by the RUC since the IRA cease-fire came into operation last year.

Commanded by Lt Col David Keatch, the gunners had been the Drumadd regimental battalion in Armagh since September and were due to return to their Catterick base at the end of March – a few weeks earlier than scheduled. They will not be replaced.

They will, however, be

## Bye bye, Bessie

LCpl Vic Hill witnesses a slice of Army history as Bessie, a Mk 3 hydrogen kite balloon, makes its final ascent above the 5th Airborne Brigade's training area at Hankley Common near Aldershot. This summer, the balloon, from which Maj Peter Gillespie, 216 (Parachute) Signals Squadron, made the last drop, will be replaced by the Skyvan light aircraft for initial training drops.



LBdrs Trevor Griffiths (left) and Richard Piggot of 5 Regt RA remove the battery sign from their Co Armagh base in preparation for their return to Marne Barracks at Catterick

remaining on short-notice standby for a speedy recall if necessary.

The unit earmarked to replace them will continue with training, but will also, at present, remain on standby.

With the departure of 5 Regt RA, 17 major units remain in Northern Ireland. Total number of Service personnel in the Province is now about 18,000.

The Army has gradually adopted a lower profile since the announcement of the

cease-fire. Since then, a wide range of measures have been taken by the Security Forces.

Daylight patrols in Belfast, Londonderry and other towns have ceased. Soldiers now wear their regimental headdress. They do not observe through their telescopic Susat sights, nor do armed sentries give top cover from Land Rovers.

The number of vehicle checkpoints has been reduced and helicopters now generally only fly above 500 ft.

When they filed in to be briefed the gunners were expecting to hear the bad news that their six-month tour had been extended.

"There was hardly a breath as we waited for the worst, but when we learned the good news we all raced for the phones," said Bdr Alan White.

"My wife expected the worst too, and when I told her we were coming home early I could hear her dancing around."



## Welch baptism of fire

A FOOT patrol of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers had a baptism of fire in Bosnia when it was pinned down by Bosnian Serbs surrounding the Muslim enclave of Gorazde on March 15.

The battalion had just taken over United Nations duties from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

Twelve 1 RWF soldiers were engaged by heavy machine guns and anti-aircraft fire.

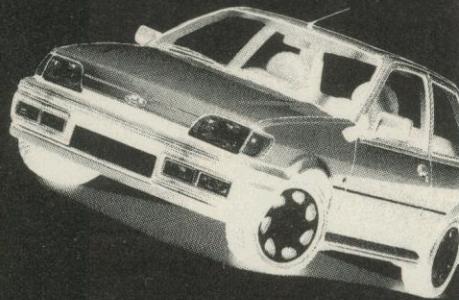
Nine withdrew, but three had to remain in dead ground for four hours until they were able to slip away under cover of darkness and with support from their company's quick reaction force.

There were no British casualties in the engagement, during which the Royal Welch fired 400 rounds.

A few days earlier another patrol had been pinned down in the same area, and 700 rounds had been exchanged.

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Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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# Air training homes in on Middle Wallop

MIDDLE WALLOP will remain the home of Army aviation with responsibility for operational training on all Army aircraft, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames confirmed in a written answer.

Army activity at Netheravon would be relocated with all Army Air Corps flying moving to Middle Wallop, he said. Alternative Defence uses for Netheravon were being considered.

• • •  
Further examples of the environment benefiting from military use of training areas were given in the Lords.

Answering questions on the need to extend training areas and ranges in the UK following the drawdown of forces from Ger-

many, Defence Minister Lord Henley quoted the cases of the stone curlew and the fairy shrimp.

He said: "The shelling on Salisbury Plain has done much, I understand, to improve the habitat of the stone curlew, a species of bird of which there are few left.

"The birds are mostly to be found on Salisbury Plain. The shelling provides them with a habitat.

"I can also confirm that the tank tracks and the water that collects in them on Salisbury Plain have done much to assist development of the fairy shrimp."

## Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Lord Henley acknowledged that there had been considerable complaints about in-service testing of the AS90 gun on the Plain.

A much higher and noisier charge than normal had been used, he said.

Earlier he said the MoD was committed to retaining the minimum land necessary for training to the necessary standard.

• • •

Other points from Parliament:  
● BA2000, an internal MoD document addressing in general terms Army requirements at the beginning of the next century in the light of strategic, technologi-

cal and other circumstances, is at an early drafting stage and as yet contains no recommendations.

● British UNPROFOR troops have helped deliver more than 234,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid since operations began in Bosnia in autumn 1992.

● There is no plan, or need, to conduct another Defence Costs Study, Mr Roger Freeman, Defence Procurement Minister, said in a written answer.

● All nitrate-based motion film held by the MoD has been transferred to the Imperial War Museum, with whom closer working arrangements have been established. Instructions are now in place for other pictorial records to be deposited in archives.

# Devils plan polar jump

RUSSIANS will help two Red Devils perform the most northerly parachute jump in the world - onto the North Pole.

Weather permitting, Army and British national champion Cpl Dave Mitchell and Pte Finbar Molloy of the Parachute Regiment's freefall team will leave a Russian Il-76 aircraft at 12,000 ft into temperatures of minus 60 C.

The expedition is due to leave Red Square, Moscow on April 14 before flying to the Taymyr peninsula in Siberia where they have just three days to get the right weather conditions.

An Mi 8 helicopter - code-named Hip by NATO during earlier confrontations - will prepare an ice airport as near as possible to the North Pole so that it can pick up the jumpers for the return to Moscow.

□ MAJ Gen Ray Pett, the Director of Infantry, gave soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment an update on the future of the Infantry when he visited them at Ballykinler.



Maj Gen Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard, Colonel of the Life Guards, presents a United Nations service medal to Lt James Fuller of B Squadron, Household Cavalry Regiment at a ceremony at Windsor. Looking on is Maj Mark van der Lande,

the squadron leader. In Bosnia, where it had been based since August, the squadron was responsible for more than 2,500 square kilometres of ground, crossed by confrontation lines between Serbs, Croats and Muslim forces.

Picture: Mike Perring

# Terriers serving in Bosnia

TERRITORIAL Army soldiers on "S" type engagements are serving on operations in Bosnia with Regular units. More are set to go.

Thirty volunteers deployed with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, and an officer and five men from the 4th Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment based in Exeter will be serving with 1 D and D when it deploys to former Yugoslavia from Paderborn on Operation Grapple 6.

They will be part of 700 soldiers, commanded by Lt Col Jeff Cook, who will relieve the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers in Vitez early in May.

Several volunteers from the 4th Battalion also deployed with 1 RWF and one, Cpl Patrick Moulding, is a section commander.

During 1 D and D's exercise at BATUS, Suffield, in Canada last year, Cpl Moulding took charge of a Warrior when the

commander was injured.

"The battalion is not short of manpower, but we have very strong links with our TA battalion and we try to invite it to take part in any interesting work which comes our way," said Capt Paul Uden, Regular Adjutant of the 4th Battalion.

The TA soldiers are classed as Regulars while they are serving but have not been mobilised as is the case with TA soldiers who deployed to the Falkland Islands.

# SOLDIER

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# Gunners chill out in the hills

A WEEKEND-long infantry exercise designed to test the basic field skills of Dortmund-based 16 Regiment Royal Artillery took place in the Sauerland, Germany.

Run at section level, Exercise Flame Chill was aimed at testing the toughness, leadership and navigational skills of

the junior NCOs and soldiers involved.

A long night's tab through Winterburg's high hills and forests was followed by a day of six stands, ranging from signals and harbour skills to a booby-trap and vehicle recovery and an ambush, all interspersed with more forced marches. A

tough combat race on the Sunday brought the exercise to a gruelling end.

The objectives of the exercise, intended to test the leadership of section commanders and improve the general proficiency of the soldiers' infantry skills in a limited time period and scenario, were achieved.

## Thank you to Bangladesh

ASSISTANT Chief of the Defence Staff (Ops) Air Vice Marshal Tony Harrison has thanked Brig Mahmuduzzaman, Defence Adviser to the Bangladesh Embassy, for his country's efforts in the BiHac area of Bosnia and for support to British soldiers working with the UN in the area.

# RGBW bonded by Op Grapple challenge

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment coped magnificently with appalling conditions during their six-month winter tour of Bosnia.

Commanding officer Lt Col Patrick Davidson-Houston said on 1 RGBW's return to base at Catterick that the deployment had served to bond the battalion together. It was formed in April last year.

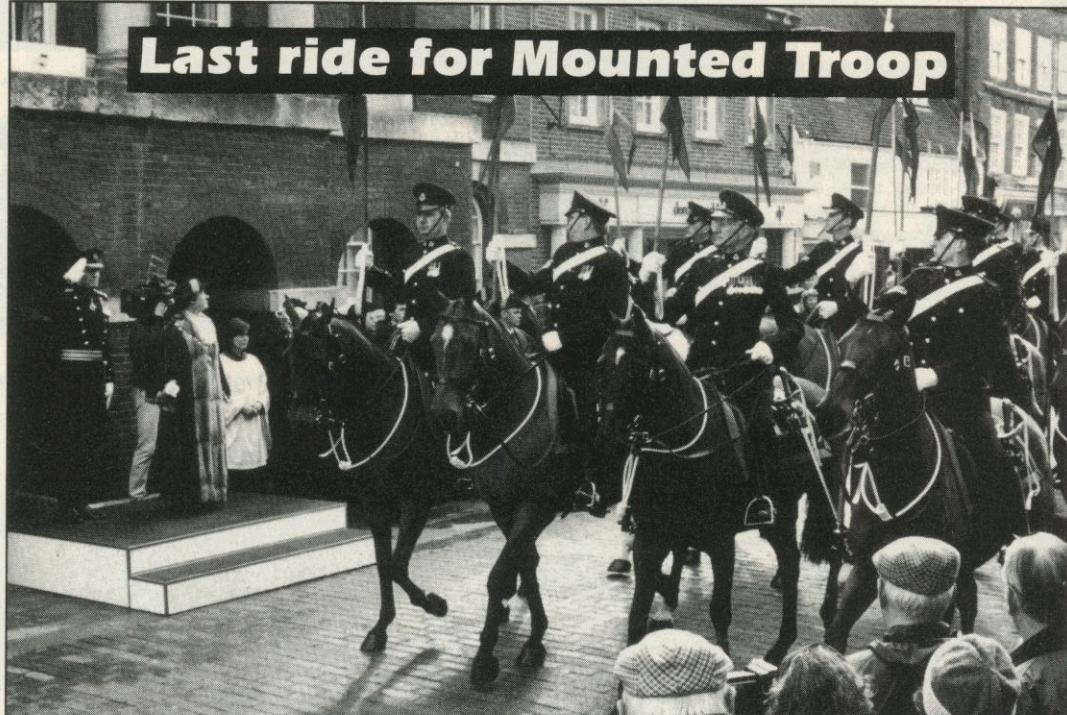
Many of his soldiers were based in the besieged eastern enclave of Gorazde where many items were in short supply.

"But we did not let it detract from our task of trying to supply humanitarian aid to the people who needed it and acting as a catalyst to get the warring factions to come together," said Lt Col Davidson-Houston.

RGBW soldiers built a home for mentally handicapped people in Gorazde. Many had been left roaming the streets with no family or official help.

When supplies were low battalion chefs had to cook on wood-burning stoves.

Brig David Cranston handed over command of the Headquarters Multinational Division (MND (C)) in Germany to Maj Gen Jan W Brinkman of the Netherlands on March 8.



Gen Sir Jeremy MacKenzie and the Mayor of Chichester, Cllr Patricia Hooley, take the salute as the Mounted Troop of the Royal Military Police parades through the city centre en route to Rousillon Barracks, where a farewell ceremonial took place to mark the unit's formal disbandment

Picture: Chris Fletcher

# Bosnia withdrawal plan

NATO may send up to 40,000 troops to help evacuate UN peacekeeping forces from Bosnia-Herzegovina under a withdrawal plan, codenamed Operation Determined Effort, now under discussion. — *Times*.

Seventeen major generals, 48 colonels and 32 brigadiers were given notice of compulsory redundancy on March 9. The latest cuts were signalled last November. — *Daily Express*. The cuts follow 16,812 redundancies over the past three years as the Army shrinks from 156,000 to around 120,000 following the end of the Cold War. — *Daily Mail*.

The campaign to free paratrooper Pte Lee Clegg won its first real victory with the announcement that his life sentence will be reviewed in June. He was said to be devastated by the delay. — *Guardian*.

Details for a European military organisation centred on the Western European Union have been outlined by Prime Minister



John Major in the Commons. — *Daily Telegraph*.

Former Army and Royal Navy personnel owe the MoD almost £3 million in unpaid rent on properties in which they continue to live after leaving the Armed Forces. — *Times*.

A former Scots Guardsman is asking the European Court of Human Rights to declare Britain's 600-year-old court martial system unlawful. His lawyers say cases against Servicemen and women should be tried in civilian courts. — *Daily Mail*.

The High Court has granted leave for a former RAF senior air-craftwoman, dismissed because she is a lesbian, to seek a judicial review of the military ban on homosexuals. — *Daily Telegraph*.

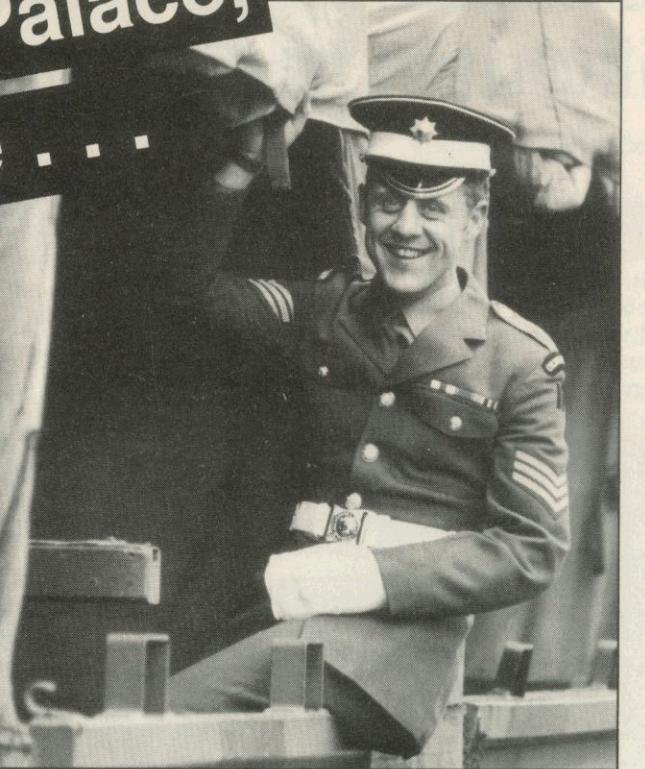
A David Shepherd print depicting men of The Green Howards patrolling the Ardoyne district of Belfast in 1971 has been removed from public view at Northallerton town hall, North Yorkshire, to accord with the Ulster peace process. — *Times*.

The Army is heading for a shortfall of at least 5,000 soldiers by mid-year. Cutbacks, poor recruiting and poor retention are to blame. — *Daily Telegraph*.

First World War veteran George Brumwell Jameson MC, who saw action at Ypres, the Somme, Cambrai and Vimy Ridge, has married in Devon. His bride is 53. George (102) is one of the few surviving Old Contemptibles, those who joined the British Expeditionary Force to France in 1914. — *Guardian*.

# To the Palace, in style . . .

LSgt Darren Waterhouse, Coldstream Guards, received his Military Cross – only the second to be awarded to a non-commissioned officer – from the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Following a devastating attack by Serbs on his UN observation post, Darren, who was commanding a Scimitar in former Yugoslavia, exposed himself to heavy small arms fire while firing to cover the withdrawal of his crews to the relative safety of their armoured recce vehicles.



## Chris keeps up the standard

Sgt Chris Harris has been awarded the honour of becoming the Sobraon Sergeant for the 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. As most promising sergeant within the Territorial Army battalion, he carries on the tradition of parading the regimental Colour to the Sergeants' Mess on the anniversary of the Battle of Sobraon in 1846 when one of his predecessors seized the Colour and rallied the battalion to victory.



## New outlook for Paul

More than 45 years after, as a 19-year-old bombardier, he had dug the first slit trench on top of Crest Hill, an observation post overlooking the principal border crossing point between Hong Kong and China, Lt Col (Retd) Paul Piggott (right) returned to the same spot. He is pointing out to Lt Col Ian Buckley, OC Sek Kong Admin Unit, the modern city of Shenzhen, which now stands across the border in place of the paddy fields he looked over in 1949. A concrete bunker replaced the slit trench.



## Billy's boat

After a 14-year stint as deputy Range Safety Officer at the RA Range Hebrides, WO2 Billy Felton took his leave of the Army in a manner appropriate to the island surroundings. Now well and truly settled on South Uist on the Western Isles, he was towed out of the range's front gate in a small boat, watched by members of staff.

## Fresh career on the cards



Handing over his identity card to Col Stuart Bennett, Commander Logistic Support, Army HQ Scotland after a 24-year Army career is WO1 Bob Mitchell, pictured with his wife Trish. Bob is taking up a post with a catering company in Edinburgh.



## WORTHY WINNER

Cheerful soldier in the picture is Rfn Surya Gurung, winner of this year's best student award for the Basic Military Clerks' Course Part III, held at Worthy Down. Surya, who arrived in Britain in November, having joined the British Army at the British Gurkhas' depot in west Nepal 12 months earlier, hopes to serve with the Royal Gurkha Rifles in Brunei.



## Goodbye, Germany

Troops from all units lined the route at Hohne, Germany as Brig Andrew Ridgway, Commander of 7 Armoured Brigade, bade them farewell in style. The brigadier, who has been posted to the Ministry of Defence in London, was driven out of camp in a 2 RTR Challenger tank – the same vehicle he had once commanded as CO of the regiment.

## Colourful character

Following in his father's footsteps – and looking every inch the soldier – is young Andrew Banks, whose dad, WO2 Mark Banks, is CSM of A Company, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's). The only snag is that the young 'un will not be ready to deploy until January 2008 . . .



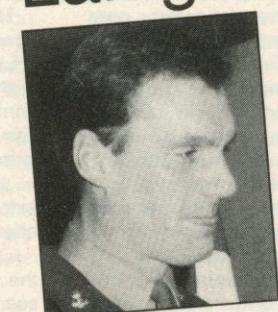
# PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE



## MAYOR'S MILITARY MEETING

Paying a courtesy call on the Mayor of Brecon, Cllr Ivor Hussin, were Col Neil Jones, new Deputy Commander of Headquarters 160 (Wales) Brigade (left), and outgoing Deputy Commander Col Peter Gooderson.

## Laing Service . . .



The system eventually caught up with WO2 (QMSI) Steve Laing RE, UK instructor at the Munich-based multinational Euro NATO Training Engineer Centre, when he was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The award, presented by German Army Engineer School Commander Brigadier general Karl Hoffmann, was backdated to December 1992, when Steve was serving as a staff sergeant.

# The eight formations

THE ARMY'S fighting troops throughout the world, responsibility for which falls to the new Land Command, have been organised into eight formations, each commanded by a major general.

The formations are:

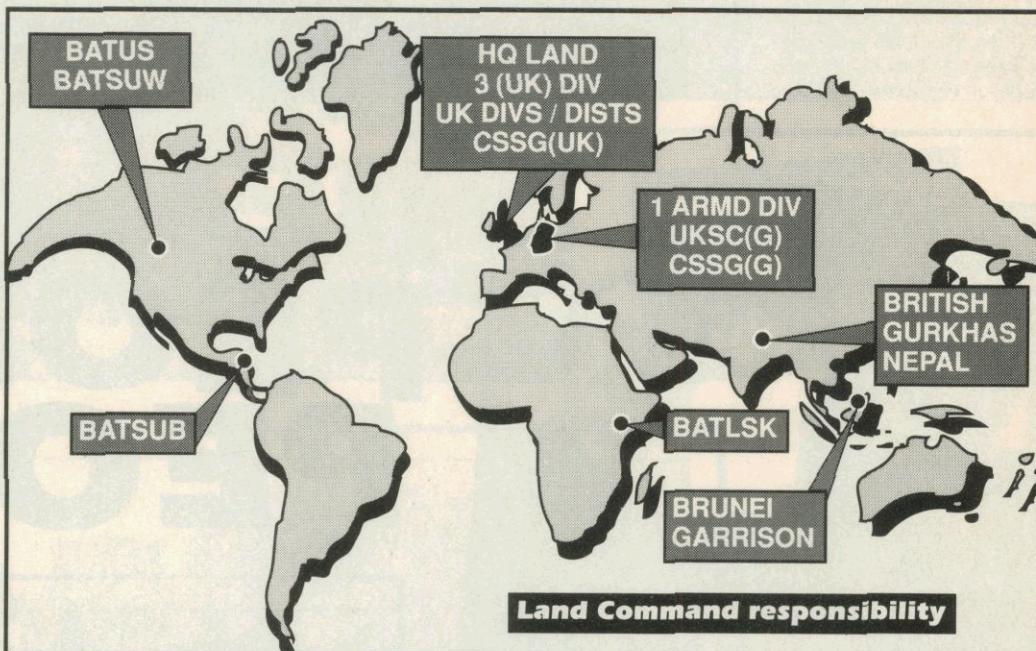
• **Two "Ready" divisions:** 1st (UK) Armd Div in Germany and 3rd (UK) Div in Great Britain. Both are earmarked to form part of the NATO Rapid Reaction Corps but have the flexibility to be employed in support of other defence roles.

They also command the Army units in specified geographic areas – in the case of 1 Div, this area comprises the garrisons in Germany where the division's units are based; in the case of 3 Div, the south-west of England.

• **Three "Regenerative" divisions** based on former districts in the UK – 2nd Division (replacing Eastern District) with its HQ in York; 4th Division at Aldershot; and 5th Division (replacing Wales and Western District) at Shrewsbury.

These divisions are responsible for all units within their boundaries and could provide the core for three new divisions should the Army be required to expand to meet a major international threat.

• **Three districts:** Scotland, London and the United Kingdom Support Command (Germany). The first two are responsible for all Army units within their boundaries; the UK Support Command



(Germany) with its headquarters at Rheindahlen has similar responsibilities, but also provides essential support functions for 1 Div and the headquarters of the ARRC.

The eight divisions or district areas are further sub-divided into brigades and garrisons. Some brigade headquarters, as a result of the Defence Costs Study, have been amalgamated with garrison headquarters to achieve savings

and greater efficiency.

Embedded in this structure are all the other elements which represent Land Command's operational capability. They include 24 Airmobile Brigade; the UK element of AMF(L) with headquarters and logistic elements at Bulford and an infantry battalion at Dover; three Signal Brigades (one in Germany); and two Combat Service Support groups (one in Germany).

## Supplying the troops

ALTHOUGH the new Land Command is not responsible for running operations in Northern Ireland, Cyprus and the Falkland Islands, it does provide the operational troops for them.

About 12,000 Regular soldiers are now involved in Northern Ireland, either deployed there or training for deployment, and an additional 500 are serving in Cyprus and the Falklands.

National and UN operations involve further British manpower – currently 3,500 in Bosnia, with others deployed to Azerbaijan and Georgia. Several hundred more are being sent to Angola.

At any one time, about 500 troops are involved in MoD-sponsored equipment trials, demonstrations and exhibitions.

**Compulsory Drugs Testing; Management of the Army's A vehicles and helicopters.**

The new command's task is to deliver and sustain the Army's operational capability wherever and whenever it is required.

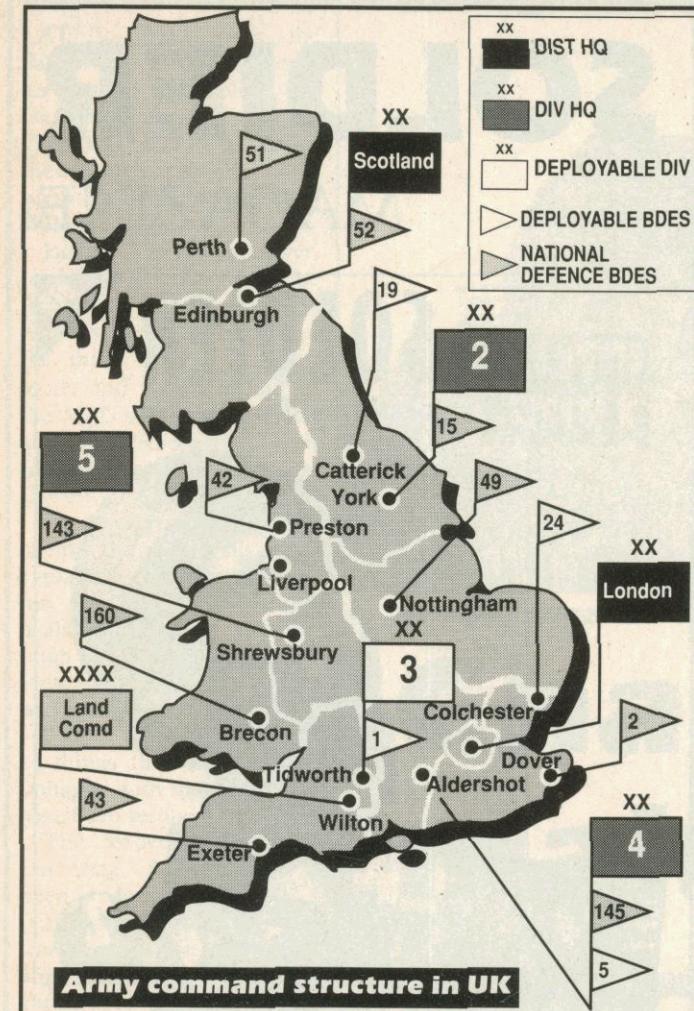
The Army's role is based on three Defence principles:

□ To ensure the protection and security of the United Kingdom and its dependent territories, even when there is no immediate external threat;

□ To ensure against any major external threat to the UK and its allies;

□ To contribute to promoting the United Kingdom's wider security interests through the maintenance of international peace and stability;

**Collective Training** – including responsibility for armoured battlegroup training at BATUS in Canada;



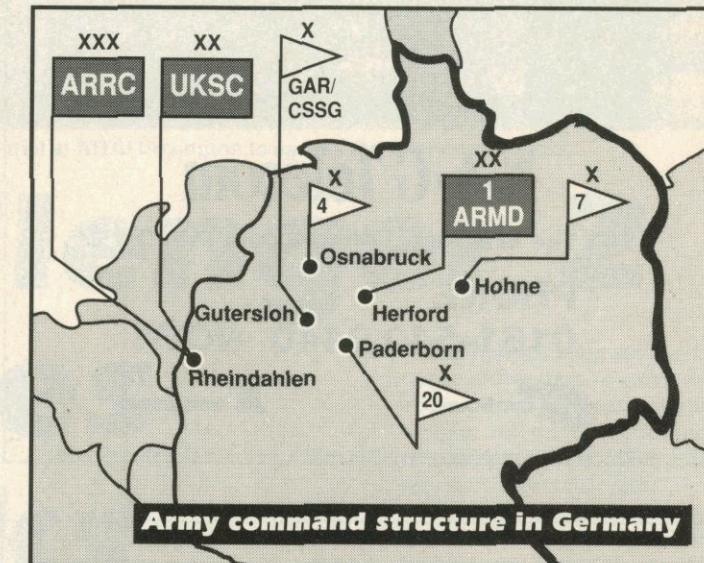
## EXTRA STAFFING

LAND Command is responsible for delivering fighting troops anywhere in the world on time, properly equipped, prepared and supported.

To enable it to carry this out, the command structure has been reorganised. The span of command of the new headquarters is significantly larger and its range of responsibilities consid-

erably greater than before.

Manpower has increased by 100 personnel bringing its total staff to about 850. To compensate for this, some other headquarters have been reduced in size and, for example, HQ United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) will have lost about 200 staff in the past two years.



## THE WORLDWIDE PICTURE

THESE are the Land Command formations:

• **1st (UK) Armoured Division:** Formed in 1940 adopting the charging rhino (the most heavily "armoured" animal) as its insignia in 1942 before El Alamein. Since the Second World War the division has been retitled three times and became the 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division in 1993, having successfully fought in the 1991 Gulf War. Headquarters at Herford and three armoured brigades in north-west Germany. Now commanded by Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson.

• **2nd Division:** Has responsibility for the whole of eastern England except Essex. Though the division was first formed in 1809 to fight in the Peninsular War, the crossed keys sign was not adopted until 1940 when it was reconstituted in England after Dunkirk. Its most famous engagement was during the Burma campaign in 1944 when, at the battle for Kohima, the tide was finally turned against the Japanese Army. Now commanded by Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley.

• **3rd (UK) Division:** The only operational division in Great Britain. It has a mix of capabilities encompassing armoured, air-

borne and wheeled elements in its two mechanised and one airborne brigades. Formed during the Napoleonic Wars. Now also has responsibility for south-west England. The "Iron Triangle" insignia was chosen by its then Commander, Maj Gen Bernard Montgomery, in the early part of the Second World War. Now commanded by Maj Gen Mike Jackson.

• **4th Division:** Responsible for south-east England, including Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire. Previously based in Germany as an armoured division. Now has three brigades under command: 2 Bde in Dover, 24 Bde in Colchester and 145 Bde in Aldershot. The divisional symbol is a tiger. Commanded by Lt Gen Sir Anthony Denison-Smith.

• **5th Division:** Responsible for military units and establishments in Wales, the West Midlands and north-west England. Headquarters in Shrewsbury. The divisional emblem, inherited from Wales and Western District, depicts the Welsh Dragon, the cross of St Chad (7th century Bishop of Mercia) and the red rose of Lancaster. The old Fifth Division fought at Waterloo and played a significant part in the endeavours of the BEF in both

world wars. Now commanded by Maj Gen Ian Freer.

• **United Kingdom Support Command (Germany):** UKSC(G) has responsibility for British troops on the mainland of Europe which are not part of 1 (UK) Armd Div. Its headquarters at Rheindahlen replaces that of the British Army of the Rhine, whose sign it has adopted. Commanded by Maj Gen Scott Grant.

• **Scotland:** Responsible for the entire national territory of Scotland including the Western and Northern Islands. Distinguishing flag of Army Headquarters Scotland at Craigiehall, Edinburgh, is a lion rampant superimposed on a red, black and red background. The lion rampant is a quotation from the Royal Arms of Scotland. Maj Gen Jonnie Hall to take command on April 12 from Maj Gen Mike Scott.

• **London District:** Responsible for units located within the Greater London Area as well as in Windsor. Formed in 1906, the activity for which the headquarters and district is best known is state ceremonial and public duties in the capital. District insignia shows the sword of St Paul representing the City of London and the mural crown representing the County of

London. Headquarters in Horseguards. Now commanded by Maj Gen Ian Mackay-Dick.

• **Belize:** The British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB) was formed on Oct 1, 1994 and is commanded by Lt Col John Silvester, RGBW. Its role is to give training and logistic support to Land Command units training in a tropical, jungle environment. The unit's emblem is a sailfish, a species found in local waters.

• **Brunei:** The garrison is made up of a resident infantry battalion (currently 2 RGR), 7 Flight Army Air Corps and the Training Team Brunei who seek to maintain in the Army the jungle skills which have served us so well in the past. Commanded by CO 2 RGR, Lt Col David Hayes.

• **Canada-Suffield:** British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) is responsible for training battlegroups in the planning and execution of armoured operations through the medium of live firing and tactical test exercises. The "Medicine Man" logo has been adopted from a local newspaper. While serving at Suffield, Alberta, troops are under the operational and administrative command of Col Nick Seymour.

• **Canada – Wainwright:** British Army Training Support Unit at Wainwright (BATSU(W)) provides logistic and administrative support to Land Command units training in the USA where it carries out a similar function. Commanded by Lt Col Mick Haynes.

• **Kenya:** British Army Liaison Staff Kenya (BATLSK) is based in Nairobi. It is responsible for supporting infantry battalion group exercises and 3,000 British troops who train in Kenya each year in terrain ranging in altitude from 8,000 ft down to 2,300 ft. BATLSK has been based at Kahawa Barracks since Kenya's independence in 1963. Commanded by Lt Col Ian Horsford.

• **Nepal:** British Gurkhas Nepal is responsible for providing a line of communications from Nepal to Brigade of Gurkhas troops worldwide. It has a headquarters in Kathmandu with sub-units in east and west Nepal. Established in 1962 soon after Nepal opened its doors to the West and British Gurkhas India moved from bases in India. Commanded by Col Christopher Lavender.

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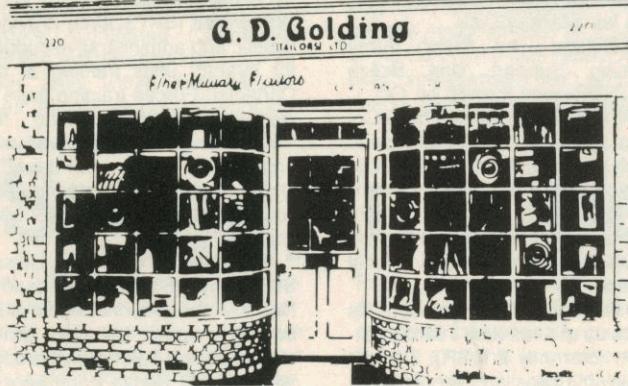
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# Army's new tank has little in common with Mark 1

LATER THIS year, the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards are due to take delivery in Germany of eight "early" Challenger 2 tanks as part of the regiment's eventual consignment of 38, writes Phil Wilcox.

Before then, however, teething troubles on the Army's new main battle tank will have been eradicated on the miles of purpose-built roads and rough terrain at the MoD's Armoured Trials and Development Unit (ATDU) at Bovington in Dorset.

Extensive trials and quality checks are continuing there, explained Maj James Cushnir, the ATDU's weapons trials officer, as part of a thorough programme to ensure the tank is built to the standards and specifications laid down.

"There have been a number of things that we have been unhappy with that we are glad have been resolved," he said.

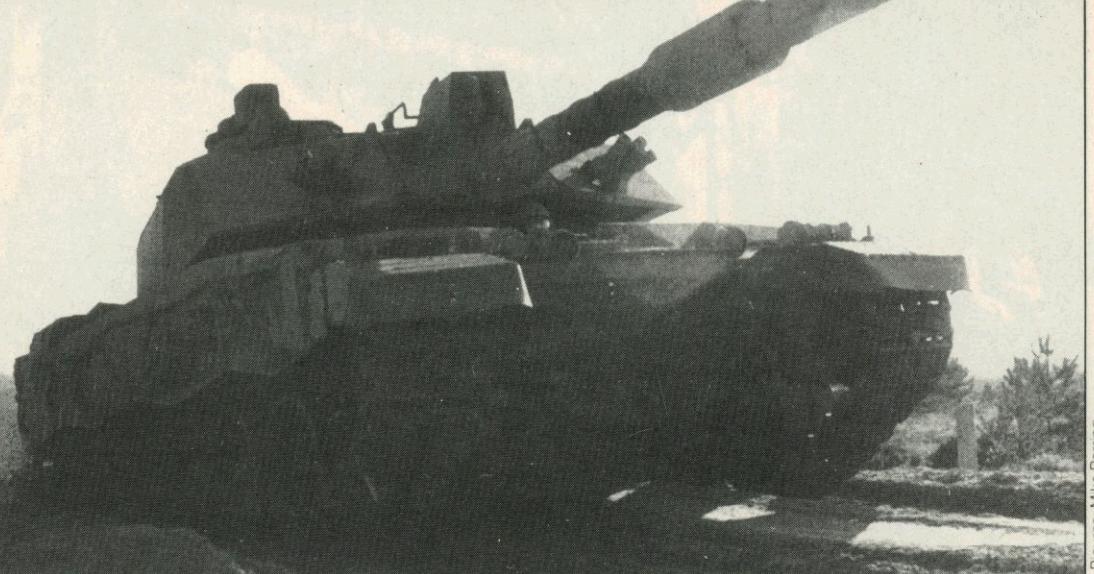
The loader's machine-gun mounting, for example, has been re-designed and will be replaced, and alterations to the tracks have been suggested after concern was expressed about their aggressiveness on difficult going.

It was also found that the Challenger had no rear step to help the crew gain access.

Three versions of a new step were designed, manufactured in the ATDU's workshops on the premises, trialled and put forward for consideration.

"Despite the retention of the name, we are dealing with a new vehicle - with less than three per cent commonality between Challenger 1 and 2," said Maj Cushnir.

A small fielding team, led by Maj Ronnie Whiteside, has been operating at the unit since



Pictures: Mike Perrin

Challenger 2 undergoing a trundle trial at ATDU Bovington to assess the wear on the tracks

# Challenger 2 makes tracks towards delivery

September, having undergone a lengthy training course run by Vickers in Newcastle.

"In the past, when the Army

received a new vehicle, it was sent to the depot at Ludgershall," said Maj Whiteside.

"With Challenger 2, it goes straight from the factory to the user, and all the checks carried out on behalf of the receiving unit's vehicle squadron use the team's expertise.

"The system works very well: we check every tank in considerable detail, take them on the range and set up firing. When all the checks are done to our satisfaction, the vehicle is given to the final recipient."



Maj Ronnie Whiteside (front centre) and members of his field testing team at Bovington. Back row (from left): WO2 Steve Brooks, LCpl Dave Nickerson, WO2 Kevin Kemp, SSgt Micky Pearse. Front row: Sgt Paul Mason, SSgt John Alexander, Maj Whiteside, WO2 Alan Hope and WO2 Graham Whittaker

The fielding team set itself a target of five days to carry out automotive, communications, weapon and turret checks and, according to Maj Whiteside, generally meets that aim.

Eighteen more Challenger 2s will be delivered to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in Germany and 12 to Bovington, where a squadron will carry out an in-service reliability demonstration.

This will consist of 84 battlefield days each comprising 27 km of road running, 33 km of cross-country movement and 34 main armament firings - a considerable commitment.

The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment will be the second recipient - six months after the Scots DG.

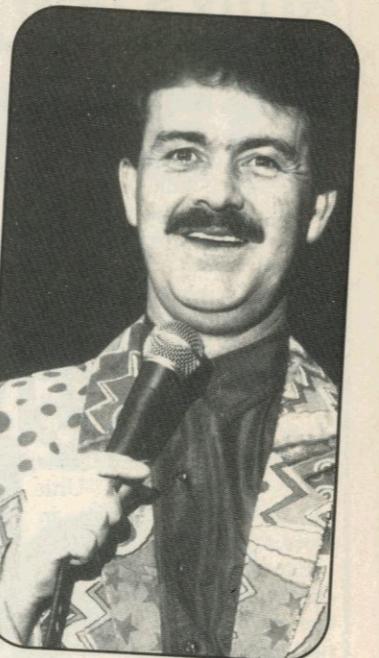
All eight front-line tank regiments will receive eight "early" deliveries and, eventually, their full consignment of a further 30 Challengers.

None of the conversion courses has started yet, although the first gunnery conversion course is due to begin in July, said Maj Cushnir.

"I have great confidence in the new vehicle," he added.

"Its key design principle was 'fightability', in other words to provide a weapon system that the crew can exploit to the full. I think it has achieved that."

As one of the Challenger 2 drivers at the Bovington trials unit succinctly put it: "As far as the gun system is concerned, you cannot beat it: it is fast and good... and the tank is fun to drive."



Above - Comedian Barnaby, one of several comics on the Wycombe bill

Left - Members of Under Wraps display youthful energy



The Divas in full flow at Wycombe Town Hall, where the sound and lighting systems for the showcase were installed and operated by CSE technicians

# There's no business like UK business . . .

Combined Services Entertainment (CSE), for almost 50 years associated in the military mind with providing artistes to perform in shows for the Forces based overseas, has added a new twist to its repertoire

DID YOU hear the one about the juggler, the footballer and the hypnotist?

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Following an MoD re-distribution of resources, the organisation is offering the likes of the three very differing commodities above, and acts ranging from dance troupes to vocalists and comics, to UK-based units.

"Until May last year, the MoD had always given our organisation money to put on shows overseas," explained

CSE chief Richard Astbury.

"Now, the allocation has been split up, so the commands in, say, the Falklands, Cyprus and Northern Ireland have the choice of spending money with us or with someone else - to build a swimming pool or buy a fleet of Land Rovers for Service families to use at weekends, for example."

He was confident that what CSE was providing was a "blue chip" service, and that, provided the quality of entertainment was sustained, CSE's customers would continue to be satisfied.

One result of the disaggregation of funding was that CSE now had the freedom to look at more corporate backing, and put on shows within the UK, Mr Astbury said.

"At the moment, as specialists in providing military entertainment, we are targeting military establishments here,"



Richard Astbury, head of CSE

and concentrating on our regular customers first."

Next year, the newly "privatised" CSE will be concentrating on large commercial organisations in this country.

"Asters", as he is affectionately known, was talking

during the interval of a showcase which CSE had laid on in High Wycombe for a tri-Service audience of UK-based mess presidents and entertainment managers.

Top-line performers Jim Davidson and Bucks Fizz were on a bill which included dance troupe Under Wraps, comedians Barnaby and Dave Lee, illusionist Paul Zenon, magician Sonny Hayes and singing act The Divas.

"We can provide everything for a summer ball or other mess functions, whatever the budget, from stage acts to lighting rigs and sound systems, installed and operated by our teams," said Mr Astbury.

After-dinner speakers, including former England football captain Emlyn Hughes and comedian Jim ("Bullseye") Bowen, have already proved successful. And sports forums involving personali-

ties such as Ian Botham, and evenings of exhibition snooker are planned.

"Things are taking off very slowly as far as the new venture is concerned," Richard Astbury said.

"But we would not want it any other way: we have to go slowly, and make sure that every commercial venture we go into is as big a success here as our overseas record has been in the past."

Like everyone else involved, he is fervently hoping that CSE's initials will not, in future, stand for "Chaos Supersedes ENSA", as the old gag goes, but for something more like "Competitive, Superlative and Enterprising".

• Interested mess managers and organisers should write to Combined Services Entertainment, Chalfont Grove, Chalfont St Peter, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire SL9 8TN, tel 01494 874461.



Three quarters of popular group Bucks Fizz on stage



# Mission accomplished . . .

**Territorial Army officers have been learning what it is like to be at the sharp end of planning and commanding an operation on the battlefield. Report by Phil Wilcox, pictures by Mike Weston**

THEY WERE a disparate bunch. Sixty men and women, ranging from a cabinet maker to a consultant transplant anaesthetist.

But they had at least one thing in common.

All were Territorial Army officers – mainly majors and lieutenant colonels.

And they had all reported to the Army Staff College at Camberley, Surrey, for an intensive two-week TA Command and Staff course.

Over the ensuing two weeks, they would be digesting and wrestling with the finer points of mission command analysis in lecture and syndicate room.

As the fortnight drew to a close, they would be putting into practice what they had learned by walking the battle ground in Exercise First Try – a tactical exercise without troops.

There is a new philosophy on command in the field, explained City insurance specialist Lt Col Julian Radcliffe, TA instructor at the college and nearby RMA Sandhurst.

In the past, orders would be issued in great detail, outlining not only what an officer was to do, but also how to do it.

"That system tended to cramp initiative and meant people were not aware of the whole picture. Now, officers are told: 'The overall plan is such and such' and they can act in a much more free and faster fashion, and think for themselves."

As the first week progressed, *Soldier* asked members of the course for their reactions.

Former Regular-turned-teacher, Maj Mark Spragg, training major of the University of Wales Officer Training Corps, was all in favour of the mission command package.

"It is intriguing, for the



**Lt Col Julian Radcliffe**

simple reason that it is new and we are in at the birth of something from which we are learning all the time," said the major, who served with 1 Staffords in the Gulf War.

"The course is helping me in taking in a wider understanding of the Army at a higher level. I think that for me and my fellow TA officers, it will mean that we will benefit by being less blinkered – looking at the

Army as a whole, rather than the TA in isolation."

Maj Steve Squibb RE, after 13 years with 101 Engineer Regiment, is now a director of a firm specialising in bomb disposal equipment.

"The most useful aspect is being brought up to date on concepts of fighting: I am sure a lot of my predecessors on the course will be jealous," he said.

"Critics have been known to say the TA can be insular, so being forced into the wider picture is beneficial, and the

better understanding of what goes on at brigade level will make service back in the regiment much easier."

Lt Col Peter Koder, a senior veterinary officer at CVHQ, Melton Mowbray, felt he would be better placed to understand the workings of HQ and advise staff on problems.

A cross-Channel participant from L'Ecole Militaire in Paris, Maj Donatien Lebastard of the French Army Reserve, was attending the course to "acquire a better knowledge of the British Army in general."

He was also preparing for his duties as a liaison officer between the two armies.

"The organisation is not the same, but the logic is identical," said the Lyons-based engineer, who at present has no operational responsibilities.

Maj Myszka Guzowska, from 24 Int Coy, Intelligence Corps, was one of seven women on the course.

"Officers in the corps tend to concentrate on the enemy, and do not do much on friendly forces," she said.

"The last time I was in the field, with the OTC at univer-



**Above – Maj Deborah Oliver, 871 PC Sqn RLC, a project director with the Post Office, and teacher Maj Mark Spragg, University of Wales OTC, get down to some planning in the syndicate room**

**Left – Taking note: course members in mid-lecture**

**Right – Maj Myszka Guzowska points out the battle area to Maj Simon Ettinghausen, 281 MC Sqn RLC, and Maj Nick Goulding, 5 R Anglian**

## TA Command and Staff Course



lism, the course could be extended over a 12-month period.

Objectives Alpha One and Two and the securing of Objective Bravo – gradually becoming more visible in the mist – were discussed, pertinent questions asked of their groups by Ops officers and useful advice dispensed by members of the directing staff.

"I have got all the theory, but it is quite different looking at the terrain and then interpreting it."

And what did she think was the chief value of the course?

"It gives an insight into what the divisional commander would be doing – with the aim, of course, of supporting him."

"It's an excellent way of teaching the co-ordination of plans, bringing in all the lessons of the last week and seeing it on the ground," said

Maj Spragg, as Maj Guzowska read out orders which warned of ground unsuitable for Saxon vehicles and woods which might contain enemy troops.

Royal Mail distribution manager Maj Garry Phillips of 103 ES Battalion REME said he appreciated the way in which the Army was teaching its members to think more freely about what they were going to do, and then work out a plan. "For me, as a

former REME Regular, the course has not only been necessary but refreshing – bringing me right up to date.

"My only possible criticism is that we really need more than 15 days."

Nial Browne, a major with 156 Transport Regiment RLC, and tax inspector based in Bootle, had learned "a hell of a lot" over the previous few days about fighting battles.

Course secretary Lt Col Tony Harking, responsible for organising the contents and administration, finds that students are very different to those who attend the main Regular course, which runs from February to December.

"Because they are that much more mature, they bring their outside experiences into play – frequently coming up with novel and innovative solutions to problems," he said.

"It is a demanding and challenging experience for directing staff who instruct at the specially-prepared presenta-



**Maj Donatien Lebastard**

of the Army dogma," he said.

All who attend courses – they can add the initials TACSC after their names – are encouraged to return, whether to listen to lectures, visit the library or use the facilities for research.

"The Staff College at Camberley has an international reputation," said Col Cousens. "It has been going for nearly 200 years."

"This course allows TA officers to take part in that tradition and become members of the college's family forever."

# The visitors' book

I DID not mean to attend the 50th anniversary of the battle of Arnhem.

In 1944 I had landed there as a glider pilot, fought the Germans for seven days and nights, escaped by swimming the Rhine and then, back home in England, had had the Military Medal pinned to my chest by King George VI.

by Louis Hagen

He complimented me on the book and said he wished I had spoken to him before I wrote the last chapter in which I blamed Fd Marshal Montgomery for the disastrous failure of the airborne action.

But the idea of parading with hundreds of old veterans like myself wearing rows of medals and red berets did not appeal. I am not a military type, particularly because of my experience as a young Jew in Potsdam which was the centre of Prussian militarism.

But my publisher thought I

should go as a good opportunity to promote the new version of my 1945 book about the battle, *Arnhem Lift - The Diary of a Glider Pilot*.

By the time he had persuad-

ed me to attend the ceremony, all the hotels and guest houses

were booked and I was

assigned to a billet in a bar-

racks some 30 miles from

Arnhem.

Quite by chance a retired nurse, Ans Kremer, who was helping in the Town Hall to cope with housing the thousands of veterans and their families, had read my book and recognised my name on the billeting list.

She immedi-

ately wrote to me offering to put me up in her house in Oosterbeek where most of the fighting had taken place.

I was delighted to accept her invitation, particularly as she offered to fetch me from Amsterdam, which is about 60km from Arnhem.



Louis Hagen

About ten days before my departure I was surprised to get a telephone call from someone who called himself Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. I thought it was a practical joke, but he went on in perfect German and using the familiar "du", and I realised it

really was Prince Bernhard.

He complimented me on the book and said he wished I had spoken to him before I wrote the last chapter in which I blamed Fd Marshal Montgomery for the disastrous failure of the airborne action.

He completely agreed with me but said I had been too gentle. He and a Dutch major general had tried to warn Montgomery that the 9th and 10th German Armoured SS Divisions with the bulk of their heavy armour were refitting in the neighbourhood of Arnhem.

Montgomery had refused to listen.

The presence of the heavy concentration of tanks had already been confirmed by listening to signals from the German High Command which had been decoded by the top secret Enigma machine. Montgomery had also ignored these and had never passed the information to his troops.

All this would indeed have been a valuable addition to the book.

But what Prince Bernhard was really telephoning for was to invite me to go straight to the palace when I arrived. Not thinking quite straight, I asked him for the address.

He laughed. "Oh, everybody knows where it is."

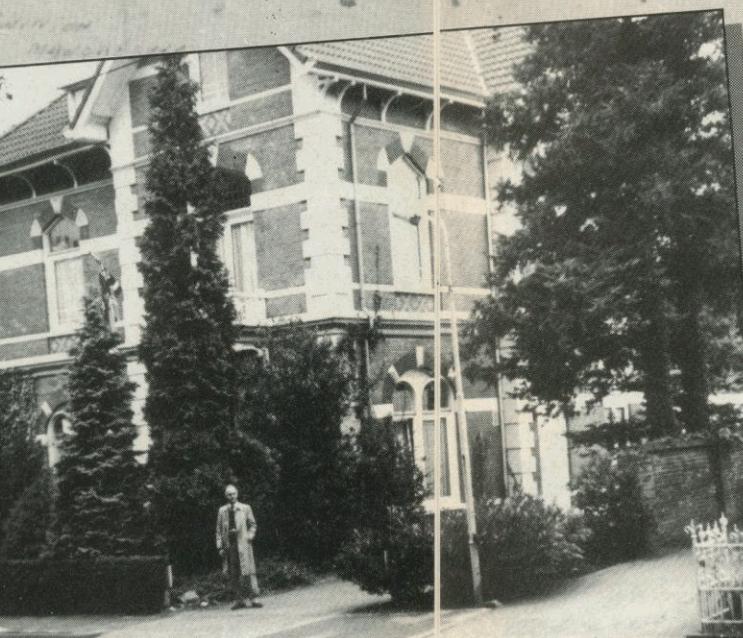
I explained that I was being

A page from Mrs Kremer's visitor's book with the writing and signatures of some of those who fought in her house. Top right is that of Sgt Lewis Haig

met by Ans Kremer and her brother and he told me to take them too.

At the Palace we were shown into Prince Bernhard's study which was cluttered with elephants of every shape and size - a result of his work with the World Wildlife Fund. We had tea and talked in German for about an hour. He apologised to the Kremers but, like most Dutch, they understood enough German to follow the conversation.

During the drive to Oosterbeek, Ans said that they were almost certain that they had



No 8, Station Road, the Kremer house, which was turned into a mini-fortress by Haig and his colleagues. Sander, who was ten at the time of the battle, stands outside the house



Ans Kremer on Arnhem Bridge

met me 50 years ago when she had been 12 and her brother, Sander, ten. They recalled the incredible occasion when, after four years of the hateful German occupation, suddenly, without warning, the sky above Oosterbeek was filled with bombers discharging hundreds

of men and equipment silently floating down dangling beneath parachutes.

Then, when the mortars and shells started exploding

around them, Ans's parents hustled them into the comparative safety of the cellar.

On the third night of their candle-lit subterranean existence they heard a persistent banging on their front door. Ans crept up after her father. In the dark they saw a man in a uniform they did not recognise calling out "Sprechen sie Deutsch?", then in perfect German asking if any of the houses there were occupied by

I do hope & believe that the mess we made of the year lonely house was worth while + good bush or a happy future native boy

110a Banbury Rd

OXFORD



Sgt Lewis Haig, a drawing by Yehez Oppenheimer, December 30, 1944

yards from the smart Hartenstein Hotel which, surrounded by a large park, had been the headquarters of the German High Command, and was now HQ of the 1st Airborne Division.

Each day the fighting became more intense and the Germans crept closer and closer: soon they were in Stations weg No 14, just three houses away. The German tanks and self-propelled guns were now firing straight down Stations weg and I moved into the attic of the house from which I could fire down on them with a small Piat anti-tank gun.

Ans's reminiscences were so vivid that it seemed no time

before we reached her house. As soon as we got inside she fetched a tattered leather-bound visitors' book and opened it at a stained and blotchy page.

On it I had written: I do hope and believe that the mess we made of your lovely house was worth while and Good Luck for the future. It was signed "Lewis Haig [my name during the war to conceal my German background], 110a Banbury Road, Oxford". This was the flat belonging to Peter and Jean Medawar who were my official next of kin.

Ans forgot to ask me to sign her visitors' book again, and I also forgot to ask Prince Bernhard if I might sign his. But if ever I have a chance to go back I shall remember to ask both of them if I may, just to complete the story.

An Arnhem veteran returns . . .

# BMATT sets the standard in new South Africa

"IT IS good to be taking part in a moment of history. The eyes of the world are on the new South Africa," said WO1 Bob Morris of 216 (Para) Signal Squadron.

He is one of 31 British soldiers, sailors and airmen helping to rebuild the country's Defence Force.

Last year the South African Government asked Britain to help integrate more than 30,000 former guerillas into a new South African army.

Fighters – men and women – from the military wing of the African National Congress, the Pan-African Liberation Army local township defence units and forces from four homeland states have to be trained to work together under the banner of the new South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

A British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT) flew to the new democracy of South Africa last summer to begin the task of validating training standards, monitoring conversion training and adjudicating in disputes.

Former guerillas are called forward in groups to two assembly areas where they sign on, register for pay, and complete a series of tests before being interviewed to determine their future.

"You meet people from all walks of life. Some have

Most members of the BMATT are drawn from the Army.

"I sit on a board with an ex-ANC military wing lieutenant colonel and another from the old South African Defence Force," said Maj Lorna McGregor, AGC (SPS).

"We are responsible for placing ex-guerillas into the right corps at the right rank. If there is a requirement to adjudicate or discuss certain issues, then it is my role to do so. It is a bit like Britain's Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service (ACAS) in civil work place disputes."

"When it was explained to him the difference in the job he would be doing in the new Army, he seemed happy to accept the post," he said.

Once confirmed in a rank and corps, a soldier is sent for basic military conversion training, followed by special-to-army training.

trained in Russia, India, East Germany or Cuba. One individual had undergone Spetsnaz training in Russia and was a knowledgeable, high-calibre soldier," said WO2 Dick Catton, of The Parachute Regiment. He is overseeing the training of infantry soldiers.

"We had a former brigadier with only limited formal training. He had been active for more than 30 years. He was experienced, practical and intelligent, so we suggested he would probably be more suitable as a Warrant Officer Class 1.

In contrast, Maj Bob Bruce RS is based several thousand miles away in the middle of the Kalahari desert.

Most members of the team have met President Mandela, Prime Minister John Major and the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, a level of interest which brought home to them the prestige and importance which both governments attach to their role.

Pictures: Sgt Dave Brown

Lt Col Simon Faulkner, an adviser at the SANDF Staff College, talks to South African recruits

"A lot of people are backing the integration. There is an awful lot of goodwill in these difficult times and things are

looking good for South Africa," said WO2 Catton.

The SANDF Chief of Personnel, Admiral Loedolff, has

expressed a keen interest in developing stronger links between British and South African Forces for exchanges



Above left – WO1 Bob Morris  
Above right – WO2 Dick Catton

Below – Maj Lorna McGregor AGC (SPS), who adjudicates on rank and corps



and joint training. The BMATT is expected to be in operation until the middle of next year.

## Safari sappers

ROYAL Engineers have been sent to Zimbabwe to train the southern African country's army in combat engineer skills.

Maj James Yearsley, from Waterbeach-based 39 Engineer Regiment, is leading a team of instructors who are teaching 31 Zimbabwean National Army NCOs at a ZNA combat engineer school in Harare. The Director of the School, Maj Herbert Mutude, trained with the Royal Engineers at Chatham.

The British Army was invited to Zimbabwe after independence in 1980, and there has been a strong British Army training team based in the country ever since.

"We will be teaching them about health and safety, bridge-building, mine warfare, demolitions and watermanship. They are all very enthusiastic and hard working," said WO2 Merv Pickard. Sgt Kev Holden, also of 39 Engineer Regiment, is looking forward to visiting Lake Kariba and the

legendary Victoria Falls during a week of R and R. He has been helping ZNA soldiers brush up their reconnaissance skills.

WO2 (QMSI) Les Brown is on secondment from the Battlefield Engineering Wing at Camberley. As his next posting is to the Mine Warfare School he has been keen to learn as much as possible while in Africa.

"I hope to visit Mozambique to see mine clearance operations there. They have more experience in field clearance of live mines and I hope to make a photographic record and learn their methods."

WO2 Pickard has already been to Lake Kariba in the north-west of the country. "It is an absolutely fabulous area, with hippos and crocodiles."

The training team will remain in Zimbabwe until the end of May. A full-time British Military training team continues to operate, albeit with only



Royal Engineers training team Zimbabwe (L to R): Sgt Kev Holden, WO2 (QMSI) Les Brown, WO2 Merv Pickard and Maj James Yearsley

nine officers in various staff appointments.

Other short term deployments and exercises will take place in Zimbabwe through-

out 1995, including visits by a team of mine disposal experts from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) and Pathfinders from 5 Airborne Brigade.

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WHEN THE TRUTH WASN'T STRANGER THAN FICTION

# You've got to laugh . . .

"GET that bearskin cut!" roared the sergeant major. And off doubled the young Guardsman to the regimental barbers of the Household Division.

The trouble, it appeared, was that the Guards' famous head-dress, manufactured from the pelts of Russian bears, had a growing problem.

Such was the hardy nature of bears roaming the winter wastes of the Steppes that their fur continued to grow long

after the demise of the original owner.

Zoologists had discovered that the secret of the "living pelts" lay in the depth of the epidermis, so thick that even after its removal from the unfortunate bear, it retained sufficient essential hormones and fats to sustain indefinitely hair growth in temperate climates.

The story of the Guards' secret haircuts caused a sensation when it was published in *Soldier* in April 1980.

Telephone lines to the Guards Division were soon red hot.

Army Public Information centres all over the country were inundated with calls. The magazine's phones were permanently engaged.

Until, that is, readers began to link the publication date with the name of an officer quoted at length in the story: one Maj I A Prysle.

For years *Soldier* has prided itself on the quality of its April Fool revelations, and for years it has fooled some of the people for some of the time.

In 1985, the magazine sparked world-wide military and media interest when it printed photographs of the Red Devils jumping from Concorde.

The story read: "On a top secret early dawn operation over sleeping Salisbury Plain's Everleigh Dropping Zone (DZ) up to a dozen of the nation's premier military free-fallers jumped in almost ginclear conditions at 29,000ft - from Concorde."

Operation Fall Guys, as it had been code-named, had been ordered by the MoD to test "tactical applications of ultra-rapid, high-level insertion techniques".

Pte Dai Cast, 23, told the magazine's reporter how exciting the experience had been.



TAKE A POINT: A fraction of the truth

Colleague Sgt Ivor Tenner, 32, described Concorde's sea and ground-hugging flight from Scotland via Iceland to the Brecon Beacons . . . "something to do with radar avoidance."

An officer summed up the exploit as "really quite unbelievable", and it was! But not unbelievable enough to prevent a few embarrassed defence experts from attempting to verify Concorde's secret military role.

In 1983 *Soldier* reported Mr Justin Geste's boot-shine indicator apparatus. Known as the Automatic Polish Reflection Indicator (APRI), it was featured being trialled by helpful drill instructors at the Guards Depot, Pirbright.

According to one senior NCO, a soldier's boots would have to register a gleam factor of between 65 and 75 on parade - or find himself on a charge.

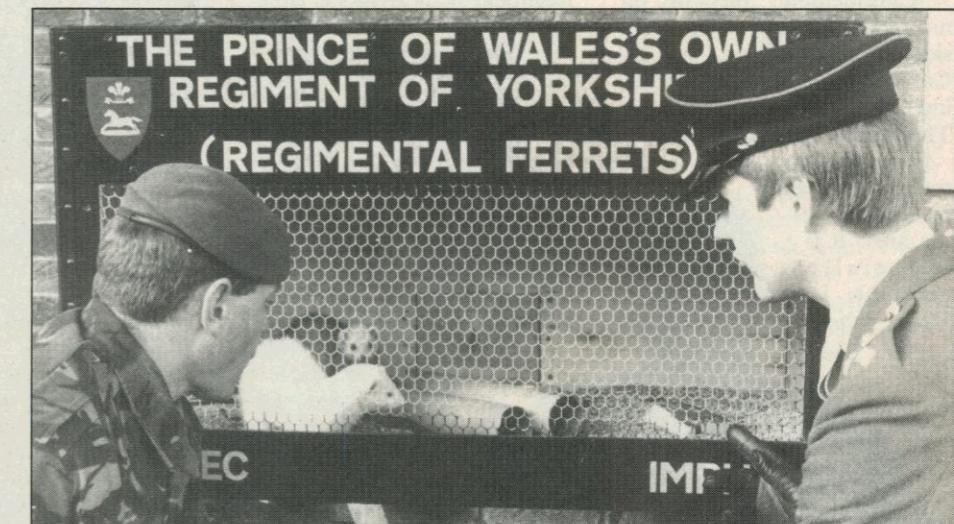
One April 1 joke from the magazine's archives, perhaps reflecting an earlier round of regimental amalgamations, "decimalised" the British Army's famous cavalry regiments. Under the



VERY RAPID EXIT: Revelation that embarrassed the experts



LONG BACK AND SIDES: The bear-skin cheek of it



Above - FERRETING ABOUT: Unusual regimental mascots

Left - A LOAD OF BULL: Shoe shine indicator

national Army Personnel Register (IAPR), told our reporter that the changes would provide greater standardisation in

the regiment's new title - the 0.75 Lancers. Meanwhile, the 13th/18th Royal Hussars and the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards were being adjusted two decimal places and re-designated 0.72 Hussars and 0.57 Dragoons.

Not long ago, *Soldier* aroused considerable interest in the world of field sports

when the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire "adopted" two ferrets as regimental mascots - honouring a ferret that had kept a starving battalion of the East Yorks in rabbit meat during the Second World War.

And what of 1995? Now, that would be telling . . .

headline CAVALRY GET THE POINT, Lt Col A Legge-Poole, a retired cavalry officer serving on NATO's Interna-

Photographs revealed armoured vehicles of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers wear-

# Jocks play their part as peace returns to the valleys

MANY lethal minefields have been cleared in central Bosnia since last year's accord between Bosnian Croats and Muslims. Both sides, advised by British Army EOD experts, have co-operated to clear about half the known minefields in the region, and most of the rest have been identified and marked.

The former enemies have also withdrawn from many of their old confrontation lines.

"Considerable freedom of movement is enjoyed by both sides in central Bosnia," said Lt Col John Edwardes, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers.

So much so that trade has returned to the area. It is especially noticeable in Vitez where

shops and cafes are open for business outside 1 RHF's main camp.

In fact, the main threat to the battalion during the first half of its Operation Grapple tour in former Yugoslavia was snow-covered roads, sub-zero temperatures and drunken gunmen.

The Jocks took on the mantle of BRITBAT 1 from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in November. Their headquarters is at Vitez and they have sub-units deployed at Jelah, Bugojno and Gornji Vakuf.

"Our original mandate was to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid," said Col Edwardes. "That now runs without our assistance, and we are more involved in community projects and secondary distribution of aid to the countryside.

"We try to make sure people in remote villages have supplies of water and power and adequate medical facilities. My men have also been involved in refurbishing schools so children can get back to their classes."

The battalion took its Pipes and Drums to Bosnia and the young musicians have been

Above - Fus Thomas McIntyre and LCpl David Young make repairs to an FV 432 track guard

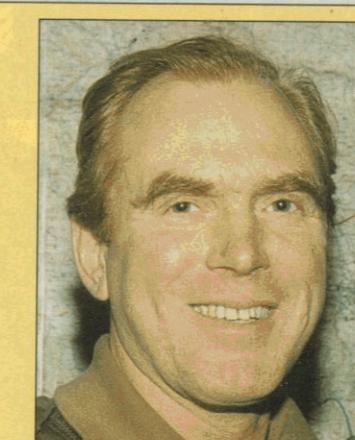
Right - Lt Col John Edwardes, CO 1 RHF

in demand for local concerts, frequently performing on the same bill as a Maori cultural group.

Warrior-equipped 1 RHF has a company attached from the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment and Queen Alexandra's Rifles.

The Kiwis are adept at the *haka* - the aggressive, tongue-poking ritual made famous the world over by All Blacks rugby teams and traditionally performed by Maori warriors to frighten their enemies.

RHF families back at Falling-bostel receive a weekly briefing to keep them up to date with the activities of the battalion.



I think the younger soldiers were very surprised at how peaceful it is here, but while the Bosnian Croats and Muslims are getting on together, ordinary citizens are afraid of walking into the wrong area or talking to the wrong people," said Col Edwardes.

But the presence of the High-



OP GRAPPLE



Above - A Warrior and crew stand ready for call out at Stari Vitez during a VIP visit

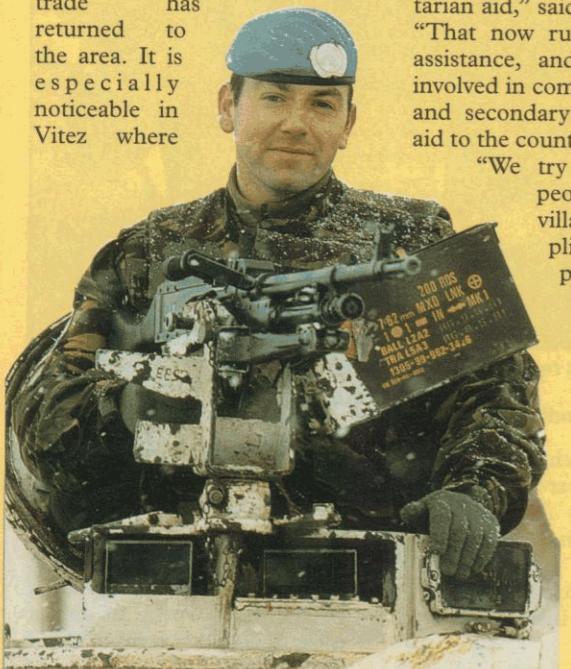
Left - The 1 RHF quartermaster, Maj Bill Mathews (second left) and his staff look after all the equipment needs for BRITBAT 1 at the Vitez garage

A Company and Recce Platoon are detached to BRITCAVBAT at Jelah. The Kiwi company is based at Santici - 20 minutes' walk from Vitez, and BRITBAT 1 had C Company, 1 RGBW at Bugojno and B Squadron, Household Cavalry Regiment at Gornji Vakuf attached. C Company, 1 RHF is stationed at Gornji Vakuf, and B Company works from the main British base at Vitez school.

The commanding officer found himself the focus of media attention earlier this year after *Soldier* reported the issue of a rum ration to troops.

"Day time temperatures had dropped to minus 17 degrees and at night to minus 35. We are entitled to a rum ration in adverse conditions . . . if minus 35 is not good enough, then I don't know what is," he said.

The battalion will be replaced by 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment in May.



Cpl Scott Bell, who led an advance against gunmen who attacked an OP

## Seen it . . . done it . . . cooked it



Six Army chefs in Vitez who have seen it all before. Pictured from left to right are WO2 (SQMS) Jim Burns, Sgt Alan Keenan, LCpl Brian Woods, Sgt Simon Lawton and LCpls Dave Barnett and Brian Morrison of the Royal Logistic Corps.

They have good cause for feelings of *déjà vu*. This is their second six-month tour in the region: all six were on Grapple 1. WO2 Burns explained: "I was attached to the sappers last time, and the others served with the Cheshires. Main difference now is the use of proper kitchen units. When we were here before, we cooked on field kitchens in tents."

# Prozor loses its Wild West image

THE LAST time *Soldier* photographer Terry Champion drove through the central Bosnian town of Prozor a drunken gunman pointed his AK47 assault

rifle in his direction and pulled the trigger. He missed.

So lawless was the town that Prozor would not have found itself out of place had it been transplanted lock, stock and barrel to the badlands of the old Wild West.

According to B Squadron, The Household Cavalry Regiment, until a few months ago vehicles were being held up at gunpoint or stoned and it was too dangerous to walk down the main street without flak jacket and helmet.

"It's very different now," said squadron leader Maj Mark Van Der Lande. "A new authority is in charge, the locals are friendly and they now feel an affinity for UNPROFOR and are grateful for what we have tried to do."

Much of the credit for that

has to go to the soldiers of B Squadron, who have spent the past few months out on the ground, talking to people and building up confidence.

"The population now see us as fellow human beings rather than anonymous soldiers in flak jackets and helmets sitting on top of armoured vehicles. It is a tremendous achievement," said Maj Van Der Lande.

As part of a medium reconnaissance regiment, the

squadron would normally act as the eyes and ears of a fighting formation. In a switch of role, its soldiers have travelled to all parts of their area of responsibility to get to know the people and find out what is happening, thus ensuring a considerable delivery of aid to both Croat and Muslim settlements.

In a concentrated effort by the squadron's five recce troops to complete a number of "G5" projects — assistance to the community — B

Squadron established four schools so children in the area could resume their education.

Although based in Gornji Vakuf, B Squadron has to travel to work. It is responsible for 2,700 square kilometres of countryside stretching from the massive Tito's Fist monument on the ridge south of Gornji Vakuf along Route Triangle to Tomislavgrad.

Patrols provide security on another main supply route — Route Square — and man a checkpoint at Tomislavgrad to control access to Triangle.

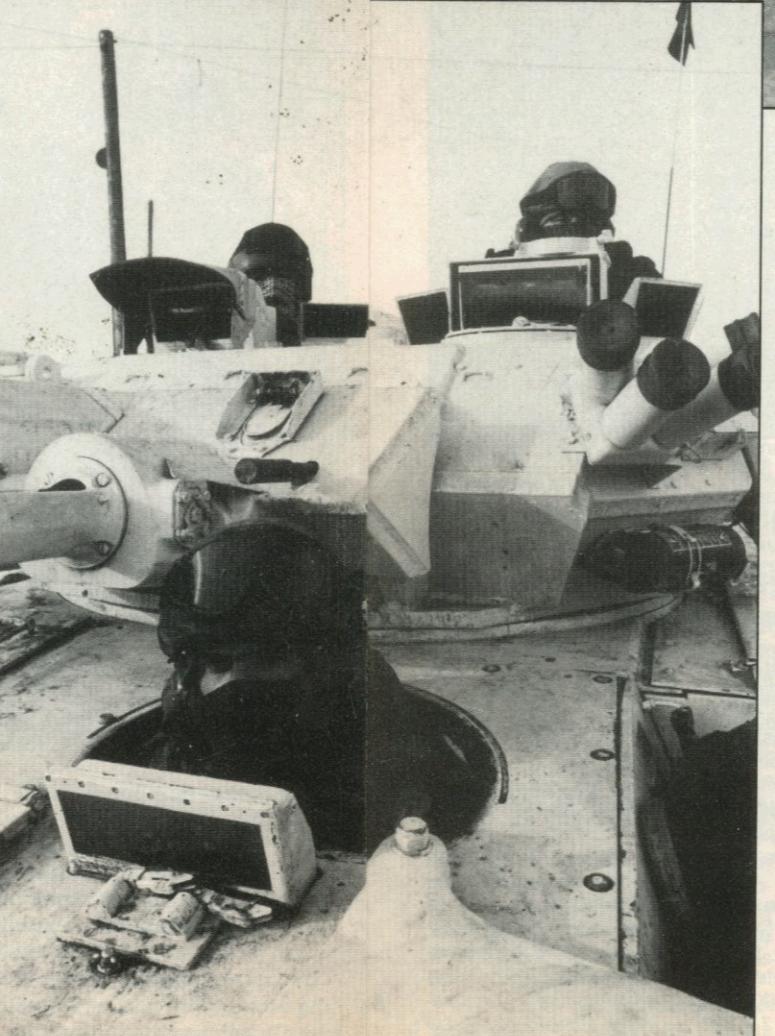
According to 5 Troop Leader, Lt Luke Chauveau, patrols slept beside their Scimitar light tanks and Spartan CVR(T)s during the summer months. "In winter we overnight with the Royal Engineers at Tomislavgrad or at Fort Invicta above Lake Prozor."

So narrow is the route leading to the lake that serious road traffic accidents occurred nearly every day until B Squadron began escorting convoys through the choke point. Since then there have been just two minor accidents.

Responsibility for the area has now been taken over by A Squadron, The Household Cavalry Regiment.



Maj Mark Van Der Lande, B Squadron leader



A B Squadron Scimitar negotiates the streets of Prozor



Above — Three Household Cavalry Regiment escort vehicles and crews await the arrival of a convoy

Left — Scimitar crewmen wrap up to fend off the effects of wind chill

OP GRAPPLE

# Let's not forget the role of wives

I LIVE in a small village in Norfolk. It's an interesting place, not least because of the number of American ex-Service people who live there.

There are a number of British ex-Service folk about, too.

Through my letterbox dropped a parish council flyer for a public meeting to ask villagers what they want to do about VE and VJ Days.

Is commemoration enough? Is there cause for celebration of 50 years of peace? Good questions. A 50th birthday is a marker and a dividing line. *Soldier* has just celebrated its 50th, and I dare say

those who remember the first edition feel a milestone has been reached.

My grandfather – sadly no longer with us – gave me some of the first editions and, leafing through them, I'm struck by the range of emotions. I smile at the constants of Service life and shake my head over the evident hardships.

Pay, allowances and housing cropped up as worries for the serving soldier and his family. Leaving the Service and life outside were concerns in 1945. As for the



**Cari's column**

wife (these were "simpler" times), there were other preoccupations. One wife in Germany deplored the lack of good domestic help.

I was about to laugh until I remembered my grandmother's account of hardship on joining my grandfather in that war-torn country.

Back to the present. Army wives in Germany are disturbed to find that, because their pay had fallen below a cut-off point, their National Insurance payments were not being made, while wives in the UK

thought the quartering charge rises were a result of new arrangements for administering MQs.

Wives wrote to the Federation of Army Wives in response to suggestions that the new Defence Housing Executive should clean MQs for handover and charge for the service.

Then there was the dignified wife of a man who served in the Gulf. Her husband sat in a wheelchair in the Commons trying to answer journalists' questions.

Motor Neurone Disease had robbed him of his voice. He had a voice synthesiser linked

to a computer, and it took time for him to programme his answers.

"What my husband is trying to say..." she said, and the room fell silent. Hardened hacks bit their lips and photographers asked permission to take their pictures.

It's the wives, you see. Women share the burden of service. And it is women who frequently pay in the end – the war widow who re-marries and loses her pension, the woman who forsakes her own career and pension to follow her husband, and then finds herself alone and broke when he leaves her.

And the young woman alone in a foreign home while her husband goes on another exercise. The same young woman who the authorities say left her job of her own volition, ending her entitlement to benefits towards which she has contributed.

It was a lively interview. Subsequently I went to a meeting in the Commons attended by MPs from all parties. Mrs Currie didn't let them off the hook.

I got the feeling that she would be a true ally of the ex-Service community. She says her interest in the aftermath of the Gulf War was awakened by a group of constituents. I believe her.

Perhaps this year we should all be using our

fact, she frightened the life out of everyone with her real knowledge of the situation.

"I wish you wouldn't keep saying 'alleged' and 'claim'," she said. "These people are ill."

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MPs to advance the cause of ex-Servicemen and women, and their spouses.

By the by, the Federation of Army Wives made the point, some time ago, that they might be forced to think of themselves as the Federation of Army Spouses. As this seems a very silly title, can anyone think of a suitable alternative? Drop me a line.

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## Ready to volunteer?

NATIONAL charity CSV – it stands for Community Service Volunteers – is looking for thousands of young people to become volunteers.

No one who applies will be rejected as long as they are aged between 16 and 35, and can spend between four months and a year away from home to work with homeless young people and those with special needs.

Volunteers, who receive accommodation, food, expenses, and pocket money, should contact the CSV on 0171 278 6601.

# Pilgrimages to Far East mark 50 years

IN THE 50th anniversary year of the end of the Second World War, the Royal British Legion Pilgrimage Department has arranged group trips to several Far Eastern countries in addition to Europe and North Africa.

The 1995 tours, to 14 countries, include sites of other conflicts, such as Gallipoli and Korea as well as the trenches of the First World War.

Scenes of disasters and triumphs in the Far East – and the "Forgotten" 14th Army – are remembered with pilgrimages to Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand

and Burma, and to the graves of slave labourers who died in the salt mines near Tokyo.

It was in this theatre that the Allies' largest single Army of nearly one million fought along the longest battle line, from the Bay of Bengal to China, through some of the most difficult terrain in the world.

The Burma campaign produced 101 battle honours and 29 Victoria Crosses, the most in any theatre of war. Of the 300,000 prisoners taken by the Japanese, more than a third died.

Widows who have travelled before under the Grant-in-Aid scheme may apply to make further pilgrimages, though at full cost. Veterans, students and military historians may also join the tours.

Dates of the Far East trips are:

**Hong Kong**, Aug 24-Sept 6;

**Singapore**, Sept 6-15; **Korea and Japan**, Sept 18-27;

**Burma**, Nov 7-19.

Precise information on each trip, including cemeteries and locations to be visited, memorial services planned, hotel details, visa and inoculation advice, a summary of costings and a booking form are contained in the 1995 brochure available from the Pilgrimage Department, The Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7NX (tel 01622 716729 or 716182 or 717172).

Over the past nine years more than 2,500 widows

were very good value and that there was a 20 per cent discount on course fees for Service dependants. Courses are free to anyone under 20, those receiving unemployment benefit, income support,

family credit and disability and other allowances.

Garrison Commander Brig Peter Lyddon welcomed the new arrangement and said it was important no available tuition time was wasted.

## Training centre taken over



Brig Peter Lyddon (left), manager Jeannie Spence and WO1 Steve Robinson in the Catterick centre

CATTERICK Garrison's Training and Employment Service was formally handed over to Darlington College last month.

Previously run by the Families, Housing and Welfare Service, the Horne Road centre offers nationally recognised qualifications in computing and information technology, management and supervisory skills, counselling, health studies, catering and many other subjects.

Open to everyone in the area, it is aimed at soldiers and their families.

Centre manager Jeannie Spence said the courses

## Getting by with Auntie

IF you want to get by in Turkey, Greece or India this summer, the BBC may have the thing for you.

Their popular "Get By" language survival courses have been reissued on cassette and book. The major European languages are covered, as well as Arabic, Urdu, Hindi, Russian, Japanese and Chinese.

Books (£3.99) and cassette packs (£9.99) are sold separately or as packs (£12.99).

Spanish, German, Italian and French courses are also available on video.

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Picture: Terry Champion

Margaret Hutchison, matron of Queen Mary's Nursery at Aldershot, receives the Pre-school Learning Alliance accreditation from Col Simon Hill, the Garrison Commander.

The Middle Hill nursery, founded in 1899 by Queen Mary for British Army children, was among the first in the

country to receive the kitemark, the first voluntary accreditation scheme for under-fives' daycare providers. Mrs Hutchison said the

nursery was thrilled to receive the award. "It has been hard work reaching the standards set by the Pre-school Learning Alliance, but so worthwhile. We had fun in the process."

The former GOC Scotland has succeeded Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Baird as chairman of the country's

biggest hospital for disabled members of the ex-Service community.

Gen MacMillan's father, Gen Sir Gordon MacMillan, Chief of the Clan MacMillan, was chairman of the Erskine for 25 years until 1980.

Although the value of donations and legacies was slightly down on the previous year, the contribution

from these sources of £4 million enabled the hospital to finish the year with a modest surplus.

The Erskine was founded in 1916 to cope with the flood of casualties from the First World War. It has been funded since then by public subscription and the generosity of benefactors in Scotland.

To contact Fairshares, send stamped, addressed envelope to 14 Park Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 2QH.

# New moves on divorce pension law

REPORTS that divorced women could be guaranteed up to half the income from their estranged husband's private pensions have been welcomed by the campaigning group Fairshares.

The news comes in the light of an overhaul of the law governing division of property between separating couples.

The Government has already accepted that the law in England should be brought in line with Scotland, where courts take pensions into account when apportioning assets on divorce.

Fresh proposals go further, and would give courts a new "deferred maintenance" power forcing husbands to give their ex-wives a portion of the income from their private pensions on reaching retirement age.

Private pensions, more

often than not in the husband's name, are now seen to be one of the most valuable assets of a marriage, and Fairshares has been campaigning for them to be placed in the separation equation.

Campaigners have pointed out to the Government that maintenance ceases on the ex-husband's death and is vulnerable to whom. Ex-wives also forfeit the right to a widow's pension.

Divorced women in the military community – especially the wives of higher-earning officers – have found themselves in desperate straits.

After years of following the Colours in support of their husbands, often to the detriment of a career, separation has left them financially vulnerable at a time when their former partners can look forward to income from generous pensions.

The Pensions Bill reached its report stage in the Lords on March 14 and is expected to reach the Commons in mid-April in time to be processed for Royal Assent in July.

To contact Fairshares, send stamped, addressed envelope to 14 Park Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 2QH.

## Erskine looks to the next century

ERSKINE Hospital for disabled ex-Servicemen and women at Bishopton, near Glasgow, is preparing plans to bring it into the 21st century, said Lt Gen Sir John MacMillan on his election as chairman.

The former GOC Scotland has succeeded Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Baird as chairman of the country's

## Occupational health care and the Armed Forces

I READ with interest your article on Gulf War syndrome (January 23) which highlighted aspects of the MoD's efforts to provide a caring environment for employees.

Occupational health nurses are employed in a variety of settings and are responsible for promoting and maintaining

positive health in the workplace, and for providing expert advice to meet the requirements of the client group.

Counselling, health and safety, environmental surveys, risk assessment and ergonomics are all well within the capabilities of this highly skilled and professional group who are

trained to degree level. If the Armed Forces really took on board this concept, maybe they wouldn't leave themselves wide open to the ever-increasing issue of health and safety litigation – such as noise-induced deafness – that rears its head from time to time.

Recently a Regular lieu-

tenant colonel RAMC was overheard to say "we don't want to employ any of those factory nurses", which highlights the need to enlighten and inform Service personnel of the valuable role played by occupational health staff. – C Whittaker, QARANC(V), S Glamorgan.

### Darwin's veterans reach for Star

WITH reference to the ongoing controversy about medals in your magazine, I thought your readers might be interested in a brief report in *The West Australian* newspaper of February 28.

I quote: *Ex-Servicemen have welcomed a Federal Government announcement that the 1939-45 Star medal would be granted to military personnel involved in the often-forgotten defence of Darwin. Those who served in the Top End during the Japanese raids from February 1942 to November 1943 will be eligible.*

I wonder what ex-members of AA Command will think of this? – J Hogg, Kewdale, Western Australia.

□ COULD someone please tell me what Gulf War syndrome/desert fever is? I fought in Egypt in 1940, and at Tobruk, and was taken prisoner in 1941. Among other things I suffered from desert fever, sand fly fever, yellow jaundice, tonsilitis, fleas, lice and an acute shortage of water. – A J Medler, Norwich.

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Fax 01846 665218

## Soldiers and smoking

AS A serving medical officer I am carrying out research into the influence of the Army on cigarette smoking. I am primarily interested in the historical perspective of how smoking became so established in the military community.

I wonder if any of your readers might be able to let me know their personal experi-

ences of smoking in the Army, particularly in relation to the two world wars, how they started and so on.

Additionally, if anyone has any information on this subject I would be immensely grateful to see it. I can be contacted at the Officers' Mess, The Castle, Edinburgh EH1 1YT. – Dr R K Bhabutta.



Combined Services Entertainments – see Pages 16-17

## Double Diamond shifted huge tank

YOUR item "Tanks a lot" (Feb 20) brought back many memories for me.

From September 1952 to April 1954 I served as a postie in Tripoli, Libya. Being a small unit, we were billeted with some of 44 Tank Transporter Company RASC. When the LCT *Snowdon Smith* docked, I was sent to ensure any surface mail on board was collected.

I found the ship moored bows on to the quay with its doors open. The only way on was through the doors and past the largest tank and special trailer I had ever seen. It was, I learned later, a Caernarvon.

Meanwhile, the corporal i/c Det 44 Tpt Coy, without further information, had been told to report to the ship for a special detail at 1315 hours.

Imagine the furore when high-ranking specialists flown in from goodness-knows-where to supervise the unloading returned from an extended lunch to find the tank and trail-

er on the quay and hitched up to a Diamond T tractor.

The load was destined for Zavia, about 50km up the coast (where, I think, 14/20 Hussars were based) for trials. On the way there the unusually heavy load burned out the clutch of the tractor, and sub-

## Front line magazine

YOUR page of letters from *Soldier's* early years (Feb 20) held my interest, in particular the one from an NCO in Base Workshop REME, Korea.

Were copies of *Soldier* made freely available to troops during the Korean War?

Having served there in RA mortar batteries from March 1951 to 1952, I have no recollection of seeing a copy.

Possibly they were all grabbed on arrival at the rear echelons, with none reaching forward positions. Maybe your

records, or readers, could confirm. – Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.

□ An issue raised by the old letters feature: when did a "Sjt" become a "Sgt" and a sergeant major become a sergeant major?

My Oxford Illustrated relates "serjeant" to the legal profession. It is unlikely that a member of the Lancers or REME could be that. – C J Heyward, Essex.

Over to our readers. – Editor.

## Behind scenes of Army video

AS the writer of *The Official Story of the British Army*, I read Mr Leslie's very helpful letter ("Picking on video faults", Letters, February 6).

First of all, I must absolve the MoD and all other sources who came to my aid – and who gave their time so generously – of any responsibility for textual or "visual" errors. The former are entirely mine, the latter fall somewhere between myself and the director-editor.

One particular problem we had was in the illustration of events *before* the camera was invented – about 80 per cent of the story! Mr Leslie noted French light cavalry at the Charge of the Light Brigade; for reasons of cost we were unable to use footage from the feature film and you caught us out in a compromise.

Insofar as the Renault tank and the Irish National Army are concerned, they were errors of identification, for which many apologies. These apart, we were fortunate in our search for original material, some of it quite rare, and much of it never before brought together in a narrative form.

Having said that, it may interest your readers to know that no MoD money goes into a production of this sort and the budget is a lot less than for a 20-minute training film.

This in no way excuses lapses, but setting the size of the enterprise against the resources I hope we gave a creditable account of a fascinating story. – Tony Bensted, Petersfield.

## Engendering confusion

I WAS interested to note (Newsline, Feb 20) that the Army had on October 1 "... three women brigadiers, 12 female colonels and 35 females of the rank of WO1." What, I wonder, in this context, is the distinction between a woman and a female? – Col (Retd) J P Sellers, Scarborough.

## Why the science-fiction arms race must go on... and on

IN the beginning there was Jules Verne whose scientific predictions held readers spell-bound. Then came H G Wells, and, later, Arthur C Clarke.

Now David Shukman, author of *The Sorcerer's Challenge*, reveals that the days of soldiering as we know it could be numbered.

He paints a mind-boggling

picture of futuristic armies, from automated sentries, unmanned artillery, solar-powered gliders armed with "smart rockets" providing constant defence against missiles, mini computers allowing tiny satellites to spy from space and "robot ants" to act as scouts or to eat their way through electric cables.

He adds: "The lowliest soldier will be enabled to see in the dark and for the first time in the history of warfare, know precisely where he is and what is going on around him."

David Shukman, the BBC TV defence correspondent, assures us that these ideas, bizarre as they may sound, are feasible, and if sufficient funds

are made available for research and development, they are likely to become reality.

He lists other futuristic electronic and biological devices designed to eliminate an enemy, suggesting the West's research is driven by other countries developing such weapons. It is a question of having to do it - or risk falling

behind. In short the arms race, despite the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Cold War, goes on... and on... and on.

A thought-provoking read. - JM

**The Sorcerer's Challenge** by David Shukman. Published by Hodder & Stoughton, £20.

THE AFFAIRS of the Gulf are mysterious to those who have not actually lived and worked in that part of the world, where the main commercial interests are pearls, gold and, more recently, oil.

High-yield commodities inevitably bring with them dispute and conflict. In this climate the Trucial States of the Gulf were born out of need for co-existence in the middle of the last century when the sheiks signed a perpetual truce containing a clause that meant the British accepted responsibility for policing the seas of the Gulf coast.

British involvement arose as a direct result of the increasing importance of India during a period of imperial expansion and the need to keep seaways open and free of pirates.

Now, as then, peace in the area depends on complex and, to the West, sometimes inexplicable Arab diplomacy. In his new book, *The Trucial Oman Scouts: The Story of a Bedouin Force*, Michael Mann gives an insight into how negotiations are conducted in a region where frontiers and laws are vague, and presents the history of a unique policing force, officered largely by the British.

The Trucial Oman Levies, as they were initially called, were raised in 1951 as an armed gendarmerie to police the seven Trucial States.

There was an evident need for improved security for oil company parties working within the sheikdoms. The Levies' tasks were also to control gun-running, and "to stop the passage of pilgrims who could end up in slavery in other parts of Arabia, and the protection of the Trucial States from external aggression..."

Quite a heavy brief for a force with an initial strength of 70 men under a British commandant. Seconded to raise and train the force was Maj

## Trucial affairs



A Trucial Oman Scouts' camel patrol returns to Fort Jalili at dawn. The photograph was taken during a visit by *Soldier* to Oman in November 1965

Michael Turvin, a British officer who also held a commission in the Jordanian Arab Legion.

Although their officers were British Regulars and the Foreign Office in London footed the bill, the men took no oath of loyalty, "so that the traditional forms of military law were on an uncertain foundation".

An article in *Soldier* in 1957 described the state of the area in the early period of the era covered by the book. "The area has been little disturbed by outside influences and even today there are no metal roads, modern sanitation or water supply..."

The Bedouin predilection for treating orders as a matter for discussion rather than immediate obedience caused some problems. These were inevitable in such a mix of cultures and the solutions called for delicate handling, as at Mirfa when a British officer got drunk and started to chase some Arabs with a kukri. "The

men of the squadron told the second-in-command that if that officer carried on parade, they were going to shoot him. The officer was quickly removed."

The Suez crisis of 1956 changed the attitude of some rulers towards the British Government. Sheikh Sarg of Ras al Khaimah declined a visit from a Royal Navy ship and there was a demonstration at Dubai, led by Egyptian teachers.

Still the Scouts soldiered on and, at the agent's suggestion, they increased their patrols to the furthermost parts of the States, so the population could be assured that "law and order still prevailed".

Col Smiley, Chief of Staff in the Sultan of Oman's armed

forces, obtained the services of a squadron of the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment for three months; such was the simmering situation in the Gulf during the late 1950s.

In December 1961 the Scouts were called on to help control an invasion of locusts in the Buraimi and Ras al Khaimah regions. There were other non-military achievements, such as the setting up of a boys' school and the opening and operating of a radio station.

In January 1968, Prime Minister Harold Wilson declared the British would withdraw from the Gulf. To the Arabs this was the breaking of a promise that British protection would continue under the old treaty.

The Trucial Oman Scouts

were transformed, or more correctly absorbed, into the Union Defence Force, and 30 seconds before midnight on December 22, 1971 the officers of the Trucial Oman Scouts assembled to drink the health of the Scouts. Seconds past midnight they toasted the replacement force.

In the 20 years of the Levies'

and Scouts' existence they attracted to their service some of the best and most colourful officers and NCOs of the British Army and this book is a fitting tribute to both British and Arab personnel. - BJ

**The Trucial Oman Scouts: The Story of a Bedouin Force** by Michael Mann. Published by Michael Russell (Publishing) Limited, Wilby Hall, Wilby, Norwich NR16 2JP, hardback, £19.95.

**The Battle for Manila** by Richard Connaughton, John Pimlott and Duncan Anderson. Bloomsbury, £16.99.

## Manila paid price of vanity

WHEN US Gen Douglas MacArthur fled Manila from the invading Japanese in 1942, he made his unforgettable promise to the citizens of the Philippines: "I shall return".

Three years later, in February 1945, he kept his promise and in so doing, reduced the old part of the city, the "Pearl of the Orient", to rubble.

In the final chapter of *The Battle for Manila*, the trio of authors suggest the battle was not vital to the Americans' aim and that, while it was an important objective, other places had greater strategic value.

They, and others they quote, suggest it was MacArthur's personal obsession with regaining Manila, his seat of power in the Far East in 1935 when he headed the American Military Mission during the city's heyday, which drove him to fulfil his pledge to return.

His overwhelming desire to go back manifested itself when he personally joined his troops in their attack on the Manila Hotel, clearing floor by floor the occupying Japanese so he could be among the first to enter his former penthouse apartment.

The authors say this action reduced MacArthur to the role of a squad leader, diverting his attention from wider issues.

Maybe, but he had set his mind on liberating Manila and liberate it he did, even if in the process he reduced the city to smitherines and killed thousands in the process.

A notorious seeker of self-publicity, MacArthur fell from grace when, as commander of the UN Forces in Korea in 1951, he expressed views contrary to US and UN policy and was sacked by President Harry S Truman, never to return.

He died in 1964. - JM

Rodney Bashford listens to two new CDs

## Brash Yanks and laid-back Grenadiers

**Hands Across The Sea**  
Band of the Grenadier Guards  
Conductor: Maj P E Hills

TWO CDs with the same title for review, one by the finest wind band of America and the other by one of our own best bands, each with something to say regarding the musical approach to John Philip Sousa.

Both discs are worth owning, for they have only the title march and three or four others in common. The Grenadiers have the typically "laid back", more serious approach while the Americans give their all in bright and breezy commitment, sometimes called brashness by we laid-back Brits.

Unfairly so, in my opinion: merely national characteristics carried over into music.

Of the 25 on the Grenadier disc there are some rarities to go with Sousa's all-too-recorded masterpieces. They are never less than expertly written of course, and even if they are not quite masterpieces they certainly get the feet tapping.

*Imperial Edward, Belle of Chicago, The White Plume, From Maine to Oregon, Dauntless Battalion, The Lambs' March, The Review, Power and the Glory, Century of Progress, The Crusader and Daughters of Texas* should attract collectors.

The remainder are the old war-horses, making a fine set of Sousa whether you collect or not.

During the recording of this programme the band went to Blenheim Palace to make a video, marching around the park and in front of the palace. It will appear soon, and will be reviewed in due course.

A Teldec recording, from dealers only. CD only, Mercury 434 334-2.

**Hands Across The Sea**  
Eastman Wind Ensemble  
Conductor: Frederick Fennell

SUB-titled "Marches from around the world", this disc from a famous band out of Rochester, New York State, takes us to Europe, Russia, Scandinavia and, of course, the Americas.

Conductor Frederick Fennell is the doyen of American band leaders, noted for his dynamism but now beginning to show his age. Even so, he manages to instil life into not always great music.

The title opener is again the opener for a programme which begins in France with Louis Ganne's masterpiece *Le Pere la Victoire* (Father Victory), thence to Spain for a concert march with the strange title *The Golden Ear*, but a good one.

*Old Comrades* for Germany, and Prokofiev's humorous and spiky *March opp 99* for Russia, with Norway's great *Valdres March*, and Eric Coates's *Knightsbridge* and Alford's *Colonel Bogey* for Britain.

Not much of a world tour, really, for the other 11 marches keep you land-locked in the good ol' US of A.

They are five of Sousa's best, albeit over-recorded gems, plus his *The US Field Artillery*. Then Goldman's *On The Mall*, Meacham's *American Patrol*, a march based on the call *Lights Out*, Karl King's *Barnum and Bailey's* [but not my] *Favourite*, and finally, Klorr's *The Billboard*.

With every band leader, military and civilian, each writing dozens of marches, they really do get stuck for titles. I shall have to dedicate one to that great graffiti Bill Stickers.

From dealers, CD only, Mercury 434 334-2.

## Gunners lay on Larkhill spectacular

THERE are two excellent reasons to go to the Artillery Open Day at Larkhill on May 5-6.

It is planned as a double celebration of the Royal School of Artillery's 75th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

In fact, the event is part of the official national programme of VE Day commemorative festivities.

With the theme "The Gunners Past, Present and Future", the occasion promises to be a cracking good show.

Admission on the public day, May 6, will be £3 for adults, £2 for children under 16 and OAPs. Family tickets (two adults, three children) are £8.

The military preview is on May 5, when ID cards will be necessary for admission.

Star of the show will be the fire-power demonstration, but other attractions will include the Army Air Corps' Blue Eagles helicopter display team and an AAC airship.

The last Artillery Open Day, in June 1990, attracted more than 20,000 spectators.

Don't miss this one.

• General enquiries on 01980 675632, tickets and bookings on 01980 675434.

## Beverley book

SSAFA Humberside is to present a Book of Remembrance to Beverley Minster in memory of the fallen of the Second World War.

For information about inclusion of loved ones who served in or had contact with the East Yorkshire area, ring Sue Whittaker on 01482 494075. She would also like to hear from anyone who willing to make a contribution to SSAFA's Lest We Forget flower festival in the Minster from August 11-15.



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Home again: Noddy the errant elephant with his new keeper, WO2 (SSM) Neil Penzer

### SOLDIER to Soldier

## Naughty Noddy goes home

LCPL NODDY the elephant has returned to his rightful home with Hameln-based 37 Field Squadron Royal Engineers after being AWOL for nearly 20 years.

The errant pachyderm, a veteran of Cyprus, Suez and the atomic bomb tests on Christmas Island, was given to the sappers by Fremmills Brewery in 1955.

In 1976, despite holding a posting order, he was held back by the squadron's parent regiment - 25 Engineer Regiment - after 37 Squadron was switched to 35



Noddy on his "holidays", this time on Christmas Island, 1955

Engineer Regiment. When the squadron deployed on a Northern Ireland roulement tour to the Maze last year, attached to 25 Engineer Regiment, its Senior NCOs discovered Noddy languishing in the regiment's WOs' and Sgts' Mess. His mechanical nodding head was now powered by a wiper motor.

After a mess function at Antrim, he was found in a minibus bound for the Maze. Noddy was charged with desertion by the then CO, Lt Col Andy Mantell, found guilty, reduced to the rank of sapper and cross-posted in disgrace to his rightful owners at 37 Fd Sdn.

Noddy's new keeper, WO2 (SSM) Neil Penzer, told us the offending elephant's conduct sheet was not the cleanest he had seen.

"Previous misdemeanours include misuse of public funds,

making unauthorised trunk calls to

India, and drunkenness and malinger-

ing. Punishments included 14 days' restriction of doughnuts,

seven days' extra baggage carrying

and stoppage of hay."

Have you got a Noddy story? If you have, WO2 Penzer, c/o 37 Field Squadron RE, BFPO 31, would like to hear it.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE ARMY is doing its bit to boost tourism in south Armagh.

Organisers planning a visitors' centre at Creggan near Crossmaglen have asked the Army to provide aerial footage of the south Armagh countryside and some of the historical sites in the area.

The Mobile News Team which provides broadcast material and

pictures from Northern Ireland to television companies and newspapers around the world spent two days with aerial patrols, filming monuments dating back to pre-history.

The MNT film will be used in the production of a video to be screened for visitors inside the planned new centre.

\*\*\*\*\*

Imperial War Museum  
Until August 31: D-Day to Victory exhibition.

From March: London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season.

From April: Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

May 4-6: 1940s fashion shows.

From August: Victory in the Far East display.

### VE Day - MAY

6: Reception and banquet, Guildhall, City of London.

6: VE Day Freedom parade of

## 50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Camberley by Royal Logistic Corps.

6-8: Public event activities, Hyde Park.

7: Service at St Paul's Cathedral.

7-8: Belsay Hall, Northumberland, English Heritage public events.

8: VE night concert, Hyde Park.

8: Dover Castle salute to victory, English Heritage's main VE Day event

27-29: Victory Show rally by Mili-

tary Vehicle Trust, Southsea Common (tel 01489 572582).

28: Battle Abbey, E Sussex, English Heritage public events.

### JUNE

24-25: Tynemouth Castle, Tyne and Wear VE commemoration.

### VJ Day - AUGUST

12-19: VJ week in Pwllheli, Wales (tel 01758 614066).

19: Open-air service in central London; Tribute and promise parade, central London; firework

display along the Thames.

20: Tribute throughout the nation, including services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh, and culminating with a Beating the Retreat and Sunset ceremony in these cities and London.

26: South Bedfordshire RBLs celebration, Dunstable (tel 01582 663166).

### SEPTEMBER

2-3: Berwick on Tweed floodlit tattoo.

● Entry to Government-sponsored events free to veterans

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

## Plant a forest for war dead

FORMER Adjutant General Gen Sir David Ramsbotham has written to all regiments and corps asking them to plant a tree in the National Memorial Arboretum.

Announced last year by the Prime Minister, the arboretum is being created within the National Forest in the Midlands.

Inspired by the late Lord Leonard Cheshire VC, the National Memorial Arboretum Appeal, of which Gen Ramsbotham is a trustee, is seeking to provide a permanent living memorial to all who have lost their lives in wars this century.

The national forest will transform 200 square miles of English countryside by encouraging the planting of millions of new trees in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire.

Donations, support or more information about the appeal: The World Memorial Fund, Europa House, 13-17 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QN.

## Nestegg-ers' island return

GUERNSEY's search for surviving members of Task Force 135, the British military contingent which liberated the island on May 9, 1945, came up with 210 veterans who took part in Operation Nestegg.

In early May they will travel to Guernsey, courtesy of Condor Ferries, to take part in festivities to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation. Each veteran is to receive a specially-struck medallion. Those who cannot get there on the day will be presented with their medallions at home.

## Signallers surrender key position



Revellers wreaked havoc in Francisca Barracks, near St Tönis in Germany when 30 people breached the gates ... in search of a good time.

After making some decided-ly half-hearted attempts to repulse the attackers with thunderflashes and automatic cannon, the defenders from 280 (UK) Signal Squadron were quickly seduced by a little light music, schnapps and dancing girls.

The occasion was the annual Storming of the Gates ceremony, with the Carnival Prince and Princess from Tönisvorst claiming their right to enter every establishment within their kingdom. They marched in to claim the key from Maj Bob Weston, OC 280 Sig Sqn (see picture above).

The party continued in the

sergeants' mess before the

squadron was invited to the

town's festival.

### DIARY

#### Until the autumn

Soldier 50th anniversary exhibition, National Army Museum. Admission free.

#### APRIL

28-30: Aldershot Show, Rushmoor Arena (tel 01252 347152 or 347009).

#### MAY

5-6: Artillery Open Day, Larkhill. Public day May 6. (enquiries 01980 675632; tickets/bookings 01980 675434).

21: Cavalry Sunday annual parade and service of Combined Cavalry Old Comrades, Hyde Park.

#### JULY

18-29: 105th Royal Tournament, Earl's Court.

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

### SEARCHLINE

Research student researching period of National Service wishes to interview anyone in Essex area who served in Armed Forces 1945-63 as a National Serviceman or Regular. Of particular interest are those who saw active service in Malaya, Korea and Cyprus. Contact S J Martin c/o Department of History, University

of Wales, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales SA48 7ED (tel 01570 422351 ext 403/372 office hours).

James Blackstock wishes to trace his stepbrother, Anthony Ben-

● Turn to Page 39

## REUNIONS - Turn to pages 36-37

## REUNIONS

**Klagenfurt 1945-95:** Reunion April 18-30 for all Army personnel who served in the areas Trieste, Udine, Venice, Tarvisio, Klagenfurt, including following years to 1950. Details (please enclose stamped addressed envelope) from G Swain, National Secretary, Italy Star Association, 76 Manor Road, New Milton, Hants BH25 5EN.

**1st Reconnaissance Regiment:** Annual reunion dinner, The Crown, Stamford, Lincs, April 22, followed by memorial service at All Saints, Stamford on April 23. Details from Brig E W Anstey, Ardnamag, Dunkeld, Perthshire PH8 0EP (tel 01350 727313).

**APTC Association (York Branch):** Annual dinner at Imphal Barracks, York, May 19. Details from Hon Sec, Capt D Holling, Hammersley House, 27 Blenheim Road, Barnsley S70 6BA (tel 01262 207046).

**105 Provost Company Royal Military Police, BT Austria:** Members' reunion, Birmingham,

❖ **HEIGHT of frustration:** An MoD Information Officer in Bosnia, after managing to communicate with one of the units by fax, remarked: "Carrier pigeons would have been faster given that their nearest fax machine was one mile and two road blocks away."

May 20. Details from Bill Taylor 01252 548693 or 01252 524826.

**1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Regimental Association:** Reunion buffet lunch in the Victory Services Club, London on May 21. Details from Regimental Secretary, Home Headquarters, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel 01222 227611 ext 8213).

**Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Plymouth:** First reunion for past Junior Leaders (including Permanent Staff) who served at Plumer Barracks, Crownhill, Plymouth. To be held on May 26. Details from Howard Johnson, 35

Maes-y-Sarn, Pentrech, Cardiff CF4 8QQ (tel 01222 891274).

**Herts and Beds Yeomanry:** 86th, 135th, 191st Fd Regts; 79 HAA Regt, 148th Fd Regt and 52nd Hvy Regt; post-war Herts/Beds Yeomanry units. Annual meeting and reunion at Territorial Army Centre, Marsh Road, Luton, June 3. Enquiries to honorary secretary R J Currell, 28 St Margaret's Close, Old Fletton, Peterborough PE2 9EA.

**Motor cycle despatch riders:** Reunion on June 17-18 to coincide with South Devon Railway Trust "Railway at War" weekend, Buckfastleigh. Details from W A Wright, 31 Hillcroft Crescent, Oxhey, Watford WD1 4PB (tel 01923 229962).

**Prince Rupert School, Wilhelmshaven 1947-72:** The Wilhelmshaven Association is planning a reunion in June for ex-pupils and staff. Details and newsletter from Mrs Hilary Seaborn, 37 Daking Avenue, Boxford, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 5QA (tel 01787 210177).

**El Adem Radio Service (TEARS):** Third reunion planned for June. Presenters, controllers, librarians, technicians and listeners sought. Contact John Moir on 01705 595489.

**Staffordshire Regiment:** Annual reunion combined with celebration of 50th anniversary of VJ Day, August 19, Lichfield City and Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (enclose sae please).

**Combined Services Association:** Combined drumhead service and reunion, August 20, Queen's Park, Victoria Avenue, Crewe. Details from J G Davies, 6 Mavor Court, Flag Lane, Crewe CW1 3BL (tel 01270 257092).

**40th Regiment Royal Artillery:** Lowland Gunners regimental reunion, August 26-28 in Edinburgh. All past and present members welcome. Details from WO2 (BSM) K G Doyle, Tac Ops, 40th Regiment RA, Girdwood Roulement Battalion, BFPO 806 (tel 01232 429507).

**RE Darland Boys' Association 1939-41:** 15th reunion at King Charles Hotel, Gillingham, September 8. Details from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton LU2 0RB (tel 01582 27569).

**219 Sig Sqn (Tripoli), 235 Sig Sqn (Malta), anyone serving at Prinn Barracks (Tripoli) 1958-65:** Second reunion, September 8-9 at Loughborough. Details from Roy Andrews, Moorings, 7 The Heath, South Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HJ.

**Edinburgh University OTC:** Reunion planned for September 9. Details from Maureen Clowe, Development and Alumni Services Office, University of Edinburgh, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9YL (tel 0131-650 2234, fax 0131 650 2239).

**976 Squad Royal Marines:** Second reunion, September 16, Royal Sailors Home Club, Portsmouth. Also **497 Squad**. Details from L E P Wye, Pet-a-Pat, 349 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ (tel 01255 434784).

**RAPC Apprentice College:** 33rd anniversary reunion for staff and ex-apprentices, London, Septem-



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# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 608

# WIN £50

The pictures here 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 608, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by April 21. Do not include anything else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the May 15 issue.

Name: (Give rank or title)

Address:



**Competition No 605 (February 20 issue): Congratulations to LCpl D J Dewfall, 95 Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Shrewsbury, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Cpl Huggins, MFO NCO, QM Regt, Warminster Training Centre, and Capt R M Pratt, D T P, 69 Sqn RLC, BFPO 34.**

ber 22. Details from RAO, Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge, London SW1 7SE (tel 0171-414 2549).

**1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers):** Farewell parade before amalgamation on September 17 in Devizes. Final officers' dinner, September 30. Final WOs' and Sgs' dinner, September 2. All former members of messes and regiment welcome. Details from Chief Clerk, 1 Wessex, Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, Wilts SN10 2ER (tel 01380 723145).

**Gordon Highlanders London Association:** Reunion dinner in London on November 17. Details from M H Burge, 19 Barricane, Woking GU21 1RB. London Association covers all of southern England.

**Black Cats, 56 Div Sigs (to 1961) OCA and successor regts/sqns:** Former members invited to contact Sam Elliott, secretary, 24 Dymchurch Close, Polegate, E Sussex BN26 6ND (tel 01323 483132) for membership details.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Lt Cols** – M J B Graham RLC – To HQ SDist, Mar 6; R H T Aitken RWR – To be CO 1 RWR, Mar 15.

## SEARCHLINE

### From Page 37

**nitt**, with whom he has lost touch since Tony was posted from Telford to Germany. Replies to 27 Lime Grove, Ryton, Tyne and Wear NE40 3RH.

Dirk Aerts of De Mosten 21, 9255 Buggenhout, Belgium, wishes to hear from anyone who has news of **Hugh Bell (REME or RAOC)**, believed to be from Ireland, who was stationed in Buggenhout 1944-45.

**9 Armoured Workshop REME TA 1947-57**, late of Cromwell Camp, Baskin Lane, Chilwell. Past members sought for quarterly meetings, annual dinner, visits. Details: M J Coates, 25 Denewood Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 3EU (tel 01602 282847).

Mr Alf Avison is arranging a visit to **Fayid, Egypt** this year including a week in Cairo and visits to the camps in the Canal Zone. He wishes to contact anyone who served in Fayid in **1950-55**, especially GHQ Fayid. Replies to PO Box 99, Spalding, Lincs PE11 3NS.

**651 Air OP Squadron, including flights:** Proposed reunion-association. Contact Nigel Driver, 41

Laburnum Road, Sandy, Beds SG19 1HG (tel 01767 682451). Please enclose sae.

Colin Gifford seeks ex-**Devon and Dorsets** with whom he served in 1972-81, especially B and C Cos and MT Platoon, and Mike (Nobby) Clarke, Ernie Chapple and Kevin and Lyn Rickson (Turner). Replies to him at 19 Tramways, Plainmoor, Torquay, Devon TQ1 4RZ.

Elderly lady living in Flushing, Netherlands, seeks news of **Gnr H Bamforth and Gnr H Hill** (both serving with 394 LAA Battery, 120th Regt RA) who billeted there in 1944-45 and visited her and her family frequently. Gnr Bamforth came from Huddersfield, Gnr Hill from Wolverhampton. Replies to J Tuyman, Oude Vlissingseweg 47, 4336 AB Middelburg, Nederland.

## MILITARIA

**Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent:** W G Allen, 13 Poplar Lane, Lydd, Kent TN29 9LA is preparing an article on the long and friendly association between the British Army and the townspeople of Lydd and would like to hear from soldiers who have stories of their time in the area.



Recent correspondence in the Letters pages on the composition of the 53rd Welch Division prompted reader Mr G Capstick of Aveley in Essex to send us this photograph of a shield displaying the regiments involved in the liberation of 'Hertogenbosch town hall.'

Military historian wishes to collect written and verbal accounts from officers and men who were present during the **Battle of Wadi-Akarit** on April 6, 1943. Please contact B S Barnes, 3 Mansfield Court, Newland Park, Hull, North Humberside HU5 2DF (01482 46704).

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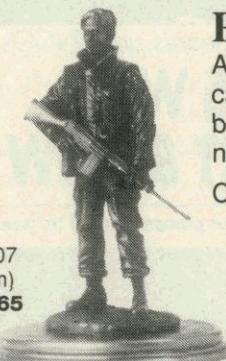
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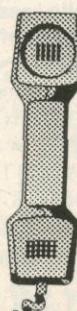
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All correspondence to: Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Would anyone like to write to an intelligent but bored thirty-something. Likes trampolining, watching films, animals, keep fit and having a laugh. P327

07/95

Janet, 22, 5'9", blue eyes and dark blonde hair. Single parent, no other ties. Hobbies: gym, walking, dogs and horses. Would like a male pen pal, any age. Photo appreciated. ALA. P328

07/95

Tracy, 17, 5'10", blue eyes, brown hair, medium build. I'm a rugby supporter and also enjoy watching TV, music, cycling, animals and juggling. I'm an 'A' level student and would like pen pals 18+. P329

07/95

Gillian, 34, 5'3", medium build. Interests: swimming, reading, writing, cinema and keep fit. I work as an assembly operator and would like to hear from pen pals anywhere. P330

07/95

**Yvonne**, 28, dark hair and blue/green eyes. Interests: football, travel, music, cinema, tennis, photography, science, nature and literature. I'm a writer and would like to hear from pen pals aged 20-39. P331

07/95

**Gwen**, 29, 5'6", blonde hair, hazel eyes, medium build. I enjoy visiting pubs with friends, most music, walking my dog, holidays abroad and playing skittles. I'd like to hear from pen pals aged 25+. P332

07/95

**Very nutty**, chatty, sporty, petite brunette with brown eyes. I'm 33 and would like to brighten someone's mailbag – especially someone on a long overseas tour. P333

07/95

**Janet**, 36, slim, brown hair and brown eyes. Lives with a neurotic cat! Interests: cinema, cooking, having fun, walking and camping. I would like to hear from sincere soldiers, home or abroad. P334

07/95

**Sue**, 41, 5'8", blue eyes, divorced. I enjoy cooking, reading, music, theatre, TV, gardening and the countryside. I have two teenage sons and love writing and receiving letters. P335

07/95

**Lisa**, 18, 5'6" with blue eyes and brown hair. Interests include: reading, football, fishing, walking and rugby. I would like to hear from anyone aged 18 to 20. P336

07/95

**Barbara**, 29, 5'2", brunette with blue/green eyes. I'm a single mum with gsoh and enjoy videos, pubs, clubs, driving and eating in or out. I would like to hear from anyone aged 25+. P337

07/95

**Helena**, 40 something, 5'4", brown hair and brown eyes. Hobbies: walking, motoring, folk music, discos, knitting, watching sport, letter writing and laughing. I would like to hear from unattached Servicemen aged 33-45. P338

07/95

**Sharon**, 33, 5'5", gsoh, blonde with grey eyes. Hobbies: walking, embroidery, skiing, cinema, yoga and swimming. I enjoy the outdoor life and would like to hear from anyone aged 25 to 40. P339

07/95

**Kim**, 24, drinks and smokes. Likes pubs, reading, cinema, most music. Seeks genuine, honest, 24 to 30-year-old to exchange letters with. Photo appreciated. P340

07/95

**Dottie**, 21, excellent sense of humour. Seeks male soldiers, 21-31, preferably abroad. I like pubbing, clubbing, swimming, gym, reading and writing letters. P341

07/95

**Blonde**, 23, 5'11". Seeks officer aged 25-35, with gsoh, for light hearted correspondence. Genuine replies only please. Photo appreciated but not essential. P342

07/95

**Jade**, 26, 5'4", brunette with green eyes. I like horse riding, dancing, jogging and keep fit. I would like to hear from genuine pen friends aged 24+, photo if possible. P343

07/95

**Lou**, blonde with brown eyes, divorced, fun-loving, caring, good personality, brilliant sense of humour, slim build. Interests: football, keep fit, cinema, pubs, clubs. I would like to hear from guys aged 24-38. P344

07/95

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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

MARCH 4, 1995

First prize (22 goals, £2,000) Pte R C Gunter, 1 RGBW, Catterick.  
Four-way tie for second prize (21 goals, £550 each) Sgt A Honeyman, BMH Hong Kong, BFPO 1; WO1 J M King, HQ BVO, Ashchurch; WO2 P Tait, 1 RGBW, Catterick; Maj K B Tarr, Depot Regt RE, Chatham.

Six-way tie for sixth prize (20 goals, £50 each) Capt S J Coatsworth, 6 RRF(V), Alnwick; Spr J S Dale, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down; Cpl A Gibson, 110 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 16; WO2 J R Gregory, 103 Regt RA (V), St Helens; Maj J W Kirkham, 4 D&D, Exeter; WO1 M L Rea, ACIO Cardiff.

MARCH 11, 1995

First prize (23 goals, £2,000) Capt S T Mason, Depot REME, Arborfield.

Three-way tie for second prize (22 goals, £633.33 each) Sgt K E Dowber, 243 Signal Sqn, Bulford; Maj H W R Eagan, 2 PWRR, Canterbury; Cpl R J Whitehead, RDG, BFPO 16.

Ten-way tie for fifth prize (21 goals, £60 each) Cpl A J Brown, 225 Signal Sqn, BFPO 825; Cpl J R Dooley, 111 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 30; Cpl K G Graham, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Chippingham; Sgt J F Hair, 4 Regt RA, BFPO 36; SSgt C D Howitt, 1 RGR, BFPO 1; Cpl J R Lee, QDG, BFPO 16; Maj J N Potts, MoD ACDS (OR) Land; Maj R Robinson, 21 Log Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 801; LCpl G W Thompson, 2 CS Regt RLC, BFPO 47; LCpl S T Wilson, HCR, Windsor.

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A ring of Combined Services champions: Army senior coach RSM Tom O'Connor with (clockwise) LCpl Peter Williams, Pte Kevin Bennett, Cpl Jeff Ollerhead, Pte Mark Quirey, Spr Danny Watts, LBdr Vinny Jones, Cpl Chris Bessey, Gdsm Kevin Short and Cpl Vinny Powell

Picture: Mike Perrin

## That's just champion

ARMY boxers racked up nine titles at the Combined Services individual boxing championships at RAF Locking. The number is without precedent in modern Services boxing.

The roll of honour is:

- Featherweight – LCpl Peter Williams (1 Kings).
- Lightweight – Cpl Vinny Powell (3 RSME Regt).
- Light-welterweight – Pte Kevin Bennett (7 Regt RLC).
- Welterweight – Gdsm Kevin Short (1 WG).
- Light-middleweight – Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC).
- Middleweight – Cpl Jeff Ollerhead (1 Kings).
- Light-heavyweight – Pte Mark Quirey (2 PWRR).
- Heavyweight – LBdr Vinny Jones (32 Regt RA).
- Super-heavyweight – Spr Danny Watts (3 RSME Regt).

Only two titles went to the RAF, the light-flyweight on a walkover, and the bantamweight to SAC Owen Spensley, the RAF's best boxer for some years, who retained his title at the expense of LCpl Daren



SGT Hilary Greig (above), a euphonium player in the AG Corps Band, won three titles at the Army table tennis championships at Worthy Down.

Her triple whammy consisted of the women's singles, the women's doubles with Cpl Julie Blades, a PTI serving at the AGC Centre, and the mixed doubles with SSgt Christopher Freely (RLC).

Freely, the 1994 Combined Services champion, also took the men's singles title.

Julie Blades (pictured below) is also the current Army women's squash champion.



Dugan (2 PWRR). Powell, Bessey, Ollerhead and Quirey received walkovers; Williams, Short and Watts won inside the distance; and Bennett and Jones on points.

The Royal Navy failed to win a single title, another unusual occurrence in modern Services boxing.

Short, the defending ABA champion, had to work harder than anyone for his passage to the next round against London ABA in the national quarter-finals. He boxed a preliminary bout, stopping the RAF opponent in the second and then defeated the Navy's White in the third round of the final. Short boxed superbly, showing class timing and movement.

Flyweight Pte John Davison (1 RS) and featherweight Fus A Buchanan (1 RHF) are through to the Scottish ABA semi-finals after negotiating the preliminary round. Light-welterweight LCpl Jason Gardner (Int Corps) had to box twice, losing the second contest on a majority decision.

# Army's sting drawn

## Royal Navy 1, Army 1

THE ARMY and the Royal Navy shared the Mercury Trophy with a 1-1 draw at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth, writes Derrick Bly.

SSgt Kevin Parkins, skipper of the Army football team, denied the home side an early advantage when he cleared off the line, and the visitors went ahead in the 23rd minute when leading scorer Pte Lee Bradbury forced home the last of three consecutive corners.

In a physical but not dirty battle – very much the norm for this clash – Sig Jim Strouts was the first of five players to be given a yellow card. His warning seemed harsh.

Sgt John Scott replaced the injured LSgt Paul Fagin in the 39th minute and set about regaining the midfield which

was being dominated by the Navy. SSgt Nigel Wiscombe was the busier of the 'keepers.

SSgt Alan Higgins twice saved on the line early in the second half before the sailors equalised with a superb goal in the 62nd minute. An excellent cross was headed firmly past Wiscombe. It was no more than the Navy deserved.

The final 15 minutes was end-to-end stuff, with both sides going close to snatching a winner. The Navy were due to meet the Royal Air Force at RAF Halton on March 22 and looked odds-on favourites to take the Inter-Services crown and the Constantinople Cup.

Army Youth 7, Royal Navy

YOUTH 0

A quagmire of a pitch at Aldershot was the only winner when the Army entertained the Royal Air Force in a drawn

opener to the Inter-Services championship.

SSgt Wiscombe made three tremendous saves as the RAF produced the only really clear-cut chances. Parkins had a superb game, marshalling his defence well under pressure.

Apart from a period midway through the first half when the Army forced five corners, it was always the visitors who looked the more likely to score.

The Carrington Cup was presented jointly to the two captains by Gen Sir John Wilsey, C-in-C UKLF. Kevin Parkins received the JBI Army man of the match award.

Army Youth 7, Royal Navy

YOUTH 0

The Navy suffered the heaviest defeat in the 22 years of this competition, going down by seven goals. For the first

time this fixture was played at Under 19 rather than Under 18 level, a change which made for stronger and better sides.

Despite the result, it was

always an entertaining and

competitive match.

Dennett (3), Price (penalty),

Muggleton and Bradbury

(2) scored the goals.

C Services Youth 4, FA Youth 1

The Combined Services

Youth team, invariably on a

hiding to nothing against

young players on the books of

professional clubs, handed out

a footballing lesson to the FA

Youth side.

They took the lead in the

sixth minute when Pte Lee

Bradbury showed good close

control.

The FA equalised

when Frank Lampard junior of

West Ham slotted home a

penalty. His illustrious father

time

fourth

goal

in

the

interval.

Pte Jason Cameron (WFR)

and LSgt Paul Fagin (IG)

scored in the second half to

give the Infantry a very com-

fortable victory.



Champion line-up. Posing proudly with their trophy are the Army squash players who won the Inter-Services title for the first time since 1987. Standing (from left) are Sgt Gary Clarke (REME), team manager Maj Mike Gallagher (RLC), and WO2 Chris Wilson (AAC). Kneeling are Lt Tim Ibbott (RLC), Sgt Nigel Hissey (RLC) and Cpl Dave Gallagher (RLC). Missing is Maj Robbie Robinson (RLC).

In a hard-fought contest the Army beat the Royal Navy 4-1 and the Royal Air Force 3-2, upsetting pre-tournament favourites the RAF, who have been champions for the past seven years.

## Lightning loggies

THE INTER-CORPS cross country championships, now firmly established as one of the major events in the Army cross country calendar, attracted ten men's and four women's teams to the fourth running of this event, writes Peter Marsh.

The championships were staged by 1 PWO at Warminster on behalf of the 1994 winners, the Infantry. There was a thrilling contest in the men's race, run over a testing 6 1/2-mile course made heavy by rain. On paper, the RLC looked to have an edge on the Infantry as five of their ten-man team came from BAD Kineton, the current Major Units champions.

As it turned out, the RLC ran superbly, with all eight scoring runners crossing the line inside the top 26 finishers. The tables were turned on the 1994 champions by a convincing 73-point margin. The Royal Signals were third.

Shepherd joined the increasing number of Army runners to gain international honours when he received his call-up for the ECCA team.

He duly repaid them by finishing seventh overall as the fourth English scorer.

Cpl Kenny Butler (BAD Kineton), third in the Army championships, led the Services with an eye-catching run into ninth place which put him ahead of all but four of the ECCA team.

Sgt Bill Bailey confirmed his status among British veterans, finishing third. There was also a fine result for SSgt Mel Bradley, fourth in the women's race ahead of all but two of the England team.

It has been a remarkable season for Army cross country, which is sponsored by Asics (UK) Ltd. Having broken the RAF stranglehold on the Inter-Services, several members of the squad have forced their way into county and national recognition.

Army athletes again featured well in the annual Combined Services fixture against the English Cross Country Association, the universities and the Civil Service. With new talent emerging from the Under 23 team – third in the South of England championships – the future looks very bright.

# Home-grown Gaelic win for 3 R Irish

SOLDIERS from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment won what is believed to be the first Gaelic football match played by soldiers in Northern Ireland.

The friendly clash against the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment took place

at Ballykinler, County Down, where both battalions are serving.

Despite minimal training in the rules and skills of the game, both sides performed keenly. Lt Peter Cripps of 1 Staffords said: "With teams spread over the entire playing

surface, and the ball moving across a wide area, it needed stamina and quick thinking to keep up with the play."

The Irish won in the end, scoring six goals and four points to three goals and five points by the Staffords.

# Para pair put Army bob into the lead

ANOTHER successful Army bobsleigh season ended at Lillehammer, Norway with a convincing victory in the Inter-Services championships.

Unlike the Olympics and world championships, the Inter-Services event, sponsored this year by Moet & Chandon, is a team competition, each Service entering four crews from which the three fastest count towards the final result.

Representing the Army were Cpl Sean Olsson and Eric Sekwalor (1 Para) in the No 1 bob; WO2 Tony Shanahan and SSgt Dave Pope (1 Regt AAC); Cpl Bob Hinton and Pte Nick Boyce (1 Para); and the No 4 bob of WO2 Peter Gunn (4 Regt AAC) and Sgt George

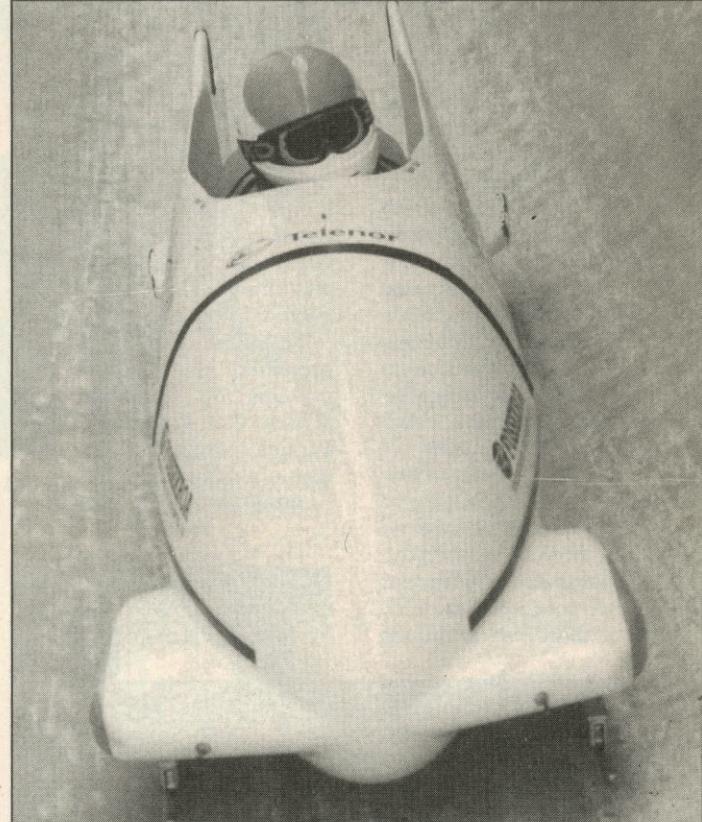
Farrell (16 Signal Regiment).

The Army took first, third, fourth and fifth places, plus the fastest individual run and fastest brakeman trophy, with the RAF finishing as runners-up and the Royal Navy third.

Five Olympic competitors took part, as did another six who have represented Great Britain at World or Europa Cup level.

The Army championships, which preceded the Inter-Services at Lillehammer, attracted 12 crews from the QDG, R Signals, RTR, Parachute Regiment, AAC, REME, RLC, AGC and RAMC.

Olsson and Sekwalor finished first for the Paras with aviators Shanahan and Pope second, and Hinton and Boyce



WO2 Tony Shanahan (1 Regt AAC) in action at Lillehammer, Norway

of the Parachute Regiment third. Sekwalor was fastest brakeman. The championships were supported by British Aerospace and Pol Roger.

The next Olympic year is 1998, so the Army needs to build again if it is to represent Great Britain.

A disappointing aspect of the season was the lack of women taking part in the sport, although novices 2nd Lt Leigh Roberts and 2nd Lt Geraldine Jennings both had terrific sea-

sons and represented Great Britain in the women's World Cup in Germany.

Farrell, Olsson, Sekwalor and Cpl Dean Ward had good seasons representing Britain on the World Cup circuit while Gunn appeared for GB in the Europa Cup.

Further details about Army bobsleighing can be obtained from ABA race director Lt Col S D Rowland-Jones, Chief Air Ops, HQ MND(C), BFPO 140 (tel JHQ (+49 2161 47) ext 25851).

# Judo withdrawals make it thin at the top

THE CREAM of Army judo was noticeably thinner at the open championships, and last minute withdrawals by three units caused the premier team event to be cancelled.

After an excellent start to the season and record entries in the novice event, it was disappointing that fewer than half the recognised senior players

competed in the seven Olympic weight categories.

On the positive side, a few new faces did emerge with the potential to strengthen the men's and women's squads.

Team manager SSI Geoff Chapman APTC and coach SSI John Morton APTC will have their work cut out to produce Army sides with any

strength in depth for the Inter-Services at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth on April 26-27.

Judo players graded 2 kyu or above not registered with the judo secretary and who wish to be considered should contact Maj John Nicholas APTC on Shrewsbury Mil ext 2269, or coach Morton on Aldershot Mil ext 2137 or 2114.

## Winners were:

**Men** – **U65kg**, Bdr Airlie (32 Regt RA); **U71kg**, Pte Johnson (1 Green Howards); **U78kg**, Pte Wilkinson (9 R Irish); **U86kg**, Sgt Williams, (1 Green Howards); **U95kg**, SSI Chapman (5 Regt RA); **O95kg**, Cfn Condell (REME Wksp, 220 Sqn); open, SSI Chapman (5 Regt RA).

**Women** – **Open**, Sig Burgess (7 Sig Regt).

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# SOLDIER



Pipe Major Kenny Keir (centre) and LCpl's Matt Smith and John Bruce of 1 RHF's Pipes and Drums provide musical encouragement to two members of BRITBAT 1's Royal New Zealand Regiment Kiwi Company performing the *haka* – a traditional Maori warrior rite – in the snow at Vitez. Cpl's Dwayne Eriksson and Terry Tehiko adopt menacing postures designed to frighten an enemy. The club being brandished by Cpl Tehiko is called *atalaha*. See Pages 26-27.

Picture: Terry Champion