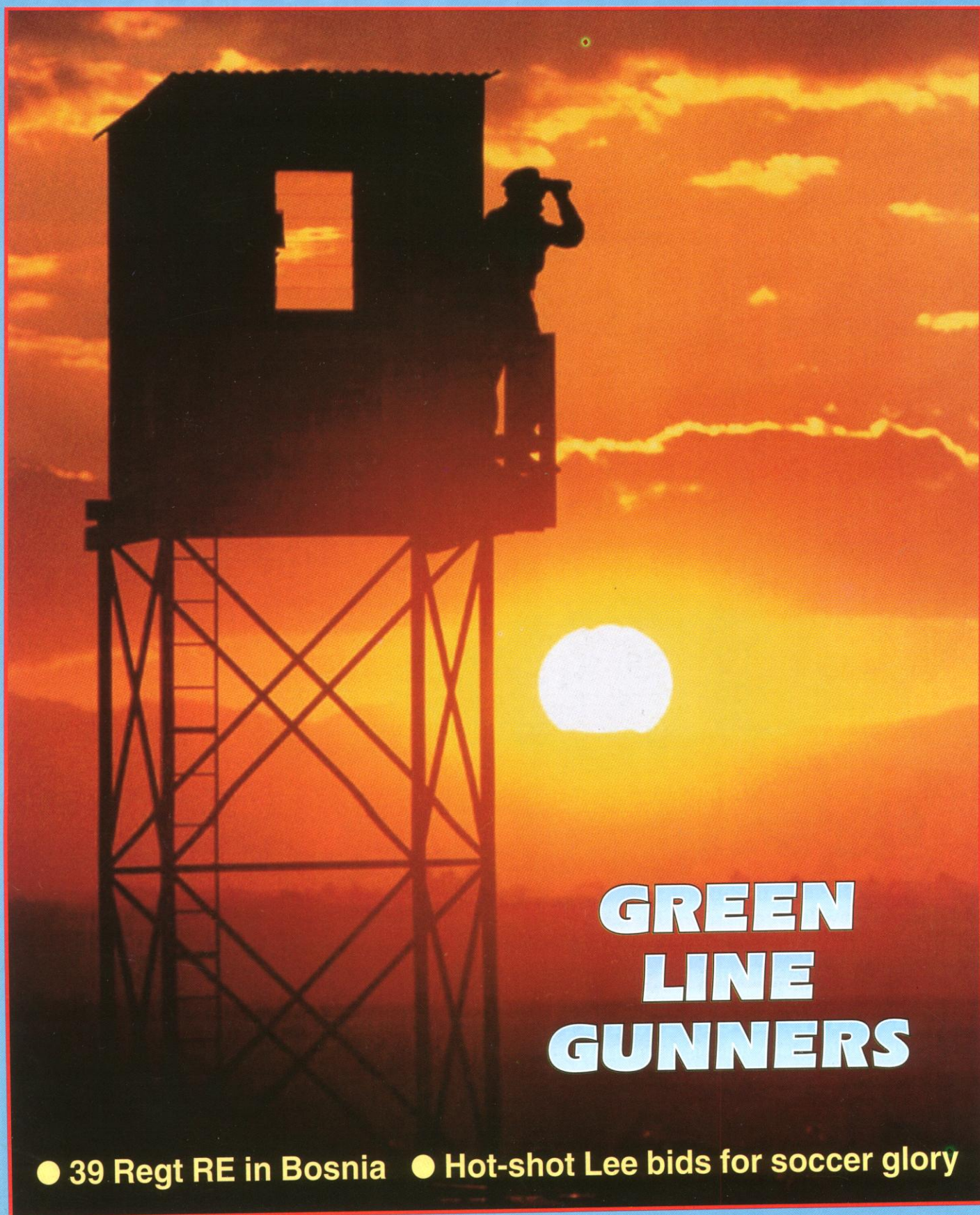


# SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

MARCH 31 1997

80p



## GREEN LINE GUNNERS

● 39 Regt RE in Bosnia ● Hot-shot Lee bids for soccer glory



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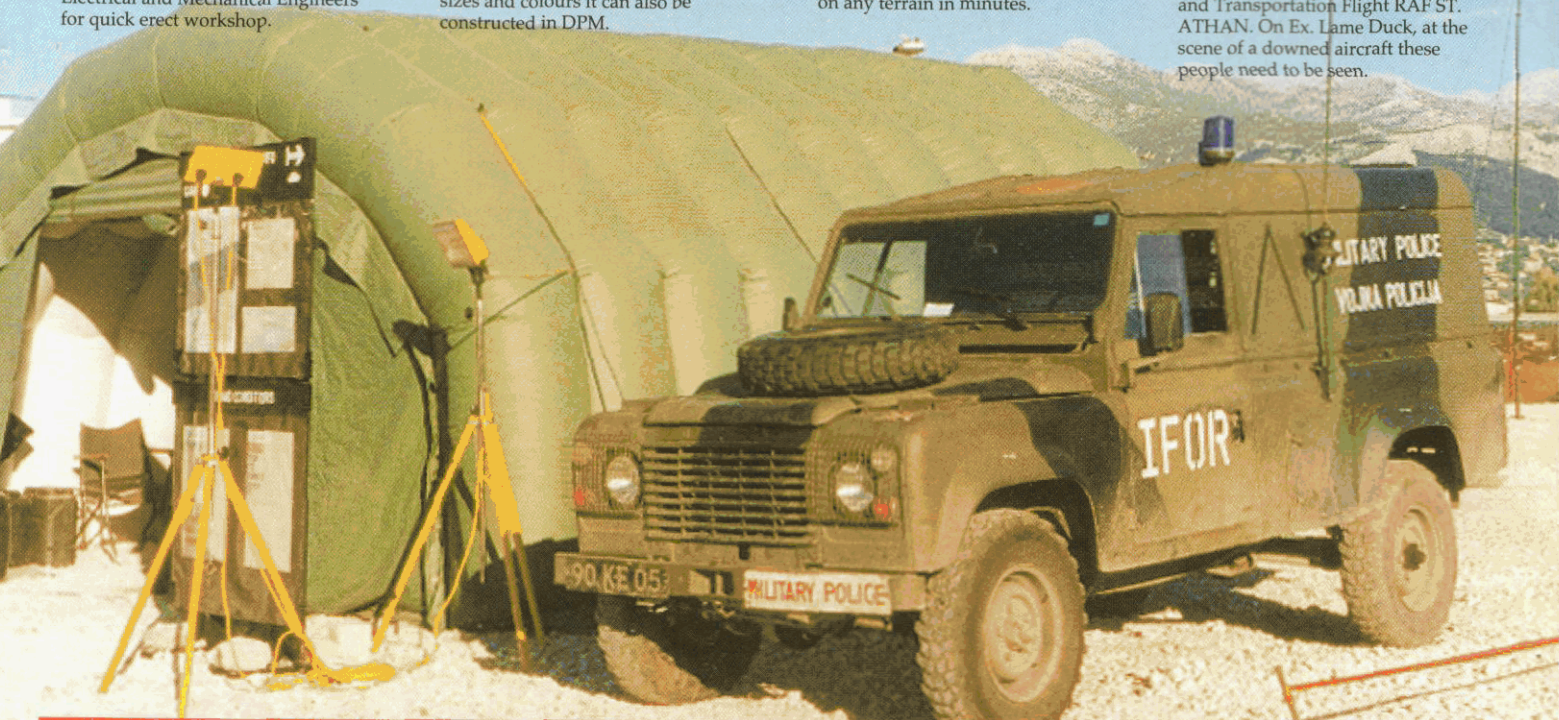
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**March 31, 1997 Vol 53/7**

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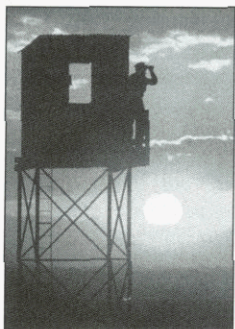
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Picture: Kevin Capon

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 third national title

# NEVER SAY DI

**ACTING** Gunner Hooch the Pooch can consider herself a trifle fortunate. She's the dog with nine lives...

Not only did the eight-week-old pup cross a minefield unscathed, but she fell into the arms of the British Army and was officially enlisted - complete with Service number and patrol duties.

Hooch the Pooch strayed into the hearts of soldiers from 32 Regiment, Royal Artillery, on Green Line duty with the United Nations in Cyprus. LBdr Mark Crane spotted the little mongrel making her bedraggled way across a minefield opposite his observation post overlooking the Buffer Zone which divides the island.

"This bundle of wet fur limped towards us, straight across an active minefield. We went down to the wire and cheered when she made it across," said LBdr Crane.

She was taken to the nearest vet to be given the once-over and regulation "jabs".

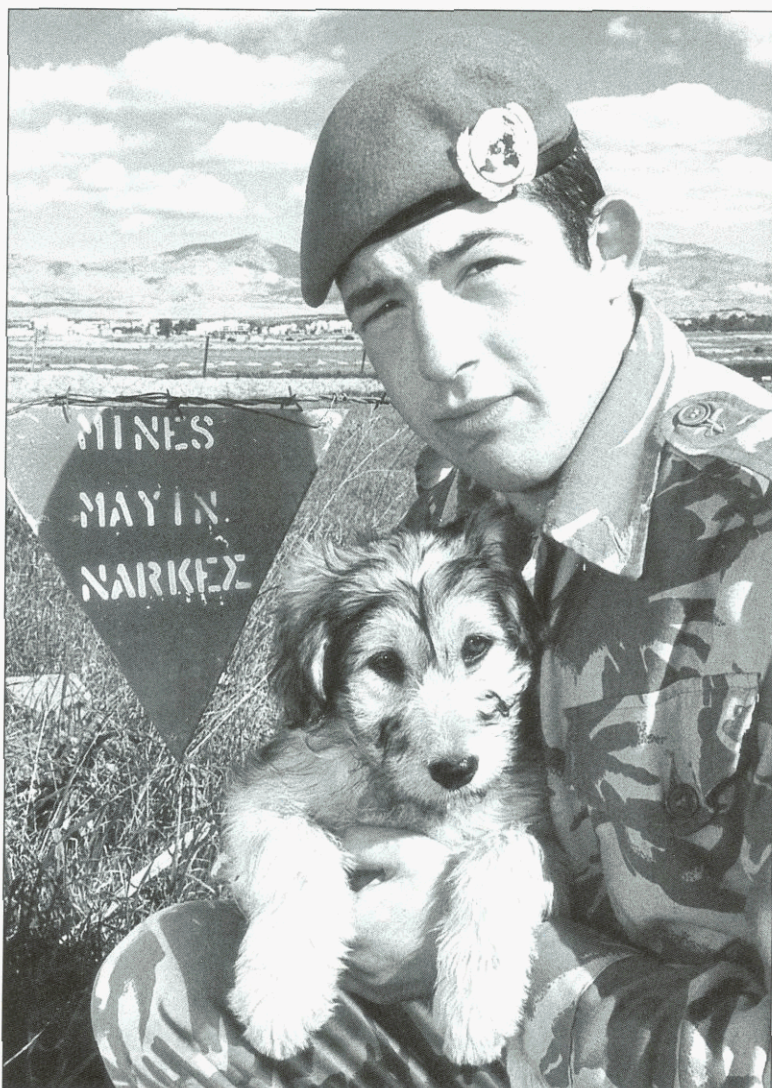
A member of the OP explained that, because the pup had walked through a minefield, they were going to call her Diana, but realised that women are not allowed in UN OPs. Now they have drawn up an official posting order for the new recruit to Mojave Troop, UN Buffer Zone, Cyprus.

Hooch (Gnr, 281296) is listed

as having "advanced patrol-sniffer" and "honorary air defender" special qualifications. When 32 Regiment

leaves Cyprus, Hooch will be posted to the relieving unit.

● Green Line gunners - see Pages 22-23



Comrade in arms: Gnr Russell Walker with 281296 Gnr Hooch the Pooch

Picture: Kevin Capon

## R Anglian chase leads to arrest

**SWIFT** action by soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment led to the arrest of a man after their patrol was attacked in West Belfast's Ballymurphy estate on March 6.

An explosive device was triggered by command wire from behind a garden wall, knocking over the rear member of the patrol and showering him with brick and rubble.

Another soldier saw a man running away and gave chase. The suspect ran into a house which was surrounded by the patrol until the Royal Ulster Constabulary arrived and arrested him. A man was later charged with attempted murder.

In an incident the previous day, two members of a routine patrol in the Dungannon area of County Tyrone thwarted a terrorist attack when they spotted a suspicious device with a wire leading to it.

The two soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers reported the device, which was attached at chest height to the side of a tree, and cleared the area of other patrols and civilians.

An Army bomb disposal expert later disarmed a device containing 2lb of Semtex, petrol, sugar and shipyard "confetti".

In other incidents in Belfast, a soldier from the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry was slightly hurt in a rocket attack in the Ardoyne, and two soldiers of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment and a policeman sustained minor injuries in an attack on a foot patrol in the Short Strand area.

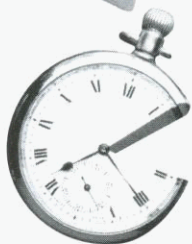
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# Strasbourg rules court martial system 'unfair'

BRITAIN'S court martial system does not ensure a fair trial, the European Court of Human Rights has ruled in a judgement against the Ministry of Defence.

The Strasbourg court held that the present system violates Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights,

which guarantees the right to trial before an independent and impartial tribunal.

The unanimous ruling came after the judges had heard the case of former Scots Guards lance corporal Alex Findlay, a Falklands War veteran who was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and dismissed

the Army after pleading guilty at court martial to offences including threatening to kill.

He was diagnosed as suffering from post traumatic stress disorder following service with the Scots Guards in the South Atlantic, and took the case to the European court on the basis that the court martial, in

sentencing him, was allegedly not acting as an independent court but as an instrument of the chain of command.

Strasbourg awarded legal costs to Findlay, but not compensation, and "noted with satisfaction" the revised court martial system due to take effect on April 1.

## Queen approves new medal for R Irish part-timers

A NEW medal for part-time service in Northern Ireland has been approved by the Queen.

The Northern Ireland Home Service Medal replaces the Ulster Defence Regiment Medal following the amalgamation of the UDR and The Royal Irish Rangers. The new medal, to be awarded to part-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment who have completed 12 years' service, will be adorned with a ribbon of Irish green with a central stripe of light blue.

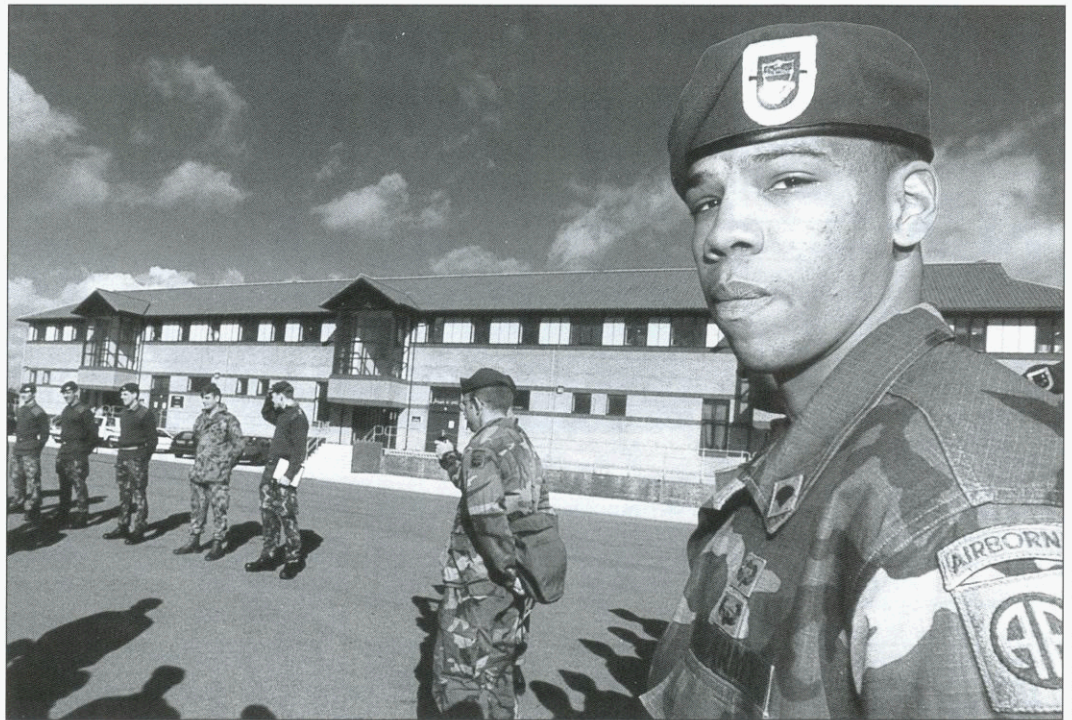
Clasps will be awarded after a further six years.

● Army personnel involved in air operations over Iraq since 1991 may be eligible for the General Service Medal 1962 with an "Air Operations Iraq" clasp.

Qualification is 60 days or more continuously, or 90 days or more of aggregated service, or six operational air sorties in Iraqi airspace for Operations Warden or Jural.

Details are in DCI Gen 63/97.

● Thirty recruits took part in the first passing-out parade of the Northern Ireland school leavers Army foundation course at the Depot of The Royal Irish Regiment, Ballymena, on March 13. The unique course was established last September as a pilot scheme.



A company from the United States 82nd Airborne Division says farewell to host unit the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment's Support Company before leaving Aldershot to return to Fort Bragg in North Carolina. Members of C Coy, 1st Battalion, The 325th Regiment spent a month in Britain on exchange cross-training.

## Gunners out in force on German ranges

TWO THOUSAND troops and Royal Artillery regiments from Germany, the United Kingdom and Denmark were involved in Shelldrake Spear, the largest artillery exercise in Germany for many years.

Based on Bergen-Hohne and Munster-Sud ranges, the exercise gave elements of 1 (UK) Armoured Division an opportunity to deploy in strength as part of NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

Main Germany-based players were Headquarters Royal Artillery from Herford; 12 Regt RA from Paderborn; 40 Regt RA from Hohne; 26 Regt and 1 Regt AAC from Gutersloh; and 52 Battery, 4 Regt RA and 4 Armd Bde Sig Sqn from Osnabrück.

Air power was provided by the Royal Air Force, and 39 Regt RA and 101 Regt RA(V) deployed from the UK.

Supporting roles were played by a troop from The

Light Dragoons and 35 Armd Engr Sqn, 32 Engr Regt based at Hohne; Gutersloh-based 2 Arty Sp Sqn, 1 GS Regt RLC; 14 Topo Sqn RE from Monchengladbach; and elements of 1 RMP from Herford.

● Pictures in next issue

### It's a fact

**COST** to the MoD of boarding school allowances during 1995-96 was £110.6 million. - Parliamentary reply.



**SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Civil tel: 01252 347 plus last three digits of Aldershot Military extension given below

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Mrs Diana Veal, widow of Maj Michael Veal, former commander of D (Cambridge) Company, 6 R Anglian, presents the trophy named in his memory to Sgt Gary Branigan, platoon commander of the D Coy team which won an annual military skills competition. It was the third time that D Company had won the former Commander's Trophy.

The Veal Trophy is presented each year for the best performance over a test stand at 49 (East) Brigade's annual military skills contest for Territorial Army units. Teams from the East Midlands, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire compete over two days in fieldcraft, attacks, ambushes, live-firing, endurance and first aid.

# Medical cuts 'too far, too fast' – MPs

LOW morale and a chronic shortage of staff are key issues identified by the House of Commons Defence Committee in a hard-hitting report on the state of medical services within the Armed Forces.

It reveals an apprehension that cuts have gone too far and too fast, reducing the ability of the United Kingdom to generate military medical support for the front line in the event of serious hostilities short of all-out war.

Members of Parliament on the all-party select committee took evidence from the MoD and other organisations, and visited Service hospitals and hospital units. Their "starting point" was the implementation of the Defence Costs Study (DCS) 15, which was designed to concentrate resources in the front line.

The report says some of the money "stripped out of

defence medicine by the Defence Costs Study will have to be put back in to repair the damage."

The MPs state: "We can only report to the House our firm view that the state of morale at all levels of the Defence Medical Services is lower than we have ever encountered in the Armed Forces."

## SELF-JUSTIFICATION

Criticising the MoD's ability to manage change, the report says: "No amount of self-justification can disguise the fact that the country does not have a medical service capable of looking after the maximum number of soldiers the UK plans to deploy in a crisis."

Following DCS 15, the DMS was reduced from 9,461 personnel in 1990 to 6,946 in April 1996. It is due to reduce further to 5,722. Prime purpose of the DMS is to train

medical staff for war; a subsidiary purpose is to provide peacetime care for Service personnel.

Concerns drawn to the MPs' attention included an observation that peacetime needs to get soldiers fit to return to duty after illness or injury were not being fulfilled and difficulties in mixing military and civilian staff in military district hospital units (MDHU).

The report concluded that:

● Staff shortages in the DMS were so serious that it was not clear whether it would recover. It was possible the military ethos of medicine in the Regular Armed Forces "had been destroyed".

● Defence Military Services were not sufficient to provide proper support to the front line in all realistic planning scenarios and showed little prospect of being able to do so in the

● Turn to Page 17

## Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

## Flawed advice on OPs

AN INTERNAL investigation has shown that answers to six parliamentary questions in 1994 on pesticide usage during Op Granby were incorrect because ministers were given flawed advice.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames, who apologised for the way the flawed advice had been presented to Parliament, said in a written answer on February 26 that Service and Civil Service staff had used inaccurate information when preparing the draft answers.

During 1995 MoD Service and civilian staff received indications that during the Gulf War, British troops might have used locally-obtained organophosphate (OP) pesticides, but this information was neither assessed nor followed-up properly.

By June 1996 some Service and civilian staff knew OP pesticides had been used more extensively during Op Granby than had previously been reported, but ministers were not given appropriate written advice until September 25. Parliament was then told as soon as possible.

In the Lords on March 10, Defence Minister Earl Howe expressed regret for incorrect information, due to a misunderstanding, given to the Countess of Mar last summer. Her questions related to the cause of death of camels, sheep and goats during and after the Gulf War and whether they had died as a result of chemical weapons exposure. "An accurate answer would have said that we were unable in the time available to find any information on the events which you describe," he said.

□ □ □

Excellent recruiting records of four regiments were demonstrated in a written answer on March 5. Figures showed that 1 DWR was 31 over its establishment of 554; 1 Green Howards 29 over, at 654; The Light Dragoons 17 over, at 405; and 1 PWO nine over, at 548.

□ □ □

As part of cost reductions in support areas, the MoD's contribution to regimental and corps museums will be cut by almost 13 per cent from April 1998, Mr Soames said in a written reply. A panel of experts will decide where savings should fall.

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# Normal service resumed on Horse Guards

THE DAILY ceremony to change the Queen's Life Guard resumed on the refurbished Horse Guards Parade on March 3 after three months.

While contractors were at work, the soldiers and horses of the Household Cavalry

Mounted Regiment assembled in the more cramped conditions of the Tilt Yard on the Whitehall side of Horse Guards for the Changing of the Guard.

Following the alterations, they will have a larger enclousure than previously on Horse Guards itself. Other improvements included the levelling of the entire parade ground, work on the drainage and a uniform, gravelled surface from the Guards' Memorial to Horse Guards arch.



The Duke of Kent meets troops from the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment at their base in Northern Ireland. The Duke, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, was making his first visit to the 1st Battalion since it arrived in the Province three months ago. CSM Jerry Perrin is on the left.

## A walk on south side

A 100-km race along the South Downs Way from Petersfield to Brighton is to be held over the weekend June 28-29. Called Exercise Trailwalker, it replaces the famous Hong Kong version, and will raise funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Entry forms from Trailwalker, 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron, 30 Sig Regt, Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, Nuneaton CV11 6QN (tel (742) 2576, civ 01455 222576.

## More Korea medals

UP TO 180 British veterans of the Korean War may receive their United Nations medals with the "Korea" clasp, despite the fact that the UN has run out of them.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames announced that the British Government has been given permission by the UN to buy and issue the medal, and was identifying a suitable source of supply.

The veterans have been waiting 44 years for the medal.

# PWRR pays tribute to hero of Sikh battle

AN ACT of heroism 150 years ago was celebrated by the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in Northern Ireland last month.

Every member of the battalion lined the route in Lisanelly Barracks, Omagh, as Sgt Richard Phillips carried the Regimental Colour to the WO's and sergeants' mess from their customary home in the officers' mess.

Sgt Phillips's appointment for the day as Sobraon Sergeant marks the actions of Sgt Bernard McCabe at the Battle of Sobraon in India in February 1846. When the outnumbered 31st of Foot, a forebear of the PWRR, had to fall back because of heavy casualties, the ensigns carrying the Queen's and Regimental Colours were killed, as were most other subalterns.

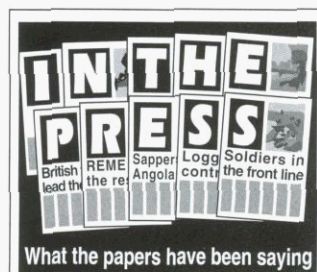
Sgt McCabe seized the Regimental Colour and planted it on the highest point of the Sikh defences, an action which rallied the 31st and led to the enemy being routed.

Victory led to the Punjab becoming a British protectorate.

A sergeant who has performed outstandingly is chosen by the RSM to be the Sobraon Sergeant. Normally only commissioned officers may carry the Colours.

## THAT FIGURES . . .

STAFF and students at the Army's School of Finance and Management are celebrating the highest marks in the United Kingdom in the latest exams for the Chartered Institute of Management Account-



FORMER Gurkha soldiers of the British Army marched in Kathmandu, Nepal, to demand the same pension deals as other British soldiers. - *Daily Express*

□ Operating in teams of four, soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment will visit 88 pubs in 15 Midlands towns to persuade young men to join the Infantry. - *Times*

□ Two former Scots Guardsmen jailed for shooting dead a Belfast teenager while on a tour of duty in 1992 are expected to be freed within weeks after a hard-fought campaign by retired generals. - *Sunday Times*

□ NATO is down to a shortlist of three likely new members - Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary - although Slovenia is a possible fourth. - *Independent*

□ Bonn's financial squeeze is undermining the German Army, which is having to use fireworks instead of munitions, according to a report issued by the Government's military ombudsman. - *Times*

□ More homosexuals are being discharged from the United States armed forces under President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy than before it came into effect, a study has revealed. - *Times*

## Passing intelligence

FINAL passing out parade of the Intelligence Corps at Templar Barracks, Ashford, took place on March 14. After 30 years in Kent, the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre is in the process of being relocated to Chicksands in Bedfordshire.

tants. Military students from the Adjutant General's Corps Training Centre at Worthy Down gained an average 90 per cent first time pass rate, compared to 48 per cent for the country as a whole.

# Stretched to the limit, but we can do something

OVERSTRETCH is a much talked about subject wherever the state of Service welfare is discussed. Even the Armed Forces Pay Review Body commented on it, qualifying its remarks by saying that perception of the problem varied from unit to unit.

In a recent interview, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, soon to become Chief of the Defence Staff, said that those outside the Forces tended not to understand that soldiers needed to train and to see their families, as well as being on operations.

## SALTY

I was making the same point – with rather less restraint – in a radio programme a little while ago when I was brought back down to earth by a salty ex-Serviceman who laughed at me, saying that both training and operations gave soldiers a good chance to get away from the stress of family life.

He said it was the perfect excuse...

A soldier's wife will always figure second in their husband's affections, if they're lucky. Many come third behind "his mates". Long hours, frequent separation and pressure mean that leisure time is limited.

At the end of a long spell away I would love to believe that all soldiers dashed home to see their family. The reality, I suspect,

is that many seek solace in the local bar, fortifying themselves against their arrival home to a barrage of complaints about the children, the state of the quarter and the local medical services.

Army chiefs and Army wives should exercise caution about how they play the "home" card. I don't believe it is realistic to say that soldiers, as a whole, worry about their families to the extent that they make poor soldiers if things aren't going well.

## RESPECT

If this were really true the British Army wouldn't be the object of international respect.

Life goes badly for a lot of people and they cope. Usually they do so in stoic silence and with little help. But you don't hear about them. You do hear about those who encounter problems which aren't enormous but who are articulate and who are deter-

mined to have their voice heard.

Take, for example, an Army wife in Germany whose husband was rushed into hospital with heart attack symptoms. He was given a range of tests before being reassured that he was in good health. The wife, as well as being profoundly grateful for the excellent treatment, was rather cross that there was no liaison officer or translator present.

Her response was to condemn – albeit very politely – the entire medical service. Would it not have been more useful to ask not what your medical service can do for you but what you can do for your medical service?

**The post in question is a voluntary one. Given the number of friendly locals and German-born spouses, would it not have been more constructive to offer to find someone to fill the post?**

There is overstretch – we know that – but to overlay this could bring down upon us yet another review/study/report as someone tries to "do something about it".

There have been some huge changes in medical provision overseas, and in quartering. Whatever soldiers and their families might believe about the rights and wrongs of the decisions, the time has come to acknowledge

the reality of the situation and look to positive ways of making the systems work.

Where problems occur frequently enough to cause concern, then evidence should be gathered and the proper channels should be used to suggest ways of improving the situation.

The disadvantage of overstating the case is that a civilian population contending with budget cuts, under-resourcing and under staffing (in other words, overstretch) without the benefits of overseas travel, a tightly-knit, self-supporting community and a lifelong entitlement to help from specialist welfare organisations, will soon lose patience with the Forces altogether.

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

# Housing deputy has buyers' interests at heart

THE DEFENCE Committee's first report on the sale of the married quarters estate, published last month, outlined the reasons for choosing the bid from London-based Annington Homes as ultimate purchaser in November, 1996.

"First, it gave us the highest price," Defence Procurement minister James Arbutnot had told the committee.

"Second, it was most inclined of all the bidders to accept the terms and conditions... which we were offering. Third, the finance deliverability... was clearly very substantial indeed. At each stage of the process Annington had given the MoD the impression of... having a very clear idea of precisely what (the issues) should be and where they stood on (them) and they had an understanding of the MoD's position on these issues."

The MoD would have been happy, in fact, to have made a transaction with any of the four final short-listed bidders, he had pointed out.

"But in relation to the long-term relationship that we expected to have with Annington, none of the others gave us a greater degree of comfort than Annington's did."

Sandy Hunter, former air vice-marshal and now deputy chairman of Annington Homes, spoke to *Soldier*.

"As someone who can speak from personal experience of being an MoD tenant over a long period, I know which option I would go for, if I were still serving, given the offer of an extra drop of aviation fuel, a new piece of kit or an improvement to married quarters," he said.

"After dragging my wife round the world for 30-odd years, I am well aware of the massive uncertainties which Army families have to face as far as accommodation is concerned – especially since drawdown."

Formerly Commander British Forces Cyprus and, since leaving the RAF, chairman of a large housing association and board member of a building society, Air Vice-Marshal Hunter is conscious of the need to maintain a good relationship with the MoD.

## INTENTIONS

"They have been properly critical of us, have taken a good look at anything we have said, and we have to prove that we keep to our stated intentions," he said.

Under a scheme operated by Annington, Servicemen and ex-Servicemen will be offered a discount on properties placed on the market for sale.

Basic rate of discount will, by and large, be up to five per cent of the asking price, though where there is a high demand for houses, the company may not give this.

Additionally, Annington will offer in every case an extra "long service" discount of one per cent for



Former AVMI Sandy Hunter, deputy chairman of Annington Homes, with appropriate mode of transport

every ten years of completed service – regardless of whether a basic discount is offered.

"We have also made arrangements with a building society to offer a package for Service personnel which includes aspects such as free legal fees," said Sandy Hunter, "and we are in negotiation with the Charity Commissioners to finalise the Annington Trust, a fund to which we will make a contribution every year, to support the activities of those living on the patch."

However, he added, success in business is by no means guaranteed.

"If you embark on a £6 billion

undertaking, there is a cost: the money has to be borrowed, raised in the City and so on. Although we have a guaranteed income in MoD rents and houses returned to us, we have to balance the books at the end of the year, and a great deal depends on return from surplus houses, not to mention the state of the property market."

## JURY OUT

As far as, for example, the Army Families Federation is concerned, Sandy Hunter appreciates that "the jury is still out".

"We have to produce the goods, we are aware of that. We don't expect people to take us at face value, and we have to demon-

strate that we mean what we say.

"However, although we will have no formal contacts with Army families, because the rents and conditions of properties are dealt with by other bodies, we were delighted to be invited to the AFF annual conference."

As part of their service to potential buyers, Annington Homes will be giving details in publications, including *Soldier*, of individual properties which it is placing on the market for sale, including location, type, asking price and agent.

Shared sites were a matter of great concern to Army families, Sandy Hunter admitted.

"We will look at each case and

take account of suggestions and advice offered by the MoD and the HSE – a very important relationship to us – who will steer us away from any pitfalls.

"A lot of work has gone into visiting, site-by-site, looking at the conditions of properties and at the local market and its needs. To date, we have sold between 250 and 300 houses, but that number is likely to increase once spring arrives."

AVM Hunter sees Annington as a "long-term, long-haul" business, with the company having to be ready to react flexibly to changes, whether in MoD requirements or in the market.

## A LOT OF SKILL

"Some of our critics are of the opinion that all the company has to do is be around and it will make money. In reality, it will demand a lot of skill on behalf of the people working for Annington to make it work," he said.

Finally, he added, neither he, nor Sir Thomas MacPherson, the company's chairman – formerly with the Special Forces and a triple holder of the Military Cross – would have any part in the scheme if they believed it was detrimental to Service families.

● Details of the house discount purchase scheme and mortgage products are available from the Joint Service Housing Advisory Office, tel 01722-438349, or from Annington Homes, tel 0171-940 2300.

DURING the course of a given, specific numerical amount of 24-hour periods, in general terms mainly totalling 365, but varying in the 12-month period of time which exceptionally occurs between each third and fifth such period to a total of 366, submissions are invariably solicited from institutions and various affiliated bodies coming under the auspices of the Prime, chief or first Minister by a scheme of action specifically dealing in matters concerning the language of a non-convoluted, non-Celtic nature for recognition by way of a presentation.

Or, put more understandably: every year, the Plain English Campaign invites entries from Government departments and agencies for their "Inside Write" awards.

These are presented for the year's clearest "internal" documents – in the MoD's case, any

## All write, is that clear?

document written by members of the Armed Forces or civil servants for a departmental audience being eligible. Entries can be in the form of reports, magazines, instruction booklets, articles, leaflets or even single-sided A4 memos.

Army organisations which have produced a document they would like to be considered should send it to Jackie Savage, OMD6, Room 630, Northumberland House, London WC2N 5BP by May 9 (tel 0171 218-5776).

## Anglians, Argylls test VQ scheme

SCOTLAND's vocational education body, SCOTVEC, is offering nationally-recognised qualifications to 22,000 infantrymen.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and The Argyll and Sutherland High-

landers began a pilot programme this month to take the VQs. Initially, soldiers will be offered VQs in administration, customer service and security. Longer-term aims include VQs in warehousing and vehicle maintenance.

## Direct approach pays off



Star prize: Leaving hundreds of other entrants far behind were the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, winners of the Royal Mail's Awards '96 direct mail competition for both small and medium-sized companies.

The home's direct mail pack, featuring the story of Reg Ruddle, one of the Star and

Garter's 185 disabled ex-Service men and women residents, achieved a 17 per cent response rate.

Mary Concannon (second left) and Patsy Willis, members of the home's staff, look suitably pleased, alongside compère Lance Percival and Royal Mail's Jim Cotton-Betteridge.

## Forces' Lincs link to continue

THE successful Armed Forces resettlement programme run by Lincolnshire Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) for the past four years is to be funded by them for a further year.

Briefings for 1997/98 include "Working in Lincolnshire"; "Living in Lincolnshire"; the Enterprise Workshop and Business Planning Programme; and (new this year), "Commercial Awareness".

An estimated 5,500 Service leavers have been helped and advised by the TEC's resettlement team since it was set up.

A briefing for teeth arms personnel, including the infantry and armoured corps and other personnel who do not have easily recognisable skills or trades is being held by Lincolnshire TEC, in conjunction with other East Midlands TECS on June 11.

Employers are invited, as opposed to training providers, so

the briefing, to be held at Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, Nottingham, will be purely about jobs and how to get them.

Anyone wishing to attend should bid on MoD Form 363 to the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation, St George's Court, 14, New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1EJ.

## Mail order Naafi

A FORTY-eight page mail order catalogue, *Naafi Select*, has been launched.

The publication will offer leading brands in home entertainment, audio visual, electrical and fitness equipment, sports clothing, toys and gifts, and is the first to deliver non-food goods free to members of the Forces all over the world.

Delivery will normally be guaranteed to mainland United Kingdom within 72 hours and to Germany within five days.

# Chin chiller

Perhaps Maj **Mick Moran** should be looking a little more frightened as boxer **Nigel Benn** – nicknamed the Dark Destroyer – squares up to him.

After all, he is the man who, in the early 1980s, wouldn't select Nigel for his Rifle Company team – on the grounds that he lacked aggression...

At the time, the pugilist, who eventually went on to prove Mick wrong, scooping both the Army championship and Combined Services competition over a period of 12 months before later leaving the Army to become a world beater as a professional fighter, was a member of the 1st Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Mick, the current regimental boxing officer, was Nigel's sergeant major for two years when he was serving in Minden.

"The Army really seemed to bring him out of himself, and he became a very confident man," he said.

His seemingly aggressive opponent was in Catterick as guest of honour to present medals to boxing finalists from his old battalion.



## MARTINA PUTS MEN TO SHAME



A record first achievement went to Cpl **Martina Supiot** when she won the best student award on a Class 3 PTI course at the Land Command School of Physical and Recreational Training (Germany) in Sennelager – beating 45 male students to the prize in the process.

Claimed to be the first female soldier to accomplish the feat, either in the UK or Germany, a delighted Martina, who is attending a Class 2 PTI course in Aldershot, hopes to transfer to the Army Physical Training Corps.

Picture: Sgt Ian Lipiot

## Ten years on...

WO2 **David Williams**, 9th/12th Lancers, meets the **Queen Mother** for the first time since she presented him with the British Empire Medal in 1987.

"I don't think she remembered me," he joked, after her visit to the regimental headquarters of the Royal Yeomanry in London in her capacity as the regiment's Honorary Colonel.

Introducing David, who is currently the Royal Yeomanry's Training Warrant Officer, is Maj **Michael Hughes**, leader of HQ Squadron.

## Historic handover

An informal ceremony in the officers' mess at St James's Palace marks the historic period from May to November last year when No 7 Company Coldstream Guards joined 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, in west Belfast as the first of the three Guards' incremental companies to undertake an operational deployment.

Lt Col **Archie Miller-Bakewell** (left), on his last day as Captain of the Queen's Guard before handing over command, presents Maj **Stephen Mansbridge**, No 7 Coy Commander, with a framed Scots Guards pipe banner, receiving in exchange a company silk from Maj Mansbridge's Company.



## HELLO...

New Surgeon General to the Armed Forces is Air Mshl **John Baird** – only the second Royal Air Force officer to hold the appointment since it was created in 1985.

He was Honorary Physician to the Queen during his time as Principal Medical Officer at Strike Command from 1991 to 1994.



## ... AND FAREWELL

Relinquishing command of 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) at Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester last month was Lt Col **Robbie Scott-Bowden**.

Stepping into his shoes as he left to take up a post at Joint Headquarters, Northwood was Lt Col **Andy McDowell**.



# PEOPLE



## Making Light of it

When Capt **Gary Draisey**, sole Light Infantry officer at the divisional headquarters of HQ MND SW in Banja Luka at the time, heard that

members of the LI's sister regiment from Canada, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, were due to begin a six-month tour in Bosnia, he was determined to give them a warm welcome.

Gary, who has now completed a similar tour as a member of the Shrewsbury-based 5th battalion (a TA unit), is seen greeting Master Cpl **Grant Greenall** at Corralici, where the Canadians will be based.

"It was great to meet some of the guys face-to-face at last," said Gary. "We seem to have a lot in common with the Canadians, and they are a great bunch."

## Friendly gesture

Combat Medical Technician Cpl **Julie Oaklie** of B Sqn, 212 Field Hospital (V), flourishes the £50 award which she received from Brig **William Hurrell**, Commander 49 (East) Brigade, for recruiting a friend into her Beeston-based unit.

The scheme has been launched by East Midlands TAVRA.



## Reflecting well on the Army

British troops serving with SFOR, the stabilisation force, have combined with the Overseas Development Agency to try to ensure that the local people of the badly-lit Sipovo area can be seen more easily at night-time.

Capt **Steve Willingham**, Royal

Logistic Corps, is seen with one of the local children demonstrating the "Blinkies" – pedestrian reflectors which can be attached to clothing – which mean that anyone wearing them can be seen by vehicles coming from either direction for a distance of 200 m.

Steve, who, as Motor Transport Officer of 1 Armoured Field Ambulance, was responsible for the distribution of 30,000 of the reflectors, said: "If they end up saving even one life, it will be time and money well spent."



# Taking pride in cap badge

AT FIRST I was in complete agreement with David G Marriott in his call for the Army Cadet Force to have its own cap badge (Feb 3).

The ACF does of course have its own badge, so its adoption as a cap badge would present no problem.

Having reconsidered, I think Mr Marriott misses the point that the important thing about the ACF is the cadets and the pride they will take in the regiment to which their unit is affiliated.

I joined the Hampshire Regiment as a cadet in 1945, later going on to serve with other regiments in England, Australia and my present country as a member of the reserve in the old British South Africa Police.

However, absolutely nothing could persuade me to part with my old Hampshire Regiment cap badge. My service in its cadet force has given me a

pride in Hampshire which exists to this day and I have followed the proud record of the regiment through to its present role as part of The Princess of Wales's Royal

Regiment. — **John Gurney, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.**

AS A 16-year-old staff sergeant in the Merseyside Army Cadets I would like to point

out that both cadets and staff work very hard.

As in the Regular Army, every cadet, adult instructor and officer earns the right to wear their rank — it isn't just handed out. — **Euen Cunningham, Birkenhead.**

TWENTY years ago an attempt was made to have an Essex ACF badge, even to the extent of producing and issuing it. It was worn for some months but the biggest objectors were the TA units to which the various companies were affiliated.

On another point, in 12 years' ACF service, during which I too was "elevated", through hard work, I only ever met one case of an individual wearing that to which he was not entitled.

He did not last long in the ACF as the rules are very strict indeed. — **A E Walsh, London (address supplied).**

I KNOW many adult instructors in the ACF and you would be surprised at what they are entitled to wear but don't, by choice. — **Mrs E F Guymer, Huntingdon, Cambs.**

● Mrs Guymer, who raised many points covered in other letters published on the subject, urged readers (including women) to join the ACF. — **Editor**



Four Lincolnshire Army cadets punch the air with joy at news which will help their 16-strong unit at Kirton, near Boston, achieve its goal — a fourfold increase in membership. They had just heard that Lincolnshire ACF had invested £83,000 to help build a £500,000 multi-purpose youth centre which will

## PARA-SCENDING!

be shared with other local organisations. Worn with pride on the cadets' berets is the badge of The Parachute Regiment, to which their unit is affiliated. (See "Taking pride in cap badge".)

# Thanks due to the 'Caley'

THANK YOU for publishing the excellent photographs of children from Dreghorn's pre-nursery school and crèche (Lifestyle, Feb 17).

Your headline, "Mr Horsfield comes up trumps" is perhaps the opposite of "shooting the messenger", as the thanks should really go to the Royal Caledonian Schools Educational Trust.

I am writing not to complain, but to draw the attention of other Service organisations and individuals to the service we are now able to provide. The

"Caley" can consider requests for grants and projects like the provision of nursery equipment at Dreghorn and can also help with individual educational grants for the children of Scottish Servicemen and women.

## Sappers deserve Kenya credit

WITH reference to the feature "Into Africa with the Black Watch" (Feb 17), the hospital at Nanyuki was greatly assisted by men from 3 Troop, 34 Field Squadron (Air Support) — stationed with 39 Engineer Regi-

ment in Cambridgeshire — and not the REME. The troop completed the task with determination and pride and is due credit for a job well done. — **SSgt I M Cresswell RE, Exercise Sailfish, BFPO 12.**

# Britain's veterans made so welcome in South Korea

I WAS dismayed to read the letter (Mar 3) by ex-Troop Sgt Mallins expressing disgust at the way veterans of the Korean War are being treated on returning to Korea on pilgrimages.

I can only assume that Mr Mallins is not a member of the British Korean Veterans' Association, otherwise he would have been better informed about the travel arrangements that exist for our veterans to re-visit Korea at the very reasonable cost of £528 return.

This privilege is restricted to registered members of our association, and many hundreds have been able to take advantage of it, thanks to the generous subsidising of the travel arrangements by British Airways and the Korean Veterans' Association in Seoul.

As all my members are well aware, the people of South Korea are extremely generous in their recognition and appreciation of what the United Nations countries did for them nearly half a century ago.

So far as the British Armed Forces are concerned, the friendship and hospitality of the South Koreans is overwhelming — almost embarrassingly so — as I don't believe any other besieged country has shown such gratitude to its "liberators" so long after the event.

In addition to the travel assistance given by the KVA, Korean industry has made some amazingly generous donations to the charities of the BKVA, and the Royal British Legion, for the benefit not only of our veterans, but also descendants selected for university scholarships.

The BKVA has 52 branches throughout this country: Manchester — home of Mr Mallins — being one of the biggest and most active. — **Maj Gen Peter Downward, National President BKVA, The Mary Tudor Tower, Windsor Castle.**

## Highland Band was 'marvellous'

I RECENTLY attended a concert given by The Highland Band of the Scottish Division and it was marvellous to hear again a "full-blooded" military band rather than the truncated ones we had until a short time ago.

All credit must be given to Capt David Thompson, the band's director of music, for producing a band of such versatility. The comedy playing of the xylophone was wonderful. — **David Magill, Greenock, Renfrewshire.**

# Mad Mitch, outstanding commander

HEAR, HEAR S F Buckley (Mar 3)! Lt Col Colin Mitchell was, indeed, an outstanding soldier and commander.

His abilities were, perhaps, no better tested than in the Aden campaign, when he was

obliged to balance operational effectiveness and the welfare of his troops with the somewhat detached sensitivities of both politicians and, it seems, senior commanders.

This CO "nailed his colours to the mast" — brought an explosive situation under control and incidentally gained the wide respect of an otherwise equally detached public.

Unlike others he was not prepared to sell his soldiers' lives cheaply. Bold and unmanipulated officers such as he win wars, not politicians or quasi-politicians masquerading as commanders.

Although popularised by the Press, his professional ability and uncompromising methods

● Points in Question and For the Record appear in Page 32

proved too much for his superiors — both military and political — and his career foundered as a result.

Perhaps it is not surprising that he, apparently, became embittered, having been "sold out" by the establishment which used him.

Yes, *Soldier*, you should more routinely acknowledge those who "have been a soldier", for in cases such as Lt Col Mitchell's, if the magazine of the British Army does not, who or what will record and credit their efforts? — **Stephen Acaster, Sheffield.**

I READ the letter and comments on Lt Col Colin Mitchell (March 3) with considerable interest as I had the good fortune to serve with him in the King's African Rifles.

It would be interesting to know if your readers support the view that greater recognition should be given for his work for the Halo Trust. — **John Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne.**

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"It may be your old regiment's anniversary, Bradbury, but Rule 4 says you cannot wear it, so there..."

Interview with Pompey's ex-soldier football star — Pages 20-21

## Woodpecker triumph, tragedy

WITH other sappers, I took part in Operation Woodpecker 1, felling German forests to provide timber for Britain (50 Years Ago, March 3). We used many of the trees for piles on which we built the Francis bridge in Minden, the Freeman in Dusseldorf and the Patton in Cologne.

At the request of the Russians, Woodpecker 2 demolished all defences facing east,

including pillboxes and tank traps. We also cleared minefields and it was in one of these operations that we lost one of our best sergeants, who received no recognition for his bravery. — **P Beaton (ex-RE sgt), Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.**

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



Pictures: LCpl Karl Francis



Above - Long shot: An EOD engineer lines up his weapon, used to destroy explosive devices from long range

Left - Bridgehead: Chieftain bridgelayer atop the Number 8 bridge it has just unloaded

# All change for sappers in Bosnia

THE SWITCH from IFOR to SFOR (Stabilisation Force) late last year brought dramatic changes for Royal Engineers serving in former Yugoslavia.

Initially providing general support, 39 Engineer Regiment became, on transition, the only sapper regiment in the region, with personnel from five other engineer units under its command.

Regimental Headquarters assumed the role of HQ Royal Engineers MND (SW), with 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 522 Specialist Team Royal Engineers, a detachment from 49 EOD Squadron, and a troop from 42 Survey Engineer Group, joining the team.

It is now one of the widest-spread groups in theatre, with bases in Split, Tomislavgrad, Gornji Vakuf, Sipovo, Mrkonjic Grad and Banja Luka.

Although 39 Regt had been busy constructing accommodation for units in theatre, the change from IFOR to SFOR involved the relocation of a large number of troops. For the sappers, this meant stripping out many units and rebuilding them elsewhere.

One of the main builds is at Dalma Warehouse, where 48 Field Squadron (Air Support) has been putting in facilities for 450 personnel.

Earlier in the tour, a build at Jajce was

completed. "We had to provide accommodation for up to 180 personnel, then the task increased to building a kitchen and dining facilities for 250, and also a medical centre," said one sapper.

"Offices and ISO containers were included, with the plumbers installing a sewage treatment plant, and the electricians the required electrical services."

The infantry settled in and made themselves at home.

At Tomislavgrad, 45 Field Support Squadron has been battling against wintry conditions. When the squadron arrived, its personnel set about collecting and delivering grit needed for the snow and ice clearance of icy roads, and servicing vehicles.

Their efforts were focused on the route from Glamoc to Vitarog Hill Top Site. Thirty-four kilometres of road was cleared of snow up to drifts of 4m or more.

The site had run out of fuel, so the three gunners from 1 RHA who had been there



Picture: Cpl Barry Relph

Col Andy Montelle (left) hands over as CO to Lt Col Mark Hughes

for four weeks were happy to be relieved so they catch up with the rest of their regiment, which had left theatre at the end of its tour.

Squadron 2iC, Capt Matthew Walton-Knight RE said: "SSgt Best achieved his mission in reaching the summit of Vitarog in extreme winter conditions, although unsuccessful attempts had been made in previous weeks."

Another problem being tackled is the eight million mines distributed throughout



Picture: Lt Hannah Thompson

LCpl Potts with his pride and joy, a Hydrema excavator

Bosnia. The Mines Cell is doing its utmost to conquer the problem of locating, marking and organising the lifting of mines.

A Mines Awareness Team, based in Gornji Vakuf, has been working overtime to teach as many children as possible about the dangers posed by mines. Train the Trainer (TTT) courses have been run for personnel from any unit eager to learn how to teach mines awareness within their own units.

Since arriving in theatre last October, the team has taken its vital message to more than 4,000 children.

At Mrkonjic Grad Bus Depot, new accommodation for the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards is complete. With Specialist

Team Royal Engineers (STRE) giving a first-class design, 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron went ahead with the task.

"A lot of the major design works tend to be built at the end of our tour or during the next one," said Capt Fred Hair RE. "An example is Perrie Bridge. Its replacement has been designed, but they won't be able to build it until the spring." One of the main exceptions, he added, is the Dalma Warehouse accommodation in Split. It took a five-man team two weeks to design the task which will occupy two troops for six weeks.

The sappers have completed more than 50 different design projects, and are currently working on 22 more.

## Medical cuts went too far, say MPs

● From Page 7

future. A choice would have to be made between sending troops without proper medical support or sending only the limited number of troops who could be supported.

● It recognised the advantages of MDHUs operating within NHS hospitals, but effort and funds should be concentrated to reduce disadvantages to military personnel, including provision on site of military messes and accommodation, and leave of absence for study, personal training and sport.

● The decision of DCS 15 that there was no military requirement for gynaecology or paediatrics ignored the peacetime needs of women serving in the forces. The MoD is urged to consider the reinstatement of gynaecology as a uniform medical speciality.

The committee recommended that the Government implement in full the Armed Forces Pay Review Body report on pay and pensions for Service medical and dental officers.

"We would also support the offer of financial incentives to staunch the haemorrhage of doctors and nurses from the Defence Medical Services," said the MPs.

### LORDS DEBATE

DCS 15 was described as "open-heart surgery without the anaesthetic" by Lord Craig of Radley in a Lords debate on March 5 on medical provision in the Armed Forces.

Lord Carver, a former Chief of the Defence Staff, said the normal operational requirement had been set too low and would have to be re-examined.

"There is no doubt the DMS are in a critical state and urgent action is needed to remedy the situation. Unless that action is taken quickly, we may face a scandal like that which shocked the nation in the Crimean War, in the first battle of which my great-grandfather died of cholera, far from the tender ministrations of Florence Nightingale."

Lord Vivian, honorary colonel to the Territorial Army's 306 Field Hospital, said the closure of the British Military Hospital at Rinteln in Germany would make more consultants and nurses available to fill gaps at Frimley MDHU.

He said "deplorably bad" accommodation for single nurses at Aldershot was to be renovated. Starting in May, ten large double rooms would be converted into 20 single rooms.

### MINIMAL FURNISHINGS

The state of that accommodation was revealed by Baroness Strange, who said "single nurses leaving Frimley MDHU at 10 o'clock at night had to go to Aldershot, where they were accommodated in rooms with minimal furnishings, one small microwave but no other cooking facilities, not even an electric kettle, or a ring; no comfortable chairs; no television; and next to a lavatory which was in constant use during the night. Some of the nurses were leaving."

Lord Bramall, another former CDS, said that far from enhancing the front line, the defence costs study had seriously impaired the front line.

For the Government, Earl Howe said recruiting to the DMS was generally satisfactory and that staff shortages were manageable. He also said the Government was confident of the medical services' ability to provide support for any likely military deployment involving British troops.

On morale, he noted that it "is far from being a universal difficulty. Indeed, in many areas I believe morale to be good and improving all the time as the new structures settle down."

## Patagonia here we come

Cpl Scott Elsdon (left) and Cpl Phil Kirby, two of the seven hardy trekkers from 21 Logistical Support Troop RLC, based in Lisburn, who, under the leadership of troop commander Lt Rachel Parr, swapped the chill winds of Northern Ireland for a three-week stint in the mountains and glaciers of the Patagonian Andes.

Funding for Exercise Yahgan Finn came from commercial sponsorship, the Army, their own Logistical Support Unit, and the team members themselves.

"We are looking forward to being somewhere completely different and hopefully meeting up with some of the local tribesmen and women," said Lt Parr, before setting off.



## Sunshine, spectacle – and sediment

HAVING watched his troop of Royal Engineer apprentices pass out, Capt Andy Reid, AGC (ETS), boarded a plane for Belize to spend seven weeks as a diving instructor on a Raleigh International expedition.

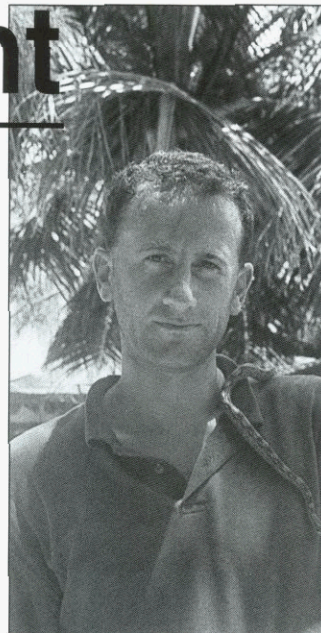
A Mexican skiff took him the nine miles out to his new home – Coco Plum Cay, an uninhabited, kilometre-long island consisting of mostly impenetrable scrub vegetation.

Living on a small patch of sand with 20 other people had its drawbacks, and it was some-

thing of a shock to realise that Raleigh rations consisted predominantly of Army brown biscuits...

Coco Plum Cay is located close to Belize's barrier reef, the second largest in the world. It is under threat from over-fishing, poorly-controlled diving, and from sediment created by agricultural activities on mainland Belize.

The Raleigh team were there to assess the damage being caused by the build-up of sediment washing down the rivers on to the shallow inner reef boundary. Each venturer spent three weeks on the island before moving to another project on the mainland.



Diving instructor Capt Andy Reid with local boa constrictor

## SHINING EXAMPLES

MEMBERS of HQ 20 Armoured Brigade and Paderborn Garrison took part in a week-long skiing expedition in La Plagne, France.

Aim of Exercise Fist Diamond was to introduce novices to downhill skiing, improve standards and provide instructors Lt Col Philip West and Capt Alistair Holdsworth with an opportunity to gain additional experience, all with a view to improving off-piste skills for future ski-touring expeditions.

## Air Corps reach the heights

ADVENTURE training lived up to its name for eight members of 5 Regiment, Army Air Corps, on a 30-day expedition to the dizzy heights of Nepal.

An exhausting schedule incorporated a nine-day kayak and raft down the Sun Kosi River, followed by a 21-day trek to 18,500ft up Kalar Patar, opposite Everest.

"Although the group had some strong kayakers, nobody had experienced the speed and

volume of the Himalayan rivers," explained expedition leader SSgt Simon Ellis. "The river was huge, with massive wave trains and very long rapids, which required a great deal of scouting, but once we got used to it, it was very enjoyable."

Four team members were forced to drop out of the trek stage, due to altitude and acclimatisation problems and illness, but the remaining four reached the summit.

## CLIMBING 'BOOTS'

IN October, the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment is planning an expedition to the Indian Himalayas, involving high altitude trekking.

The battalion requires JSMEI (W)-qualified personnel: JSMEI (S) may also be considered.

Enquiries to Capt Liddle, 1 DWR, Weeton Barracks, Preston, Lancs PR4 3JQ, Mil ext 734.

## Light Dragoons trek to find sister regiment

TAKING advantage of the fact that, following intense operational activity in former Yugoslavia, the Light Dragoons were a complete regiment in the same place for the first time for several years, Maj Robert Polley, B Squadron commander, organised and led an eight-man expedition, Exercise Khumbu Diamond, to Nepal.

The intention was to trek towards the Everest base camp and in the Annapurna range before travelling to India to visit Skinner's Horse, a cavalry regiment with which the Light Dragoons have an affiliation.

After two days' acclimatisation, the team flew to Pokhara in the Everest foothills, beginning their trek at 2,800m. Walking for eight days, they reached the highest point of the expedition (5,400m), from where they had remarkable views of Everest.



Sgt Andy Condon of British Gurkhas Nepal crosses one of the many rivers in the far west of the country as he takes part in Exercise Terai Challenge. Aim of the exercise –

described as "a journey along the floor of the roof of the world" – was to cross the Terai region by mountain bike.

The 1,025km was completed in five days,

with Andy and three other cyclists undertaking 20-minute relays from dawn to dusk and raising £2,000 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust and another charity.



Left – Members of Exercise Khumbu Diamond at the peak of Cokyo Ri, with Mt Everest in the background

the Annapurna range. Then it was on by train from Delhi to Patankot, where Skinner's Horse is based. Their hosts laid on a programme which included a display of T72, BMP and T55 armoured vehicles, live-firing and the opportunity to drive the unit's main battle tanks.

Having been comprehensively beaten at basketball and volleyball, the Light Dragoons attended an enormous barra khana (dinner) held in their honour.

● The Light Dragoons are looking for people to join Darkest Diamond, an adventurous training exercise to Kenya and Tanzania from July 1-23. Details from Capt Robinson on Hohne Mil 2440.

When several of the group began to suffer from headaches, nausea and other alti-

tude-related problems, a decision to descend was made.

Further travels by foot and

plane took them to Kathmandu and Ghorepani, where early morning gave the best views of

PRIVATE LEE BRADBURY was following an historic and well-trodden path when he left the Army to become a professional footballer in 1995.

Recent examples now playing in the Premiership are Guy Whittingham – who scored 47 goals in one spectacular season with Portsmouth and is now with Sheffield Wednesday – and former REME, Army and Combined Services goalkeeper

## THE FULL MONTY

Maiki Taylor, signed by Graeme Souness for Southampton from Barnet this season.

In the Nationwide League, former RAOC man Phil Stant found his way on to Lincoln's books, while Justin Whittle (28 Engr Regt), formerly with Celtic, is at Stoke and Steve Butler (REME) with Gillingham.

Army FA secretary Maj Terry Knight had no hesitation in estimating Bradbury's potential with six telling words: "He's the best of the bunch."

The 21-year-old is the latest in a long line of players with a military and naval background to play for Portsmouth.

It could even be argued that

the club was once made up entirely of soldiers – its forerunner was Royal Artillery (Portsmouth), beaten by Bishop Auckland in the English Amateur Cup final in 1896.

But apart from staff who donned uniform in wartime or did National Service, the club's most illustrious military link was the president it elected in March 1944 – General (later Field Marshal Viscount) Montgomery.

# Local boy soldier makes good

ON SUNDAY mornings ex-soldier Lee Bradbury likes nothing better than to go along and watch his local pub football team in the Isle of Wight.

Like his father Mick, he used to play for the Painter's Arms in Cowes. Some of his 35 cousins still do. Now Lee manages the side and is proud that they are riding high in the league.

Not a bad achievement for a 21-year-old, but a far cry, you might think, from the hopes of the football-crazy youngster who dreamt of playing in the Premiership and treading Wembley's hallowed turf.

You would be wrong. The reason the former infantry private no longer turns out for the Painter's Arms himself is that on Saturdays he is playing in the Nationwide League First Division, wearing the royal blue Number 9 shirt of Portsmouth. Watched, no doubt, by a horde of cousins, pals from his old regiment, his girlfriend Hayley and thousands of fans from Pompey's "Blue Army".

Not so very long ago Private Bradbury, a light weapon support gunner, was on duty with the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in Northern Ireland.

Now he is Pompey's leading goalscorer as the club, bought recently by former England coach Terry Venables, makes a bid for the First Division promotion play-offs.

In February Lee gave his growing reputation an international dimension when he played for the Nationwide League's under-21 side which drew 1-1 with an Italian Serie B eleven at the Sampdoria stadium in Genoa.

Off the pitch, this most unassuming of burgeoning soccer stars keeps his valuable feet firmly on the ground.

Like many other lads, Lee

## Lee Bradbury talks to Chris Horrocks

harboured hopes of becoming a professional footballer from an early age. His sporting ambitions, and fate, led him into the Army as a boy soldier as he turned 16 in July, 1991.

"I left school one Friday and joined up on the Monday," he recalled as he relaxed in a seat on the terraces at Fratton Park, Pompey's famous ground.

"In the Isle of Wight there were no real job prospects. I always wanted to be a footballer and I was told the Army exploited sporting potential, which it does. I played a lot of football in the Army and was well on the way to becoming a PTI."

After his initial training at Sir John Moore Barracks, Folkestone, he went to

Colchester to join the Royal Hampshire Regiment, later to amalgamate with The Queen's Regiment to become the PWRR.

Duty took him twice to Northern Ireland and more recently, when he scored a classic solo goal in Portsmouth's 3-0 win at Birmingham, his service in the Province gave the national sportswriters a fresh angle on a soccer report.

"I'd go home thinking I was lucky to be alive", quoted *The Sun*. "Bradbury soldiers on with no fear", the *Express* punned.

The headline-maker shrugged it all off with a smile. "It didn't happen quite as they described it," he said in a typically self-effacing moment. "It was slightly exaggerated. We did have one or two memorable experiences in Northern Ireland, as you would expect over a couple of years."

Lee shows a similar reluctance to crow about his footballing achievements. His phrase "a lot of football" meant, in time, being selected for his regiment, the

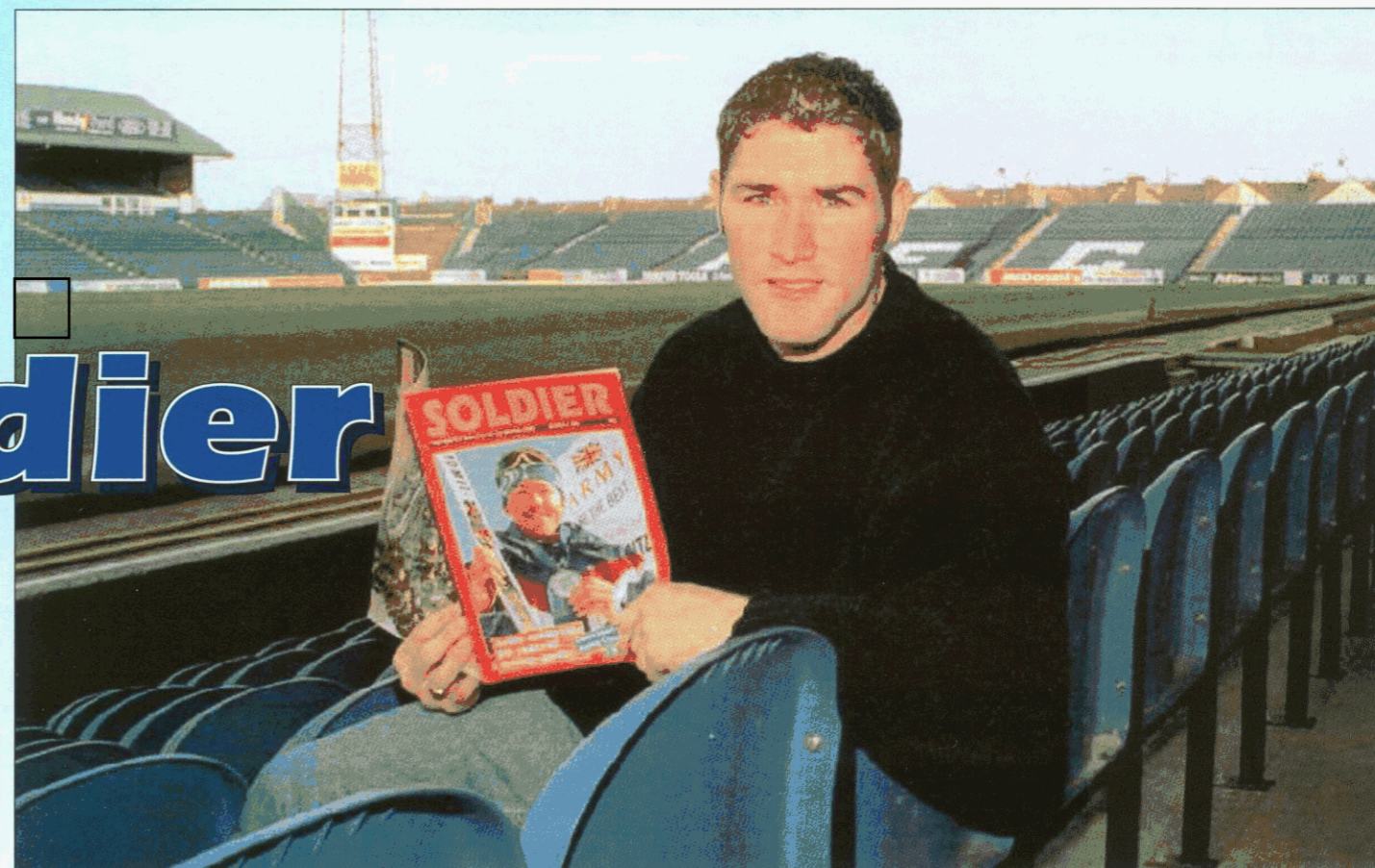
Infantry, the Army youth and senior sides, and Combined Services.

He doesn't remember how many times he played or the number of goals he scored – "I don't know, I didn't count."

(A check with the Army FA reveals that Bradbury was on the scoresheet 15 times in 16 appearances for the Army seniors in 1994-95. In the same season, as one of the permissible over-age players in the youth team, he hit nine goals in seven games. And then there was his hat-trick for Combined Services Youth against the FA Youth...)

If modesty blurs Lee's statistical memory, two events do come to his mind. The first was a two-week tour of Hong Kong with an Infantry soccer side in April-May 1994.

"We had to train at 8 o'clock in the morning because the tem-



Picture: Mike Walker

You're in the Blue Army now: Lee Bradbury catches up with the news on the terrace at Fratton Park. It was full for the visit of Chelsea on March 9

## I was very scared if we found a bomb. I'd go home thinking I was lucky to be alive

Hero Lee suffered Army hell

NEIL CUSTIS at ST ANDREW'S, Birmingham 0 Portsmouth 3

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Above – Gnr Mark Ellerington (left) and Gnr Dave Swain in the diplomatic area of Nicosia within Sector Two. Inset – LBdr Gareth Stubbs uses a combat weapon sight to observe activity along the Green Line during a night patrol in Nicosia



Left – Cfn Ben Angell (left) and Cfn Mark Llewelyn on patrol in the deserted streets of divided Nicosia



Gnr Mark Campbell in OP 83, which is overlooked by a Turkish observation post

# Gunners on the Line

WHEN THE gunners of 32 Regiment, Royal Artillery deployed to the sunny holiday island of Cyprus for a six-month tour of United Nations peace-keeping along the Green Line separating Turkish and Greek communities, the last thing they expected was snow.

But they were soon experiencing the record-breaking low temperatures which hit the Mediterranean region this winter, with Larnaca reporting its first snowfall since 1952.

Two-hour stags in the small hours of a lonely, drafty and desolate observation post can test the best of sentries, yet this is the task that consumes most of the soldiers' duty hours.

If they are not in the OPs, then the chances are that they will be patrolling the deserted Buffer Zone.

Sector Two, which includes the segregated city of Nicosia, is the most active – and the narrowest part of the entire demarcation line. Across it, up to 14,000 opposing forces are literally face to face. In places the "corridor" is a mere five metres wide . . . with the UN soldiers in the middle to monitor violations of the cease-fire agreements.

If the soldiers see rules broken they try to sort them out on the spot. Thanks to pre-tour tuition in handling crisis situations, most problems are resolved rapidly. More serious transgressions are chased-up through the chain of command. Violations range from verbal abuse to stone-throwing. The strengthening of positions and new buildings are prohibited.

It can be a dangerous place: latest recorded shooting was logged in February.



Above – Gnr Richard Lewis of Bengal Troop uses conventional binoculars to keep an eye on the Buffer Zone. He can also track targets with MSTAR radar



Right – Sgt Guido Bott, a troop sergeant from Liri Troop, replaces minefield signs during a routine patrol

Troops of 32 Regiment have established excellent relations with their opposite numbers on both sides of the Green Line, and many disputes have been worked out quickly and amicably at troop commander level.

The Larkhill-based regiment assumed operational control of its Cyprus sector on December 8, settling into a new base in Nicosia. Its more familiar role is to provide depth of fire with its Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS).

Commanding officer Lt Col Bob Eggar said: "Although it is a change of role for us, all soldiers are capable of carrying out the

basic infantry roles of peace-keeping." The regiment deployed 370 of its total strength of 575 to Cyprus. It is augmented by soldiers from 12 Regiment RA, REME and the Gurkhas.

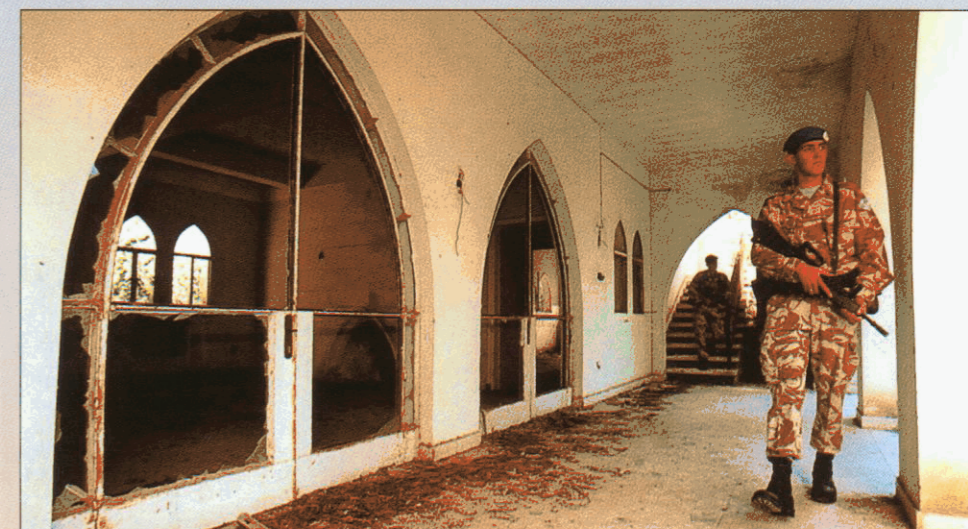
Sector Two is divided into four patrol areas: Bengal in the west and Ortona, City and Liri in the east. Each troop is responsible for observing and patrolling its own sector.

Nothing has changed within the Buffer Zone since it was established in 1974 when a cease-fire ended the war between Greek Cypriots and Turks. Long-deserted buildings, riddled with shell and mortar holes, are

collapsing from neglect. No glass is left in the windows, and machinery and personal items of clothing lie where they were left 23 years ago.

Gunners patrol past a shoe resting on newspapers which have photographs of Archbishop Makarios on the front page. Abandoned vehicles remain where they were when the ignition was turned off two decades ago.

One of the most infamous landmarks in the sector is the so-called "journalist's car", a faded yellow Renault beneath what are now opposing observation posts. The driver's door is wide open, left that way after the



LBdr Duffy leads a patrol through the derelict French Embassy building in the diplomatic quarter

occupant, a journalist, had been shot dead and his body pulled out. Bullet holes the length of the car bear testimony to what happened. Plants grow through the coachwork.

Forces of nature are also at work in the city's former diplomatic quarter. Magnificent architecture is obscured by trees and bushes grown rampant from untended gardens. Falling masonry and tiles present an occasional danger. Unsafe floors, gaping holes in ceilings and roofs, all have to be patrolled and watched.

A village booby-trapped by departing soldiers is wired off. No one has trod its streets since the deadly charges were placed.

Pigeon droppings under one building's eaves are piled to a depth of two feet. Patrols walk past at night, alert to the howling of wild dogs and the chatter of guards behind the opposing bastions.

Life of the Line can be tedious: the routine of stag on, stag off has to be broken. For British soldiers on United Nations duty, adventurous training provides an interlude. Most batteries have brought mountain bikes with them.

But even when they are off duty, the soldiers keep their UN baseball caps on . . . to identify themselves to the guards on either side of the wire.



Concrete progress: Spr Michael Oldfield of 11 Fd Sqn RE gets a helping hand from Muno, a child at the Nanyuki orphanage in Kenya

## 'Orphan' running

RIPPON-based sappers of 11 Field Squadron, 38 Engineer Regiment re-wired and re-roofed an orphanage while on exercise with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots in Kenya. They also constructed a lavatory block with plumbed-in sanitation.

Nearly 150 children live in primitive conditions at the

home in Nanyuki, close to main base camp occupied by the British soldiers.

The sappers were joined by many of the Jocks, who spent free time helping and playing with the orphans.

Many "hand-outs" of sweets and biscuits from troops' ration packs also brought smiles to the young faces.

## Big push by Paras pays off for Dover hospital

FIFTEEN soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment went "push-about" to raise money for Buckland Hospital in Dover.

The Paras borrowed a bed from the hospital, guided it down a steep hill from their Connaught Barracks into the centre of town, and collected £1,170 from people on the streets.

Cpl Russell Foulkes, one of the organisers, said there had been a terrific response to the stunt. The paras were amazed at the generosity of those who contributed.

Some of the money will be used to make two rooms more homely, and an additional bed



Sole sand: Capt Martin Newnhan shakes his running shoes after training on a beach for a marathon in the Sahara desert

will allow a partner to stay overnight with a patient.

□ □ □  
Cadets from Rowallan Company, RMA Sandhurst, got nowhere in a hurry... for

the best possible reasons. They cycled, rowed and ran their way from Land's End to John O'Groat's - without leaving the Academy grounds.

Their "going nowhere fast" triathlon, which included running the RMA Basic Fitness Test circuit, was completed on a set of static cycles and rowing machines.

But all the effort was worth it in the end when the company found it had raised more than £1,600 in sponsorship for Children in Need.

□ □ □  
A 2,000-km relay run from Bosnia to their base in Kent by soldiers of 61 Field Support Squadron RE raised £15,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund and Maidstone Hospice. The run commemorated the 80th anniversary of the battle of the Somme.

□ □ □  
Service teams are being sought by the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, to commit themselves to two unusual fund-raising events planned within the Arctic Circle in September.

The options are a 100km trek or an off-road bike ride and white-water rafting. Contact the home's Fund-raising Department, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6RR (tel 0181-940 1351) for more details.

# Beach boys head for sands of the Sahara

DUNES are dunes, whether they appear on a Northern Ireland beach or in the middle of the Sahara desert, which explains why a team of soldiers from the 5th (Co Londonderry) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment spent weeks pounding their way along the

lovely coastline which borders the Magilligan training range.

They were preparing to compete in one of the world's most exotic - and gruelling - long-distance endurance races, the Marathon des Sables.

The 145-mile foot race is staged over six days on a course marked out in the Sahara. Runners have to contend with dunes and rocky outcrops.

Training on the ranges was ideal, apart from the fact that the temperature was considerably colder than anything they will experience in Africa.

Led by Capt Martin Newnhan, the runners will be raising money for Chest, Heart and Stroke, a Northern Ireland-based charity, and hoping to complete the marathon safely.

Capt Newnhan, on a short-service commission with the 5th Battalion, is a social worker in civvy street.

Others in the squad, from which three will compete, were LCpl David McFarland and Ptes Jeremy Martin and Andy Marshall.



Going nowhere: Cadet Nicholas Jones completes his static cycle leg during the Rowallan Company triathlon which raised £1,600 for Children in Need

## Cheque this out

Lt Col Julian Brook-Fox (right), commanding the Driving and Maintenance School at Bovington, and event organiser SSgt David Ashmore hold a cheque for £212 before presenting it to Mrs Jane Witts of the Children's Liver Disease Foundation.

The Royal Engineer Detachment at the D and M School, led by Maj Mark Sullivan, the OC, completed a sponsored walk for young Mitchell



Witts, who suffers from a liver disease. Mitchell, overcome by shyness in the picture above, was accompanied by his aunt and uncle, Jane and Geoffrey Witts. Geoffrey is a Territorial Army sergeant in Reading-based 2 RGBW.



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## Welch acquire links with Nelson sea battle

A MILITARY coat and medal of historic importance to the Welch Regiment have been loaned to its museum in Cardiff Castle in time for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Cape St Vincent.

Regimental links with the naval battle are strong: the 69th Foot (later to become the 2nd Battalion, The Welch Regiment) spent the early part of its existence serving as marines with the Fleet.

On February 14, 1797, Pte Samuel Chadwick was on board HMS *Britannia* off Cape St Vincent when Sir John Jervis defeated the Spanish in a battle turned by the brilliance of Horatio Nelson.

The bravery of the 69th Foot in



Lt Bryn Owen RN (Retd), curator of the Welch Regiment Museum, with the coat worn by CSgt Samuel Chadwick of the 69th Foot in 1817

boarding Spanish ships during the close-quarter fighting inspired by Nelson was rewarded in 1891 when Queen Victoria gave the 2nd Battalion permission to display the battle honour "St Vincent" on its Colours.

Fifty years later CSgt Samuel

Chadwick was one of only two survivors to receive the retrospective award of a naval general service medal with the clasp "St Vincent".

His coat and medal, preserved and passed down by his family, are now in the museum, which has an option to buy them.

Picture: South Wales Echo

### 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, March 1947

#### PETROL POINT

Out of red ruin, the British Army has rebuilt the great petrol depot at Pet Haven on the River Elbe. It now fills the tanks of almost every British vehicle and aeroplane in Germany and Austria.

A hundred of the 200 storage tanks wrecked by the RAF are whole again. If Pet Haven failed, tens of thousands of vehicles would be stranded across the best part of a continent, and hundreds of planes would be grounded.

### 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, March 1972

#### PAL'S POINT



"I think it only fair to warn you... back in '44 I wiped out a whole battalion of you lot."

# A brotherhood of Falklands veterans

Below: The people behind SAMA82: from left are Maj Gen Julian Thompson, Dr Rick Jolly, Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike, Denzil Connick, Sara Jones, Maj Tony Davies and Lt Col Simon Brewis

SERVICEMEN who fought to liberate the Falklands in 1982 are to have their own support group, with the active assistance of senior officers involved in the conflict.

On April 2, the South Atlantic Medal Association 1982 (SAMA 82) will come into existence "to maintain and promote a sense of pride and comradeship among all veterans of the campaign".

Its aims are keep the 30,000 or so medal-winners in touch, maintain contacts with welfare organisations so that hardship cases can be helped, and to re-establish links with the people of the Falkland Islands.

Man behind the project, former 3 Para lance corporal Denzil Connick, lost a leg during the battle for Mount Longdon. He took the idea for a veterans' group to his '82 commanding officer, now Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike, who suggested expanding the initiative.

A steering group was formed under former naval surgeon Dr Rick Jolly, commander of the field hospital at Ajax Bay.

He and Denzil Connick will be the first chairman and secretary. Others on the executive committee are Maj Tony Davies, RSM of 1 WG in 1982; Mrs Sara Jones, widow of Lt Col H Jones VC; Maj Gen Julian Thompson, who led 3 Commando Brigade; and journalist Robert Fox.

Four grades of membership are available: full, for those with the



Picture: Kevin Capon

South Atlantic Medal (1982); **associate**, for next of kin of those who died; **island**, for Falklanders; and **honorary**, to be conferred by SAMA82.

First honorary member is Lt Col (Retd) Simon Brewis of the Army Benevolent Fund. Commanding officer of Para Depot during the war, and secretary of the now disbanded South Atlantic Fund, he provided great encouragement for the formation of the association.

Further details from the secretary at PO Box 82, Blackwood, Gwent NP2 0YE.

● A Falklands reunion is to be

held in Gosport, Hants on June 14. Details from PO Box 47, Gosport, Hants PO13 0AR.

□ **Producers of a BBC Radio 2 programme on National Service were so overwhelmed after appealing in *Soldier* for memories that they have written to thank all who responded. "Sorry if we were unable to contact you all," they say. The programme, "Stand at Ease", is to be broadcast on April 8 at 2130 hours.**

## DATES

### APRIL

26: British Model Soldier Society annual show, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Holborn, London.

### MAY

24-26: Overlord historic military vehicle show, Longmoor Camp, Liphook, Hants.

### JUNE

4-5: Floodlit Beating Retreat, Massed Bands of Household Division, Horse Guards, 9.30pm. Tickets on 0171-839 5323.

14: Queen's Birthday Parade, F Coy Scots Guards, Horse Guards (Major General's Review, May 31; Colonel's Review, June 7).

21: Sherborne Military Tattoo, Sherborne Castle, Dorset, in aid of Poppy Appeal and Army Benevolent Fund. Includes displays by White Helmets, PWRR freefall team, D and D Band, QGR Pipes and Drums, 9 Para Sqn RE, AAC helicopters.

28-29: Victorian Military Society celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, Historic Dockyard, Chatham.

### JULY

15-27: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets: 0171-244 0244.

### SEPTEMBER

6-7: Berwick Military Tattoo, The Barracks, Berwick-upon-Tweed. Proceeds to Service charities.

13-15: Military Survey 250th anniversary weekend, Hermitage.

### OCTOBER

24: RBL Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance. Tickets available on 01843 292882.

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



An occasional look at the journals of other armies

**From Army, the newspaper for Australian soldiers:** Several familiar items of uniform, including the Howard Green pullover, great-coat, battledress and square-ended woollen tie, have been consigned to history with the introduction of new regulations. There are also new rules on the wearing of rank, skill and trade badges.

□ **The popular lunchtime talks put on by the National Army Museum in Chelsea run until May 1, when the colourful career of Royalist turncoat Gen George Monck, later one of Cromwell's best commanders, will be examined. For details of the 40-minute Thursday talks, ring 0171-730 0717.**

## George (100) of the Somme soldiers on

A SOLDIER who survived the carnage of the Somme battlefield celebrated his 100th birthday in Portsmouth last month.

George Louth was an 18-year-old with the 15th (Portsmouth) Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment when massed ranks of infantry attacked well-prepared and defended German positions along the Somme on July 1, 1915.

By nightfall there were 57,470 British casualties. Fourteen days later another futile attack resulted in further horrendous casualties: only 65 men in George's battalion survived.

But survive he did, only to be sent back into the front line the following month. By this time he was partially deaf from the constant noise of the artillery barrages. During a

lull in the fighting he was loaned to 250 Tunnelling Company near Delville Wood.

He was eventually sent back to the regiment's headquarters in Winchester and posted to the Labour Corps to pioneer tractor-

driving and ploughing on farms in Dorset. During the Second World War he joined the Home Guard of the Dorset Regiment.

Despite his years, George (pictured) lives on his own near Portsmouth, and gives lectures to local schools. He is a keen photographer.

Now the oldest member of the Royal Hampshire Regiment Comrades Association, he was winned and dined on his birthday in the officers' mess at Portsmouth's Connaught Drill Hall.



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# Nothing new in world of deceit

IT IS a very long time since Joshua sought divine inspiration to capture Jericho and was told to use deception.

More than likely, the citizens were lulled into a false sense of security by the Israelites' daily march round the city walls. When eventually the priests blew their trumpets on the seventh day, the walls were virtually unmanned and easily breached.

In *The Art of Military Deception*, Mark Lloyd demonstrates that the "art" is as old as warfare itself.

We learn how, in 1415, the French allowed themselves to be lured into bloody defeat at Agincourt, giving battle to an "inferior" English force in a muddy field of the latter's choosing.

It would be unfair to say the French are slow to learn, but more than 450 years later they paid a terrible price when they under-estimated the enemy, allowing Bismarck to lure them into declaring war on Prussia.

"When generals fail to learn the lessons of the past," says Lloyd, "history surely repeats itself."

The reader is taken back to the ancient writings of Sun Tzu, the Chinese tactician who practised the art of deception to devastating effect.

In 205 BC Han Xin adopted the principles of Sun Tzu when forcing a crossing of the Yellow River. Han Xin selected an obvious crossing point and

made no secret of his plans to set up a bridgehead there.

Once the enemy was committed to defend the area, he moved most of his forces to an alternative point where he met no resistance. The enemy was then defeated from the rear.

A similar ploy was used by the Allies in 1944 when they convinced the Germans that the main invasion would take

**The Art of Military Deception** by Mark Lloyd. Leo Cooper Pen & Sword Books, £16.95.

place in the Pas de Calais area, not the Normandy beaches.

Such trickery can, of course, backfire.

The author describes how, in 1916, during the Battle of the Somme, a rumour of a planned British seaborne invasion on the Belgian coast was deliberately spread, resulting in thousands of German troops being moved to coastal defensive positions. This caused an invasion scare in London...

This book is interesting as a chronicle of errors. Apropos of Vietnam, Mark Lloyd writes: "Had the United States and its senior military advisers shown more respect for the enemy, accepted the advice willingly offered by the French and the British... the United States' losses in the most fruitless war in history might have been halved."

American self-deceit in Viet-

nam, "when the US failed to differentiate between technology and ability..." carries a theme which is developed in the historical chapters of the book concerned with Britain as an imperial power failing to appreciate the worth of a colony or former colony.

The world of "Psy Ops", or Psychological Operations, provides another interesting area explored by the author. Of particular interest is the section devoted to Soviet exploitation of Psy Ops techniques.

The story of undercover agent Leslie Howard's involvement in a secret mission, resulting sadly in the death of this suave and most English of actors when his plane was shot down over the Bay of Biscay, deserves more detail.

However, Lloyd compensates by providing an excellent account of the capture of the railway bridge at Gennev by the Germans on May 9, 1940.

To be recommended as a very good read, *The Art of Military Deception* leaves us to ponder the perceptively-framed truth that "... the working masses must first be deceived into a frenzy" if war is to be carried to its full potential.

They must come to believe "that their government's enemy is their enemy and that his defeat is worth dying for". Surely the most awesome of all deceptions. - BJ

## I spy with my little eye in the sky

ALTHOUGH the Cold War is long over, spies, it seems, are still thick on the ground.

Michael Smith, a reporter on the *Daily Telegraph*, tells in *New Cloak, Old Dagger* what went on in M15, M16, the Defence Intelligence Staff and GCHQ during the Cold War years and what, allegedly, goes on today.

Britain's spies, it appears,

**New Cloak, Old Dagger** by Michael Smith. Gollancz, hardback, £20.

are as active as ever, although their role has largely been overtaken by technology. If spies in the skies keep an electronic eye on things on the ground, why bother with human agents?

The author claims the threat is as dangerous as ever and the need for top-class security services is still as great.

Quotes from President Clinton and Defence Secretary Michael Portillo lend support.

The President said of suggested cuts in the CIA: "I believe making deep cuts in intelligence in peacetime is comparable to cancelling your health insurance when you are feeling fine."

Mr Portillo described intelligence as "a critical tool of Defence. We shall need to predict crises, and if the unexpected happens we will need to know speedily who did what." - JM



Advance towards Gaza, March 26, 1917. This water-colour by Joan Wanklyn depicts the appalling "going" as the batteries of 270 Brigade approached the Gaza battlefield... deep sand and steep-sided wadis. The illustration is taken from the cover of *The Hertfordshire Batteries, Royal Field Artillery*

# Part-time gunners recalled with pride

THE first of four planned illustrated volumes, relating the history of yeomanry and artillery units raised in Hertfordshire, covered 126 years from 1794 to 1920.

Now, Lt Col J D Sainsbury has produced the second of the four with *The Hertfordshire Batteries, Royal Field Artillery*.

This volume, though, covers just 12 years from 1908 to 1920 and tells specifically the stories of the 1st and 2nd Hertfordshire Batteries, based at St Albans and Watford, and the 1st Northamptonshire Battery from Peterborough.

Well illustrated on high-grade art paper and full of factual information about the

**The Hertfordshire Batteries, Royal Field Artillery** by Lt Col J D Sainsbury. Published by Hart Books, (Welwyn), for the Hertfordshire Yeomanry and Artillery Historical Trust. Large-format paperback, £14.95.

guns and ammunition used by the batteries, the book covers the build-up and training pre-1914, their departure to France in late 1915 and their arrival in February, 1916 at Suez, where they stayed in static defences for about a year. From there they took part in the first two battles for Gaza in March-April, 1917.

Six months later they were integrated into Allenby's army for the third battle of Gaza in

November that year, which signalled the beginning of the end of the Turkish presence in Palestine.

A glance at some of the gun photographs and captions reveals, to the layman, some astonishing facts about the range of these weapons.

An 18-pdr Mk II could hurl a shell 6,525 yards. It could have gone considerably further had the pole train allowed it more elevation.

Similarly, a 4.5-in howitzer, elevated to 45 degrees, could fire a 35-lb shell 7,300 yards.

Not far by today's standards, perhaps, but like the men who used them, impressive none the less. - JM

# Days of guns and poses

**Sisters in Arms** by Vee Robinson. Harper Collins, paperback, £6.99.

tery. She served at gun sites around Britain. Her tales of learning to march, salute and address officers correctly will, for ex-ATS girls, bring back good and not-so-good memories. They will recall happy

days in the Naafi and dancing at the local hop; stodgy food and poor billets; and the noise of the ack-ack guns blazing away on street corners.

Vee has organised reunions for more than 500 wartime girl gunners, although age is now taking its toll. But they'll never forget those spirited, terrible wartime days. - JM

# Household Division masses for a Festival occasion

**Rodney Bashford**

**Scarlet and Gold - Massed Bands of the Household Division.** Senior Director of Music: Maj D E Price. Pipe Major: WO2 R Tumelty. Drum Major: WO2 W Scattergood. Bandleader CD BNA 5131 £12 or cassette £7.60. From Sound and Picture Co, PO Box 177, Dorking, Surrey.

REPRESENTATIVES of all the bands of the Household Division, State Trumpeters, Fanfare Trumpeters, Pipes and Drums Irish Guards, Corps of Drums Welsh Guards, and all the Directors of Music conducting, were assembled in the Royal Festival Hall on December 3 to give a concert in aid of the museums of the Division.

The Queen and Prince Philip graced the occasion.

The music was, out of some necessity I suppose, very well known and rather over-recorded, so I will merely give a list of the items and leave you to decide whether it is just too familiar.

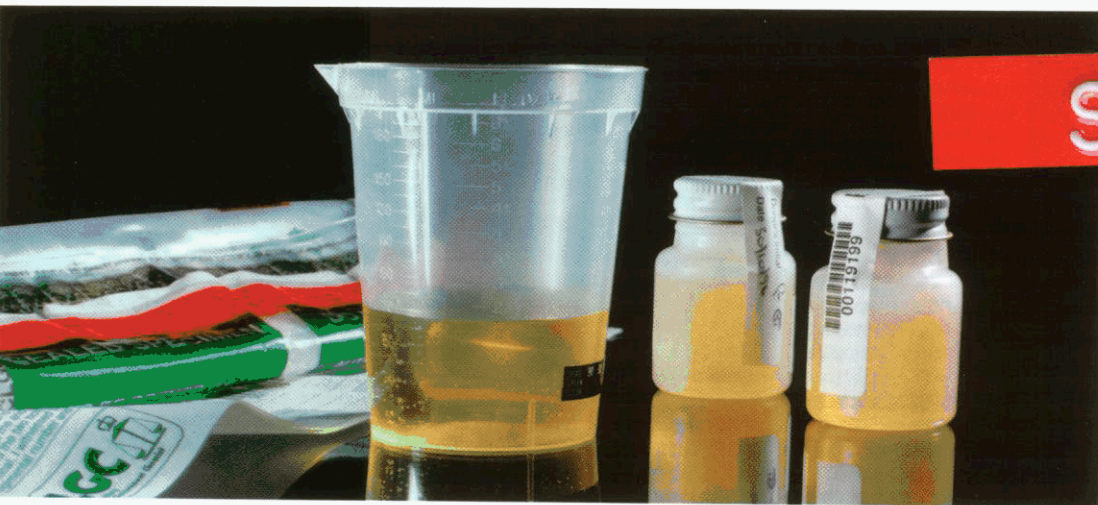
After two fanfares we have *La Rejouissance* by Handel, a medley of Gershwin tunes, two items by Sir Malcolm Arnold - the lovely slow movement from his *Scottish Dances* and the uproarious march *The Padstow Lifeboat*.

The *Chit Chat Polka*, *Send in the Clowns*, the marches *Machine Gun Guards* and *Bond of Friendship*, and another medley, *In The Miller Mood*, keep the atmosphere light.

The Pipes and Drums and Corps of Drums give short displays, and a *Circus Galop* and the *Festive Overture* by Shostakovich see us to a close.

I imagine the acoustics of the Festival Hall caused the engineers some problems, for it was never designed for massed bands, only the Albert Hall being able to cope with such forces, for space anyway.

If you accept the occasional smudginess, the music comes across very well.



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# How the Army's greatest historian shocked the King

*"The civilian who attempts to write a military history is of necessity guilty of an act of presumption, and I am not blind to my own temerity on venturing to grapple with such a task."*

IT WAS with typical character that J W Fortescue opened the preface to the first volume of what was to become the classic history of the British Army.

The author in his teens did indeed serve a year or two as subaltern in the Royal North Devon Yeomanry, but he was the last to claim that this had any bearing on his life's work.

The Hon John William Fortescue was born in 1859, fifth son of Earl Fortescue of Castle Hill, near Barnstaple, North Devon. Education at Harrow was an unhappy experience and three years at Trinity College Cambridge were no more congenial. His studies for the Bar were "boring", and he went down without a degree.

By now the Earl had placed his two elder brothers in expensive regiments, the 17th Lancers and Coldstream Guards. John would have liked to follow them, but his health was against a soldier's life. Some lordly string-pulling by father found him uncongenial temporary jobs: secretary to the Governor of the Windward Islands and a similar post with the Governor of New Zealand. Returning home in 1890, he was still footloose at 31, with no prospect of a settled career.

His salvation came when the Colonel of the 17th Lancers commissioned him to write a history of the regiment.

The task was completed within a year and when Macmillan published it in 1895 it attracted laudatory reviews as the model of a regimental history – which it still is.

A chance remark led to Frederick Macmillan suggesting a "popular" one-volume history, the only proviso being that they could not afford illustrations. This was the little acorn from which flourished the oak of heroic stature.

A year later the "popular" single volume had expanded to two volumes of some 500,000 words, but still had reached no further than the close of the Seven Years War in 1763. Published in 1899, they attracted only mild interest. The public was more concerned with the history being created at Ladysmith and Mafeking.

Nevertheless, Macmillan gave the author a free hand to forge ahead with as many volumes as he considered necessary. The next dealt with the American War of

Independence, running to 500 printed pages, and Fortescue's task had been overcast by the news of brother Lionel's death in action in South Africa.

In 1905 the Hon J W Fortescue was appointed Royal Librarian at Windsor Castle – a post which not only brought him into close contact with his Royal Master but gave him some financial assistance to leave him free for his researches. As though on a production line, volume succeeded volume and by now the reviewers were taking notice: "We are witnessing the birth of a military classic" said *The Times*.

In 1914 Fortescue married Winifred Beech, daughter of an impecunious Sussex parson. She was never accepted by his family. Not only was she of humble stock – and 30 years younger than her husband – but worst of all she was, or had been, a stage actress. Such was the protocol of the times, this rendered her unacceptable at Windsor. When the Royal Librarian was invited to State banquets, she was obliged to sup alone in her modest suite.

On the outbreak of the Great War, Fortescue was persuaded to contribute "recruiting supplements" or potted regimental histories for *The Times*. Always infantry-inclined, his first supplement in 1915 was concerned with The Life Guards.

To the astonishment of the regiment it proved to be a malicious (and largely inaccurate) jibe at the senior regiment of the Army. "The Lumpers" or "Tin bellies" had degenerated into comic soldiers, he wrote, until they were reformed in 1788. They were useless in the Peninsula, but "did well at Waterloo".

Coming from an eminent historian and member of the Royal Household, this was more than could be suffered in silence, especially as two squadrons had recently suffered severe casualties in France.

The Colonel of the 1st Life Guards, Fd Marshal Sir Francis Grenfell, addressed an indignant letter to His Majesty, Colonel-in-Chief. King George was equally shocked, and Fortescue was obliged to issue a perfunctory apology. This did little to heal the wound, and The Life Guards have probably never forgiven.

The ninth volume of the history appeared in 1920, and the preface contained a curiously bitter plaint: his income from his selfless labours amounted to no more than a halfpenny per line, he wrote, and he would have done better to have enlisted as



Sir John Fortescue: upset The Life Guards

a private soldier in the Army. Without some financial assistance he could not complete his task.

In November 1921 the Royal United Service Institution *Journal* published an appeal for donations to save the History, which closed in 1923 with the sum of £265 17s 6d – not inconsiderable for the time.

The King's reaction on learning that the hat was passed round for his Royal Librarian is not recorded. But the crisis was resolved, with the result that in 1926 Fortescue resigned his post at Windsor and devoted his energies to the completion of the History to the planned date of 1870.

Also in 1926 his services to the Royal Household and the Army were rewarded by his appointment as KCVO. The final, 13th, volume was published in 1929, with separate cases of maps.

With the completion of his life's work, Sir John and "Peggy" fled to Provence, "escaping from iniquitous taxation and increasing bureaucracy." Here he wrote his swansong, the autobiographical *Author and Curator*, published by Blackwood in October 1933. Three weeks later he succumbed to a short illness, aged 74.

Had Sir John been a Frenchman, or a German, he would no doubt have been accorded public obsequies and perhaps some impressive memorial. But his passing was marked only by a few Press obituaries, and his memorial is a simple stone cairn on Exmoor, where he wished his ashes to lie.

The cairn of dressed stone lies about one-and-a-half miles south-west of Simonsbath, just off the road to Five Barrows Cross. It bears a plaque with the laconic inscription:

JOHN WILLIAM FORTESCUE  
HISTORIAN OF THE BRITISH ARMY  
1859 - 1933

One of the last articles for *Soldier* by military historian John Brereton, who died last year

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

# THE ROYAL GURKHA RIFLES

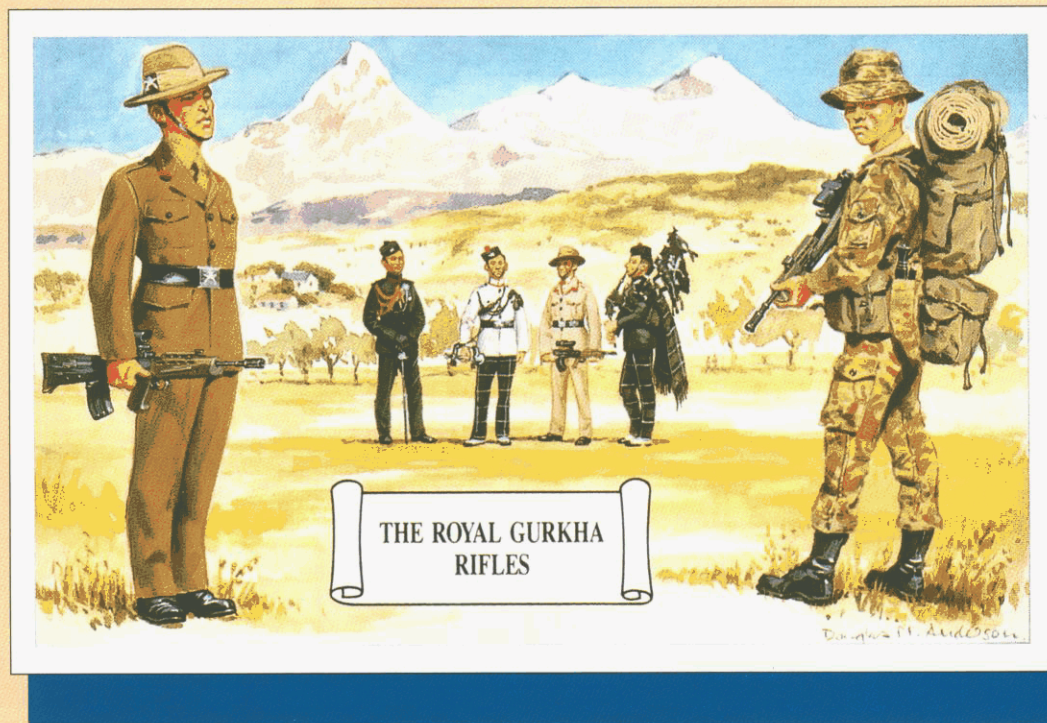
FOUR Gurkha regiments amalgamated on July 1, 1994 to form the one large regiment now known as The Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR).

Disappearing from the order of battle were the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles and 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

At the moment the new regiment consists of three battalions, although the 2nd and 3rd battalions will merge in Brunei later this year on the move of 1 RGR from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom.

The battalion stationed in the United Kingdom is currently based at Church Crookham but is due to relocate to Shorncliffe in 1999. It forms part of 5 Airborne Brigade.

Traditions of its forebears are cherished in the new regiment. Its uniform combines many historical embellishments, including the red piping around the jacket col-



lars on ceremonial dress and Douglas tartan for the Pipes and Drums.

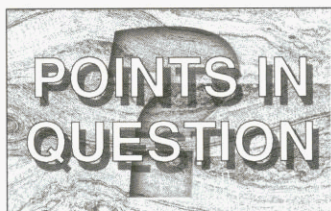
The postcard illustrated above was reproduced from a watercolour painting by Douglas N Anderson. It shows:

- Rifleman: No 2 Dress (ceremonial).
- Rifleman: Combat dress (field order).
- Different forms of regimental dress.
- Background: The Him-

alayas, Nepal.

The four figures in the middle ground are: a Queen's Gurkha orderly officer in No 1 dress; a bugler in No 3 dress; a rifleman in No 6 dress; and a piper in No 1 dress.

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



## GSM 'Near East'

**Q:** More information please on the GSM with clasp Near East reported in the Press to have been issued to a Suez Canal Zone veteran (K Gannon, Feb 3).

CONFUSION still reigns! The GSM 1918-62 with clasp Near East was awarded for the short Suez Campaign of November 1956 and the words on the clasp were to avoid embarrassment to the Egyptians. They were properly earned as active operations, short of full-scale war.

What I understand the Canal Zone veterans want is recognition that life during 1951-52, when the British were no longer welcome, was far from pleasant, internal security being essential, and when travelling away from base subjected to sniping, wires across the road, hostile acts, road blocks and so on.

I can also tell them these same non-co-operative and unwelcome acts were apparent in 1946-47. — **A F Brocklehurst, Penarth, S Glamorgan.**

**Q:** Further to K Gannon's question (Feb 3), when was the GSM — Bar "Near East" issued and why, and what was the qualifying service and the geographical zone covered? — **H Cross, Poole, Dorset.**

## For the record

### Infantry finalists

YOUR report of the 1996-97 ARU Challenge Cup final between 1 RWF and 2 Signal Regiment (Sport, Mar 3) is inaccurate. It was not the first time in 11 years that an infantry battalion had reached the final. For the record, 1 RWF reached the final three times in a row during seasons 1989-90, 90-91 and 91-92, each time losing narrowly to 7 RHA.

To reach the final this season was a particularly fine achievement because the battalion is deployed on operations in Northern Ireland and time for worthwhile rugby training has been virtually non-existent. Such is the lot of the PBI.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers have

### Service numbers

I ENLISTED on May 24, 1942 (I put my age up). My regimental number was 14402627. Could I have been in the early stages of the 1440 system?

Now a question which has always puzzled me. Why did the Kings Liverpool Irish (8th Kings) wear the cap badge and hackle over the right eye and not the left? — **P M Lovett, Swanage, Dorset.**

### Chinese dragons

WHAT'S all this about the Royal Berkshire Regiment? The Chinese Dragon was awarded to the 49th of Foot, which at that time had the county designation of Hertfordshire. It was much later that it became the Berkshire Regiment. The Chinese Dragon was surrounded by a rope to commemorate the regiment's long service as marines. — **Sgt Colin Anstee, 5 PWRR, Canterbury.**

had one of the more successful unit rugby football teams in the past 11 years, and consistently the most successful infantry battalion team.

As well as appearing in the ARU final four times, they have appeared in two ARU UK finals and won three ARU BAOR finals. Regrettably, success for heavily-committed infantry battalions in these competitions is becoming harder to achieve against the larger corps sides. — **Lt Col R C Lloyd RWF, Divisional Lt Col, The Prince of Wales's Division, HQ Infantry, Warminster.**

### Wolds Wagoners

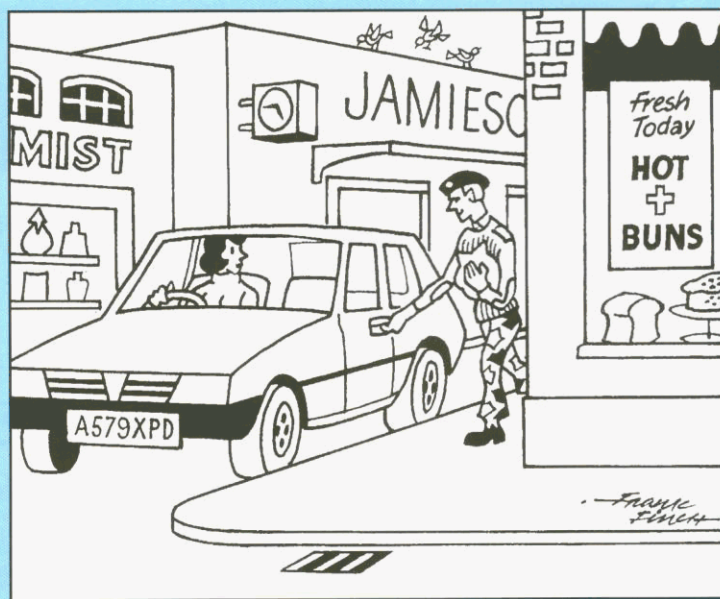
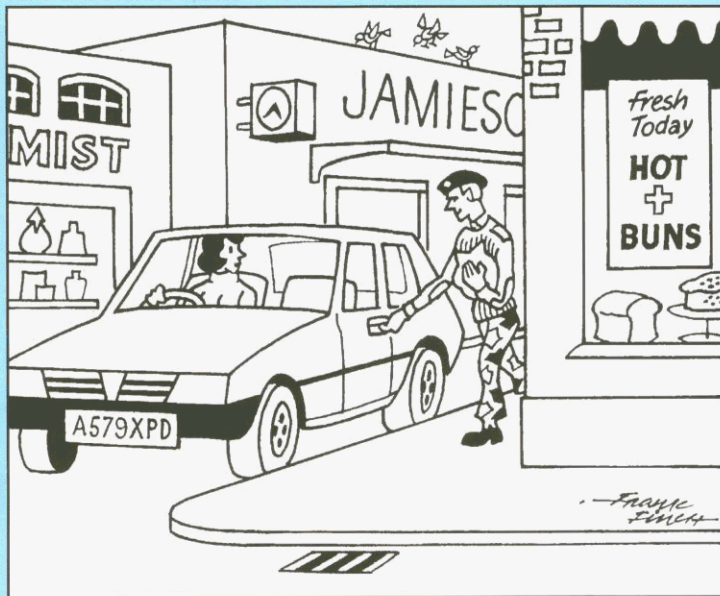
IN the feature on 150 (Yorkshire) Transport Regiment RLC (V) (Feb 17), you indicate that the regiment

traces its origins to 1913 and the formation of the Wolds Wagoners.

While we are very proud of our association with the Wagoners, our history actually goes back to 1908 with the formation of the Northumbrian Divisional Train ASC, which had companies based on Tyneside and in Hull.

The Wolds Wagoners were a separate entity and never actually part of the regiment.

Now that I have put the record straight, may I commend you on your excellent magazine and say how refreshing it was to see the Logistic Services given such a good spread with the features on 150 and the posties. — **Maj Nigel Appleton, 150 (Y) Transport Regt RLC (V), Hull.**



COMPETITION 658

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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.

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Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 655 (Feb 17 issue): First correct entry drawn was from CoH A D Tovell, 3 Troop, A Squadron, Household Cavalry Regiment, Banja Luka, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs E Ferguson, of Ripon, N Yorks, and Mr J Jordan, of Edgbaston, Birmingham. The ten differences were: cat's tail, top left corner; spectator's elbow; post office sign; window on church tower; top of left-hand tree; mouth and left leg of runner 82; number of runner 76/78; vest and right ankle of runner 91.



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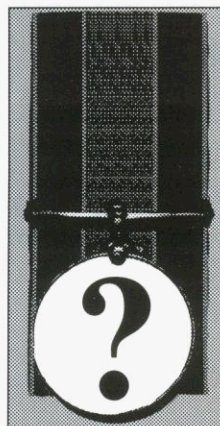
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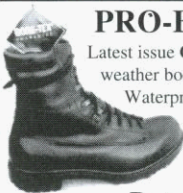
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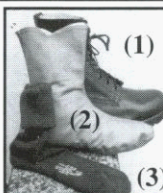
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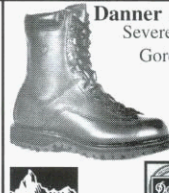


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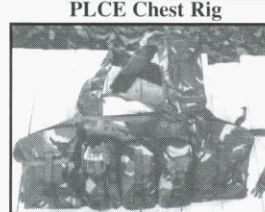
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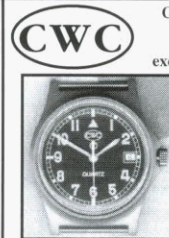


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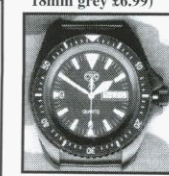
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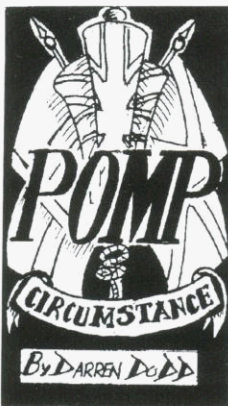


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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

**MARCH 1, 1997**

**FOUR-way tie for first prize (14 goals,**

**£1,250 each):** Maj IR McAlister, HQ 3 Inf

Bde, BFPO 803; Maj PV Noakes, HQ

QMG, Andover; Capt MA Thomson, 1

Hldrs, BFPO 807; WO2 D Williams, RY,

London.

**TWENTY-FOUR way tie for fifth prize (13 goals,**

**£41.67 each):** Sgt S Acott, RSA, Larkhill;

Pte DJ Bowler, 2 Para, Aldershot; Cpl CA

Campling, 84 PC Sqn RLC, BFPO 808;

Cpl MI Colston, 24 Airmob Bde CSS Bn,

Colchester; Sgt PD Couch-Burden, RAC

Centre, Bovington; SSgt EJ Gilby, 4 Regt

RA, BFPO 36; Cpl AD Glover, 27 Tpt Regt

RLC, Aldershot; WO1 PW Handley,

Musgrave Park Hospital, BFPO 801; SSgt

IM Holness, 75 Engr Regt (V),

Manchester; LCpl K Jackson, 21 Engr

Regt, BFPO 36; Col NCD Lithgow, Army

Personnel Centre, Glasgow; CSgt DA

Macauley, AFCD, Dunfermline; Capt JA

McClean, BFPO 309; Cpl CJ Pitts, MOD;

Lt Col AC Pope, HQ AG, Upavon; Pte MJ

Richardson, 17 Port & Maritime Regt

RLC, Marchwood; SSgt G Sanderson, 47

Regt RA, Thorney Island; Capt JR Sewell,

9/12 L, Swanton Morley; Maj RC O'M

Shaw, ITC Catterick; WO1 RJ Smith, HQ

4 Armd Bde, BFPO 36; Maj RE Wells, HQ

QMG, Andover; Tpr CW Wilson, The Light Dragoons, BFPO 30; Maj TW Wye, RE TDU, Rochester; Spr G Yorke, BATUS, BFPO 14.

**MARCH 8, 1997**

**FIRST prize (22 goals, £2,500):** LCpl MI

Morgan, JARIC, RAF Bampton.

**THREE-way tie for second prize (21 goals,**

**£833.33 each):** WO2 NF Clarke, 3 PWO

(V), York; Lt Col C Hawkey, HQ AFCEAT,

BFPO 28; Cpl PG Mitchell, 1 Bn REME,

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**FOURTEEN-way tie for fifth prize (20 goals,**

**£71.43 each):** SSgt JMA Berry, 62 Cyprus

Sp Sqn RE, BFPO 58; Sgt KJ Cooney, 1

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# Johnson's polish is too strong for Army

Royal Navy 2, Army 1

TWO goals from veteran Royal Navy utility man CPOWEA Steve Johnson proved too much for a below-strength Army team at the RN stadium in Portsmouth, writes **Derick Bly**.

Heavy rain during most of the day made ball control difficult, but did not stop the Navy taking a seventh minute lead in their first serious attack on Cfn Ian Elliott's goal. A three-man move down the right left him with no chance when Johnson hammered the ball home.

On 29 minutes, the RAF referee spotted pushing in the box during a Navy corner and pointed to the spot, surprising most of the players and the large crowd.

POPT Steve Riley, a tower of strength for the Navy, hammered the ball against the bar, the ball rebounding to safety.

In the 36th minute the Army drew level, McHugh tricking his marker and unleashing a cracker from 35 yards.

As the half-time whistle approached, Johnson pounced on some slack defending to strike a superb shot past the Army 'keeper for a 2-1 lead, which they held through the second period as the pace of the game on the heavy playing surface slowed.

Army 0, RAF 5

For the second time in a week of Inter-Services championship fixtures, the Army were well below strength and no match for the Royal Air Force, who lifted the Constantinople Cup outright for the first time in 13 years.

The RAF made all the early running, with Combined Services RAF defenders Wooton and Pluckrose making life difficult for the depleted Army attack.

A botched goal-kick by Lennox led to the first RAF goal and the second came 15 minutes later.

Best Army effort was by Hope who glanced a post. A minute from the break, Andrews tripped Maguire just inside the box and Pluckrose stepped up to send Lennox the

wrong way from the spot.

The RAF opened the second half in total control. On 53 minutes, they got a fourth, Maguire completing his hat-trick.

With 25 minutes remaining, coach QMSI Duncan Russell brought on Sig Simon Johnston and Sgt Lee Dyson in place of Andrews and Alford, and the Army enjoyed much more of the play, Johnston in particular running his heart out to get behind a solid RAF back four.

With five minutes remaining, the Army's dreadful night was complete when Tapp crossed and Tagg headed an own goal.



Three members of the Army's cyclo cross team, which has received a sponsorship boost from The Stationery Office. Competing under the Army/Banner/Tekno name, the team has already launched into what is hoped will be a very successful season. Left to right are team secretary Cpl Dave Farrow, 22 Engr Regt; Aldershot-based Cpl Alex Tinniswood, who has competed in the national trophy series; and Pte Clive Asplen, who will be competing in the under-23 (Espoirs) national championships.

## Staff outing proves profitable

THIS year's week-long Army badminton championships, hosted by 21 Signal Regiment, attracted the largest entry in the history of the competition, with 11 different events at unit, novice and championship levels.

Northern Ireland beat 14 Signal Regiment in the final, though there were individual successes from 14 Signals later in the week. SSgt Quinney, who was involved in virtually every final, took the men's singles,

CS Youth 3, FA Colts 1

A Combined Services Youth squad, made up mainly of Army Youth players, made amends for a 7-0 thrashing last season by defeating the Youth of Football League Clubs 3-1 at Aldershot.

The Services went ahead on seven minutes, Pte Paul Baron unleashing a superb left-foot shot into the corner of the net.

Services Youth went further ahead in the 35th minute, through Gunning, and the second period was only five minutes old when he scored a crucial third.

With three minutes to go, Colchester United's Rogers pulled one back for the Colts.

## Training pays off for youthful squad

Loughborough 7, CS U-21 29

THIRTY-TWO players attended the weekend training session at Grantham before the first Combined Services U-21 fixture against Loughborough University Freshers, writes **Nick Cooke**.

Under the direction of senior coach, WO (PT) Mick O'Shea, the players were introduced to a standard of rugby requiring higher levels of individual skill.

AB Jeff Annal, having skippered the RN Under-21 team and played in the winning CS Under-21 team against England Students last year, was given the captaincy of a trial XV.

Surging runs by SAC Nick Burnett at No 8 and Cpl Mat Price showed the strength of the CS pack, which resulted in a try by Nick Burnett under the post after 14 minutes. AEM Simon Greening was successful with the conversion.

Following good line-out work by SAC David Madden, the ball was passed out to the backs and, after skilful linking, Nick Burnett crashed over for a second try, Greening kicking the conversion.

Spr Bruno Green produced some crunching tackles on the Loughborough backs.

A Greening penalty put Services 17 points ahead at half time.

Start of the second half saw six changes to the side, and the presence at hooker of Fus George Kemble, skipper of the CS U-21 side last season. Spr Mat Chalmers, on as stand off, kicked intelligently, pushing

the opposition back into their own half.

Loughborough ran from every part of the park, but skilful ball skills between Mne Richard Morgan and Mne Nathan Evans saw Evans crashing through to touch down under the posts. Chalmers converted.

Loughborough scored next, but the Services rallied and a flowing passing movement ended with AB Neil Gay crossing the line for the final score.

Man of the match award went unanimously to Burnett.

RAF U-21 8, Army U-21 27

THE Army are the 1997 Under-21 Inter-Service rugby champions. Taking on a reorganised RAF team, which had lost to the Royal Navy, they emerged as victors by a comfortable margin.

Very good tries were run in by Pte Dougy Douglas (1 LI) and Spr Chalmers (36 Engr Regt) in the first half, but the credit went to the whole 15 who slowly but surely mastered the opposition.

Spr Griffiths (22 Engr Regt) continued his fine kicking form by converting one try and putting over the sweetest of drop goals just seconds before the half-time whistle. The only response from the RAF was a penalty.

Exercising considerable pressure in the first half, the light blues were rewarded with a well-taken try which they failed to convert. The spirited young Army side soaked up the pressure and came back with some of their own.

First, Fus Taffy Jones (1 RWF), who replaced Cfn Tomo Thompson (27 Regt RLC), went over for a splendid try, and then Spr Ben Hughes (1 RSME Regt) charged through to make his mark on the game.

Griffiths converted the last try, and it was a very happy Army team that was cheered off the park.

Both the RAF v Army Shield and the Inter-Services Cup were presented to the Army skipper, Kgsn White (1 Kings). Award for young player of the year went to Pte Willy Williams (1 RGBW).



Army boxer Cpl Chris Bessey picked up a third Amateur Boxing Association title when he beat Mick Jones in the light-middleweight final in Birmingham.

Based in Aldershot as a section commander with 27 Transport Regiment RLC, his victory came only 24 hours after he had received an MBE at Buckingham Palace for his services to boxing.

## Battling Bessey

Bessey's victory, which makes him the first Serviceman to win three ABA titles, means he is virtually certain to represent England at next year's Commonwealth Games in Malaysia.



Pte Steven Cowley (Staffords) on his way to winning the welter-weight contest at Ternhill

## Nine out of nine for Staffords

THE 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment took their place in the Army team boxing finals with a remarkable 9-0 thrashing of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment at Ternhill.

In a match consisting of one bout in each of nine weights,

the Staffords managed to stop five of their opponents inside the first round. Two other bouts were won on points and the final one a majority decision by the judges.

The Staffords are due to face 1 R Anglian, an altogether tougher proposition, in the final.

## Angling for UK success

FISH weighing 113lb 6oz were landed by the newly-formed Army Angling Association in a friendly competition staged on two lakes at Witherington Farm, Salisbury against a team from Reid's Tackle.

The eight-strong Army team, all based at Bulford or Larkhill, braved wind and rain for six hours, with WO Geordie Burns and Sgt Percy Pearce netting the best individual catches in both lakes.

Now the team plans to go for greater glory when its members take part in Fishermania, the UK's biggest angling event.

Winning that would be a boost for the association, which is casting around for cash to kit out members in foul-weather gear.

Each member of the association, which intends to join a local league, is hoping for selection to the Army individual week in July.

# Clarke wins open again

AS ON previous occasions, the Army squash championships took place at the Winchester Tennis and Squash Club, a venue much appreciated by all concerned, and one with which Army players are familiar.

Seventy-five entered, 58 in the open championship (two more than in 1996), six in the veterans and nine in the women's event.

Following the increased emphasis placed on bringing through under-25 players throughout the season, the standard was a great encouragement leading up to the Inter-Services.

SSgt Gary Clarke REME again won the open championship, with Maj Robbie Robinson runner-up in his 19th consecutive final.

The Inter-Services, held at HMS *Temeraire* in Portsmouth were, as always, highly competitive.

For the Army, the loss of the championship at both under-25 level and in the women's competition was disappointing. Had the full team been on parade, both events would have been won with ease.

Loss of the number one player in the under-25s and both numbers one and two in the women proved to be too much for the rest.

The men, however played well, and in the end were just too strong, losing only one rubber in the final against the RAF. This was the third men's triumph in a row and with Maj Robbie Robinson playing as well as ever and SSgt Gary Clarke now undisputed Combined Services number one, it could be the start of a long string of victories.



Tough going on the command task in the 20km military patrol race at the RLC ski championships

## Rain fails to put the dampener on skiers

MILD weather and torrential rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of 220 contestants from more than 20 teams on Exercise Snow Diamond, the Royal Logistic Corps ski competition, held in Bavaria.

Sponsored by the Stena Line and organised by 1 General Support Regiment, the competition was held at Zwiesel, just a ski jump from the Czech border, for the ninth successive year.

Regular and TA teams, many of them from the UK, competed for an array of trophies that had something to offer all classes of skier.

Champion unit were 2 Close Support Regiment, with 29 Regiment the runners-up. TA glory went to the Scottish Transport Regiment (V), whose LCpl Barnes collected the TA Alpine trophy.

Open Alpine champion was Sgt Witty (12 Supply Regt) and Capt Tinning (158 Tpt Regt (V)) was open Nordic champion. LCpl Waring (also 158 Regt) claimed the TA Nordic championship.

This year's event was a first for 158 Regiment. As a newly-formed unit

they were at their first corps ski meeting, but quickly made their mark.

Other notables were 8 Artillery Support Regt and 7 Transport Regt, who were never far from the prize table.

The Army School of Catering, although young novices, won both Alpine and Nordic prizes.

The usual finish line just metres away from the Race Centre in Zwiesel was abandoned in favour of the Arber ski site, ten miles away and considerably higher.

Highlights in the first week, which had the best of the snow, included the individual giant

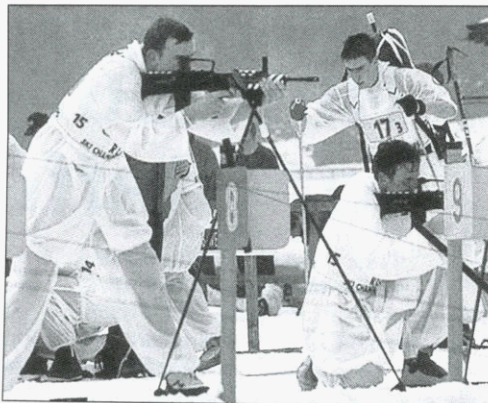
slalom and the President's Race. Always a popular cross-country event, the latter was aimed at giving Alpine all-comers a taste of *langlauf* skiing. They were won in turn by LCpl Beveridge (17 Port and Maritime Regt) and Sgt Wakefield (2 CS Regt).

The pace shifted up a gear in week two, even though the thaw started in earnest.

Good runs were achieved however, with the team giant slalom going to 8 Artillery Support Regt and the team slalom to 7 Tpt Regt.

Poor snow meant it was touch and go for the super giant event, but a day's postponement allowed a fresh snowfall, even though only one run could be achieved before the course gave out again. It was enough for 2 CS Regt to emerge as winners.

The Nordic events, less vulnerable to the weather, went off without a hitch, comprising the 15 km cross country race and the 4 x 5 km relay, as well as the stamina-sapping 20km military patrol race. The 15 km race was won by 16 Regt, and 29 Regt took the other two.



Champion unit 2 Close Support Regiment takes aim during the military patrol race at the RLC ski championships

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N-ice one, general. Maj Gen Jack Deverell, Commandant RMAS, at the receiving end in his capacity as captain of an Army cricket team which took part for the first time in the Coutts tournament – played in St Moritz on astroturf laid out on a frozen lake!

Seen in action against Shrewsbury CC, the major general scored 26 not out in his team's nine-wicket win. Looking on are (from right of umbrella) Capt David Webb (QRH); Capt Ben Langman (RDG); and the team's "ringer", Lt Cdr Piers Moore RN.

The Army went on to win the final – against St Moritz – by 47 runs, helped enormously by Ben Langman, who hit 50 in 12 balls, including five consecutive sixes in one over.



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