

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

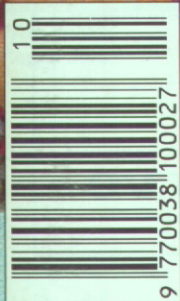
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SOLDIER to soldier

What made the general cross ...

GENERAL Heinrich Kreipe, the hapless German commander kidnapped and spirited away from Crete by resistance fighters led by British agents in 1944, was a victim of circumstance in more ways than one.

He was not the man the Special Operations Executive had actually planned to abduct. The real target, Gen Friedrich Müller, hated by the Cretans, was replaced just before the expedition but the SOE decided to proceed anyway on the basis that any successful "snatch" would be good for morale.

By all accounts it was certainly a morale-booster for the Germans. Kreipe, who was recovering in Crete from a bad time on the Russian front, was reported to be so unpopular with his own officers that when they heard he had been seized they called for champagne.

Dismayed

When Kreipe was captured he was driven off in his staff car with the resistance leader, Maj Paddy Leigh Fermor, wearing his forage cap in the front and two swarthy Cretans in the back. The car was waved through 22 German control posts.

In the initial struggle, the general lost one of his Iron Crosses, which upset him more than being kidnapped. A £5 reward was offered for its recovery, which dismayed him further.

As we report on Pages 34-35, it is undoubtedly one of the more off-beat adventure stories of the Second World War and it is unfortunate that Leigh Fermor, who was decorated for his bravery and has since achieved distinction as a travel writer, has not produced a book about his Cretan experiences.

Until now ... for could it be that *Soldier* has prompted him to change his mind?

PLUS

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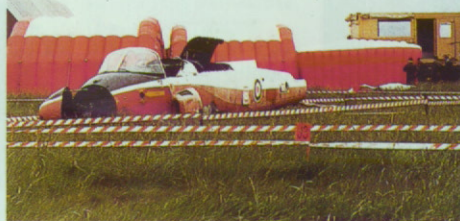
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Special report

Hardest fight is still to come

Report: Anthony Stone
Picture: Mike Weston

LIFE was good for Fus Dale Duncan. He had recently won the Combined Services bantamweight championships and was ranked among the top ten in England. His Army career was going well, things were on the up... but that all changed on July 13, 1994.

He was a passenger in a one-tonne truck being driven by a fellow fusilier along a B road in Wiltshire when they went into the back of a combine harvester.

Fus Dale was sitting with his feet on the dashboard at the moment of impact.

"My knees ended up behind my head, crushed," he told *Soldier*. "When the driver pulled me out, my back broke a second time. I couldn't move my legs or anything from the waist down. When I got out my legs were just swinging underneath me. There was nothing there. I felt like I was on fire."

"I thought I was on my way. I was conscious and I could see. Blood was coming out of my mouth. With every breath I was losing it."

GRATEFUL

Remarkably, Dale Duncan has been able to forgive the driver, who suffered only a broken nose. He even acknowledges grudging thanks. "All of a sudden I turned round and he was there. I turned round again and I thought he had left me. But then he came round from the back and lifted me - somebody lifted me - and I could breathe. It was bad moving me but if he hadn't, I'd have snuffed it. I'd have died. I am grateful."

Duncan's injuries were terrible. A helicopter took him to hospital where surgeons operated on him for 12 hours. His diaphragm was repaired and screws put into his many shattered bones. A week later he underwent a further operation in which his spine was fixed with rods and a bone graft taken from his hip.

When he came to, in intensive care, his family waiting beside his bed. Their love and support were powerful medicines on his long road back.

Dale Duncan had been wearing a seat belt. But what saved his life was the fact that he was a super-fit boxer and he had his feet on the dashboard. Otherwise, he has been told, he would have been severed



Fresh start: Dale Duncan, awarded more than £750,000, and his lawyer, Stephanie Clarke

Former Fus Dale Duncan has been awarded damages of more than £750,000 after a horrific accident

from the waist down. "A week or two after the accident it really hit me. When I realised I couldn't move my legs, I broke down. But all of a sudden I thought, I'm lucky to be here."

Duncan is a born fighter, the sort of man who sees the glass as half full, not half empty. He has accepted his changed circumstances without bitterness.

"After a while, having talked to my mam and family, I looked around the hospital and I saw people who were worse off than me," he said.

His solicitor, Stephanie Clarke, who was recommended by his platoon leader, was at his bedside from the early days.

Ms Clarke, a specialist in personal accident injuries, said: "Dale was incredible. When I went to see him in hospital, he was lying flat on his back, and I thought he would be upset and depressed. But he said 'It could be worse. Look at that woman over there. She fell off a horse and she can't move below the neck.'"

"Not many people you meet have such incredible fortitude."

The accident left Duncan with a legacy of pain and terrifying flashbacks. He has a marked weakness in his right leg, paralysis in his left, is able to walk with the support of callipers and crutches and relies heavily on a wheelchair.

He was medically discharged after 18 months on full pay and has nothing but praise for the way the Army treated him and his family during his painful convalescence.

"The Army paid for my family to come to the hospital and gave them a place to stay. They really looked after them. Anything they wanted they got. The Army welfare people were great, too. All I had to do was 'phone them up and it was done."

And throughout, his old mates have kept in touch. "Even though I had left they were still inviting me down for boxing things. They put me up and fed me. They were brilliant like that."

The Ministry of Defence admitted liability at an early stage of the legal proceedings and the award is higher than previous similar cases because of a recent landmark decision on the way damages are calculated for personal injury accidents.

"I was well impressed with the award. I had been told around about what to expect, but when I got the news my knees went again," he joked. "I was over the moon."

Four years ago they said Dale Duncan could have been a contender. You don't have to spend long with this gritty young man to realise that assessment was way off the mark.

He is a champion through and through.

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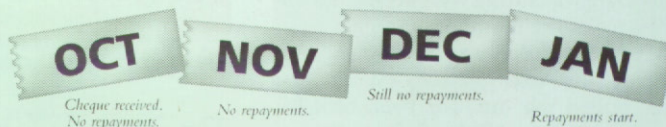
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People, places, events



Picture: Cpl Steve Dyson RAF

This is for real: Part-time soldier L/Sgt Phil Rees, who helped James Bond save the world and doubled for Tom Hanks during the making of the Steven Spielberg blockbuster *Saving Private Ryan*, has swapped his job as a film stand-in to join A Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets operating from Jajce in central Bosnia.

Phil, who is on attachment to A Coy from the Honourable Artillery Company, spent four months working on *Saving Private Ryan*, setting up action shots for actor Tom Hanks. He also worked alongside Pierce Brosnan as an extra in the latest James Bond adventure, *Tomorrow Never Dies*. His tour is due to end next month.

Gates close behind Belfast foot patrols

TROOPS in Northern Ireland ended 29 years of armed patrolling in Belfast on September 12 when the last routine patrol returned to its base at the RUC station in Woodbourne and closed the camp gates behind it.

This lowering of the Army's profile in Belfast follows the cessation of routine patrolling in Londonderry town centre, and is described as part of process which may include the reconfiguration of some units in the province and, eventually, the return of some forces to the mainland.

However, it has been stressed that soldiers in Belfast will continue to provide support for the RUC – generally in vehicle patrols – as required.

Troops will continue to maintain base security and routine patrolling will continue in South Armagh as long as terrorists continue to hold weapons and pose a threat there.

It fell to the men of A Company, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment to carry out the historic last



Picture: Cpl Christine Trotter

Last in: Cpl Ronnie Walker, 1 Staffords, closes the gate to Woodbourne RUC station at the end of the final patrol

patrol in Belfast. The battalion is half-way through a six-month tour of duty stationed in the west of the city.

Guardsmen await Army decision on their future

TWO members of the Scots Guards, Gdsm Jim Fisher and Gdsm Mark Wright, have been released from prison in Northern Ireland after serving six years of their life sentences for murder.

The two men were convicted of murdering Peter McBride while on patrol in Belfast. Since then their families and supporters have mounted a highly vocal campaign demanding their unconditional release.

Although now free and back in uniform, the two soldiers remain convicted of the crime. Their future in the Army is uncertain, but a Ministry of Defence spokesman told *Soldier* that the Army Board will consider their cases soon. The Board had been unable to discuss the case earlier because of fears that this would prejudice legal proceedings.

Meanwhile, Gdsm Fisher and Gdsm Wright are carrying out remedial training at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick.

Poland move for 4 Brigade

MORE than 5,500 troops and 500 armoured vehicles were deploying in late September on Exercise Ulan Eagle 98, the Germany-based 4th Armoured Brigade's ambitious field training exercise in Poland. It ends in mid-October.

The third large-scale exercise to be held by the British Army over the vast Drawsko-Pomorskie training area on the Polish-German border, Ulan Eagle is seen as visible proof of the strong links between the armed forces of Britain and Poland.

Main tank and armoured reconnaissance units involved were the Challenger 1s of The King's Royal Hussars from Münster and The Queen's Royal Lancers from Osnabrück, and a Scimitar squadron of The Light Dragoons from Bergen.

The Warrior-equipped 1st Battalion, The Green Howards from Osnabrück were the main infantry unit on exercise, supported by 21 Engineer Regiment and 4 Regiment RA, also from Osnabrück. Also involved were 2nd Battalion REME, 2 Armoured Field Ambulance and a Lynx and Gazelle helicopter flight from 1 Regiment AAC at Gütersloh. Opposing forces were provided by Celle-based 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and a Polish T72 tank battalion.

UK units included the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, elements of The Royal Gurkha Rifles and 7 Parachute Royal Horse Artillery.

People, places, events

Dragoons revive stricken village

SOLDIERS of The Light Dragoons serving in Bosnia have helped to bring back to life a village devastated during the civil war.

Working with international agencies, the troops have assisted families to return to Baljvine in the mountains above Mrkonjic Grad. A major rebuilding programme has begun because the village was virtually destroyed during the fighting.

Baljvine has a peculiar claim to fame in that its mosque, although partly damaged, had the only minaret left standing in the whole of the Republika Srpska.

The Light Dragoons, currently on their eighth tour of the region, have helped to restore electricity to many houses and repaired wells in the village. They hope that about 30 families driven out during the war will eventually return as a result of the secure environment created by NATO's Stabilisation Force (SFOR).

Edo Rasak, a village leader, said: "We are extremely grateful for all the help we have been given by The Light Dragoons and the international community. We feel happy and safe."

The Baljvine project is one of many being undertaken by the LD battlegroup, whose headquarters are based in Mrkonjic Grad.

● Sappers rebuild school in Bosnia – Page 11.



Safe passage: A patrol of Light Dragoons led by Cpl Paul Harland, left, and Cpl Sting Rae, right, escorts SFOR interpreter Aida through Baljvine

Soldier killed while running

CFN Adam Balfour (19), serving with the Light Aid Detachment of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards at Fallingbommel, was knocked down and killed by a vehicle while out running.

Royal Tournament to get make-over for the millennium

THE Royal Tournament, which has thrilled generations with its pageantry and demonstrations of military skills since Victorian times, will be held for the last time in 1999 – at least in its traditional form.

The Ministry of Defence has decided that the tri-Service exhibition of military skill will be replaced in 2000 by a more modern outdoor event.

What is promised to be a radical make-over comes in the wake of falling box office revenues, concerns about the expensive commitment of personnel and feelings that the Royal Tournament's traditional bill of mock battles, naval field gun competitions and marching bands has become dated.

Defence Secretary George Robertson said: "As we approach the millennium, it is time for us to take a fresh look at this traditional event."

"My aim is to make it more relevant and modern, while retaining an element of pageantry."

Planning for the new-style event has barely started, but the Ministry of Defence is suggesting a *son et lumière* entertainment in London, using modern technology and involving displays from all three Services against a backdrop of historic buildings. One possible venue under consideration is Horse Guards Parade. The show will look ahead to the next millennium and perhaps embrace the concept of a "time tunnel".

The Grand Military Tournament and Assault at Arms, as it was originally known, was first held in 1880 and gained its more regal title four years later when Queen Victoria became patron.

Since 1959 the tournament has been held at Earls Court, where it annually involves around 2,000 personnel from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. Box office profits, said to total around £1 million pounds in the past 14 years, have been given to Service charities.

Arnhem soldier's son found in time for military funeral

A last-minute appeal by the Army for relatives of a Second World War soldier who died at Arnhem resulted in his sister and son being traced three days before his remains were buried with full military honours at Oosterbeek, Holland on September 20.

Cpl George Froud, Border Regiment, was laid to rest alongside the remains of two glider pilots, Sgt Laurence Howes and Sgt David Thompson, in Oosterbeek's Commonwealth War Graves Commission military cemetery. Military honours were provided by guards from The King's Own Royal Border Regiment and the Army Air Corps.

While the Army had tracked down relatives of the two pilots, Cpl Froud's family had not been traced. Following the appeal, his 88-year-old sister came forward. His son was two when Cpl Froud went missing.

His remains were unearthed at Lennepweg, Oosterbeek in July 1997. He had been posted missing, presumed dead, on September 21, 1944.

● Sister remembers – see Page 69

IN BRIEF

Members of the 33-strong Joint Force Headquarters Staff based at Permanent Joint Headquarters, Northwood, were deployed to all corners of the Caribbean for a command post exercise involving a natural disaster caused by an undersea eruption.

The JFHQ unit is to grow to 50 and will have its own dedicated communications and life support. In the past 12 months,

elements of the HQ have deployed operationally to Zaire, the Congo, Albania, Kuwait and Indonesia.

● Paratroopers from the Czech Republic joined soldiers from the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment on their annual camp, Exercise Swift Raider, on Stanford training area, Norfolk. The Czech airborne troops took



Painting by numbers: LCpl Ian Dickinson RMP applies warpaint to the face of six-year-old Thomas Bell during an open day at Tidworth Garrison. Picture: Sgt Shane Wilkinson

Decoders unlock data of war dead

LIKE 1990s equivalents of the wartime decoders of Bletchley Park, two Gloucestershire entrepreneurs are to publish a complete roll of honour of the Second World War land forces for the first time.

The first book in a ten-volume set giving details of more than 171,000 men and women who died between 1939 and 1945 is due to go on sale before Christmas, more than 53 years after the war ended.

It is the work of a Cheltenham-based publishing duo who have used information originally stored on pre-computer punchcards decipherable only by using a code book.

Former National Serviceman Graham Sacker, 59, who has been working on the project with Joe Devereux for several months, told *Soldier*: "Using a computer programme, we

are translating this gibberish into the English language. Once we have the new version anything is possible. Any information needed can be drawn from the database."

All the original punchcards, or Holleriths, have been lost or destroyed. Just three photocopies of the coded information they contained exist and are held by the Ministry of Defence, the Public Record Office and the Imperial War Museum.

The format of the books, produced under Stationery Office licence and called *Soldiers Died in WW2*, will be similar to that of *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, the 1914-18 roll of honour.

In the 1960s the MoD considered publishing the 1939-45 roll by deciphering the punchcards but decided such a project would be uneconomical.

● See Mailbag, Page 62

part in a week of intensive live firing, culminating in a battle run and an assault to seize the airfield at RAF Newton in Nottinghamshire.

● Part-time REME personnel from all over Scotland and Northern Ireland travelled to Barry Budden training area on the east coast of Scotland for the annual Scottish Bluebell exercise, which takes

the form of a military and trade skills competition.

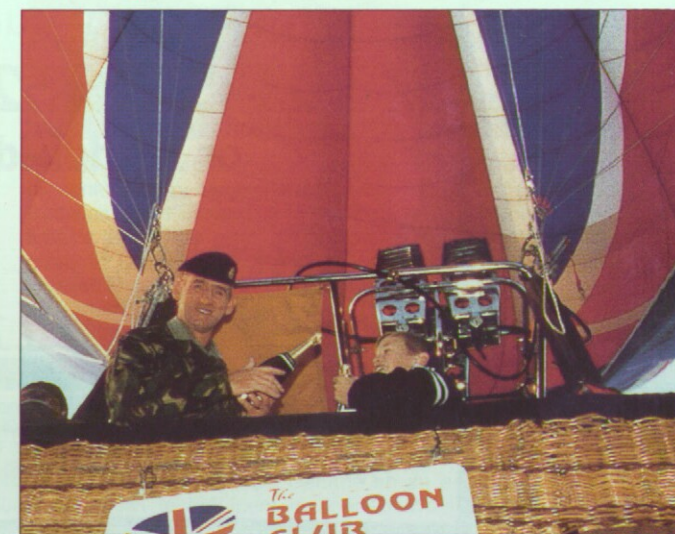
● A £4 million face-lift of the RAF Brize Norton passenger terminal has been officially opened by Princess Alexandra. The area now offers comfortable and spacious waiting areas, a children's play area, a newsagent and a range of catering facilities.

Lady of the lagoon



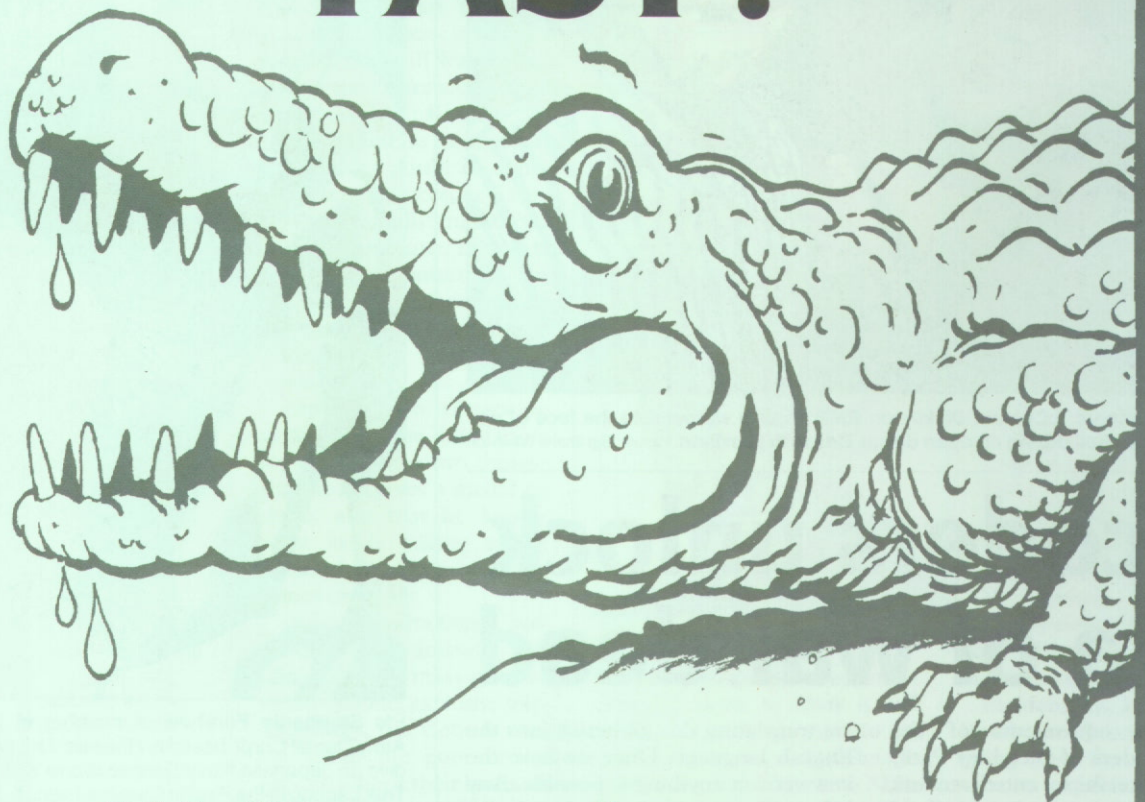
Pte Stephanie Forshaw, a member of the Royal Army Dental Corps based in Rheindahlen, prepares to dive on Japanese Navy Second World War wrecks in Truk Lagoon in the Pacific Caroline Islands. Stephanie will be carrying out research into the design of divers' face-masks, because the Army is keen to discover if the traditional design is a cause of ear infections.

Up, up and away...



A surprise flight in a hot air balloon was laid on for WO1 (RSM) Wally Duncan, of 27 Regiment RLC, to mark his retirement after 24 years in the Army. Making up the weight in the basket was Jenny Argyle (8), daughter of the regiment's 2iC. Picture: Terry Champion

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SC09

People, places, events



Picture: Media Ops, Land Command

Taking shape: School director Ljubojevic Radivoj, centre, talks to sappers from 77 Armoured Engineer Squadron outside the building which had been destroyed

Sappers lift school from rubble of war

BRITISH sappers have been laying the foundation for hundreds of Bosnian children's education by helping to rebuild a school virtually destroyed in the civil war.

Soldiers from 77 Armoured Engineer Squadron, part of 32 Engineer Regiment, have been helping local contractors complete major rebuilding work at Branko Copic school in Bjelajce, central Bosnia.

The village was on the confrontation line and its school and adjacent hall, which doubled up as a gym for the pupils, were reduced to rubble when they were shelled during fierce fighting in 1995. More than 700 Muslim, Croat and Serb pupils left when their families fled from the area.

The first refugees filtered back two years ago and the school reopened with 150 pupils. Two hundred families are expected to return shortly.

The school was offered a lifeline with a grant of £130,000 from the European Union's Austrian Relief Programme. This, however, covered the cost of reconstruction and no

extra money was available for any preparatory work on the buildings or for delivery of materials to the site.

The school's director approached 77 Armoured Engr Sqn, whose camp is directly opposite, and asked for help. Maj Don Bigger, the OC, agreed to release as many men as other duties allowed to work on the project.

"We volunteered some manpower to prepare the buildings and some tipper trucks to pick up the hardcore and sand for the construction work," he said.

"It was important to get involved in this project. It is literally on our doorstep and it's something the lads can see progress every day.

"We are helping the children and if you don't help them the country will not get back on its feet."

Teams of Royal Engineers have removed shattered floorboards from the hall, stripped plaster from the walls of the science block and hoisted the tiles on to the new roof for local contractors to lay. Between four and ten sappers were on site at any one time helping local builders.

Bomb trench makes splash hit on debut

SAPPERS from 49 Field Squadron RE successfully employed a new blast-reducing technique while destroying a German bomb which had lain hidden beneath Sandhurst village, near Tewkesbury, for more than 50 years.

Bomb disposal experts spent almost a week excavating the bomb, which had become wedged in rocks almost four metres beneath the surface. The 250kg device had lain beneath the planned site for a children's playground and the local council called in the sappers when an elderly resident, Tom Jones, remembered seeing the Luftwaffe drop a bomb in the area.

Engineers flooded the pit surrounding the bomb and dug several linked trenches to divert the blast away from a nearby housing estate. Two hundred residents had been evacuated from the area.

The water technique had been tested with simulated bombs but never previously used operationally.

Mr Jones, whose wartime memories had proved vitally accurate, accepted the invitation to press the detonator button, destroying the bomb.

Gaelic encounters



Hidr Charlie Draffen tries his linguistic skills on BBC presenter **Penny MacInnis**, who was visiting the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders at Catterick to complete a feature for *De a nis?*, the children's Gaelic programme. Charlie, although not a Gaelic speaker, was pleased to get a chance to appear on television. The programme will be broadcast during the winter.

IN BRIEF

THE 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire received new Colours from Fd Marshal Lord Inge at Imphal Barracks, York, on September 19.

● Up to 5,000 troops and 2,200 wheeled vehicles deployed in late September to Teeside for Log Leap, a major logistics exercise.

● Staff and tri-Service detainees at Colchester's Military Corrective Training Centre

have been awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for services to the local community.

● Kukri FM radio station has begun broadcasting on 107FM to the 1,000-strong Gurkha community in Church Crookham, Hampshire. The month-long trial is being run by BFBS and includes live links to families in Nepal.

● Soldiers from 9 Parachute Squadron RE left their Aldershot base last month for a six-

month tour of duty with NATO forces in Bosnia.

● Dundee's part-time 225 Field Ambulance joined medics from Canada on an exercise which tested them in conditions similar to those found in Bosnia and other trouble-spots.

● Seventy-five young Scots passed out as Scottish infantry soldiers from the first Scottish School Leavers Scheme at the Army Training Regiment Glencorse.

Power paddlers

THE largest white-water kayaking expedition ever conducted by the military took place at L'Argentière in the French Alps. For three weeks 34 paddlers took part in the first Joint Services Alpine kayak meet.

Expedition leader Capt Stuart Williams said: "The paddling, the main reason for going, can only be described as superb, a real paddler's paradise. In three weeks we were fortunate to be able to sample almost every popular run in the French Alps, as well as some of the not-so-well-known rivers."

Chances for white-water experience within the Services have been reduced by the closure of military mountain training centres in Germany, Norway and Scotland, and most of the courses available at the surviving centres tend to be aimed at either the introductory level or coaching schemes.

Initial trips were conducted on rivers such as the Durance and Lower Clarée and, as skill levels improved, expedition members moved on to the grade III and IV Onde and Gyrone. More experienced kayakers warmed up on grade IV

rivers before progressing to the more difficult gorge sections of the Guil, Ubaye and Durance.

Their highlight was the day they tackled the Romanche and Veneon, the first a steep, powerful, technical grade IV+ which provided an hour-long adrenalin rush and wrote-off Capt Adam Reavill's kayak. The Veneon was frightening just to look at – milky grey, very fast and difficult to read – and several paddlers decided not to attempt it.

Those who did take it on were soon involved in a battle for survival, struggling to contend with the awesome power of the Alpine river. Sgt Andy Beegan was grateful to emerge in one piece and those who rescued him were happy to have stayed in their boats.

The event succeeded in bringing the Services kayaking community together, raising the profile of the sport and widening the experience of a large number of paddlers.

Awesome challenge: QMSI Pat Tait on a testing white-water stretch of the Upper Onde in France

Brief adventures

SEVEN Territorial Army soldiers from The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars joined 12 others from The Royal Wessex Yeomanry and diving instructors from Hampshire Constabulary on a six-day sub-aqua trip to Gozo, off Malta.

□ Thirty soldiers from the 2nd Royal Gurkha Rifles went trekking and white-water rafting in Western Nepal.

□ Doctors, nurses and combat medical technicians from 212 Field Hospital (Volunteers) based in Sheffield were given a frosty reception when they arrived at Kingussie in the Scottish Highlands. The ten-day programme included skiing, hill-walking, biking and snow-and-ice skills.

□ Staff from the British Alpine Centre in Bavaria were treated to some of the world's most spectacular scenery when they went on an expedition to Nepal. Team leader WO2 Ewen Martin APTC said: "We returned from our expedition more tolerant, humbler, more understanding and better educated."

□ Soldiers from the Gutersloh-based 2 (UK) Logistic Regiment RLC fitted in adventurous training off the Croatian coast while on their deployment to Bosnia and Croatia.



Top team: On the summit of Victoria Peak, Belize. From left are Maya guide Greg Sho, SSgt James Cammack, LCpl Rhiannon Jones, Sgt Robin Weed and Cpl Stu Batte. See story below

Peak dash by top-flight team

FOUR members of 25 Flight, Army Air Corps, with their Mayan Indian guide, penetrated dense jungle and then climbed Victoria Peak, the highest point in Belize, to raise money for the Wireless for the Blind appeal. They managed it despite one of the party injuring herself along the way.

The soldiers, who accepted the challenge from BFBS to raise money for the charity, were unit expedition leader SSgt James Cammack REME, Sgt Robin Weed REME, Cpl Stu Batte REME and LCpl Rhiannon Jones AAC.

Victoria Peak stands at 3,600ft in the

Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, a tropical forest which is home to the jaguar and venomous snakes.

LCpl Jones slipped and badly twisted her knee on steep, slippery ground. No helicopter landing site was within reach so, after first aid, she bravely carried on.

Under difficult conditions the group reached the peak, from where LCpl Jones was airlifted out by a Lynx piloted by Maj Bob Petrie from 25 Flight. The rest made it off the peak and back to their camp with just minutes remaining before night fell over the jungle.

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Gully! Didn't they do well?

Sappers help to put Bosnia's railways back on track

Report: Capt Peter Tubaas
Pictures: Maj Nigel Appleton

BRITISH sappers in Bosnia have completed a remarkable engineering project which has kept on track international efforts to restore the railway infrastructure of former Yugoslavia.

Soldiers from 11 Troop, 77 Armoured Engineer Squadron had to rebuild an extensive drainage system to replace a stone culvert sabotaged by Serbian forces near the village of Senina Poljana. Adding to the complications was the fact that the damaged section is in remote country between the Bosnian town of Bihac and Knin in Croatia.

Serbian explosives had left 20 metres of track dangling over a deep gully strewn with concrete and stone rubble. Before they could start work, the Royal Engineers had to make a track passable for construction vehicles and blast away debris and the hanging rail track. They also had to divert a stream so that they could work in dry conditions.

Troop commander Lt Matt Richards said none of his team had worked on such a project before and found it a big challenge. Their job was to place a giant prefabricated steel pipe beneath the line to stop water undermining the railway foundations, and then to build the ground back up to the level of the track.

After much hard preparation, the 20-strong unit, part of 35 Engineer Regiment Group, assembled the 57-metre galvanised steel pipe from pieces purpose-built in Newport, Gwent.

"First, we had to clear the



Full circle: Sappers bolt together sections of the pipe



Over the abyss: Lt Matt Richards, commander 11 Tp, 77 Armd Engr Sqn, stands on the damaged line above the culvert his men were repairing. They later shored up the gap to the line with tons of stone and rubble

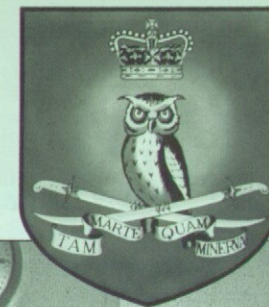
gap in which we wanted to put the culvert," said Lt Richards. "We made a dirt bench on one side of the gap, from where we could work, and another ramp up to the railway line, enabling us to distribute the soil on top of the culvert when we had finished the pipeline."

"Each section of the culvert came in six pieces, each of which was a six-man lift, and the whole job was secured by 6,000 bolts. When the pipe was constructed we filled the gap up to the railway line with more than 7,000 cubic metres of soil and rock."

The track between Knin and Bihac is being refurbished by an Italian Army railway battalion which has its own train and is working its way down the line from Bihac. There was pressure on the sappers, who lived on site in tents for six weeks, to repair the culvert before the Italians arrived to replace the line.

When completed, the railway line will be used by the NATO-led Stabilisation Force to move heavy stores and supplies up country, taking the strain off the country's overburdened road system.

College of the wise old owl



Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion

LARGE white badges pinned to combat jackets boldly stated each student's "job" as they prepared orders, pored over maps, drew symbols and answered telephones.

The 140 captains were coming to the end of the Operations and Administration phase of the Junior Command and Staff Course (JCSC). The all-important command post exercise (CPX) "telephone battle" was to be fought the following day and the 14 syndicates were making their final preparations. It was the culmination of ten weeks of study and the officers were putting everything they had learnt into practice.

The Operations and Administration phase is the third of five which make up the JCSC. It is held three times a year at the Army Junior Division of the Joint Services Command and Staff College in Victory Building, Camberley.

The whole course, culminating in the Integrated Promotion and Staff Exam, lasts a total of 19 weeks and has earned the reputation of a sword of Damocles hanging over the heads of young officers. It is attended by every captain in the Army with a Regular commission, including doctors, vets and dentists (padres only do the first part of Phase 3) and some late entry officers.

HARD WORK

Col Geoff Silk, the Commandant of the Army Junior Division (AJD), is keen to stress that although students are expected to work hard, the course can be enjoyable and is extremely valuable.

"Many young officers know there is going to be a lot of hard work and dedication needed after enjoying themselves as troop leaders or platoon commanders," he said. "This course has had a reputation for being difficult, but although it is demanding and challenging it is also a lot of fun and very rewarding. It might be the only command and staff course many officers will do while in the Army so it is important."

"We are trying to prepare these people for responsible and high profile appointments at regimental duty or in a headquarters, and in the time we have available we have to work them very hard."

"The exam tests them on all components of JCSC, and it is the exam which tends to put a cloud on the horizon and can stop them enjoying the course."

The first phase of the course, which takes between three to six months,

Before promotion to major, a captain must endure four months of intensive study before taking an exam. *Soldier* visited the latest batch of students on the Junior Command and Staff Course

involves a large amount of background reading and producing a paper which is marked by the academic staff of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. The students then attend Phase 2, a four-week Management and Technology course at the Royal Military College Shrivenham. After Phase 3, which is divided into Foundation Studies and Operations, they stay in Victory Building but walk across to Sandhurst, where they spend four weeks on Defence Studies before taking the final exam.

Although no longer used by the Joint Services Command and Staff College, the emblem of the wise old owl still remains the symbol of learning for the Army Junior Division. Under its benign gaze in Victory Building, the students receive their introduction to British Army doc-

trine and defence writing. They are also trained in organisations, roles and capabilities, principles and procedures for operations of war and operations other than war, duties of regimental staff officers and leadership and management duties of a sub-unit commander.

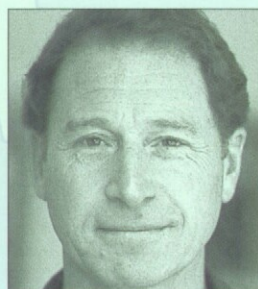
Students are expected to do about three hours reading a night preparing for regular presentations. These are followed up by syndicate discussions and using TEWTS (Tactical Exercise Without Troops) to put all the aspects of the course into practice. A number of days are spent on Salisbury Plain on exercise watching demonstrations and static equipment displays.

Capt Christina Tosi AGC(ETS), one of the students, said she had found the course useful and developmental. "You are working with lots of different Arms so it has given me a much broader horizon and depth of knowledge about the Army in general," she said.

"There are parts which I am sure we would all agree have been very challenging, but having worked in a division in Germany I can see the relevance of the exercises we are doing."

Once the students arrive in Victory Building everything is under one roof for them - accommodation, the mess and bar, syndicate rooms, presentation theatres and administration offices.

"I think we have made the course more relevant to the needs of the individual," said Col Silk. "Before, we stuck to a more formal procedure, making people learn stuff by rote. The Army now has a much more sensible attitude to the way it con-



Col Geoff Silk, Commandant of the Army Junior Division: The course is "demanding and challenging but a lot of fun"



Class act: JCSC students, from left Capt Iain Addinell KOSB, Capt Simon Shirley R Irish, Capt Douglas Wright R Sigs, and Capt Dom Digby RE

ducts its activities. There is a need for more original thought and deeper thinking, and this is also reflected in the requirements of the exam."

The 16 majors and two lieutenant colonels who make up the directing staff have been selected for their ability to relate to young officers. They must, Col Silk said, be enthusiastic enough to want to pass on their knowledge and experience to others.

Maj Mark Butler, one of the directing

staff, said he felt there were greater demands on young officers now. "They are coming on this course at the same age as they used to, but often with less experience because they join the Army later and there is an increase in the graduate intake," he explained. "The course has developed to be far more useful, but they are expected to work much harder."

The report from the course goes into each officer's confidential report book held in Glasgow, and plays an important

part in deciding future jobs and the chances of being selected for the Advanced Command and Staff Course.

Students do have a chance to lighten the atmosphere and vent any frustrations they may have with a theatrical review when they can "get their own back" on the directing staff.

But even that evening has to take into account another full programme the next day. The wise old owl would have approved.

Capt John Holden, RA

It is difficult being a student again - the last time was at university, and to come back as a married man with no preparation has been a shock to the system. It is a very thorough course, which is what it should be if you are going to have the responsibilities of a major. One of the best parts has been to work with officers of all disciplines. You can learn things through books, but actually to talk through something with someone who knows what they are talking about brings it alive.



Capt Alex Tabrah, REME

It has been hard work and a long slog, very intense and highly pressured. However, we have had some excellent days out with fire-power demonstrations and going on tanks, which has been great for me because I normally see vehicles when they're broken. I did an in-service degree, but with this I am conscious of being observed the whole time and there is the pressure of the exam at the end.



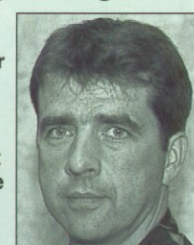
Capt Iain Addinell, KOSB

It has been interesting working with people from all different arms and corps, and getting lots of different viewpoints I've not heard before. I have enjoyed the operations side, but the military technology at Shrivenham was a bit of a shock to the system. Coming from the Infantry it was a bit of information overload. But the knowledge you gain on a course like this is invaluable.



Capt Douglas Wright, R Signals

I've been in the Army for 24 years, having started as a boy soldier from the streets of Glasgow, and my education was limited. I have to admit I thought I knew everything there was to know about the Army, but since doing this course I realise it isn't true. I have struggled, but I have persevered and have pulled through. This is the hardest thing I have done in my life, but if I succeed it will be the best thing I have ever done in my life.



Capt Jasper de Quincey-Adams, QDG

It's not a difficult course, but very busy. It's quite hard being back in the student-teacher scenario again. I am going to be Ops Officer when I go back to my regiment, so it's good making mistakes now when it doesn't really matter and no soldiers are being mucked around. Everyone thinks about failing the exam. Almost everything in an Army career can be influenced by your character and being able to think quickly on your feet, but in the exam it's to do with writing quickly.



Volunteers tunnel into history

Report: Dennis Barnes
Pictures: Kevin Capon

DIGGING tunnels turned into something of an art form on Gibraltar during the years when it was seen as an impregnable fortress at the entrance to the Mediterranean. Now 100 soldiers from 103 Battalion (V) REME on a Marble Tor exercise have been plotting their way through the old tunnels, travelling, literally, back through history.

The Rock is honeycombed with tunnels big and small, vertical shafts, water reservoirs and roads. There are more than 30 miles of them on a peninsula only two miles long and 1,200 ft high. Constructed by the Army to withstand siege, they were part of the reason the phrase "as safe as the Rock of Gibraltar" became accepted into the English language as a truism.

GUN POSITIONS

The first were dug in 1779 to provide gun positions and extensive works were carried out until the 1970s. Beneath the sun-baked surface of the Rock there is the potential for an entire city, with chambers which have been used as theatres and hospitals, a bakery, electricity supply, telephone exchange and water distillation plant. It is there that the REME soldiers trained in one of the most unusual of military skills – tunnel fighting.

Lt Col Brian Hamilton, their commanding officer, said: "The REME are first and foremost soldiers and they have to exercise basic military skills. Gibraltar gives unrivalled opportunity to do this."

Fighting in tunnels is a difficult skill to

Rock's 'hidden' defences contain many surprises for the unwary soldier



The hole tooth: Cfn Alex Gilfillan shows off a tusk which came to light during an archaeology dig under Casemate Square

master and the Rock's unique structure makes it perfect for training. LCpl Gary Hart, a social worker in civvy street, explained: "The tunnels are totally dark, you cannot see your hand in front of your face and you cannot use a torch in case the enemy sees you. The restrictions mean you have to advance on each side of the tunnel but only your front two soldiers

can actually fire their weapons."

It is a skill which calls for total control and awareness by the troop commander. The volunteers entered the Rock by sea or by abseiling at night down a 100 ft well. With their weapons and equipment hanging from their webbing, they dropped into an abyss. Pte Richard Salloum described it as "very scary, but terrifically exciting". He said: "You have no idea of how deep the hole is and you just have to trust your mates holding the ropes."

DEAFENING

The noise of machine-guns firing was deafening as the soldiers attempted to chase an unseen enemy down treacherous, walkways, some littered with the debris of ages. Every niche and cranny was a potential hiding place which had to be cleared before they could move on.

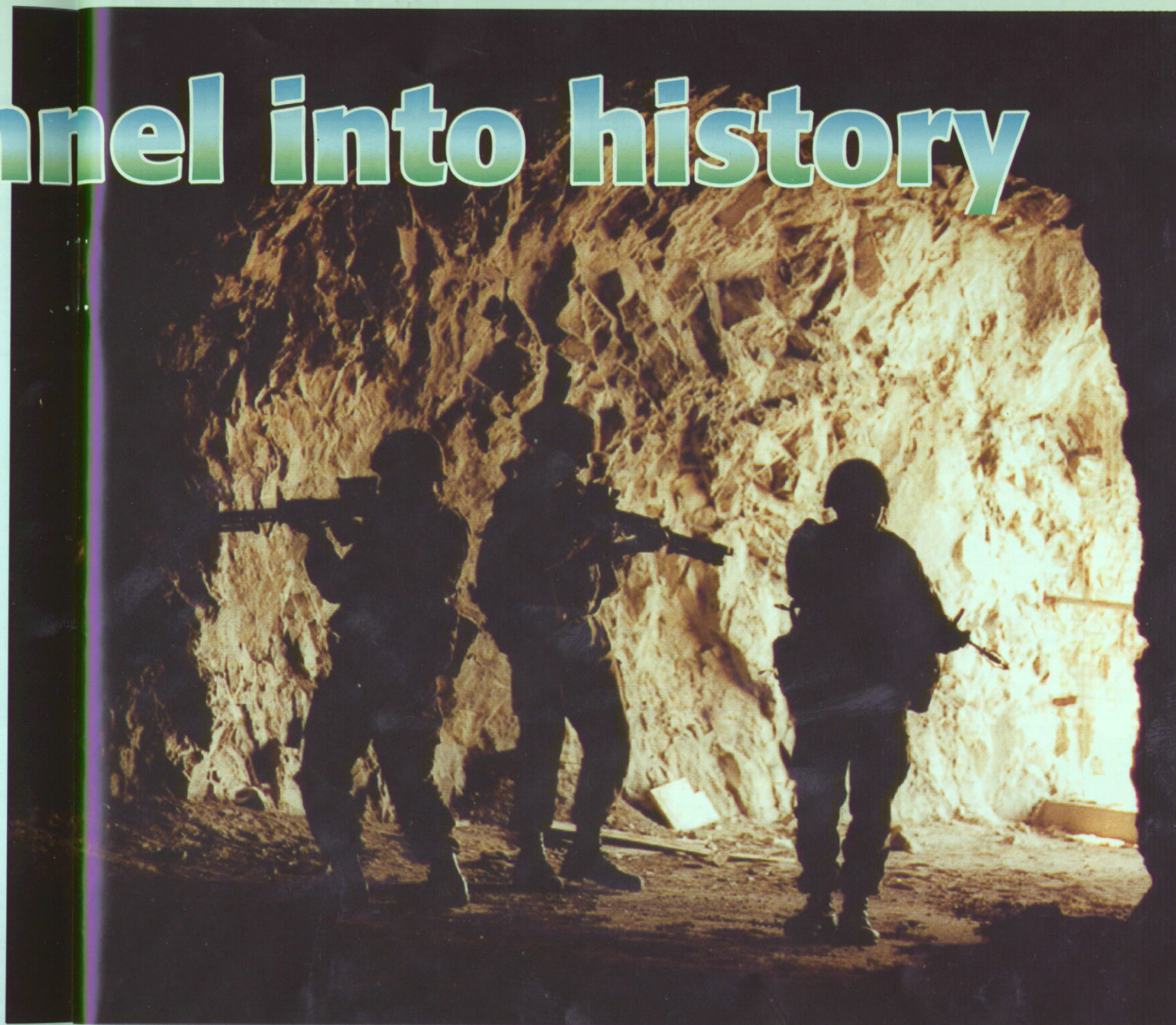
Unexpectedly, they sometimes emerged into sunlight for a fleeting moment, an indication that they were in an air chamber or an old gun emplacement. But the troops quickly learned that this ruined their night vision and made them easy targets.

The soldiers were involved with Gibraltar's history as willing volunteers in more ways than one. They helped on an archaeological dig and also gave a hand to clear an overgrown and neglected military cemetery.

A Neanderthal skull was among the many historic relics unearthed and now housed in the Gibraltar Museum. Dr Clive Finlayson, the director, was delighted to have the skull. "This was the earliest period of occupation but we are simply surrounded by history," he said.

BRITISH ARRIVAL

Phoenicians, Romans, Moors, Goths and Spanish all had spells in residence before the British arrived on the Rock in 1704. Most of Gibraltar's buildings have been rebuilt many times due to age, change of use or the ravages of war. Few have been the subject of a supervised archaeological dig. Casemate Square is an exception. Originally on the water's edge, it was a Moorish dockyard later converted to an armament store in Napoleonic



Which way did they go? Soldiers looking for the enemy come across three converging tunnels. The Rock is honeycombed with 30 miles of them

times. Heavily bombarded by the Spanish during a siege, it was converted into a town square. It has remained so until today, and this is what so excites Dr Finlayson. "Hardly anything has been disturbed and there are layer upon layer of artefacts and foundations."

The square is due for renovation and time is running out before the developers move in. It is hoped that some of the finds will be incorporated in the new design.

The REME soldiers helped by providing manpower to remove soil and rubble. Jobs varied from using a pickaxe to break the surface to getting on to their knees to brush away soil from bones and chards. Many artefacts were found, ranging from

pieces of Moorish pottery to clay pipes and muskets. Foundations of buildings once used to house armaments were exposed, as was a cannonball.

SURPRISE SHELLS

Something that surprised the volunteers was the number of oyster shells they came across. Although there are no oyster beds around Gibraltar today, there must have been at some point in the past.

As a break from training, the soldiers were able to take part in water-sports ranging from kayaking to riding a large inflatable banana. They also used their technical skills to refurbish an old boat for the recreational centre. They were also

introduced to the Rock run, a lung-bursting Gibraltar tradition in the Services. For years units and visiting ship's crews kept fit by racing from the naval dockyard to the top of the Rock.

Those who make the steep climb to the top are rewarded by a sight of the famous Rock apes, which live wild on the upper slopes and appear on Gibraltar's stamps and coins. There are, in fact, two packs, one of which is completely wild and rarely seen, while the other congregates around tourist attractions and is looked after and fed by the Army.

Which is just as well, because it is said that Gibraltar will cease to be British on the day the apes leave the Rock.



Past and present: Santos Nochas, an elderly resident, shows the graveyard clearing party pictures of late members of her family buried in the cemetery they were renovating

Wazos' world

Ensuring that friendly armies can operate together is a serious business, but for a small team in Washington it is just standard practice

Report: Karen Moseley
Picture: Terry Champion

INJURED British soldiers on the battlefield may quickly be put into a resuscitation unit by Australian medics and casevaced out in an American helicopter.

They can then be transferred to a British helicopter which will carry them to safety and treatment. But what happens if the Australian resuscitation unit does not work in the American helicopter, or possibly interfere with the British electronics?

Since 1963, Britain, America, Canada and Australia have been working together to make sure that does not happen.

The formation of the American, British, Canadian and Australian Armies Standardisation Programme (ABCA), means that the four countries – and New Zealand, which became an associated member under Australian sponsorship in 1965 – can look at each other's combat supplies, support and services, weapons and equipment, and make sure they are compatible. The programme concentrates on the key areas of standardisation required for coalition operations up to, and including, corps level.

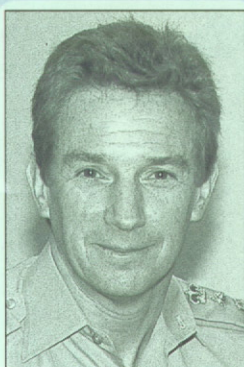
BEGINNINGS

ABCA traces its beginnings to the last two years of the Second World War when the level of standardisation achieved in tactics, techniques, procedures and equipment among the British, American and Canadian armies was unprecedented in modern warfare. At the end of the war it was decided that those levels of standardisation should be built upon.

In 1947 the ABC Standardisation Agreement was drawn up, which, because it preceded NATO, is now the oldest existing military agreement between any group of nations. Australia joined the programme in 1963. The four member countries share strong ties with a common language and heritage – something not available to other inter-

national military organisations.

Lt Col Andy Bruce, RA, is the SO1 at ABCA's only permanent body, based in Washington. He describes the organisation as "a remarkable military agreement that has stood the test of both time and world events, and has a significant effect on the way the British Army does business, both in the field and in the evaluation of emerging technologies". He works at the Standardisation Office with officers from each of the



Lt Col Andy Bruce:
'Remarkable agreement'

other member countries. They run the day-to-day organisation of the programme and act as the direct link for the 16 working groups which meet regularly to discuss everything from common screw threads for NBC gas canisters to the future digitisation of the armies.

"It's a great opportunity to see the ways the four armies work," he said, "and what their different national perspectives are."

Four Washington-based brigadiers, a brigadier general from the Pentagon, and the three military attachés are the Washington Standardisation Officers – known in the wonderful world of acronyms as WSOs and pronounced "wazos" – who meet once a month to recommend what actions should be taken by member armies.

ABCA has come up with its own breed of acronyms – Quadripartite Working Groups, (quigs), Heads of Delegation, (hods), Senior National Officers (snows), Tripartite Equipment and Logistics (teal), and National Points of Contact (enpocs).

Every two years ABCA conducts formation-level exercises to check that work already carried out has achieved the combatibility required, and to see where there are gaps requiring further standardisation.

"Last year the divisional exercise was held in Brisbane," Lt Col Bruce said. "At first you could see soldiers from four different armies looking askance at one another and there was a degree of discomfort to begin with, but after three or four days you would not have known they came from different countries."

Private line for MoD's telephones

THE Ministry of Defence has handed over its telephone networks to the private sector under a ten-year Defence Fixed Telecommunications System (DFTS) contract worth £1 billion.

At the heart of the initiative is a BT-led team known as INCA, whose mission is to transform the UK's defence communications. It is now responsible for operating, managing and maintaining the UK telephone voice and data networks of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, and the Procurement Executive.

The system is designed to serve more than 200,000 users making 2.5 million calls a day across 2,445 sites in the UK.

Cherry tree memorial

A CHERRY tree was planted at Rheindahlen last month in memory of Lt Col Rod Leigh RMP, who died in February 1997 during a sub-aqua dive at Wassenberg, Germany.

His widow, June, and three children were present for the ceremony in front of the Special Operations Unit RMP (Germany) at Inkerman Lines in the Joint Headquarters.

Lt Col Leigh, who won the Queen's Gallantry Medal in 1975 for stopping a riot, served 24 years with the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars and later the Royal Military Police.

Birmingham patrols

WEST Bromwich's Territorial Army RMP detachment provided Army motor patrols in and around Birmingham for a day last month to celebrate 50 years of volunteer Royal Military policing in the Midlands. Special dispensation was granted for the part-time policemen of 116 Provost Company to patrol the city.

Legion appeals for Gift of Sport

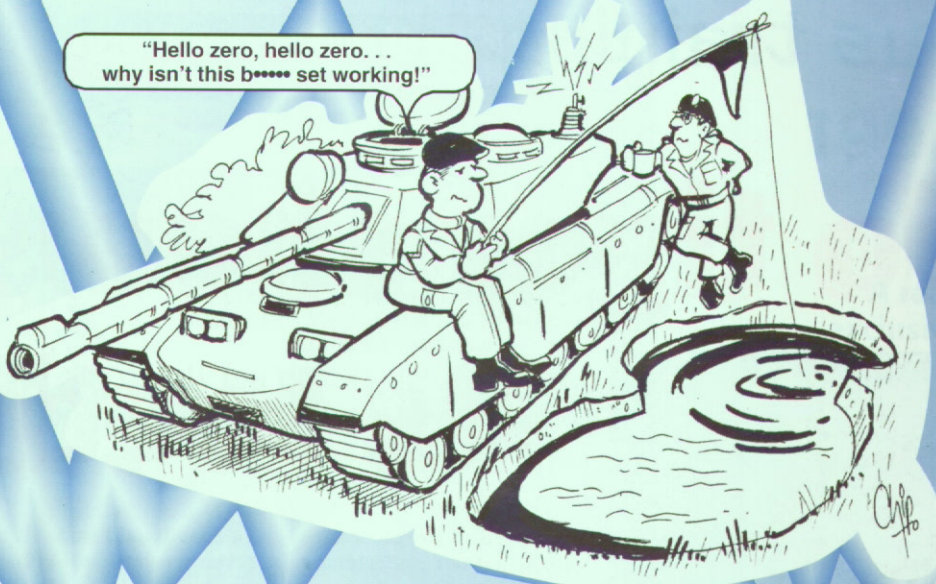
AN appeal for money to fund an ex-Service wheelchair and amputee world millennium games has been launched by the Royal British Legion. Planned for September 2-11 next year, the Challenge '99 project is the brainchild of the British ex-Service Wheelchair Sports Association (BEWSA). Lord Morris of Manchester is the chief patron of the games and pledges and donations may be made to the RBL on Legionline 0345 725 725 or Sue Horton on 0171 973 7256.

New Colours on the Rock

NEW Colours have been presented by the Duke of Kent to The Gibraltar Regiment at Devil's Tower Camp, Gibraltar.

"Hello zero, hello zero...
why isn't this b**** set working!"

Chuckle with Chip



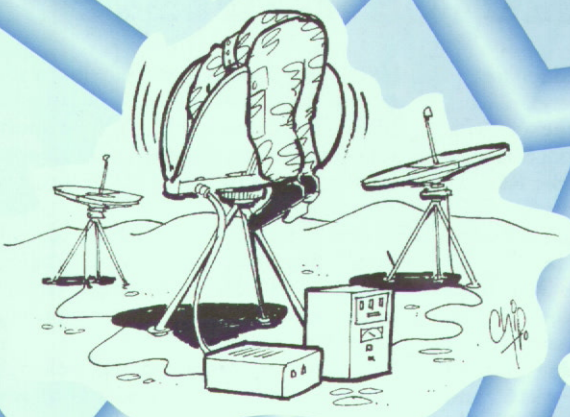
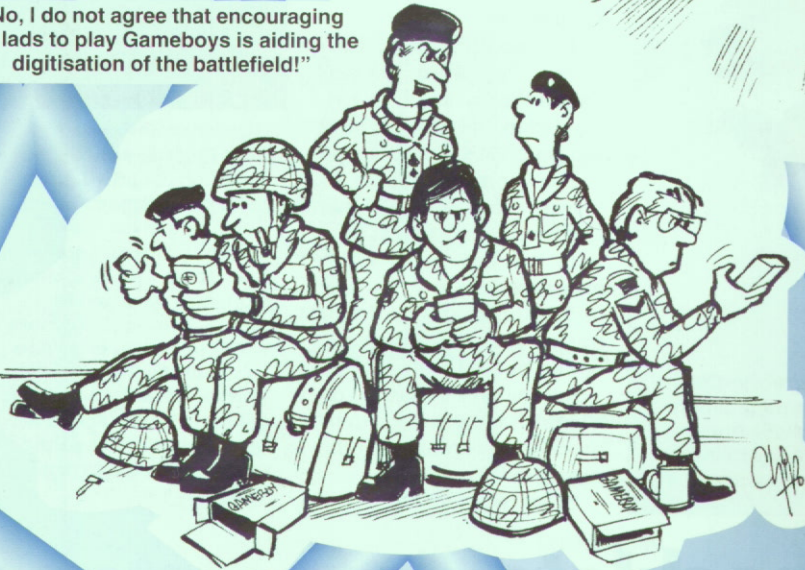
"Hello Roger? I'm afraid we can't get you
on the other means, as usual!"

CROSSED COMMS

"No, I do not agree that encouraging
the lads to play Gameboys is aiding the
digitisation of the battlefield!"



"That's it! You are definitely going on
the next BATCO refresher course!"



Adventurous training

Nevado tiger shows its teeth



Ice work: Cpl Smudge Smith abseils during glacier training in Ecuador

ARGUABLY the most dangerous part of undertaking an adventurous training expedition in Ecuador was surviving the heart-stopping journeys in local taxis.

"The Ecuadorian highway code is different," said Lt Stu Macdonald of 3 RSME Regiment. "He who drives fastest has right of way."

Lt Macdonald was part of a six-strong mountaineering expedition from his regiment which attempted to climb five Ecuadorian peaks. The four-week trip, Exercise Nevado Tiger, culminated in an ascent of Mt Chimborazo.

To acclimatise themselves the team tackled Guava Pichincha (4,790m), Courazon (4,800m) and Illiniza North (5,100m).

The only mountain to defeat the team was Cotopaxi. Lt Macdonald said: "A collapsed bridge over a crevasse at an altitude of 5,600m halted us in our tracks and there was no option but to turn back."

But the group finished on a high... 6,310m high to be precise, reaching the summit of Chimborazo.

"This was our Everest,"

Lt Macdonald said. "It had taken ten hours of effort to reach this point and for the ten minutes we spent there, we were in heaven."

The expedition also raised £650 for the Children's Cancer Charity.



Misplaced enthusiasm! Capt Phil Cross of the 5th Battalion (County Londonderry), The Royal Irish Regiment, gives the thumbs-up to an empty beer bottle he found during a diving expedition in Belize. The eight students and four instructors were based at the British Forces' adventure training centre in Belize and dived on the famous Blue Hole and in the beautiful Hol Chan Marine Park

Following in Shackleton's footsteps

MORE than 80 years after Sir Ernest Shackleton battled his way across the rugged mountains and glaciers of South Georgia from King Haakon Bay to Stromness whaling station at the end of his epic 1914-16 expedition, a military team has retraced his steps.

The explorer had reached South Georgia in an open boat after an 800-mile voyage from Elephant Island, where his expedition ship, *Endurance*, had been

crushed by pack-ice in the Weddell Sea.

Members of the South Georgia Logistic Support Detachment came up with the idea of covering the original Shackleton route and Capt Tom Clarke RE, the OC, was keen to carry out a patrol which allowed his troops to maintain an overt military presence across the island.

There were huge differences in the amount and type of equipment carried by the 1916 and 1998 teams. Shack-

leton's ill-prepared party had only a small primus stove, a pot and biscuits and rations for six hot meals, 50ft of knotted rope, binoculars, a home-made ice-axe, a fragment of a chart of South Georgia and a compass.

The military team, which included Royal Marines, each carried bergans weighing 60-70lb containing four days' rations, medical equipment, maps, compasses and radios.

Shackleton completed the trek in 36 hours, his modern equivalents in seven hours less.

□ Ten members of 125 (Glasgow) Ration Squadron took part in a low-level hill-walking expedition along the Austrian border in the Oberstaufen area of Bavaria, south Germany.

Enjoy your posting!

Anxious about a first posting abroad? There is plenty of advice about to help smooth the way. If you would like to share a problem, write to Cari c/o *Soldier*, or BFBS, BFPO 786.

Dear Cari, My husband has been posted to Germany. He has had to go away and I am going to have to get there with the children on my own. I'm really scared. I've never been posted abroad before and I'm not looking forward to the travelling. – Mrs B (UK).

Cari replies: First of all, I hope you enjoy living in Germany as much as I did. You won't be on your own, but I hope you use the time to get out and see something of the country and meet German people rather than just staying within the British community.

As for travelling there, please don't worry. Get in touch with the Army Families Advice Bureau at HQ Land and ask for Fact Sheets 2/12 (*Families moving abroad*) and 1/12A (*Families travelling overseas unaccompanied*). They explain in detail what you need to do.

They also give helpful addresses and telephone numbers for all the agencies which can help.

You will have received a lot of official documents and, if you have not moved before, will find them a bit daunting. Don't forget, the AFAB and the Joint Service Travel Centre will be more than happy to explain anything you don't understand.

Dear Cari, I am rather confused about what is on offer for unemployed people. What, for example, is a re-start course? Do I qualify? I have heard about career development loans. How do I get one? It all sounds very complicated. – Mrs H (UK).

Cari replies: Yes it does... and I don't pretend to understand it. Your first stop should be your local Job Centre, where staff should be able to explain it all to you. On the other hand, if you do not want to appear completely unprepared, get in touch with the AFAB and ask for their Fact Sheet 6/1 (*Employment, training and enterprise*). It contains all the definitions you need as a starting point.

For example, in answer to your questions, a re-start course is for people over 18 who have been unemployed for more than six months. It will look at your current skills, put together a record of your former employment and help you look for a job.

It will also help you to get together an action plan for finding work. A career development loan is exactly what it says it is... money to help you pay for vocational training, but you'll need to take advice on that.

The letter from the mother taking her family to Germany reminded me of the excitement of a first overseas posting. The opportunity to live in another country is such a valuable one... and everyone can benefit.

However, there are times when it does present a bit of a challenge. For example, parents who send their children to boarding school in the UK sometimes find that they have no one to meet them or escort them to and from school.



Cari Roberts

Cari comments

Dear Cari, I am finally getting to grips with our finances but I could do with some background reading. Are there any good books I could get hold of? – Mrs C (BFG).

Cari replies: The market is flooded with good books on money. One author who knows a great deal about living a mobile life while trying to keep finances under control is Marie Jennings. One of the reasons we at BFBS asked her to be our money specialist on the *Counterpoint* programme is that she has considerable experience.

Marie has advised some high-profile agencies and departments and is also connected with the Money Management Council, an independent charity set up to educate the public in personal finance. The council has many helpful factsheets which you can obtain by writing to it at PO Box 77, Hertford, Herts SG14 2IIW.

Another useful addition to the family file would be *Your Guide to Personal Finance*, published by the Office of Fair Trading. It is a readable booklet covering all areas of personal finance including investment and pensions. It also has a section listing sources of information and advice to get you further.

There are a number of agencies which will take over the responsibility for a small charge. Of course, parents will need assurance that they are placing their trust in a reputable agency. Among them is SSAFA Forces Help, which operates the Escort Service.

For details, call Mrs Jane Hitchcock at SSAFA Forces Help Central Office on 0171 403 8783. For other agencies, get hold of AFAB Fact Sheet 2/14.

● Cari Roberts presents *Counterpoint* on BFBS Radio

Other issues

A "staggering amount of goodwill" and positive PR for the Army had been achieved by the Ethnic Minorities Recruiting Team, said Gen Sir Alex Harley, the Adjutant General, when he presented commendations for outstanding service to members of the team at Upavon.

Capt Fidelix Datson, WO2 Ashok Chauhan, LBr Elton George, LBr Paul Nelson, Gnr Asif Mahmood (all RA), Sgt Leslie Lewis (Para), Sgt John Swanston (R Signals), Cpl John Cronin (R Irish), Cpl Sivoidaveta Ratunabubua (AGC) and Gdsm Vincent Peters (IG) attended 145 events in six months and met 25,000 people.

● First student intake – Page 68

Army's new college opens its doors

FOUR hundred youngsters from all over the country began the Army's first 42-week course at its new Foundation College at Uniake Barracks, Harrogate on September 6.

The students, aged between 16 and 17, were chosen from nearly 3,000 who enquired about places.

It offers exciting career opportunities for school-leavers, high-quality training which will result in nationally-recognised qualifications, and a guaranteed job. Vocational education at the college will be combined with leadership and military training designed to unlock the

talent and develop qualities and skills needed for a successful career in the Army.

Students who complete the course will achieve National (or Scottish) Vocational Qualifications in information technology... and be paid while they learn. The rate is £111.94 a week (rising to £113.82 from December) for 16-year-olds and £135.80 (£138.11 from December) for those aged 17.

The second intake of 240 students is scheduled to start in January, raising the strength of the college to 640.



Sign of friendship: Long-distance cyclist Sgt Gyan Tamang of the Queen's Gurkha Signals "awards" the Gurkha badge to a fellow cyclist he met at Oldmeldrum near Aberdeen

Pensions to be split on divorce

NEW laws which will enable pension rights to be divided between husband and wife at the time of divorce are to be introduced by the Department of Social Security.

Under current legislation, courts may make an order which requires a pension scheme to pay part of a member's pension direct to his – or her – former spouse. Where the member has not yet left service, the court order can " earmark " part of the pension for payment to the former spouse when it eventually comes into payment.

However, if the member dies in the meantime, the former spouse gets nothing. Similarly, if the former spouse remarries, the earmarking order lapses. These provisions were introduced by the Pen-

sions Act of 1995 and announced in DCI JS 90/96.

The DSS now intends to introduce a Bill in Parliament which will provide for pension splitting, or pension sharing as it will be called. Under this proposal, the rights which a pension scheme member has accrued up to the date of the divorce will be divided between the two parties at that time.

The portion awarded to the former spouse will then become hers, or his, in their own right. So, unlike the current earmarking provision, the former spouse's share of the pension will be unaffected if the scheme member dies or remarries.

It is intended for pension sharing to come into effect in April 2000.

Naafi's shop at Homefield Road, Colchester has opened after a £361,000 refurbishment as part of its partnership with Spar.

WO2 Andy James, serving with the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, has become the Army's 1,000th successful NVQ student. He received his Level 4 certificate in management from Brig Chris Horsfall, Director of Educational and Training Services (Army). There was a surprise for Brig Horsfall at a meeting of the Service Children's Education Board when he was given his MoD LEB diploma certificate in French by the Adjutant General.

A new rehabilitation centre in the Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot was opened by Brig Adrian Freer, Commander of 5 Airborne Brigade and the garrison. Staffed by six physiotherapists and a remedial instructor, the new facility is run by Brig Graham Hopkins.

A meeting of religious advisers from ethnic minorities and principal personnel officers from the three Services was hosted by the Heads of Chaplaincies at Netheravon House, Netheravon as part of a process to help the advisers learn more about the military community and the training of its personnel.

Scotland gives big welcome to Gurkha pedal party

A GROUP of Gurkhas and friends were greeted with open arms when they spent two weeks cycling 1,000 miles around Scotland to raise £50,000 for former Gurkha soldiers fallen on hard times.

Under the title *Ayo Gurkha* – their war cry – the cyclists also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

About 12,000 surviving former Gurkha soldiers and their widows in Nepal receive no pension from the British or their own country, one of the world's poorest. Since 1969 the Gurkha Welfare Trust has attempted to pay each of the veterans £10 a month, a sum which can make the difference between survival and destitution.

The cyclists, five of whom were from Nuneaton-based 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron, 30 Signal Regiment, began their journey by taking part in the Edinburgh Fringe cavalcade, and were given an early indication by the Princes Street crowds of Scotland's particular love for the wee men from the Himalayas.

Other members of the party were Cpl Kali Yonghang from Eastern Nepal and based at RMA Sandhurst, Maj Don Whitehead, late of the 7th Gurkha Rifles, and George Ross, a former sergeant major with The King's Own Scottish Borderers and now Pension Appeals Officer of the Royal British Legion Scotland.

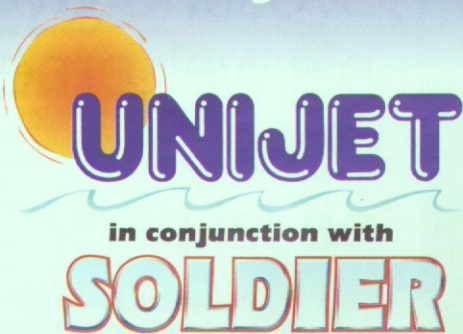
After 28 stops in 14 days, the team arrived back at Edinburgh having enjoyed amazingly warm welcomes all over the country. Although the money is still coming in, the organisers hope they will reach their ambitious target.

● Donations to the Gurkha Welfare Trust, New Haig House, Logie Green Road, Edinburgh EH7 4HR welcome.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 581 8684
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
Confidential support line:
UK 0800 731 4880
Germany 0131 827 395
Cyprus 080 91065
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 0181 543 6333
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 0181 376 2144
RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725
Samaritans 0345 90 90 90
Service Children's Education 01980 618244
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358
SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783
WRVS 01235 442954

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Nijmegen Marches



Best foot forward

By the left: TA medics from Manchester-based 207 Field Hospital RAMC

Army adds a dash of parade square smartness to Holland's annual international peace event

THEY file past in their thousands – this year the millionth marcher took part – but few with the same élan or discipline as the many British Army teams taking part.

This year's four-day Nijmegen Marches in Holland, the 82nd time the international event has been staged, was no exception to the rule. Although the marches are not a competition, the British Forces teams are judged on their turnout and discipline. Soldiers march in squads and men have to carry packs weighing 10kg.

The event is a combination of colour, good humour and sheer hard slog.

Thousands of bystanders cheer the seemingly endless column of often exotically-dressed marchers as they flow past for hours on end. While civilians, dressed in light clothing and footwear, march in relaxed mode, the British Forces squads are less gaudy in Service boots and uniform... but they are just as exuberant. This year almost 1,200 British Service-

men, women and cadets took part, with 110 British Forces squads on the road.

A team of medics from Sennelager-based 3 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC carried out running repairs to damaged feet. One commented: "The problems are caused mainly by bad blisters, due to lack of training, but we do all we can to get people marching again. Heat exhaustion also crops up because some marchers take insufficient fluid. It is excellent experience for our medics and it's nice to help people back on to their feet."

Also providing medical back-up was dental support specialist LCpl Janine Laval. It was the first time a dental specialist had been deployed to the marches.

As usual, British Army catering staff manned the rest areas, providing refreshments for military and civilian marchers, anything up to 4,500 drinks and pieces of fruit every day.



Looking smart: Stockport-based soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment

FORCE FOR GOOD

Marathon road to recovery

Soldier told he would never walk again runs for special care unit

WO2 Jim Phillips was told he would probably spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair after his back was broken in a vehicle accident on Exercise Iron Hammer in Germany ten years ago.

Jim, now 39 and currently serving as the permanent staff instructor to Rochester-based 221 Field Squadron (EOD) RE (V), was so badly injured that his heart stopped in the ambulance. An 8½-hour operation at Bielefeld saved his life but he was told would probably never walk again.

Thanks to the skill of the surgeons and his own determination he eventually made a full recovery, and earlier this year completed the London Marathon in the very respectable time of 4hr 20sec. Now Jim has presented £100 to the special care baby unit at All Saints Hospital, Chatham.

CHURCH APPEAL

Army church congregations worldwide have raised a record sum for the Chaplain General's 1997-98 special appeal. As a result, Col Mark Cook, director of the Hope and Homes for Children charity, has received a cheque for £20,000.

The project attracted the attention of the Army community and an extra £16,500 was sent in by units, individuals and churches. Hope and Homes for Children was founded in 1994 by Col Cook while he was commander of the British element of the United Nations Protection Force in Croatia.

The special appeal usually raises about £12,000.

Two members of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry joined two RUC policemen from Belfast in climbing the four highest mountains in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and canoeing the four longest lakes. They raised £2,000 for the Ulster Hospice.

Want to take part in the Great North Run? The WRVS has entries for anyone who will run on their behalf on October 4. Details from Louise on 01235 442925.

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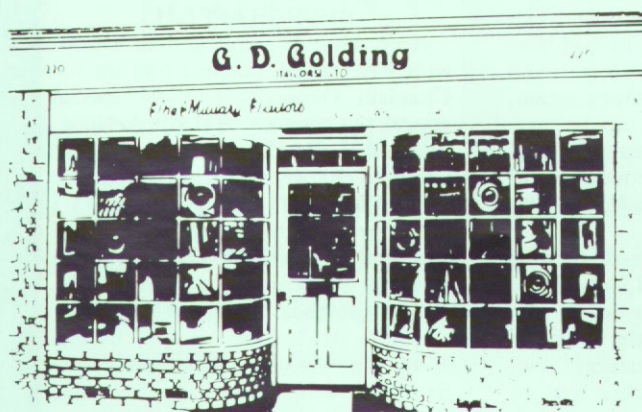
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STPUSD2

From Westminster to Wapping

A monthly digest of what's being said in Parliament and the Press

TA reductions 'misconceived'

They are 'a false economy', says committee

WHILE generally endorsing the Strategic Defence Review, the all-party Defence Committee has described proposals to cut the Territorial Army as "misconceived".

In a report published last month, the MPs say a reduction in the roles and establishment of the Reserve forces as a whole could prove to be "a very false economy".

The cuts in TA infantry, engineers and yeomanry "are shortsighted", they say.

In view of the TA's role "as long-term insurance against the unexpected for general war", re-rolling should be considered before cuts, and the actual level of reductions should be reconsidered.

Secondly, until it could be proved conclusively that other SDR initiatives would provide a lasting solution to Regular forces overstretch, it would be premature to reduce the TA, which has played a major role in relieving the problem.

Thirdly, while the Ministry of Defence "paid lip service" to the Reserve forces' role as a link between the professional military and wider society, the committee was not persuaded this had been fully taken into account in decisions about size and organisation.

"These forces, including the cadets, provide a vital recruiting ground for the Regular forces, and we believe a reduction in their roles and establishment could prove to be a very false economy in a period when recruiting Regulars is proving to be such a challenge."

The committee adds that it is concerned about proposals relating to the organisation

and funding of the Territorial Auxiliary Volunteer Reserves Associations (TAVRAs), which provide a cost-effective means of managing and recruiting the Reserves.

"They also provide... a strong independent voice to champion the cause of all the Reserve force elements. The seductive logic of administrative convenience which may be driving their reorganisation should not be the determining factor in making decisions."

Other main points of the report:

- The committee is "doubtful about the reliability of assurances about the sustainability of training areas in the UK".

- It urges that "the unique ethos of airborne forces" be preserved during their integration into the new Air Manoeuvre Brigade and asks the Government to weigh very carefully its decision on where to base the brigade.

- It recommends a standardised method of measuring overstretch across all three Services to ensure the problem is being tackled effectively.

- It urges the MoD to seek "innovative ways" in which two-career families can be integrated into Service life.

- It calls for the Veterans' Cell to have an appropriate degree of independence from the MoD in order to give specific expert guidance on pensions and advice and on making claims on a variety of issues.

- It welcomes the commitment to a wide-ranging review of the Service Discipline Acts.



Years of about-turn, quick-march

FROM 1945 to 1990, governments reviewed their defence strategy every ten years or so.

Since then, the Defence Committee notes in a historical analysis, the defence budget, the Services and the civilian and support services have been subject to an almost continuous period of review.

One element of reviews over the past 40 years had been their inconsistency. "The Reserves have been cut and enlarged, have been allocated new roles, have had them withdrawn, and have had them reimposed.

"The Navy has been cut, the cuts have been slowed or reversed, the cuts have been reimposed. The RAF has been cut dramatically, sometimes on the promise of better equipment, and has waited and

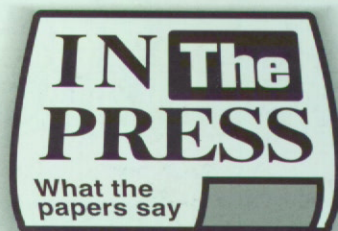
waited for new aircraft. Options for Change removed several teeth, and Front Line First shortened the tail. Undermanning has continued while recruitment services have been cut.

"Some of these changes have been strategically justified, others financially-driven."

The Defence Committee had always complained that there had rarely been a well thought-through strategic policy for our force structure and defence posture.

However, it acknowledged that the latest Strategic Defence Review was intended to be a serious attempt to provide a coherent policy framework for defence planning and budgeting.

"If it succeeds in doing so, it will be a welcome refutation of the apparent lessons of recent history."



□ Britain's Armed Forces are by universal acclaim the finest in the world. They are tougher than the Israelis, more professional than the Americans, more decent and humane than the Russians. – Peter Osborne in the *Express*

□ Troops may be on the streets in the year 2000 under emergency Home Office plans to maintain vital services which could be crippled by the millennium computer bug. – *Independent*

□ A Senate committee is to decide whether to charge Britain for the most expensive rescue operation in Alaskan history. Four soldiers were plucked from Mount McKinley earlier this year in a four-day operation costing £137,000, nearly three times more than the National Park Service spent in the whole of last year on rescues. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ Two prisoners were on the run after breaking out of Colchester's military prison. It was thought to be the first time anyone had escaped from the Military Corrective Training Centre in its 43-year history. – *Sun*

□ On the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Omdurman, Sudan is planning to ask the United Nations and the International Court of Justice in the Hague to condemn Kitchenier as a war criminal. – *Daily Telegraph*

Britain has no plans to apologise to Sudan for Kitchenier's behaviour at the end of the 19th century, a demand Khartoum may be planning to lump together with one from Washington for its more recent military action. – *Guardian*

□ Canadian army chiefs have agreed to pay for soldiers to have £20,000 sex change operations, but breast implants are excluded. – *Daily Mirror*

□ British soldiers and their families in Cyprus have been told to avoid parts of two popular coastal resorts where rivalry between gangs over gambling, drugs and prostitution has erupted into open warfare. – *Times*

□ The Army has been accused of "idiocy" after issuing soldiers with new sleeping bags which are too big to fit in the standard rucksack. – *Sunday Telegraph*

□ There was no evidence for the theory that mysteriously-ill American soldiers who fought in the Gulf War were exposed to nerve gas or chemical weapons, a Senate committee has concluded. – *Times*

□ A bandage that can clot blood within seconds and so help medics save soldiers from bleeding to death is being developed by the Red Cross in the USA. – *Sunday Times*

Smile! You're on camouflaged camera



Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston and Joint School of Photography students

IT IS cold and wet, the three-day exercise has been going on for three days too long and some "snapper" appears on the scene wanting the lads to apply a little bit more war-paint and grin into a camera. The resulting dagger-looks are eloquent: "Who do you think you are? David ***** Bailey?"

Not quite, but the man in soldier kit behind the lens is probably a fully-trained photographer; one of a band of around 40 dedicated soldiers, and a graduate of the Joint School of Photography at RAF Cosford near Wolverhampton.

And he deserves a little respect because he is probably just as tired as the soldier behind the gun. Those who take pictures in the Army do not simply follow the operational or exercising units: they are very likely to be in the vanguard.

When the tanks and APCs rolled into Kuwait, for example, Army "photos" (as the professionals like to call themselves) were with them, Nikons, motor-drives and 300mm lenses primed. And during the grim early days of operations in Bosnia they were also in the thick of it, satisfying the clamour for pictures from newspapers and magazines back home and around the world.

The photographers, usually NCOs with at least three years' service, are recruited from all regiments and corps, but at the end of their training they exchange their original cap-badges for those of the Royal Logistic Corps.

The process is not as easy as it sounds. Inter-unit moves are slow at the best of times, but for prospective photos, the process can be dead slow and stop, particularly when COs of over-stretched units are faced with the likelihood of losing a soldier whom they know

to have good promotion potential. But Master Photographer WO1 Angus Beaton, the Army's senior instructor and leader of the combined Army and Royal Navy course at the school, is not unduly concerned. He points out that if a student succeeds in leaving a parent regiment or corps and changing career, then he or she

A small band of photographers in uniform records every aspect of Army life. It's nice work if you can get it, but, as we discovered at the Joint School of Photography, that is a very big 'if'

has already demonstrated single-minded determination and tenacity, and these are qualities which can make the difference between an average photographer and a good one.

Other qualities are checked out at an earlier stage, during the school's five-day residential selection cadres which take place every few months. After just a day of general instruction, each candidate is given a loaded camera and an assignment and sent off to produce the pictures which will go a long way to deciding whether or not he or she has a future in photography.

Angus Beaton and his staff do not expect the rookies to produce masterpieces at this stage, although they are often surprised by the quality of this early work (see some examples in the panel on the left). Rather he and his staff look for indications that the candidate has some idea about composition, an ability to control people and an eye for a good picture opportunity.

"It's difficult to form an opinion of a person in such a short time," says WO1 Beaton, who as a Para corporal did the same course back in 1979. "But we don't want to waste any of the few course places available each year."

Inevitably, a larger proportion of would-be photographers are returned to their units at the end of the selection course. Occasionally there is an invitation

to try again later, but more usually it is a tactful suggestion that the person's skills may lie in another direction.

The fortunate few are offered one of the four Army places on each of the two annual courses (the remaining places are given to Royal Navy trainees, while the Royal Air Force conducts its own courses).

Assuming that their ambitions survive the gruelling test of regimental or corps transfers, the students then face six months of challenging practical, creative and theoretical work, based on a widely-accepted City and Guilds syllabus. Eventually, the students will leave RAF Cosford with a National Vocational Qualification Level Three and the right to call themselves Army photographers.

The syllabus is divided into two parts. The first is dedicated to black-and-white photography, processing and printing, and scientific theory. The next three months concentrates on colour photography and processing, and the particular skills necessary for portraiture and other aspects of the craft.

PRESSURE

The pressure is maintained throughout with fortnightly exams or work assessments. Falling at any one of these hurdles can lead to action ranging through a strict talking-to, a total review of a student's performance, to, in extreme cases, an abrupt return to regular soldiering.

None of this appears to discourage the four Army students currently hoping to graduate in November. On the contrary, the pressure seems to stimulate their interest in the craft.

Cpl Stu McKenzie came to the school from the Royal Military Police, after a typically stiff fight to swap his truncheon for a camera. He describes the course as "hard but enjoyable", and lists the physics as being particularly challenging: "especially if you are not mathematically minded like me".

Cpl Teresa Pickin, an avionics technician with the REME for six years before transferring to the RLC, has clear ideas about where a future in photography will take her. "In a few years' time I'll be a professional photographer with, I hope, a higher rank," she says. "Then I want to come back here and do some courses in digital photography."

In fact, Cpl Pickin may well have little choice, because digital and computer technology is threatening to transform photography and anyone who is not up to speed may be left behind. Some Army photographers are already using elec-



Definitely not camera-shy. The four soldiers currently working towards their Army photographer qualification at the Joint School of Photography at RAF Cosford are, left to right back, Cpl Teresa Pickin, LCpl Bobby Nelson, LSgt Gordon Allison; front, Cpl Stu McKenzie

tronic cameras which can download an image onto a lap-top computer and transmit it to a distant news desk within seconds.

With the coming revolution, in mind, the school is developing a course which will introduce students to the brave new digital world. The first trial course should be ready before the current group of students graduates.

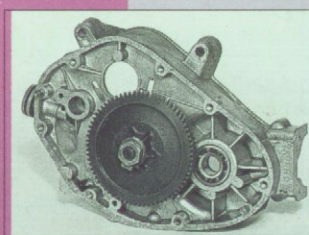
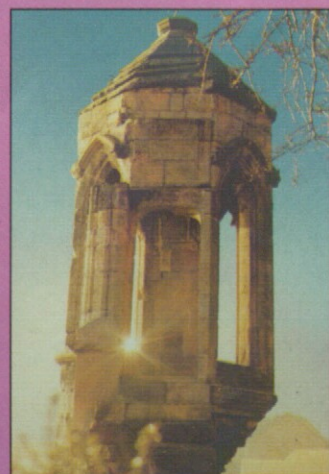
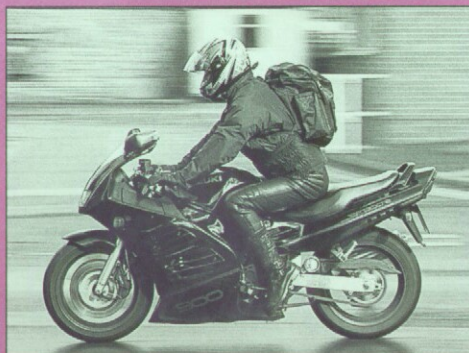
Would you like to try for a place on an Army Photographers' Course? Selection cadres are organised regularly. For details, call the Joint School of Photography on 01902 373393.

Nevertheless Angus Beaton does not believe that the end is yet in sight for traditional photography. Indeed principal skills, such as the ability to control and use light, bring the best out of subject and convey a complex message with a single image, will always be fundamental.

The new technology will, he believes, only help his students to fulfil their traditional goal, which he describes with almost brutal simplicity: "Army photographers will produce the goods anywhere, any time."

Would-be Army photographers be warned.

● Entries for the 1998 Army Photographic Competition were due in on October 1



All our own work: Pictures taken by students at the school



WO1 Angus Beaton: "Army photographers will produce the goods anywhere, any time"



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Air transport: The next generation

Wolf in Fat Albert's clothing leaves pilots grinning

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion

THE REPLACEMENT for the venerable C130K Hercules "Fat Albert", the mainstay of the Royal Air Force's transport fleet since the 1960s, has been unveiled with some fanfair. And the aircraft which will deploy and support the Army around the world well into the next century is... *another Hercules*.

Lockheed Martin proudly showed their exhibition model of the new C130J – one of 25 to be introduced to the RAF over the next two years or so – to an international audience on the first day of the huge Farnborough International Air Show.

Initially the audience of potential buyers and pilots may have been slightly sceptical of Lockheed's claim that this is a revolutionary new aircraft. After all, parked on the tarmac, the C130J did not appear to be "95 per cent new". Apart from its modern, six-bladed raked propellers, there was little to mark it apart from the thousands of older Hercules which have emerged in an unbroken stream from the Lockheed factory in California since the late 1950s.

Doubts were blown away, though, when the new Herc took to the air. With the curious propellers of all four engines revving at something approaching maximum power, and making a sound unlike that of its predecessor, the new aircraft treated the runway with disdain.

Although carrying a minimum payload, the C130J covered no more than 500 metres of tarmac, at least a quarter less

than the distance required by the old variant with the same light load, before leaving the ground and climbing at an angle of attack which would be impossible, or at least dangerous, for a normal Fat Albert.

The new-design props and more powerful and economical engines thrust the



Heads up: Liquid crystal displays and head-up screens convey vital data to pilots

aircraft around the sky more like a fighter than a transport, before the pilots brought it back down in a steep dive and a short, rapidly-decelerating landing.

This wolf in Fat Albert's clothing blows its cover very quickly, leaving both pilots and watching crowds grinning like children. But it remains hard to believe that

the C130J shares only about five per cent of its components with its predecessor... until one climbs the steps into the cockpit. The aircraft's automated and supremely comfortable nerve-centre bears almost no resemblance to that of the old plane, in which, as one veteran flyer described it, pilots relied totally on "our Spanish assistant: Manuel Labour".

Most notably, the flight deck has seats for just two pilots. Without so much as an apology for hurt feelings, navigator and flight engineer have been made redundant by the plane's two computers. In the engineer's role, the computer constantly monitors all of the C130J's vital signs much more efficiently than a human, using liquid crystal screens to inform the pilots of any faults and the actions it has taken to cope with them. Pilots can override the computer but are unlikely to do so. Navigation, based on twin sat-nav instruments, is similarly automated.

Liquid crystal displays also replace conventional analogue instruments such as altimeter and airspeed indicator. The displays glow an eerie green, reflecting when necessary into the pilot's sight through glass screens: the head-up displays (HUD) normally fitted to fighters.

Thanks to HUD, pilots can peer into a rapidly-approaching world while watching their aircraft's height, speed and rate of climb and sending commands to the control surfaces, engines and propellers through a single cable running the length of the aircraft. This fly-by-wire technology is perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the C130J. Thousands of signals course through the Herc, preceded by digital codes preparing receptors in control surfaces or engines for commands.

The super-Herc is a pilot's aeroplane. As it is introduced to operations, more crews will enjoy the sheer pleasure of flying what one Lockheed aviator (biased, but an ex-RAF man) described as "the most advanced transport on the free market; the airlifter of the next century".

An end to turbulent times

THE C130J climbs almost three times as quickly as its predecessor, cruises faster while using less fuel, flies further and, when it reaches its target, lands or drops troops and cargo in almost zero visibility. There is rarely the need to have someone on the ground guiding the aircraft in.

But back in the cavern-like cargo and passenger area, things are little changed. Lovers of hair shirts will be pleased to know that the seats for some 90 combat troops are the same old

fabric contraptions that ensure maximum squirming.

There is one change to bring relief to passengers. The flimsy calf-length curtains of the toilet at the back of the plane have been replaced by something more substantial. Sadly for a few pilots, this means there will no longer be any point in taking their aircraft into violent simulated turbulence the moment the thinly-coded signal "lady in the loo" is received.



The distinctive props of the new C130J

School for sappers

Situated on the banks of the River Medway, Brompton Barracks is the historic spiritual home of the Corps of Royal Engineers and where the sappers learn their trades

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion

ENTER the gates of Brompton Barracks in Chatham and the sense of history and tradition is immediately obvious.

This is the Headquarters of the Royal School of Military Engineering, the Construction Engineer School, and 1 RSME Regiment, where all Royal Engineers, except the drivers, come to learn their craft.

Gordon of Khartoum, one of the most famous, casts his stony stare over the wide parade ground from the saddle of his camel with a horse's tail. The sculptor had a picture showing the front and side and so guessed the rest – wrongly, as it turned out. Lord Kitchener is commemorated on an elegant obelisk and the Royal Engineers who fell in the Crimea, South Africa and the two world wars are remembered on beautifully-carved stone gates.

The buildings are imposing and elegant (with the obligatory 1960s "carbuncle" at the bottom of the road). Entering the messes, with their lofty ceilings and overflowing with Victorian and Edwardian silver, is like walking back in time to days of the Empire.

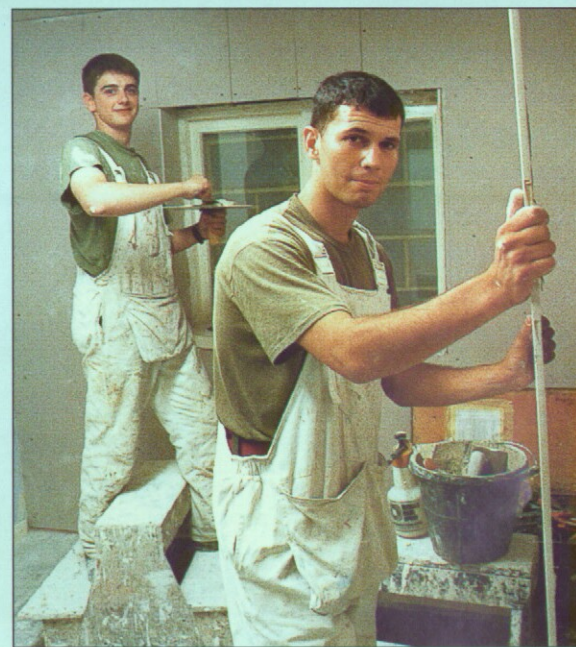
But behind the grandeur of the buildings at the front of the camp is the real purpose of Brompton Barracks. Here, in the workshops and classrooms, is where

thousands of sappers every year attend trade training courses learning skills ranging from plastering, bricklaying and decorating to professional engineer and Clerk of Works qualifications.

Whenever the British Army deploys, it is the Royal Engineers who create order out of mayhem. In Bosnia they have constructed whole camps, built bridges, dug tunnels, drilled wells, mended water supplies and electricity generators, rebuilt schools and public buildings and laid roads. Those skills were taught at the Construction Engineer School.

The school is divided into the Command, Civil Engineering, Electrical and Mechanical, and Counter Terrorist Search Wings. Course and administrative support is provided by 1 RSME Regiment.

The Civil Engineering and Electrical and Mechanical Wings train Royal Engineers in the hands-on, nitty-gritty skills that the rest of the Army associate with sappers. Artisans are taught their trades from scratch, and in most cases are taken up to City and Guilds Craft Certificate or Level 2 NVQ standard. Walking through



Getting plastered: Sprs Steven Bradley and Andy Aitchison learn new skills at the engineering school on the Medway

the large functional warehouse-type buildings is like being on a conveyor belt watching every single type of engineering trade being taught.

One vast area is full of bricklayers building walls, fireplaces and even a small house. In another, bays are being plastered and decorated, and next door vehicle and engine fitters are being taught how to install, operate and repair plant equipment. Fitter machinists are making high-precision tools out of raw lumps of metal, and welders are taught how to mark out, cut, drill and assemble pieces of metal.

Plumbers learn the different services in

52 bays, where they have to build bathrooms and gas fitters construct kitchens. Electricians are taught to tap into power mains, lay cables underground or overhead, and so have to be taught how to climb telegraph poles. There is a section for learning to operate and install airfield lighting systems and even the art of being a blacksmith.

"The majority have never been bricklayers, welders or carpenters before in their lives," said Maj Alan Daire, the senior construction instructor. "It takes approximately 30 weeks to make a competent tradesman who still requires a bit of supervision."

Across the River Medway is the practical plant training area which boasts probably the most overworked piece of earth in the country. Sappers training to be plant operators and mechanics come here to work on the bulldozers, ploughs, tractors and other heavy plant equipment. Every day the earth is picked up and moved from one side of the area to the other, and then flattened out ready for it to happen all over again.

WATERMANSHIP

The river itself is used to run safety and work-boat operator and watermanship safety courses. These are specialist qualifications which Royal Engineers can take as well as their own trade skills. Students are taught on Rigid Raider craft and combat support boats. This is part of the Counter Terrorist Search Wing, a joint military and Home Office-funded wing responsible for search training and advice to the Army, the Police, other Government departments and other countries.

There is a constant requirement for civil and mechanical and electrical engineering graduates in the Royal Engineers, and selected graduate officers attend a two-year professional engineer training course at Chatham.

The large and diverse range of courses taught there has caught the eye of the civilian engineering industry. Brompton Barracks is constantly being visited by businessmen who want to learn from the impressive facilities.

"We demand a high level of skill," said Mr Eric Reynolds, Head of the Fabrication Department. "The aim is to train welders for repairs rather than manufacture, so the range of jobs they have to do is much more diverse than for civilians."

Supporting all this is 1 RSME. "I like to think of us as the foundation school of the Construction Engineer School," said the commanding officer, Lt Col Brian Olley.



Day on the river: Sappers take Army work-boat courses on the Medway as part of the Counter Terrorist Search Wing training



Timeless beauty: The architecture at Brompton Barracks evokes memories of the Empire

The regiment has 395 plant items and 108 vehicles – the largest plant fleet in the British Army – which are used for training. It is responsible for the security of the site and all the administration of the school including student welfare, discipline, course support, sport and property management.

There are plans for a £20 million refurbishment to start on the barracks, a site of

historical interest, in November. But there is a shadow hanging over the beautiful buildings, with rumours that the Royal Engineers may move from Chatham to Minley, where the Combat Engineer School is based.

Lt Col Olley will not entertain the idea. "This is where the Corps was formed. This is home for the Royal Engineers," he said firmly.

At last – the pièce de résistance?

AS with most official reports, the style is unremarkable. It is the action that counts, writes Chris Horrocks.

"At 9.30 the warning signal flash came, and three minutes later the car came slowly round the bend. Moss and I waved red lamps up and down, and the car stopped, and we walked towards the two doors, drawing our pistols.

"I opened the right door of the car, flashed the torch inside, and saw the general was sitting beside the chauffeur. He was easily recognisable by his tabs, medals and Iron Crosses at neck and breast.

"I asked for his papers in German, and while he was explaining, Moss opened the other door, struck the driver hard with a life-preserver, took him by the shoulders, and threw him out to the waiting Cretans . . . Moss then jumped into the driver's seat.

"My party and I simultaneously seized the general, handcuffed and bound him, and put him in the back of the car. Paterakis, Tyrakis and Saviolakis jumped in beside him, with three sub-machine guns stuck out of the windows, and had the general covered by two fighting-knives.

"The rest of the party dispersed at once; I put on the general's hat and sat in his seat beside Moss, who started up the engine and headed for Heraklion. The whole halt and operation took just over a minute . . ."

With charming diffidence born of old-world courtesy, Patrick Leigh Fermor, today acclaimed as one of our greatest travel writers, volunteers that his secret report for the Special Operations Executive on his abduction of Gen Heinrich Kreipe from Crete in April, 1944, written in hospital in Cairo, was "very sketchy".

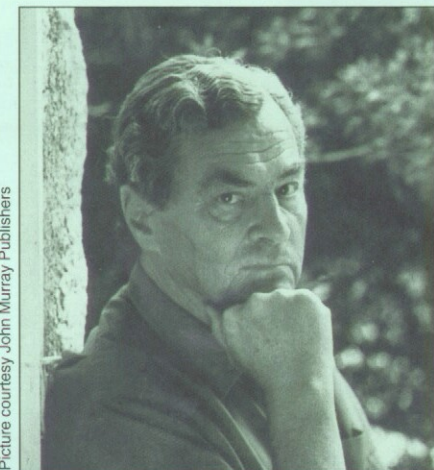
The breathtaking drama of those 60 or so seconds, and of the cat-and-mouse game played in the ensuing two-and-a-half weeks across the mountainous Greek island evading the German occupation forces all the way, is one of the great true adventure stories of the war.

Capt W (Billy) Stanley Moss, Coldm Gds, 2iC of the band of kidnappers, related the extraordinary escapade in his book *Ill Met by Moonlight*, made into a film starring Dirk Bogarde as Maj Leigh Fermor.

Even Kreipe has told his own version of the story, but surprisingly "Paddy" Leigh Fermor himself, who led the raiding party and who has enjoyed tremendous acclaim for his award-winning books, has never recounted it fully, or indeed his wider role in the organisation of the heroic, SOE-backed Cretan resistance movement.

Apart from the official short report, the closest he has come to doing so are his introduction to and translation of *The*

A distinguished writer hints he may finally tell of his undercover life in wartime Crete



Paddy Leigh Fermor: Agent-turned-writer

Cretan Runner, the "wonderful picture of resistance life" told by his messenger, George Psychooudakis, now nearing 80.

When *Soldier* contacted Leigh Fermor at his home in Greece to try to persuade him to tell us about those times, he was as helpful as any self-effacing man could be. He sent us his seven-page 1944 report, now released by the Public Record Office, his copy of the full SOE report on its mis-

'I didn't write about it then and I still haven't . . . but I think I should . . .'

sion in Crete, and four pages of handwritten answers to questions.

Asked if he would reconsider his decision not to write his definitive personal version of his time in Crete, he hinted that he might do so now, at the age of 83.

"I didn't write about it then, and I still haven't, as it seemed to have been covered by Billy Moss's book, but I think I should undertake a second account of it," he said.

His entry in *Who's Who* includes the succinct reference: "Two years in German-occupied Crete with Cretan Resistance, commanded some minor guerrilla operations". Minor or not, he was awarded the DSO in 1944 to go with his military OBE of the previous year.

Leigh Fermor's lifelong wanderlust first

lured him off the beaten track after he was "sacked" from King's School, Canterbury for being unruly. He "crammed" for Sandhurst but, keen to travel and write, set off in 1933 at the age of 18 on an odyssey through central Europe, the Balkans and Greece to Constantinople.

His "long European trudge" nurtured an affinity with languages and remote places and was celebrated belatedly but brilliantly in *A Time of Gifts* and *Between the Woods and the Water* in the 1970s and 1980s (a long-delayed third and final volume is eagerly awaited by publishers John Murray and his patient public).

When the Second World War broke out Leigh Fermor was back in Romania. Because of his partly Irish descent he joined the Irish Guards, but in 1940 was plucked from the regiment to be commissioned into the Intelligence Corps.

"The War Office needed people with foreign languages. I think it was Greek which landed me, rather to my regret, as a second lieutenant in the 'I' Corps," he said, as if ruing all that was to follow.

What did follow eventually allowed him a degree of independence, away from what Antony Beevor calls in *Crete: The Battle and the Resistance* the "institutional claustrophobia of normal army life".

He joined the British Military Mission in Greece at the time of the Italian invasion and then spent three winter months as liaison officer with the Greek Army in Albania. His contributions to the Greek and Cretan campaigns were punctuated by the kind of adventures a modern fiction writer would die for.

Asked to describe them for *Soldier*, he set them down matter-of-factly in staccato, diary-like longhand on flimsy yellow paper:

"Sailed south. *Ayia Varvara* was sunk by German bomber . . . We found another, and continued south, embarking many stragglers . . . headed for Crete. Propeller broke off . . . commandeered schooner *Amalia* and reached Crete with many escapees."

Leigh Fermor became junior intelligence officer at Brigade HQ, Heraklion before the bloody German airborne invasion of the island in May, 1941 sent him on his travels again – escaping to Alexandria in HMS *Orion*, and being "badly bombed" on the way.

He became chief weapon-training instructor at ME 102, the SOE's school of irregular warfare on Mount Carmel. Then on June 23, 1942, arriving in the caique *Hedgehog*, he infiltrated Crete to



Captive in Crete: Gen Heinrich Kreipe, centre, with two of his kidnappers, Capt Billy Moss, left, and Maj Paddy Leigh Fermor. It took the resistance two-and-a-half weeks, evading an occupation army of 30,000, to escort their prisoner across the island to be picked up by boat

help run the resistance. During the occupation he returned to the island three times – once by parachute – and in two years' covert existence in the guise of a shepherd named "Michali" (Michael is his second name) he smuggled an Italian general to Alexandria and led the evacuation of Gen Kreipe to Cairo.

Leigh Fermor took great care during the latter operation to avoid German revenge on the Cretan population and a note was left exonerating the local guerrillas. Months later terrible reprisals did occur. However it was not until 1993, almost 50 years after the event, that he learned German wartime archives confirmed these atrocities were not linked to the abduction of the general.

In 1945, his record earmarked him as a team commander in the Special Allied Airborne Reconnaissance Force, a unit of 60 SOE parachute-trained resistance

organisers whose mission was to rescue Allied prisoners-of-war in northern Germany as the liberation forces closed in. As it happened, the unit was not needed.

As soon as the war ended Leigh Fermor left the Army and returned to a life of travel and writing.

The Army's loss was literature's gain and it is no surprise to learn that he now has "no deep knowledge" of the British Army, save an admiration for its achievements in the intervening 53 years.

The Cretan Runner, by George Psychooudakis, is published in Penguin at £5.99. Patrick Leigh Fermor DSO, MBE(mil) has won literary awards for *The Traveller's Tree*, *Mani*, *A Time of Gifts*, and *Between the Woods and the Water* and was made a Companion of Literature in 1991. He is an honorary citizen of Heraklion, Crete, is a visiting member of the Athens Academy, holds the Gold Medal of Honour of the Municipality of Athens, and is Honorary Doctor of Letters at the University of Kent.

"I suppose it must offer fewer opportunities nowadays, because of the shrinking of the British Empire," he said. "But it seems to have fulfilled all its postwar missions with dazzling success."

Given his record and his "emphatic" belief in the role of the parachute in modern warfare, it seems inevitable that, were he joining the Army today, he would find his way into the Special Forces.

"I would willingly have served in the SAS," he ventured, "but not being a very disciplined character, my ideal would be working with resistance movements in mountain terrain, far from the eye of authority!"

He, too, has had dazzling postwar success. Today his links with the Army are "only really with old friends. But I have many happy memories of soldiering".

Those who admire his military and literary feats just wish he would commit more of those memories to paper.

Who dares ...

Splash landings

You don't have to have forearms like Popeye ... but it helps, as our reporter discovered when he tried his hand at water-skiing

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

IT'S the most fun you can have in a wet suit without attracting the attention of the local constabulary. Water-skiing is heart-pumping, incredible exercise and quite unbelievably wet. Indeed, I took on so much water the reservoir-level dropped by a couple of inches. Not all of it was swallowed either, but that's another story. By the time I'd finished I felt like the Michelin man.

My teacher and speedboat driver was Capt Gavin Whitehead, AAC, who has won the Army competition for the past two years and has been water-skiing off and on since he was 13.

First he got the technical side of things out of the way. This is a ski, that's the boat ... that kind of thing. Well, on the face of it, there doesn't seem too much to it. How wrong can you be?

I practised standing up at the quayside. Capt Whitehead made it sound easy. "Remember to keep your knees to your chest, don't pull on the rope, gently stand-up like you're being helped by an old lady." Piece of cake.

Then it was on with the skis and into the reservoir. Gavin attached a boom to the side of the motorboat. I held on to the end and adopted the knees-up position. He gunned the motor and we were off.

I had been expecting a gentle pull, something like that of a top-of-the-range lawn-mower running on unleaded. What I

wasn't prepared for was the powerful surge of the engine. I went 20 metres before doing the splits and sampling my first taste of Chateau Reservoir '98.

Gavin swung the boat around in an arc and we were off again. This time I managed to get up into a position which an observer from the riverbank, armed with a wonky protractor, might have judged to be 80 degrees to the horizontal. The exhilarating feeling was short-lived, however, as I pulled myself forward on the boom and crashed head-first.

STAGE TWO

Time was moving on, and with the valuable lessons I had learnt from the boom exercise – principally, keep your mouth shut at all times – it was time for stage two.

A short length of rope was tied to the end of the boom and we tried again. This was more difficult, but gave me greater scope to exhibit my lack of co-ordination. After the seventh attempt I managed to get up. This came at the end of a gruelling 300m in which most of me remained in the water.

Gavin offered encouragement at the top of his voice. "Get your posterior out of the water. Stand up. Stand up." That was the gist of what he said, but I did have a lot of water in my ears.

Finally I tried it with a full length of rope. The principal advantage of this was that I could build up a decent speed before thumping the surface. When I hit



Just copy me: Capt Gavin Whitehead demonstrates how it should be done and makes it look easy. He has been water-skiing since the age of 13 and has won the Army title for the past two years

the water I saw flashes of white light. Nul points for style but it was supreme fun.

It was time to drain out and see what an expert could do.

Gavin went through the slalom course,

reaching speeds in excess of 70mph on the turns. He went around the buoys at impossibly acute angles before asking for the rope to be "cut" from 16m to 14m. On his final pass the rope was 13m.

"At that spot," he said, pointing to the far end, "you have less than two seconds between each buoy."

Back on dry land he explained the draw of the sport. "The impression many people have of it is at a very

basic level, usually from when they go on holiday. They don't get to see a very high standard.

"It is one of the fastest and most physically demanding sports there is. You can

get incredibly well built-up, with forearms like Popeye. It's similar in that respect to rock climbing."

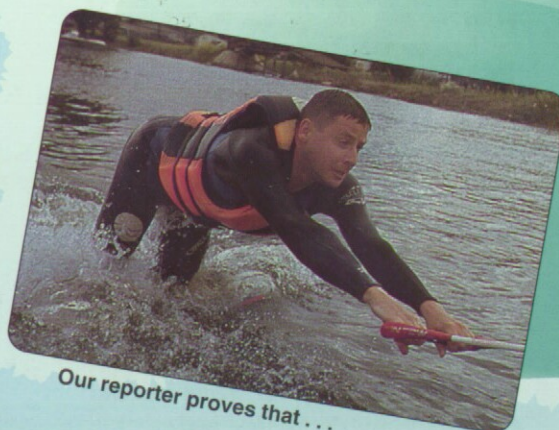
Maybe that was where I was going wrong. I shouldn't have looked down.

So, you want to water-ski ...

Capt Gavin Whitehead is happy to point you in the right direction if you feel like taking up the sport. He can be contacted at 660 Squadron AAC, Defence Helicopter Flying School, RAF Shawbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 4DZ. Telephone 01939 250351 ext 7478/7262 or 781 531 7478/7262.

Soldier tried water-skiing at Prince's Club, Clockhouse Lane, Bedfont, Feltham, Middlesex. Telephone 01784 256 153. Courses start from £35.

The British Water Ski Federation can also put you in touch with courses throughout the United Kingdom and can be contacted on 0171 833 2855.



Our reporter proves that ...



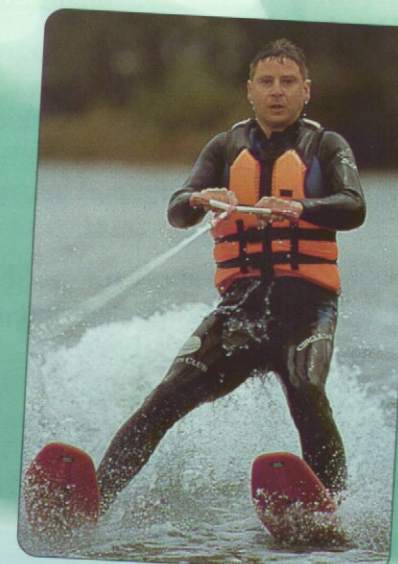
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Cartoons by Dickie

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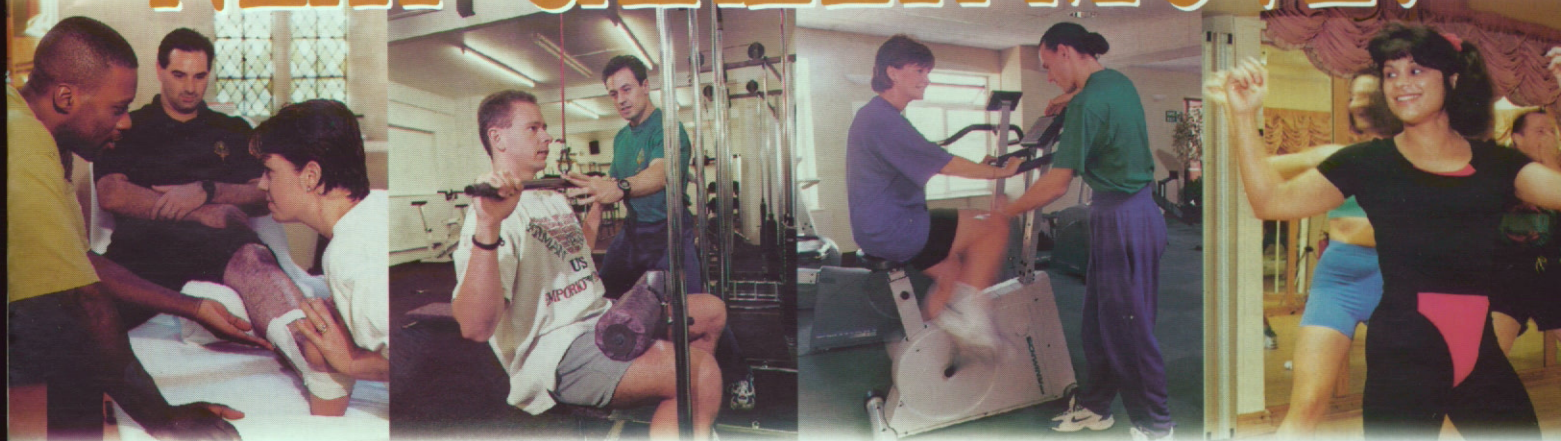
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

SHORTS

Rounders round-up

THE Army's finest all-rounders took on the English national rounders team at Worthy Down. More than 250 women, including teams from Germany and Northern Ireland, took part in the inter-unit competition and inter-corps championship. Rounders is destined to be a sport in the Commonwealth Games in 2010. The Army, with 103 men and women currently playing for their countries in a variety of sports, is cultivating its rounders squad early. The Army junior team beat England juniors 4-1½ but the Army seniors came unstuck 8-0 against the national seniors.

Biathletes triumph

GERMANY-based members of the British biathlon squad made a strong showing in the national summer championships held at Glenmore Lodge, Scotland. Sgt Michael Dixon, 35 Engr Regt in Hameln, won the pursuit and mountain bike races, but gave up top spot in the 5km sprint to Fallingbomel-based LCpl Mark Gee, 2 RTR.

Tigers join the Army

THE Thames Valley Tigers Basketball Club will be using the Maida Gym, Aldershot as their training base for the new season. Capt Tim Brown, of 27 Transport Regt RLC, and senior manager of the Army Basketball Association said: "The association is delighted with the relationship that has developed with the Tigers. Army players will have the benefit of watching, playing against and being coached by one of the country's top professional teams."

Powering forward

GNR Craig Winter, of 12 Regt RA, is the current British and Combined Services power-lifting champion and the world number two in his field – and hardly anyone in his unit knew. He had quietly acquired the power-lifting titles after initial training at the Royal Artillery Centre at Larkhill, Wiltshire. His unit's PT instructor, keen to develop and maintain levels of fitness, asked which sports the soldiers were interested in and Gnr Winter let it slip he had won power-lifting titles.

He is now preparing for next month's World Championships in Austria.

Pipped at the post

THE Army U-21 rugby team battled bravely in the final of the 14th RAF Akrotiri international floodlit rugby tens competition in Cyprus but were pipped at the finish 12-7 by HQ STC.

ATHLETICS



Picture: Chris Fletcher

One jump ahead: Pte Donita Benjamin has been named Army Sportswoman of 1998

On track for success

PTE Donita Benjamin is taking a running jump into the record books. Serving with 4 Close Support Regiment RLC, she is the Army women's champion for the 100m and long jump and represented Great Britain at this year's World Championships in Zurich.

Benjamin has been named Army Sportswoman of the Year for 1998 and is looking forward to qualifying for next year's world indoor and outdoor championships. Following that she hopes to be at

the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and the Commonwealth Games in 2002.

Keeping at peak fitness was hard work, she said, but acknowledged the help she had been given.

"The Army are great, they give me time off for training and competitions," she said. "The only thing they can't help with is finance, so I need to look for sponsors to help with travel and costs. I love athletics because I don't believe there's an age limit. You can carry on forever."

CRICKET

THE 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment won the 1998 infantry cricket title when they beat the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards in a one-sided final at Tidworth on September 2.

On a grey and damp day at the recently landscaped ground that is home to the infantry team the Vikings scored 187-8

(Kulkarni 68) in their 50 overs. The Green Howards' batting fell apart in the face of excellent pace bowling by Dufosse and Barker and were bowled out for 70 in just 18 overs.

Barker finished with 6-29 and was named man of the match, while Dufosse picked up the other four wickets.

FOOTBALL

Army (UK) lose to Germany tourists

Army (UK) 1, Army (Germany) 3

FOLLOWING a weekend of trials, the Army (UK) opened their account for the new season with a 3-1 defeat by the British Army (Germany) side playing their fourth game of a UK tour, writes **Derrick Bly**.

New Army coach WO2 Steve Cotter (6 Bn REME), assisted by WO2 Alan Higgins, had many new faces on show, boosted by a return to the fold of one or two older hands.

The tourists had played Blythe Spartans, 39 Engineer Regiment and Emley before this encounter and their better preparation showed as they established a 3-0 advantage by half-time. In weather better suited to Lords or the Oval, the Army (Germany) looked the better side in the early stages and went ahead in the eighth minute when a cross was neatly headed past Sgt Daisy May by the unchallenged Sgt Boughen of 11 Sig Regt on his debut.

More creative in midfield, LCpl Ginge Lynch (3 Bn REME) and LCpl Jamie Scarisbrook (28 Regt RE) worked hard to provide the openings for Pte Ollie Brown (1 IG) and LCpl Dinger Bell (28 Regt RE).

Scarisbrook scored the second and Bell the third when a deflection left May with no chance of making a save. Minutes before he had denied the visitors when he dived full length to palm away a tremendous drive from Lynch.

Pte Lee Badrock and Pte Steve Carter (27 Tpt Regt RLC) combined to produce the home team's only real chance of the first half, but were denied by goalkeeper SSgt Bob Breheny (1 UKADSR).

Three changes were made to the UK side after the break and they had the better of the second period. Army UK were awarded a penalty on 75 minutes following a goalmouth scrimmage and skipper Sgt Tosh Williams (ACIO Crewe) blasted it into the roof of the net.

A red card for a Germany defender put the visitors on the back foot, but they played some good football during the last 15 minutes and defended with style.

● The British Army (Germany) stepped in at short notice to save Droitwich Spa Veterans Football Club's tour going down the pan when their German opposition in Düsseldorf cried off at the last minute.

Team member Craig Wilson rang the local military exchange and was put through to the physical education department at Joint Headquarters. Bdr Toney Daniels, who took the call, is heavily involved in football in the Rheindahlen area and is also an assistant coach to the BA(G) squad.

He quickly conjured up a team of "senior" footballers which went on to beat the visitors by five goals to one. A curry lunch was laid on, as were the seeds of a return fixture in Droitwich and a rematch at Rheindahlen.

Signals of ...

A 40-strong party of footballers, netball players and golfers from the Royal Corps of Signals flies to South Africa this month for a two-week tour. Their hosts will be the South African Signal Corps. Aim of the tour, paid for by those taking part, is to establish links with the SASC and to coach township teams.

... friendship

FOOTBALL

ASPT hosts Boys' Clubs super stars

THE Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot staged the 1998 Super Teams competition for the Boys' Club Association, hosting athletes from all over the country.

Three different age groups – under 13, under 15 and under 17 – competed in three events covering the APTC obstacle

course, a multi-sports event in Wand-Tetley Gymnasium and a cross-country challenge consisting of a run, a row and a cycle ride, all of which took place in Fielder block on the techno cardio-vascular equipment.

The competition was run by students on PTI courses at the school.

SHORTS

Skier is 2 Division's Personality of the Year

A NORDIC skier who took to the slopes when she joined the Army has been named as 2 Division's Sports Personality of the Year.

LCpl Victoria Gray, a combat medical technician serving with 24 Armoured

Field Ambulance RAMC based at Catterick, beat nominations from all over 2 Division, which covers eastern England from Northamptonshire to the Scottish Borders. She joined the Army in 1993 and is now training hard to win selection for Great Britain's biathlon team at the 2002 Winter Olympics.

LCpl Gray represented her unit and the Army Medical Services at the Army (UK) divisional championships in Serre Chevalier, France. At the National and Army championships in Ruhpolding, Germany she won the female section of the 7.5km biathlon and was runner-up in the 15km biathlon and the 15km classic race.

Following that success she was selected for the British women's Winter Olympic squad.

Runner-up in the 2 Div sporting awards was marksman Maj Alastair Aitken, a member of the Small Arms School Corps. Captain of the Army small-bore target rifle team, he is also an international marksman.

Women bounce back

THE Army women's soccer team faced a tough test in their opening game of the season against Brighton at Aldershot Military Stadium. The visitors overwhelmed the Servicewomen by four goals to one in driving rain. But the Army bounced back in spectacular fashion the next day by thrashing Camberley 7-1 at home.

Supreme champions

THE Royal Highland Fusiliers football team beat 3 Battalion REME 2-0 in the final of the 1 (UK) Division Army Cup Final to become the Army champions in Germany.



Sports personality: LCpl Victoria Gray

Swiss role for ice queens

You've got to look hard for snow in the summer, even in Britain. *Soldier* found an ample supply when it followed the British Ladies' Army Ski Team to the Alps

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

TO CALL them "bombshells" might be misinterpreted as a sexist remark (even if they are), but watch the women of the British Ladies' Army Ski Team hurtling down a mountainside in hard training and you quickly appreciate that their abbreviated title, BLAST, is very appropriate indeed.

At 12,000ft in the thin air and cold glacial snow of the Alps, at the end of a dizzying cable-car ride and almost level with the summit of the nearby Matterhorn, the Lycra-clad Army skiers were well into their summer training camp and... well... were having a blast.

The 26 women, "ladies" according to starchy Army protocol, but "girls" and best mates to each other regardless of rank during the intensive training sessions, had converged on Zermatt at the invitation of team leader Maj Paul Ford.

With the assistance of a small group of instructors and the team itself, he has devised a hard but fun training plan and a strategy which he hopes will ensure skiing victories up to three years ahead.

Working in a constant cycle, Maj Ford - himself an award-winning skier until he took on the responsibility of coaching the women - trawls for skiing talent at all levels.

Many will not have considered racing seriously until they get the call from Maj Ford, but if they accept the challenge, they will find themselves gradually moving up a pyramid-shaped training structure which can take them to victory.

The skiers in Zermatt were streamed into groups according to skill and experience, led by Ford and his trainers, Capt Ingrid Rolland, REME TA, Sgt John McClelland, R Irish, and the 1997 Army men's champion, SSgt Andy Brown.

Newcomers, such as 2nd Lt Jess



Ice work: Officers' Training Corps student Erin Smith leans into the bends on the slalom course

Norman and Capt Debs Nightingale, hitherto only occasional holiday skiers, but showing the right stuff ("plenty of bottle", according to one instructor), were being shown the basics by Ingrid Rolland.

On another slope, two intermediate groups were learning what it takes to become a speed skier. At the top of the

stop in a cloud of powder snow, demanding their time of the man with the electronic stopwatch. They either smiled in satisfaction or grimaced in disappointment before making their way back to the ski lift and another ear-popping plummet.

BLAST, explained Paul Ford, as he looked at the training groups with satisfaction, is more than just a team. It is a carefully thought-out programme and long-term strategy; almost a philosophy. It relies on skiers who can stay with the programme for several years, gradually improving until they are ready for competition. This approach is very different from that of Army teams of old.

Although women have been competing against the other Services since the late 70s, they had done so with little success. In 1993, Maj Ford was asked by the chairman of Army skiing to develop a plan to lift the women's sport out of the doldrums.

"I knew that continuity had been the main problem," he explained. "They did their best, but it wasn't good enough. We had to plan for the long haul, building a base of good skiers who would be with us for some time."

"We set ourselves the goal of winning the Inter-Services in our third year, 1996. By 1995 we had about 45 on the programme and, to our surprise, we nearly won that year. But we still lacked experience."

Proof that the new strategy was working came the next year when a team of seven led by Jude Shenton and Lisa Giles swept to victory at Tignes, France, shaking the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force who had not expected such a performance from the Army.

Demonstrating that it was no fluke, the Army girls won again the following year at St Moritz, although earlier this year, back at Tignes, they dropped to second place.

Maj Ford is determined to put that right at the championships in Valloire, France, in February. "We are definitely out to get the trophy back," he said.

His optimism may be well-founded, because in the snow above Zermatt, 26 women were putting their all into a tough training programme and aiming for the top.

Fancy joining the BLAST programme? For more information, call Maj Paul Ford on (military) 737 2213 or (mobile) 0973 797575



The future? Snowboarder LCpl Karen McEneny says there is more fun on one

Two skis good, one ski better?

A snowboarding revolution is sweeping the pistes and according to LCpl Karen McEneny, a BLAST skier who spends much of her time on a board, this trendy sport could soon make its debut in Army competitions.

Boarding is, however, far more popular among men than women, and she concedes that even if BLAST introduces a board programme today, it will be several years before a useful number of women are trained to compete at a high level.

Male dominance of the sport has not stopped LCpl McEneny doing well. Last winter she won the European women's championship outright. "Boarding is a totally different feeling," she enthuses. "It's easier to learn and there is much more potential for going off piste."

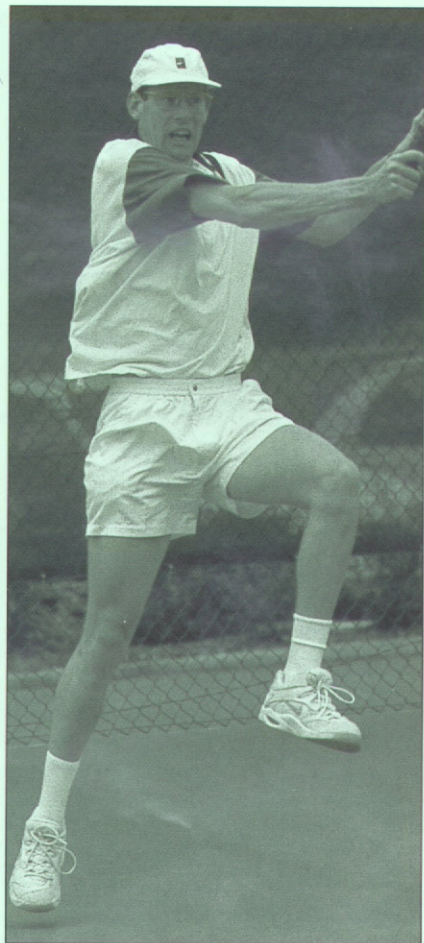
McEneny says that if enough Army women are interested in the sport she will be happy to coach them. BLAST leader Maj Paul Ford is also keen to see the sport introduced.

Thrill before spill? 2nd Lt Lucy Combes, above, is in her second year on the BLAST programme and was a member of the team which represented the Army women in the Inter-Services at Tignes

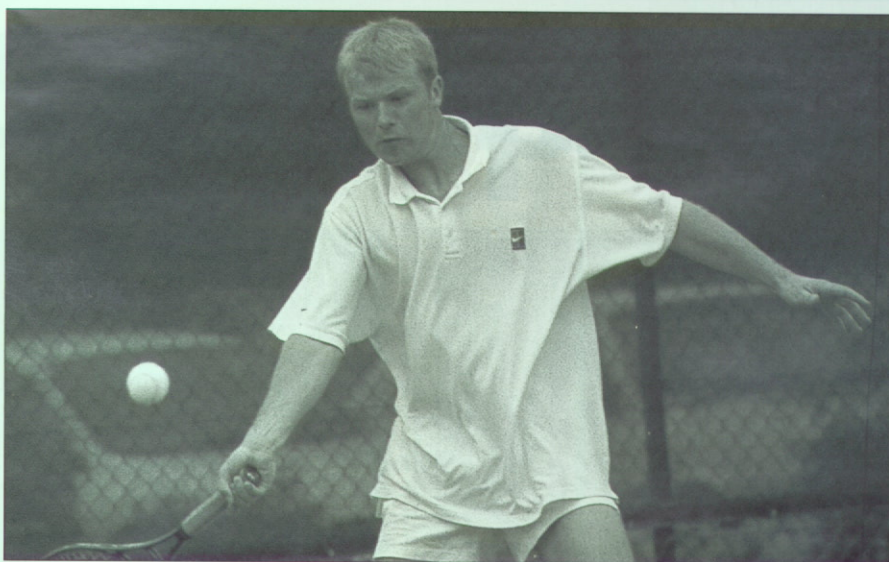
Timing is of the essence: BLAST team leader and mentor Maj Paul Ford, below, prepares an electronic starter which is used to record times on every slalom run



TENNIS



In form: Maj Nigel Watts uses his power



Setback: Spr David Ingham took the first set but suffered an injury

Pictures: Terry Champion

Watts's power surge

AFTER taking the first set, Spr David Ingham was looking good in the 78th Army lawn tennis final against Maj Nigel Watts at Aldershot when he injured himself in the second, allowing Watts, no stranger to the championship title, to power home in three.

Ingham's injury had wider repercussions as it ruled him out of the Inter-Ser-

vices. It also meant Watts and Ingham, who had teamed up in the doubles, had to concede the Army final to Capt James Boyce and SSgt Eric Simpson.

Despite the loss of Ingham, the Army managed to retain the Inter-Services title. In the final at the All-England Club, Wimbledon, the Army claimed eight rubbers to the RAF's six and the RN's four.

TAE KWON DO/JUDO

Martial artists look at the big picture

BRITISH Army tae kwon do champion Tpr Duncan McAndrew has taken on the challenge of helping to train the members of a small club in Bosnia.

Tpr McAndrew is serving in Bosnia with The Light Dragoons, part of Britain's 5,000-strong contribution to the NATO-led Stabilisation Force.

One of the regiment's squadrons was told about the club in the town of Prnjavor, 40km north-east of Banja Luka, and contacted the Army champion, who paid a visit.

McAndrew has been involved in tae kwon do since he was six and, at the age of 13, was the youngest black belt in Britain. He is a former British champion in the 59kg-and-below category and is now a black belt second dan. He is currently Army champion in the full contact version of the sport.



Bosnia training challenge: Tpr Duncan McAndrew

"Some of the kids here have got a lot of potential," said Tpr McAndrew. "Some of them are only six or seven years old, they have plenty of flexibility and there is no reason why they can't be very good."

"I am looking forward to helping out and I will try to bring a little fun to the sessions."

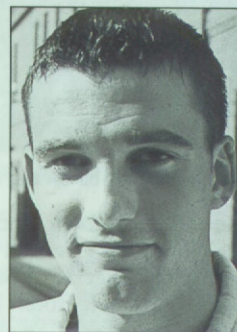
ROYAL Military Police-woman Cpl Jenny France knows how to keep soldiers in line on duty. And being a martial arts expert means that she gets very little lip from her fellow Servicemen and women.

France, serving with 150 Provost Company RMP as a community police officer in Catterick, has just been selected to represent Great Britain in the welterweight class of the tae kwon do at the European Championships in Holland this month, having

dropped from middleweight. France represented Britain at last year's World Championships in Hong Kong and is confident of achieving her dream of competing in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

GDSM Stephen Allen, Gren Gds, landed a silver medal in the European athletic champions in Budapest when he won the 85kg class judo competition. He was successful in six bouts before losing to fellow Briton Lee Burbridge, currently ranked number one in the world in the division.

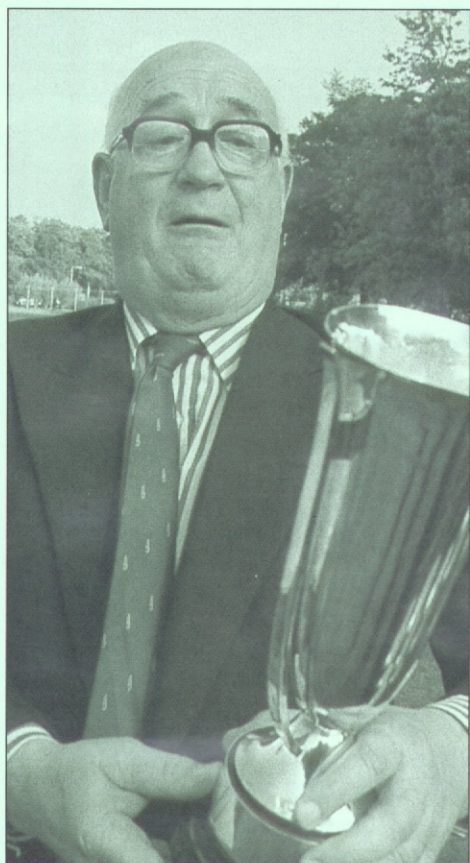
Now Gdsm Allen is setting his sights on a place in Britain's Olympics team for Sydney.



Silver medal: Grenadier Guardsman Stephen Allen

FOOTBALL

Stone the Crowes!



THIS was the moment Maj (Retd) Mike Crowe discovered that the trophy for the infantry football sixes tournament had been renamed in his honour. Taken completely by surprise, Maj Crowe is pictured reading the inscription on the new base of the Crowe Cup, which includes an appreciation of his efforts.

Maj Crowe was the main influence behind organising the infantry football team and virtually built it up from scratch. Football officer of The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons), who won the first Infantry Cup, he later ran the Infantry Challenge Cup as secretary for many years.

The idea to rename the trophy came from the current secretary, Maj Bob Towns. RHQ of The Queen's Own Highlanders was approached and the Melrose Drover trophy was issued on loan. It is hoped that the loan will be made permanent.

This year's sixes, held at Pirbright, attracting 28 teams from 23 units over the two-day event. The winners were the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Surprised: Maj Mike with the new Crowe Cup

Picture: Terry Champion

Races fit to make iron men buckle

ONCE upon a time you were considered pretty fit if you could tackle a marathon in under four hours. That was before television popularised the event and 95-year-olds gamely completed the course without breaking sweat.

Suddenly, it wasn't enough just to run, you had to handicap yourself by wearing fancy dress, doing it three-legged, or carrying a stretcher. In the hard-man stakes, the marathon was superseded by triathlon and iron-man contests. But there is an even tougher breed of races . . . the sort that gives iron-men metal fatigue.

If you are up for it, here are *Soldier's* pick of the blister-busters.

The **Tough Guy** is held on the last Sunday in January on a farm in south Staffordshire. The race, allegedly over eight country miles, is never cancelled, whatever the weather. Runners may wish to discuss the distance with race officials as they start their 13th mile.

Sgt Shane Wilkinson RLC, who has sampled its delights, said: "This is the closest thing you'll get to torture."

"The organiser openly admits to designing the course to stop people finishing and at least a third will not finish, the main reasons being broken limbs, hypothermia or exhaustion."

DERANGED

"The major running magazines refuse to classify this event, but one did state it should only be attempted by the seriously deranged."

Called the toughest foot race in the world and now in its 14th year, the **Sahara Marathon** is a six-day, 143-mile race across the desert in Morocco. Competitors have to carry their own sleeping bag, first-aid kit, food and water for six days. As a bonus they are guaranteed a great tan.

The **Grand Union Canal Run** will give you blisters on your blisters. It is 147 miles non-stop with a time limit of 50 hours. Last year 32 started and 18 finished.

The **Dorset Duddle** follows the Dorset coastal path from Weymouth to Swanage. Some of the climbs over the coves seem to have been designed to inflict as much pain as possible on the legs, however much the preparation.

Sgt Wilkinson, who has tackled all the races described here, says that each event will tax the athlete in a different way.

"But if you don't mind getting very cold, very wet, end up aching all over, feel like you have been dragged through a hedge backwards and dropped from a great height, the Tough Guy is for you."

For more details ring Sgt Wilkinson on 732 2963.

HOCKEY

Open all weathers

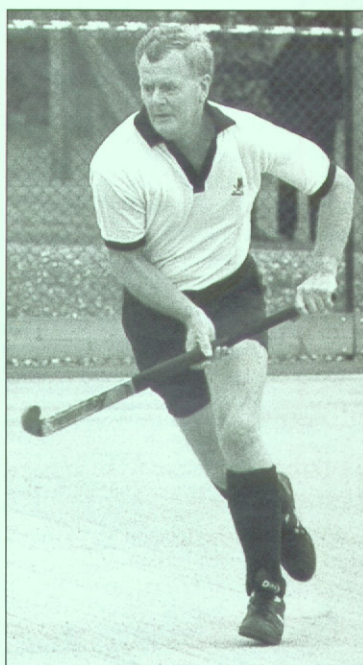
THE only all-weather hockey pitch in the south of England has been opened, thanks to an Army Sports Lottery grant of £300,000 out of the total cost of £460,000. Civilian and military communities will be able to use the floodlit, astro-turf pitch at the Tidworth Oval.

The pitch will be the Services' premier hockey pitch in the south and is expected to attract big names and big games in the sport. It can also be used for football.

Gen Sir Alex Harley, the Adjutant General, who is president of the Army Sport Control Board, opened the pitch, and then took part in the inaugural tournament.

● The Army Sports Lottery has celebrated its fifth birthday by getting bigger. Prize money has increased in line with ticket sales, the current prize pool being £9,000 a week with a top prize of £3,200. Membership has now grown to 11,000 holding more than 24,000 tickets.

More than £1.5 million has been paid out in prizes in addition to £1 million in grants.



Hockey opener: Gen Sir Alex Harley

Picture: Terry Champion

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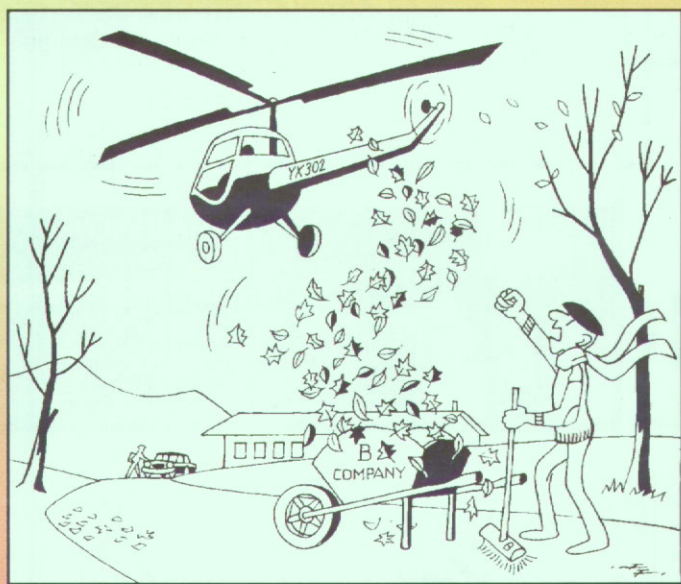
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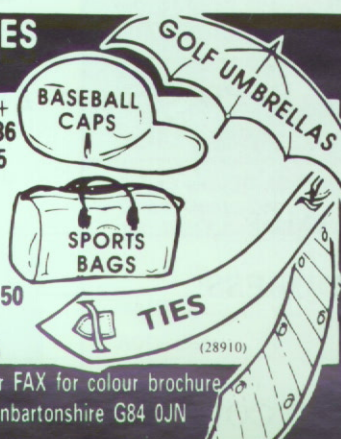
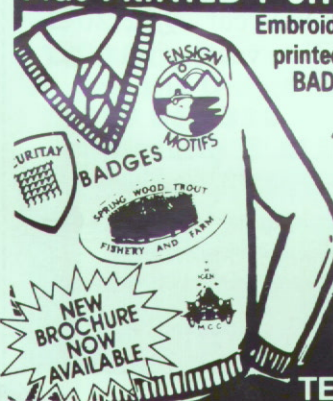
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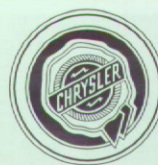
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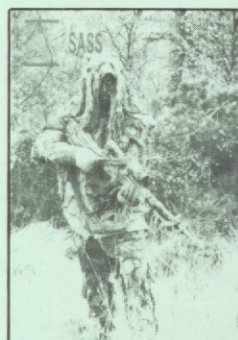
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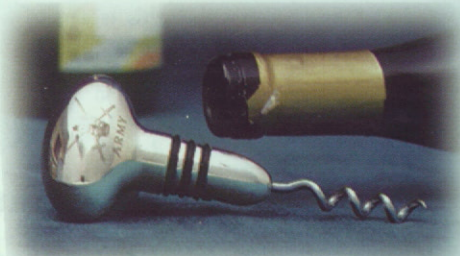
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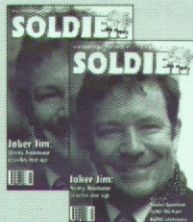
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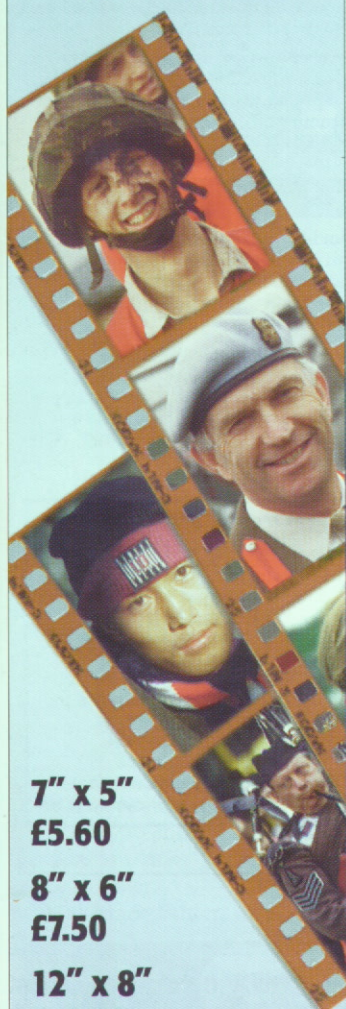
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PEN PALS

REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to **Soldier Magazine** at the address below. The box number **must be CLEARLY written in the TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8" x 4" and should contain only a letter plus a photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and **large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.**

TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL. Please send for details enclosing a **stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.**

Dee, 34, a 5'7" slim blonde with hazel eyes. Well-travelled, outgoing, independent and bubbly with a liking for watersports, writing, music, camping and keeping fit. Seeking pen pals 28+ with GSOH. **P327** 10/98

Julie, 45, 5'6", average build and fair hair. Enjoys going out, pubs, clubs, theatres, meals out, children and the countryside. Seeking clean-shaven, single, male pen pals over 5'10". **P328** 10/98

Kay, 5'5", slim and attractive with long, brown hair. A caring and intelligent non-smoker with GSOH who likes children, music, aerobics and driving. Seeking single, male soldiers 30+. Photo appreciated. **P329** 10/98

Julie and Laura - two 26-year-old single mums who enjoy going to the gym, socialising and aromatherapy. Seeking pen pals 20+. All letters answered. If possible please send photo. **P330** 10/98

Anna - this classy, witty, attractive blonde who is cuddly, well-travelled and intelligent with a lovely personality seeks sincere, mature soldier, 27+, for friendship. **P331** 10/98

Angela, 30, 5'5" - a slim blonde with brown eyes and GSOH. Enjoys horse-riding, aerobics, travelling, partying, socialising and meeting people. Seeking pen pals with GSOH and same interests, 30-35. **P332** 10/98

Angie, 26, 5'8", a single mum with blonde hair whose interests include music, going out with friends, holidays and all good things in life. Would like to hear from sincere soldier. No time wasters. Photo appreciated. **P333** 10/9

Helen, 28, 5'3", slim with long, brown hair. Enjoys nights out, football, motor bike and horses. Seeking pen pals 25+. Photo appreciated. **P334** 10/98

Kathryn, 41, 5'2" with fair hair. Interests include walking, going to pubs and sports in general. A single parent (divorced). Seeking pen pals 35-45. **P335** 10/98

Emma, 30, 5'5" physical training instructor. A keen biker who is always travelling and enjoys all sports particularly watersports. Looking for the ultimate adrenalin rush in extreme sports and for a fun-focused biker, 27-40, to share interests. **P336** 10/98

Deborah, 28, 5'4 1/2", outgoing with blue/green eyes and curvy build. Hobbies and interests include swimming, step aerobics, clubbing and writing. Seeking pen pals 27-33. **P337** 10/98

Paulena, 46, 5'3" with brown hair and grey eyes. Enjoys photography, gardening, listening to music and taking her dog on long walks. Seeking pen pals 46-56. All correspondence answered. **P338** 10/98

Frances, 36, 5'2", with slim build, blonde hair and blue eyes. Loves bands, pubs, D.I.Y., the cinema and is a chocaholic. Single parent of two with GSOH whose life is a bit dull and needs some excitement. Seeking pen pals 32-40. **P339** 10/98

Nicole, 25, with dark brown hair and eyes. Bubbly and caring and enjoys cycling, keeping fit, the cinema, restaurants, concerts, socialising and generally enjoying life. Seeking pen pals any age. All letters answered. **P340** 10/98

Gabrielle, 25, 5'6", dark brown hair and blue eyes. A single parent and part-time student with GSOH who enjoys socialising, going to pubs and clubs, travelling and meeting new people. Seeking pen pals 25-35. **P341** 10/98

Michelle, 33, 5'11", big (but beautiful), separated with no children. Plays the tuba, trombone, piano, tenor sax and is studying sociology. Enjoys clubs, pubs and the cinema. Seeking pen pals 25+. **P342** 10/98

Sheila, 5'6" an attractive and artistic, blue-eyed blonde who likes foreign travel, art, the theatre, books, writing and enjoying life to the female. An intelligent teacher who would like to write to anyone, anywhere. **P343** 10/98

Esmé, 39, 5'4", slim with brown eyes and hair. A divorcee with two children and interested in the theatre, cinema, walking, keeping fit, eating in/out and being happy and having a laugh. Seeking pen pals 39+. **P344** 10/98

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Classifieds

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Third prize (430 runs, £1,200): Maj DB Walmesley-Coatham, ATSA Malvern.
Fourth prize (419 runs, £900): WO1 AJ Hull, HQ PM(A), Upavon.
Fifth prize (412 runs, £600): WO1 AT Stewart, Scots DG, Fallingbowl.
Sixth prize (405 runs, £500): Cpl LB Wickens, 3 Fd Wksp REME, Tidworth.
Seventh prize (401 runs, £400): Cpl CJ Harvey, 80 PC Sqn RLC, South Cerney.
Eighth prize (400 runs, £300): LCpl LM Welch 39 Engr Regt, Cambridge.
Ninth prize (396 runs, £200): Sgt PT Weir, HQ Land, Wilton.
Tenth prize (394 runs, £100): WO1 JFL Caiger, The London Regiment.

AUGUST 29, 1998

First prize (308 runs, £3,200): Cfn MG Stinson, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn.
Second prize (301 runs, £1,600): 2Lt KT Hughes, 4 R Irish.
Third prize (296 runs, £1,200): Sgt EJ White, 25 Engr Regt.
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S Fowler, Mil Trg Wing RLC(G), Bielefeld.
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SEPTEMBER 5, 1998

First prize (292 runs, £3,200): WO2 AH Finch, 33 Engr Regt (EOD), Wimbish.
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Third prize (286 runs, £1,200): Sgt RM Newbigging, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabrück.
Fourth prize (283 runs, £900): Capt A Murphy, 5 R Irish.
Fifth prize (282 runs, £600): WO2 JA McCracken, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, Herford.
Sixth prize (277 runs, £500): Maj GR Wadsworth, HQ Land, Wilton.
Seventh prize (276 runs, £400): Sgt NB Inkpen, 9/12 L, Swanton Morley.
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SEPTEMBER 12, 1998

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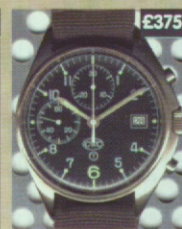


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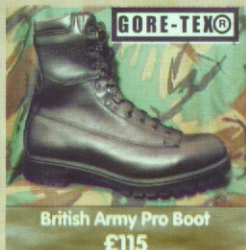
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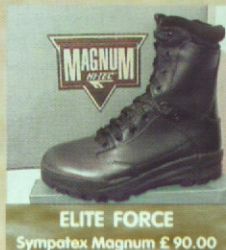
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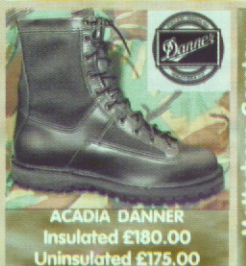
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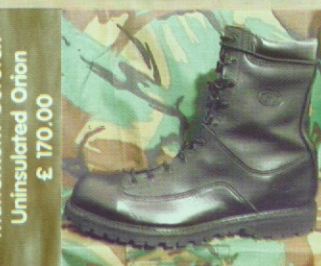
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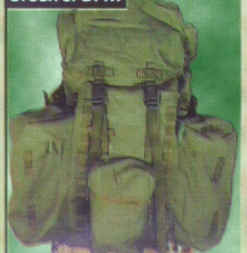
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World of wheels

Musclebike with retro cool

I RODE through the village at 20mph, little more than a murmur escaping from the exhaust, writes Syd Taylor.

Past the farm and the road straightened ... now for it! As the revs increased the note of the exhaust hardened, unwinding like a cord behind me until it was snapped by speed and I heard only the roar of the wind battering my helmet. Twisting the throttle wide open I swooped across the landscape into the gathering gloom.

Kawasaki's ZRX 1100 is a magnificent motor cycle: svelte and purposeful, one to ride simply for the joy of it.

The huge motor is beautifully finished and with its black paint looks just the right side of malevolent – four cylinders of proven potency giving a final output of 106 PS. Yet it's as equally at home rumbling through traffic at 2,000 rpm as it is in the howling "hell-for-leather-beyond" that lives at the top of the rev scale.

SIMPLY GORGEOUS

This retro-styled "musclebike" updates motor-cycling's basic virtues in a new package. Without a fairing, it looks simply gorgeous and the high sheen of the Candy Persimmon Red paint (metallic Midnight Purple looks equally stunning) contrasts cannily with the black engine, giving that traditional air-cooled look.

There's an integrated uniformity to the whole machine, with the double-cradle frame, 4-into-1 exhaust pipes, plumbing and cycle parts all melding together with a fluency which focuses the eye on items such as the substantial 43mm forks and 310mm discs straddled by six piston calipers, the sturdy switchgear and alloy brackets for foot-peg mounting, and the huge tubular braced aluminium swinging arm.

Its 17in wheels endow this bike with imposing stature, yet it is not too tall for shorter riders. I found the riding position nigh-on perfect and there's a natural relationship between seat, handlebars and footpegs. Even high-speed motorway cruising is quite comfortable and relaxing. It's safe too, with big mirrors which give a good view of what's going on behind.

Performance-wise, the ZRX 1100 has



Sheer pleasure: Kawasaki's ZRX 1100

plenty to inspire the spirited rider. The engine is a modified ZZR 1100 beefed up for more mid-range punch which pulls heartily from 2,000rpm, progressively building power all the way to the 10,500rpm red line (or 130 mph).

On the road you're never stuck for overtaking speed and you don't have to stir the gearbox to get good performance, which is just as well because it's a box which, although positive and precise, somehow lacks the slickness of some rivals.

On a bike like this you will always be reminded of the golden rule that brute horsepower doesn't make a motor cycle feel fast – torque does. Riders of the latest race replicas always talk about extracting the maximum amount of horsepower, but that only applies on a race track where it is possible to keep an engine spinning at high revs.

On the road, the opposite is usually true. Slow-moving traffic and other

fun to ride. You can roll on the power from any speed and it pulls smoothly without missing a beat. You will find you to want to ride it for the sheer pleasure of piloting a powerful, responsive machine.

The motor is smooth, leaving the rider untroubled by vibration. Fuel consumption averages out in the late 30s, which meant filling up every 130 miles or so, the result of using all the performance at every opportunity. Riders with more self-control can expect mid 40s figures with a range of around 150 miles from the carefully sculpted 20-litre tank.

Handling is stable and precise and the traditional twin-shock rear suspension gives a compliant ride. Gas-charged shocks with piggy-back reservoirs, adjustable spring pre-load and four-way compression and rebound damping enable you to fine-tune the suspension to suit load and conditions.

Overall result is that this Kawasaki lets you indulge in excesses which on most bikes would be best confined to a race track. With a weight of only 222kg, the brakes cope easily from any speed. Two fingers on the lever give you the power, instant bite and precision-feel of the best of brakes, while a steady-ing push on the rear pedal adds up to give you all the stopping power you need.

The ZRX 1100 is all about fun and games, but with a large amount of practicality and an amazing amount of quality. It's a classic almost before its time and at £7,295 is a most attractive proposition, one of the most enjoyable bikes I've ridden in years.

Road test: Kawasaki ZRX 1100

ENGINE 4 cylinder, liquid cooled, In-line 4 DOHC 16 valves, 106 PS

CARBURATION Keihin CVK 36x4

TRANSMISSION 5 speed

FRAME Double cradle

SUSPENSION Front 43mm 10-way compression and rebound damping adjustable cartridge fork.

Rear Dual gas-charged shocks, piggy back reservoir, adjustable spring pre-

Tech Spec

load and 4-way compression and rebound damping

TYRES Tubeless radials 120/70 - ZR17: 190/60 - ZR17.

BRAKES Front – dual semi-floating discs with dual six piston calipers; rear – disc with opposed piston calliper

LxWxH 2,120mm x 780mm x 1,150mm

SEAT HEIGHT 790mm

DRY WEIGHT 222kg

inconveniences mean you need to be either brave or foolish to use maximum horsepower. Not so maximum torque, which you can use every time you overtake. The ZRX 1100 has torque in abundance and that's why it's such a rapid point-to-point machine and enormous

Shackleton story a real spine-chiller

YOUR feature about the troops on the remote island of South Georgia (July) reminds me that Dr A H Macklin, the medical officer of Shackleton's Antarctic expedition, commanded a Royal Army Medical Corps unit to which I was attached in Africa in the Second World War.

Lt Col Macklin spent an evening in our WO's and Sgts' Mess and gave us a first-hand account of the expedition's hair-raising exploits.

After their ship was crushed by ice, crew members drifted for weeks on an ice-floe, rationed to a fistful of seal's blubber per man, per day.

Later, marooned on Elephant Island, far south, they sheltered underneath an upturned boat, with Dr Macklin amputating some frostbitten fingers and toes of colleagues.

Shackleton and one or two others set out heroically in an open boat to try to reach South Georgia for help. They then took four or five days to cross the island.

Lt Col Macklin's punchline gained him loud applause from mess members: "... so never let me hear any talk in this unit about hardships!" – **Frank Finch, Farnham, Surrey.**

Roll of honour is decoded at last

I HAVE good news for Lt Col (Retd) W A Lyons, who regretted (Aug) that no list had been published of Service personnel who died in the Second World War.

Promenade Publications have received permission to computerise and publish just such a roll of honour. The first of a ten-volume set giving details of more than 171,000 men and women who died with the land forces is now in its final stage of preparation.

A synopsis outlining the reasons why this roll has never before been published will be included in the introduction to each volume.

Until now, the information held concerning land casualties has been stored in a set of photocopied papers lodged with the Public Record Office.

Much of the information contained in the papers was encoded by a very early computer and could be deciphered only by the use of a complicated key.

Meetings took place within the MoD in the 1960s to investigate the feasibility of publishing the roll but a decision was taken that such a project was not economical.

With the forthcoming publication, readers will find the format similar in

layout and content to that of *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, each casualty being described by name, number, rank, regiment or corps, regiment on outbreak of war, place of birth, place of domicile, place and date of death and any honours and awards.

The roll will also contain a name index by volume as well as a sort by regiment. The first volume to be available will contain casualties of the Guards regiments, the Royal Armoured Corps and Tank Corps.

Requests for further details of this project should be addressed to Promenade Publications. – **J Devereux, Promenade Publications, PO Box 407, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 7ZB.**

This twice-built airfield not a Crown-ing glory

I REFER to Maurice Moroney's letter (Sept) regarding Loeng Nok-Tha airfield. As a member of 59 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, I served on Op Crown and Op Post Crown for five months in each of 1966 and 1967.

If my memory serves me correctly, it was an 8,000ft medium-range transport airfield with over-runs, taxi-ways and parking areas. It was built in collaboration with 11 Squadron, 54 Support Squadron and supporting elements, and we were assisting the South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO), whose HQ was 300 miles south, in Bangkok.

The airfield was not capable of taking fast jets such as the Phantom (F4), which was being used from most of the 16 US air bases in Thailand at the time, and in support of the Vietnam War.

Regrettably, it was built twice. Its first "black top" surface could not cope with the high temperatures – often 130F – and had to be replaced with concrete.

Once the airfield was completed we were involved with constructing a road from it to link up with another being built by Commonwealth engineers. The whole project was a hard slog over several years and, sadly, after all that effort I believe it was allowed to lapse into disrepair.

I suppose it could be said that we were in a war zone, but the political fact is that the UK was not involved. – **Mike Pallott, Thirsk, North Yorkshire.**

Armfuls of aiming marks

AS a student officer at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst 20 years ago, I was privileged to hear a member of the civilian faculty present a concept he termed "Belgianisation". Modelled on the post-war experience of that country's armed forces, he suggested that any army has a critical mass, below which it fails to function properly.

His supposedly light-hearted postscript was that as armies shrank, losing their impetus and sense of self, the proliferation of emblems such as badges and insignia increased in inverse proportion. When we had four divisions-plus in Germany, the only badge ever seen on

combat kit was the Airborne's Pegasus. Judging by the arm of the United Nations-bereted soldier on your August cover, the British Army now takes the same approach as the Scouts. How long before we have one cap-badge per platoon, and both arms festooned with aiming marks? – **R P Browne (Maj RGJ (V)), Dallas, Texas.**

● *The concept is intriguing and the implied warning well worth noting. However, as Maj Browne points out, the soldier was serving with the United Nations in Bosnia and his four "badges" included the UN insignia; the Union Flag to denote he was British; the brigade badge; and his regimental flash.*

Prize letter

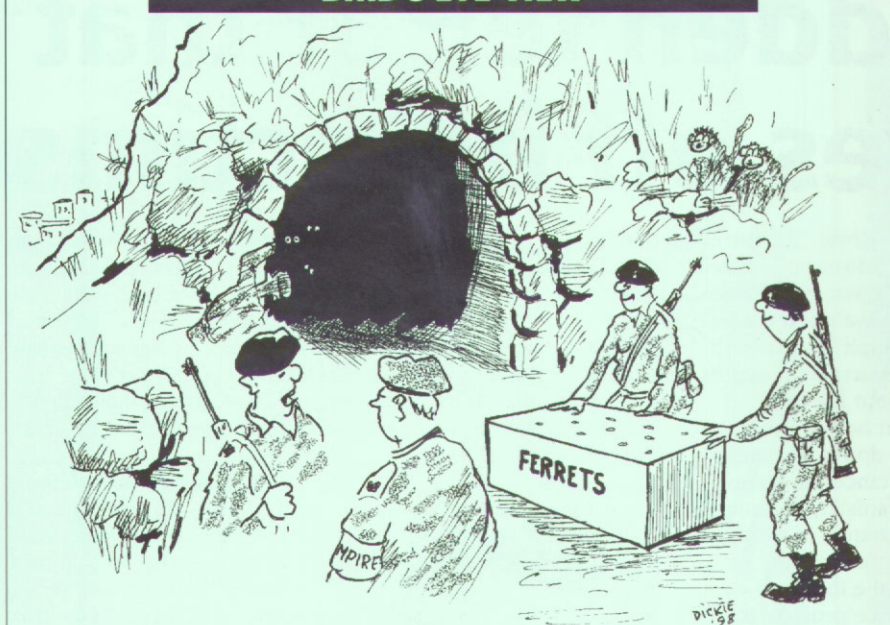
SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication).

A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

● Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Write us a prize letter

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"Nothing in the rules says we can't..."

Fighting in tunnels – see Page 16-17

Suez study looks at further points

FURTHER NEWS in the campaign for a Suez Emergency Medal 1951-54, following the presentation of a petition to the Ministry of Defence in the spring, has come in a letter to me from Defence Under-Secretary John Spellar.

In it he states that he has asked for some additional points to be examined by officials considering the matter, before he makes a decision on the way forward.

However, campaigners' enthusiasm has been dampened by the sad news that Col Pip Newton suffered a stroke shortly after the delegation visited London and is now almost completely paralysed.

He was not too well on the day but, like

the old warhorse he is, he made an heroic effort to surface and play the leading role in presenting our case. Mrs Newton tells me she reads get-well cards to him and they "make his day".

So I ask all readers, especially Suez veterans, to respond. – **Chas Golder, Bolton, Lancs.**

● Cards and letters sent c/o Managing Editor, Soldier, will be forwarded to Col Newton.

I thank, through *Soldier*, all those delegates who have worked so hard over many years to try to achieve official recognition for those on Active Service in the Suez Canal Zone during 1951-54.

We were on active service... I know we were because all the AFB 252 forms which I had to complete for soldiers charged for offences committed began with the words: "While on Active Service in that he..."

The commanding officer stiffened the sentence for that very reason. – **H Whitehead** (former CSM, 19 Armd Wksp REME, Shandur), Nether Poppleton, York.

● S Esdon (ex-3 Bn, Coldm Gds) of Halesowen, West Midlands, also wrote on the new moves in the Suez Medal campaign and enclosed a picture showing prisoners being taken away from El Hammada village. Mr R Collins (ex-3Bn, Gren Gds), of Shrewsbury, writes along similar lines to Mr Whitehead.

Ringing the changes

VISITING Perth, Western Australia, I lightheartedly complained to a former infantry officer that the frequent change of rigout – shorts to slacks to swimwear to slacks as the days progressed – was just like basic training. His reply was: "You mean JUMPS".

This term was presumably short for "Jump to it!", a cry often heard during my own basic training. Has anyone else heard it, or a British equivalent? – **David Le Febvre** (ex-R Sigs, RAPC and AGC attached to 6/7 PWRR), Crawley, W Sussex.

PS...

Memories...

YOUR feature (Aug) on military motor cycles brought back happy memories. I served as a despatch rider in the Second World War with the Commando Signals and 2nd SS Brigade, and rode all the bikes mentioned. I noted, however, that the writer omitted two of the most popular, the Ariel and the Norton, which I also rode, along with several captured varieties such as the German BMW and the Italian Guzzi.

We also came across an extraordinary BMW which had the front wheel, handlebars, tank and saddle of a motor cycle and the rear end of a half-track with a capacity for four men. A very useful machine, although in six years in the desert, Sicily, Italy and Yugoslavia we only saw one. – **L R Addison, Branston, Lincoln.**

... of 'biking'

THE battle-bikes article was a pleasure to read. There was, however, no mention of the Ariel, which was a bit thin on the ground, nor of the 16H, of which there must have been thousands. Despite the disparaging remarks, the Matchless G3L or "Matchbox" was a popular despatch-rider mount, and, like the M20 and 16H, performed well in N W Europe under difficult conditions. – **F McClellan, Loughton, Warrington.**

Guards' street-cred

I HAVE been following with interest readers' accounts of Home Guard experiences. As a civil servant in the Ministry of Aircraft Production I joined their Home Guard Corps, where my service as a wireless operator was valuable.

We practised on a rifle range in Thames House, Millbank and occasionally went on manoeuvres in nearby streets – I can remember dodging in and out of doorways. After the war I was honoured to receive King George VI's certificate of thanks for my services. – **Mrs Marion E Bourne, West Molesey, Surrey.**

Severn swimmers

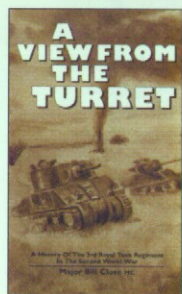
WITH reference to traversing the Severn (July), may I suggest other crossings, especially those without boats. While one should not belittle the achievement of Capt Daniels VC, who swam the river from Beachley to Aust and back, his feat was repeated by Maj Bill Atherton RAEC while stationed at the Army Apprentices School, Beachley Camp. He completed the swim in both directions non-stop, coping with extremely treacherous currents. – **Capt (Retd) R A G Rickard REME, Torquay.**

Antelope badge

The Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers did not wear the antelope cap-badge (Sept). It was worn only by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers wore the Fusilier Brigade cap-badge, with an orange-and-blue hackle, during their short life. The RRF wears the buttons of the late Royal Warwickshires. – **R E Thomas (ex-RWF), Cardiff.**

Into battle with the 3rd Royal Tanks

MANY of its personnel were killed, wounded or captured in the defence of Calais in 1940, and all its tanks and vehicles were lost, but the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment lived to fight many another day.

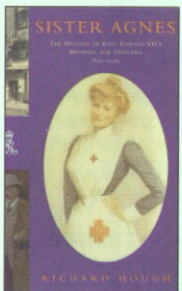


A View From the Turret (Dell and Bredon, £16.95) by Maj Bill Close MC is the story of the

regiment, with which the author served throughout the Second World War. He "came of age" in North Africa, where 3 RTR was sent as soon as its wounds had healed. Deployed to Greece, the unit again lost all its tanks and many men before rising once more from the ashes to take part in the defeat of the Afrika Korps and the liberation of Europe.

Home is where the hospital is

WHEN King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers opened its doors in 1899, a butler took drinks

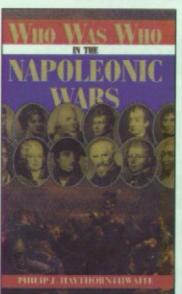


round to the patients every evening. That was because the "hospital" was actually the Belgravia home of Agnes Keyser, who had asked the Prince of Wales what she could do to help as war broke out

in South Africa. Weeks later she received her first wounded officers. The story of the hospital, now relocated in Beaumont Street, is told in **Sister Agnes** by Richard Hough (John Murray, £19.99).

Dictionary of people at war

IF you have been looking for a "Who's Who", Napoleonic War edition, look no further. Philip J



Haythornwaite's comprehensive volume, **Who Was Who in the Napoleonic Wars** (Arms and Armour Press, £25), should provide most of the answers to your questions. From Abbot (Charles, Baron Colch-

ester) to Ziethen (Field Marshal Hans Ernst Karl, Graf von) the cast of major players – military, naval, political, royal, literary, artistic – fills 351 illustrated pages.

Hidden terror that lives off its victims

FORMER Royal Engineer and bomb disposal officer Mike Croll's last job in the British Army was, in the aftermath of the Gulf War, co-ordinating the clearance of nasties scattered about Kuwait.

Since then he has lived and worked, no doubt in dangerous circumstances, in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Mozambique, in which unfortunate countries he has been in the forefront of mine-clearance projects for humanitarian organisations.

From those brief personal details on the dust-jacket we may deduce two things: that he deserves a medal or three, and that he knows what he is talking about when the subject of landmines crops up.

In his introduction, Croll describes landmines rather clinically as "mass-produced victim-operated, explosive traps". Tragically, the victims are all too often the poor civilians who re-inherit their lands after soldiers have used them as temporary battlefields.

So great has been the carnage of the innocent that the world's more responsible gov-

The History of Landmines by Mike Croll. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.95.

ernments have bowed to international public opinion – focused by the efforts of the late Diana, Princess of Wales – and banned the things.



Landmine disposer: Mike Croll

So far so good, except most experts seem to think it will take many, many years to get rid of the mines already laid in those countries in which Mike Croll has spent so much of his time since the Gulf War.

"At best," says the author, "the use of mines has been considered an unchivalrous,

practical necessity; at worst, in General Sherman's words, 'not war, but murder'."

Unable to find a history of landmines, he has written one himself.

Julius Caesar started the ball rolling in 52BC by creating spike-filled fields to protect his flanks while starving the Gauls into submission. Caltraps, four spikes joined at the centre so that one always pointed upwards, date from the third century BC and are the mine's direct ancestor.

Gunpowder, inevitably, raised the ante, and by the 13th century the Chinese had developed a rather sneaky device known as the "underground sky-soaring thunder". A lance was set in the ground to attract a trophy-collecting enemy. The act of lifting the pole ignited a buried gunpowder charge.

Incidentally, he credits the Rhodesian Army with developing the first "V"-shaped vehicles capable of deflecting blast from landmines.

Will we stop using them? Croll thinks not, although technology may mitigate their worst effects on civilians. –JNE



Airborne soldier: An illustration of P Company confidence course training from *Paras*, reviewed below

Elegant tribute to the men in maroon berets

ARNHEM, Suez, the Falklands, Northern Ireland... history has demanded that the Paras be, in the words of the regimental motto, ready for anything.

And *Utrinque Paratus* they

Paras: An Illustrated History of Britain's Airborne Forces by David Reynolds. Sutton Publishing, £25.

usually are, which is why this lavishly-illustrated book con-

tains so many memorable images and stories of courage on the battlefield.

Published to coincide with the recent presentation of new Colours to the Regular battalions of The Parachute Regiment at Aldershot, it has a foreword from the Prince of Wales, the Colonel-in-Chief, and an epigraph from Brig Adrian Freer, the current commander of 5 Airborne Brigade.

David Reynolds, an officer in the Territorial Army, has, perhaps unwittingly, timed his book to perfection. It may well draw a line between a glorious past and, at the very least, a new and exciting future.

With the assumption of a fresh, more sharply-defined operational role hinted at in the Strategic Defence Review, Britain's airborne forces face a challenge sure to extend the potential of the soldiers who wear the maroon beret.

Although no decisions have been made, a move to Colchester would appear to be the first of those challenges. –JNE

Field Gun Jack versus the Boers by Tony Bridgland. Said to be the first book to be devoted exclusively to the story of the Royal Navy in South Africa, 1899-1900, with a foreword by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin. Leo Cooper, £21.95.

Armies and Warfare in the Pike and Shot Era, 1422-1700 by Donald Featherstone. How the increasing use of gunpowder during the 15th century revolutionised tactical traditions and methods and laid the foundations for modern warfare. Constable Publishers, hardback, £20.

The Williamite War in Ireland 1688-1691 by Richard Doherty. Story of the war which convulsed Ireland and has a continuing

influence today. Historian's view of battles and sieges, including the Boyne, Aughrim, Derry and Limerick. Four Courts Press, hardback £40, paperback £14.95.

People of the First Crusade by Michael Foss. A non-academic treatment of one of the most remarkable and influential events in European history. Michael O'Mara Books, softback, £12.99.

King Arthur: A Military History by Michael Holmes. Historical fact and scientific probability behind the legend of the 5th century warlord who is believed to have taken over the leadership of Britain around 480 and died in 517. Blandford, re-issued in paperback, £9.99.

In brief

Of Straw and Stripes by William Lawrenson. Author's war diary from call-up to the Normandy landings with the 7th Armoured Division and memories of the post-war Germany. Pentland Press, hardback, £17.50.

Fighting the Desert Fox by John Delaney. Hundreds of photographs and maps illustrate this new account of Rommel's campaigns in North Africa from April 1941 to August 1942. Arms and Armour Press, hardback, £20.

Re-issued in paperback in Cassell Military Classics are: **The Hardest Day: August 18, 1940** by Alfred Price, a minute-by-minute account of a critical day in the Battle of Britain; **Sky Battles** by the same author; **Military Errors of World War Two** by

Kenneth Macksey; **Commando Extraordinary: Otto Skorzeny** by Charles Foley; and **Winged Dagger**, Roy Farran's account of adventures on special service. Priced £5.99 each.

The Armies of George S Patton by George Forty. Detailed biographical detail and breakdown of important battles involving one of the century's most outstanding tacticians. Arms and Armour Press, paperback, £14.99.

Eagle in Flames: The Fall of the Luftwaffe by E R Hooton. A companion volume to the same author's *Phoenix Triumphant*, this new book plots the defeat of the all-conquering German Air Force between 1940 and 1945. Arms and Armour Press, hardback, £20.

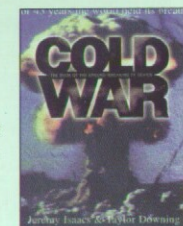
The Nazis: A Warning from History by Laurence Rees. The book of the BAFTA-winning BBC TV series. BBC Books, re-issued in paperback, £12.99.

The Rise and Fall of the Zulu Nation by John Laband. Paperback re-issue of Laband's encyclopaedic history of a kingdom which survived as an independent state for just 60 years but left an indelible mark on history. Arms and Armour Press, £16.99.

Ladysmith by Lewis Childs. First in Leo Cooper's *Battleground South Africa* series which follows the successful formula of *Battleground Europe*. Terrific illustrations of the Colenso, Spion Kop, Hlangwane and Tugela battlefields. Pen and Sword, paperback, £9.95.

What did you do in the Cold War, daddy?

YOU watched the TV series, now read the book. **Cold War** by Jeremy Isaacs and Taylor Downing (Bantam Press, £25) has been published to accompany



the ground-breaking 24-part television series of the same name currently being screened on BBC 2. This is the story of half a century during which the struggle for domination between the United States-led West and the Soviet Union-led East cast a shadow over the whole world. Claimed to be the most comprehensive critical exploration of the Cold War, the book (and the TV series) are said to have been made possible only by the recent opening of Soviet archives. With 600 fascinating illustrations.

Tribulations of the 3rd Royal Norfolks

BASED on interviews conducted by Peter Hart in his capacity as oral historian of the Imperial War



Museum Sound Archive, **At the Sharp End** (Pen and Sword, £19.95) describes the trials and tribulations of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Norfolk Regiment during the Second

World War. It is a tale of heroism, from Le Paradis in France, where the battalion suffered heavy losses in buying time for the retreating British Expeditionary Force, to Kohima, where the 2nd Norfolks were airlifted to fight the Imperial Japanese Army.

War of words in the battle for the Gulf

NOT to be confused with the book of the same name by Miles Hudson and John Stanier (published by



Sutton), this is the second edition of Philip M Taylor's scholarly **War and the Media** (Manchester University Press, £14.99), which takes a detailed look at the most

high-profile media war in history. Sub-titled "Propaganda and persuasion in the Gulf War", it devotes 340 pages of dense text, unrelieved by a single illustration, to the subject.

Bulletin Board

SEARCHLINE

Anyone who has information or photographs on **time guns** is asked to send them to SSgt T McKay, District Gunner, The Castle, Edinburgh 1, for the One o'clock Gun Museum being created at Edinburgh Castle. It will include an archive covering the world's time guns.

Coldstream Guards 1950. Where are they now? D Mitchell, A Ryan, W Wright, R Gray, J Robson, A Gillette, R Wostear, G Brabander, F Douglas, G Peear and B Tinsley of Sgt Peacock's squad. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokey Park, Hull HU4 7QE (01482 503649).

The Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School at Hampstead, now known as the Royal School, has an annual reunion every summer. It also publishes a magazine. Anyone interested should write to Gwynneth Shuttleworth (née Owens), 19 School Lane, Ashurst Wood, East Grinstead, W Sussex RH19 3QW (01342 823401).

Miss S Ford wishes to contact former Cpl **Brian Lamont**, who served with the REME at

Waterbeach and was at one time attached to the Royal Marines at Arbroath. Replies to 16 Beck Street, Digby, Lincs LN4 3NE.

D Burt seeks articles or information on **8th Royal Marines Commando** or anyone who served with the unit during the Second World War. Replies to 26 Wonnacotts Road, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1LX.

Daughter, now living in Canada, seeks anyone who remembers her father, **5619840 Lou Melhuish**, who enlisted at Totnes, Devon in July 1937 in the TA Devons, later a Royal Artillery regiment. He was also with The Gloucestershire Regiment for a short time. Replies to Derek C Scholfield, secretary RA Association (Exeter Branch), 5 Madison Avenue, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon EX1 3AH (01392 660310).



Author Charles Whiting, centre, the subject of our August *My Army* feature, hands over a cheque for £1,700 to two blind war veterans at St Dunstan's. The prolific author had promised to donate the royalties from his recently-published *Skorzeny, The Most Dangerous Man in Europe* to the national charity which cares for men and women blinded in the service of their country. The first cheque will go towards providing intensive nursing required by some elderly St Dunstaners.

"Every other country in Europe pays for the care of its war-blinded while St Dunstan's depends entirely on charity," he said. "I donated all my royalties from my *Skorzeny* book... it seems fitting that the old gangster should help pay."

State occasion for the 'Not Forgotten'

THE "Not Forgotten" Association's annual Christmas bash is to take place on December 3 in splendid surroundings. About 400 disabled veterans will be gathering in the State Apartments of St James's Palace where, a year ago, they were joined for a short time by the Queen Mother and the Duke of York.

Five days later a party of 150 veterans will be putting to sea for a day trip on the Solent.

The "Not Forgotten" exists to help disabled ex-Servicemen and women, many of them frail and lonely. A registered charity, it provides TV sets for the housebound, holidays and carers, outings and entertainments for those confined to residential homes.

For more information, write to the director, Lt Col James Tedder, at 4th Floor, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DW.

Closed: The **Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum**, Warwick shuts its doors for about six months on October 4 for a major redesign.

Borneo talk: Maj Gen Peter Chiswell, who commanded D (Patrol) Coy, 3 Para during the Borneo Confrontation of 1964-66, is giving a lecture on the campaign at the Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot, on October 8. Tickets (£6.50) on 01252 349619.

APPOINTMENTS

Generals: Sir Sam Cowan – To Chief Defence Logistics, Sept 1; Sir Rupert Smith – To DSACEUR, Nov 30.

Lieutenant Generals: S C Grant – To Quartermaster General, Aug 17; J F Deverell – To D Comd Ops SFOR, Sept 14.

Major Generals: A P N Currie – To MA/High Rep Sarajevo, Aug 2; A W Lyons – To DG Log Sp (A), Aug 3; C R Watt – To GOC 1 Armcd Div, Aug 17; J P Kiszely – To ACDS (Prog) MoD, Sept 1; A R D Pringle – To COS PJHQ, Oct 5; J K Drewienkiewicz – To SAM RCDS, Nov 9; P A Chambers – To DCOS HQ Land, Nov 12.

Brigadier: A F Birtwistle – To Comd HQ 42 (NW) Bde and 10 Regt AFHQ, Sept 1.

Colonels: J K Ewbank – To be COS HQ Royal Signals, Aug 24; T R Dumas – To Defence Attaché Abu Dhabi, Sept 4; J T Jackson – To Comd Army Presentation Team CGS, Aug 31; D G Lyon – To Regimental Colonel RHQ RA, Sept 2.

Retirements

Brigadier: A W Pollard, late RAOC, Aug 31.

Colonels: S R Daniell, late QRIH, Aug 28; P R Horobin, late RADC, Aug 31.

REUNIONS

Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association: Annual meeting to take place at Foresters House, Chilwell, Nottingham, on Oct 10. Lunch in WOs' and Sgts' Mess, 3 WFR. Contact Mark Pickett on 0115 9465415.

7th Field Coy/Sqn RE: Annual reunion planned in Leicester during October. Details from Mrs G Bignell, Dovecote House, Claypole, Newark, Notts NG23 5BJ.

Arborfield Old Boys' Association: Reunion at Arborfield, Oct 23-25. Details from Bob Hambly, 19/20 St Mary's Butts, Reading, Berks RG1 2LN (0118 9594533, fax 0118 9569020).

5 Kings/2 T Force OCA: Reunion dinner and AGM in Stoke on Trent, Oct 24-25. Details from K V G Moore, The Granary, Bacton, Norwich NR12 0JP (01692 651086).

212 AD Bty RA (V): The Highland Gunners are holding a SNCOs' reunion on Oct 31 in the TA Centre, Arbroath. Any ex-Sergeants' Mess member wishing to attend should contact the Battery on 01241 875754 or SSgt A Sangster on 01382 901365.

Coldstream Guards, 3rd Bn, No 4 Coy (1950-1955): Seventh reunion dinner to be held in Birmingham on April 10, 1999. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokey Park, Hull HU4 7QE (01482 503649).

In brief

Musicians of the **Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers** Beat Retreat during a charity concert hosted by Lincolnshire-based 77 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers) at Tattershall Castle. The salute was taken by the regiment's honorary colonel, Air Marshal G A Robertson. It was the first time 77 Regiment had hosted the band.

There was a treat for residents of the **King George V Cottage Homes** at St Helier, Jersey when the North West Infantry Territorial Army King's Band and the Liverpool Scottish Pipes and Drums and Corps of Drums gave a concert on the lawns in front of the home to mark its 60th anniversary. Ron Elliott, ex-RN, who lives at KGV, tells us the musicians were "the best example of the TA you could ever find".

Veterans of **The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment** attended a service at Bath Abbey to honour those who died during the Palestine campaign.

Early warning: To avoid clashes with other events, the **Victorian Military Society** is moving its annual Victorian military fair from its traditional date in March. Next year's will held in London on May 8.



A life saved: This dramatic photograph of British Army Training Liaison Team staff in Nairobi rescuing a man from the rubble of the bombed United States Embassy arrived too late to accompany the report in the September issue (People, places, events). Received from BATLSTK, it shows the moment Moses, a badly injured embassy employee, was carried to safety. The soldiers who got him out of the collapsed building were, from left and

wearing masks, Sgt Gus Thompson RE, Cpl Adam Davidson REME and LCpl Paul Jones REME. The embassy explosion on August 7 claimed the lives of 247 people and injured thousands more. Soldiers from BATLSTK, based at Kahawa Barracks on the northern outskirts of the Kenyan capital, helped to bring order to the chaos immediately following the explosion and recovered 25 bodies from the rubble.

Picture: Nation Newspapers Ltd, Nairobi

Crumbs! Loaf record sliced by Army chefs

A TEAM of Army chefs based in Colchester has broken the world record for producing loaves of bread using freshly-harvested wheat.

The "field-to-loaf" event involved harvesting the wheat, grinding it into flour, making the dough, splitting the mix into 13 loaves (a baker's dozen), each of 1lb raw weight, and baking them, with the clock stopping when the last loaf was placed on the table. The previous record had been 19 minutes 14 seconds.

The five soldiers who took up the challenge at a country fete were WO1 Paul Raven, WO2 Steve Gooder, Sgt Tim Goodall, Cpl Steve Lewis and Cpl Alison Scott. An Army field kitchen was set up in the wheat field along with a No 4 cooks' trailer (field catering unit) which had six burners

and four ovens. Under a blazing sun, and watched by two independent adjudicators and a crowd of about 2,000, the signal was given and a combine harvester started up.

It had to travel at least 16 metres to gather enough grain, which was carried to the mill and put through the grinders twice before being added to the yeast mixture.

This was divided into batches, kneaded into loaves and placed in the ovens. When the loaves were finally taken out, the adjudicator's watch stopped at the official time of 18min 24.74sec.

While the result has been sent to the *Guinness Book of Records*, the group of bakers and farmers from Suffolk who set the previous record have vowed to recapture it next year.



Piper Capt Andrew Gordon, left, and Padre Cameron Macdonald pay their respects as a Lynx helicopter from 651 Squadron, 1 Regiment AAC, drops a wreath into the Adriatic off Ploce, Croatia, where four members of a 663 Sqn, 3 Regt Lynx crew were killed when their aircraft crashed three years ago. Beside them is the marble cross and stone memorial constructed on a tiny island close to the crash site by sappers from 34 Engineer Regiment.

Picture: Cpl Steve Dyson RAF

Diary

Noted . . .

MEMBERS of the Manchester sector of the Federation of Combatant Allies in Europe visited Arnhem and other Second World War battle sites to pay their respects and commemorate old comrades. The visitors included former members of the SAS and Parachute, King's, Manchester and King's Own Royal Border Regiments and the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade.

Class of '98: Former Afon Taf High School, Merthyr Tydfil pupil Ross Hughes (16), right, was one of the first intake when the new Army Foundation

College in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, opened its doors on September 6. He is pictured receiving his enlistment certificate from Sgt Mary Weller at the Army's mobile recruiting office in Methyr Tydfil.



Restoration work started last month on the war memorial in Cowpen, Blyth, Northumberland, 74 years after it was first unveiled. Holes had appeared in the statue of a First World War soldier and a rifle carved in stone was missing. Driving force behind the campaign to restore the memorial was Capt Paul Logan, a TA officer with 203 (Elswick) Battery, 101 (Northumberland) Regiment RA (V). Money to pay for the work was donated by local businesses and individuals, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and by the Blyth Gunners, who staged a sponsored hill walk.

Long-lost: Former classmates Maj David Caulfield RE, top right, then OC Falkland Island Royal Engineer Group, and Flt Lt Adrian Rycroft RAF, below right, met for the first time in 21 years while on duty in the Falklands. Twenty-seven years ago they were in the same class at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover. David is now back in the UK as OC 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn QGE.



When Col Al Moloff of 212 MASH Unit, US Army, based at Weisbaden, Germany, heard that there was a British unit with the same numerical title, he contacted Col Philip Mixer of 212 Field Hospital RAMC (V). The result was a visit by Col Moloff and eight of his officers and men to the Sheffield-based TA unit's annual camp.

DATES

31: Concert by Waterloo Band, 5 RGJ (V), in aid of Poppy Appeal, at Garrison Theatre, Bicester (tickets 01865 553151).

NOVEMBER

20-21: Army Arts Society annual exhibition, Medieval Hall, Salisbury.

Arnhem glider pilots honoured

A CLAIM by a fortune-teller that the grave Mrs Sheila Philbrook had been visiting in Holland since 1945 was not that of her brother killed at Arnhem has proved true.

Sgt Laurence Howes, a glider pilot, was killed during the Arnhem landings on September 20, 1944. For many years, Sheila joined veterans and their families on pilgrimages to Holland. But in 1944 an inscribed ring positively identified remains found on a building site at Oosterbeek, Holland, as those of her brother, Laurence.

Alongside were the remains of Sgt David Thompson, another glider pilot. Clothing and equipment identified them as belonging to a glider pilot regiment. Extensive research by Dutch authorities, the British Embassy in the Hague and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission enabled the MoD to name them.

They were buried with full military honours at the war cemetery at Oosterbeek on September 18. The remains of a third soldier, Cpl George Froud, of the Border Regiment, were buried at the same time.

Before the interment in Holland, Mrs Philbrook (68) visited the Army Air Corps Museum at Middle Wallop to discuss the arrangements for the service.

"Laurie was the sensible one," she said. "He was the eldest and always took charge. I was one of his bridesmaids. He joined up as a boy soldier, first in the Royal Norfolks, then transferred to the REME and then the Glider Pilot Regiment."

A fortune-teller had told her for many years that the grave she was visiting in Holland was not that of her brother.

"It seemed strange putting flowers on



Mrs Sheila Philbrook with a snap of her brother, Sgt Laurence Howes

Picture: Capt Jim Gallagher

the grave knowing it was not my brother. I feel very sad for the young man who lies in my brother's grave . . . when we move the headstone he will become an unknown soldier," she said.

Mrs Flora Alsop, niece of Sgt Thompson, also visited to Middle Wallop to talk about the Oosterbeek service.

Great War remembered

THEY shall not be forgotten. A series of exhibitions marking the end of the First World War 80 years ago are planned by the Imperial War Museum between now and November.

They include poetry, memorials, art, photographs, posters, film, sound recordings, personal ephemera and an interactive database devised by the

Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Musical events include a Remembrance Sunday (Nov 8) concert by the London Festival Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of Help the Aged. Ring 0171 589 8212 for tickets, quoting "Imperial War Museum offer".

An Armistice Day (Nov 11) recital in the museum will feature the Western Front Violin, made by violinist Kenneth Popplewell from trees growing on the Western Front. The box office is on 0171 416 5311.

Copies of the new *Regimental Museums of the East Midlands* leaflet are available free of charge by ringing 0115 985 4534. It includes the museum of the Queen's Royal Lancers at Belvoir Castle, Grantham.

SAMA on the march at Cenotaph

FOR the first time, members of the South Atlantic Medal Association are to march past the Cenotaph in Whitehall at the Remembrance Day Parade this year.

The association has been allotted 130 places in the parade for Falklands veterans of all three services and Rick Jolly, SAMA chairman tells *Soldier* that anyone who is not a member who turns up on the day with their South Atlantic Medal

can enrol. Meanwhile, Rick reminds us that his highly amusing book, *In Confidence: The Jackspeak Guide to Staff Reporting*, is still available and would make a great Christmas present – with £5 of each sale going to the association.

For details of how to obtain a copy, see "Christmas Crackers" in Page 48.

To contact SAMA, write to PO Box 82, Blackwood, Gwent NP2 0YE.

Signs that protect victims of conflict

SPECIAL signs to protect individuals, objects and transport not taking part in fighting during armed conflict have been established under the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

The symbols are designed to impose constraints on military operations and help the Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations to carry out their humanitarian work.

Mike Whitlam, director general of the British Red Cross, said: "People must know the rules in order for them to be effective during armed conflicts. They will not be able to benefit from the protection of the special signs unless they are familiar with the design and meaning."

"Britons increasingly travel overseas and therefore, even if these signs and rules are not of immediate need here in the UK, such awareness may be of practical use to individuals caught up in a war zone abroad."

Red Cross and Red Crescent

Two symbols, right, designed to protect officially authorised medical units, including field hospitals, transports, medical and religious personnel and delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross during armed conflicts. They also indicate the presence of national societies, such as the British Red Cross, usually acting as an auxiliary to the medical services of the armed forces.



Civil defence

Blue triangle on orange square used to protect authorised civil defence organisations, personnel, buildings and equipment engaged in providing assistance to civilian victims of war. May be used by fire-fighters, police and emergency rescue workers, and on civilian shelters.



Emblem for the protection of cultural property

Light blue and white triangles provide protection, under the Hague Convention, to places and objects of cultural and spiritual significance. This may include churches, archaeological sites, monuments, museums and historic buildings. Objects displaying the emblem may not be used for military purposes.



Works and installations containing dangerous forces

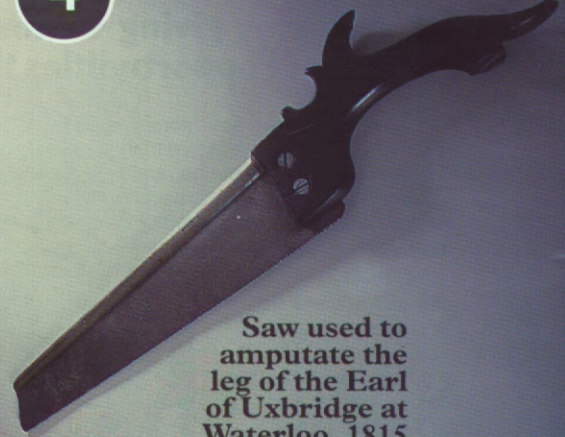
Sign of three orange balls gives specific protection to works or places that may contain dangerous forces, for example dams, dykes or nuclear power stations.



Treasures of the National Army Museum



4



Saw used to amputate the leg of the Earl of Uxbridge at Waterloo, 1815

Hero on one leg

LT GEN Henry Paget, Earl of Uxbridge, commanded the British cavalry at Waterloo. During the final phase of the battle his right knee was shattered by a piece of shot which had narrowly missed the Duke of Wellington.

Uxbridge was carried to a nearby farmhouse and laid on a table where his leg was amputated. As with all operations of the period, this one was carried out without anaesthetic. The gallant earl remained composed throughout, remarking at one point that he did not consider the saw to be very sharp.

UNSHAKEN

When the limb had been removed Lord Uxbridge, apparently unshaken by his horrendous ordeal, commented: "I have had a pretty long run. I have been a beau these 47 years and it would not be fair to cut the young men out any longer."

The surgeon's saw is displayed alongside a bloodstained glove, the property of Uxbridge's *aide-de-camp*, Capt Thomas Wildman, who attempted to staunch the flow of blood from the wound.

Uxbridge's leg was buried in the farmhouse garden, where his lordship revisited it some years later, dining at the table on which his operation had taken place.

The saw and glove are on display in the museum's "The Road To Waterloo" Gallery.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1948

AFRIKA KORPS GOES HOME

Under the lightest of British Army escorts, the remaining men of Rommel's crack desert force, which fell to the Eighth Army, have been conducted back to their ruined homeland.

(And, in the same edition: The 2nd Guards Brigade – including 2 Coldm Gds, 2nd Scots and 3rd Grenadiers – are on their way to fight in the Malaya campaign.)

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October/November 1973

SWINGFIRE SIGNS UP

A new generation of infantry support weapons comes into service as mechanised battalions begin to train with the wire-guided anti-tank missile, Swingfire.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Is the Army giving women soldiers the career opportunities they want?

It's official: there are now more women in the Army than ever before. More than 7,400 soldiers are female and the number continues to grow. But have career prospects for women increased to match this growth? We asked ten soldiers who have every reason to know.

LCpl Vanessa Bowes, RLC

I wouldn't say I've been treated differently from any man. I was in the WRAC and when that folded I went to the RCT. We were worried about promotion but I got on fairly quickly. I'm optimistic. I've been in nearly eight years and I'm working up to 12 years to see what my situation is then.



LCpl Karen McEneny, Int Corps

Prospects are quite good – better than they ever used to be. Now the opportunities have been publicised it's different. I'm fairly happy with the way my career is going. I just want to do whatever I can and also travel around a bit. I'd like to fly, and I'll try for the helicopter pilot's course.

2nd Lt Mel Bowler, RLC

It depends on what corps you are in. For women there is not much choice of corps or regiments. The RLC has got it right because there are officers and soldiers who do much the same work as the men. The word will spread that girls can get to the top. I passed out of Sandhurst at Easter and start work next week. It's a daunting thought. I definitely want a squadron command and I want the variety the RLC offers.



SSgt Kaz Smith, REME

I went from the WRAC to REME and kept my rank. I was the first woman to take a platoon sergeant's post and, hopefully, I'll be the first woman RSM in the REME. I liked the WRAC, but I have so many more opportunities now.



LCpl Gina Atkinson, R Signals

I've been in three years and done well in my trade because we're using satellite comms, which is good preparation for civvie street. I'm due to be class two-graded and want to get my class one sergeant and become foreman as a WO2 or WO1. I might go for a commission. Career prospects are good.



2nd Lt Jess Norman, RA

Career prospects are looking better all the time. Some corps and regiments have more defined career paths than others. The Royal Artillery is somewhat behind in terms of giving us the same career path as men. Until they get women higher up, they won't have role models for women soldiers to look up to.



Capt Debs Nightingale, RE

I've signed up until I stop enjoying myself and so far the Royal Engineers have been great. It's been difficult though, because this is a male-dominated area and the Army is behind civvie street in accepting



women as equals. The soldiers accept us – it's higher ranks that make it difficult.

2nd Lt Jo Nissen, RE

I'm at an early stage in my career but I'd like to stay in the RE and get my chartered qualification. No woman has done it yet. It's difficult to plan ahead but I can't see myself having a family and being in the Army. The two don't mix.



There are certainly more prospects now. It's only been since last year that things have been made equal for us. Before that women had to have degrees while men needed A levels.

Capt Ingrid Rolland, REME (V)

I was on a short service commission in the WRAC but did lots of adventurous training and had such a good time I extended. But I lost interest so left and joined the TA. Opportunities have opened up massively. When I joined as a Regular I was the only woman in my brigade and wasn't allowed to do anything remotely dangerous. Now it's particularly good in the REME – women only have to stick their hands up and volunteer.



Cpl Karen Dilley, RLC (V)

I've been in 15 years and in that time I've seen a lot of changes in the way they manage people. We're now much more professional. For example, I've just gone from being a cook to a chef. But because there are so many chefs in the ranks, we have to wait for someone to die before we can get promoted.



Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Mike Weston

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COMING SOON

- 80 years after the Armistice
- Interview with a Somme veteran
- Inside Helicopter Flying School

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