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SOLDIER

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Chris Horrocks	Ext 2355
Editor	
John Elliott	2356
Assistant Editors	
Laurie Manton	2362
Gordon Skilling	2360
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Picture Editor	
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Photographers	
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Anne Armstrong	2169
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Advertising	
Accounts/Distribution	2352
Janice Follwell	2353
Fax	2358

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On the move to Bosnia



Armed Forces Minister Malcolm Rifkind meets men of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment at Fallingbostel before they deployed to Bosnia to join the United Nations peacekeeping force. As they flew to Split, members of the battlegroup's advance party were involved in the first British relief mission. See Operation Grapple coverage, Pages 16-19.

Public duties strain eased

THE NUMBER of guardsmen appearing on the Queen's Birthday Parade is to be reduced in a package of measures designed to ease the demands of dismounted public duties on the Foot Guards in London.

Traditionally, in addition to the massed bands, eight "Guards" of 70 or more men and officers parade on Horse Guards in their spectacular and world-famous tribute to the monarch.

In future, the number of Guards will be reduced to six and the number of streetliners between Buckingham Palace and Horse Guards (currently more than 400) will be cut by spacing guardsmen nine paces apart instead of six.

There will also be a small reduction in the number of troops providing support for the event, and the number of full scale rehearsals will be cut from four to three.

Announcing the changes, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton said ceremonial standards and essential security would be maintained.

Other changes include:

- Streetliners for State visits in London reduced by more than 170, and by 120 for lining the route from Home Park to the George IV Gate at Windsor Castle;

- Requirement for 50-man guards of honour at the Ministry of Defence reduced from about 20 occasions each year to ten. Step-lining parties to be provided for the balance;

- Some military posts to be saved by new arrangements for guarding Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and Windsor Castle, in which the Foot Guards assist the Metropolitan Police;

- Following a relocation of the Jewel House there will be a smaller military guard at the Tower of London, of sufficient

size to maintain the traditional Ceremony of the Keys.

There will be no change in the contribution of the Foot Guards to the State Opening of Parliament, the Garter Service at Windsor, the Cenotaph parade, the Festival of Remembrance and high profile non-State visits.

Under Options for Change the Foot Guards are to be reduced from eight battalions to five, with the 2nd Battalions of the Scots, Coldstream and Grenadier Guards going into suspended animation.

These changes begin in the autumn of 1993 and will be completed by the end of 1994. During the same period the number of Foot Guards battalions stationed in London will reduce from five to three.

Mr Hamilton also announced that each of the three battalions remaining in London after 1994 will be supplemented by a public duties increment of about 100 guardsmen.

The Queen has given her assent to the new arrangements which were devised after MoD consultations with the Royal Household, Met Police and other authorities.

FRONT COVER: Sgt Chas Bray instructs a Cambodian soldier in the delicate task of uncovering a Chinese anti-tank mine. In the background is SSgt John Howe. Both men are from 38 Engineer Regiment based at Ripon. See also Pages 14-15. (Picture: PO (Phot) Al Campbell, RN)

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Courageous Greenjacket saved crash colleagues

A 19-YEAR-OLD Royal Green Jacket soldier who climbed back into a crashed helicopter to put out a fire has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

Rfn Anthony Wise was a member of a 1 RGJ patrol flying in low cloud from its base

in Omagh, Northern Ireland on November 14, 1991 when the helicopter crashed into a hill north of Gortin Glen.

One soldier was killed, others lay badly injured around the wreckage, and both pilots were seriously injured.

● Northern Ireland awards - Page 39

Although stunned and disorientated, Rfn Wise, who had been thrown clear on impact, saw black smoke rising from the helicopter and fuel leaking below it.

Aware that his colleagues' lives were threatened, he

clambered back inside the wreckage, located a fire extinguisher and attacked the source of the smoke.

The citation says: "It was a brave act carried out by a young soldier who saw where his duty lay. His courage deserves considerable public recognition."

Wattisham chosen for AAC base

TWO ARMY Air Corps regiments based in Germany are to move to RAF Wattisham in East Anglia under a reorganisation announced by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton last month.

Wattisham, from which the RAF's Phantom force is being withdrawn by the middle of 1993, has been identified as the most cost-effective operational base for 3 Regiment from Soest and 4 Regiment, presently at Detmold.

Two support units based at Detmold, 71 Aircraft Workshops and 2 Aircraft Support Unit, will also move to Wattisham.

In addition, two RAF Search and Rescue Sea King helicopters will relocate there in 1994.

Following the moves, Army Air Corps assets in Germany will be provided by 1 Regiment at Hildesheim - redeployment to RAF Gutersloh at some time in the future is being considered as an option - 12 Flight at RAF Bruggen and 7 Flight in Berlin.

The AAC presence in the United Kingdom is currently provided by 7 Regiment at Netheravon and 9 Regiment at Dishforth.

In other moves announced by Mr Hamilton, 656 Squadron will leave 7 Regiment to join 9 Regiment, and will be replaced by one of three new Territorial Army flights being formed next year. The other TA flights will be based at RAF Shawbury and RAF Turnhouse.

● On the demise of the British Army of the Rhine in

April 1994, Commander Aviation BAOR at Bielefeld will change his title to Commander Aviation Headquarters UK Support Command (Forward). He is also Chief Air to Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

A NEW Scottish Territorial Army regiment came into being on November 1 with the formation of The Scottish Yeomanry.

It consists of a headquarters and four squadrons bearing the names of disbanded Scottish regiments:

- RHQ Squadron (The Lothians and Border Horse) at Colinton, Edinburgh;
- A (Ayrshire Yeomanry) Squadron at Ayr;
- B (Lanarkshire and Queen's Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry) Squadron at East Kilbride;
- C (Fife and Forfar/Scottish Horse) Squadron at Cupar, Fife. A troop of C Sqn

will be named after The Lovat Scouts.

The regiment, equipped with Land Rovers, is tasked to provide reconnaissance from the Shetlands to the Borders, and to be prepared to operate worldwide in support of the Regular Army.

Honorary Colonel of the new regiment is Lt Gen Sir Norman Arthur.

Regiment formed in Scotland

ARRC welcomes its Deputy Commander



Maj Gen Alberto Ficuciello, Deputy Commander of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, inspects a guard of honour provided by 14 Squadron RCT on his arrival at the ARRC's Bielefeld headquarters just three weeks after the formation of the new corps. He was welcomed by Brig Tony Pigott of the ARRC Working Group and Brig Richard Oliver, DCOS G1/G4. Maj Gen Ficuciello's last appointment was on the Italian Army General Staff in Rome

Army orders new laser training system

BATTLEFIELD exercises will become more realistic following the British Army's decision to buy a Swedish weapon effect laser system.

Deliveries of Direct Fire Weapon Effect Simulator (DFWES) equipment supplied

by Saab Training Systems are due to begin in 1994.

The kits, when fitted to soldiers and fighting vehicles, will allow two-sided exercises and a post-battle analysis of the performance of the combatants. A decision to award the

contract to Saab followed an extended search for the best eye-safe laser battlefield simulation equipment to replace the Army's current systems.

An MoD spokesman said DFWES would reduce the need for live-fire training.

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Münster medics move to Preston

FOR THE first time in nearly 20 years, a major unit of the Regular Army is to be based permanently at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. The move is part of the withdrawal of British Forces from Germany to the United Kingdom and represents an overall increase in the number of Regular Army troops based in the North West.

Gulf War veterans of 5 Field Ambulance RAMC, currently based in Münster, will move to Preston early next year. The advance party is due to leave Münster before Christmas and the move should finally be complete by the end of March.

The Field Ambulance will be the first major Regular unit to be based at Fulwood Barracks since the closure of the Junior Infantryman's Wing, Preston, in March 1974.

The unit deployed to Saudi Arabia in December 1990 and served throughout the Gulf War, providing second-line medical support to the 4th Armoured Brigade. It numbers nearly 200 combat medics, soldiers and administrators and is equipped with 1-tonne Land Rover all-terrain ambulances.

Under the command of Lt Col Mike Von Bertele, 5 Fd Amb will have an operational role as part of the British contribution to Nato's new ACE Rapid Reaction Corps.

Brig Euan Morrison, Commander 42 (North West) Brigade, said: "We are very pleased to be able to provide a new home for 5 Field Ambulance and I know the unit is looking forward to playing an active role in the Lancashire community."

The move is part of the Options for Change measures designed to reduce the peacetime strength of the British Army in Germany from 50,000 to 23,000. It will bring the number of operational Regular Army units based in the North West to three.



QDG re-roled at Sennelager

Tpr Paul Matthew (left) and Cpl Peter Jones get to grips with a Challenger gun barrel on the tank park of Athlone Barracks, Sennelager, new home of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

The regiment moved from Tidworth to Germany in September after 15 years in a medium reconnaissance role. It has now

exchanged its Scorpion and Scimitar vehicles for Challenger and re-roled as an armoured regiment assigned to the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps.

More than half the regiment deployed to the Gulf, and its A Squadron led the 7th Armoured Brigade into Kuwait during the ground offensive.



Col David Sleight, Commander ES HQ Eastern District, presents the Warcop Trophy to Capt Andrew Bennett of the victorious 15 Field Workshop team

Right at first attempt

IN THEIR first attempt at the Eastern District military skills competition for REME units, 15 Field Workshop (Volunteers) beat the rest of the Territorial Army field to win the Warcop Trophy.

The specialist unit, which recruits countrywide, held off a strong challenge from Newton

Aycliffe-based 124 Recovery Company (V) over the two-day competition at Catterick.

Among Regular units, 9 Regiment AAC Workshop from Dishforth won the National Foden Recovery Trophy with Ripon-based 28 Engineer Regiment Workshop second.

Royal Irish mourn first loss

THE ROYAL Irish Regiment suffered its first loss when Sgt Robert Irvine of the 9th Battalion was murdered near Ballymena on October 20 while off duty.

Sgt Irvine (47), who leaves a wife and two children, had served with the Ulster Defence Regiment for 14 years before the UDR-R Irish amalgamation in the summer.

Lt Col James Jackson, commanding officer of the 9th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, said of Sgt Irvine: "The memory of his strength and belief in peace will always stand in sharp contrast beside the misguided and evil men who took his life."



Sgt Irvine

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Hussars in the lead at Münster

TEAMS from The Royal Hussars (PWO) filled the first three places on Rats Reach 92, an exceptionally tough exercise devised by Commander 4th Armoured Brigade and involving representative teams from units within Münster Garrison.

Nine 24-man teams – drawn from the Royal Hussars, 14th/20th King's Hussars, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, 39 Field Squadron RE and 6 Armoured Workshop REME – were given just two weeks' notice to compete.

Soldiers had to carry 50lb of equipment and personal weapons on a 50-mile route march which included a river crossing and a number of military skills tests.

A number of competitors dropped out with injuries, two teams failed to reach the finish, and the RH entries – led by A Squadron – were the only ones to finish intact.

Medics on the march in Ipswich

MEDICAL staff from 257 (Southern) General Hospital RAMC (V) marched through Ipswich on October 18 to exercise the Freedom granted to the unit earlier this year.

The parade, commanded by Maj Tony Windsor, RAMC (V), was led by the Army Medical Services Band (TA) and inspected by the Mayor of Ipswich. Guests included the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Sir Peter Beale.

Under Options for Change the unit's Ipswich detachment is scheduled to close in April.

CGS sees Welsh Gunners at work

THE WELSH GUNNERS – 22nd Regiment RA – recently returned to the United Kingdom from Germany, were visited at their barracks in Kirton in Lindsey by the Chief



New Dragoons flex their muscles

Challenger main battle tanks of B Squadron, The Royal Dragoon Guards advance across Soltau training area in Germany.

In all, 50 Challengers were put through their paces in the new regiment's first exercise since it formed in the summer from the amalgamation of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and the 5th Royal Inniskilling Guards.

Stationed in Barker Barracks, Paderborn, under the command of Lt Col Johnny Torrens-Spence, the regiment will provide armour for the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps.

IN BRIEF

LT GEN Sir Peter Beale, the Surgeon General and Director General Medical Services, attended a ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of 224 Field Ambulance RAMC (V) at Stoke-on-Trent.

The occasion was also used to formally name its TA Centre Martin-Leake House after the corps' double VC winner, Lt Col Arthur Martin-Leake.

Princess visits SAS signallers

● LT GEN Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Commander ARRC, visited the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders at Munster, addressed the battalion and presented Long Service medals in the sergeants' mess. Gen Mackenzie commanded 1 QO Hldrs in Hong Kong.

THE PRINCESS Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, watched members of 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron in training during a visit to Stirling Lines, Hereford.

Princess Anne was welcomed by Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle, Master of Signals.

● A Terence Cuneo painting depicting the Army Catering Corps' involvement in the Gulf War has been unveiled by the Duchess of Kent at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot. The Duchess, Colonel-in-Chief of the ACC, visited the Army Catering Corps Training Centre during the annual Old Comrades reunion day and saw a number of static displays and military demonstrations.

Young Scottish businessmen were put through their paces by staff from 1/52 Lowland Volunteers on Exercise Lowland Executive Stretch. The exercise, sponsored by the National Employers Liaison Committee, was watched by shadow Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid.

A course for lifesaving examiners at the AGC Centre, Worthy Down attracted candidates from the Light Division, APTC, RTR, AGC and Civil Service. Eleven successful candidates will now complete six months of further training before qualifying as examiners. Anyone interested in learning about lifesaving should contact Maj David Taylor on 0962 887247.

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment spent their annual training camp with 7,000 Nato troops from the United Kingdom, Denmark and Germany on Exercise Bold Grouse 92 in Denmark.

of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Inge.

He was shown various aspects of the regiment, including 53 Battery training on the Rapier FSB2.

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Fusiliers win their hackles

FIFTY recruits to the 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were presented with their red and white hackles after passing out during the battalion's annual camp in Scotland.

The fortnight included a test exercise controlled by Commander 15th (North East) Brigade and a main battalion exercise which started at Morangie Forest, north of Inverness, and ended near Dundee, 100 miles south.

Commanding officer Lt Col Derek Smail, whose last camp this was before handing over to Lt Col Richard Jackson, said the camp had proved again that the battalion deserved its selection as one of eight roled to Nato's new Rapid Reaction Corps.



Lt Col David Thornycroft, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers, and his Black Watch companies salute the London Scottish and Liverpool Scottish during their final parade together at Redesdale Camp, Otterburn.

The English-based Jocks featured prominently in 51 Highland for 25 years, and Lt Col Thornycroft told them: "It has been a privilege to command you and a pleasure to know you."

Parting shot

The Liverpudlians are rejoining The King's Regiment which they left 25 years ago, while the London Scottish will become part of The London Regiment. Both units will retain their tartans and regain their old capbadges.



The combined Scotland District Ord Coy team on the march during the RAOC's Lamb Trophy competition at Deepcut

RAOC units do battle

REGULAR RAOC units competed against their Territorial Army counterparts in the Lamb Trophy military skills competition at Deepcut.

Fifty teams took part in a Nato assault course, ten-mile route march, military skills stands and a falling plate shoot on Pirbright Ranges. It was the last time the competition, started in 1989 in memory of the late Col James Lamb, will be held under the RAOC

flag. It is hoped that the competition in future will encompass all the units of the new Royal Logistic Corps.

Results were: Overall winners - 82 AB Ord Coy, Aldershot; best independent TA team - 55 Ord Coy (V), London; best specialist TA team - 54 Ord Coy (V); best female team - Trg Bn and Depot RAOC; best invitation team - 151 Tpt Regt RCT (V), Grantham.

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Badge of courage

Third generation Royal Green Jacket Rfn **Stephen Pendleton** received his St Dunstan's badge of courage from the Adjutant General, Gen Sir **David Ramsbotham**, who was visiting the centre at Ovingdean, near Brighton to see the facilities available to newly-blinded Servicemen and women. Appropriately, Gen Ramsbotham is a former Representative Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Green Jackets.

One of St Dunstan's newest members, Stephen lost a leg and suffered severe eye injuries in a helicopter accident in Northern Ireland. His father and uncle both served with the regiment.



IN CHARGE

Meet Lt Col **Richard Jackson**, new commanding officer of The 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Formerly with The Queen's Regiment, he left the Regular Army in 1988 and has been with the Fusiliers since 1989, commanding Z Coy at Ashington, Northumberland before taking over his present post from Lt Col **David Small**.



Dishing it out?

Doing his bit to promote the Army within the commercial world is Sgt **Bill Carley**, formerly with Depot Para, now with the Army Careers Office at Portsmouth. One offshoot of his new job – which involves giving background talks to organisations such as Marconi and British Aerospace, as well as local schools and colleges – is that he gets an opportunity to try out new equipment like this advanced, solo-operated military communications terminal, recently procured by the French Armed Forces.



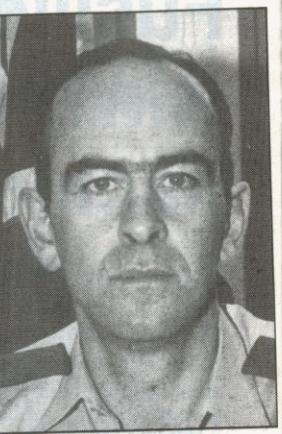
Chip off the old . . .

When the first mainframe computer was introduced to Worthy Down in 1960, recalls Lt Col **Bill Minns**, a veteran with over 43 years' Army service, its processor consisted of thousands of old-fashioned flashing valves – and it filled a large room.

Until his recent retirement as senior systems analyst for pay and pensions at the Adjutant General Information Centre at Worthy Down, he had been using a desk top personal computer 25 times more powerful . . .

So it was "out with the old, in with the new" when Bill (seated, right) handed over a part of the logic unit salvaged from the original IBM 705 computer in exchange for a modern-day microchip, held by Cpl **Paul Jepson**. Standing are AGIC staff Mrs **Alex Ward**, Miss **Michaela Hamilton**, Cpl **Wayne Danks** and SSgt **Bob Skinner**.

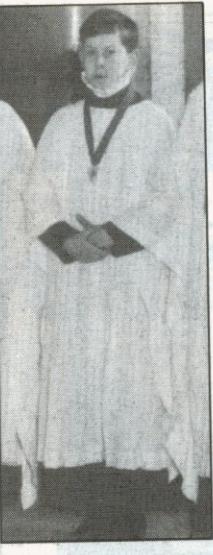
Canterbury tale



When **Michael Cooper** sang in the choir at Canterbury Cathedral as a boy soprano in the 1960s, little could he have dreamed that, on his return to the city almost 30 years later, it would be as commanding officer to nearly 900 Regular soldiers.

A former policeman and journalist, Lt Col Cooper has taken command of the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire), formed earlier this year and based at Canterbury's Howe Barracks.

The present commanding officer, Lt Col **David Wake**, is to take command of the Combined Arms Tactics Course at Warminster.



Berlin handover



First handover of a British Army barracks in Berlin was marked as Berlin Brigade Commander Brig **David Bromhead** gave the keys of Montgomery Barracks to incoming commander Oberst **Von Senden**.

The establishment, the largest of the British infantry barracks in the city, had been home to 22 infantry battalions situated in the picturesque Klasow district of Spandau, it straddled the former East-West border until the demolition of the Berlin Wall three years ago.

Last British occupants of Montgomery Barracks were the men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers.



Good



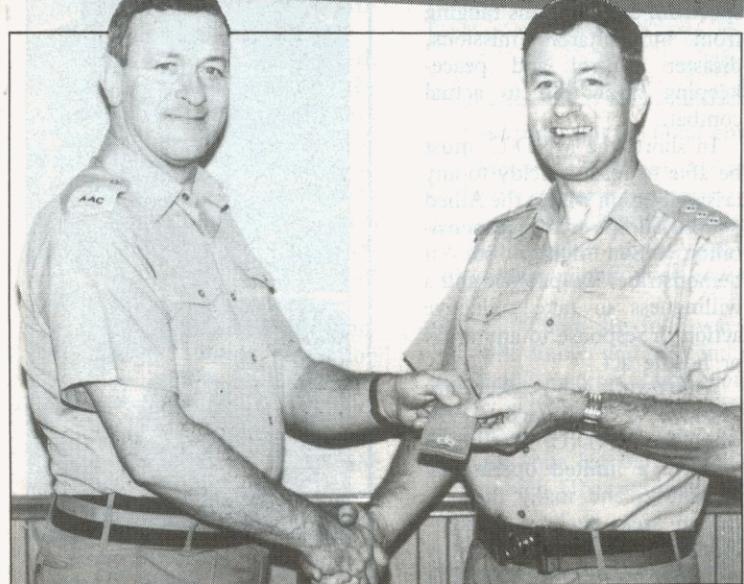
Sgt **Jacqueline Darke** of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps has been presented with the British Empire Medal by Maj Gen **Robert Corbett**, GOC London District.

Currently stationed at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, Huddersfield girl Jacqueline received the award for her outstanding work during a four month tour in Kuwait after the Gulf War when she worked in the intensive care ward of Kuwait City Hospital.

Major development

The parallel Army careers of identical twins **Ron** (left) and **Jimmy James** continued when both were promoted to major. Both signed on as apprentices on the same day in 1959. They joined the Royal Armoured Corps and served with the 10th Royal Hussars, 3rd Carabiniers and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Ron, currently based at HQ 1 Armoured Division in Verden, Germany, was RSM of 4 Regt Army Air Corps, Jimmy RSM of The Royal Yeomanry before both took commissions in 1986. Jimmy is now an exchange officer with the Canadian Forces Medical Services in Ontario.



PEOPLE



Three soldiers from The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire have been officially commended by GOC Eastern District, Maj Gen **Michael Walker**, for rescuing an injured climber in the Yorkshire Dales.

The trio (from left), LCpl **Michael Wyrill**, Cpl **Tash Birkenshaw** and LCpl **Frank Rudland**, who had been preparing a camp for a group of youngsters, grabbed first aid gear and climbing equipment and negotiated a steep gorge to reach the injured man, who had suffered a broken leg and ankle, and a shattered hip.

They then organised first aid and summoned help, staying with the patient until the rescue helicopter arrived.

Yorkies to the rescue



Teamwork: Soldiers from Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium on a MND(C) exercise in the Ardennes this autumn

Airmobile Division ready for take-off

FOR SOME time, Nato's Northern Army Group, (NORTHAG) and Allied Forces Central Europe (AF-CENT) have fostered the idea of a fast-moving, lightly armed and air-mobile division which, as a flexible reserve, could be used for a multitude of tasks.

As a result of a German initiative in 1988, a feasibility study was begun to determine whether a new mobile reserve for NORTHAG could be created from elements drawn from four central region nations - the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. In September 1991, NORTHAG formed an ad-hoc multinational airmobile division which took part in Exercise Certain Shield, commanded by the then Commander 2 (UK) Infantry Division, Maj Gen Michael Rose.

This was the first time that terms such as mobility, flexibility and inter-operability were applied to a multinational formation. The lessons learned from Certain Shield, and the findings of a Standing Planning Group (SPG), laid the foundations for the creation of the Multinational Division Central (Airmobile) or MND(C) as it is known.

These lessons, and the changing political and military situation in Europe, convinced

ministers that the MND(C) should form part of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

In April 1992, the HQ MND(C) Activation Staff, commanded by Maj Gen P Huysman of the Royal Netherlands Army, was formed and is currently housed at HQ AF-CENT in the Dutch town of Brunssum.

HQ MND(C) will eventually move to the Mönchengladbach area in Germany where, in peacetime, it will come under the control of Commander ARRC, Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie. In crisis and war the MND(C)'s employment would be either within or outside ARRC.

In recognition of its ACE-wide employment and capability for sustained combat, the MND(C) will have the full range of combat support and service support units either directly assigned or made available for operations.

The MND(C) will comprise the Belgian Para-Commando Brigade, the 24th (UK) Airmobile Brigade, the 27th (GE) Luftlande Brigade and the 11th (NL) Luchtmobiele Brigade.

In addition, a full range of divisional troops will be made available, including anti-tank helicopters, signals, artillery,

air defence, engineer and logistic units. All of the brigades will be air-mobile and two will retain their airborne capability.

The use of the third dimension (the air), both for conducting combat operations from assault helicopters and for actually moving combat units, gives the MND(C) great mobility (rapid movement from one location to another) and flexibility (ability to execute several tasks).

For example, the MND(C) could be used for the full spectrum of operations ranging from humanitarian missions, disaster control and peace-keeping duties up to actual combat.

In short, the MND(C) must be able to react quickly to any crisis situation within the Allied Forces Europe area of responsibility. By doing so it demonstrates a capability and a willingness to take collective action in response to any crisis or hostile act.

Much work will be necessary between now and April 1, 1994 when the MND(C) is required to have a limited operational capability, and many difficulties in areas such as standardisation and inter-operability will have to be overcome. But the rewards will be great as the new face of Nato takes shape.

SSgt John Howe RE offers a Cambodian soldier some advice on mine detection



Sappers join fight to beat mine menace

IN THE wreckage of a country ravaged by 20 years of civil war, a small team of Royal Engineers is making an enormous contribution towards putting the country back on its feet. The sappers, drawn from a number of engineer units, form the Mine Clearance Training Unit (MCTU) working for the United Nations Transitional Administration in Cambodia (UNTAC).

In command is Lt Col Alan Roland-Price, who is also commander of the 121-strong British tri-Service contribution to the UN peacekeeping force, which numbers more than 15,000.

Working with sappers from the Pakistani Army, the British

team's task is to train indigenous forces - including the infamous Khmer Rouge - in mine clearance operations and to promote mine awareness among the civilian population.

The endless fighting has left Cambodia with an ordnance problem of unquantifiable proportions. Mines were laid indiscriminately and ammunition of all types, most of it in a highly dangerous condition, is everywhere.

"We have no idea how many mines there are in Cambodia, it is impossible even to guess, but about one in 80 Cambodians have suffered some form of injury due to mines," said Lt Col Roland-Price, whose team includes 44 other British Army personnel.

The mine clearance has already started, following training by the team, and more than 1,000 mines were lifted in a single week. The team trains local forces in standard procedures for clearing minefields: breaching, clearing lanes, exposure of the mines and subsequent disposal.

The Cambodians make eager students and learn quickly... essential qualities in this most dangerous of jobs.

Sgt Chas Bray, a combat engineer from Ripon-based 38 Engineer Regiment said: "Most of the mines are Soviet or Chinese in origin. Many have virtually no metal content, making them extremely difficult to detect."

Even if they are detected, that is not the end of the matter. "Many of them have anti-handling devices fitted, so recognition is important and disposal must be done very carefully. We teach the soldiers standard disposal of the mines, in place, using explosives and safety fuse."

Their mine-awareness training of the civilian population has also gone encouragingly well. Sgt Michael Irwin, also from 38 Regiment, explained: "The children are very mine aware. They can draw extremely accurate pictures of mines they have seen."

SSgt John Howe offers

the problem sternly into perspective: "Recently when a UN

vehicle was attempting a three-point turn, the rear wheels briefly strayed off the road surface and the vehicle was blown 50 yards away. The driver was lucky to survive."

Not even UN personnel are safe.

Lt Col Roland-Price puts the

problem into perspective: "Recently when a UN

vehicle was attempting a three-point turn, the rear wheels briefly strayed off the road surface and the vehicle was blown 50 yards away. The driver was lucky to survive."

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Maj Mike Charlesworth and other volunteers at work in the wrecked orphanage

Soldiers dig in to rebuild orphanage

BRITISH Army involvement in the Balkans is focused on reducing the suffering of people whose lives have been shattered by civil war.

Behind the mask of their uniforms, weapons and armour are many untold stories of personal kindness, of helping hands beyond the call of duty.

One tale that has received international publicity concerns a bombed orphanage at Lipik, a town in northern Croatia which lies within Sector West of the United Nations protection area.

In September SOLDIER reported on how Col Mark Cook, then Britain's senior commander with the peacekeeping force, was trying to raise £250,000 to reopen the shattered orphanage, home to 55 bewildered children.

Work has started, and a number of British officers, NCOs and soldiers are involved in the project. One recent visitor to Lipik soon found herself helping in the restoration work.

Mrs Sue Charlesworth, whose husband Mike, a major in the RAOC, is an interpreter at British Medical Battalion (BRITMEDBATT) headquarters at Pleso camp, Zagreb, spent a few days helping.



Sue Charlesworth

WO2 Adrian Watson, Sgt Mike Davenport, Sgt Chris Biggins, Cpl Suzanne Reen, LCpl Graham Quinn, LCpl Andy Clarke, LCpl Jason East, Dvr Matthew Benford, Pte Graham Lee and Pte Craig Syme.

Sue, now safely back behind a desk at Buller Barracks in Aldershot, said: "I could see how much work has been done and the vast amount still to be done. Please keep those donations coming in, they are absolutely vital."

● Donations should be sent to SOS for Children, PO Box 630, Glasgow G11 7JR.

Relief team's early success

BRITISH soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina took part in their first humanitarian aid mission days before the main body of troops arrived, writes Laurie Manton.

After the fall of Jajce to Serbian forces, up to 20,000 starving and frightened refugees fled into the Travnik area just north of the British Army's intended base at Vitez.

The United Nations High Commission for Relief (UNHCR) in the area did not have enough supplies to deal with the sudden influx and turned to the British Army for help.

The request for assistance coincided with the arrival of a ship at Split carrying a number of transport vehicles for 5 Ordnance Battalion RAOC, said an Army spokesman.

She and daughter Claire (13) flew to Zagreb in September. After loading boxes of food at the QM Store they donned UN blue bullet-proof flak jackets and drove to Lipik, now relatively peaceful save the odd mortar round lobbed in from Serb positions 5km away.

The first four shells of a Serb bombardment last year landed squarely on the orphanage, badly damaging the building but mercifully killing no one.

Twenty soldiers from BRITMEDBATT have been spending their free weekends at the orphanage, among them Col Cook, Maj Charlesworth, WO1 Ross Saxby, WO2 Adrian Watson, Sgt Mike Davenport, Sgt Chris Biggins, Cpl Suzanne Reen, LCpl Graham Quinn, LCpl Andy Clarke, LCpl Jason East, Dvr Matthew Benford, Pte Graham Lee and Pte Craig Syme.

While looking for a site, the recce troops were caught in crossfire between Croatians and Muslims.

The main British force and its commander, Brig Andrew Cummings, will be based at Split.

At the same time, a medical support team (MST) from Aldershot-based 22 Field Hospital RAMC arrived by sea on board the logistic landing ship, RFA Sir Bedivere.

The MST has been boosted by personnel from other units.



Vehicles painted in United Nations livery on the dockside at Emden before being loaded on the RFA Sir Bedivere for the journey to Split

OPERATION GRAPPLE

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A JOB TO THE CHESHires

"The 24 medics, including surgeons, dentists and environmental health specialists will be deployed to a forward location, and will offer up to 25 beds and be capable of carrying out surgery," said the commanding officer of 22 Field Hospital, Lt Col Ray Turford.

In addition, 1 Armoured Field Ambulance is supplying an armoured medical section of one doctor and ten combat medical technicians equipped with ambulance variants of the FV432 armoured personnel carrier. They will support the Cheshires by complementing the battalion's own Regimental Aid Post (RAP), and are to accompany convoy protection operations.

A second medical section of one doctor and ten medics mounted in Land Rover ambulances will support the National Support Element (NSE).

HQ NSE is being staffed by the headquarters element of Paderborn-based 5 Ordnance Battalion RAOC, commanded by Lt Col Malcolm Wood. It will include medics, chefs, military policemen from 110 Provost Company RMP plus Specialist Team Royal En-

gineers and a Pioneer Labour Support detachment to deal with local labour.

The National Support Element includes three major sub-units - 360 Supply Company, an equipment support group, and a 17 Squadron RCT group.

Commanded by Maj Graham Morrison, 360 Supply Coy will deal with the issue of rations, fuel and ammunition, and provide a mobile bath and laundry section, a local resources facility and an "A" vehicle reserve.

REME support is based on 7 Armoured Workshop REME from Fallingbostel. Maj Mike Heelis will command the

clothing. At the request of 1 Cheshire, based in Fallingbostel, Regimental HQ in Chester has arranged through Cheshire Red Cross and the charity Weststar to supply 88 sacks of winter clothing. They will be loaded into Warriors so that soldiers can distribute the clothing to refugees.

140-strong unit which served in the Gulf and will be known as the Equipment Support Workshop Company Group REME.

Transport is the responsibility of the 17 Squadron RCT group based on 10 Corps Transport Regiment's 17 Squadron.

Elements of the RCT group include:

● Alpha Troop, equipped with 8 and 14-tonne trucks to move stores and equipment;

● Bravo Troop formed with

DROPS vehicles from 17

Squadron, fuel tankers from 9

Mercedes light A vehicle transporters to move Warriors and APCs in theatre;

● A port and movement detachment including three container handlers provided by the RCT's 17 Port and Maritime Regiment and 29 Transport and Movement Regiment. There will also be a section from 10 Regt Wksp.

Once in theatre, the RCT group's primary role will be to operate in support of the battalion group. It will have spare capacity to carry refugees if called upon. Squadron HQ will be at Tomislavgrad.

Providing communications for BRITCON headquarters will be 11 Armoured Brigade's 211 Signal Squadron, commanded by Maj Don Steele.

Blandford-based 30 Signal Regiment has formed a strategic communications troop as part of 211. Troop commander Capt Ollie Halstead and WO1 (YoS) Steve Whytock plus 25 signallers will be responsible for setting up comms systems.

Land Rover-mounted VSC 501 satcom detachments will be established at the Army's headquarters in Split, with the

Food:

Normal field messing arrangements will apply. Food and accommodation charges have been waived for all British troops deployed on Op Grapple.

● Read Anne Armstrong on Pages 34-35.

MoD to review leave

TROOPS already deployed to the former Yugoslavia are benefiting from a leave scheme which includes a United Nations allowance of 15 days and financial assistance towards the cost of going home for those who wish to do so, writes Anne Armstrong.

The MoD is reviewing this scheme to ensure there are adequate R and R arrangements for the particular circumstances which apply to Operation Grapple.

Up to 14 days of untaken leave from the normal Service entitlement may be carried forward to the next leave year (special UN leave applies only during the deployment and may not be carried forward).

Telephones:

Mercury has been unable to secure the co-operation of telephone companies in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia for the installation of phonecard equipment. Instead, a £10 a month allowance has been introduced to enable personnel to make one three-minute call home a week. There is reasonable access to civilian telephones in the area.

Bluseys:

Two-way free bluseys - airmail letter forms - have been introduced, and there is no limit on the number which may be sent. The Post Office has been informed.

Insurance:

Life and personal accident insurance is the individual's own responsibility. PAX Plus and Forces Safeguard have been designed for the Services and are available to all personnel. Pay offices have the details.

The MoD has said it will look sympathetically at the case for providing financial help should insurance companies increase the premium on new or additional policies taken out by personnel deployed on Op Grapple.

Existing insurance policies should be unaffected.

Pay/LOA:

There is no Local Overseas Allowance (LOA) in the former Yugoslavia, but personnel deployed from Germany will retain residual rates of German LOA (40 per cent singles, 66 per cent married personnel). Married personnel from both UK and Germany will be eligible for separation allowance after 30 days.

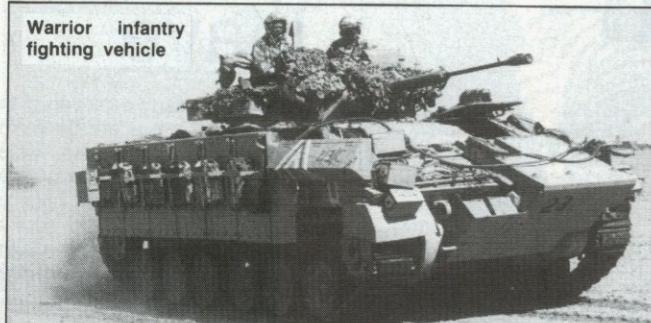
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● Turn to next page

OPERATION GRAPPLE: UNITS AND LOCATIONS

Cheshire battlegroup weaponry



Armament: 1x30mm Rarden gun; 1x7.62mm chain gun



Armament: 1x30mm Rarden gun; 1x7.62 machine gun



81mm mortar



Milan anti-tank missiles

SA 80 individual weapon



Light support weapon



General purpose machine gun

Success

From page 17

National Support Element, and at the Battalion Group in Vitez. 30 Signal Regiment's support to Operation Hanwood will continue.

During the deployment phase, responsibility for loading ships and carrying vehicles and equipment to the German port of Emden fell to a task group based around 24 Transport and Movements Regiment RCT.

Medical supplies for Operation Grapple are being provided by the Defence Medical Equipment Depot, Ludgershall. Its commanding officer, Lt Col Roger Cooper, told SOLDIER: "At its peak, the

loading operation involved 120 soldiers loading containers and trucks and APCs aboard a mixture of RoRo ferries and logistic landing ships of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

"The group included movement controllers, REME and RAOC vehicle specialists, and 1 RTR who provided admin support."

The regiment also provided Capt Neil Clark as Force Movements Officer for a composite movements team based at Split.

Medical supplies for Operation Grapple are being provided by the Defence Medical Equipment Depot, Ludgershall.

UNPROFOR 2 (BOSNIA)

HQ BRITCON



Commander: Brig Andrew Cumming, late 17/21 L (pictured)
Staff: 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
211 Signal Squadron (OC Maj Don Steele)

CHESHIRE BATTLEGROUP



1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment
(CO Lt Col Bob Stewart, pictured)
Includes 100 men from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment.

B Sqn, 9th/12th Royal Lancers
(OC Maj Alan Abraham)

35 Engineer Regiment

(CO Lt Col John Field)
Regimental HQ, 37 Field Squadron, 44 Field Support Squadron and 42 Field Squadron. Attached personnel include elements of Military Works Force, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Postal and Courier detachment and map-makers from Military Survey branch.

NATIONAL SUPPORT ELEMENT



HQ staff: 5 Ordnance Battalion RAOC
(CO Lt Col Malcolm Wood, pictured)
Includes 110 Provost Company RMP, STRE and PSLU.

360 Supply Company RAOC
(OC Maj Graham Morrison)

Equipment Support Workshop Company Group
(OC Maj Mike Heelis, REME)
7 Armoured Workshop REME

17 Squadron RCT Group

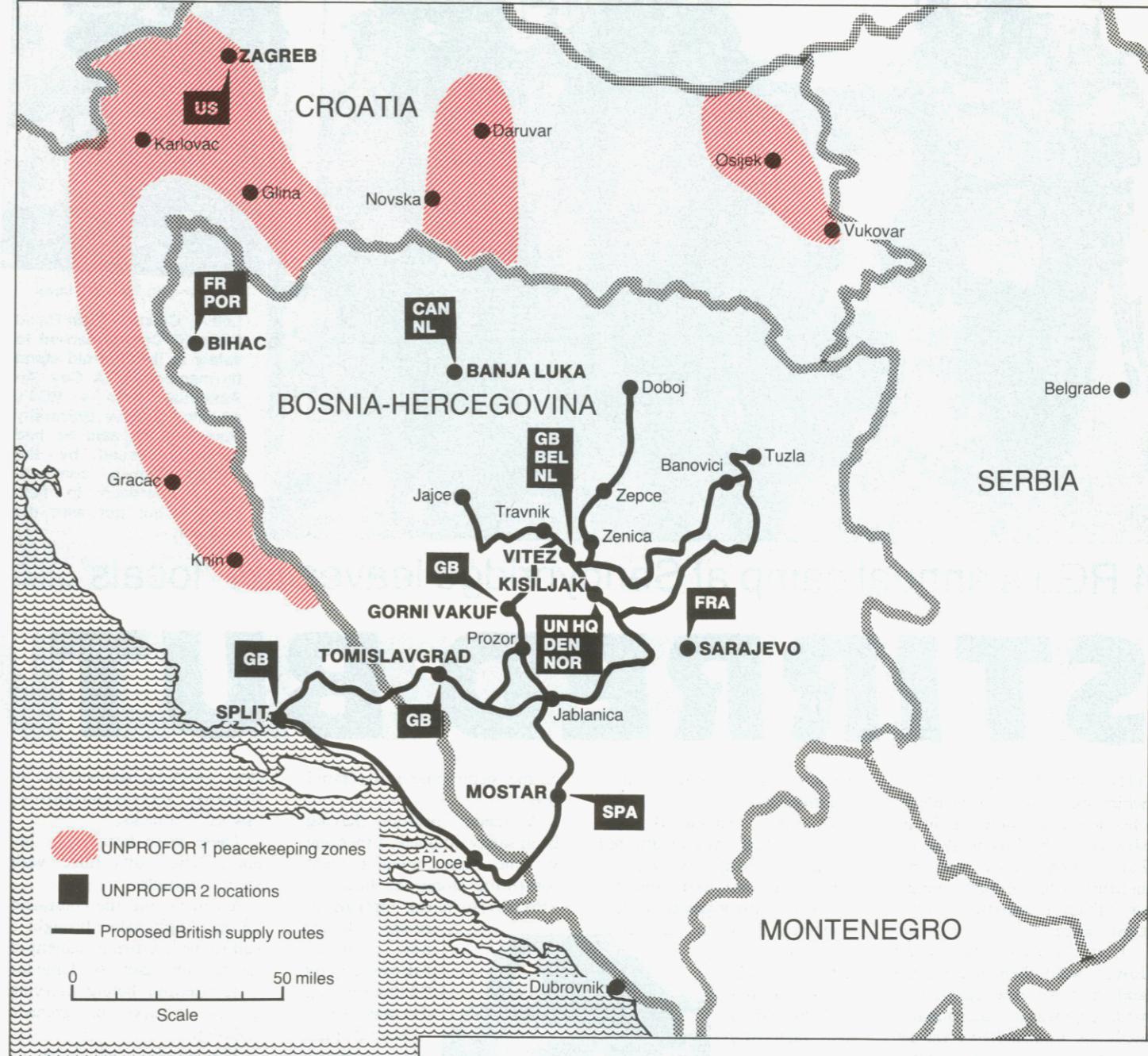
(OC Maj Malcolm Hood)
Includes elements from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, 29 Transport and Movements Regiment, 9 Squadron and 7 Tank Transporter Regiment.

RAMC SUPPORT



22 Field Hospital RAMC
Medical support team

1 Armoured Field Ambulance
Armoured medical section with 1 Cheshire
Light medical section with National Support Element



UNPROFOR 1 (CROATIA)

HQ BRITCON

Commander: Col Mark Cook, late 10 GR
BRITMEDBATT

24 Airmobile Field Ambulance Group
(CO Lt Col Lois Lodge, RAMC)

Logistic Support Company

(OC Maj Barry Groves, RAOC)
Mainly 9 Ordnance Battalion RAOC plus elements of RMP, 2 Postal and Courier Regiment, RAOC-EFI and REME workshop based on 3 Field Workshop.

Force Signal Support

30 Signal Regiment
(OC Maj Peter Telford)

Force Engineer Support

1 Tp, 3 Field Squadron RE
(OC Capt Damian McKeown)



A UN blood container for use by a 22 Field Hospital support team in Bosnia is moved from the Army Blood Supply Unit, Aldershot, by 56(MT) Training Squadron, 1 Trg Regt RE.



4 RGJ's annual camp at Sennybridge leaves the 'locals'...

STIRRED BUT NOT SHAKEN!

THE UBIQUITOUS sheep which are a feature of the bleak, cheerless and remote area in the shadow of the Brecon Beacons have long since become indifferent to the noisy goings-on which frequently disturb their peace.

Huge trucks and Land Rovers send them scampering and, at times, the day is rent with explosions, intermingled with the unmistakable rat-tat-tat of live ammunition being fired.

For on their doorstep, as it were, is the Army's sprawling Sennybridge training area, some of whose latest inhabitants - of the two-legged variety - were members of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

Soon to be affiliated to the 24th Airmobile Brigade as one of only eight Territorial Army battalions invited to participate (in a non-operational security role) with the new Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, the Greenjackets were nearing the end of their fortnight's annual camp when SOLDIER paid a visit.

A sense of keen rivalry was in the air, since that particular day marked the much-coveted platoon trophy exercise, involving everything from live firing attacks to first aid and NBC

training and vehicle fault-finding.

It was 6 Platoon, B Company, on their way up the hill to the live firing area, who received the first nasty shock.

As their truck passed a small concrete bunker on their left, a radio signal was passed to one of two men from A Coy's Assault Pioneer Section concealed inside.

His colleague pressed the button on his box of tricks and in an instant the men in the truck found themselves the "victims" of a pyrotechnic ambush.

As members of the platoon dived out, they were greeted by shots fired over the top of the vehicle.

Platoon commander Lt Peter Corbin had to make some instant decisions, since his men were in open, vulnerable territory.

He opted for sweeping a way through to the enemy position, by way of a track near an abandoned building to the left,

at the same time using rapid fire.

A higher position having been safely attained, a message via the radio operator went something along the lines of: "Prepare to re-org, prepare to re-org. Re-org now. Over," followed by "They're on the way, sir."

Several platoon members, rifles at the ready, bunched together along a ridge, were none-too-politely advised that unless they spread out they were likely to be, in classic rhyming slang, "brown bread".

Then the main body of the platoon was ordered to attack, protected by covering fire.

In the hectic period which followed, electronically-operated targets in the shape of enemy soldiers would pop up unexpectedly to be met by instant salvos fired by alert platoon members.

And just to remind them of what could happen, they would stumble across horrifically mangled "bodies" - victims of

close quarters bayonet (or, in Greenjackets parlance, "sword") attacks.

These were horrific to behold: NBC suits filled with animal entrails . . .

A whistle and the command "Stop! Apply safe" brought a halt to the live-firing element of the platoon's exercise. Time for a de-briefing, before carrying on for a spot of grenade stalks.

The battalion, which has its HQ in Mayfair, draws its members from central London, the City, Fulham, Mile End Road and West Ham, explained B Coy's Sgt Mike Nunez. Its three rifle companies each contain three platoons.

"This camp is very useful for improving our overall teamwork," he said. "On a weekend exercise lasting less than 36 hours, there is just not enough time to get full benefit."

Thoroughly enjoying himself in the Welsh hills was Rfn Paul Williams of HQ, fresh from the depot in July.

An engineering student, he was attached to A Coy's rifle platoon for the duration of the camp.

"It's enlightening, totally different, there is always something to learn, it betters you as a person and it is great fun at

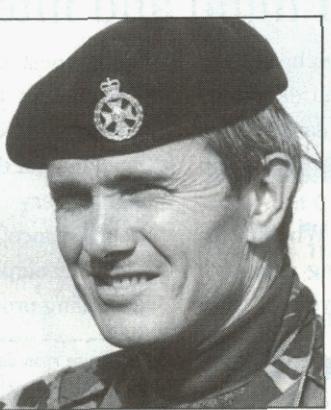
Right - Unsuspecting members of B Coy head into ambush

Below - Rfn Tony Dohan



Above - Rfn Paul Williams

Left - "Casualty" Rfn David Swan (C Coy) is carried to safety at the first aid stand by members of A Coy. An Australian from 4 RGJ's affiliated Sydney University Regiment, he said he had been impressed by the British Army's common-sense approach to field firing - but not with the weather . . .



Lt Col Peter Luard

the end of the day. I wouldn't be here otherwise," he said.

His colleague, Rfn Tony Dohan, a north London policeman who enlisted for the battalion one evening "on a whim", agreed.

The only bugbear was the weather, he said. It was freezing and very wet. But that was more than compensated for by the live ranges, in his opinion the highlight of the exercise.

"Your legs are like jelly afterwards and the adrenalin is racing, because it is not blanks you are using. You are not just trying to hit the target, you are trying not to kill somebody!"

Recruits such as Paul and Tony are essential, said Capt Charles Macdowell, 2iC A Coy, a former Royal Hampshire now working for a Greenwich-based public relations agency.

"The companies are established for around 100 persons in each, but average about 70. There has been a 'sea change', and the days when we could just expect people to walk in the door have gone.

"Our HQ company has a rifle platoon, and contains a fair proportion of office workers from stores such as John Lewis and so on. The Fulham company is a lot more down-to-earth."

"There are no officer cadets: recruits go in as riflemen for two years, so they know what it is like to be at the bottom of the pile."

It was all part of the Greenjacket tradition of being "the thinking riflemen".

"If the discipline is self-discipline, all the better," Capt Macdowell said.

The man with the responsibility for organising the fortnight's activities was Training Major David Day.

"I spend most of my time ringing up

training areas and begging helicopters," he joked. "There are excellent facilities here, and I think, as operations in Germany gradually run down, Sennybridge is going to become more and more important, with more UK battalions using it."

Down the road, meanwhile, members of C Coy were discovering the finer points of setting up - and avoiding - booby traps in and around a nearby building.

"They have covered everything, from adventure training to field firing. The adventure training breaks Londoners in to the Brecon weather, the field firing - which builds up over five days from individual to platoon level - has gone superbly."

The impressive thing about the Territorials was their enthusiasm and the speed with which they learned things, said Col Luard.

"Members of 4 RGJ lead a very full life, they are a very special battalion, one of only three infantry battalions in London."

"I am sure that, in the early hours of this morning, when they were out in the open in the pitch dark and the torrential rain, many of them were wondering what they were doing here."

"That is the main difference between Regulars and Territorials: I only volunteered once, they volunteer time and again. I admire them."

● In a fairly close-run finish, 6 Platoon B Coy eventually came out winners of the Lowenbrau platoon competition.

Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston

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Presentation team puts strong case for the Army

THIRTY years after the end of National Service, and nearly 50 since the end of the last global war, many civilians know little or nothing about the British Army.

The important job of explaining to civilian audiences the role of their army – its organisation and its training, how it spends its slice of the defence budget, and its value to the nation – rests with a small team based at the Staff College, Camberley.

The Army Presentation Team was formed to explain these issues to the British public – “to improve public awareness and understanding” – a task which it fulfils by making a series of presentations throughout the country.

Col David Radcliffe, Commander Artillery with 4th Armoured Brigade in the Gulf, heads the team of five Service personnel, each selected as ambassadors for the Army and posted in for a year.

Present incumbents are Capt Shaun Burley and Capt Fiona Grundy, both formerly instructors at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, WO2 Dennis Wills of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, and Bdr Eddy Hern from the 2nd Field Regiment RA.

A major problem for the APT is targeting the right people. For security reasons each member of every audience has to be individually invited.



The Army Presentation Team. From left are Bdr Eddy Hern, Capt Shaun Burley, PA Cara Iffland, Col David Radcliffe, Capt Fiona Grundy and WO2 Dennis Wills

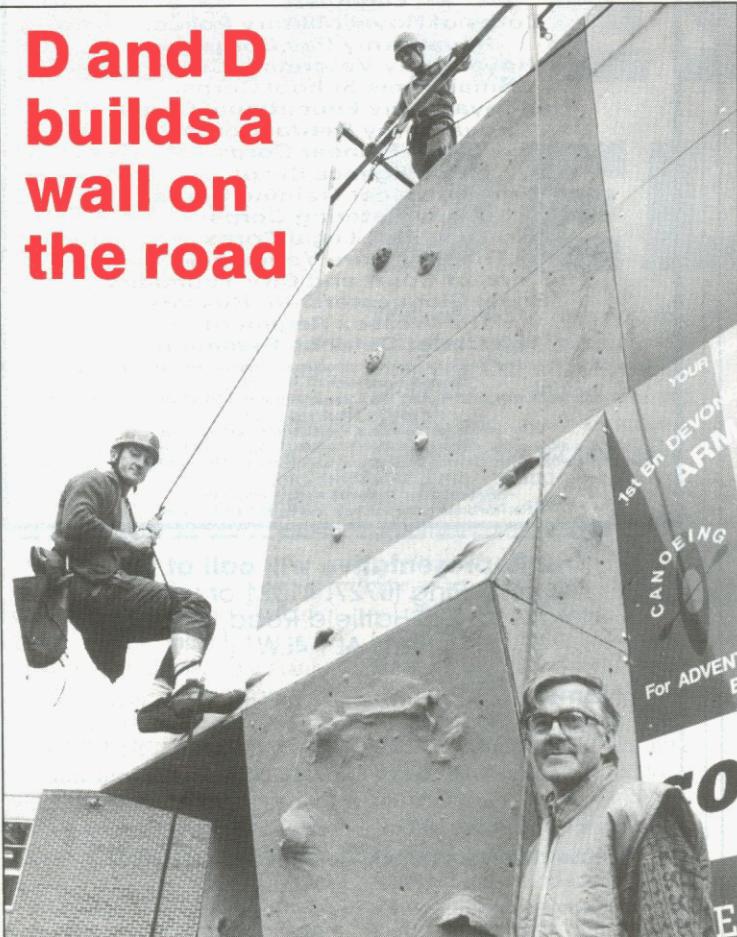
To make it easier five distinct groups have been identified:

- Opinion formers of the future from middle management, aged 25 to 45;
- Opinion formers of the present – politicians, company directors and civic authorities;
- Universities, technical colleges and schools;
- Defence industry managers;
- Ex-Service personnel and the

Territorial Army.

The content of the presentation changes each year and has to be cleared at the highest level before it can be taken “on the road”. This year emphasis has been given to the management of change, the British Army’s role in Nato’s Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, United Nations operations and the valuable skills that soldiers have to offer when they leave the Service.

D and D builds a wall on the road



Left – Sgt Colin Cockram scales the wall, watched by engineer Richard Williams (below) and LCpl Gary Nash (top).
Above – The wall on its trailer

GOING up is child’s play to The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment’s Army Youth Team – thanks to an ingenious mobile wall devised by team member Sgt Colin Cockram.

Until now the D and D youth team has borrowed the Glosters’ climbing wall for shows and recruiting events, but that takes a lot of scaffolding and hours to construct.

Colin’s brainwave, developed by civil engineer Richard Williams, can be easily transported on a trailer and put up in an hour. It “grows” from 12ft to 21ft and offers two different climbs, one with an overhang.

Those who make it to the

top can abseil down the other side.

Maj David Watson, the Division recruiting officer, said: “We can even put it up in small car parks.”

The wall, which will be a star attraction at shows in and around Devon and Dorset next summer – and for Trident challenge schemes run by the D and D on behalf of the Prince of Wales’s Division – cost about £8,000, much of which has been paid for by sponsors.

Anyone who wants to know more about the wall can contact him through the D and D Youth Team at Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, Devon EX2 6AE (tel: 0392 77788).

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AMF(L) ON EXERCISE ALLEY EXPRESS



A Turkish Army M48A(T1) tank manoeuvres forward to probe the AMF(L) defences

EXPRESS

Nato's AMF(L) puts 6,000 troops and 1,500 vehicles into the field

DELIVERY

ALLIED troops met more than they bargained for when they landed in Turkey to deter an invasion by a hostile neighbour.

In addition to fighting the "enemy" they also endured dust storms and the attentions of giant centipedes.

Exercise Alley Express practised the ACE Mobile Force (Land) in its southern contingent role in Turkish Thrace.

Six thousand troops and more than 1,500 vehicles, supported by 22 helicopters and 28 fixed-wing aircraft, were involved.

The enemy "Grey" forces were provided by the Turkish Army and included two infantry battalions, one tank battalion and more than 70 fighter aircraft.

The host nation tank commanders mounted in M48 tanks displayed a keen eye for natural ground cover to conceal their movements as they probed into and through the AMF's outer defences - no mean feat considering the noise

levels emitted by their engines.

Italian Army medical services provided a field hospital of 70 beds, a 40-bed clearing station and two ambulance points. They used new inflatable tents - including two NBC-safe operating theatres - which took just five to ten minutes to erect.

In the early stage of the deployment, there was a steady stream of visitors to the hospital. Most were soldiers volunteering to give blood later donated to local hospitals.

One waiting soldier was shocked when an observant Turkish liaison officer brushed away a 6in-long centipede that had crawled up his uniform.

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion

Other soldiers who thought the incident a laughing matter adopted a more serious outlook when told that a bite from this insect can be fatal.

Britain plays a full part in contributing troops to the AMF(L). This includes full logistic support and a battery of light guns. When the

force operates on Nato's northern flank, an infantry battalion from the United Kingdom would also deploy. Based at Larkhill near Salisbury, 94 Locating Regiment RA provides all the elements needed to establish a force artillery headquarters, consisting of a fire support co-ordination centre, fire direc-

tion centre and a meteorological section.

This small HQ can control the fire of any nation's batteries attached in any of AMF's deployment areas.

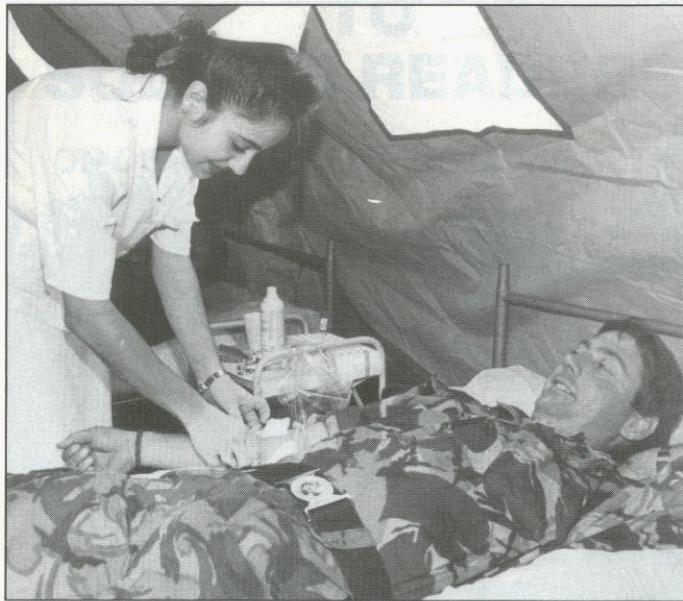
It also provides a fire support element to HQ AMF(L) to co-ordinate naval gunfire, artillery and mortar fire and close air support.

Firepower is a crucial asset for AMF, said the Commander Force Artillery, Lt Col Chris Coats, RA.

"The force artillery, with a headquarters provided by the United Kingdom, comprises six permanently allocated batteries from Canada, Italy, Germany, Belgium, the United States and the UK.

"A 120mm mortar battery

● Turn to next page



Assisted by an Italian Army nurse, Cpl Bruce Gatland was one of many AMF soldiers who donated blood for local hospitals

EXPRESS

● From Page 25

from the Netherlands is set to join AMF by 1995, and Portugal and Spain have declared an interest. Turkey and Greece will be part of the force by 1995," said Col Coats.

Not all batteries deploy to all contingency areas, but in any event there would never be less than four. In Thrace, 105mm gun batteries from Italy, Germany, Belgium, America and the UK, supported by infantry mortar fire and towed 155mm guns from the Turkish Army's 1st Artillery Battalion, put on an impressive firepower demonstration for senior commanders and observers.

A forward observation officer party from 5 Gibraltar (1779-82) Field Battery RA abseiled into position from an RAF Puma helicopter hovering 200ft above the ground.

Soldiers of 5 Battery have the honour of wearing a Croix de Guerre medal ribbon under the cap badge on their berets. Equipped with the 105mm light gun towed by Land Rover, the battery is part of 94 Locating Regiment.

The demonstration ended with concentrated fire on a single target by 36 guns and 11 mortars.

A significant addition to the ACE Mobile Force's combat capability has been the German Army's Wiesel tracked combat vehicle. It is fast - capable of 60kph across country - and armed with TOW missiles or 20mm cannon.

Wiesel carries a crew of two



The German 263 Airborne Battalion is equipped with Wiesel. This version of the airportable armoured vehicle has a 20mm cannon

A spearhead for the ARRC

THE ACE Mobile Force (Land) still has a role to play following the creation of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), according to its commander, Maj Gen Jozef Schoups.

"Things are changing very fast," he said. We have the concept for immediate reaction, so our force is destined to become the ARRC's land-based Immediate Reaction Force.

"There will be no reason to change our name because we will continue to be a brigade-sized force deployable ACE-wide from Norway in the north to Turkey in the south.

AMF (L) comprises infantry, artillery, armoured reconnaissance, engineers,

throughout the deployment area. Vehicle commanders literally fly their flags, choosing routes that give maximum visibility and taking every opportunity to stop and talk to the local population.

AMF(L) includes four conscript armies, so joint manoeuvres are particularly important. Training is epitomised on



Maj Gen Jozef Schoups, Commander ACE Mobile Force (Land)

helicopter, combat support and administrative units from Belgium, Canada, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Most units are based in their own countries and deploy to join the force for exercises and operations, but a permanent headquarters at Heidelberg, Germany is staffed by offices and NCOs from contributing countries.

"When Nato faced the Warsaw Pact, force was the deterrent," said Gen Schoups. "Now, solidarity is the important factor and the ACE Mobile Force demonstrates it on a multinational level."

each deployment by a military skills competition.

Should the worst happen, AMF(L) can expect to fight alongside the host nation, so cross-training is done with local forces.

The formation is most concerned with Nato's flanks. Rapid deployment is seen as a key factor in the success of the force and is a major consideration in the initial planning of any exercise or operation.

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) at Mons, Belgium is responsible for planning and co-ordinating the airlift. It organises the air flow programme so that units arrive in the tactical order required by the commander.

The Movement Control Centre (MCC) for Alley Express was manned by 50 MC Squadron RCT, normally based at South Cerney as part of 29 Transport and Movement Regiment RCT.

Senior movement controller was WO2 Jim Chalmers, whose

● Turn to Page 31



The crew of a 155mm gun of the Turkish Army's 1st Artillery Battalion prepare to open fire



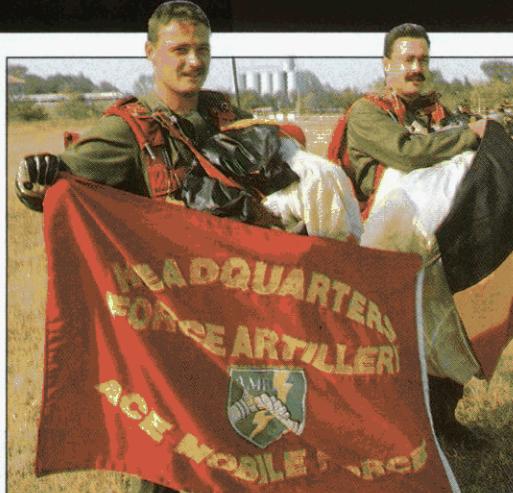
Undaunted by his heavy load, a British soldier yomps across the arid plain on a training area in Turkish Thrace



Above - A Royal Air Force Puma helicopter provided an airborne platform for United States troops who abseiled 200ft to the ground during an equipment display at Corlu



Left - The strain shows on the faces of these Logistic Support Battalion soldiers as they race for the line at the finish of the Challenge Cup. The British contingent traditionally does well in this military skills competition, and the Loggies put in the fastest time of any support troops team



Two sport parachutists of the Force artillery headquarters fly the flag after dropping in on the equipment display at Corlu

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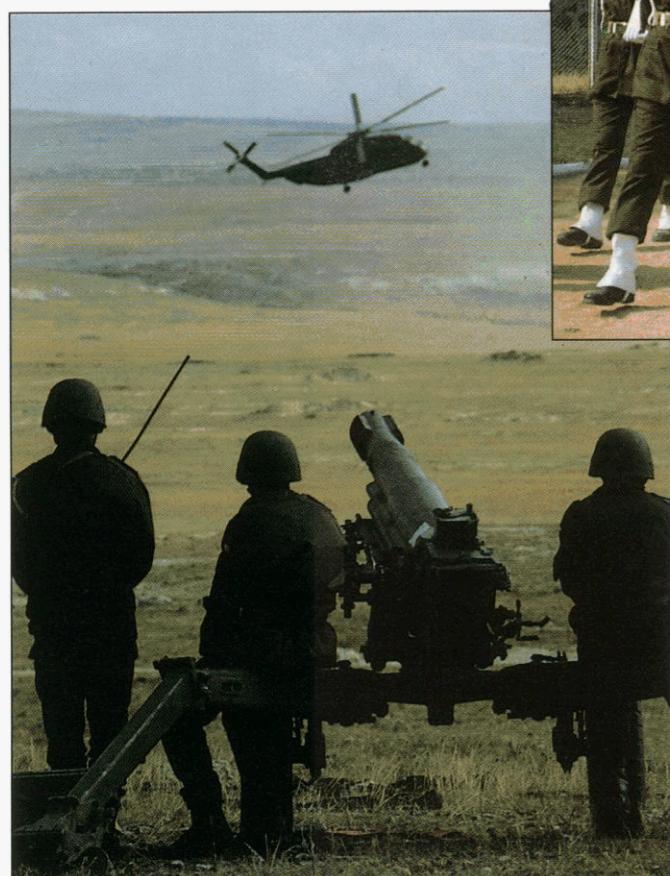
AMF(L) ON EXERCISE ALLEY EXPRESS



Gun teams from 5 Gibraltar (1779-82) Field Battery RA demonstrate the enormous firepower capability of the British Army's 105mm light gun



These soldiers of the 5th (Turkish) Corps performed immaculate drills at a multinational parade reviewed by the corps commander, Lt Gen Guven Ergenc, at Corlu



Above - Italian gunners check fire while a German CH53 helicopter, carrying two Wiesel tracked combat vehicles, prepares to land

Right - A minaret provides a backdrop for commander and gunner of this Scimitar recce vehicle of the Force reconnaissance unit provided by Belgium's oldest cavalry regiment, the 1st Regiment 'Jagers te Paard'



EXPRESS

From Page 26

role was to collate details of actual numbers of troops and equipment in theatre, and their movement. The force movements officer was Maj Phil Alberry.

Three movement detachments were involved in Alley Express - the MCC; an air transport liaison office providing flight reception at Corlu air base; and a port handling section at Tekirdag to organise the unloading of vehicles.

The United Kingdom provides a Logistic Support Battalion which supplies services such as rations, ground and aviation fuels and clothing to the whole force.

Its headquarters company administers and secures a logistic base.

Supply Company looks after Nato stores items ranging from a single screw to a complete vehicle and minefield barriers. Under operational conditions, the RAOC-Expeditionary Force Institute provides Naafi canteen facilities.

The company has its own RAOC butchers and the last field bakery in the British Army. Capable of producing 2,500 loaves a day, it was deployed to both the Falklands and Gulf wars.

A maintenance company provides a main repair group with workshop facilities, while a forward repair unit operates close to the front line.

Within the Logistic Support Battalion, the multinational nature of the force is highlighted. Policemen,

mechanics, drivers, storemen, cooks and petroleum and ammunition experts from many nations work together to meet the large demands placed on them by the units, surmounting problems with remarkable skill.

Host-nation support, such as transport and the provision of general and engineer stores and labour, considerably speeds up force deployment.

Capt John Noonan RCT commanded the British-Host Nation Transport Control (BHNTC) which provided the link between AMF(L) and



Movement controller Dvr Adrian Williamson RCT chalks up another flight



Force communications is provided by 249 Signal Squadron AMF(L). Cpl Chris Lloyd (right) erects an antenna, while Sgt Ian McCutcheon sorts out a guy rope

Turkish transport. He was assisted by SSgt Jimmy Hicks and Sgt Steve Ogden.

LCpl Spider Davidson and Dvr Lenny Lenton worked as depatched riders for BHNTC, guiding passengers, baggage vehicles and coaches between the airhead and holding areas.

The Force Helicopter Unit (FHU) was made up from a German unit and a detachment of Pumas from 33 Squadron, Royal Air Force, RAF Odiham. Its tasks included medical evacuation, moving artillery, re-supply, troop movement and liaison sorties.

The FHU was supported by an RAF Tactical Supply Wing and the British Army's 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) - the famous "Red Hand Gang" - who had to remove their distinctive tactical sign after being absorbed into Colerne-based 21 Signal Regiment and retitled 4 Squadron.

Force communications was provided by Bulford-based 249 Signal Squadron which forms part of the multinational headquarters committed to both northern and southern contingency areas.

The force military police headquarters was found from the British RMP. On deployment, it is joined by a force provost marshal, an RMP major from AMF(L) headquarters at Heidelberg.

The UK element was

provided by 158 Provost Company RMP from Bulford and consisted of the unit HQ, officer commanding, company sergeant major and a platoon of 17 NCOs. In Turkey, it was supplemented by United States MPs, Belgian gendarmes, German feldjager, Italian carabinieri and Turkish asiz.

In addition to signposting routes, the military police are also responsible for discipline, directing convoys and investigating offences and traffic accidents involving Nato troops.

Tact, commonsense and firmness can be fully tested when dealing with troops and nations whose military and legal systems are different and whose ability to speak English is often limited.

The exercise culminated in a series of attacks and counter-attacks. Turkish infantry soldiers, acting as enemy, landed at dawn from helicopters in an attempt to take out the AMF(L) headquarters.

A force of United States Marines drawn from a naval exercise, Display Determination in the Aegean Sea, countered with a heliborne landing of their own and overran the Grey positions. The Marines won their battle just in time, because, shortly afterwards, the whole area was swept by dust storms that reduced visibility to a minimum.

Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, opened its doors in 1906 to the sons of Scottish Servicemen. Writer **Gordon Skilling** and photographer **Mike Perring** discovered that confidence among the new Victorians is high

Class of '92 upholds a proud tradition

THE BOYS of Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, look like the Victorians whose ideals they exemplify.

In their scarlet tunics and kilts, and proudly bearing their fathers' capbadges on their sporrans, their parades recall scenes from an imperial past.

In deference to young boys on a long prize-giving parade the unusual command of "Victorians, Sit!" is given by the bursar, Col Alan Tapp, formerly Commander Transport and Movement (Scotland).

Ex-Gordons and Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Drum Major Bert Tomkins, who led the Scottish Division's "Big Blaw" on Horseguards Parade in 1990, was proud of the lads as he watched them march on their own Queen's Colours for "Grand Day".



Future soldiers of the Queen?

"Regulars spend weeks preparing for parades but these boys have only had eight rehearsals, and it still turns out OK," he said.

Teachers used to be provided by the RAEC, but the military emphasis has changed even if the traditional Scottish approach to education has not.

The only other uniformed members of staff are Pipe Major Allan Dippie, late of the Black Watch, and School Sergeant Major Duggie Duthie, ex-Scots Guards.

Col Tapp feels it is quite proper for the military to defer to the academic.

Like other boarding schools, it ensures continuity while parents are serving in different locations; the disturbance record of one newcomer was 11 different schools by the age of nine-and-a-half. Parents separate more often today and fathers still die on active service, though the 60 per cent of the boys with fathers, brothers or uncles in the Gulf were relieved not to suffer loss.

As a boarding school catering for the sons of Scottish Servicemen and women, or those who have served with Scottish units, it is not surprising that 40-60 per cent join the Services but less than five per

cent of the school's time is devoted to uniformed events such as ceremonial parades. The boys may not join the CCF until they are 13, and subjects with a military bent are not forced on them, although boys in their first two years learn piping, drumming or Highland dancing as part of the curriculum.

What is remarkable is the good academic standard that the boys achieve in an establishment which selects not on scholastic potential or ability to pay fees, but on need.

Queen Victoria School for the sons of Scottish sailors, soldiers and airmen (QVS) was founded in 1906 as a national memorial to Queen Victoria and the Scotsmen killed in the South African War. The Scottish educational system was to be followed, the heritage and traditions of their fathers' country and service protected.

It was a time when there was great respect for the sacrifices required of Service families and a conscious recognition of a debt owing.

The altruistic outlook of those who funded it by public



subscription continues. An Australian recently returned and in appreciation of his education there instituted an Outward Bound activities fund for those whose parents could not afford it.

QVS's constitution does not permit fees to be charged (unlike the Duke of York's School in Dover) and when the Ministry of Defence took over, canny lawyers arranged for this to continue, said Col Tapp. Under executive agency status granted in April, the school manages its own financial affairs within the Adjutant General's budget.

The school's ethic of providing education and opportunity for those who would not otherwise be able to take advantage of it also continues.

Originally, food, clothing, bedding and comfort were the great benefits for sons of soldiers who had been killed, maimed or had fallen on bad times. Boys were taught to be cobblers, tailors or bandsmen, so that they would have a trade before joining, probably, the Army.

Only a very few intelligent boys received more than basic education.

In those days officers' families tended to have independent means, and their sons are still not eligible unless a parent has served four years in the ranks. The constitution is being changed to accept girls.



School Sergeant Major Duggie Duthie makes final adjustments before the "Grand Day" parade

QVS enrols 270 ten to 18-year-olds and offers a range of subjects which would do credit to a school three times its size.

Headmaster Julian Hankin-

son knows of no former pupil who is unemployed. They join the Services, either as apprentices or adults, or carry on to further education and university before entering employment.

Ready for the big day are Col Alan Tapp, Andrew Denholm, Andrew Milne, Craig Roberts, Andrew Paisley and headmaster Julian Hankinson

They will have been given a flying start. Mr Hankinson remarked on the number of times employers or recruiters have commented on scholars' bearing. Confidence on the hills is reflected in confidence in themselves.

This is instilled not only by reading the lesson in chapel on their birthday. A wide range of activities, outdoor pursuits, choral and orchestral disciplines further the cause.

Throughout the school year the boys learn respect for others, some visiting old people's homes every week, others helping handicapped adults or children.

They have also made their mark on a wider stage, acting as ushers for royal occasions. The Pipes and Drums have played at every home rugby international at Murrayfield since 1925 and both they and the dancers are frequently seen at tattoos and displays throughout the country.

Victorians do "OK" on their parades. They also often excel in life. "The staff are somewhat humbled by what the boys achieve," said Mr Hankinson, adding with a grin, "sometimes despite our opinion of them while they were here!"

Grapple redundees promised reasonable period back in UK

SOLDIERS selected for redundancy while deployed on Operation Grapple to Bosnia-Herzegovina will be given every chance to spend a reasonable time in the United Kingdom before they are discharged.

Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton has confirmed that redundancies will be spread across the Army and not confined to units disbanding or facing mergers.

It is possible, therefore, that some individuals on Op Grapple may receive redundancy notices while in Bosnia and Croatia.

In a written reply, Mr Hamilton told me: "Indeed, many soldiers – not just redundants – are required to deploy to operational theatres close to the end of their engagement.

"But, if such cases arise in Yugoslavia, every effort will be made to ensure that, as with other personnel serving overseas, individuals are given a reasonable period of time in the UK before their discharge date."

I raised a number of Op Grapple welfare issues with the Armed Forces Minister after he had faced the new Defence Select Committee, now chaired by Sir Nicholas Bonsor, to be quizzed on both the current deployment and the Gulf War.

A summary of Mr Hamilton's answers on the provision of telephones and blueys, life insurance, LOA, leave and food charges appears on Page 17. Other issues were:

DSS Benefits – "When

a Serviceman deploys from the UK, his Family Credit continues until his current book runs out. A new book must be bid for, but if the husband is out of the country, the DSS will not pay Family Credit."

"Although we were able to secure special arrangements during the Gulf conflict, the DSS made it clear that the circumstances were exceptional and could not be treated as a precedent. We have not approached DSS for any special concessions for Yugoslavia-based troops."

BFG cars – "In accordance with the Status of Forces agreement, non-dependents may not drive BFG-registered cars. It is therefore not possible to add named drivers to current insurance policies.

The tax-free concessions and exemptions from German tax laws only apply to British Forces and their dependents.

"Grandparents may visit Service families in Germany for up to 90 days and may drive the BFG-registered family car for up to 28 days. Under Customs and Excise regulations, grandparents are not permitted to drive BFG-registered cars in the UK."

Welfare package – "The case for additional welfare benefits cannot be assessed in advance since the nature, size and location of deployments can vary significantly."

"We therefore have to look at potential welfare benefits on a case-by-case basis, but this does not automatically lead to delay."

Free blueys, for example, were introduced very quickly for troops serving in Yugoslavia."

The Armed Forces Minister went on to explain that the general policy continued to be that Service personnel should be paid and treated the same wherever they were serving, and that the continuous payment of the X-factor recognised their liability to serve, on occasions, in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

"We therefore need to balance carefully, in the case of deployments such as the one in Yugoslavia, the morale benefits of a special welfare package against the adverse impact this could have on morale in other overseas theatres," he said.



Gone are the days when returning to Civvy Street was cause for celebration.

Nowadays it could well prove to be the most inhospitable environment thousands of members of the Armed Forces will have ever had to face.

Due to Defence cuts it's here that they and

Where survival training for thousands of Service personnel is now needed most.

their families will soon find themselves looking for homes, jobs and help.

Fortunately, SSAFA/FHS are just around the corner. Our 6,000 trained volunteers can help ex-Servicemen and women and their families survive in such circumstances.

By providing confidential advice concerning all resettlement problems. As well as support in times of bereavement, disability, illness, loneliness and old age.

So, next time you've a problem, no matter what it is, remember that handing out friendly, unbiased help is always right up our street.

If you think we can be of service, please don't hesitate to contact your local SSAFA/FHS branch (see your UK local phone book) or SSAFA Central Office at Room 17, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP. Alternatively, telephone: 071 403 8783.



Owen's lucky break

Gulf veteran Owen and his wife Karen struck it lucky when he took voluntary redundancy on learning of the reorganisation of his regiment at Fallingbostel.

After 15 years in the Army they returned to Norfolk, to find that the only accommodation the local authority could offer was bed and breakfast.

That's when they had their lucky break. South Norfolk District Council put them in touch with Norwich-based Broadland Housing Association and they were nominated for a three-bedroom home.

Owen and Karen are pictured moving in with help from Broadland chief executive Peter Robinson (centre), a retired lieutenant colonel.



Repairs block adds to MQ shortfall

TWO shortages are beginning to take their toll on the housing front – insufficient funds in the married quarters maintenance budget and the resulting lack of accommodation for families.

In a pilot scheme four years ago, 66 "surplus" flats and houses on St Mary's MQ Estate at Chatham were made available to a housing association.

The £4 million site is still unsold, with the homes boarded up and derelict.

Chatham, at the moment, does not have a waiting list for quarters. In London the story is very different – there is a

shortfall of 55 MQs. Yet in the heart of Victoria lies Stillington Street. On one side, Queen Mary Buildings houses Service families; on the other 55 flats intended for similar occupation are gutted, empty and derelict, waiting for money to become available for modernisation next year.

This is a pity. The MQ shortage is beginning to bite, more areas have waiting lists and husbands face the prospect of commuting.

When 850 RAF quarters were offered to the Army it had to decline because chronic shortage of maintenance funding meant that it did not have the £5 million needed to spend on them.

In fact, the Army is short by £20 million of the sum needed to bring current MQs and single accommodation up to standard.

Another problem is the length of time it takes for MQs to be passed over to housing associations. For two blocks in Woolwich the delay has already been 18 months.

Rents-to-mortgages

RECENTLY a number of housing packages have become available to those looking for accommodation when leaving the forces.

Birmingham Midshires Building Society, in conjunction with SSAFA, have produced a rents-to-mortgages scheme.

The object is to make use of a stock of properties held by Birmingham Midshires. The properties will be made available on non-repairing 12-month

leases to serving and ex-Service men and women and can be bought during the rental period.

Birmingham Midshires are offering those in the rental scheme a mortgage rate discount of 1.5 per cent below BM's market base rate.

Birmingham Midshires operate mainly in the Midlands, South West and North West. Contact SSAFA's Housing Advisory Service on 071-403 8783.

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Birmingham Midshires operate mainly in the Midlands, South West and North West. Contact SSAFA's Housing Advisory Service on 071-403 8783.

Helpline for the aged

THOSE serving overseas with elderly relatives back home should send them Help the Aged's Senior Line freephone number, on

which they can obtain all sorts of useful help and advice – 0800 289404, open Monday-Friday, 10 am to 4 pm.

No sign of AIDS packs...

Dear Anne,

In the May 18, 1992 SOLDIER you mentioned the availability of AIDS packs. These were not given to us prior to leaving the UK or on arrival in Brunei.

At our MoD briefing the subject was not even mentioned. On questioning our medical personnel in Brunei they were not aware of the packs.

Would you advise us how to obtain these packs.

Anne writes:

I raised this issue with the MoD as well as the availability of the MoD Northumberland House Travel Clinic for families travelling overseas for duties with BMATT teams or military attachés, or on loan service or individual service to certain countries.

AIDS packs are stocked at Ludgershall and are available, for example, to loan service personnel.

The Northumberland House Travel Clinic is a consultant facility to which an individual can be referred by a medical officer if necessary.

It is not mandatory to visit the clinic, but a member of a Serviceman or woman's family can ask to be referred there.

Good advice for anyone travelling anywhere abroad is to read T4 March 1992 Health Advice for Travellers. Its information is updated daily on Prestel Page 50063.

Emergency travel kits containing syringes, needles and suture materials, vital in areas where medical facilities are limited, are available from addresses listed in T4.

Anyone serving overseas on loan, with a BMATT team, military attaché or other attachment who does not have an AIDS pack should write to me at SOLDIER.

Each member of the family should have an individual pack, including children.

SOLDIER to Soldier

A small deceit in Normandy

VISITORS to the D Day beaches in Normandy may be surprised to come across a statue of Eros standing guard over a little roundabout a few miles up the road at Tierceville.

The statue was built by a special unit of sappers whose work is still shrouded in secrecy.

Soon after D Day No 179 Special Field Company RE returned to normal engineering duties to repair roads and verges constantly being chewed up by the enormous number of heavy vehicles passing over the small country roads south of Gold Beach.

One junction in particular became a bottleneck because the largest vehicles could not negotiate the corner without the help of RMP traffic controllers. The sappers moved in to build a small roundabout.

After one near miss an angry sapper declared the junction was just like "Piccadilly bloody Circus!", a comment which inspired first a sign, then an improvised statue of Eros himself.

One sapper who had been an artist before the war constructed the statue and column in



The Normandy Eros pictured in 1944 (above); as it is today (right); and the R Force badge (below)

his spare time out of whatever materials he could "liberate" — mainly chicken wire, cement and steel rod.

It stood proudly for more than 20 years until former Resistance members had it refurbished, gilded and set on polished pink granite.

So it was quite a surprise when ex-LCpl Dick Dyson saw it again when he went to France for a D Day anniversary.

"I helped build the plinth but I can't remember the name of the man who constructed Eros," he said.

Neither the artist nor the force's



CO, Col David Strangeways, has received the recognition he deserves, says another former sapper, Arthur Merchant.

No 179 Special Field Company RE was a unit of R Force Deception Troops and had been instrumental in hoodwinking Rommel.

"The force produced thousands of dummy pieces of equipment which made Rommel prepare to meet an attack in the south with two thirds of his Afrika Korps, which let Monty punch a hole right through in the north," said Mr Merchant.

In the months before D Day they made hundreds of dummy invasion barges which were anchored in rivers, inlets and coves from East Anglia to the Sussex coast. Once again, Rommel was taken in, keeping his best panzer divisions around Calais waiting for the R Force attack which never came.

It was a dangerous job.

"You couldn't just pump up rubber tanks and leave them," said Mr Merchant. "You had to keep moving them round and look as if you were working on them. They were designed to attract enemy attention, and they did."

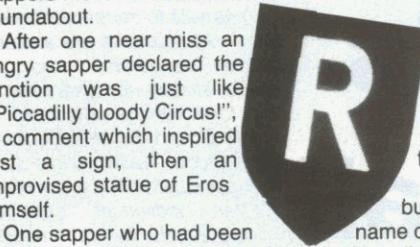
"It was quite frightening to have a huge Tiger tank coming at you when all you had was a rubber tank."

The Normandy Eros can be found at the junction of the D12 from Courseulles and the D176 from Douvres-la-Délivrande. For the Frenchmen who pass it everyday, Eros is not a dummy, but not many recognise it as a monument to the men whose dummies fooled Rommel.

Alanbrooke appeal open

ALTHOUGH the Alanbrooke statue is expected to be unveiled on Raleigh Green, Whitehall, in May, the campaign to pay for the project is still being fought.

The Royal Artillery-led project to honour one of Britain's great war leaders has so far raised £61,000, but a further £89,000 is needed to



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HYUNDAI

A record of benevolence

A SERVING soldier whose family's possessions were all lost when his married quarter was destroyed by fire has cause to be grateful to Army Benevolence.

So too has a soldier wounded in Northern Ireland and medically discharged in 1977 ... and an ex-soldier with five children who had been made redundant.

All three, and many, many more, have received grants from the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) to cheer up their lives. In many cases, further help was forthcoming from corps and regimental associations. Army Benevolence is the combined work of these organisations.

Wreaths were laid by Shosaku Kameyama and former Royal Welch Fusilier Gwilym Davies, chairman of the Mid Wales branch of the Burma Star Association, who 50 years ago took part in the bloody fighting at Kohima.

The fellowship group, which seeks to alleviate the bitterness between once implacable foes, also visited the refurbished Kohima Museum at Imphal Barracks, York, and paid its respects to 98-year-old Gen Sir Philip Christison, Britain's most senior Burma veteran.



A RANGE of seven commemorative coins struck in gold and silver has been produced for Belize by the Royal Mint to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein.

Montgomery, Rommel, Crusader and Sherman tanks, and Allied infantrymen are depicted by Dutch engraver Willem Vis on the reverse of the coins. The obverse design, the Raphael Maklouf portrait of the Queen, is common to all seven.

Prices range from £29.50 for the silver proof \$5 coin depicting Monty to £995 for a limited set of four gold proof coins (\$250, \$100, \$50 and \$25).

Telephone enquiries about the coins can be made to the Royal Mint on 0443 238282.

Keyes VC not the youngest

THIS magazine is well aware of the danger of the superlative. To describe an event or person as "the first" or "the youngest" for example, is to invite contradiction from those who know better.

The book world evidently has the same problem. The Imperial War Museum Book of the Desert War, reviewed in the November 2 edition of SOLDIER, tells of the ill-fated British attempt on Rommel's life 51 years ago.

Lt Col Geoffrey Keyes, who was killed in the raid and received a posthumous VC, is pictured with a caption reading: "At only 24 he was the youngest soldier to hold this rank in the British Army".

Not so, says Col Pip Newton, of Winchester. "I was promoted to lieutenant colonel during the war at the age of 21½," he said. "With all due respect, Geoffrey Keyes was actually 21¾ when he was promoted."

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

CBE
Col E T Hudson, OBE, late Gren Gds; Brig (now Maj Gen) M D Jackson, MBE, late Para; Brig A I Ramsay, late RHF.

OBE
Lt Col J M J Balfour, RGJ; Lt Col (now Col) R V Brims, MBE, LI; Lt Col J G Finlay, MBE, RS; Lt Col G A McDonald, Kings; Lt Col N B Muir, MC, Int Corps; Lt Col G T Robey, Green Howards; Lt Col M Smith, MC, RGJ; Lt Col I P White, AAC.

MBE
Maj W Burford, R Anglair; Maj N R G Chavasse, RGJ; Acting WO1 M J Dowell, RCT; WO1 J Duffus, QO Hdr; Capt J L A Earey, QGM, RAOC; Capt D J B Howcroft, QLR; Maj H C Northam, AAC; Maj S J Pearce, RE; Capt C C Waddington, Para; WO2 (now WO1) D Williams, AGC(SPS); Capt D J Wood, LI.

GM
WO2 D A Duffy, BEM, RAOC.

QGM
Sgt K F Ryan, Para; Capt A N E Salmon, RAOC; WO1 W A Wreyford, RAOC.

BEM
Cpl M Baxendale, QLR; SSgt C Corlett, RE; Cpl K S Coventry, RE; Sgt I C Nellins, R Irish; Sgt (now A/SSgt) J Tate, RDG.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
Maj A Amber, LI; Sgt S Armstrong, R Signals; Sgt M R Atkins, R Anglair; Kgm P Bartley, Kings; Maj R I Buckley, R Signals; Lcpl S A Clarke, R Signals; Lcpl S M Clarke, Int Corps; Lcpl P A Clowes, QLR; Cpl (now A/Sgt) C R Colley AGC(RMP); Cpl S G Cook, REME; Atpr M C Doherty, AAC; Lt (now Capt) A E Eaton, R Anglair; Sgt I H Edgar, QLR; Maj P A W Edwards, AAC; Capt D W S Evans, Para; Rfn S G Fairs, RGJ; Sgt A Forbes, R Signals; Maj R H Gash, Para; Maj N J R Haddock, RGJ; Lcpl R M Hughes, RGJ.

Capt N J Hyslop, RGJ; Gnr P Kelly, RA; SSgt K M Lane, RE; Sgt A J Lincoln, Para; Capt J L Mann, RGJ; Capt C A McGrath, IG; Maj M J C Payne, LI; Lt Col D S B

APPOINTMENTS
Brigadiers — M S Rutter-Jerome — To be Comdt RSA Larkhill, Oct 22; M Smythe — To be Comdt Arty 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, Oct 19; I H McNeil — To be Comdt 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Oct 21.

Lt Cols — M G C Amlot, Kings — To Sec C-in-C BAOR, Oct 20; D H A Blease, RA — To be CO 32 Hy Regt, Oct 19; S P Harris, RA — To Joint Force Operations Staff, Oct 19; R I Harrison, RCT — To

SHADE Staff (BAE), Oct 19; S C Hearn, RGJ — To MoD, Oct 22.

Correction: P S W F Falkner, LG — to be CO Household Cavalry Regt, Oct 19.

Retirements
Colonels — A R Martin, late R Signals, Oct 23; A Mills, late RAPC, Oct 22.

Lt Cols — G R Cobley, RAMC, Oct 31; I D Evans, RAMC, Oct 31.

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BRIEFINGS

REUNIONS

1993

● **Windsor School, Hamm, Germany:** Reunion for pupils/teachers planned 1993. Contact Bob Jordan, Greenacre, Shepherds Lane, Compton Down, Winchester, Hants SO21 2AB, for details and newsletter.

● **RAOC footballers past and present:** RAOCFA will play its last fixture under the corps flag on March 31 and to mark the occasion a reunion dinner will be held at CAD Kineton in March. Details from Maj Richard Attard (Bicester Mil 3049) or Maj Ray Goff (Kineton Mil 3492).

● **Bridlington Combined Ex-Services Association:** Reunion weekend and conference, May

SEARCHLINE

● **Airborne Pathfinders:** Ex-members of 21st Independent Parachute Company, 1st Independent Parachute Platoon and Corps personnel attached are invited to contact F W Weatherley, Flat 48, Blenheim Court, 399 Markfield Drive, Flanderwell, Rotherham S66 0LB (tel: 0709 532116) for information regarding their club and future reunions.

● **2nd and 1st/7th Bns, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment:** Members who took part in the Normandy campaign from D-Day to Falaise in August 1944 are asked to contact Area HQ RRF, St John's House, Warwick CV34 4NF, giving regimental number, rank and appointment at the time.

● **Christmas Island 1961-62:** Former colleagues of George Snell, who as a corporal was i/c RAOC Laundry attached to 73 Squadron RE are asked to contact him at his new address, 36A Blessington Road, Anfield, Liverpool L4 0RZ.

● **Ex-Gnr Tez Dodd and wife Tina** want to hear from **4th Fd Regt RA 1983-84** colleagues based at North Camp, Aldershot and Osnabrück, in particular best man Taffy Curtis, Kevin Stewart, Jed Buxton, Colin Hancock, Peter

14-16. Details with SAE from Ticket Secretary, 17 Hustler Road, Bridlington, E Yorks after January 1.

● **The El Adem Radio Service (TEARS):** Reunion on June 19 at Stakis Country Court Hotel, Northampton, to mark 35th anniversary of first broadcast. Ex-TEARS personnel based at RAF El Adem between 1958 and 1970 are asked to contact John Moir, 27 Wilton Drive, Horndean, Waterlooville PO8 9QY (tel: 0705 595489).

● **Royal Canadian Regiment:** The regiment will hold its 110th anniversary reunion in CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick, on June 25-27. Details from RHQ, RCR, Wolseley Barracks, London, Ontario, Canada N5Y 4T7.

Harland, Kevin Murphy, Wingnut and George who were at their wedding. Replies to 109 Barth Road, Plumstead, London SE18 1SF (tel: 081-317 7401).

● **Northumberland Fusiliers Boys Football Team, April 1933:** Mr G Prince, The Gleanings, Magpie Hall Road, Stubbs Cross, Ashford, Kent TN26 1HF, has a photograph of the team and would be willing to send copies to families of those involved: A Cousins, W Moir, W Birnie, W Pickles, J Dickenson, W Mowat, J Cutter, G Prince, K Proctor, S Turner, J Hurst, T Stobart and Bds J Spencer and LCpl Tappenden.

● **Gallipoli Association:** The association welcomes applications for membership from veterans of 1915, anyone with a family connection, and anyone interested in the campaign in which Allied Forces suffered 250,000 casualties. Contact J J Fallon, Gallipoli Association, 2 Sunnyfield, The Ryde, Hatfield, Herts AL9 5DX.

● **8th (Irish) Bn, The King's Regiment:** Peter Golding, 3 Valley View, Fulwood, Preston PR2 4HA, wishes to contact men who served with the battalion from 1938.

DIARY

Until November 29: Assignment Falklands exhibition depicting role of sappers during the war, Royal Engineers Museum, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.

JANUARY 1993

30: Victorian Military Society "British India" fair, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2 (1030 to 1630). Details from Dan Allen, tel: 0635 48628.

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

LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

Services' support was a life-saver

THE ROYAL National Life-boat Institution is most grateful to the men and women of the British Armed Forces who raised nearly £23,000 in support of the lifeboat service over the past year.

It would be very much appreciated if the institution's sincere thanks could be conveyed to them all.

It is of prime importance that our friends all over the world continue, during these difficult financial times, to give as generously as possible to the RNLI, which is funded entirely by voluntary contributions and legacies.

During 1991 lifeboats were called out 4,935 times in all weathers, saving a total of 1,308 lives. — **Lieut-Cdr Brian Miles RNR, Director RNLI, Poole, Dorset.**

Solution on the double

IN ANSWER to R A Hamilton's letter (November 2), the Adjutant General's office said the AG Corps could not be given the prefix Royal because it would form a double possessive and the AG is not royal.

But if the title were to be the Adjutant General's Royal Corps there would be no problem with the double possessive and the name would show accurately that the corps was both the Adjutant General's and Royal.

This way of titling a corps would not be new for it was done before in the case of the old KRRC, where the title indicated it was both the King's Rifle Corps and a Royal Rifle Corps. — **R E Philpott, Ringwood, Hants.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



'She says she will only accept
Deutschmarks or American Express!'

● AMF(L) on exercise in Turkish Thrace — see Pages 25-31

As effective as any man!

HE'S RIGHT, he did make himself unpopular. I direct my comment to the "Ex-Regular" from Belfast, whose letter (October 19) stated: "It is patent nonsense to put them into jobs at the sharp end" — "them" meaning females.

As a woman who has experienced service "at the sharp end" and has handled it as efficiently as my male counterparts, let me state that if

a woman can achieve and maintain certain standards required for a particular job, then she should be allowed to do it.

We don't all want to be infantry soldiers, combat engineers and so on, and not all of us could be, but it is wrong to generalise.

Wake up, Ex-Regular, this is 1992 — and stop being a male chauvinist. — **Regular, Belize.**

This medal rule is 'negative'

MAY I SAY how wonderful the new National Service commemorative medal looks, with its uniquely-coloured ribbon. I feel sure those of us who have obtained it will be proud to wear it.

Why, though, must it be a sin to wear it on the medal bar with other decorations? Someone who served two years and

gained the General Service Medal, Malaya, for example, would be proud to wear the two medals together, rather than one on top of the other.

Trust this country to adopt this negative attitude to those who have served it. Is there no senior officer to speak up on our behalf? — **A Denton, Chigwell, Essex.**

Untying a knotty problem

I DID my National Service in the Royal Signals in 1949-50. Can anyone answer these questions?

When off-duty we were allowed to wear a tie and open-neck with our khaki battle dress — but not on parade. I believe that subsequently ties and open necks became regulation dress at all times. Can anyone tell me when?

In either the spring or the summer of 1949, we were transported from Catterick to London to work as dockers in view of the dock strike then in progress. Our lot were stationed in Purfleet.

I particularly remember that the Guards even polished the buttons on their denims.

What were the dates of this intervention by the Army? — **A S Page, Liverpool.**

Forester who went to war with an oboe

WHEN Erskine Williams went to war in 1916 to fight for King and Country he took along his oboe.

It was part of his call-up orders that he take his instrument with him when he reported to the bandmaster of The Sherwood Foresters at Brocton Camp in Staffordshire.

In the war to end all wars it was the job of Army musicians to stretcher the wounded to first-aid stations, bury the dead, keep the roads clear of debris and dead horses, dispose of unexploded ammunition, guard PoWs and entertain at concert parties and officers' messes.

It all seems a bit unreal; trombones, violins, pierrots and musical soirées in officers' messes in the middle of all that carnage.

But there they were, playing their hearts and lungs out to give the Tommies a bit of pleasure and perhaps a memory of Blighty before going "over the top". - JM

Additionally they had to take their turn at "tin-bashing" (clearing up after the cooks in the cookhouse).

But even though many of them came under heavy fire, it would seem, judging from

Bullets and Bands, that many had a relatively quiet war compared to hundreds of thousands of others slogging it out in the mud and the blood of 1914-18.

There can't be many left who can recall the bands of The Sherwood Foresters or the 11th Division of the BEF which used an old London bus for their playing engagements.

That this did not happen rests squarely with Gen Brereton, the commander of 1st Allied Airborne Army, who decided the air plan and would allow no changes; but should Lt Gen Browning, GOC British Airborne Corps and/or Maj Gen Urquhart, GOC 1 AB Division, have resigned rather than accept the flawed plan?

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This book, first published in 1984, has been updated by the author and he has "corrected a few errors, typographical and factual, which had found their way into the book", but he also states that "only in two places have I felt the need to modify my previous views".

Not having read the first edition, your reviewer, who has walked the ground at Arnhem and Nijmegen, can only report that he wishes he had had this book in his hands at the time.

It is an enthralling story written by an officer who commanded a company in 156 Para Battalion and who is described by his former brigade commander at Arnhem in his foreword as "competent, courageous and self-effacing".

He deals in great detail with all the events and controversies surrounding the three actions at Eindhoven, Nijmegen and Arnhem, including the greatest controversy concerning the DZs and LZs at Arnhem.

He describes this as "the prime cause of the virtual destruction of the three

brigades of 1st Airborne Division in their various attempts to force their way through to reach the vital bridge across the river," and rightly suggests that two brigades should have been dropped north and south of the bridge preceded by a glider-borne *coup de main* party.

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The author in discussing this issue was obviously unaware of the evidence left by Gen "Windy" Gale, GOC 6 AB Division, and disclosed after his death a few years ago.

He was asked by Browning to give his opinion of the plan and replied: "The whole division have to be landed on or close to the bridge to be certain of success or at the very least a *coup de main* drop of a parachute brigade to hold the bridge until the main force arrived. Without such a drop the chances of success are slim."

When asked by Browning what he would do if he had to accept the plan (dropping 11km away) he replied: "I would resign."

The author, however, points out that Browning had already threatened to resign once over Op Linnet 2 and "although he did attempt to persuade his air force colleagues to reconsider their plans it was difficult for him to make a stand. No one

The cauldron of Arnhem



Men of 10 Para and Belgian commandos wait to board an RAF Hercules aircraft for this year's commemoration parachuting drop on Arnhem

Picture: Simon M Lunt

can offer to resign twice in ten days." One is tempted to respond "Why not?"

It is impossible to rehearse all aspects of three main battles in this review; suffice it to say in Gen Hackett's words, "this book is the rarity of lucid and informed comment on the whole untidy business of war and above all on these operations in particular." His

final conclusion is, however, provocative and readers will have to judge for themselves.

Readers may also wonder why the book is called *The Devil's Birthday*. The author explains that this was how a German soldier who fought at Arnhem and was captured later in the war described the battle.

Another German who had served in almost every theatre,

including Russia, said that "Arnhem exceeded in ferocity anything he had known". A veritable cauldron indeed in which the brave Dutch citizens shared the horrors of the soldiers so bravely. - PSN

The Devil's Birthday. The Bridges to Arnhem 1944 by Geoffrey Howell. Leo Cooper, £16.95.

IN BRIEF

In Presence of My Foes by Gris Davies-Scourfield. Extraordinary story of spirited battle of Calais followed by five years in PoW camps, including Colditz. Several ingenious escapes included one which led to nine months hidden by the Polish resistance. Published by Wilton 65. Signed copies from Brig E G B Davies-Scourfield, Old Rectory Cottage, Medstead, Alton, Hants GU34 5LX, price £19.50 plus £2.50 p and p.

The Bovington Tank Collection by George and Adam Forty. Ensign Publications, 2 Redcar Street, Southampton SO1 5LL, soft cover, £14.95.

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AN ENGLISHMAN IN THE ARGYLLS

AS A self-confessed chaser of the good life, junior reporter Russell Spurr joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1941 in search of girls and adventure.

He left his job in Grimsby as a 19-year-old with a hedonistic future firmly in his sights. It was anything-for-a-laugh time.

But it didn't quite work out to plan. What he did discover was that his fellow recruits in

the Argylls were tough Glaswegians who considered him an English poof.

He also found out that the Gordon Highlanders and the Argylls didn't get on too well and a set-to in an Aberdeen bar left him flat on his back with an egg-sized lump on his head. But at least he learned something about regimental pride, earning him the respect of his comrades.

But where were the girls to accompany his flash new uniform and borrowed kilt, now he was one of the lads?

No such luck for the young Spurr and, since he yearned for adventure and the Indian Army wanted officers, he applied for a commission.

No sooner had he arrived in India than he was applying to join the Royal Indian Navy, at which he was successful again.

This grasshopper existence did him no harm at all and he spent five reckless and spirited years in the Far East.

In *Let the Tiger Turn Tail* Spurr, now 70 and still writing for newspapers and TV from his Sydney home, tells a rollicking, ripping yarn of his war service. - JM

Let the Tiger Turn Tail by Russell Spurr. Mainstream Publishing (Edinburgh), £14.99.

Dragon boats go into action for ABF

CAD KINETON's first Dragon Boat Challenge raised more than £500 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Organisers David Cogswell, a civilian working at Kineton, and Maj Mike Haslam, serving on the permanent staff of the Territorial Army's 202 Field Hospital RAMC, have founded the British Dragon Boat Racing Association and intend to develop the event into a major annual charity event involving Regular and TA units.

Maj Haslam can be contacted on 021-444 2700, David Cogswell on 0869 257615.

Overall winners were a team from the CAD Kineton officers' mess.

★ ★ ★

Twenty members of A Company, 1st Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers from Guisborough ran from Morecambe Bay to Saltburn and raised more than £1,400 for the South Tees Baby Care Unit.

In all, the runners covered 113 miles, much of it up hill and down dale in high winds and pouring rain.

★ ★ ★

WO1 Steve Greenwood, RSM of Berlin-based 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, entered the city's annual marathon to raise money for the 1 QLR Wives' Club - known as the Frogs - and B Company, which is collecting for the Guide Dogs for the Blind organisation and its German equivalent in Spandau.

RSM Greenwood completed the marathon, his first, in the very respectable time of 3hr 5min 22sec and attracted sponsorship totalling DM5,936 (about £2,500).



Picture: Mike Perrin

We've done it! Cheered on by colleagues, Cpl Gareth Herbert, LCpl Andy Hardy, LCpl Gavin Henry and LCpl Kevin Nicholls of 22 Field Hospital RAMC return somewhat wearily to Aldershot after cycling 3,200 miles around the coastline of Britain to raise more than £3,500 towards orthopaedic equipment for Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot



Picture: Stewart Winning Photography

These members of the Army Careers Information Offices in Glasgow and Paisley raised more than £1,600 to send 12-year-old Gary Lennox, who suffers from muscular dystrophy, on a visit to his Army favourites, the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Minden, Germany. Pictured with Gary are (standing, from left) Sgt Helen Shaw and Capt Sheila Wood, both QARANC, and Sgt Dave Meechan, A and SH; and (front) Sgt Billy Grant and Sgt Paddy McLellan, both RHF

Gunners from 19 (Gibraltar) Battery entertained occupational therapy centre trainees at Lathbury Barracks during their month-long stint on the Rock while the Gibraltar Regiment's G Company was training in the United Kingdom.

★ ★ ★

TV actor John Altman of *EastEnders* fame visited Gibraltar with cartoonist and fellow Lords Taverner Bill Tidy to present a custom-made bus to the Rock's Special Olympics team.

They met Cpl Taff Ellis and his wife Cindy, LCpl Mark Shanks and Cpl Steve Ferguson of the 1st Fortress Specialist Team RE who helped raise more than £1,000 during a sponsored swim.

★ ★ ★

Recruits from Gaza Platoon at the Scottish Division Depot Glencorse raised £1,000 for Scottish Television's Telethon '92 appeal.

In their free time the recruits completed a seven hour sponsored triathlon around Loch Ness. They handed the cheque to STV's John Carmichael at their passing out parade on October 30.

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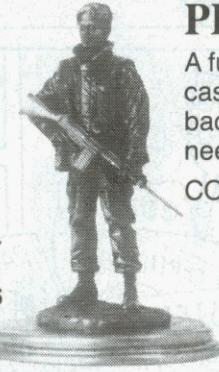
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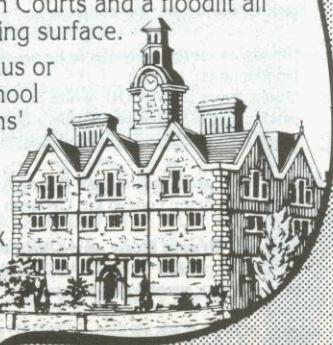
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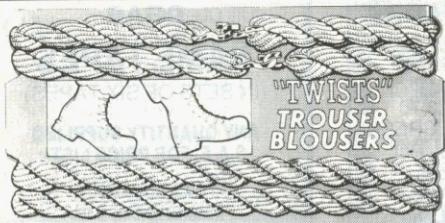
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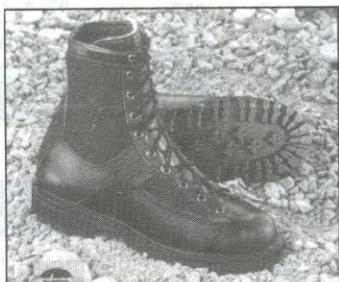
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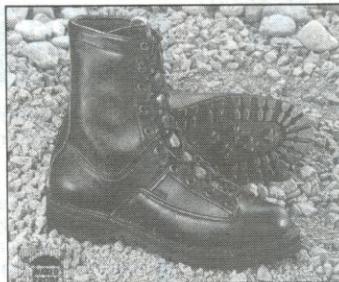
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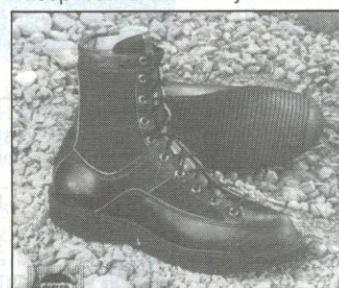
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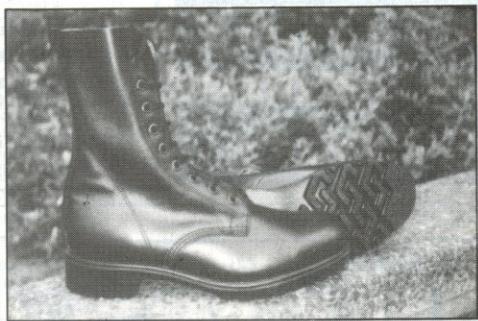
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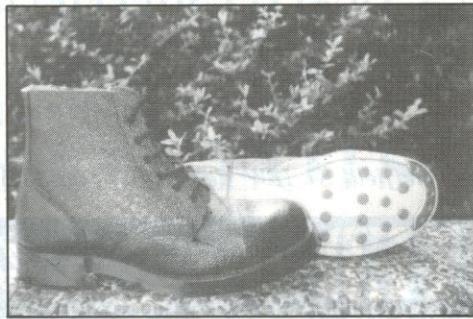
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Pen Pals

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. Replies will not be forwarded after three months from the cover date of this issue.

A pen pal advertisement costs £11.75. Send your details (maximum 35 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to "Soldier", to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded. 814

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

Lynne. Fun-loving, attractive 24 and great sense of humour. Interests are swimming, horse riding, keep-fit, walking, pubs and discos. Love to hear from Officers/Para between 23/28, photo not necessary. ALA P348 45/92

Crazy, bubbly, attractive, tall, leggy brunette, 21. Seeks fun-loving soldier for mad moments - pickies if poss! - write soon! P349 45/92

James. 28. Brown hair, green eyes, 5'11" tall, enjoys films, photography, reading, music. Seeks female pen pal in services for correspondence and possible meeting when off duty. Friendship only. P350 45/92

26, single mother with one son. Seeks pen pal, pref. Geordie with good sense of humour. Must like children and animals, 27 to 30 age group. Photo if possible. P351 45/92

25-year-old divorcée with 2 children seeks 25- to 30-year-old penpal. Must be wacky and sensitive. Promise to write to all letters. Photos if possible, preferably in uniform and in casual. Bye. P352 45/92

Single, attractive lady, 31. Seeks soldier to love and cherish. 5'4", fair shoulder length hair, very slim, blue eyes, feminine, quiet. Non smoker, works in solicitor's office. Please write, home or abroad. P353 45/92

Hi, I'm Susan. I am a fun-loving 36-year-old with strawberry blonde hair and I'm 5'7". Would like to meet/respond with a tall single soldier for friendship and fun. Please write. P354 45/92

Any soldiers out there want to brighten the day of a Scottish student nurse working in the middle of nowhere? Then please write me a cheery letter, interests include sport and pubs. P355 45/92

Stop! Don't read any further! Crazy career girl (25) is looking for someone intelligent, full of fun and slightly mad to write to - You know it makes sense! P356 45/92

Two flatmates seek genuine pen friends. Sue: 25, petite, slightly scatty fiery redhead, blue eyes, enjoys all types of music and socialising. Yvonne: 37, tall voluptuous redhead into massage and aromatherapy, appreciates good sense of humour. P357 45/92

Karen 29, Sue 34, Toni 28, Vanessa 22 are four wild women sharing a house and want pen pals in the forces. Our letters are guaranteed to bring a smile to your face and brighten your day. Please have a great sense of humour, enjoy life to the full and be prepared to receive some terrific letters. P358 45/92

Lesley, 33, vivacious, attractive. Likes dancing, pubbing and socialising. If you're 25-35, fit and single, please write - photo appreciated. P359 45/92

Divorced lady, mid 40s, outgoing, interesting, wicked sense of humour. Seeks pen pal who isn't a mummy's boy or divorced three times wimp. Basically a real man, if there are still any in existence. P360 45/92

Look all girls, any age. Please write to us lonely homesick Jocks. All letters answered. So, if you would like to write to us, please write to P361 45/92

Hello, my name is Sheila. I am a 49-year-old divorcée. I'm 5'1", dark hair, blue eyes. I would love to write to a single soldier of similar age. Would love to hear from someone soon. P362 45/92

Lesley, 24 years. Accountant, slim, attractive, fun-loving blonde. Wishes to correspond with fun guys who have a sense of humour. P363 45/92

Are there any soldiers (male) out there who would like a female pen pal? I'm 28 and enjoy sport, travel, new ideas, socialising and having a laugh. If interested please write. Photo if possible. P364 45/92

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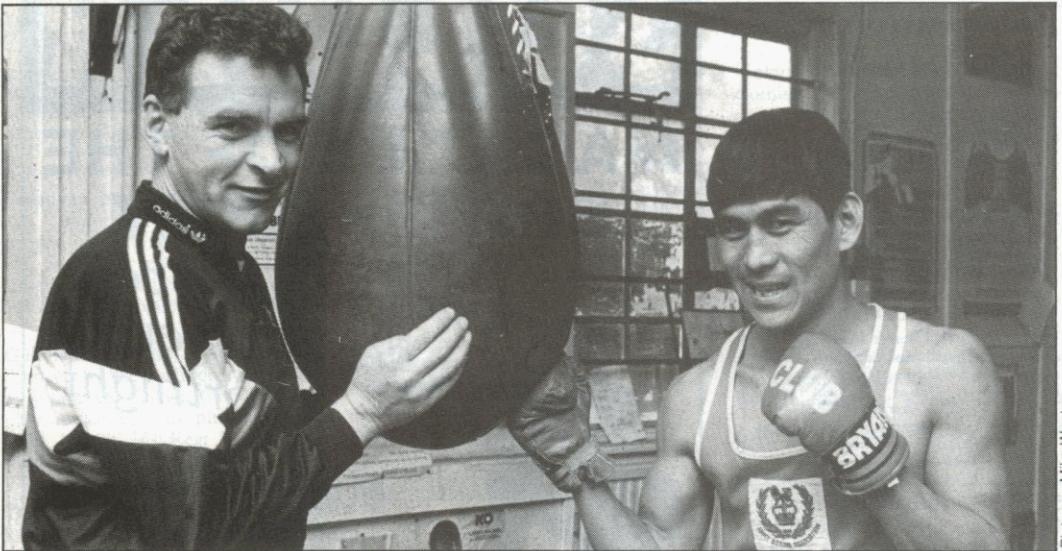
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Coach WO2 Mick Gannon on the punchbag with Gurkha sapper Jhapat Singh Bhujel

Austrians prepare red hot welcome for Army

WO2 Mick Gannon will be taking a squad of ten to Kufstein in Northern Austria on November 14 for the third match in this prestigious, high-profile international fixture.

A year ago the Austrians arrived in Aldershot with a powerful squad augmented by four massively experienced boxers from former East German stables. The visitors won by six bouts to four.

Aldershot stages the opening salvo in the Inter-Service team competition when the Army, champions for the past nine years, entertain the Royal Air Force on January 21.

Last year a revitalised RAF team punched new life into the competition, beating the Royal Navy for the first time in years and making the defending champions work hard for a 6-4 victory at Halton.

The airmen take on the Navy on February 4, with the matelots hosting the Army at Portsmouth a fortnight later in the climax to the tournament.

Service boxers make their first moves in the national ABA contest on March 3-4 at the CSBA individual championships, winners from which go forward to the CSBA v Western Counties match, an England ABA quarter-final round.

welterweight Fus Tony Marsden (2 RRF) for the Young England squad.

Flyweight Fus Dale Duncan (1 RRF) took a notable scalp on the mainly novice Army-Police bill, beating Young England contender Denis Yelland in the 4-4 draw.

Chris Bessey has been joined in the gym at Aldershot by his "little" brother, Billy, a light-heavyweight newly enlisted into 27 Regiment.

Innes and Bessey are also in that select company. The Army has also recommended the promising light-welterweight LCpl Chris Whittaker (38 Engr Regt) and Spr Tommy Winspear (36

Gurkha hitman starts at the top

A YOUNG man from Nepal created a little bit of Army boxing history when he turned out against the Police in London last month, writes John Elliott.

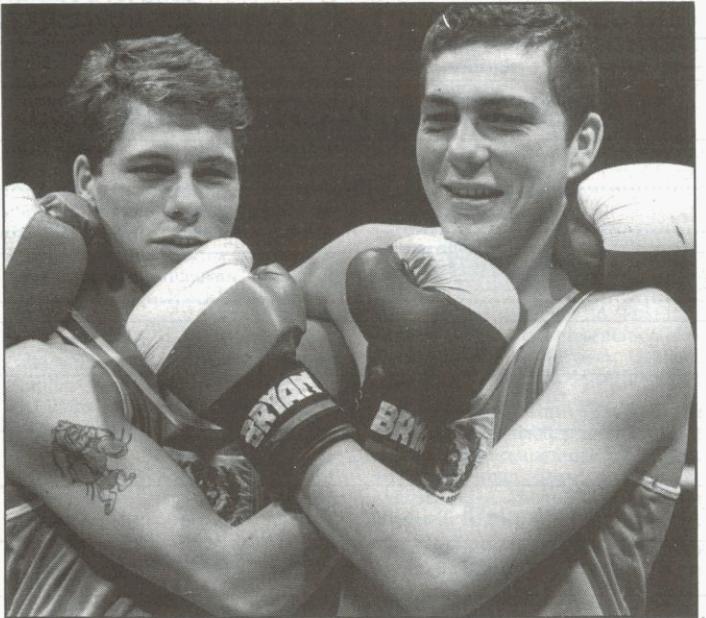
Spr Jhapat Singh Bhujel, serving with the Hong Kong-based Queen's Gurkhas Engineers, is believed to be the first Gurkha to win an Army vest.

The 24-year-old – known as "Jap" to the rest of the squad – is an explosive puncher with an unusual background in the sport. Without any "apprenticeship" in club boxing, his 23 previous bouts were all internationals for Nepal or Hong Kong. Senior coach WO2 (QMSI) Mick Gannon is now teaching him the trade at the Army Boxing Centre in Aldershot.

There is a fresh look to Gannon's squad, with several new faces in the reckoning.

Following the retirement of England internationals LSgt Dave Abbott (2 Gren Gds) and Cpl Neil McCallum (10 Corps Tgt Regt RCT), the team will be built around heavyweight LCpl Steve Burford (REME att 17/21 L), light-middleweight LCpl Lee Innes (1/3 Trg Regt RE), team captain LCpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RCT), a welterweight, light-welterweight LCpl Chris Whittaker (38 Engr Regt) and Spr Tommy Winspear (36

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Boxing brothers: team captain LCpl Chris Bessey (left) and younger brother Dvr Billy Bessey

Engr Regt).

Burford's return to competitive boxing is little short of miraculous. Two years ago he sustained serious injuries, including broken hands and femur, in a motor accident, but his recovery has been so complete that he has been put up for the national senior training squad.

Innes and Bessey are also in that select company. The Army has also recommended the promising light-welterweight LCpl Chris Whittaker (38 Engr Regt) and Spr Tommy Winspear (36

season, is being assisted on the coaching side by Cpl Joe Rajcoomar (DERR), another of last year's winning team to retire, and LSgt Jim Growcott (2 Gren Gds).

With the co-operation of commanding officers all over the United Kingdom and Germany they started with a squad of 30.

That has now been reduced to 24, and the team will take further shape after three pre-Christmas fixtures, including the now annual international tilt at Austria.



The Army football team, coaching staff and administrators gather at the Military Stadium, Aldershot for a squad picture.

Back row (left to right) – Pte Peter Batey, Para, Cfn Mick Taylor, REME, Cpl Tony Wright, REME, SSgt (SSI) Nigel Wiscombe, APTC, Cpl Lee Dyson, RE. Middle – Mr

Brian Le Breton (assistant secretary), WO2 (QMSI) Joe Roach (coach), Cpl Trevor McSween, R Signals, Sig Jim Strouts, R Signals, Sgt Gary Williams, R Signals, LCpl Chris Brown, RE, Sgt (Sl) Alex Armstrong, APTC, Sgt Norman Naife, RE, WO1 Alan Cooper, RAOC (assistant manager), WO2

(QMSI) Ian Young, APTC (therapist). Front – Maj Tony Workman, REME (manager), Cpl Dave Maynard, DERR, Sgt Alan Higgins, R Signals, Brig Andrew Massey OBE (vice-chairman AFA), SSgt Kevin Parkins, RCT (captain), Cpl Shane Smith, REME, Maj Terry Knight (secretary).

Met take their chances in rain

DESPITE torrential rain the Army and the Metropolitan Police endeavoured to play attractive football throughout

their annual Grenadier Guards Challenge Cup clash at Imber Court, writes Pat Massey.

In the end two Army mistakes cost them dear and the policemen walked away with the trophy by four goals to three.

They got off to a fast start when SSI Nigel Wiscombe (APTC) claimed a high cross then dropped it under pressure. The ball ended up in the back of his net.

Cpl Trevor McSween (R Signals), better known as a Combined Services decathlete, equalised on his first appearance in the Army strip, only for the Met to go ahead again within two minutes.

Early in the second half a mistake by Pte Peter Batey (Para) put the Met clear and Wiscombe was beaten on the near post.

As the Army pressed forward the policemen might well have gone further ahead

but for a fine save by Wiscombe at full stretch.

Cpl Shane Smith (REME) reduced the deficit after exchanging passes with Sgt Gary Williams (R Signals), before another error – this time an underhit back pass by Sgt Alan Higgins (R Signals) – allowed the Met to restore their two-goal advantage.

Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) pulled one back for the Army as time ran out.

Army 1, Cambridge University 1

The Army fielded a second XI for the visit to Aldershot of Cambridge University and a most enjoyable game ended with the teams sharing two goals.

The home side created numerous chances in the opening half including two when it looked more difficult to miss than to score.

Cpl Andy Howe (Coldrm Gds) twice hit defenders with the goal at his mercy.

The Army took the lead on the hour. Cpl Jock Dempsey



Rfn Jason Walker

Jason jumps straight to the medals

RIFLEMAN Jason Walker won a bronze medal in the Army novice parachuting championships – just three weeks after making his first jump.

Walker, serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets in Northern Ireland, was too young to go on patrol when he joined his unit in June, so instead trained with the Northern Ireland Services Freefall Club at Ballykelly.

Nineteen jumps later he took part in the novice championships and won his medal. He has now moved on from static-line to 30 second freefall jumps.

Picture: Mike Perrin

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Splash down!

THE FIRST Inter-Services canoe polo championships were staged at RMA Sandhurst and won by the Royal Air Force.

An Army B team narrowly missed out on reaching the final, in which the RAF beat the Royal Navy 5-3 on penalties after they had scored a goal each in normal time.

Canoe polo started in the 1950s and was first demonstrated at the national canoe exhibition at Crystal Palace more than 20 years ago.

It involves five players on each side using special short canoes rounded at either end.

The inaugural Inter-Services competition began with a demonstration by Maj Andy Lukes (RA), Lt Cdr Peter Morris (RN) and LBdr Keith Brigstock (RA), who is believed to be the only qualified canoe polo referee in the Army.

Each Service team played against the Bereforest club before the main competition began.

The Army A side were represented by Capt Alan Thomas (RAOC), Sgt John Slater (AAC), Cpl Steve Young (AAC), Bdr Chris Townson (RA), LBdr Keith Brigstock (RA) and Gnr Tony Mathews (RA), and the B team by Capt Mark Alexander (R Signals), QMSI Paul Williams (APTC), Cpl Jim Ross (RE), Spr Ian Grewcock (RE), OCdt Dave Amlot (RMAS) and OCdt Jeremy Holman (RMAS).



Paddles fly during the Inter-Services canoe polo championships at Sandhurst

Picture: PO(Phot) Alan Amesbury, DPR(Navy)

Flash down

ONE OF the more unusual sports associated with the Army Winter Sport Association's calendar gets under way this month.

Skeleton racing involves the athlete hurtling head first down a bobsleigh track, face just two inches from the ice, on a 32kg "tea tray".

Following a sprint start, speeds of more than 125km can be achieved.

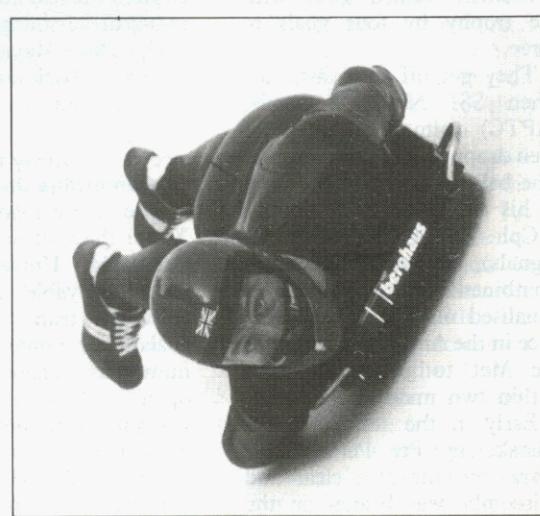
Last year five British Army athletes - Cpl Mark Wood (4 ADSR), Capt Charles Langhorne (2 RTR), Cpl Tim Hathaway (REME), Cpl Rob Watson (REME) and Cpl Nick Windsor (REME, at 1 Regt AAC) - represented

Great Britain on the World Cup circuit around Europe and the world championships in Calgary.

This winter the Army's skeleton season starts with the junior training week and championships on the Olympic bobsleigh run at Igls, Innsbruck, followed in January by the British championships at Albertville, venue for last year's Winter Olympics.

The British team for the international race is selected after Albertville.

Anyone who fancies the idea of a skeleton ride is asked to contact the secretary through the Army Winter Sport Association.



Capt Charles Langhorne exits Sunny Corner at St Moritz during a World Cup race last winter. And yes, the picture is the right way up!

ROYAL DOULTON'S FALKLANDS WAR TANKARD

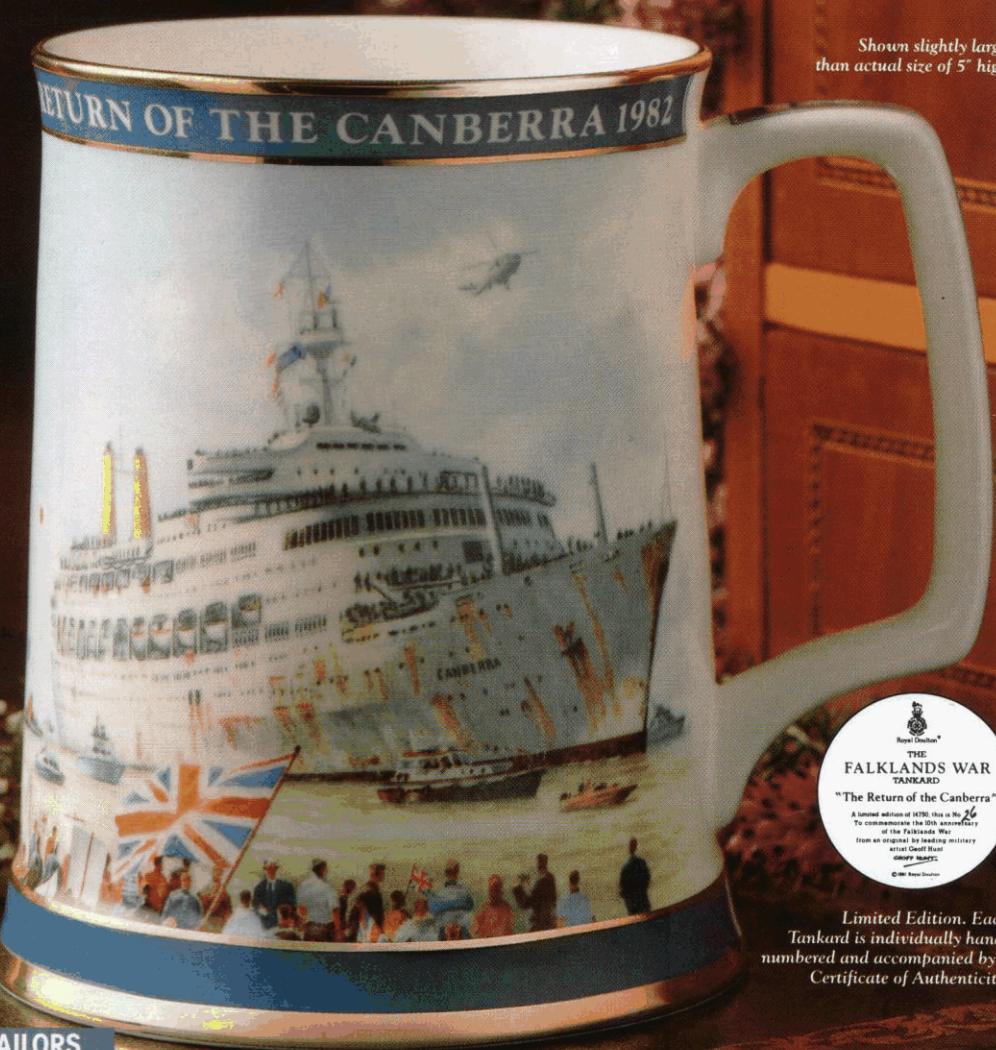
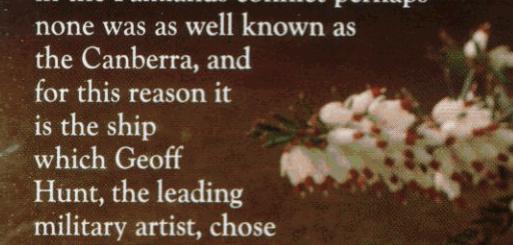
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A TIME TO GIVE

Padre Edward Ward, chaplain to the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Light Infantry, reflects on a field of poppies during the Territorial Army battalion's annual camp on Salisbury Plain earlier this year.

The Royal British Legion's 1992 Poppy Appeal was launched at Southampton on November 2 when Mrs Sara Jones, widow of Col "H" Jones VC, presented poppies to Falklands war veterans serving with Marchwood-based 17 Port and Maritime Regiment Royal Corps of Transport and 40 Commando RM at Taunton.

The Poppy Appeal needs to increase its collection this year if the Royal British Legion is to continue its current level of welfare and benevolent work for ex-Service personnel and their families.

Picture: Peter Griffiths



SOLDIER