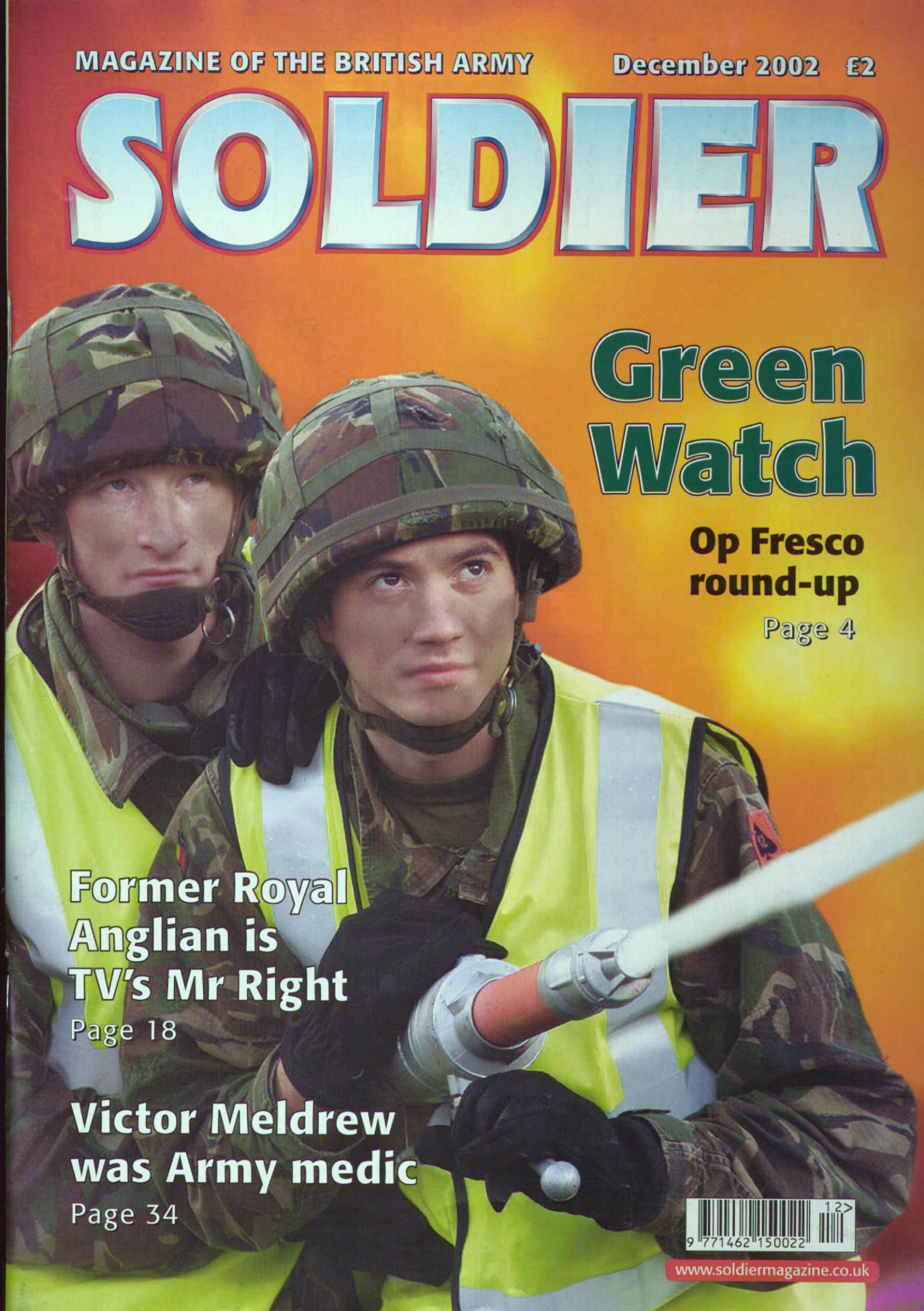


# SOLDIER

## Green Watch

Op Fresco  
round-up

Page 4



Former Royal  
Anglian is  
TV's Mr Right

Page 18

Victor Meldrew  
was Army medic

Page 34



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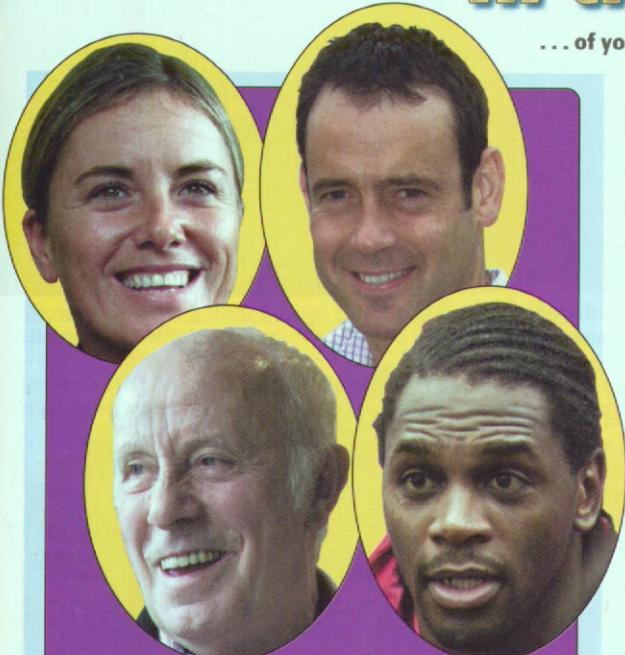
Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all our readers and advertisers



## Cover picture

Manning the hoses: LCpl Pogo Patterson, left, and LCpl Ray Hoogendijk, both of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, carry out drills with an Army fire crew based at Godalming, Surrey during the 48-hour national firefighters' strike. Our clever photographers added the flaming backdrop

Picture: Graeme Main



Look who's waiting for you inside. Heavy-weight boxer Audley Harrison, Richard 'Victor Meldrew' Wilson and TV's Mr Right himself. Not forgetting Tamzin, who signed a T-shirt for one of our lucky readers to win.

### PLUS

<b>23</b> Chip cartoons	<b>64</b> Wish list
<b>29</b> Kitstop	<b>66</b> Books
<b>45</b> Sport	<b>69</b> Audio-visual
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... of your award-winning magazine

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Pictures: Chris Barker (main photograph), Sgt Brian Gamble, Sgt Paul Brownbridge, Chris Fletcher

# Green Watch takes over

More than 19,000 Service personnel man the pumps during national firefighters' strike

GREEN Goddesses manned by Armed Forces personnel covered the United Kingdom as the first national strike by the Fire Brigades Union for 25 years began on the evening of November 13.

More than 800 of the 50-year-old Bedford self-propelled pumps were on standby around Britain, supported by teams equipped with hydraulic rescue gear and breathing apparatus.

In all, about 19,000 personnel from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force were involved in Operation Fresco in the first 48-hour stand-off by firefighters.

A spectacular blaze in a fireworks factory in Manchester provided one of the biggest tests for Service crews, although

firemen at a nearby station crossed their own picket line to get a man out of the burning building.

In all, there were 766 incidents involving Service crews in the first six hours of the strike, a further 1,290 responses during the following 24 hours and 583 from midnight until the strike ended at 1800 on November 15. Seventeen MoD personnel received minor injuries.

The busiest region was the North West, where MoD personnel responded to 173 fire incidents in a 24-hour period as well as 32 other incidents and 19 false alarms.

Malicious calls escalated as soon as the strike began, with more than 1,160 being recorded over two days. Strathclyde police reported 230 in the first three hours.

Incidents ranged from a caravan fire in Bedford, which ended in one person receiving hospital treatment, to a woman being rescued from a burning house in Chesterfield by a Green Goddess team in breathing apparatus.

In Belfast there was a rash of hoax calls and missiles were thrown at a Land Rover accompanying a yellow-painted Goddess to a blaze in a shed. No one was hurt.

Across the province, 32 Goddesses, painted yellow to distinguish them from military vehicles, provided emergency cover. There are normally 110 front-line appliances on duty in Northern Ireland manned by 900 full-time and 900 part-time firefighters.

In Burnley, a man rescued by a Service crew from a house fire later died in hospital. Firefighters in Essex broke their strike to help Op Fresco crews battle a fire at the top of a block of flats in Southend. A woman was treated for smoke inhalation.



Saved: Sgt Dean Foster, 7 Para RHA, helps an elderly lady from a smoke-filled house in Gloucester



Glowing: Soldiers from the 1st Bn, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment tackle a fire in builders' debris in Sheffield, above. Two Green Goddess appliances soon had the blaze under control



Take it as red: Troops from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment train on one of the 18 red fire appliances drawn from the Fire Service College in Gloucestershire ahead of the proposed eight-day national strike. The training took place at Beckingham Camp in Lincolnshire

specially trained troops were manning light vans making up 331 breathing apparatus rescue and 59 rescue equipment support teams.

With the first of a series of threatened eight-day strikes due to start after this issue went to press, Service personnel were being trained to operate more up-to-date red fire appliances.

● **Soldier to soldier – Page 73**



## Venerable vehicles

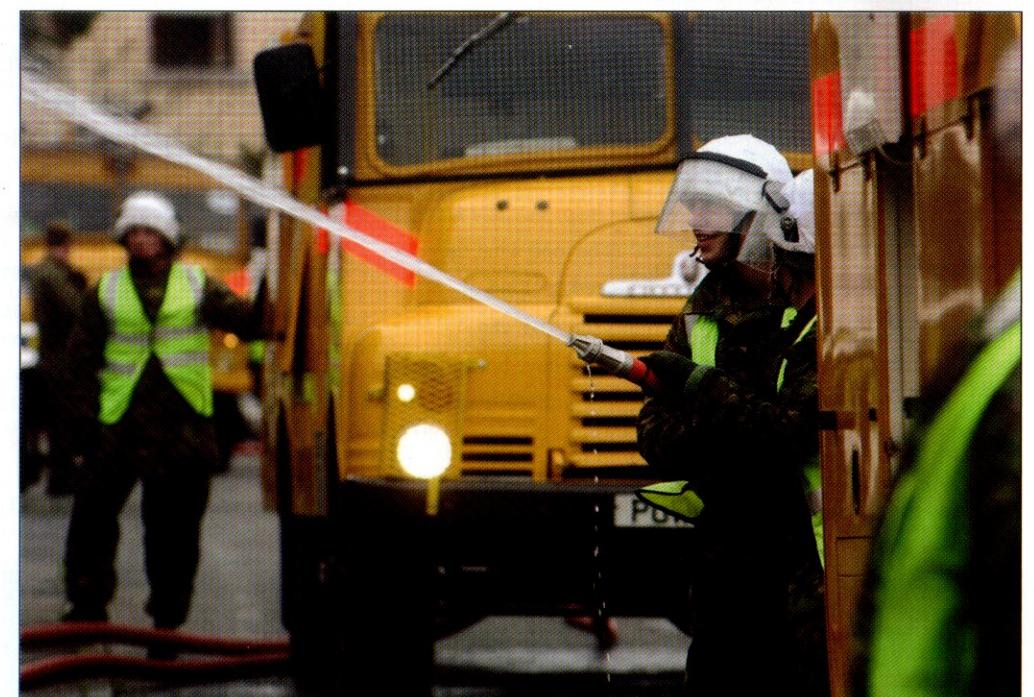
● THE Green Goddesses pulled out of mothballs for the national firemen's strike were built between 1953 and 1956. Owned and maintained by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, they were constructed on the Bedford S chassis. They are fitted with a pump capable of feeding four hoses with 900 gallons a minute and carry up to 300 gallons of water as an alternative to supply from a hydrant.

### Your view . . .

FOR the past few weeks the media, including TV, radio and the newspapers, appear to me to have concentrated on the inability, lack of experience and the state of equipment the Armed Forces have . . . in other words, completely negative.

May I ask you to give credit to the dedication of our Armed Forces during the industrial action. – David Nicholson, 101 (Northumbrian) Regiment RA (Volunteers).

I HAVE seen two Green Goddesses around Crewe – well done all of you. You've done the Army and your regiments proud and we are very proud of you for a job well done. Once again, thank you very much. – Fred Fox, Crewe.





## With so many mates to rely on, why do you need the ABF?

Few jobs generate the friendship and camaraderie that you find in the Army. Facing danger and hardship together means that soldiers develop bonds that are stronger than 40mm Chobham armour. Even after you leave the Army you can always call on your mates for help.

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**If you would like to find out more about how you can help or to make a donation, please contact us, quoting 'Soldier'.**

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# Win a T-shirt signed by Tamzin

FORMER soap siren Tamzin Outhwaite is set to return to our screens in *Red Cap*, a BBC drama about the Army's Special Investigation Branch, early next year.

In the six-part series, Tamzin plays Sgt Jo McDonagh, the unit's newest plain-clothes recruit, who joins the SIB from the Close Protection Unit. The *EastEnders* star appeared in a one-off special of *Red Cap* last Christmas and spent a week preparing for the role at the

Army's Reserve Training and Mobilisation Centre at Chilwell in Nottingham.

*Red Cap*, a Stormy Pictures production, also stars Douglas Hodge, James Thornton and Gordon Kennedy.

*Soldier* has teamed up with the BBC to offer readers the opportunity to get their hands on some military goodies. For your chance to win an Army T-shirt signed by Tamzin and a rucksack, answer the following question:

Who played Tamzin's husband in *EastEnders*?

- a) Will Kemp
- b) Martin Kemp
- c) Jeremy Kemp

The winner will be drawn at random from correct answers received on a postcard marked "Red Cap" by January 2. Usual rules apply.



Public knowledge: The normally classified rules of engagement for use of baton rounds have been published. Our picture shows Pte Ben Jenkins of B Coy, 1 WFR carrying out public order training at Aldergrove, Northern Ireland, last summer

Picture: Graeme Main

# MoD publishes baton-fire rules

CLASSIFIED rules of engagement for the use of baton rounds by the Armed Forces have been cleared for publication as a confidence-building measure in Northern Ireland.

Baton rounds are used only on the orders of the local commander in situations of potential violent disorder to protect soldiers and others under their protection. Their use must be no more than absolutely necessary in the circumstances and there must be no alternative other than the use of lethal force.

Troops may only deploy baton rounds if they have been fully trained in their use and in the implications of the rules of engagement. ROE do not affect a soldier's general right to self-defence.

"However," caution the guidelines, "in all situations you are to use no more force than absolutely necessary to achieve your aim."

The rules also state that "a warning is to be communicated before any items are used, unless to do so would increase the risk of death or grave injury to you or any

other person. The commander at the scene, or his representative, is to give the following warning at the earliest opportunity: 'Attention. Unless you disperse/stop, baton rounds will be used against you.'

Where possible, commanders are to order a change of profile to give a visible demonstration of intent.

The rounds have to be fired at selected individuals – such as a perceived ring-leader in a violent crowd – and not indiscriminately. They should be aimed directly (without bouncing) at the lower part of the body and not at close range unless there is an immediate and serious risk of loss of life or serious injury.

Medical assistance is to be provided to casualties as early as possible.

## UK general takes UN lead in Horn of Africa

THE United Kingdom has taken command of the UN peacekeeping force monitoring the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Maj Gen Robert Gordon, former GOC 2 Division, will be based in Asmara in Eritrea and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia in command of 4,500 UN troops observing that the two countries stick to an agreement to end their bitter and protracted war.

## Training review begins

A FULL and independent review of training procedures in the Services is under way.

The appraisal, announced by Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram, will focus on initial training of non-officer recruits in all three Services. Issues of morale, training practices and culture will be explored.

The review follows controversy surrounding the deaths of four young recruits at the Royal Logistic Corps centre at Deepcut in Surrey.

An MoD spokeswoman said: "While this work is not specifically about the deaths at Deepcut, we do acknowledge that concerns have been expressed in light of these incidents."

## Cambrian stars find 'lost' tank

LEEDS University Officers' Training Corps is believed to be the first UOTC to win a gold award in the gruelling Cambrian Patrol competition. Its eight-man team also hit the headlines when it stumbled across a £10,000 inflatable tank blown away during a military exercise at Tefil, South Wales by 80mph gales.

A wide-scale search by an Army helicopter had failed to find the decoy tank – borrowed from the Royal Air Force for the exercise several miles away – but the Leeds patrollers came across it deflated and wedged into a gully.

• Cambrian report – Page 8

## Very instructional



Picture: WO2 Chris Cox



Teaching role: WO2 Chris Cox RE, right, and a team from the Army School of Training Support at Upavon flew to West Africa to spend several weeks instructing students from the Sierra Leone Armed Forces (SLAF) in the art of instructing. The mission was part of the MoD's commitment to help the newly-fledged force become self-sufficient.

Their courses covered basic instructional techniques for lance corporals and upwards, and more advanced trainer courses designed to give senior Sierra Leone Army NCOs the knowledge to instruct their own instructors.

Following British military intervention two years ago as the African country slid into chaos, a series of short-term infantry training teams were dispatched to a base near Freetown to transform poorly disciplined, trained and equipped men and women into an effective force.

## Rowing to Antrim



Gym marathon: 42 Field Squadron wives Arlene Kelly, left, and Yvonne Hill ride and row their way from Hameln to Antrim – a total of 985 miles – to raise money for the Royal British Legion and a local Weser school. Their husbands' squadron, part of Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment, is currently in Antrim on a six-month roulement tour.



In the woods: Pte John Hawker of 3 PWRR on the Cambrian Patrol

Picture: Stuart Bingham

# Students earn Cambrian gold

SEVENTY-FIVE teams of eight defied the worst weather Wales could throw at them during the annual Cambrian Patrol and a team of university officer cadets won one of only three gold medals.

A record 108 entries put their names down for the competition, one of the world's most gruelling military exercises, although many Regulars had to withdraw because of training commitments pending the national firefighters' strike.

Foreign entries came from the US, Canada, Belgium, Italy and Poland.

Patrols had to complete a two-day mission over some of the most rugged terrain in Wales, with Territorial Army teams competing on an equal footing with the Regulars. A third of the starters failed to complete the patrol.

The TA's 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment picked up a coveted gold medal on the first weekend phase, during which only five out of 18 teams finished, and there was a landmark gold for Leeds University Officers' Training Corps, believed to be the first for an

OTC. Italy's Julia Alpine Brigade mountain soldiers became the first foreign entry to win back-to-back golds.

"It was a pleasant shock to get a gold," said Lt James Ashworth, of Leeds UOTC, who won bronze last year. "We were surprised how well we had coped physically." Six of his team were competing for the first time.

In addition to the three golds, 18 silver medals, 14 bronze and 14 certificates of merit were awarded.

Brig Robert Aitken, Commander of 160 Wales Brigade, who was responsible for the exercise, was delighted so many teams achieved their mission. He said patrollers needed four qualities to do well. They had to be physically robust, able to read a map across open country at night, able to administer themselves in the field, and have a sense of humour.

● Cambrian Patrol 2003 is from October 24 to November 2. Look out for a DCI in the New Year or contact the patrol office on (mil) 94351 2280 or (civ) 01874 613280.

### IN BRIEF

● A Birmingham youngster, Justin Smith, right, received the country's top award for cadets. He won a closely-contested competition at the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park, Surrey, making it the second year running that the trophy for the master cadet has gone to a



member of the Mossfield Detachment in Birmingham. Justin, a county-level athlete, is hoping to join The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers soon. "I really enjoy the cadets and it is good practice for the future," he said.

## Reporting for duty, Sir Dad . . .



CPL Kay Maguire, the operations corporal at the Force Movement Control Centre at HQ British Forces in Banja Luka, was a bit dubious when she found herself working with her father.

Kay, from 24 Regiment RLC in Germany, answers to the Force movements officer, Capt Bruce Maguire, serving with South Cerney-based 29 Regiment RLC. Both are in the Full-Time Reserve Ser-

vice (FTRS) and have seen each other for only three weeks in the past two years.

"Kay is a capable NCO," said Capt Maguire, "but I am not adverse to telling her to buck up if I need to. The only problem is that she can call mum and tell her dad's picking on her."

Kay's tour, her second in the Balkans, is coming to an end while her father's is just beginning.

Photos by: Cpl Roger Bell

## No benefits for unwed partners

THE Ministry of Defence has denied reports that it has extended pension benefits and compensation for death due to service to the unmarried partners of Service personnel.

Although the MoD is understood to be considering whether there should be such provision in the longer term, it does not exist, nor will it in the near future.

Children from such a relationship are already eligible for benefits, but Service personnel who have unmarried partners will still need to consider whether

to make arrangements for their partners should they wish them to be provided for in the event of death.

Ministers are about to consider proposals following a review of pension and compensation rules and entitlement. But even if it were agreed that unmarried partners would be covered under the new arrangements, these would not be introduced before 2005-6 at the earliest.

In the meantime, only legal spouses are covered for such benefits.

● Soldiers from 10 Transport Regiment RLC paraded on Colchester's High Street last month to bid farewell to the garrison before moving to Aldershot. The regiment, based at Roman Barracks since 1993, will move into New Normandy Barracks, Aldershot, in the New Year to be closer to its headquarters, 101 Logistic Brigade.

● The King's Division Normandy Band is joining forces with a local brass band, the Besses o' th' Barn, to stage a Christmas spectacular at Preston Guild Hall on December 15. The event last year raised more than £1,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund and the Corps of Army Music Trust. Ticket box office is on 01772 258858.

## Huge pay rise on way for doctors

GOLDEN hellos of £50,000 in return for five years' service and pay rises of up to £15,000 a year have been approved for some medical and dental officers in the Armed Forces.

The incentives, announced by Defence Minister Dr Lewis Moonie last month, are designed to attract and retain more of the specialists currently under-represented in the Defence Medical Services, while the new pay rates are designed to bring DMS pay broadly in line with that of other health professionals with equivalent experience.

At the beginning of September the Royal Army Medical Corps was down 27 per cent on its recommended trained complement of commissioned officers.

Enhanced pay packages are the latest of a string of measures to improve defence medical services, both for the providers and their customers.

Golden hellos will be offered to consultants in accident and emergency, anaesthetics, burns and plastic surgery, general medicine, general surgery and orthopaedic surgery. With immediate effect, they will also be offered to general medical practitioners who have completed vocational training.

The new pay scales, which will apply to all DMS medical and dental staff, become effective from April 1 next year. Improvements are also to be made to their pension arrangements.

## Nursing chief's visit

COL Kathy George, right, the Director of Army Nursing Services, made her first official visit to Cyprus recently as part of her target of seeing all Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps personnel during the corps' centenary year.

Col George, who took over in April, met all 40 QA personnel serving on the island and called at medical centres at Episkopi, RAF Akrotiri, Dhekelia and Nicosia, and the Princess Mary's Hospital at Akrotiri.



## An offer to jump at

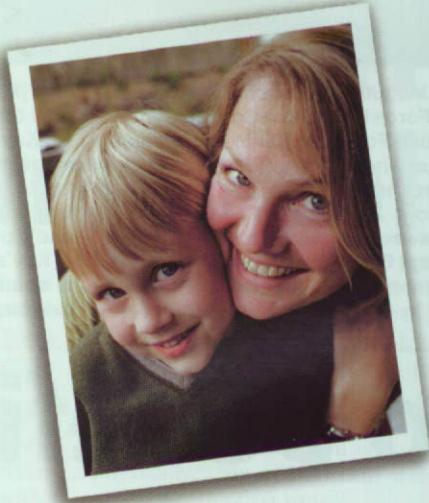
READERS of *Soldier* are eligible for half-price tickets to one of Britain's most popular equestrian events. The offer, from Clarion Events to mark the 75th anniversary of the International League for the Protection of Horses, is for the Olympia International Show Jumping Championships on the evening of December 19. Just quote "ILPH" when booking or buying tickets on 0870 733 0733.

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# Michele goes back to basics

TROOPS serving with the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in Kosovo were able to take advantage of a drive to improve literacy and numeracy in the Army.

Michele Blain, left, one of 38 Basic Skills tutors working with Army units, is pictured with 1 PWRR personnel near Mitrovica, where she coached basic skills which will equip the soldiers to pass promotion courses.

Tidworth-based Michele is due to return to the Balkans in the New Year to offer similar tuition to soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, who have relieved 1 PWRR in Kosovo.

Basic reading, writing and working with numbers are regarded as essential military skills, just as a soldier is expected to be able to strip and maintain his or her personal weapon.



Picture: PO (Phot) Rob Harding RN

## More awards for your magazine

SOLDIER has been voted top of its class for communication excellence in a prestigious annual competition.

The magazine was judged best internal publication by the South West Region of the British Association of Communicators in Business.

In the same competition *Soldier's* Andy Simms won the feature-writing prize for his June 2002 report on British sappers teaching Kenyan troops de-mining techniques in preparation for an EOD role in Eritrea.

National and regional awards won by the magazine in the past five years now total 23.

## Light Dragoons in frame at Salerno

TWO four-man teams from The Light Dragoons at Swanton Morley finished third in a three-day international Italian patrol skills competition at Salerno.

It is thought to be the highest finish by a UK team in the annual event, which attracts specialist military entries from European armies. Team leader Lt Chris Jeff said: "It was great to meet with and compete against other Nato countries. We learned a lot from each other."

## Top marks

THE MoD is the first Government department to be recognised for its commitment to the Modern Apprentice Scheme run by the Learning Skills Council.

## Tribute paid to ACF partners

SUPPORTERS and operating partners of the Army Cadet Force Association's youth and community outreach programmes were recognised at an awards lunch at the Star and Garter Home in Richmond. The event was attended by senior officers, politicians and celebrities including Kate Adie, pictured, and Simon Weston.



## Desert manoeuvre

NEARLY 130 members of The Royal Gibraltar Regiment spent two weeks training in Morocco during October. It was the third year the regiment has used the training area north of Marrakech. Sixteen soldiers from 1 R Irish also took part.

## College commandant

Maj Gen Robert Baxter, who helped to launch a scheme offering technical degree places at Southampton University to students wishing to join the Armed Forces or MoD, is Commandant of the Royal Military College of Science. It was incorrectly reported in the November issue that he was Commandant RMA Sandhurst.

# Troops prepare Nepal for quake

## Terriers assess country's preparations

FORTY-FIVE Territorial Army soldiers from the Civil Affairs Group have made a major contribution to earthquake awareness in Nepal's Kathmandu Valley, the world's most quake-prone area.

The group had been asked by the Royal Nepalese Government to assess its earthquake-preparedness plans, from search-and-rescue capabilities to dealing with large numbers of homeless and injured.

As many as 40,000 deaths and 95,000 injuries are predicted when the next major quake strikes. Although scientists believe one is due, few plans or resources are in place to help ordinary people.

A major result of the exercise was to secure £36,000 to buy stores, picks, shovels, rope, lanterns and stretchers, which will be kept in containers around the valley.

Three teams from the group took turns to spend a fortnight working on the project as part of their annual camp. They were based at the British Gurkha Nepal barracks.

They met organisations involved in

responding to disaster and looked at areas such as health, telecoms, roads, bridges, mass-media interest, clean water storage and emergency housing.

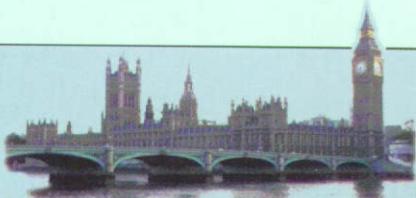
Pte Martin Barnard, a local authority emergency planning officer, visited the earthquake monitoring centre. "I was amazed to hear that there had been a small earthquake hours before," he said.

Exercise commander Lt Col Bede Strong said: "The team pulled out all the stops and delivered a remarkable piece of work."

• A two-man Military Works Force (V) team supported the exercise by providing a building works audit at a new UN training base at Panchkal. Lt Col Andrew Smith RE and SSgt Roger Brocklesby checked work carried out by local builders.



Quake watch: Sgt Paul Collins checks power lines in Kathmandu



## Under Big Ben

A digest of what's being said on Army matters in Parliament

## Concern over lost holiday deposits

LOST holiday deposits by members of Aldershot-based 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards were raised in a Commons debate on overstretch in the Armed Forces.

Told that the Welsh Guards were "deeply disappointed" that the MoD would not pay their deposits for holidays cancelled as a result of leave being stopped, Defence Minister Dr Lewis Moonie responded: "I understand that the issue is being intently considered. Frankly, I should think that if people are losing deposits because of unforeseen operational commitments, I would expect them to be reimbursed.

"I will not make any promises on that, however, until I know for certain what is happening."

**Harassment:** In response to the latest Army Continuous Attitude Survey, 197 members of those surveyed indicated that they believed harassment, discrimination or bullying are problems within their immediate work area. This represented 11 per cent of those who responded and five per cent of those surveyed. And 878 (43 per cent of respondents and 22 per cent of the survey) indicated that they believed harassment, discrimination and bullying are problems within the British Army. The survey, conducted in March and April, went to a four per cent random

### And I quote . . .

Condoms are not purchased for non-medical purposes. The Ministry of Defence purchases condoms for medical use. They are supplied to Service personnel for the prevention of transmission of sexually transmitted diseases and as a form of contraception. — Defence Minister Dr Lewis Moonie replying to a question on the purchase of condoms for non-medical purposes.

sample of the trained Army, excluding Gurkhas and Full-Time Reserve Service. Of 3,978 questionnaires sent out, 2,037 were returned.

**Strength:** The September strength of the Regular Army was 101,660, of which 10.4 per cent were not employable for full combatant duties.

**Manpower:** The QARANC is running with more than a third fewer (37 per cent) warrant officers than its recommended complement, 40.9 per cent of NCOs and 19.9 per cent officers. Other arms/corps running at more than ten per cent below recommended complements include the AAC (NCOs 21.2 per cent); RAMC (NCOs 16.9, officers 27); APTC (NCOs 31.4) and RAVC (NCOs 25, officers 17.4).

**Stolen weapons:** A total of 354 weapons have been lost and 802 stolen since 1972. During the same period, 262 were recovered. Stolen weapons included 428 rifles, 21 light and general purpose machine-guns and seven mortars.

## Devon memorial to Falklands VC unveiled

A MEMORIAL to Lt Col H Jones VC was unveiled at

Kingswear in Devon on Remembrance Sunday.

Watched by his widow, Sara, right, and son Rupert, a major in The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, a plaque, pictured left, was uncovered by H's brother, Cdr Tim Jones RN (Retd). The family home is in the riverside village. Lt Col Jones, who was killed while charging an Argentinian machine-gun trench during the Falklands War, served in the D and D before transferring to the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. Officers and buglers from both regiments attended the ceremony on a slipway to the River Dart.



## Addresses to be available earlier

More time for families to make arrangements

EARLIER notice of new addresses is to be given to Service families on posting. The measures, being introduced by the Defence Housing Executive (DHE), are designed to allow more time for parents to make schooling, medical and other domestic arrangements.

They will apply to Service families accommodation (SFA) in mainland UK, but not Northern Ireland.

The scheme aims to improve communications between personnel, their units and the housing executive. Families will have to inform the DHE of a posting order, whether to a new station or an extension to their current job, within 14 days. They can ask to retain their quarter or apply for SFA at their new station.

Four months before a quarter is required, or earlier if possible, the DHE will offer the applicant SFA or issue a non-availability certificate (NAC). In exceptional circumstances an NAC may not be issued until just 51 days before the quarter is required for moves within mainland UK and 65 days for families returning from overseas or Northern

Ireland. The DHE will have to let families know if it can't meet the four-month deadline to provide an address.

Applicants will receive one offer of SFA. If they refuse it for personal reasons their entitlement will lapse 28 days after their posting date, and in those circumstances they will need to get the DHE to agree to them keeping their current quarter or be prepared to make private arrangements until a Service quarter becomes available.

The DHE will confirm the address 28 days before a family expects to move in. If a previously offered address is no longer available, it will provide an alternative, or an NAC for substitute SFA. In that case, families whose school places have already been confirmed will be housed within the school's catchment area.

Mandatory pre-move-out advisory visits (PMOAV) by the DHE can take place up to two months before a family leaves a quarter.

● See JSP 464 Part 1 (GB) on Modweb (under Instructions, JSPs) or contact unit welfare officers, local DHEs or Hives.

## Lichfield to help with cardiac research

SEVERAL hundred recruits at Army Training Regiment Lichfield will take part in a major research project with the University College of London into how exercise affects health. A mobile scanner at the West Midlands base will be used to measure the effect of intensive exercise on heart muscle and the impact of intense physical training on femur cortical bone thickness.

### IN BRIEF

● Quick lads, it's a shark! Members of 131 Independent Commando Squadron RE (V), right, found themselves sharing the water with several large "raggies" or ragged-tooth sharks during an adventurous training dive at Umkomass, South Africa. The party's dives off the Natal coast included the wrecks of the *Nebo* and the *Produce*.





Picture: Andrew Smith

**Deceptive manoeuvre:** Soldiers marching into position for a Remembrance Day parade in Catterick village, North Yorkshire, appear to be heading straight for the front door of the local pub, the Oak Tree Inn. They weren't.

Units were involved in parades all over the world, including Kabul, the Balkans and the Falklands, where veterans took part in a ceremony.

### Cool walking

• SIX soldiers and four officers from 69 Gurkha Field Squadron RE are planning to attempt to walk the Greenland ice cap in April. The 535km unsupported trek, to raise funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, will be led by Capt Mark Workman.

# Have-a-go heroes

## Gunners tackled M-way armed robbers

TWELVE have-a-go gunners from 22 Regiment RA have been presented with police commendations for foiling an armed robbery in Warwickshire earlier this year.

The Welsh Gunners, based at Kirton in Lindsey, Lincolnshire, saw an armed robbery in progress when they stopped at the M42 Tamworth service area on their way to the Army Rugby Cup finals in March.

A raider was threatening a female security guard while the rest of the gang attacked a Securicor vehicle. The soldiers grappled with one gunman but were forced to back off when a second robber fired a shotgun at them. A 34-year-old senior NCO received shotgun pellet wounds to the back and spent four days in hospital.

Presenting the commendations,

Warwickshire Chief Constable John Burbeck said the soldiers had acted quickly and decisively without consideration for their own safety. "They acted as a team and in doing so diverted the dangers from the security personnel who were being robbed and from members of the public in the immediate area. Their courage and heroism was remarkable and it is a great pleasure to be able to acknowledge acts of bravery such as this."

WO2 Steve Lavis, one of those involved in the incident, said: "We felt we had to do something and, given the same circumstances, we would do the same again. The down side was that we never got to see the rugby finals and, without us cheering them on, the regiment lost the match . . . at least, that's our excuse."

## Till raider nabbed by sapper

A ROYAL Engineer who tackled a raider while shopping in Norwich has been commended by police for his public spirit.

LCpl Paul Malcolm of 9 Parachute Squadron RE and his fiancée were in the city two days before their wedding when a man ran past with almost £400 he had snatched from a till.

Paul chased the thief through the busy shopping centre and cornered him at a bus stop. "I didn't really think about it, it was just instinct," he said. "In the end, he didn't give me any trouble."

A store detective who had followed the chase escorted the man, wanted for a string of offences across the Norwich area, back to the shop and into police custody.

A police spokesman said: "It takes a great deal of courage to intervene in a case like this and chase a criminal, who may well turn out to be armed. LCpl Malcolm's quick-thinking prevented this man getting away with a substantial sum of money."



LCpl Paul Malcolm

• Members of the HQ and Signal Squadron of 7th Armoured Brigade delivered a van-load of clothing and toys to a Polish orphanage in Drawsko Pomorskie during Exercise Ulan Kestrel. The collection was led by former soldier Jack Cook, now civilian storeman for 207 Signal Squadron at Hohne. Brigade officers contributed towards sports equipment.

• Soldiers serving with 61 Field Support Squadron RE at Gundulph Lines in Pristina completed a static triathlon the equivalent distance from Pristina to Newcastle, covering 2,373km on gym apparatus. Their efforts, and an auction, raised £4,000 for Breast Cancer Care, Cancer Research, the Army Benevolent Fund and the Ward 8 Patient Care Fund at the

Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle. The Royal Victoria was chosen in appreciation for treatment received by squadron member Spr Lee Robson, who was diagnosed with leukaemia. Cancer charities benefited because another member of the squadron, LCpl Dan Piner, was diagnosed with testicular cancer while deployed on Operation Agricola in Kosovo.

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Hip hop: The western plains of Hungary echoed to the chatter of Russian-made automatic weapons and the clatter of helicopters, including this pair of HIP aircraft, when Territorial Army soldiers from the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers spent two weeks on a Partnership for Peace exercise sponsored by 42 (North West) Brigade.



Picture: Chris Barker

# More posts for TA's home role

Reserves in front line in post-September 11 response

MORE details about the role of the Territorial Army in homeland defence and security in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks have emerged.

Under measures announced by Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram, 14 Civil Contingency Reaction Forces (CCRFs), each of 500 volunteers drawn from existing reservists, will be created. Each will be based on a TA infantry battalion, with 29 new posts being established in each to support the CCRF role.

That role is to provide planned assistance to civil authorities on a regional basis in the event of a home defence incident such as a major terrorist attack on the UK.

There will be 280 new reserve posts in Army divisions and brigade headquarters to provide regional planning, liaison and command-and-control for prolonged home defence operations. Joint regional liaison

officers will work with emergency services and local authorities to develop specific plans for the forces in their own areas. During an incident they would be capable of providing a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week command structure.

A communications infrastructure, the backbone of which will be provided by 2 (National Communications) Signal Brigade, is expected to be in place by 2006, when all the emergency services will have completed their re-equipment programmes.

An operating capability will be in place by the end of this month, but it will be late next year before all the new posts have been filled and CCRF volunteers identified and trained.

Under the TA's homeland defence role, about 700 reserve posts will be created and some 130,000 man-training days taken up to create the new capability.

**SAPPERS**, right, from 64 Squadron, part of Germany-based 28 Regiment RE, installed a new generator in a tiny Byzantine church said to contain the bones of St George.

The generator will run lights, fans and fridges in the ancient Ayios Georgios church near Episkopi, Cyprus.

About 100 sappers from Hameln were on the island to sharpen their artisan skills.



## SLAM facts on the web

Project SLAM, the Army's multi-million pound single-living accommodation modernisation programme, has a website to keep soldiers informed of what's going on. To access it, log on and follow the links from [www.mod.uk/business/project\\_slam](http://www.mod.uk/business/project_slam)

## Paper talk

### What the Press has been saying

● Former Parachute Regiment medical officer Steven Hughes, now a consultant orthopaedic surgeon in Birmingham, took his surgical instruments with him on a pilgrimage to the Falklands so he could repair the badly broken leg of a man he treated as an infant during the 1982 war. Matthew McMullen, then a four-month-old baby, was one of 115 Goose Green settlers held captive in their community hall for 29 days. — *Daily Telegraph*

● A row broke out over a gift from Britain to Jordan's armed forces of more than 400 surplus Challenger tanks as Britain and the US prepare for a possible war against its neighbour, Iraq. — *Guardian*

● An old one-eyed teddy bear named Edwin, removed from a soldier's pocket after he was killed on the Somme in the First World War, is expected to fetch £8,000 at auction. — *News of the World*

● David Niven, the Oscar-winning actor who played British war heroes in adventure films, secretly tried to leave the Army at the height of the Second World War, according to newly declassified files. — *Sunday Telegraph*

● See Ustinov review — Pages 66-67

● Around 33 of the Army's 67 Apache helicopter gunships will have to be mothballed for up to five years because a training fiasco means there are no pilots to fly them. — *Daily Mail*

● First firing pictures — Page 29

● Britain has been involved in secret talks with the United States over the development of so-called non-lethal weapons, including lasers that blind the enemy and microwave systems that cook the skin of human targets. — *Observer*

● Thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen may have been mis-sold endowments while they were on active service. In many instances, Service personnel have been ordered by their superiors to sit through sales presentations given by insurance company salesmen or independent financial advisers. — *Daily Mail's MoneyMail* section

● The Pentagon press corps has received a call-up for a boot camp to prepare them to cover a war in Iraq, after US troops in Afghanistan complained of having to wait for unfit journalists to keep up with them. — *Guardian*

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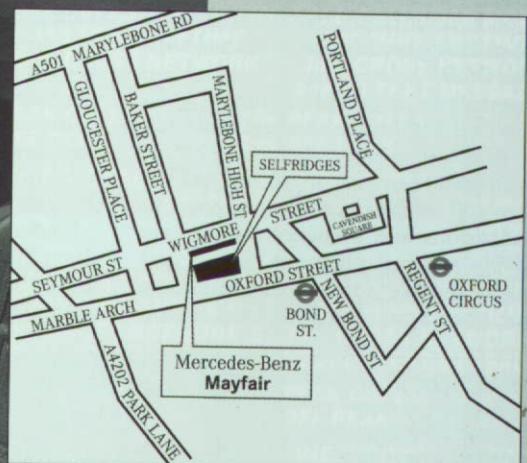
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Desert manoeuvres: From left, Ptes Mark Jones, Steven Hooper and Martin O'Keefe lead 7 Platoon towards the company "harbour"

# Desert bugles

Light Infantry company group trains for war in the deserts of Jordan

**Report: Capt Holmes Rogers**  
**Pictures: Cpl Will Craig**

C COMPANY Group of the 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry, based at Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia, got to grips with the realities of fighting in the desert during an exercise in Jordan.

They conducted a combined training exercise – Golden Sands – with troops from 2 Company of the 41st Battalion of the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF).

The group was supported by members of 62 Squadron RE, 16 Flight AAC, the Joint Helicopter Support Unit, Cypriot Joint Police Unit and 83 Postal and Courier Squadron RLC. Linguists from CVHQ Worthy Down were deployed as interpreters.

Key to the success of the exercise was a permanent range team from the UK drawn from 1 WFR, 1 Hldrs, 1 RGJ, 1 RIR, 2 R Irish and the PWRR.

"To be able to take soldiers out of their normal environment is an opportunity not to be missed," said exercise director Maj Mark Adams. "Our soldiers adapted quickly to the conditions."

Water was at a premium in the desert, limiting troops to a two-minute shower every day, while the toilet facilities – open-sided four-man trench latrines – provided plenty of opportunities for group discussions.

Despite the blistering heat of the day, everyone crept into thick issue sleeping bags in the evenings knowing that the temperature would plummet during the night.

The core training involved building up war-fighting capability, from the individual up to company level, culminating in a four-day live-fire exercise. One of the advantages of conducting this type of training in Jordan is the access to huge training areas.

WO2 Mark Rutherford, OC of the range team, said: "Because the desert is uninhabited there are fewer range restrictions in terms of real estate than in Cyprus and the UK, which makes the live-firing much more realistic for the lads."

Adventurous training opportunities included trekking in Wadi Rum and the renowned Red Sea dive sites at Aqaba.



Above: Pte Stephen Ronald, left, and Pte Lee Hammond, part of the mortar line, provide fire support

Pte Adam Vian's 81mm mortar detachment carries out a fire mission



# All's fair in love and war

Dating game proves tough test for former infantry commander

Interview: Andy Simms  
Pictures: Graeme Main and Granada

HAVING completed tours of Northern Ireland and Bosnia as a platoon commander with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, Lance Gerrard-Wright thought he knew a thing or two about decision-making – until he was asked to choose between some of the country's most desirable women.

The ex-Army major was given the coveted task after being selected as the star of ITV's latest reality television show *Mr Right*, which was scheduled to reach its finale as *Soldier* went to press.

The programme's makers, Granada, hand-picked 15 single women to fling themselves at lucky Lance, who, with the help of the audience, had to whittle the field down to one, his Mrs Right.

"It was my sister Rosie who suggested that I should apply to be on the show," explained the 35-year-old bachelor when *Soldier* caught up with him midway through filming the series.

"She forwarded me a marketing e-mail from the production company which basically said: 'single man wanted to date beautiful single women, travel to exotic locations and be put up in a two-million-pound apartment'.

"I thought it sounded like fun and sent off my details, but I never thought for a minute that I would be selected.

"Granada called me in for a screen test and within the space of ten days I was told that I had been picked."

Spanning more than a decade, Lance's military career, which featured a spell as an instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and two years as equerry to the Duke of York, undoubtedly helped him to land the "dream job". Years of Army training mean that he can cook, wash and iron, and even more importantly – in the eyes of the fairer sex – that he has a washboard stomach.

However, Lance, whose father commanded 2 R Anglian in 1970 and finished his own military career as a two-star general and Director of the Territorial Army, was



**Coming from an Army family I knew all too well about the lifestyle that came with the uniform?**

quick to point out that Service-life also had its drawbacks.

"One of the things that people have continually asked me since I have been on the show is 'why are you single?'

"I suppose one of the reasons is that every time I met a girl, whether subconsciously or otherwise, I was thinking in the back of my mind that there was little point in becoming seriously involved as I knew that in two months'

time I would be going away on exercise, or be deployed somewhere," he said.

"I certainly do not blame the Army for that though. Coming from an Army family I knew all too well about the lifestyle that

came with the uniform. My parents moved almost every two years, so I was fully aware that it was something I had to either work around or deal with."

But after years of being single, *Mr Right* certainly allowed Lance to make up for lost time and proved to be a rich reintroduction to the dating game.

For the duration of the show Lance moved into a luxury apartment overlooking the River Thames in London and spent his days and nights on an endless string of dates.

"How dare I say it's been tiring and hard work," he said with a wide grin spread across his now-famous chiselled face. "But it has been. You constantly have to be on top of your game because dating is after all a two-way thing."

"However, without doubt the hardest

thing about the show has been having to narrow the field. Granada chose the girls very well. I was delighted to have been given such a broad choice and was pleasantly surprised not to have to have made an effort to enjoy myself."

"Saying goodbye to some of the girls has not been easy."

Indeed, so good were the potential suitors that Lance acknowledged that, as well being great fun, the programme could also result in a lasting romance.

"Everyone seems to be very cynical and sceptical about the chances of me finding love through the programme, but I really do believe it might happen," he said. "I was asked hour-upon-hour of questions

about my likes and dislikes by the show's researchers and I'm sure that the girls must have been grilled to a similar extent."

"*Mr Right* is pretty much the most bespoke dating service ever conceived because the amount of vetting that has gone on is pretty exhaustive – so I would be mad to think there isn't a chance."

"I'm not saying that I will be married by this time next year, but, to use military terminology, all the pre-conditions have been satisfied."

"However, whoever I end up with I can honestly say that the 15 girls, without exception, have been really good fun and great company."

Truly an ex-officer and a gentleman.



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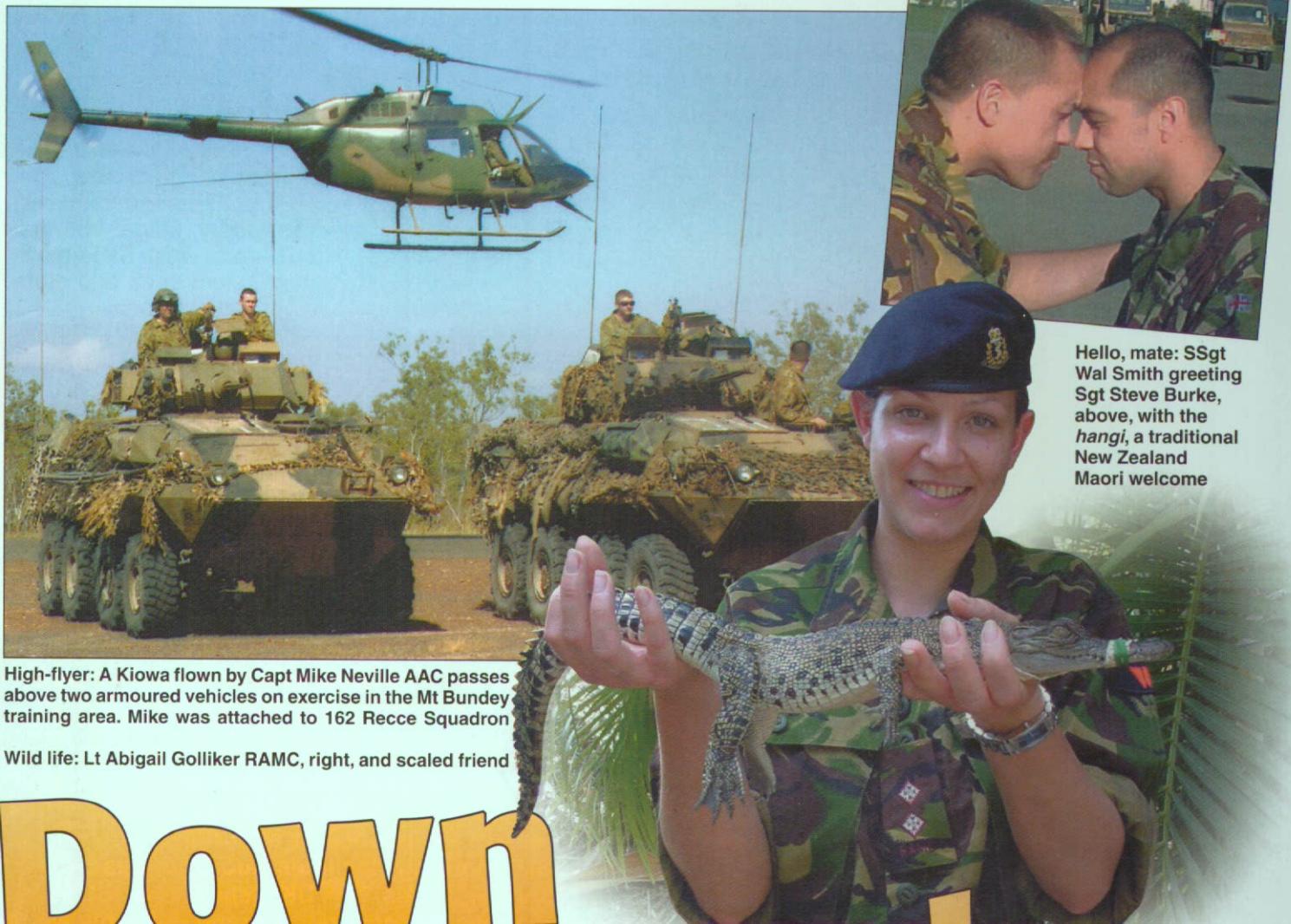


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High-flyer: A Kiowa flown by Capt Mike Neville AAC passes above two armoured vehicles on exercise in the Mt Bunney training area. Mike was attached to 162 Recce Squadron

Wild life: Lt Abigail Golliker RAMC, right, and scaled friend

Hello, mate: SSgt Wal Smith greeting Sgt Steve Burke, above, with the *hangi*, a traditional New Zealand Maori welcome

# Down under

Sign up for a Long Look at life in Australia and New Zealand

IF a colleague suddenly reappears after five months' absence and calls you "mate", there's a good chance he's been away enjoying himself on Exercise Long Look. Other giveaway signs are his fondness for "tinnies" and his funny hat with the cork-dangling brim.

Of course, the exchange exercise isn't limited to male personnel, so it could be a woman colleague rubbing noses with you in a Maori sort of way and talking in a slightly pinched accent.

Every year the British Army sends 102 lucky people in a wide range of trades and professions on attachment to Australia and New Zealand. This year's contingent commander, Maj James Hughes, SG, said: "In effect, individuals from the UK, Australia and New Zealand swap shoes for five months. He or she does your job wherever you are with the British Army – except Northern Ireland – and you fill his

or her role Down Under. You are carefully exchanged with someone of the same rank and job and attached to, and hosted by, the Australian or New Zealand unit of your exchange partner while he or she enjoys the same benefits at your parent unit.

"It is an unaccompanied exchange but spouses and partners are very welcome to visit at personal expense if leave is granted by the host unit."

The Australian Defence Force is spread the length and breadth of the country, from Perth to Sydney and from Darwin to Tasmania. In New Zealand, the forces cover both the North and South Islands.

Long Look offers opportunities to deploy to East Timor as well as exercises and adventurous training in Australasia

and the South Pacific. This year's exchange took individuals to Singapore, Malaysia, the USA, Timor, Brunei and Christmas Island with their host unit.

"You can achieve many new qualifications and experiences," said Maj Hughes. "Medical, flying and parachuting professional conversion courses are made available to individuals already qualified in the UK." This year two NCOs finished the Sydney Marathon and another joined an Australian Army crew in the Sydney Harbour yacht race.



Maj James Hughes

Maj Hughes's advice to would-be candidates is simple: "If you think you are the adventurous, outgoing and proactive type, just go ahead and ask your adjutant."

Exercise Long Look runs from the beginning of May to the end of September.

The point-of-contact for Long Look 2003 is Wendy Smith at Training Branch HQ Land on Wilton military (94331) 3989

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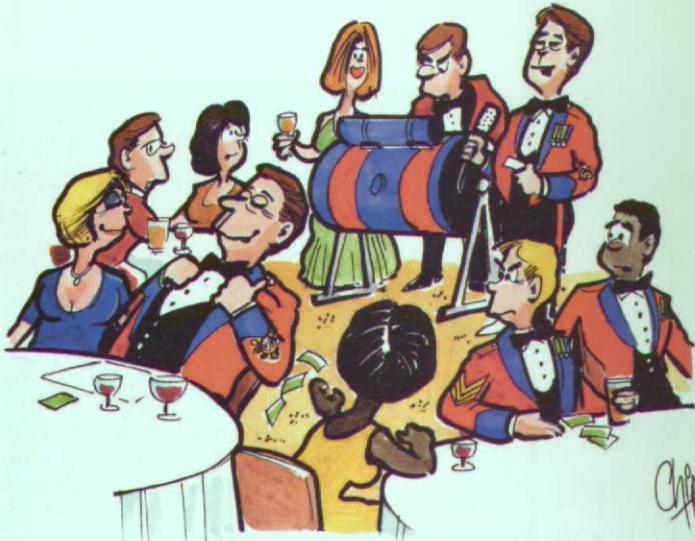


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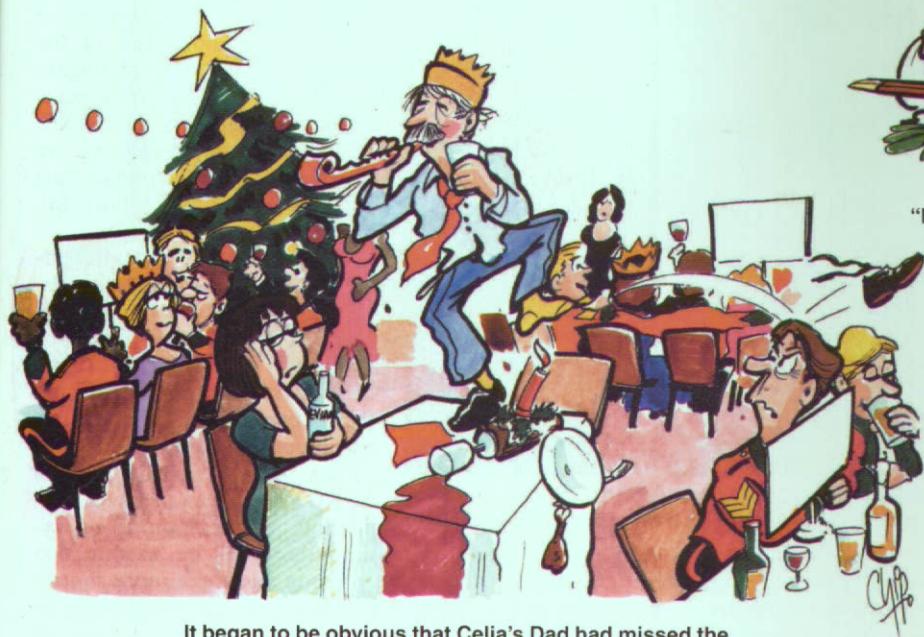
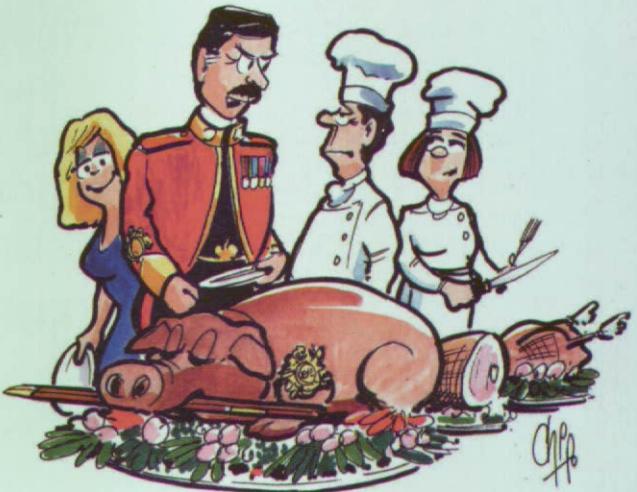
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## Chuckle with Chip



**'Tis the season to be jolly**





# Italy takes the lead

Report: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Mike Weston

FOR more than 50 years Nato has striven to keep the peace and maintain the balance of power in Europe.

Now it is entering a new era and British Servicemen and women are at the heart of the latest development, which has added a new name to the list of places where British personnel can be found.

Solbiate Olona, about 35km north of Milan, is the base of the new HQ Nato Rapid Deployable Corps Italy (NRDC IT) and home to 24 British officers, NCOs and their families.

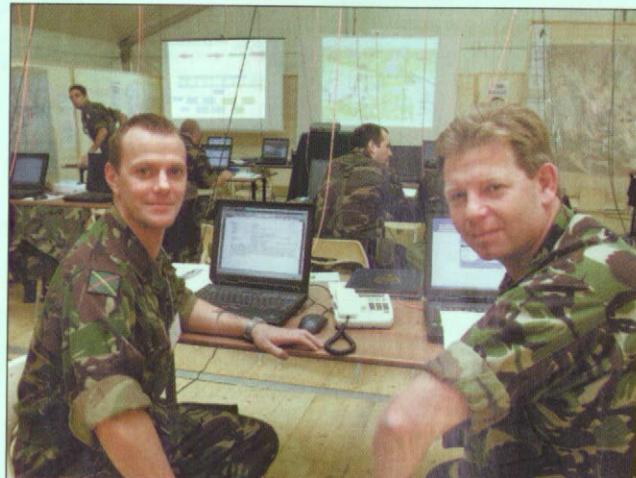
They are part of an exciting project that represents a fundamental change in Nato strategy. In times of crisis, NRDC IT or one of four other new rapid reaction HQs being developed in Europe will take over the responsibilities and duties of the well-established and much-praised Rheindahlen-based HQ ARRC.

When deployed, NRDC IT, which is completing its final certification tests this winter, will form an HQ plus a support element and communications hub. Its forces will comprise three or four divisions and others as required.

NRDC IT and the other new headquarters were conceived by the Nato Force Structure Review, which analysed how to provide forces to meet the needs of a new strategic concept following the end of the Cold War.

The review recommended the estab-

What would happen if the ARRC deployed and a second crisis loomed? How about using another ARRC?



Centre of operations: WO2 Andrew Blastize RS, left, and Maj William Swintun SG play out their parts in Exercise Eagle Flight

lishment of land HQs able to command corps-level operations and available at a high state of readiness. Italy was one of the member nations asked to put forward bids to meet the new requirement.

Alongside the ARRC and NRDC IT, other HQs are being developed on Spanish, Turkish, and German/Netherlands corps, plus a "Eurocorps". The ARRC

remains the linchpin, its staff made up of about 60 per cent British personnel. But the Italian venture represents the UK's biggest contribution to Nato rapid reaction HQs after the ARRC itself and the number of British personnel - 24 - equates exactly with the number of Italians at Rheindahlen.

Like the ARRC, the Italian HQ is truly multi-national. Its peacetime strength of about 400 would rise to an operational or crisis establishment of almost 800. About 100 of the peacetime staff are non-Italian, the biggest foreign contingents being from the UK and the USA.

Other contributing nations are Germany, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

While NRDC IT is commanded by an Italian - Maj Gen Fabrizio Castagnetti - his deputy, Maj Gen the Hon Seymour Monro, is British. He said the creation of high-readiness force (land) corps-sized HQs was an enormous step forward for Nato.

"Instead of there being just one ARRC available to go off on war-fighting or peace-support operations there will be another two ready to go soon and three more shortly after that. That is an enormous leap in capability and will mean that Nato is better balanced for any future conflict."

For the Italians, the establishment of NRDC IT is now the country's major armed service project and has a very high priority. This comes at a time when the Italian services are undergoing a funda-



In the right direction: Capt James Gordon, Hldrs, above right, joins 1st Lt Berton Giancarlo at the exercise site near Civitavecchia just outside Rome



Press call: Lt Col Lorenzo Daddario, left, translates for Maj Gen Seymour Monro, centre, as Maj Gen Fabrizio Castagnetti is questioned by the Italian media

dards. The next exercise this winter under the eye of the SHAPE [Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe] task force team will be a full operational capability test exercise. If all goes well we could go on operations as early as next year."

This autumn the HQ took part in a major proving exercise, Eagle Flight. For the Italians, it was the biggest exercise in memory and meant deploying a corps HQ over nearly 500 miles from the base near Milan to Civitavecchia, an hour north-east of Rome.

"That was good training for us; many things went wrong but we worked through it and we learned a lot," said Gen Monro. "Now we have a core of exercising experience geared to improving our stan-

## It's all on track

ONE element tested during Eagle Flight was the Bologna-based Italian Railway Regiment.

"It repaired railway lines north of Tuzla and went to Kosovo," explained Gen Monro. "It has the ability not only to repair the track but has highly-qualified railway managers."

"It also has an ops room with a communications car, a briefing room, a commander's office, and sleeping and restaurant accommodation. It is something we could use as a mobile headquarters."

One thing the British don't have are their own weapons. They have traded in their Browning 9mm pistols for the Italian Beretta.

"We are using all our usual equipment but we have gone for carrying the Italian weapons," said Gen Monro. "Otherwise it would require another member of administrative staff for us to have UK weapons, which would be held in a separate armoury and ammunition in a separate bunker. To get UK ammunition supplied on operations would just be complicated and incur extra costs. We have now trained on the Italian systems."

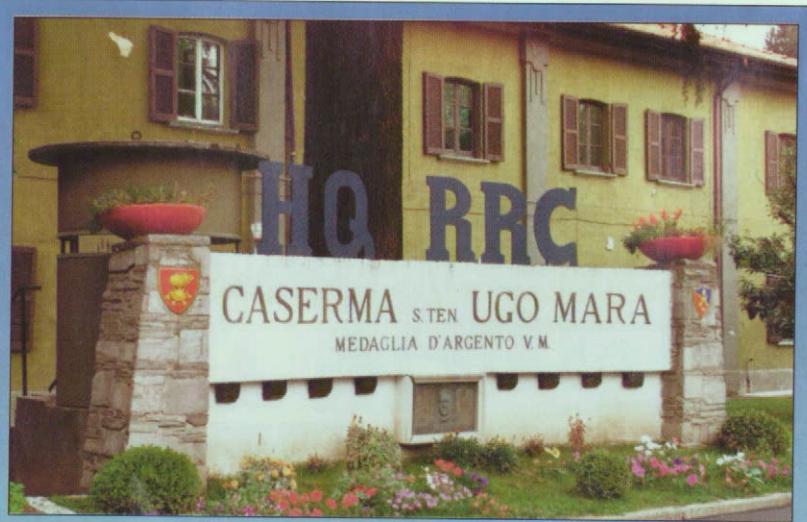
## Roughing it for the time being...

ITALY may be renowned as a country of chic and elegance, but don't run away with the idea that the British soldiers are working in stylish offices. It couldn't be further from the truth.

While a new headquarters is under construction - it should be completed early next year - offices and workshops are housed in an old and decaying barrack-block built for conscript soldiers.

It resembles some of the primitive temporary HQs used during the early days of deployments in Bosnia and Kosovo,

The block is in a poor state of disrepair; many rooms have been sealed off as hazardous as rain and damp seep into the fabric. Chic it ain't. The new offices can't come soon enough.





Stunning: The Piazza del Campo, in Siena, one of Europe's greatest medieval squares

## Dolce posting

Italy, rich in history, fine food and wine, and enough tourist sites to please all, can provide the sweet life

FOR more than 60 years, British soldiers in Germany have enjoyed the benefits living in that country bring.

Shopping in Hamburg and Hannover, skiing in the Harz Mountains, and even drinking at the Munich beer festival.

So what's on offer for families stationed with the Nato Rapid Deployable Corps (NRDC IT) in Northern Italy?

For holidays, Italy takes some beating. This autumn British tourists named the country as their favourite holiday destination for the third successive year in an NOP survey for *The Daily Telegraph*.

This is the land of Leonardo, Michelangelo and Galileo, a land of opera and music.

For NRDC IT soldiers who like sport there is Alpine skiing and, right on the doorstep,



On the doorstep: Porto Ceresio on Lake Lugano, about a mile from the Parco

windsurfing on Lake Lugano. While they may be deprived of Premiership football, Serie A is just an hour away in the form of the mighty Milan clubs, AC and Inter.

But they would be advised to keep a tight rein on their wallets and purses should they visit the Quadrilatero district of Milan. It is home to the fashion houses of Valentino, Versace, Gucci and Armani.

Since the military base is in the Lombardy region, there is plenty of opportunity to taste great food, including its very special cheese, Gorgonzola.

For lakeside breaks, Como and Maggiore are about an hour away and Garda a little further. Three hours' drive to the east lie the ancient cities of Verona, Padua and Venice. To the west, there is Turin, ski resorts such as Courmayeur and the vineyards of Barolo.

Two hours to the south can be found the province of Emilia-Romagna, the Po Valley and Parma, famous for fine food, especially cheese and ham, and the historic city of Bologna.

Another hour south takes you to Tuscany, Pisa, Siena and Florence. Rome and its treasures reward a five-hour drive south from the headquarters.

Soldiers and their families based at Solbiate Olona have a whole new country to explore. A country of culture and romance, art and architecture, scenery, wine and exuberant people.

Enjoy.

## Life at the Parco

We take a look at the quarters for soldiers serving with Nato's new rapid deployable corps in Italy

Report: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Mike Weston

THEY say Italians do it with style, and if the married quarters for soldiers serving at Solbiate Olona are anything to go by, they are not exaggerating.

Situated about a 40-minute drive north of the headquarters, the first-class quarters are on the edge of Porto Ceresio itself on the shore of Lake Lugano.

Comprising 20 three- and four-bedroom houses, each with a garage, the small estate nicknamed The Parco is new. Italian soldiers occupy three of the residences, the rest are British.

The estate, set in the foothills of the Alps, is protected by a security fence and access is via an electronic gate. The houses are covered by a 24-hour emergency repair agreement. There is a small community centre and a children's play area.

Mother-of-three Charlotte Redman, wife of SQMS Gareth Redman of the HQ staff, told *Soldier*: "We have lived here since the beginning of June after three years in Herford. Although the German housing was good, this is better... and it is quieter here."

Their home covers four floors and has four bedrooms. Much of the high-standard furniture and kitchen appliances



Better and quieter: Charlotte Redman enjoys her new home in northern Italy. It is secure and covered by a 24-hour maintenance agreement

were provided and she can keep up with UK news through satellite television.

She said the family's quality of life was good. Her youngest daughter goes to an Italian nursery, where charges were about half what they would be in the UK. Her other children go to a long-established international school in the nearest big town, Varese, about 20 minutes away.

Hospitals could be a problem since few Italians speak English.

The railway station is just round the corner and offers a regular service to Varese. Roads links are excellent although she said she found Italian driving standards a bit scary. "We can be in Switzerland in a few minutes and the train from Varese to Milan is very cheap, about £5 return. We have visited Pisa, and the Army is arranging a cultural visit to Milan to see Leonardo da Vinci's painting of *The Last Supper* at Santa Maria della Grazie."

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Hospitals could be a problem since few Italians speak English.

"We are lucky, though, because with the Army there is someone at the end of the phone if you get desperate," she said. "Because we are the first here we are finding things out for the first time. In a

year's time most of the questions will have been answered."

Maj Gen the Hon Seymour Monro, the Deputy Commander, said his British staff and their families were trailblazers, setting up a long-term British community.

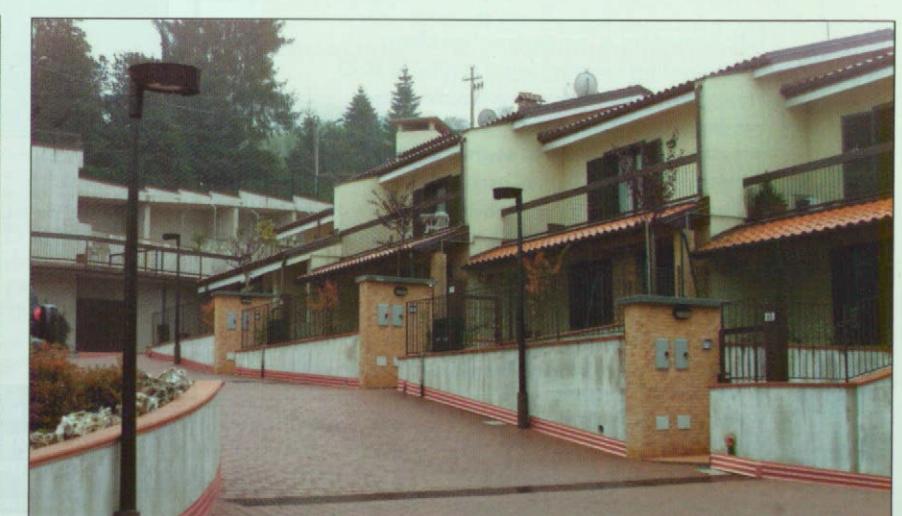
"This is not just for a couple of years," he explained. "We have to build up the welfare and community sectors so our families will be properly looked after while we are away."

Charlotte added: "The Army has realised that it needs to look after families as well as soldiers. Some places are better than others – this is pretty good."



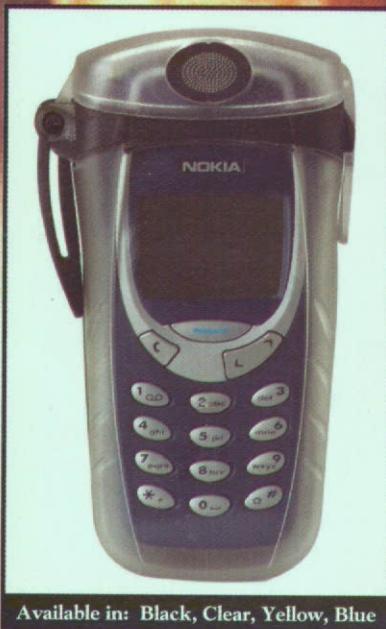
**Friendly neighbourhood:** Julie Tredrea, left, and Charlotte Redman, whose husbands are serving with the new Italian rapid deployable corps, enjoy a stroll around their new homes at Porto Ceresio.

Far right: Some typical married quarters on the "Parco" estate



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\* If you are due to leave the Army and want to work with young people a secondment to the Trust is an excellent first step.

If you wish to volunteer or would like to talk over the commitment contact the Services Liaison Officer in the Trust Headquarters on **0207 543 1328**

# Apache's opening salvo



THESE ARE the first pictures of an Army Air Corps Apache firing cannon and rockets.

The Attack Helicopter Training Unit conducted Apache AH Mk 1 live-firing on Heath Range at Lulworth to complete the development conversion-to-type course gunnery phase. Three hundred-and-thirty M230E1 – 30mm cannon – rounds and 38 70mm rockets were fired by day and night.

Crews fired rockets from both cockpits while cannon were fired only from the front seat.

The aircraft deployed from Middle Wallop on the morning of the firing and returned that night. Unloading of munitions to the aircraft was done at Bindon Range, also at Lulworth.

# We can SEE you

Night vision sets will allow troops to pick off targets on darkest night

A STATE-of-the-art head-mounted night vision system being sought by the MoD will give infantry fire-teams the ability to see and target enemy troops on the darkest night out to a range of 150m.

Following a competition sponsored by the Defence Procurement Agency, 500 of the technologically-advanced sets should be delivered by August next year.

A personal headset will tie in to a special rifle-mounted, night-time targeting system which will allow dismounted troops to place an infra-red "spot" on the target for pinpoint accuracy. The spot will be visible only to the shooter through his night-vision system.

It is believed to be a major step towards achieving a truly 24-hour capability for infantry troops.

The lightweight system will be operated by battery. Soldiers currently have to use bulky, hand-held night vision tubes. The

5,000 new sets will supplement night-vision goggles bought specifically for use in Afghanistan and which proved popular with Royal Marines.

An invitation to tender is expected to be issued before Christmas.

- Tenders are being invited for the supply of up to 4,000 portable power generators for use by British troops in the field. The sets must be light enough to be lifted by three, preferably two, soldiers and be capable of providing 28v DC and 230/110v AC power, preferably simultaneously.

- The MoD is to investigate the scope for using electric power to drive military vehicles. QinetiQ has been awarded a contract to build a demonstration vehicle with a hybrid electric drive combining electric transmissions, power generators

and stored energy systems with conventional combustion engines.

- Boeing has unveiled a concept for the largest military transport aircraft in history. It could have the capacity to carry the equivalent of 17 M1 Abrams main battle tanks over strategic distances.

- Dubbed "The Pelican" on the drawing board, the four-engined monster would be able to lift almost as much cargo as a container ship.

- Its wing span would be 152m and its external dimensions would be almost twice those of the Ukrainian An-225, acknowledged to be the world's biggest cargo aircraft.

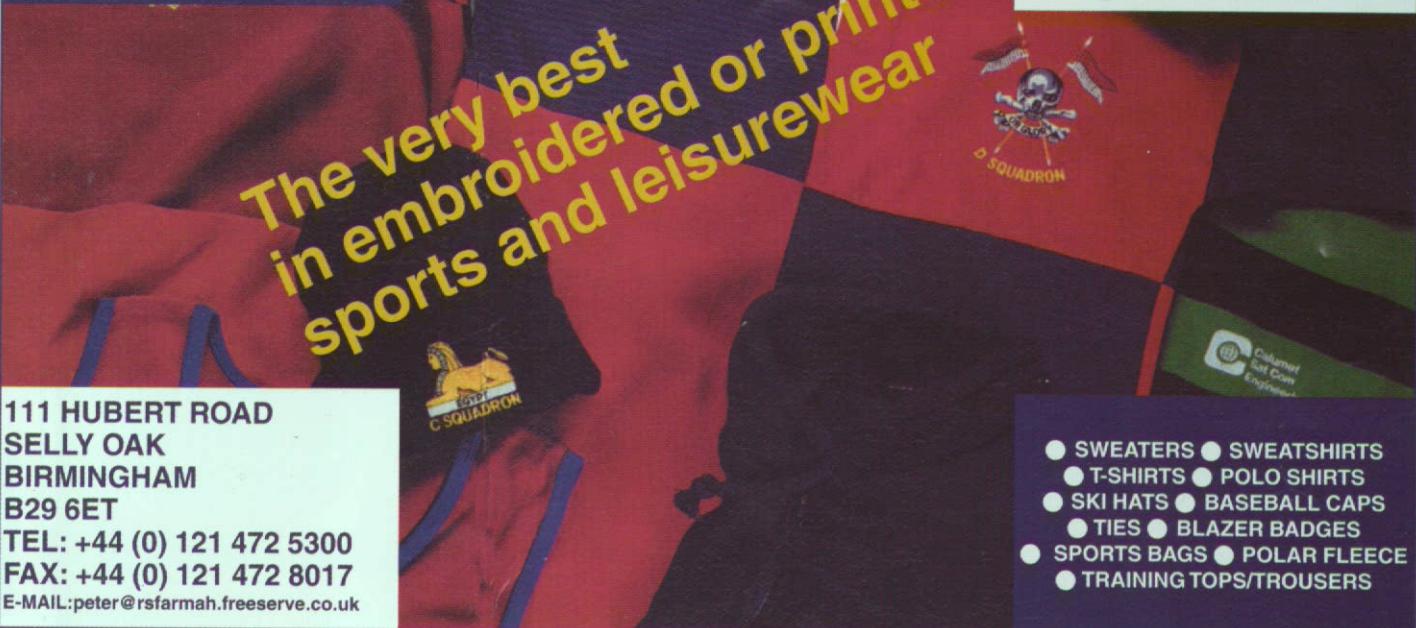
- Poland has accepted the first Leopard 2A4 main battle tanks that Germany is transferring to equip an entire Polish armoured brigade.

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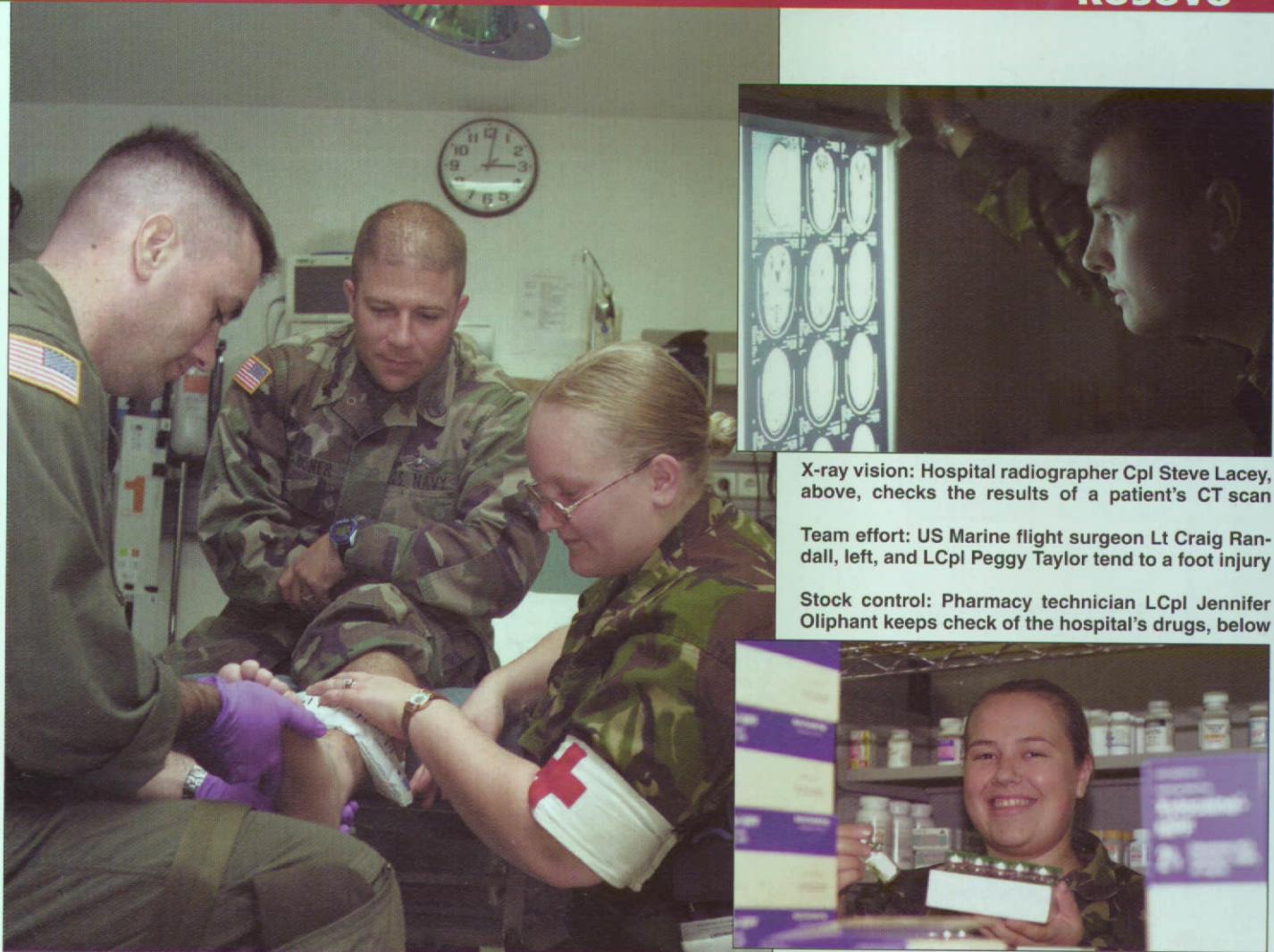
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# Bondsteel bonding

Giant US base is home to 7,000

Report: Andy Simms  
Pictures: Steve Dock

ALTHOUGH there is some debate over whether the casualty department of the purpose-built hospital at the United States Army's Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo should be referred to as the "Emergency Room" or "Accident and Emergency", there is no doubting that the joint American and British facility offers multi-national brigade soldiers the best possible care.

Served by a fleet of ambulances and six Black Hawk helicopters, and boasting two operating theatres, a 12-bed intensive care unit, an intermediate care ward with 22 beds, extensive pharmacy, dental clinic and radiology department, the prefabricated hospital is far removed from a traditional field hospital.

Offering troops and Kosovans in need of emergency care 24-hour medical cover, 365 days a year, the year-old facility is staffed by more than 350 personnel – 26

of whom are provided by the British Army. The hospital's chief of nursing services, Maj Paul Burnett, of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, said: "Although the Americans supply the bulk of our number, the British contribution to the hospital is far from insignificant as we provide a surgeon, anaesthetist, theatre nurse, operating department functionaries, nursing officers, nursing staff, healthcare assistants and a medical assistant.

"The hospital is fantastic. We are able to

## The base is so big it has downtown, midtown and uptown districts

offer a much better standard of care here than we would be able to if we were working in a traditional tented field hospital because we have heating in the winter, air-conditioning in the summer, proper lighting and wipe-clean walls and flooring."

Maj Burnett went on: "In many ways the building does something of a disservice to us.

"It is important that they understand that this hospital is just a very smart large

white tent, with a field hospital capability – we are here to save lives and not to provide routine surgery that could otherwise be performed back in Germany or the UK."

As well as working alongside their American cousins in the hospital, the small team of QARANC and Royal Army Medical Corps soldiers have to adjust to life on Camp Bondsteel.

Built on 1,000 acres of farmland in south-east Kosovo at Uresevic, close to the Macedonian border, the high-tech base is home to nearly 7,000 troops and is the biggest built-from-scratch foreign US military base since the Vietnam War.

Named after SSgt James Bondsteel, who was decorated for conspicuous gallantry during the Vietnamese conflict, the sprawling base has a six-mile perimeter, 25 kilometres of roads and is so big that it has downtown, midtown and uptown districts, its own retail outlets, a chapel, library and 24-hour sports hall.

"Life on an American camp is very different to what we are used to," conceded Maj Burnett. "I suppose the biggest difference is the food. Americans tend to have a very sweet tooth . . . and you could eat cheeseburgers for every meal."

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# War walker

Battlefield tours are not the dry subject you might imagine

Report: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Mike Weston

EVER been on a battlefield tour? Thousands of soldiers have and many of them will have watched history brought to life by Peter Caddick-Adams, a lecturer in security studies at Cranfield University.

Peter specialises in military history and aspects of international relations at Cranfield, but it is for his battlefield tours that he is known to a wider audience.

After Regular service with The Staffordshire Regiment, he joined the Territorial Army, becoming a troop leader in The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry. Recently he transferred to the Media Operations Group in the rank of major.

"I studied military history at Wolverhampton University, stayed on as a lecturer and undertook a field trip to the Normandy battlefields," he said.

The tours became a regular feature and he started doing them for TA units and then the Regulars. Prof Richard Holmes,

the writer, broadcaster and former TA brigadier who heads the Defence Management and Security Analysis Department at Cranfield, found his workload restricting his own well-known tours so invited Peter to Cranfield to help him.

Peter averages about 20 a year, each for up to 35 people over four or five days. Most take in First and Second World War sites in Europe and Civil War battlefields in America. UK sites include Bosworth, Naseby and Hastings.

In all the British Army undertakes at least 200 battlefield tours a year. They can be for all ranks or specifically to teach officers.

But why do them at all? "There are several reasons. First, regimental history and tradition. . . the whole ethos of the cap badge. Then there is leadership in a crisis, decision-making.

"We look at past examples. Sometimes they make the wrong decision and they pass into captivity or are killed. We can go back and plot and chart somebody's ability to think appropriately in a crisis.

"You are also teaching tactics, learning the soldier's art. We talk about skirmishing today as if it was new, but soldiers

were doing that in Napoleonic battles.

"You can't wage war unless you have all the necessary supplies and a good line of communications. Normandy is a good example of how all the jigsaw puzzle pieces have to be in place before you go to battle."

Peter and his "pupils" walk the ground, often a vivid experience for them. "I always think a day on the ground of a battlefield is worth a week in the classroom."

The growth in the popularity of military history is reflected in the number of TV programmes on the subject and a surge in military books. "There is staggering interest at every level," he said. "A lot of that comes from private soldiers and it is most rewarding taking them abroad."

It is rare to find an officer who hasn't been on a battlefield tour and rarer to find a soldier who doesn't know anything about the First World War. Peter reckons many of the basic principles of soldiering haven't changed in a thousand years.

"Arrows gave way to musket balls and rifle bullets but what makes a soldier think and tick hasn't changed at all."



Peter Caddick-Adams

**Many of the basic principles of soldiering haven't changed in a thousand years**

# In uniform... you'd better believe it

Did you know that the man who played Victor Meldrew is a former military medic?

Interview: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Graeme Main

TO millions of TV viewers, Richard Wilson is the actor who played one of the small screen's most memorable characters, Victor Meldrew, the irascible, grumpy old moaner who suffered from, eventually, terminal bad luck.

But the real Richard Wilson, once a soldier, is an immensely likeable, witty man totally dedicated to the acting craft. Like so many of his generation, he joined the Army to do his National Service.

"It was 1956 and I was a medical lab technician," he explained at the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square, Chelsea, where he is directing two plays. "The Army was always short of technicians and was keen to get us under National Service. I joined after my intermediate examination and went into the RAMC.

"I hated basic training. It was physically very demanding. And I'd never been away from home before."

Richard thought he had landed on his feet when he was posted to Bermuda, but three days before he was due to go a quirk of fortune found him instead at the site of a suspected smallpox outbreak near Catterick. "It wasn't much fun," he recalled, although the entire episode sounds suspiciously like something out of one of his oft-repeated *One Foot In The Grave* shows.

Crisis over, Pte Wilson was asked where he wanted to be posted. He opted for Germany and was sent to Singapore to work in the British Military Hospital at Changi.

Flying there was a nerve-racking time.

"I remember we flew in a Comet," he said. "Commercial airlines had stopped flying them because of safety concerns but the RAF kept them going. Of course, it broke down. I remember being stuck in Aden. I am glad I wasn't posted there."

But he loved Changi, which gave him the chance to meet people of many nationalities. "It was wonderful. We had the African Rifles and the Gurkhas and all the locals.

"I did over a year in Singapore and eventually took charge of blood transfusion and serology [blood tests to detect the presence of antibodies]."

With the lure of the stage beginning to draw him, Richard joined the entertainments committee and considered directing a play. When three of the cast were posted he gave the idea up.

His time served, he left the Army, not tempted to stay by the chance of a commission. Back in civvy street, he briefly returned home to Scotland before moving to London in 1959 to work at Paddington General Hospital.

He still harboured dreams of the stage. "I did act as an amateur at the City Literary Institute and began working with semi-professionals. Then I met a girl who was studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art so I thought I'd apply. I was accepted and the London County Council gave me a grant. So I left the hospital for the theatre and that was it."

After Rada work came quickly, with a part alongside Andrew Cruickshank and Bill Simpson in *Dr Finlay's Casebook*, a hugely popular TV series in the Sixties. He returned to Rada as an assistant director before rep work in England, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

A colleague told him about The Sta-

bles, a theatrical group run by Granada TV, and he joined soon afterwards. When he wasn't acting, he was directing. It was to prove a springboard into television comedy.

His first break came in 1973 in a sitcom called *My Good Woman* with Leslie Crowther and Sylvia Sims.

Then there were various sitcoms leading up to *Only When I Laugh*, co-starring James Bolam, Peter Bowles and Christopher Strauli, with Richard playing the part of Dr Thorpe.

Despite the success of *Only When I Laugh*, real fame and a special niche in the national psyche was to follow with *One Foot In The Grave*. As the

irritable Meldrew, Richard ranted across Britain's TV screens for ten years. Although it is now more than two years since Victor was killed off, his legacy lives on.

*One Foot In The Grave* changed my life and I don't have any regrets about doing it. I am grateful to Victor. He changed everything and gave me financial security."

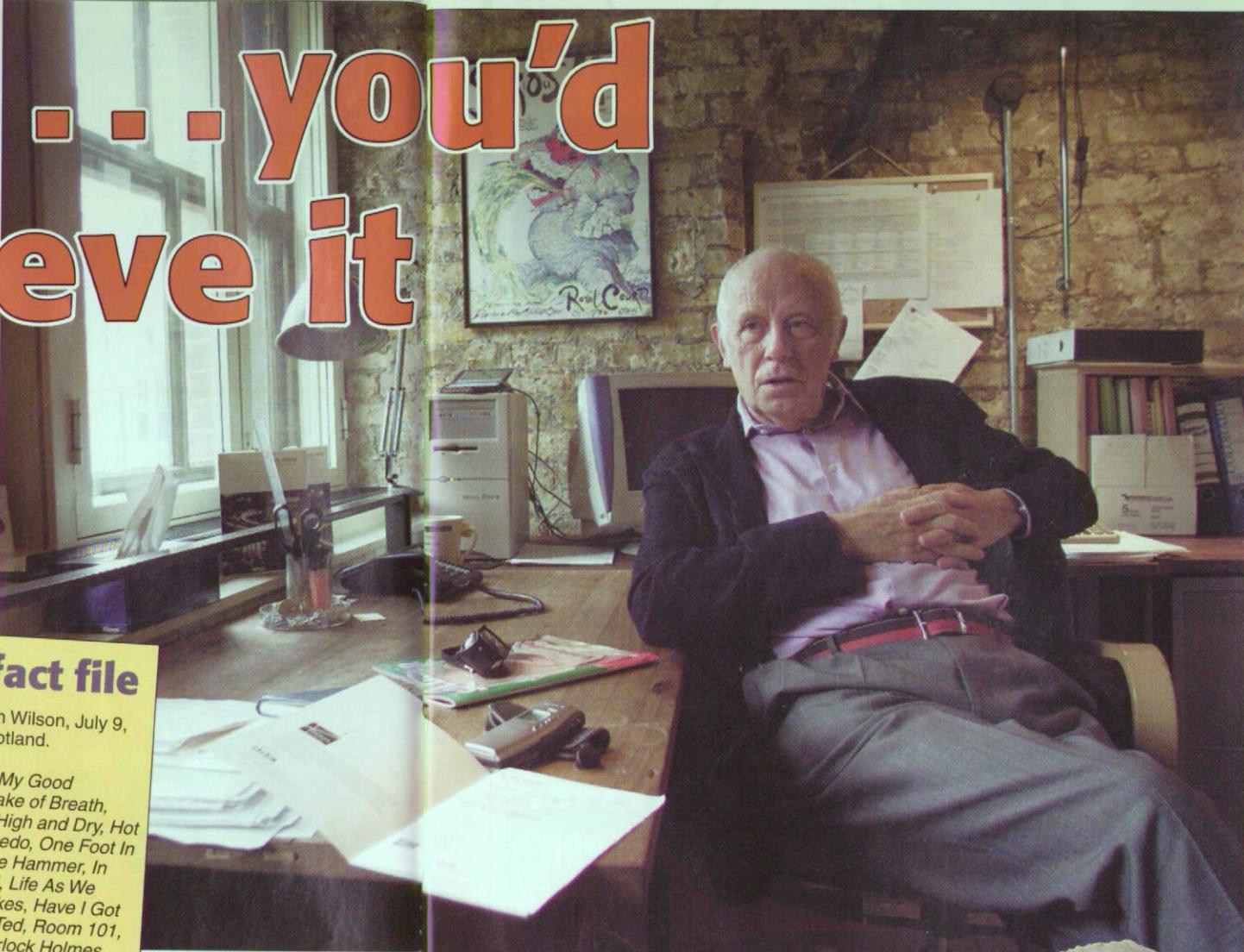
Richard is involved in many theatrical projects, including work at Sadlers Wells. Away from the stage he spent three years as the elected rector of Glasgow University, the senior student representative and chair of the University Court.

A final comment on his years in uniform: "The Army was good for me. I was a shy, backward, skinny runt and it helped to bring me out of myself. It was scary for some people but I was lucky. I kept my profession going and have the Army to thank for falling in love with the Far East."

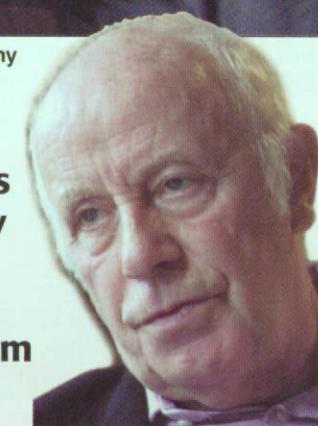
friend, Jack Shepherd. He has also played a cameo part in *Jeffrey Archer: The Truth*, a satirical play for the BBC with a yet-to-be-decided broadcast date. At Christmas he will be Captain Hook in a new musical at the Royal Festival Hall.

Giving up the rectorship allowed him the space to become an associate director of the Royal Court Theatre.

Following the death of the Meldrew character, Richard recorded a second series of *High Stakes*, a TV comedy about merchant banking which co-stars an old



Director: In his office at the Royal Court Theatre, Richard Wilson reflects on his time in the Army



**'I hated basic training. It was physically very demanding. And I'd never been away from home before'**

## Hi-de-hi, Ho-di-ho

Another in our series about ex-soldiers and their new jobs

MOST soldiers leaving the Service probably dream about a long holiday. For one, that holiday is permanent – well, almost, writes Ray Routledge.

Micky Reeson spent nearly 30 years in the Army, serving with 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment. Today he can be found at Whitley Bay Holiday Park on the North East coast.

Micky, though, isn't there as a tourist. He's the camp manager.

"I'd always wanted to get into this and if I won the pools I'd buy my own camp," he said. "I didn't win, but landed a job at Haven Leisure at Mablethorpe in Lincolnshire when I left the Army in 1997."

A Cornishman by birth, the former warrant officer always liked the sea air. During a tour at Bovington he spent several years coaching nearby Bournemouth Football Club's Junior Cherries team, working closely with youngsters including former Bournemouth player Matt Holland, now an Ipswich and Republic of Ireland star.

Micky used his resettlement year and education grant from the Army wisely, gaining qualifications in computers, quality assurance and accounting.

"As general manager of the holiday park, I am also able to take time to indulge in my passion of fishing," he told *Soldier*.

Micky says the holiday park business in the UK is enjoying a resurgence. His happy campers can use one of more than 400 permanent mobile home sites or 51 touring caravan pitches. He also has three clubhouses, an indoor swimming pool, amusement arcades and separate lounges for adults and children on the premises.

"The job's not easy and it requires dedication," he said. "The hours can be very long and we always have to be aware of our customers' wishes. For most of them their visit here is the highlight of the year and we don't want to let them down."

"One word of advice I would offer to anyone about to leave the Army in whatever career they move to is to aim high. Too many set their sights too low. Aim high and be confident."

● Are you ex-Army with a good story which might inspire others? Write or e-mail [routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk)



Camp commandant: Micky Reeson

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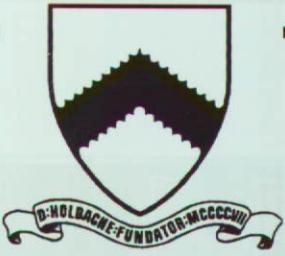
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## backchat

All contributions to this occasional column considered... as long as they stand up in court

## Bruising campaign

THE standard British Army rifle of the Zulu and Boer Wars was the Martini Henry, which had a shoulder-bruising recoil. One officer claimed this pain ensured his soldiers fought harder.

"When a fellow has been so brutally pounded by his own rifle half a hundred times, he doesn't so much mind having an assegai as big as a shovel stuck through him," he commented. "It's rather a relief, don't you know."

Aren't we lucky to have SA80 A2?

### Not quite spot on...

STORIES abound of famous last words, but in one instance you feel the speaker was asking for it. During the American Civil War, Gen John Sedgwick rode forward to find his men were nervous of Confederate snipers. "They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance...", the general supposedly said as the snipers' bullet shattered his skull.

### Shoulder both arms

ALTHOUGH first published ten years ago, Geoffrey Regan's book *Military Anecdotes*, now published by André Deutsch in paperback at £12.99, is still a rich source of amusement.

In the chapter "The Best of Enemies", for example, he reports that fraternisation during the Peninsular War was more widespread than the officers would ever have liked to admit. "What Wellington would have said about the Irish sentry found with a French musket on one shoulder and his own on the other shoulder, keeping guard for both sides while the French sentry had gone into the village nearby to buy brandy for both of them to drink, is past repeating," Regan observes.

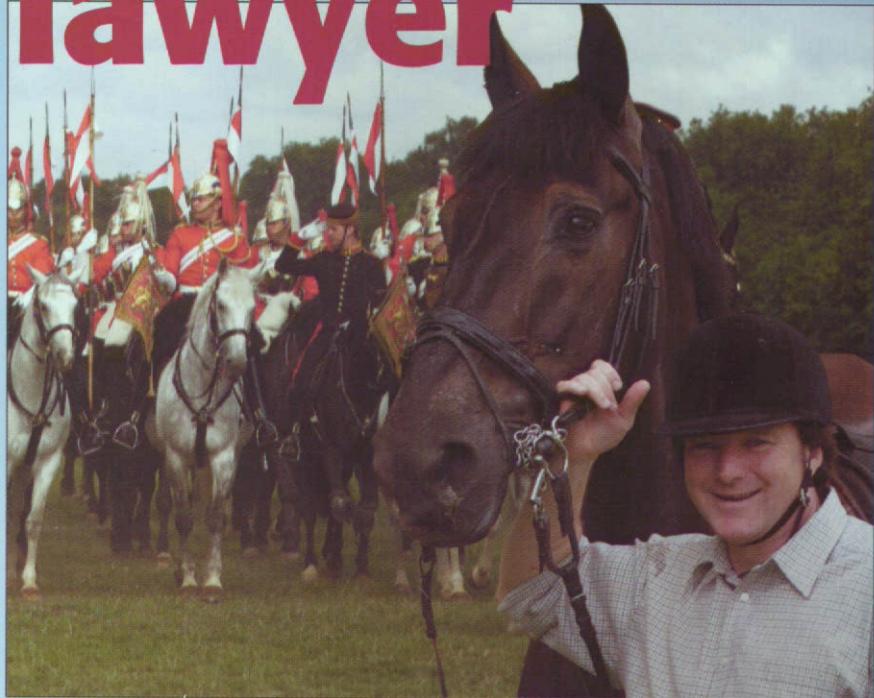
### Oh, my sainted father

ONE visitor to the Falklands in 1996 while Andrew Gurr was chief executive was the Princess Royal, who, he says, conducted herself with "immense professionalism".

In his memoir of five years in post, *A Little Piece of England* (John Blake, £16.99), he shows his admiration for her gift of "making people feel they have had a meaningful conversation with one, even though it only lasted for 90 seconds".

He adds that at one point Queen Victoria would have been proud of Princess Anne's "We are not amused" posture. It came when he pointed out that her father's photograph in Government House had been subject to the "ravages of time", and he now appeared to have a halo.

# Horseback lawyer



Legal Eagle: Tim Lawson-Cruttenden and Sefton, his four-legged office

Picture: Mike Weston

## The Blues and Royals do everything in style, including consulting their solicitor

MOST of us consulting a solicitor would probably do it in their office, writes Ray Routledge.

But for soldiers of The Blues and Royals the chances are the consultation would take place on the back of a horse.

Tim Lawson-Cruttenden, a solicitor advocate, served with the regiment before he turned to law. While at Cambridge he joined the Royal Yeomanry, eventually commanding C Squadron.

Since 1992 he has been legal adviser to several Household Cavalry trusts and, in exchange for legal fees, is allowed to indulge in his third love, horses. He helps to exercise the regiment's mounts several times a week from Hyde Park Barracks.

"I have been riding here for ten years," he told *Soldier* early one morning in the Park. "When I became a lawyer I kept in touch with friends in the regiment. They asked if I would go back and do the trust work for them and I said I would, free of charge, if I could ride the horses."

If a soldier has a legal problem, providing he tucks up a horse he can ride with Tim to discuss the issue. For free.

"If I have to do any work back in my office I can get a small allowance from the regimental association to help, or Army Legal Aid if it is a court-martial matter."

"I defend soldiers at courts martial and my knowledge of the Army is very helpful. Having commanded a squadron I know my

tactics." Tim dealt with the Army's first human rights case, which he knows is a difficult area for the Army.

"I am not trying to condone improper or unlawful behaviour, but I think there are times in the Army where life is rougher than it is in civilian life. The discipline structure is such that you have to give the Army more of an allowance than it might otherwise get."

"You may have an experienced soldier who has gone over the top with a young recruit but probably for good reason. The question then is should the older person be tainted with criminality because he has been over-zealous or had a slight lapse of judgement."

"If you start convicting people like that then you will lose the middle-ranking NCOs and I think the Army has to cherish its sergeants, staff sergeants and junior warrant officers."

Tim usually rides a horse called Sefton (named after the survivor of the IRA bomb atrocity in 1982) while dispensing advice. "It is a nice way of contributing to the regiment and keeping in touch. Everyone knows who I am and it gives me an interesting insight into a small community in London and how a human rights lawyer relates to a barracks."

● If you're in the TA and have an interesting story, contact Ray Routledge on 01252 340753 or [routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

# Remembering the fallen

The sons of Rommel and Montgomery stand shoulder-to-shoulder at El Alamein service in Westminster Abbey

Report: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Graeme Main

THE sons of former enemies joined more than 2,000 veterans, their families and members of the Royal Family at a service at Westminster Abbey to mark the 60th anniversary of the decisive Battle of El Alamein.

Viscount David Montgomery and Dr Manfred Rommel – whose fathers led the opposing armies in the Western Desert – were among those who honoured the fallen in the royal presence of the Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Royal, the Duke of Kent, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra.

During a service which moved many to tears, the Chaplain General, the Ven John Blackburn, led prayers while Sir Donald Sinden read the poem *El Alamein* by John Jarman.

Former sergeant Richard Ticehurst, once of 57 Field Regiment RA and a veteran of retreat at Dunkirk and victory at El Alamein, said: "I thought the service was wonderful."

He was in charge of a 25-pounder gun at El Alamein. "We fired for about nine hours constantly," he recalled. "We just got on with our job." Ex-WO2 Frank Mugeridge, 81, also of 57 Fd Regt and another Dunkirk veteran, had good reason to remember the day the battle started. "It was my 21st birthday," he said. "The Queen gets a 21-gun salute... I had over a thousand."

Former sergeant Harry Garrett, of the 61st



Leader's sons: Dr Manfred Rommel, left, with Viscount David Montgomery



Proud: Veterans of Monty's victorious army, many adorned with their campaign medals, take their places in the Abbey. A few had survived Dunkirk

Anti-Tank Regiment, said: "The noise of battle was terrifying. When it was all over you knew you were a soldier. Today was a moving service and it was lovely to see old chaps again. The comradeship is fantastic."

"I was proud to serve my country and I think we did a good job."



Setting the standard: The Union Flag and Army Veterans' Association were paraded through the national and branch standards of the Eighth Army Veterans' Association were paraded through the Abbey and placed in the Sacra



Solemn splendour: Westminster Abbey plays its part in the El Alamein service of remembrance

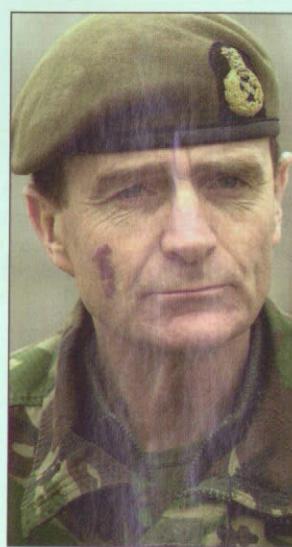
# DSO for officer who led Afghan mission

EOD team's 'exceptional courage' recognised

MAJ Gen John McColl receives the DSO for outstanding leadership in laying the foundations for a secure Afghanistan.

As commander of the International Stabilisation Force – Isaf – he moulded troops from 19 nations into a widely-applauded organisation. A citation says his relationship, built on trust and personal respect, with the Afghan Interim Authority was critical to the well-being of the country during its political transition.

Non-operational gallantry awards go to three Royal Engineers – Lt Paul Ness QGM, LCpl Dean McMaster QGM and Spr Stephen Smith QCB – for "exceptional courage and consummate bravery" while disposing of an unexploded bomb in a housing estate at Lingfield, Surrey.



Outstanding leadership in Kabul: Maj Gen John McColl

C Hamilton QRH; Pte S O'Neill, RLC TA; Maj J G Robinson RGR; Brig D J Rutherford-Jones, late LD; Capt J S Senior AAC; Lt Col D J L Swann MBE, QRH; Maj J C Williams MBE, QGM, Int Corps; Cpl M F N Woodard ACG (RMP).

Afghanistan  
DSO: Maj Gen J C McColl CBE, late R Anglian.

CBE: Brig B W B White-Spunner, late RHG/D.

OBE: Lt Col J I Bashall, Para; Lt Col T D McMurtie MBE, LI.

MBE: Maj M P Christie, Para; CSgt D P Farthing, Para; CSgt S A McVitie, Para.

MiD: Capt J L Tancrel, Para; Cpl Yakchharaj Limbu RGR.

QCB: SSgt S J Clewley, RE.

QCVS: WO P J Healy; Lt

Col G M Salzano MBE; Cpl I R Adams RE; Spr S L Anderson RE; Capt P Jackson RE; Maj G L Myers RAMC; Maj T D Penney QARANC.

## Northern Ireland

OBE: Lt Col I W Smith MBE, Para.

MBE: Maj M W G Adams, R Signals; Maj A W Barbone AAC; WO2 B M Bradbury RGBW; WO2 S C Chapman RE; WO2 E P Coen, R Scots; WO2 J S McMurray QRL; Maj N P Short RGBW; Capt G Tait, R Scots.

QGM: CSgt B L Allen, Para; WO2 N O Hopkins RLC.

MiD: Cpl S S A Henderson KOSB; Fus R J John RHF.

QCB: LCpl S M R Skinner, R Scots; WO2 M D Taylor RWF; SSgt G E Thompson, Int Corps.

QCVS: Maj A Barnes, Coldm Gds; Lt Col E D Brown MBE, RGBW; Capt K Campbell KOSB; Lt Col J M Castle KOSB; WO1 A P Clark RLC; Lt Col T T C Collins, R Irish; LCpl N Elliott RLC; WO2 K Ferguson, R Irish; Capt L E Fowkes RGR; Cpl W Garrick, R Scots; Sgt R G Johnson, R Signals; Cpl D M Knox, Para; Capt A T Legatt, R Irish; WO2 R D G Mealey, R Irish; Maj B S Montgomery RHF; Capt M R Purves, R Signals; Sgt L G Rankin RGBW; WO2 S Reilly AGC (RMP); Maj B Shaw AAC; Maj J W R Swanson MBE, R Irish; Cpl S R Timewell, R Signals; WO2 D E Turnbull KOSB.

## Sierra Leone

MBE: Maj A F Morrow, R Irish; WO2 M C Thompson, Para.

QCVS: Lt Col J M Gale, R Signals; Lt Col R L M Hackett MBE, RWF; Lt Col M J Hallas, Int Corps; WO2 G McQuillan, R Irish; Brig W H Moore, late RA; Lt Col D A Wiggins RLC.

## Congo

QCVS: Lt Col A D Mason OBE, Para.

## Georgia

MBE: Maj M I Hanlon, R Irish.

## Non-operational awards for support of operations in Afghanistan

OBE: Lt Col W N Aldridge MBE, RWF.

MBE: WO2 L A Conibear RLC; Maj K A Cross RLC; Sgt P R Cutler REME; Maj P L Easter, Int Corps; Cpl P S Griffiths, Int Corps; Maj S M Kelly RLC; Lt Col W D Rainey RLC; SSgt J D Rigby RE; Maj N W Rowles, Int Corps; Capt P F Wellington AGC (RMP).

## Non-operational – miscellaneous

QGM: Bdr D S Needham, RA; Capt P A Ness, RE; LCpl D S MacMaster, RE.

QCB: Capt T D Edmunds-McClune, RE; Spr S R Smith, RE.

● The following awards are announced for gallantry and distinguished service between October 1, 2001 and March 31, 2002: 1 DSO, 1 CBE, 2 MBEs, 4 CGCs, 2 GMs, 5 MCs, 3 DFCs, 8 MiDs and 8 QCVSs.

# Army snappers steal the show

Service life in Northern Ireland captured on film

ARMY photographer Sgt Paul Brownbridge RLC swept the board in the Northern Ireland tri-Service annual photographic competition. He won six of the nine categories, £1,100 worth of prizes, and the coveted title of Northern Ireland Professional Photographer of the Year, **writes Andrea Frazer**.

Paul, who took over the photography side of the Northern Ireland news team at the Army Information Service at HQ Lisburn in January, was entering for the first time. A previous winner in the Army Photographic Competition – he won the Image of the Year category in 1998 – Paul said: "I was very pleased to win and it reflects well on the quality of work this section produces."

"The job gives me a great opportunity to see all aspects of Service life and we travel extensively around the province and indeed, the world. Trips abroad this year have taken me to Jamaica and America."

Now in its seventh year, the competition is open to Royal Navy, Army and RAF photographers as well as dependants, MoD personnel and civil servants attached to the Services in the province.

The 2002 competition was divided into nine categories aimed at reflecting the activities and conditions of life across the entire scope of operations in Northern Ireland.

**The event was sponsored by Kodak, Fuji, AGFA, Ilford, Calumet, Photographic Maintenance Services, Jessops, Soldier Magazine and the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland.**

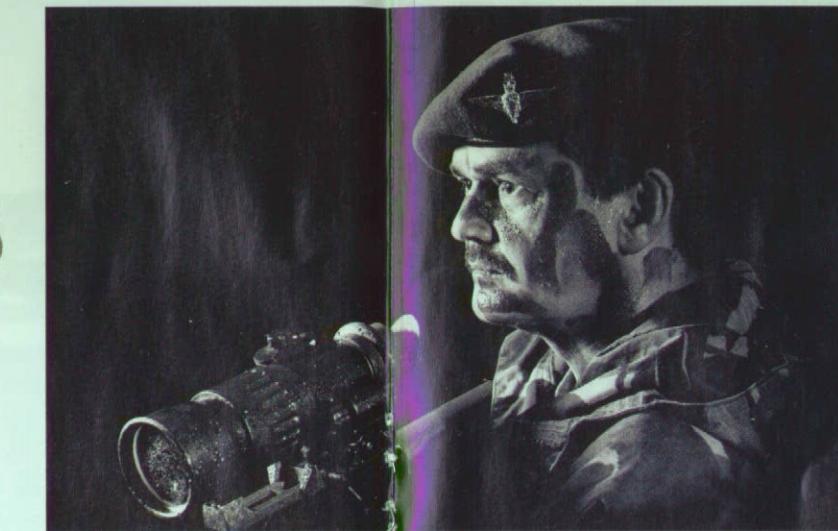
They included professional and amateur portfolios, monochrome, colour, portrait, sports and adventurous training, own choice, digital and a new category, the Service family portfolio.

Lt Col Phil Thorpe RLC, explained: "The overall aim of the competition is to promote and maintain tri-Service photographic excellence within the province. Photography is vital to every aspect of the operational life of the Armed Forces in Northern Ireland. Photographic support is required for a variety of situations, such as gathering and preserving evidence, as an instructional aid, as a planning tool, as an historic record of our time or for public relations purposes."

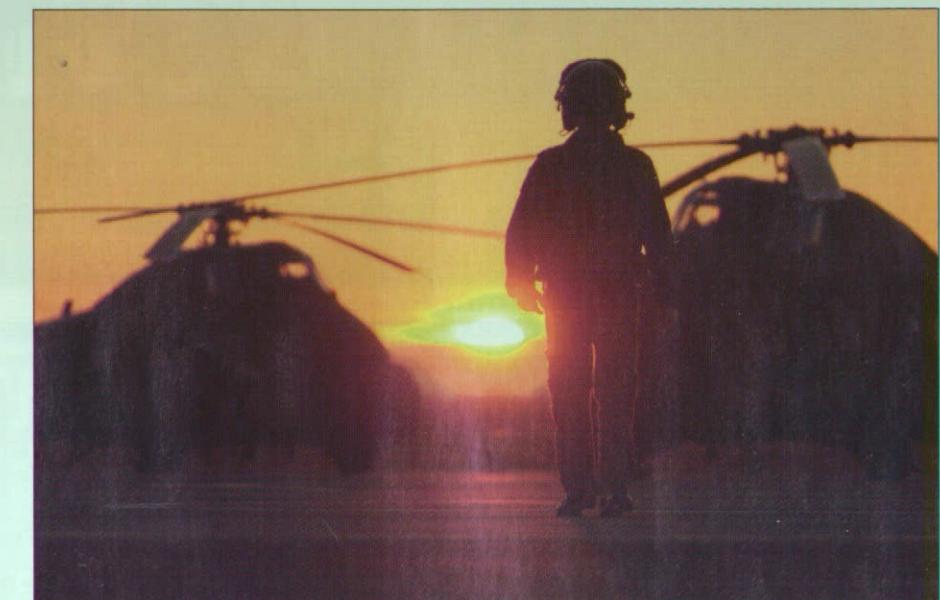
The judges were Linda Salem, Chairman of the British Institute of Professional Photographers, Northern Ireland Region and fellow BIPP member David Corder. Linda said: "In our opinion there were two images which really stole the show. Sgt Rob Leyland's 'Flamingos' was a superb fine art image and Sgt Paul Brownbridge's portrait 'Like father, like son' captured an unbelievable rapport between the two people in the photograph. Both images could stand up to and hold their own in any civilian competition and really deserved to receive the judges' award."



Flying today: This shot earned Stephen George the runner-up prize for the best colour photograph



**Focused:** This Sgt Paul Brownbridge picture won best military portrait and was in the portfolio which won him the award of Professional Photographer of the Year



**The end of the day:** Sgt Paul Brownbridge's best colour photograph and part of the portfolio which won him the Professional Photographer of the Year



**Combined operations:** This image by LCpl Ian Woods helped him win the Amateur Photographer of the Year title



Sgt Paul Brownbridge, above, and a photograph, right, from his winning best Service family portfolio

## The results

**Professional Photographer of the Year** (sponsored by Kodak): Sgt Paul Brownbridge (Army); runner-up, Cpl Paul Firth.

**Own choice award:** (Soldier Magazine): Sgt Rob Leyland; runner-up, LCpl Ian Woods.

**Best digital image** (Photographic Maintenance Services): Sgt Paul Brownbridge; runner-up, Sgt Rob Leyland.

**Best Service family portfolio** (GOC NI): Sgt Paul Brownbridge.

**Judges' choice** (Jessops): Sgt Paul Brownbridge and Sgt Rob Leyland (joint winners).



**Study in pink:** Sgt Rob Leyland's shot of flamingos won him both the *Soldier* and Judges' choice categories

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# Big money boxing

COMMONWEALTH super-heavyweight gold medallist David Dolan was among the sell-out crowd at HQ York Garrison's charity boxing evening, which helped raise more than £6,500 for SSAFA-Forces Help and the Army Benevolent Fund.

The Sunderland-based fighter watched from ringside as boxers from The Parachute Regiment, GH, RLC, 2 Sig Regt, RGJ and QDG entertained more than 300 guests with a string of high-quality bouts.

Dolan had been expected to be joined at the Title and Sodexho-sponsored event by Audley Harrison, but the Olympic champion was unable to attend due to training commitments ahead of his seventh professional fight in America (see Page 46).

"The evening represented six months of hard work," explained event organiser SSgt Spud Woollatt (HQ 2 Med Bde). "Not only did I want to raise money for charity, but I also wanted the night to be a superb advert for Army boxing.

"I think we succeeded on both counts. The event was a complete sell-out and every one of the boxers who took part gave their all and were a real credit to Army boxing."

◆ See January's *Soldier* for an interview with David Dolan.

◆ Full results – Pte Ben Achampong (RLC) beat Rfn Steve Leigh (RGJ) on points; 2nd Lt Ian Flannery (2 Sig Regt) beat Pte Phil Bowman (Para) on points; LCpl Cookie Cook



**Charity bash: Heavyweight 2nd Lt Ian Flannery (2 Sig Regt), right, lands a right jab en route to a unanimous points victory over Pte Phil Bowman (Para)**

Picture: Graeme Main

(QDG) stopped Pte Mark Elvins (Para) in the second round; LCpl Ryan Naish (Para) stopped LCpl Tony Ward (2 Sig Regt) in the first round; Pte Kev Jones (RLC) beat Rfn Jonathan Millward (RGJ) on points; Cpl Goody Goodridge (GH) beat LCpl Gaz Sumner (RLC) on points;

Pte Mark Stanion (Para) stopped Pte Jeff Patterson (RLC) in the second round; Pte Si Evans (Para) beat Cpl Jay Sumner (RLC) on points; Pte Wes Smith (RLC) beat LCpl Billy Thurston (QDG) (disqualified); Pte Terry Mitton (Para) beat Sgt Johnny Stevenson (QDG) on points.

## IN OFF THE POST...

# Unlevel playing field for sportswomen?

I WISH to highlight the rapid decline of female sport within the Army.

When I was a "young sprog" (1992) I remember attending the hockey sevens in Aldershot. There were hundreds of girls taking part, and every part of the Army world came to compete from as far afield as Germany, Hong Kong and Northern Ireland. Sadly now the competition is lucky if it gets more than ten teams entering.

It's the same with the perennial girlie-games like rounders, netball and volleyball. There are girls who wish to compete in these sports, but they are usually unable to participate due to lack of manpower, female physical training instructors, or even basic transport.

There have been several occasions when I've wanted to take part in events, only to be told that I would have to use my own vehicle to get there – units just don't

seem to have white fleet vehicles available these days.

I would like to see a senior female officer appointed in an effort to stop this downward spiral in female sport, and also to ask commanding officers why female sport is non-existent in their units. – **Cpl (name, address supplied).**

**Maj Gen Simon Lytle (Director Army Sport Control Board) responds:** Sadly there is some truth in "young sprog's" letter. There is no doubt that since the demise of the WRAC and other female units it has been far more difficult to organise low-level female sport in the Army.

Often females in units are in small numbers, in key positions and find it difficult to get away and form teams, albeit the Army Sport Control Board is always flexible in determining amalgamations to attenuate some of the above.

By no means, however, is it all gloomy, as the recent women's six-a-side football cham-

pionships at Deepcut illustrated. There are more females playing football regularly in the Army than ever before; indeed it is the Army's biggest growth sport.

Female rugby is also on the up and the annual indoor and outdoor hockey championships are very well supported by female teams. There is a noticeable resurgence in netball and the annual rounders festival at Worthy Down is a joy and attended by more than 200 women.

In sum, in all the major sports there are already energetic and dedicated female officers who do so much to promote female sport in the Army. They are doing a great job and our women are currently Inter-Services champions in almost every sport.

There is a problem, however, within units with small numbers of women who need the organisation and encouragement of their male commanding officers. I hope some of the latter will see this letter and act accordingly.

# Lord of the rings

Olympic champion Audley Harrison talks exclusively to *Soldier*

Interview: Andy Simms

DESPITE never having donned a uniform or been drilled in the art of square-bashing, Audley Harrison acknowledges that the British Army played a significant role in helping him realise his dream of winning gold at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

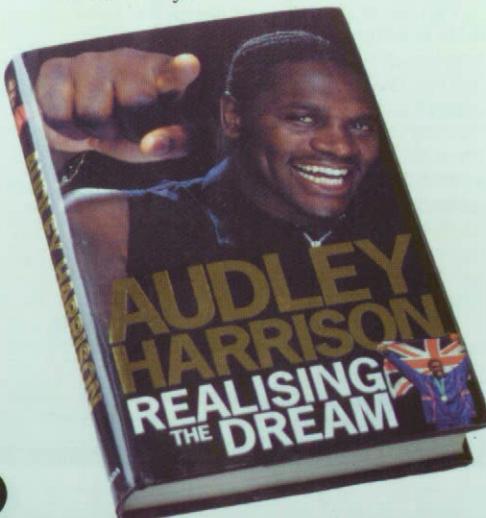
Audley, who defeated Kazakhstan's Mukhtarkhan Dildabekov in Australia to become Britain's first Olympic boxing gold medallist for 32 years, visited the Army's Boxing Centre in Aldershot as an aspiring amateur in 1995 having drawn former Royal Engineer Danny Watts to the quarter-finals of the National Amateur Boxing Association championships.

The fight against Watts, who was regarded as one of the best super-heavyweights in the country at the time, having narrowly lost a Commonwealth Games box-off to the current British heavyweight champion Danny Williams, turned out to be one that Audley would quickly want to forget.

"Watts was clear favourite to win, and I have to confess that for the first and only time in my career I felt fazed about a fight," explains Audley in his book *Realising the Dream* (Granada, £16.99).

"It wasn't so much the prospect of facing him in the ring, but the whole day was weird and slightly disturbing from the moment we arrived.

"There were soldiers in uniform everywhere, doing drill on the parade ground or dressed up in combat gear ready to head off on exercise. There were bands playing regimental tunes, and everywhere I walked I could hear drum rolls. It felt like I was about to fight the whole of the British Army."



"It wasn't me against Danny Watts, but me against every squaddie in the country."

The unfamiliar surroundings took their toll and Watts, who "looked like a Rottweiler who had not eaten for a week", subjected Audley to the worst mauling of his boxing career.

The defeat proved to be an important milestone in Audley's life. Realising that his mental preparation for the fight had been all wrong, he immersed himself in the science of sports psychology.

It was a change in attitude to the noble art that was to pay dividends. Two years after his brush with the military Audley won the first national title of his career and in 1998 he was selected to represent England at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur as part of a squad which also featured Sgt Chris Bessey (RLC).

Competing in the first major international tournament of his career, Audley reached the final and won gold, taking just 63 seconds and four punches to dispose of Mauritius's Michael Macaque.

Despite endless big-money offers, the North West London-born fighter resisted the temptation to turn professional and instead set his sights on the Olympic stage, telling anyone prepared to listen that he would win gold in Sydney.

True to his word, Audley returned from Down Under a sporting hero. No mean achievement considering that 12 years previously he had been locked up in Feltham Young Offenders' Institute.

Expelled from two schools before leaving with no qualifications, Audley described his own childhood as a "text-book example of how not to grow up" and confessed to *Soldier* that an earlier association with the Army may have helped to put him on the straight and narrow.

"Some of my friends and I flirted with the idea of becoming soldiers, but the nearest we actually got to joining up was going along to our local Sea Cadet unit.

"I am quite single-minded and I would have found the discipline side of things tough, but eventually I would have fallen in line for the common good of the group," explained Audley, whose juvenile

**'It felt like I was about to fight the whole of the British Army. It wasn't me against Danny Watts, but me against every squaddie in the country'**

misdemeanours led to gang fights, petty theft and an eventual 18-month stint behind bars.

"I forgot about the whole idea at 17 when I started to get into trouble, which was a shame really as the Army would have helped me to channel my energies in a more positive way."

Not long after his release from prison, Audley stepped through the ropes for the first time and finally discovered the focus he needed to shun a life of crime – boxing, a career he believes is not unlike soldiering.

"I think that there are a lot of similarities between boxing and being in the Army," said Audley, who announced his intention to turn professional and begin his quest to become the heavyweight champion of the world six weeks after winning Olympic gold. "In both fields you have to have a lot of determination, grit and a willingness to put yourself in situations where normal people do not have to go."

"Both soldiers and boxers have to get up each morning and train through pain and punishment in an effort to become the best that they can – the mental and physical challenge is similar."

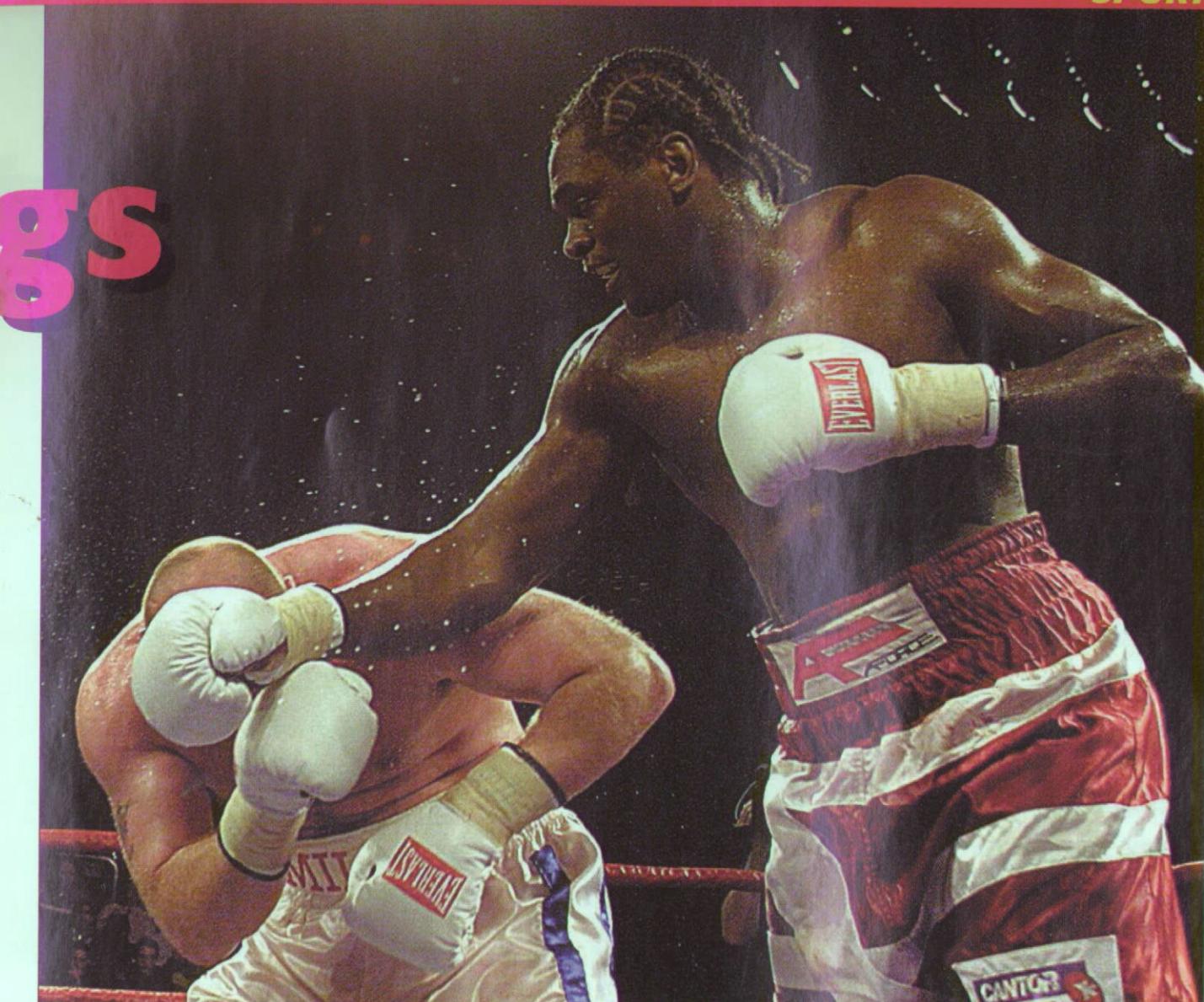
"However, I would never compare what I do with what soldiers are expected to do. Stepping into the ring may be dangerous, but it is nothing compared to putting your life on the line in places like Afghanistan. Soldiers are the real British heroes."

"I would love to be able to get up on stage like Geri Halliwell and Claire Sweeney have and say thank you to them. I am really grateful to my supporters in the Army and when I do get the opportunity I would love to come and see them."

"There are not a lot of other guys in British boxing doing it at the highest level like I am and I would just like to say to my Army supporters that I am going to get there."

"I am still in the embryonic stages of my professional career. I have been a professional now for 18 months and am undefeated so I am definitely on the right track."

◆ Audley's website [www.audleyharrison.com](http://www.audleyharrison.com) is due to be relaunched shortly.



A-Force: Audley Harrison records the sixth win of his professional career against "The Milky Bar Kid", Dominic Negus

Picture: Gerard Farel

## RESULTS SERVICE . . . RESULTS SERVICE . . . RESULTS SERVICE . . . RESULTS SERVICE . . .

**ATHLETICS:** Army cross country championship winners, junior women – Sig Rebecca Harvey (11 Sig Regt). **Junior men** – Sig Stuart Laycock (11 Sig Regt). **Senior women** – 2nd Lt Jo Kelsey (3 (CS) Regt, RLC). **Veteran men** – Lt Col Robert Herring (ATR Pirbright). **Veteran women** – Lt Col Sara Hurley (ATR Pirbright). **Senior men** – LCpl Kevin Sheppard (3 (CS) Regt, RLC).

**Army marathon team championship winners** – ASPT. **BA(G) Major Unit triathlon champions** – 28 Engr Regt (2, Cfn Matt Lunt; 3, LCpl Ashley Allen; 8, Sgt Ian Anderson).

**CANOEING:** Land Command wild water racing championship winners, open men's K1 – Lt Alex Burt (AGC). U21 open K1 – Grn Chanter (14 Regt RA). Open C1 – Maj Paul Hepworth (RLC). **Open C2 winner** – WO2 Dave Meacock and WO2 Tony Harris (both RA). **Open men's master** – Sgt Cornish (8 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn). **U21 open master** – Pte Tate. **Open women's master** – LCpl Fryer (RLC). **Open unit team** – 5 GS Med Regt RAMC.

**FOOTBALL:** Army 4 Carshalton 2. **Massey Trophy** – RE 4 CA Mus 0; AGC 1 RLC 1; Infantry 3 RAC 0; RE 5 AGC 0; Int

Corps 1 RA 7; RLC 2 R Signals 1; CA Mus 0 REME 10; Infantry 2 REME 11; AMS 0 RLC 3.

**MARTIAL ARTS:** Army championships. **Taekwondo, ITF senior sparring** – 1, WO2 Wayne Sibthorpe (APTC); 2, Lt Steve Brearton (REME); 3, CSgt Dave Bissett (Gren Gds). **ITF junior sparring** – 1, LCpl Jamie Emett (R Signals); 2, Pte Skinner (PWRR); 3, Sgt Jones (RA). **WTF senior sparring** – 1, 1, Lt Brearton; 2, Pte Matthews (RGBW); 3, Sgt Dillon Treacy (RGBW). **WTF junior sparring** – 1, LCpl Meen Gurung (QGE); 2, Spr Ramkumar Rai (QGE); 3, Spr Dependra Shrestha (QGE) and Drm Harvey (RGBW). **Senior patterns** – 1, Lt Brearton; 2, CSgt Bissett; 3, WO2 Sibthorpe. **Junior patterns** – 1, Maj Sidique (AGC); Sig Bishnu Gurung (QG Signals); LCpl Gurung. **Women's sparring** – 1, Cpl Chew (AGC); 2, Pte Free (RLC); 3, Mus Thomas (CAM). **Women's patterns** – 1, Sgt Lorraine Stace (RLC); 2, LCpl Liz Creagh (RLC); 3, Mus Thomas. **Team event** – 1, 36 Engr Regt A; 2, 36 Engr Regt C; 3, RGBW and 36 Engr Regt B.

**Karate, senior kumite** – 1, Capt Lilley (Cheshire); 2, Capt Kenyon (REME). **Junior kumite** – 1, Cpl Shattock (RADC); 2, WO2 Dickson (RA). **Kata** – 1, Capt Lilley; 2, Capt Karate, senior kumite – 1, Capt Lilley (Cheshire); 2, Capt Kenyon (REME). **Junior kumite** – 1, Cpl Shattock (RADC); 2, WO2 Dickson (RA). **Kata** – 1, Capt Lilley; 2, Capt

Kenyon; 3, WO2 Zeffert (D and D) and Maj Sheldon (Cheshire).

**Kendo, men's** – 1, WO2 Zeffert; 2, Cpl Shattock. **Weapons kata** – 1, Sig Gurung; 2, Cpl Shattock; 3, Maj Sheldon.

**Welsh open karate championships, senior men's team kumite** – Gold, Combined Services (Cpl Tony Cashmore (RE), Pte Graham Thomas (RRW) and Pte Scott Hulse (Para)). **Junior men's kumite** – Silver, LCpl Jitendra Shakya (RGR). **Senior men's kata** – Bronze, Cpl Cashmore. **Junior men's kata** – Bronze, Sgt Andy Howarth (RA).

**SAILING:** Inter-Services championships – 1, Army (Maj Dave Hinsley (RAMC), Capt Allan Cross (RLC), WO2 Brian Grieve (REME), Sgt Doc White (AAC), LBdr Iain Beaton (RA) and Cpl Rob Jackson (AAC)); 2, Royal Navy.

**Individual results, 6.5 metre fleet** – 1, Capt Mark Tyrrell (RAMC); 3, Pte David Brierley (Kings). **Raceboard fleet** – 2, Sgt Den Green (RE); 3, Maj John Capeling (RLC). **Formula fleet** – 1, Capt Cross; 3, Sgt White. **Open fleet** – 2, Maj Gareth Baker (RE).

**RAC/RE Regatta** – 1, QRL; 2, 9/12th L; 3, Scots DG.

## SHORTS...

## Singapore slip-up

THE Singapore International Rugby Sevens remains the only competition to have eluded the otherwise all-conquering Army team over the past three years.

Having narrowly defeated New Zealand's club champions 14-12 in the quarter-finals of this year's competition, the team were drawn against a Fijian Army side sporting three internationals, and, despite the best efforts of Pte Denny Delaitamana (1 RRW) and Pte Emosi Naisaramaki (1 RS), the Army slipped to a 12-7 defeat.

Team coach Lt Col Andy Hickling (R Signals) said: "It seems like we are destined never to win this title, but this upset has only strengthened our resolve to come back next year and give it another shot."

♦ Hickling's squad warmed-up for their assault on the Singapore championships by reaching the semi-finals of the Thailand Sevens in Bangkok.

The Army narrowly missed out on a place in the final, losing 20-19 to a professional Malaysian side.

## Army squash rivals

THE Army won all four of the trophies on offer at this year's Inter-Services individual squash championships at HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth.

Lt Col Robbie Robinson (RLC) led by example, not losing a single game on route to his fourth successive title in the veteran's event, and Pte Nick Winston (Para) continued the winning streak by clinching the U25 title.

2nd Lt Emma Hanson (RLC) won the women's competition for the second consecutive year and the haul was completed by Pte Mick Grehan (RLC), who beat Capt Gary Clarke (AGC) in the men's open final.

## Runners required

SSAFA-Forces Help still has places available for those wishing to run the 2003 Flora London Marathon.

Anyone interested in running for the charity, which raises funds for serving and ex-Servicemen and women in need, should contact Gabriele Ghany on 0207 4689210, or by e-mail at [gabi.g@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:gabi.g@ssafa.org.uk)

♦ Children's charity Childhood First are also on the look-out for runners. To find out more call Siwan on 0207 9287388 or e-mail [s.stephens@peperharow.org.uk](mailto:s.stephens@peperharow.org.uk)

♦ Deafblind UK has eight places available for the marathon. Applicants must guarantee to raise at least £1,000 for the charity and spaces will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information contact Leonie Owens on 01733 358100.

# Rapid riders aim for Athens

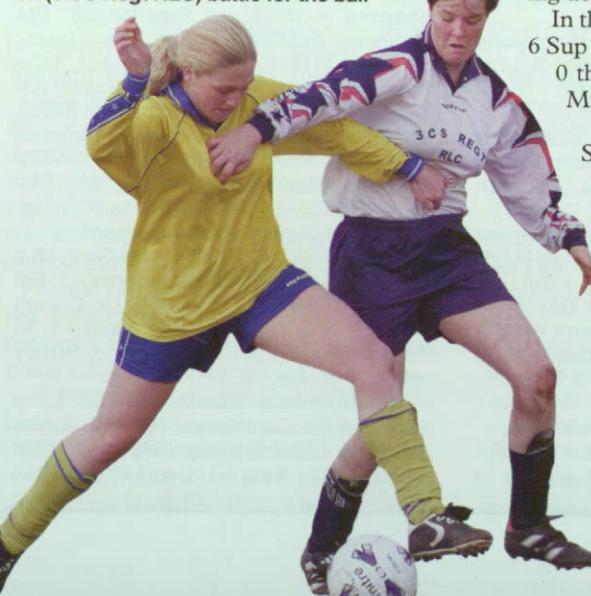


Wild water ride: Lt Andy Nicholl, left, and Lt Alex Burt in action at the World Championships

## Football's six-appeal

DESPITE many units being involved in Op Fresco, the inaugural women's inter-unit six-a-side football championship at Deepcut still managed to attract 35 teams.

Close encounter: LCpl Wendy Eagles (27 Tpt Regt RLC), left, and Pte Kirsty Patchett (3 CS Regt RLC) battle for the ball



After two-days of competitive football the accolade of Army champions was awarded to 3 CS Regt RLC, who beat 27 Tpt Regt RLC in the final of the Discovery Foods and Abacus Financial Management-sponsored championship, with Pte Kelly O'Connor's lone goal proving decisive.

In the final of the plate competition, 6 Sup Regt RLC beat NI CSS Regt 3-0 thanks to goals from LCpl Vicky Miller (2) and Pte Mel Hall.

WO2 Sandra Robson (25 Trg Sup Regt RLC) finished as the tournament's top goalscorer with a 16-goal haul and Cpl Natalie Slade (AGC recruiting team) was named player of the tournament (see Page 51).

♦ Results summary: Trophy competition - 1, 3 CS Regt RLC; 2, 27 Tpt Regt RLC; 3, 1 GS Regt RLC.

Plate Competition - 1, 6 Sup Regt RLC; 2, NI CSS Regt; 3, Defence Animal Centre.

## Debutant duo look to build on early success

ARMY paddlers Lt Alex Burt (AGC) and Lt Andy Nicholl (AAC) staked their claim for a place at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens after finishing the season as Great Britain's highest ranked canoe slalom team.

The pair, who have both been on the fringes of the international circuit for the past five years, first teamed up at the start of this year.

And their decision to switch from solo careers to the Canadian doubles, an event which involves two people kneeling in a canoe and using single-bladed paddles to propel themselves down a series of control gates suspended above a set of white-water rapids in the fastest time possible, has certainly paid dividends.

In May, Burt, 25, and Nicholl, 26, were selected for the GB World Cup squad and duly competed at races in the Czech Republic, China, Germany, Slovenia and Brazil, finishing the competition in 13th place overall.

Further success followed at the World Championships, held on the River Isere in Bourg St Maurice, high up in the

French Alps. Racing in the three-boat team event, the Army duo were part of the British squad that missed out on a bronze medal by just 0.16 seconds.

"This has been our first season competing together and to be honest we did not expect to do anywhere near as well as we have," explained Burt. "To be ranked as GB number one means a lot to us and puts us on a good footing with the Olympics just round the corner.

"Competing at the Olympics is something that we have both always dreamed of and these next two years will be make or break for us.

"Even though the international season has now finished we will not be resting on our laurels - there is a lot of work that needs to be done in the gym over the winter in preparation for next year," he said.

"The road to Athens begins next summer, with the World Championships in Germany representing the first qualifying race. Although competition for places is going to be tough we believe that come the summer we will be there or thereabouts."

For more information on canoeing contact Maj Paul Hepworth on Mil 9355 67966 or visit the Army Canoe Union website at [www.army.mod.uk/army\\_canoeing](http://www.army.mod.uk/army_canoeing)

## TABLES

## GROUSE INTER-CORPS CRICKET

	P	W	D	L	A*	Pts
R Signals**	6	6	0	0	2	102
RE	6	6	0	0	2	100
RLC	7	4	0	3	1	71
REME	7	4	0	3	1	70
RA	8	4	0	4	0	69
Infantry	5	2	0	3	3	47
RAC	5	2	0	3	3	39
AMS	7	2	0	5	1	37
AGC	6	1	0	5	2	31

\*Abandoned/conceded/rained off

\*\* Winners of the 2002 Grouse inter-corps championship

## MASSEY TROPHY

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
RLC	5	4	1	0	9	13
Infantry	4	3	0	1	14	9
RE	3	2	1	0	9	7
REME	2	2	0	0	19	6
RA	2	2	0	0	7	6
AAC	4	2	0	2	2	6
CA Mus	5	1	0	4	-27	3
AGC	2	0	1	1	-5	1
APTC	2	0	1	1	-9	1
R Signals	1	0	0	1	-1	0
RAC	1	0	0	1	-3	0
AMS	3	0	0	3	-5	0
Int Corps	2	0	0	2	-10	0

\*Results up to and including November 15

## FIXTURES

## Your sporting guide to December...

ATHLETICS: 4-4 Div cross country championships (Deepcut).

BOBSLEIGH: 15-22 - Army novice and junior championships (Igls, Austria).

EQUITATION: 2-6 - Beginners course (Warminster Saddle Club).

FOOTBALL: 3 - Sussex FA v Army women (Lancing); 4 - Combined Services fixture (TBC); 7 - Army youth v Oxford FA (Mick Parry Trophy, Aldershot); 8 - Army v TA (Aldershot); 9 - Army v Army Crusaders FC (Aldershot); 11 - Army youth v Army Foundation College (Aldershot); 14 - Army youth (FA County Youth Cup, third round).

HOCKEY: 5-4 Div women's championships (Aldershot).

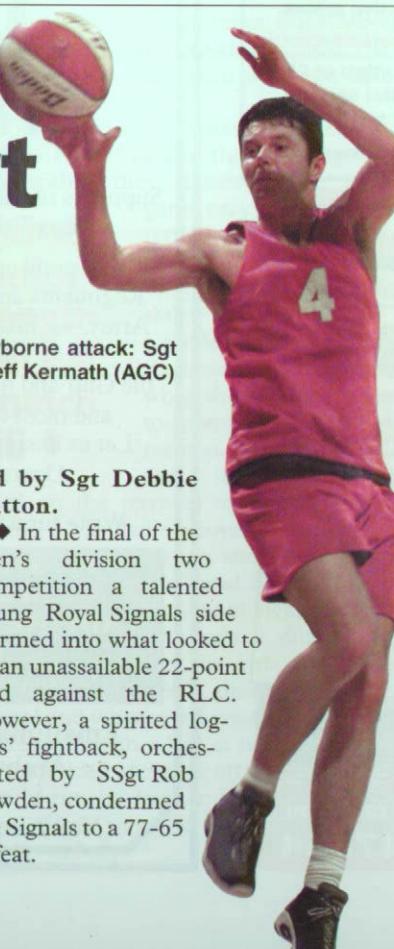
LUGE: 15-22 - Army novice championships (Igls, Austria).

OREINTERING: 1 - Inter-Services championships (Cannock Chase); 11-4/5 Div individual championships (Aldershot).

SKELETON: 15-22 - Army novice championships (Igls, Austria).

■ Got a date for the diary? E-mail the details to [fixtures@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:fixtures@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

## New kings of the court



Airborne attack: Sgt Steff Kermath (AGC)

WITH habitual winners REME and RLC both losing in the semi-finals of the DynCorp-sponsored inter-corps basketball championships, the AGC joined the élite minority of corps to have their name engraved on the competition's coveted trophy.

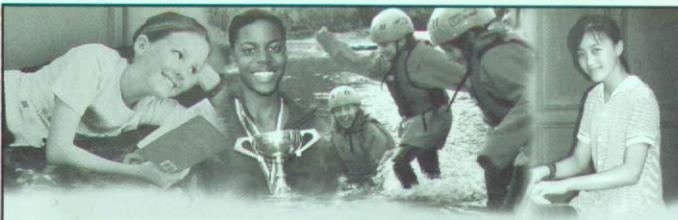
The deadly and talented combination of Sgt Carl Black and Cpl Tony Baxter proved just too much for their fellow finalists, a young RA team, at the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham, and the AGC laid claim to the silverware for the first time with a 97-72 victory.

The AGC were prevented from completing a unique double by the RLC in the women's final. Despite gallant efforts from SSgt Debbie Fairclough and Cpl Kelly Stacey, the AGC were narrowly defeated 41-38 by the loggies, who were ably

led by Sgt Debbie Sutton.

♦ In the final of the men's division two competition a talented young Royal Signals side stormed into what looked to be an unassailable 22-point lead against the RLC.

However, a spirited loggies' fightback, orchestrated by SSgt Rob Rawden, condemned the Signals to a 77-65 defeat.



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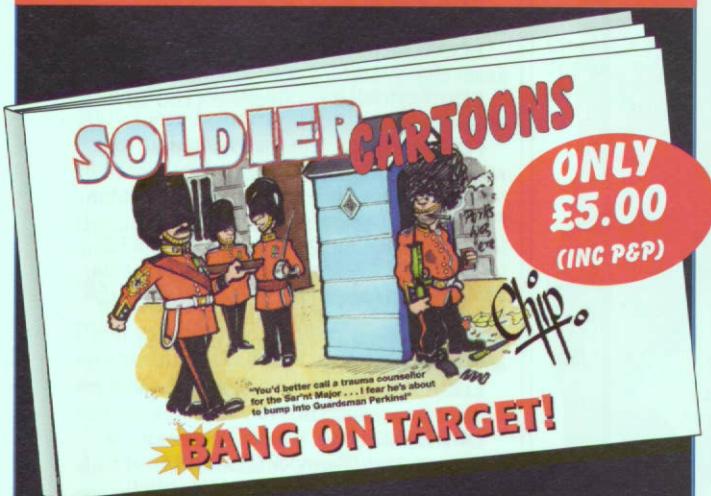
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# Army's mini-marvel

## Slade 'plays up' against Pompey

Combined Services 4  
Portsmouth 1

DO not be fooled by Cpl Natalie Slade's diminutive stature – appearances, as Portsmouth Ladies Football Club discovered when they visited Aldershot's military stadium, can be deceiving, writes **Andy Simms**.

Despite being dwarfed by her teammates, the 5ft 2in 22-year-old is brimming with talent and had a colossal impact on the outcome of the Combined Services women's first competitive fixture for two years.

Slade (RMP attached to AGC), who played for Doncaster Rovers Ladies for three years before joining the Army at 18, orchestrated the midfield from start to finish and capped her woman-of-the-match performance with two goals.

However, it was the visitors from the South Coast who found the back of the net first. A mix-up in defence between WO2 Sandra Robson (RLC) and LCpl Joolies Brown (RLC) allowed Pompey's Gemma Hillier to snatch a goal against the run of play on 28 minutes.

But with Slade's invention on the ball, some tenacious tackling from LCpl Alex Cottier (HQ 4 Div) and incisive runs and inch-perfect crossing by Pte Jodie Baxter (RLC) the Combined Services never looked in any threat of defeat.

Baxter was rewarded for her tireless running when she levelled the scores on the hour-mark, squeezing a shot beneath Tracey Wakefield after charging down the goalkeeper's attempted clearance.

Cue a double goal-salvo from Slade, the first of which was a rifled effort from the penalty spot on 75 minutes, and then, three minutes later, a sublime lob from 40 yards.

Had the latter been scored by the likes of David Beckham or Wayne Rooney it would have been cheered by television audiences of millions and championed as a serious contender for goal of the season – Slade on the other hand had to make do with the warm applause of a half-empty stand and a pat on the back from her team-mates.

A Wakefield own goal completed the Combined Services' comeback.

**The men's game may be superior in terms of strength and pace, but we more than match them for skill !**



In the thick of the action: Cpl Natalie Slade (RMP) battles through Portsmouth's midfield

"I can't really remember much about my second goal," explained Slade. "It's just a shame that there were not more people there to see it."

"There are some fantastic women footballers out there and they don't get the recognition they deserve. The men's game may be superior in terms of strength and pace, but we can more than match them for skill."

Slade's love affair with the beautiful game began when she was first picked to play for her school team as an eight-year-old and, ironically, developed on the terraces of Fratton Park – home of "my dad's beloved Portsmouth".

"I just loved playing and found that it came so easy to me," said Slade. "I spent most of my time at school kicking a football about with the lads. I didn't hang around with any of the girls and would play football at break, dinner-time, after school and whenever I could."

Her skill with a ball at her feet did not go unnoticed and after attending a soccer school run by former Leeds star Eddie Gray, Slade was offered the opportunity to play in Italy.

"I personally believed that at 16 I was too young to leave home and at that time felt it would be better to stay in the UK and do my A Levels," she said. "I had always dreamed of playing abroad, but was acutely aware that if I got injured my dream would be over and I would be left without a career. The Army seemed an obvious alternative. I needed to join the Army to grow up and do a little bit of living."

"I'm enjoying playing at Army and Combined Services level, and although if I now got offered a scholarship to play in America I would seriously consider taking it, my immediate aim is to help the Army to retain their Inter-Services crown."

### MATCH FACTS

Comb. Services	GOALS	Portsmouth
4		1
<b>TOTAL SHOTS</b>		
25		7
<b>SHOTS ON TARGET</b>		
9		3
<b>CORNERS</b>		
3		1
<b>FOULS</b>		
7		7

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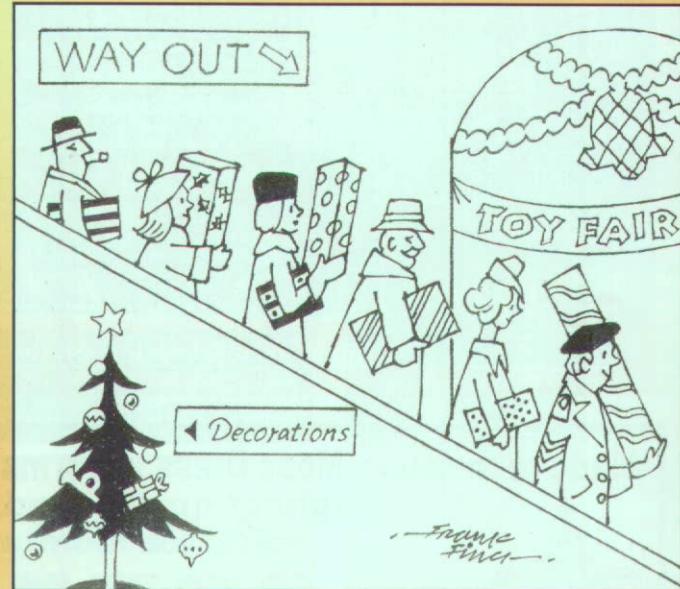
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No 733



# How observant are you?

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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 733, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by January 2.

*A photocopy is acceptable, but only one entry per person may be submitted.*

*Do not include anything else in your envelope.*

First correct entry drawn

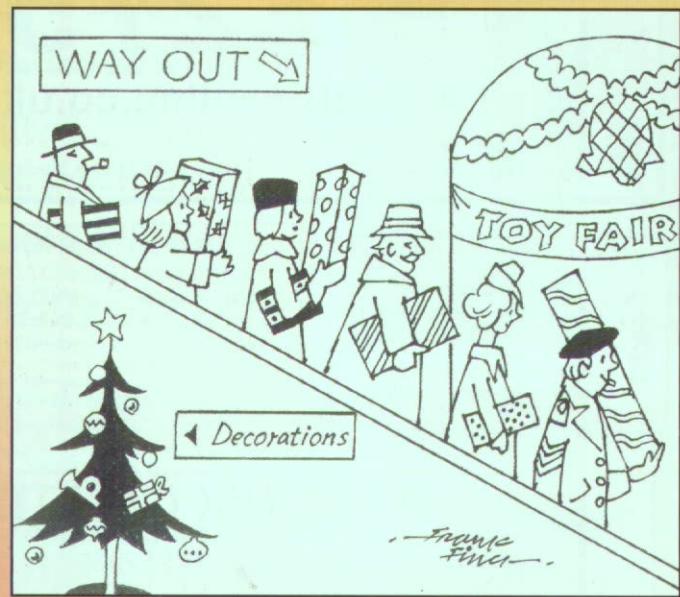
after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £10 gift vouchers. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner and runners-up will be announced in the February issue.

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

October issue (No 731): First correct entry drawn at random was from Mr J C Jordan, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, who wins £100. Runners-up Mrs S Stanton, of Holywood, Co Down, and Mrs E Gentle, of Dalkeith, Midlothian, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: haircut; signal pole; signal-box window; roof, bottom left; sleeve patch; LMS; control-box switch; lines and sleeves of right-hand heavy-duty pullover; foliage, bottom right.



## Freeze frame

**"If you're waiting for this picture to speak, you're more stupid than I thought. TV hasn't been invented yet."**

Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in February 1954. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by January 2.



There was a big entry for the October competition, left, with several of you opting for a topical Pay-As-You-Dine theme. We put them in a hat and drew out "Early reports regarding the new PAYD system are looking favourable" from Sgt Tam James, ACIO Glasgow.

Similar lines were received from Sgt G C Copeland, 1 Cheshire; Alan Howlett of Weston-super-Mare; Pte V McCluskey, 50 MC Sqn, 29 Regt RLC, South Cerney; and Simon



Harrison of Ludgershall.

Cpl Glenn, LAD REME, HQ ARRC Sp Bn, sent us "Get your CDT samples here! Fifty pence a go" and LCpl Roche of 65 Fd Sp Sqn, 28 Engr Regt offered "Naafi break was more fun in

the days before CDT . . . and the cannabis cakes were going down a treat".

We also like "No you can't have my rock cakes to throw at the enemy" from Cpl Pete Parker REME, of Yateley.

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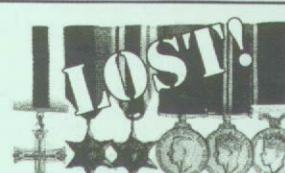
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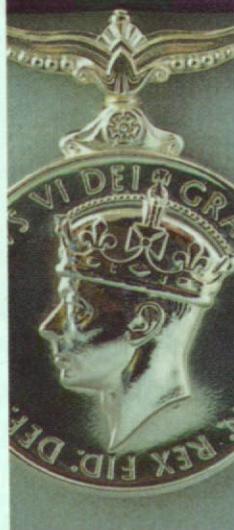
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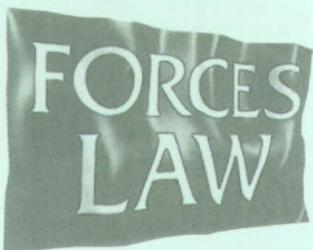
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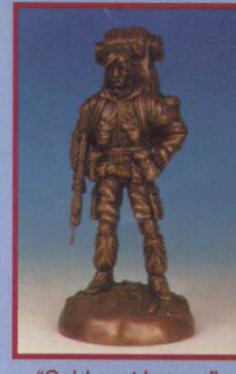
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**Tina,** (31), 5'1", with shoulder-length brown hair. Enjoys socialising and having a laugh with friends. Single mother with 11-year-old son. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P232

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Maj AD Neale, 5 Regt RA, Catterick; Cpl AA Netherwood, 174 Pro Coy RMP, Donnington; Sgt DV Orr, 156 Pro Coy RMP, Colchester; Cpl AD Scott, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth; LCpl RS Temple, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gutersloh; Bdr PK Thomson, Army Foundation College, Harrogate; Maj ML Woollard, MOD DSPS (A), Worthy Down

## 02 November 2002

7-way tie for 1st Place (21 Goals, £2,371.43 each); Cpl CR Bray, QRL, Osnabruck; Cpl SL Garside, 101 Pro Coy RMP, Rheindahlen; Cpl GW Haywood, 62 Cyprus Sp Sqn RE, Dhekelia; SSgt D Hyland, 7 Air Asslt Bn REME, Wattisham LCpl SP Percy, LD, Swanton Morley; Spr WJF Taylor, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; Pte CW Went, 1 RRW, Paderborn

Only 7 prizes this week, Rule 9 applies.

**Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer badges, medals, insignia.** Send £2, for list to: Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorkshire. Website address [www.cairnxson.freereserve.co.uk](http://www.cairnxson.freereserve.co.uk)

12/02

**Regimental ties, badges, cuff links, tie slides, enamelled sets** – over 400 regiments available, bow ties and cummerbunds also in stock [www.TieNet.co.uk](http://www.TieNet.co.uk)

01/03

**Militaria badges, collars, titles, formation signs and caps** £1 for lists. 36 Captain Cooks Close, Staithes, North Yorkshire, TS13 5AP.

12/02

**BRITISH ARMY POSTCARDS.** Superb uniform paintings. SAE for catalogue and sample. Geoff White, 19 Rushmoor Lane, Backwell, Bristol, BS48 3BN.

11/02

**MILITARY SURPLUS – ALL NEW!** Rucksacks, packs, clothing, accessories. Exciting stuff! Catalogue 4 x 1st stamps, 'AWMS' 84 Merritt Road, Greatstone, Kent, TN28 8SZ.

12/02

**MILITARY WATCHES, BRITISH, SWISS, GERMAN.** Superb, used by Special Forces. Catalogues 4 x 1st stamps, 'AWMW', 84 Merritt Road, Greatstone, Kent TN28 8SZ.

02/03

**Mess furniture, Chesterfield suit** comprising of three-seat sofa, single seat and high back chair with foot stool. Very good condition. £400 ono. Tel: 0117 9132395.

12/02

**South Farnham, two-bedroom ground floor flat.** Garage and garden, no ground rent or maintenance charge. 151-year lease – no onward chain. £175,000 negotiable for quick sale. 0777 926 4731 or 01252 713839.

12/02

## HOLIDAYS

**Florida, Westridge, Davenport.** Five-bedroom, three-bathroom villa with pool. Private gated community, tennis, golf, and volleyball. Sleeps up to 12. 15 minutes from Disney. From £500 pw. Visit [www.villasarina.co.uk](http://www.villasarina.co.uk) or Email: [enquiries@villasarina.com](mailto:enquiries@villasarina.com) or call 020 8519 6854.

12/02

**FLORIDA, Kissimmee, Orlando,** three-bedroom, two bathroom, villa with own private heated pool. Sleeps up to eight, 15 mins Disney. From £325 per week. Call 01440-707176. Email: [ladyepea200@aol.com](mailto:ladyepea200@aol.com) Web: [www.floridavilla.com](http://www.floridavilla.com)

05/03

**SPAIN outside Malaga** bed and breakfast villa ideal for walking, house hunting, relaxation, swimming pool and Sky television. All dates available. Telephone: 0034 669 522 107/0034 620 339 343 ex-forces.

12/02

**BARBADOS** – The best value holiday villa on the gold coast! Sleeps up to seven. Available to rent all year round, with housekeeper and catering. E-mail: [chbaileyone@aol.com](mailto:chbaileyone@aol.com) for details.

01/03

**SOUTH AFRICA, Sedgefield, Garden Route.** Spacious self-catering cottage. All mod cons. Ideal central base to tour the Garden Route. Contact Andy Nortje Tel: 002744 3431261 or email: [birdcottage@mweb.co.za](mailto:birdcottage@mweb.co.za)

02/03

**Florida, Disney,** 3/4/5 bedroom, stunning pool homes on prestigious estates. ten minutes Disney, discounted rates, car hire and attraction ticket available. Tel: 01634 352143, email: [kimmart@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:kimmart@blueyonder.co.uk)

01/03

## NOTICES

## Charity Commission

Reference: 187072  
2nd Division Trust Fund

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity.

A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at: HEADQUARTERS 15 (NE) BRIGADE, IMPHAL BARRACKS, FULFORD ROAD, YORK Y10 4AU AND HEADQUARTERS CATTERICK GARRISON, BADEN POWELL HOUSE, SCOTTON ROAD, CATTERICK GARRISON, NORTH YORKSHIRE DL9 3JS

Or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL. Quoting the above reference or visiting our website at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>

Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

12/02

## Charity Commission

Reference: 167654 AFC

**Army Air Corps Fund (1072126)** The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity.

A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at: REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR CORPS, HEADQUARTERS DIRECTOR ARMY AVIATION, MIDDLE WALLOP, STOCKBRIDGE, HAMPSHIRE SO20 8DY

Or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL. Quoting the above reference or visiting our website at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>

Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

## SERVICES

## Accountant/Tax practitioner.

Expert advice and help on all aspects of accounts preparation taxation and tax/VAT returns. Friendly competitive service. Free consultation 01273 832578 including evenings and weekends.

12/02

**NSURANCE FOR SOLDIERS – MOTOR AND HOUSE.** Call: Roy Chandler on 0870 220 1971 or Fax 0870 220 1972 for personal service and quotations.

06/03

**CHAMELEON BRASS** the versatile five-piece group ideal for background music at your mess night or function, Regt. & Marches can be catered for. 07958 369380.

12/02

**CAPITAL CLAIMS HELPLINE LET** – Compensation claims Management Specialists. 100% compensation paid to client, genuine 'No Win No Fee'. Traffic accidents (drivers/passengers/pedestrians)/slips & trip/employer liability/accident on duty/criminal injuries compensation. Call Linda Kilbride – FREE PHONE 0800 9708522.

12/02

**Your lifepath can be hard to find.** Lifescraps help by adding positive energies and influences. Distant sessions available. Mandy: 01252-662817.

01/03

## MARQUEE FOR HIRE



★ Officers' Mess Ball ★ Sgts' Mess Xmas Party

★ Squ/Coys Dance

FOR ALL YOUR PARTY NEEDS CONTACT THE: RQMS, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards

- Size to suit from 6m x 9m to 9m x 30m
- Modern PVC, alloy framed, completely lined
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- Cost based on daily rate
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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: WO2 (RQMS) Paul Morrisey  
On Catterick Mil (94731) 3219

## SPORTS

**Freefall Adventures, Florida**  
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Freefall Adventures, Florida are happy to offer skydiving courses for beginner to advanced students in beautiful Lake Wales, Florida. Our skydiving school is British owned and operated. Located on the east coast of Florida, this tropical paradise is a great place for your skydiving vacation. Come join us for some extreme fun in the sun.

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FREEFALL ADVENTURES, FLORIDA

400 W. AIRPORT DRIVE, SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA 32958, USA  
TEL: (772) 388 0550 – FAX: (772) 581 4468  
Email: [skydiveMilk@aol.com](mailto:skydiveMilk@aol.com) [www.tfaadventures.com](http://www.tfaadventures.com)

## TO LET

To let, Hants/Wilts, (Wallop) from Feb. 03 for 2 years. Fully furnished large, cottage. 3 double bedrooms, bathroom, dining, laundry, conservatory, lounge with Inglenook, breams, study, 2 tel. lines, kitchen with Rayburn, oil ch, wine cellar, licensed gun locker, 20 x 15 workshop and landscaped garden. Ideal for socialising. Contact: LESAIS@AOL.COM

01/03

**SHOP AT SOLMART**  
BRITISH ARMY COLLECTION 2002  
[www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk)

**REUNIONS**

**16/5 Lancers, 17/21 Lancers, QRL:** Battle of Aliwal reunion dinner, Jan 25 at Telford Golf and Country Club. Tickets, £18, and details from Maj W J Cook, tel 01952 632928 or fax 01952 632924.

**E & F Sqn (1963) JTR/ACC:** 40th anniversary dinner to be held at Officers' Mess, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot on Feb 28. Ring 01977 730874, email [petermurthick@hotmail.com](mailto:petermurthick@hotmail.com)

**RE Freedom of Gibraltar 2003:** weekend of events to be held Mar 28-30. First come, first served. Details and information pack from WO1 J Noble on 00350 55372, WO2 H Kernahan on 00350 55172 or write to MES Works, HQ British Forces, BFPO 52.

**50 Missile Club RA:** Reunion to be held at the Wilhelmshöhe, Menden, Germany, on June 7. For further details contact A J R Todd at 9 The

**SEARCHLINE**

Serving soldier Eddie Shute is asked to contact [msimonini@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:msimonini@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

**Steve Walton, 1 RTR, Tidworth 1994:** is sought by old friend Julie Board. Contact her at [Julie01\\_71@hotmail.com](mailto:Julie01_71@hotmail.com)

Ex-members of **50 Missile Regiment Wksp REME, 1975-79**, asked to contact Pete Burton or Greg Lawrence at [pete.burton@planet.nl](mailto:pete.burton@planet.nl) or [bigmanpromotions@talk21.com](mailto:bigmanpromotions@talk21.com)

Anyone who has news of **Terry Williams, 29 Cdo Regt RA, Plymouth 1969**, is asked to email [terry.ohare1@btopenworld.com](mailto:terry.ohare1@btopenworld.com)

Calling all military veterans interested in motorcycling scene. Contact Tug 07780 956204 or [old.soldier@talk21.com](mailto:old.soldier@talk21.com)

Ex-postie **Cpl Anthony Gallagher** and his wife **Maria**, who were stationed in Osnabrück between 1989 and 1995, are asked to contact their old friends John, Jean and Justin at [john.havelock1@ntiworld.com](mailto:john.havelock1@ntiworld.com)

Any information concerning **Leonard Douglas Brayley Willmetts, ex-RASC**, who served at **Monte Cassino** in Italy during Second World War please to H Brown, 25 Park Road, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 5PA.

**SOLDIER COMPETITIONS**

**Sudden Strike 2 (Oct)** winners: 1st prize: Cpl S Baker, BFPO 802; runners-up: Sgt G Garrett, BFPO 825; K Coleman, Kettering; K Eimes, Southwick; D Edwards, East Croydon; C Story, Broughton, Chester; L K Parmenter, BFPO 30; N Shippham, Shoreham-by-Sea; T C Norton, Worcester; Sgt J Nester-Bergmann, BFPO 6; L Ashbrook, Cardiff. Answer: Japan.

**The Sum of all Fears (Oct)** winners: S Print, Leicester; J Hughes, Liverpool; Sgt 070 Smith REME, BFPO 22; LCpl Roche RE, BFPO 31; Sgt P Hammill, Trowbridge, Wilts. Answer: Ben Affleck.

**Alamein: War Without Hate (Oct)** winners: N Gage, Weston-Super-Mare; N Jones,

Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries DG1 1TN or [secretary@50missileclubra.com](mailto:secretary@50missileclubra.com)

**2 Coldstream Guards (Malaya) and former 2 Bn members:** Final reunion will be held on Sept 5-6 in Bristol. For details contact Reg Counsell, 76 Bradley Road, Patchway, Bristol BS34 5HR or telephone 01179 699667.

**Malta/ Libya 1950-66:** Tenth reunion to be held in October for the following units: 234/235 Troops, Malta; 1 Division Signals, Tripolitania; Tripoli Sig Sqn; 25 Armd Bde Sigs; 219 Sig Sqn and 245 Sig Sqn, Benghazi. Contact Roy Andrews on 01227 264551.

Ex-members of **75 Squadron RASC/RCT and RLC** welcome to attend centennial celebration at 4 GS Regiment RLC, Abingdon on Nov 29. Full details from WO2 Mark Adams on 01235 543850.

# In the cauldron

Congratulations to LCpl David Johnson of the Green Howards, first winner in our 2002-3 competition. He wins a £25 photographic voucher and his picture will go forward to the main Army Photographic Competition, in which the *Soldier* Award carries a prize of £250.

The Army competition prizegiving is planned for March 14 at the National Army Museum in Chelsea.

Entries received by **December 6** will qualify for January competition. To make the February issue, get your photos to us by **January 6**.

The *Soldier* Award is open to all readers in the following categories: Army, TA and dependants; CCF, ACF and UOTC staff and cadets; MoD civilians; and MoD contractors who work directly for the Army.

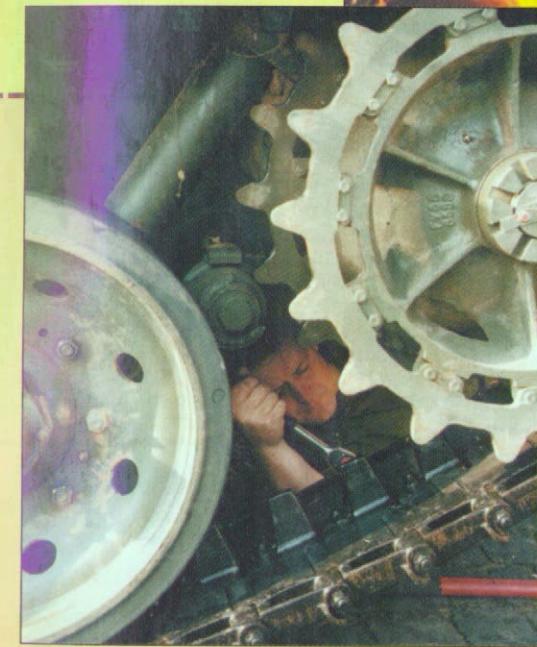
Entries, preferably prints up to A4, should

be sent to the Chief Photographer, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Please include a suitable self-addressed envelope if you wish your entry to be returned.

Alternatively they may be emailed to [phot@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:phot@soldiermagazine.co.uk) indicating "Soldier Photo Comp" in the subject box.

*Soldier* rules apply. *Soldier* query line: 01252 347357 or Aldershot mil (94222) 2357.

Army Photographic Competition queries should be addressed to DCC(A) SO2 IC Media on 020 7807 8653 (mil 9621 78653).



## Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000; [www.armybenfund.org](http://www.armybenfund.org)

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 433456

Army Families Federation 01980 615525; [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 020 8590 1124; [www.blesma.org.uk](http://www.blesma.org.uk)

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink

Access Number \*299\* at the PIN prompt

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

(Combat Stress) 01372 841600; [www.combatstress.com](http://www.combatstress.com)

Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

[www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk](http://www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk)

Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

Mutual Support (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group) 01666 824709

National Gulf Veterans and Families Association Office (0900-1700) 01482 808730; 24-hour helpline on 01482 833812; [www.ngvfa.com](http://www.ngvfa.com)

Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011; [www.rfea.org.uk](http://www.rfea.org.uk)

Royal British Legion's Legionline 0845 7725 725; [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre 01622 717202/718484; [www.rbl.co.uk](http://www.rbl.co.uk)

ESHRA Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency 020 7839 4466 [www.eshra.com](http://www.eshra.com) or [eshra@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:eshra@britishlegion.org.uk)

St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen

## Here's what our judges thought

*SOLDIER*'s photographic competition attracted entries from all over the world. The standard was high and made life difficult for the judging panel.

The winning image, left, by LCpl David Johnson, of Ballykelly-based 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, grabbed the panel's attention with its vivid colours. And closer examination suggested there was more to the fireball than meets the eye.

Look carefully and you can make out a soldier's foot, a riot shield and a helmet in the flame. Staff photographer Graeme Main, one of the judges, commented: "Well done, LCpl Johnson, a truly spectacular image."

Second place went to Cpl Gary Ranu, of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, for his photograph entitled "Nuts about Armour", below, far left.

Gary said: "It's a hand-held shot, so I got another person under the track to hold the flash, which was set to winder. The red tool was supposed to draw the eye to the soldier, but on reflection it may be a distraction. I like the detail of the track with the shadow areas."

Gary's image impressed our judges because the tracks spark the imagination while the face pulls the viewer into the image.

They were also impressed with an unusual entry from WO1 (RQMS) Chris Cox, of 3 RSME at Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater.

Whoever said a picture was worth a thousand words must have been talking about his image from Sierra Leone, left. The sign suggests a country desperately trying to better itself while the man – and the pothole in the foreground – portray a harsher reality in this war-damaged African nation.

A great start to this year's competition – but keep them coming. Next closing date is December 6.

## DATES

## DECEMBER

11: Royal Hospital Chelsea carol service for ABF (020 7591 2055).

## JULY

18-20: Defence 2003, RAF Fairford ([www.airtattoo.com](http://www.airtattoo.com))

## AUGUST

1-23: Edinburgh Tattoo (tattoo office 0130 225 4783).

\* Winchester's newest military museum, that of the **Adjutant General's Corps**, will be open to the public in July. The old guardroom, a grade II listed building at the entrance to Peninsula Barracks, is being refurbished to house displays and artefacts. A new visitor centre at the entrance, launched last month, will introduce callers to the six museums on the site and to the history of the barracks.

\* A new publication from **The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment** (Queen's and Royal Hampshire) tells the story of British involvement in Afghanistan during three wars.

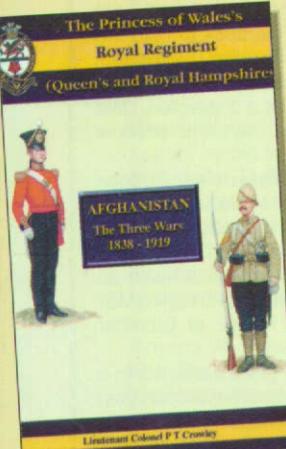
Well illustrated with many previously unpublished drawings, and with a foreword by Regimental Colonel Brig Richard Holmes, the 52-page, A4-size

booklet is the work of Lt Col Patrick Crowley, CO of 3 PWRR (V). The personal accounts of campaigns in Afghanistan are drawn from soldiers who served with Regular and Territorial battalions related to the PWRR's forebears.

Patrick Crowley also wrote the regimental guide and the recently published **The Infantry Regiments of Surrey**.

● **Afghanistan – The Three Wars** is available from RHQ, PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY (price £7, incl p&p). Cheques should be made payable to PWRR Benevolent Fund, which will receive all proceeds.

\* An Army commission document signed by Bonnie Prince Charlie has been acquired at auction by the **National Army Museum**. It will be housed alongside objects relating to his greatest opponent, the Duke of Cumberland. The commission, which displays the prince's red wax seal, appoints one Thomas Robertson a cornet in the Perthshire Squadron commanded by the Viscount of Stathallan. It was signed at Holyrood House on October 2, 1745 at the height of the Jacobite rebellions.



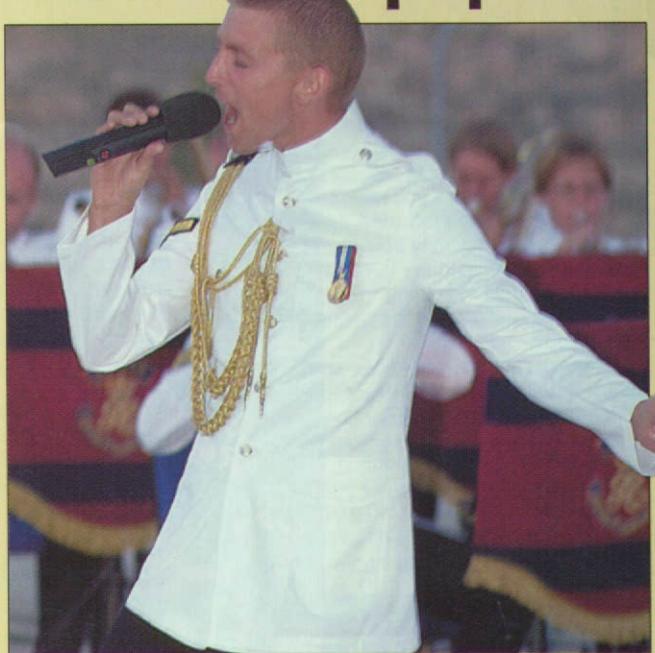
## David aims to be next pop idol

WATCH out for **LCpl David Barnes**, right, a singer, flautist and pianist with the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers. He's already caught the ear of many in the trade, including Chris Rea and John Mills.

Pictured during a concert in Cyprus, David could be the next Will Young. He has been called up for an audition for the second *Pop Idol* series, the TV show which catapulted Will and Gareth Gates to stardom.

David used to sing karaoke duets with another *Pop Idol* contender, the larger-than-life Rik Waller, and Rik's father, Chris, got David to record a single which has yet to be released.

A member of the RE band for the past seven years, David now has a regular singing spot. At a concert at Leeds Castle he sang a Robbie Williams song in front of 20,000 people. Picture: Will Craig



### Maurice in limelight at Rimini

ITALY campaign veteran **Maurice Cheadle** found himself representing the entire British Army during a recent visit to the Rimini Gurkha Cemetery with Italy Star Association 1943-1945 colleagues.

Maurice, founder and chairman of the association, was placed alongside Italian consular officials and lord mayors during a service of remembrance.

The two-week trip, a foretaste of next year's 60th anniversary of the landings in Europe, covered Venice, Forli – where Maurice's wartime driver is buried – the Gothic Line area, Ancona, the Astoria Hotel (his unit's headquarters at Cervia) and the new Queen's Bays site at San Christina for another remembrance service.

### Cricketer's tribute to Legion



THIS limited edition print of an original Jack Russell oil painting is available at £80, including p&p, or £110 mounted and framed, in aid of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Jack, the Gloucestershire and former England wicketkeeper, was commissioned by the Legion to capture on canvas the Cenotaph ceremony to mark its 80th anniversary last year. **Brig Johnny Walker**, the RBL's field manager in the Midlands, tells us he has singled out the director of music, **Lt Col Philip Hills**, by his bearskin, and also the Royal Marines trumpeters.

For prints, contact Lindsay Webster on 01522 810714 or [lwebster@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:lwebster@britishlegion.org.uk)

### Rugby fan who died in Bali

ONE of the many victims of the Bali bombing was former RLC captain **Chris Redman**, who was based in Singapore with his wife and on the holiday island as manager of the touring Singapore Cricket Club's rugby team. A passionate rugby man, Redman, 30, achieved notoriety at last year's Hong Kong International Sevens when he became the first person to streak naked from one end of the pitch to the other.

According to an obituary in *The Times*, Redman ran through the New Zealand team as they performed their pre-match *haka*, then weaved his way in and out of a Scottish pipe band in mid-march. His exuberant dive over the try line won him front page coverage, the admiration of his many friends and colleagues, and a fine for indecent exposure.

### Messing about in cars

SEVEN members of 156 Provost Company RMP at Colchester, led by Sgt Steve Graham and Essex Police, gave more than 200 handicapped youngsters and their carers a day of fun on an off-road driving course at the Hop Farm in Kent.

Local car firms donated top-of-the-range models for the day while supermarkets, including Asda, provided food and refreshments.

### Norma traces uncle's grave

TWO members of staff from the **Imperial War Museum North** in Manchester visited a war grave in Egypt on behalf of the family of a volunteer at the new museum.

Pte John "Jack" Davies, the uncle of Norma Geoghegan, both from Salford, died while serving with the RAOC in July 1940. He

was 20. His grave in El Alamein War Cemetery was visited by two museum members making an IWM tour of Crete and Egypt.

"No one from the family has ever visited Uncle Jack at his last resting place," said Norma, who used the museum's database to trace his details.

## Airborne ...

Picture: Chris Barker



Man in the middle: 1st Lt Caesar Fragni of the Argentinian Army, second from left, has won his British wings after four jumps at the parachute training school at RAF Brize Norton. Capt Kevin Robison, left, a member of the Parachute Regiment recruit training wing, P Company, was due to join Caesar for several weeks in Argentina to see how that country's airborne forces operate.

## teddies



Bear necessities: WO1 Mick Pott, RSM of Pudsey-based 4 Para near Leeds, helps Pte Wayne Dolecki, right, pack home-made teddy bears for a trip to Latvia. Wayne and his fellow Territorial Army soldiers from Pudsey, home of Britain's most famous bear, answered a call from the Teddies for Tragedies charity, which makes knitted bears for needy children all over the world.

Several hundred of the cuddly toys accompanied a dozen troops when they flew to Latvia to take part in a Partnership for Peace programme.

Picture: Chris Barker

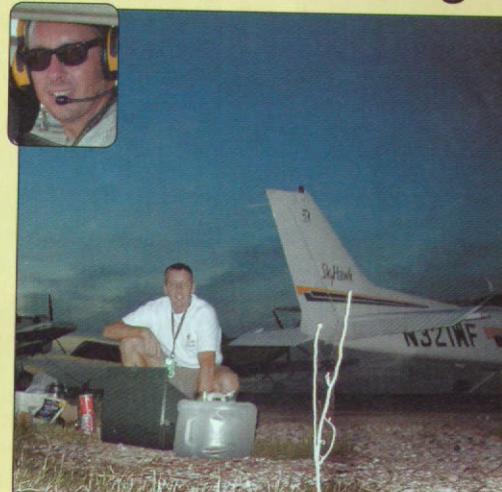
## Solo pilot Simon's a flying Texas ranger

ARMY dentist Lt Col Simon Creasey RADC, inset and main picture, found out what it was like to be a lonesome cowpoke on Texas's vast spaces during a solo circumnavigation of the Lone Star state to celebrate obtaining his private pilot's licence in the USA.

Simon, now at Sennelager's dental centre, learned to fly during a two-year exchange with the US Army Dental Corps at Fort Sam Houston in Texas.

He carried survival gear, a tent and all his food and cooking equipment in the back of a Cessna 172R and camped out overnight wherever he landed.

During the first week of the 3,600-mile trip he was trapped in southern Texas by intense thunderstorm activity, which prevented him achieving a complete circumnavigation.



## Legends of the regiments and corps

41

Museum of the Queen's Royal Lancers



Battered: The instrument on which William Brittain sounded the charge

## Billy's bugle

IT might be slightly the worse for wear, but this bugle was the instrument on which the walk, trot, gallop and charge were sounded as the Light Brigade made its epic attack on the Russian guns at Balaklava on October 25, 1854.

Now a treasured artefact in the The Queen's Royal Lancers' museum in Belvoir Castle, the Leicestershire home of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, it was carried by Trumpeter Billy Brittain, orderly trumpeter to the Earl of Cardigan, who commanded the Light Brigade and led the charge.

### WOUNDED

Riding close to Cardigan and well ahead of his own regiment, the 17th Lancers (which was on the left of the front line), Brittain had his horse killed under him and was severely wounded.

He was found near Obolesky's Don battery in great pain and clutching his copper bugle, which was as badly slashed and stabbed as he was. He insisted on keeping it with him when he was carried to safety.

Cardigan provided funds to improve Billy's comforts on his transfer from Balaklava to the hospital at Scutari, where he was nursed by Florence Nightingale herself. Billy died four months later, his bugle at his side.

In 1964 the instrument was bought at auction by the late actor Laurence Harvey and returned to the regiment, then the 17th/21st Lancers.

The QRL museum is in Belvoir Castle. It is open April 17 to Sept 30, Wed-Sun (closed Mon and Tue) and Bank Holidays, 1100-1700. Admission £7 adults; £4.50 children; £6.50 senior citizens; £19 families. Curator: 0115 957 3295.

[www.armymuseums.org.uk](http://www.armymuseums.org.uk)

# Switched on . . .



## FITNESS AND FASHION ▲

AT last the watch that all fitness enthusiasts have been waiting for is in the shops.

Featuring a heart rate monitor, the Suunto X6HR can be used to help you get fit, tell you where you are and where you've been, what the weather is going to do . . . and, of course, the time.

① £349.95, from [www.suunto.com](http://www.suunto.com) (01294 316306).

## COMMANDING VOICE ▼

USING multi-directional infrared rays, this clever gadget allows you to activate your home appliances by voice command.

There is no need to modify your television, stereo, video, DVD-player or air conditioning unit, just copy the appliance's infrared signals into Voice Me and tag them with a command of your choice.

Voice Me can hold as many as 30 voice commands.

① £80, from [www.gadgetshop.com](http://www.gadgetshop.com) (0800 7838343).



## MINI MOVIE MAKER ▲

JOIN the digital video revolution and create your own short film with this Pocket DV Camcorder.

The camcorder's 16MB of onboard SDRAM allows you to film just over three minutes of 320x240 video footage complete with audio, picked up by the microphone mounted near the lens, at a time.

① £79.95, from [www.firebox.com](http://www.firebox.com) (0870 2414289).



# Game on . . .

## GAMECUBE TO BE WON

**SOLDIER** has joined forces with **GAME** to offer you the perfect Christmas hamper.

For your chance to win a Nintendo GameCube complete with controller and a copy of *Super Mario Sunshine*, simply answer the following question:

What are the Mario brothers?

- a) Soldiers
- b) Plumbers
- c) Firemen

Send your answers on a postcard to GameCube competition, **Soldier**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. The winner will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by January 2. Usual rules apply.



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# GAME

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## BYTE-SIZE NEWS

NEW legislation in Greece aimed at curbing illegal gambling has effectively banned all forms of computer and videogames from the country.

The law in its original form targeted only gambling machines, but has since been modified to ban all forms of electronic gaming machines in private and public places.

EIDOS has confirmed that computer game-siren Lara Croft will not be appearing in stockings this Christmas.

The games publisher announced that *Tomb Raider: Angel of Darkness*, originally due for release this month, will not be available to buy until February 2003.

SALES of videogames in the UK for the first nine months of 2002 reached an all-time record of £684 million, up 12.5 per cent on last year, according to figures released by the European Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA).

ELSPA's director general Roger Bennett said: "Our industry has already outgrown cinema box office sales and video rental, and we can soon expect it to outgrow music software."

## PLATOON, PC

BASED on Oliver Stone's Oscar-winning film of the same name, *Platoon* is the first PC real-time strategy title to focus on the harrowing events of the Vietnam war.

*Platoon's* gameplay follows the exploits of the 1st Airborne Cavalry Division from the early days of the conflict in 1965 to the height of the war in 1968.

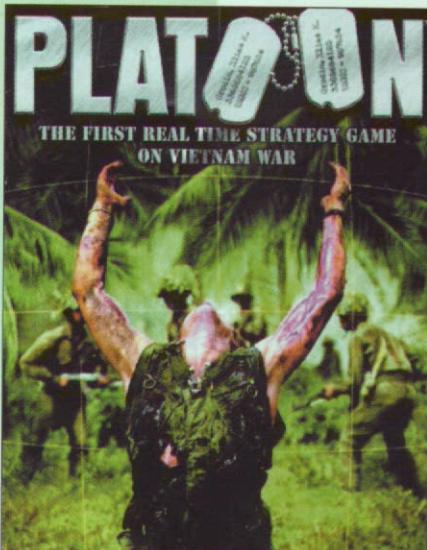
Players assume the role of Martin Lionsdale, a newly-wed recruit, and will need to learn from their experiences of the cruel jungle quickly to be able to succeed in their missions and rise in rank. Ultimately, gamers will be put in command of a full platoon of specialised troops comprising riflemen, snipers, scouts, machine gunners, grenadiers, engineers and commandos.

In *Platoon* each infantryman has his own unique personality and reacts to orders, situations and environments accordingly. The lush 3D terrain, featuring dense elephant grass, paddy fields and jungle, and the game's different weather conditions also affect each soldier's speed and combat abilities.

With more than 400 motion-captured animations, *Platoon's* infantry movements are highly realistic and are complemented with a range of detailed vehicles, including the hardy M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers and M48 Patton tanks, and supporting units such as mortars and recoilless rifles.

Furthermore, to add to the all-important

## OUT NOW



battlefield authenticity, a complex particle system is used to create explosion effects, smoke and fire.

As with most conflict simulators, this release from Monte Cristo is best played with a friend and to that end *Platoon* offers network play for two players over four exclusive maps.

**VERDICT:** One of the best movie spin-offs to hit the gaming charts this year.

7/10

## WIN...WIN...WIN

**SOLDIER** has joined forces with Monte Cristo to offer you the opportunity to "enter" the dense jungles of Vietnam.

For your chance to win one of ten copies of *Platoon* for the PC, simply answer the following question:



Which well-known actor starred in the film *Platoon*?

- a) Martin Sheen
- b) Charlie Sheen
- c) Mister Sheen

Send your answers on a postcard to *Platoon* competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

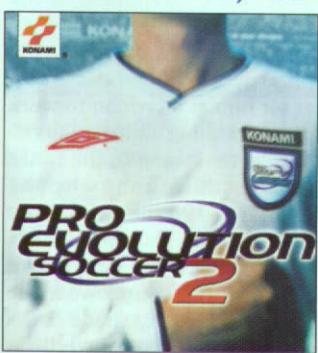
The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by January 2. Usual rules apply.

## QUANTUM REDSHIFT, XBOX

SET in the distant future, *Quantum Redshift* introduces gamers to a whole new racing experience and challenges them to display a rare combination of driving skill and savvy weapons strategy.

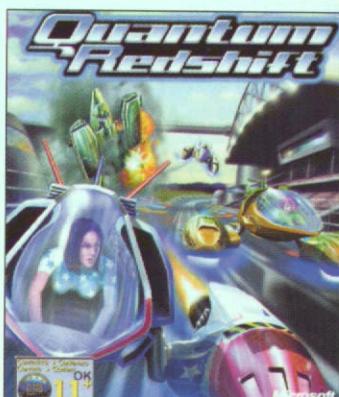
Piloting a hyper-speed hover vehicle, players race on futuristic terrains and compete in fierce grudge matches against multiple opponents, including an arch rival character. The game's 16 vehicles, 16 detail-laden tracks, intelligent AI opponents and spectacular aerial jumps will appeal to both action and racing gamers.

## PRO EVOLUTION, PS2



**VERDICT:** A championship contender let down only by its presentation. 9/10

## OUT NOW



**VERDICT:** Light years ahead. 8/10

## OUT NOW

TURN the dire match commentary off in the options menu and *Pro Evolution Soccer 2* remains the "golden balls" of computer gaming. What it lacks in *FIFA*-style good looks it more than makes up for in gameplay. Every aspect of the original game has been refined, with dribbling, shooting, passing and close control more realistic than before. The game's Master League, one of the most popular features of the first *Pro Evolution* title, has also been tweaked and now sports a third division.

## FIFA 2003, ALL FORMATS

OFTEN accused of focusing on presentation at the expense of gameplay, EA Sports are set to silence their critics with the excellent *FIFA Football 2003*, the latest instalment of the world's most successful football franchise.

Featuring an all-new game engine, this title finally delivers gameplay which reflects the real nature of football.

But fear not, *FIFA 2003* still looks the part and sports unprecedented television style presentation, real stadiums, chanting fans and frighteningly realistic commentary.

## OUT NOW



**VERDICT:** A beautiful game. 9/10

## MAT HOFFMAN'S PRO BMX 2, PS2



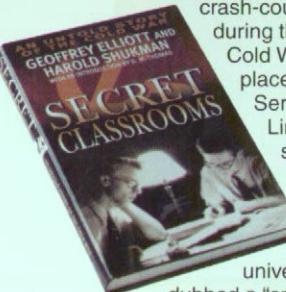
**VERDICT:** Tricky to criticise. 8/10

TEN times world vert champion Mat Hoffman will freestyle his way back into gamers' hearts with this excellent sequel to the number one blockbuster of 2001.

*Pro BMX 2* enables players to live the life of a real pro by bundling them onto a tour bus and taking them on a BMX road trip across America, where they can pull insane tricks and combos in eight huge, free-roaming, populated cities. The game's multiple modes of play and next-generation BMX course editor will ensure that it remains in consoles for months rather than just days.

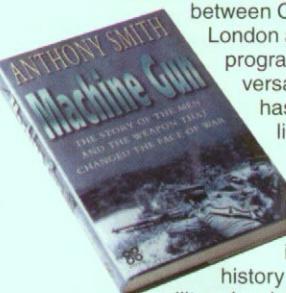
## Classroom 'spies' of the Cold War

SIR Martin Gilbert (see *Forgotten Voices* review), was one of the 5,000 National Servicemen who did a crash-course in Russian during the 1950s. This Cold War training took place at the Joint Services School of Linguists, which was spread over military camps in Surrey, Cornwall and Scotland as well as two universities, and dubbed a "spy school" by the Soviets. Other students, along with Alan Bennett, Dennis Potter, Jack Rosenthal and Michael Frayn, were Geoffrey Elliott and Harold Shukman, who tell the story in *Secret Classrooms: An Untold Story of the Cold War* (Little, Brown, £18.99).



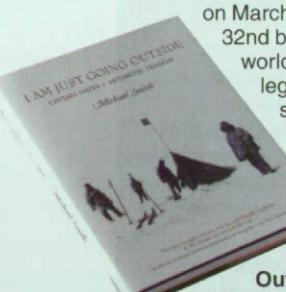
## Machine gun given the Smith treatment

NOT content with ballooning over East Africa, exploring the Amazon in his own steamboat, motor-cycling between Cape Town and London and presenting TV programmes, the versatile Anthony Smith has added to his long list of books (including the best-selling *The Body*) with a readably informative social history of a piece of military hardware. In *Machine Gun: The story of the men and the weapon that changed the face of war* (Piatkus, £20) he asks many intriguing questions, such as: Why were all ranks of the British Army so unwelcoming to rapid-firing weapons?



## Surprising legacy of Capt Lawrence Oates

WHEN Capt Lawrence Oates, of the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, crawled to his death on Scott's Polar Expedition on March 17, 1912 – his 32nd birthday – he left the world not only with a legendary tale of self-sacrifice but also with his enduring last words (and, allegedly, an illegitimate daughter). *I Am Just Going Outside* by Michael Smith (Spellmount, £20) is a revelatory re-telling of the famous story. For the chance to win a copy in a random draw, send us a postcard containing the five words that complete the famous quotation. Closing date: January 2.



# Wit and Wisdom

### Reviews: Chris Horrocks

CHRISTMAS quiz question: What do Peter Ustinov and Norman Wisdom have in common – apart from being multi-talented knights with a special gift for making people laugh?

**Peter Ustinov** – double Oscar-winning actor, British-born of noble Russian stock, whose almost endless achievements in the worlds of cinema, theatre, television, opera, books, the United Nations and academia fill 11 pages of his

biography. **Norman Wisdom** – real-life Oliver Twist, who left home at the age of nine, stole to escape starvation, slept rough on the streets of London – and became Charlie Chaplin's clown prince.

No prizes for guessing that they both served in the British Army – but that's where the similarity ends.

One hated life in uniform with every fibre of his being. The other declares: "I owe everything to the Army." Read on . . .

## Peter's four-year sentence

**Peter Ustinov: The Gift of Laughter** by John Miller (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £20).

**PETER USTINOV began and ended his four years in uniform as a private soldier – and dismisses his military career in one typically witty sentence.**

"I hated the Army more than anything I've ever hated in my life," he says, "and I was continually shouted at by people who had no natural gift for conversation."

Wartime service beckoned just as his early career as a dramatist was taking off and when he joined the 10th Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment at Canterbury in 1942 the Army soon had trouble coping with his rebellious brand of psychological warfare.

Within months his first play, *House of Regrets*, was receiving rave notices in London and the Army decided this 21-year-old's precocious intellectual talents were better suited to the Directorate of Army Psychiatry.

Ustinov felt no affinity with this "very odd lot" either, but was happier when he moved to the Army Kinematograph Service, where he co-wrote a short film for recruits showing the "human" side of the Army.

It was so successful that the Army decided to make a feature-length version, with Ustinov's theme extended to the relationship between officers and other ranks.

The irony was that the film's star, Hollywood idol David Niven, was serving as a colonel in The Rifle Brigade at the time – and the Army took a dim view of a private work-



Private joy: This picture from the book shows Peter with his first wife, Isolde, the day after his play *House of Regrets* opened in London

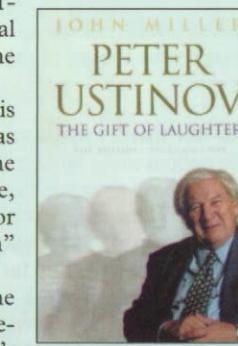
ing so closely with an officer. So Ustinov was sent to an officer selection board, which decreed: "On no account is this man to be put in charge of others."

Niven got round this by making Ustinov his batman and issuing him with a pass stating: "This man may go anywhere and do anything at his discretion in the cause of his duty."

At one stage Ustinov was even temporarily demobbed to make it easier for him as a civilian to work with high-ranking military advisers. His bitter return to the ranks produced another irony when he had to march 19 miles with other recruits to watch his own film . . .

showing the human side of the Army. Salt was again rubbed into the wound when he was put on a charge for wearing suede shoes with his uniform taking the curtain-call on the first night of his new play in London.

More humiliations followed. The Army



John Miller

# Wit and Wisdom

## Norman thanks the Army

**My Turn** by Norman Wisdom with William Hall (Century, £16.99).

**WHEREAS** the khaki was a costume too far for the artistic Ustinov, the grateful Norman Wisdom slipped into uniform with all the apparent ease of one of his stage pratfalls.

Escaping from life on the streets at the age of 14½ to join The King's Own Royal Regiment at Lichfield, he was bought out by his mother, but re-enlisted as a boy drummer with the 10th Hussars and went to India. What he learned there set him up for the future.

As a skilled horseman, his daredevil act was the star turn at regimental shows. He taught himself to tap-dance in full uniform and, as camp jester, he polished the comedy routines and pratfalls he would later use on stage at the London Palladium. And, just for good measure, he sailed home to England in February 1936 as flyweight boxing champion of the British Army in India.

But his beloved Army life did not end there. When the Second World War broke out he served with the Royal Corps of Signals at Cheltenham.

"All told I did seven-and-a-half years in the Service, and I have to say without any doubts whatsoever that I owe everything to



Sweet music: Norman with one of the 11 instruments the Army taught him

the Army," Sir Norman says in this engaging autobiography. "Everything I am, or became. Self-discipline. Tidiness. Personal neatness – I still polish my shoes every day. My voice: enunciation and clarity of diction – and I don't care if sometimes it does sound a bit posh.

"The Army taught me music. I was given the impetus to learn to play instruments: trumpet, clarinet, trombone, drums, saxophone, piccolo, xylophone, violin, banjo, piano, post horn. But above all, friendship. How to treat people properly. The true spirit of camaraderie."

And you can picture the cheeky grin as he rounds it all off with a bit of verbal slapstick. "Oh yes, one other thought occurs to me: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Army for training a professional berk to make a good living out of it!"

### Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free books search; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 4075). E-mail: [books@helion.co.uk](mailto:books@helion.co.uk) Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

grudgingly allowed its celebrity playwright to direct his first film, called *Tanks – best use of smoke, No 4*, but his elastic patience snapped when he was told he was to be posted to the RAOC depot at Donnington, "where your duties will be to grade underwear sizes".

Ustinov's angry reaction resulted in a square hole at last being found for this square peg. He was posted instead to the Army Theatrical Unit, where one of his last duties in the Army was to direct Edith Evans in *The*

*Rivals* at the Garrison Theatre, Salisbury.

Our misfit squaddie went on to be knighted by the Queen in 1990 for his myriad achievements, including the play *The Love of Four Colonels*; the film, *Private Angelo*; and, of course, Oscars for his roles in two other screen blockbusters, *Spartacus* and *Topkapi*.

So as John Miller observes in this hugely entertaining biography, Ustinov's unhappy years in uniform were not entirely wasted.

"They provided him with a rich source of material, both comic and serious, for his subsequent plays, films and novels," he writes, "and many of his funniest performances have been of military or political leaders."

"So it is with great glee that he says, 'Oh, I've had my revenge gradually over the years'."

## 'One reads this book with bleeding eyes'

THIRTY years ago the Imperial War Museum set about taping thousands of interviews with First World War veterans. Max Arthur and his researchers took hundreds of painstaking hours to extract the hauntingly evocative *Forgotten Voices* (Ebury Press, £19.99). In his introduction, eminent historian Sir Martin Gilbert sums it up: "One reads this book with bleeding eyes. It contains, as no other book has before it, the First World War in the raw: its drama and cruelties, its moments of humour – some of it very black indeed – its drudgery, and its excitement."

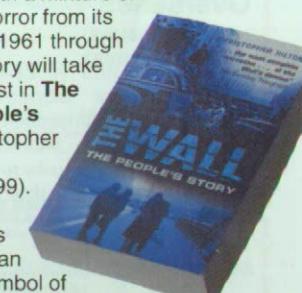
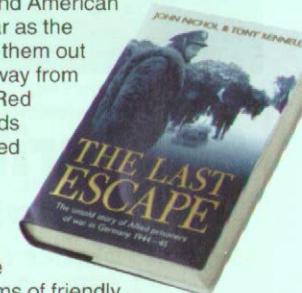
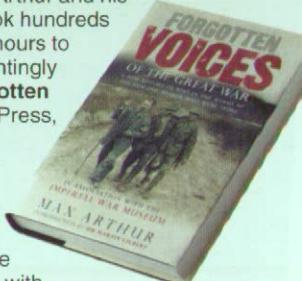
## For them, the war was not yet over

THE closing months of the Second World War in Europe were a desperate ordeal for a quarter of a million British and American prisoners-of-war as the Nazis marched them out of the camps away from the advancing Red Army. Thousands died and endured starvation and disease, while the survivors were fearful of their fate. Some were even victims of friendly fire. Others, "liberated" by the Russians, were held hostage as bargaining counters. John Nichol and Tony Rennell tell the full story for the first time in *The Last Escape* (Penguin Viking, £20).

## Where East met West across the great divide

THOSE of us who witnessed the Berlin Wall coming down in 1989 or had watched with a mixture of sadness and horror from its construction in 1961 through its 30-year history will take a special interest in *The Wall: The People's Story*, by Christopher Hilton (Sutton, paperback, £8.99). The 12ft monstrosity was as much a human tragedy as a symbol of the paranoia felt by the East about the West. Memories in this grippingly written tale come from politicians, border guards and the British and American military, as well as "ordinary people".

Books in brief – Page 69



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**VIDEO/DVD**

# This will blow your mind

WE have five VHS copies of Tom Cruise's edgy adventure hit **Minority Report** to give away.

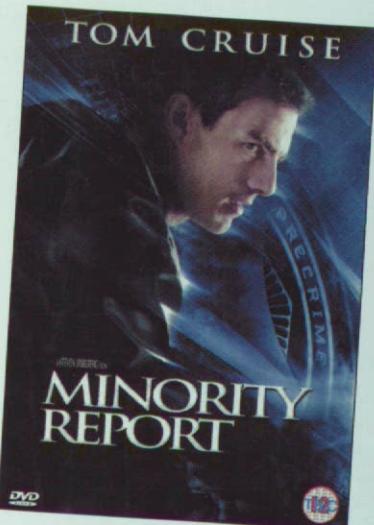
The Steven Spielberg-directed film, packed with special effects and heart-pounding stunts in a future world, has been released for sale on VHS (£16.99) and as a two-disc DVD (£24.99) from November 30. It is available from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment and Dreamworks. The DVD includes exclusive behind-the-scenes material as well as Spielberg commenting on

virtually every aspect of the film-making process and interviews with Cruise. Seven Academy Award-winners were involved in the production of the film.

To have a chance of winning one of our VHS copies, tell us on a postcard the title of the film in which Tom Cruise played a US Navy pilot. Was it:

**a) Top Dog b) Top Cat c) Top Gun**

First five correct entries to reach us by January 2 will receive the prizes. Usual rules apply.



# Christmas book ideas . . . in brief

**East to the Amazon** by Col John Blashford-Snell and Richard Snailham. Story of the latest hair-raising expedition by "Blashers" and Co – jungle-bashers, archaeologists, soldiers (mostly Royal Engineers) and scientists – to find El Dorado. (John Murray, £20.)

**Harry's War** by Harry Stinton (ed Virginia Mayo). Memoir in words and paintings of life as a "suicide bomber" – a grenade thrower – in the First World War. Classic story of ordinary soldiers, superbly presented. (Brassey's, £20.)

### British Battles: Amazing Views

A brilliant idea for military history buffs – vertical aerial photography overlaid with battle diagrams accompanied by concise explanatory text. Published by [www.getmapping.com](http://www.getmapping.com) with HarperCollins, £14.99.

**Battles of World War II** by Martin Marix Evans. Illustrated summary of major land, sea and air battles. (Airlife paperback, £9.99.)

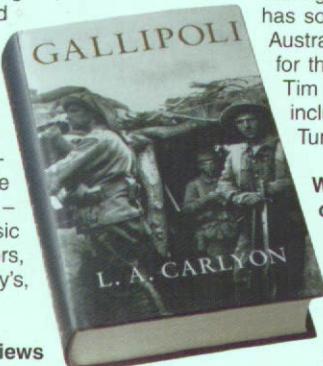
**Red Devils in Normandy** by Georges Bernage. Colourful account of the 6th Airborne Division, June 5-6, 1944. (Heimdal, £19.95.)

**The Secret History of SOE** by William Mackenzie, introduced by M R D Foot. The book that revealed 50-year-old secrets, now an 814-page paperback. (St Ermin's Press, £14.99.) See also **Foreign Fields** by Sir Peter Wilkinson, the story of SOE's Balkan operation. (I B Tauris, paperback, £12.95.)

**English and Welsh Infantry Regiments** by Ray Westlake. Illustrated record of campaigns, overseas service, battles and engagements from Tangier to Bosnia, 1662-1994. (Spellmount, paperback, £20.)

**Patton's Last Battle** by Charles Whiting. Eighth title in the Siegfried Line series, first published in 1987. (Spellmount, £16.99.)

**The Short Sharp Life of T E Hulme** by Robert Ferguson. Biography of poet and philosopher killed in the First World War at the age of 34 includes his trench diary. (Penguin, £20.)



**Gallipoli** by L A Carlyon. Described by the *Sydney Morning Herald* as "the most stunning account of the Anzac boneyard", this award-winning journalist's 600-page narrative has sold more than 160,000 copies in Australia. (Doubleday, £20.) Look also for the paperback **Gallipoli 1915**, by Tim Travers, the first history to include research from the Ottoman Turkish archives. (Tempus, £16.99.)

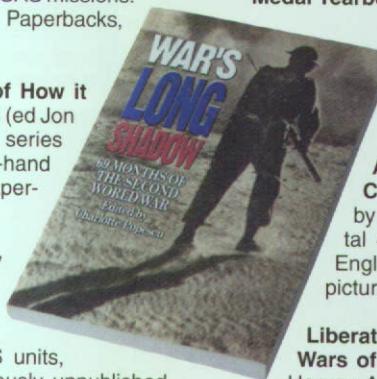
**War's Long Shadow: 69 Months of the Second World War** (ed Charlotte Popescu). Anthology of first-hand accounts for every month, ranging from PoW camps to SAS missions. (Cavalier Paperbacks, £11.99.)

**The Mammoth Book of How it Happened: World War II** (ed Jon E Lewis). Latest in this series includes 200 first-hand accounts. (Robinson, paperback, £7.99.)

**Those Who Dared** by Philip Eyre. This 100-page record of gallantry awards to the SAS and attached SBS units, 1941-46, features previously unpublished information. (Token, paperback, £12.95.)

**The Desert War** by George Forty. Highly recommended, well illustrated introduction to the Western Desert campaign. (Sutton, £25.)

**The Reluctant Mercenary** by Tim Smith. Recollections of a former British Army helicopter



pilot's participation in the anti-terrorist war in Sri Lanka. (Book Guild, £17.95.)

**The English Civil War at First Hand** by Tristram Hunt. Beautifully-produced volume telling the story through contemporary voices and images. (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99.)

**Nine Lives to Berlin** by Eric Cox. Proceeds from this 140pp memoir of a life in tanks from Greece to the Rhine, 1939-46, go to the Middlesex Yeomanry Association. Available at £14.95 inc p&p from Carnegie Publishing Ltd, (two whom cheques payable), Chatsworth Road, Lancaster LA1 4SL.

**Medal Yearbook 2003**. Latest edition by the **Medal News** team includes Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka, and a useful guide to regimental lineage. (Token, paperback, £17.95.)

**Afrikakorps: The 1941-43 Campaign in Libya and Egypt** by Francois de Lannoy. Monumental 432-page history, in French and English, with 170 colour and mono pictures. (Heimdal, £40.)

**Liberators: South America's Savage Wars of Freedom, 1810-30** by Robert Harvey. Acclaimed account of the seven heroes, including Simon Bolivar, who led South America to independence. (Robinson, paperback, £8.99.)

**Churchill at War 1940-45** by Lord Moran. New edition of the candid writings of Churchill's doctor, first published in 1966. (Robinson, paperback, £9.99.)

## Bonaparte: a fascination that never seems to fade

IF the extraordinary number of books about him are anything to go by, the British interest in Napoleon never seems to diminish.

Dare it be said, he seems a far more popular subject for historians than Wellington, Nelson or even Churchill.

**Napoleon: Man of War, Man of Peace** by Timothy Wilson-Smith (Constable, hardback, £18.99.) compares his achievements and legacies in these two spheres of his life.

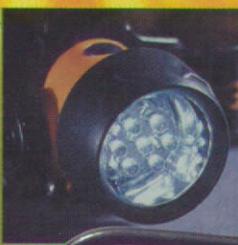
Recent paperbacks include **Napoleon Bonaparte: Britain's Prisoner**, by Frank Giles (Robinson, £7.99); **Napoleon & Berlin, The Napoleonic Wars in Prussia, 1813** by Michael V Leggiere (Tempus, £19.99); **The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte, Vol 2 – The Fall** by Robert Asprey (Abacus, £12.99); and a reissue of J M Thompson's classic biography **Napoleon Bonaparte** (Sutton, £14.99.)

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£154.90  
(Other straps)



## S3601T

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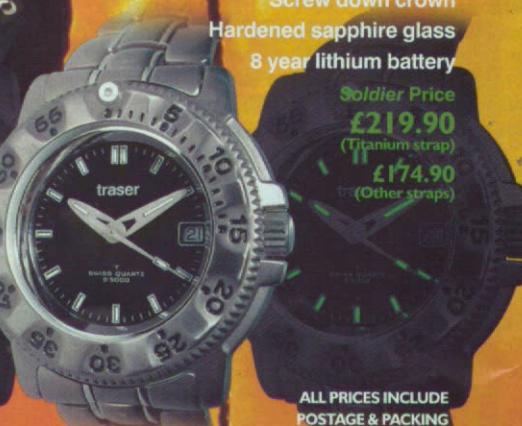
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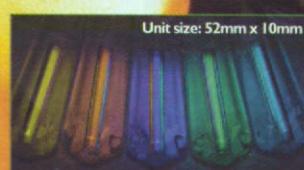
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# That's our car!

TA teams up with the motor sport of the future in an exciting drive to hit that 9,000 recruitment target

MOTOR sport fans are turning increasingly to the virile and vigorous spectacle of Ascar racing, writes **Syd Taylor**.

Ascar is the European version of America's ever-popular Nascar stock-car racing series – the modern equivalent of the chariots of *Ben Hur* battling wheel-to-wheel for supremacy.

Spectators have uninterrupted views, thanks to the banked and walled oval circuits – one of which is Rockingham Speedway, near Corby.

This, the first purpose-built motor-racing circuit to be constructed in the UK since Brooklands in 1907, has quickly established itself in motor-sport folklore since its first race event in May, 2001.

Six meetings in this year's calendar have taken place at "The Rock" and each has pulled in bigger crowds, including many young people.

They are drawn to admire quality engineering, driving and teamwork put to enterprising use in an arena where quick-thinking and instant action are essential.

It is here that the difference between success and failure depends on the right blend of judgement and courage backed by technical expertise.

Unlike traditional road racing, Ascar race-goers don't need wads of cash or a telescope to view pit activity. Born of a philosophy that the racing exists for the benefit of the spectators, you find teams ready to share their



Going places: Driver Derek Hayes and members of the Royal Logistic Corps TA with their car after it sped to second place in the main Ascar event of the season at Rockingham Speedway

enthusiasm with anyone who's interested.

Small wonder that the Territorial Army, with an annual recruitment target of just over 9,000, should be inspired to sponsor an Ascar racing team. In the USA, Marine Corps sponsorship of a similar car has brought in 40,000 recruits – all encouraged by the same qualities.

Currently, one of the Torquespeed/Deuce Racing team's cars is sporting TA livery. Number 84 – "The TA Car" – is a 450-brake horsepower Chevrolet Monte Carlo, driven by Derek Hayes, 24. All Ascar vehicles are built to the same specification – big V8 engine and a choice of three body styles. The only variables are the set-up and the skills of the driver.

You would think the number one priority in oval racing would be to avoid hitting those walls (see picture below), but that's not quite true. The skill lies in USING the walls – making contact, but riding the knife-edge so that

you scrape the concrete without actually colliding with it big-time. Getting it wrong results in disaster.

Remember, these cars are beasts that snarl down the business end of 200 mph: keep the momentum going and you're fine; lose it and you're wishing you were playing croquet.

And don't expect the comfort of run-off areas if you overcook it. This rough, tough sport has an unwritten code which says you aren't truly a fully-fledged driver until you've hit the wall.

Take comfort, though. As Colin McRae has been heard to say, hitting a wall is safer than hitting trees on a rally stage.

All credit, then, to the TA for its enterprising involvement in what has to be the future of motor-sport thrills.

You won't see inflated egos here, generating whirlwinds of PR-scented blather. Instead you'll see real, ordinary blokes who just happen to have the "right stuff" when it comes down to it.

Chevy chase: The TA car in action





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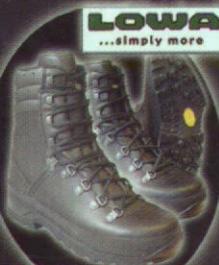
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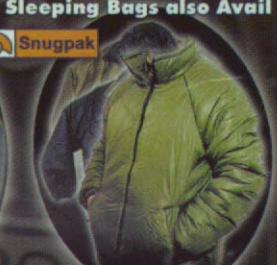
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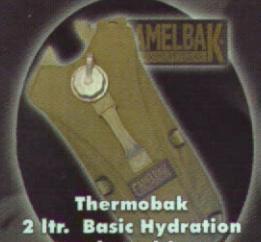
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### SOLDIER to soldier

## All hands to the pumps

HERE we go again. Another crisis, another call-out for the Armed Services. The nation expects...

Strike action by firefighters has obliged Servicemen and women to take on a difficult and dangerous mission. It has also thrust them back into the full spotlight of media attention, last experienced during the 2001 foot-and-mouth epidemic and the catastrophic flooding of 2000.

Newspaper reporters calling this office from around the country inevitably want to know how much soldiers earn, and whether they are entitled to overtime when they are called out at night or over weekends.



They are often surprised to learn that long hours come as part of the package. The X-factor in military pay takes care of that, even if it might not originally have anticipated foot-and-mouth, flooding and burning buildings as part of the soldier's daily lot.

Anyone who questions the value of our Armed Services could do worse than compute how much it might cost Britain to find competent, disciplined "emergency" emergency personnel when the ordure hits the rotating air-cooling blades.



REALITY television throws up some pretty peculiar "celebrities" – so a

*Soldier* team was relieved to discover that ITV's "Mr Right" (see Pages 18-19) was the real deal.

Lance Gerrard-Wright, a former major in The Royal Anglian Regiment, has had the pick of 15 stunningly beautiful young women on the dating show and the use of a £2-million flat overlooking the Pool of London.

He turned out to be a star – good-looking, intelligent, professional, considerate and helpful. Oh, and lucky.



### Home truths

Sue Bonney

# A few initial reservations

HAVE you ever wondered where the Army (or indeed the MoD) would be without initials? (Er... it would be the Ministry of Defence?).

I ponder on this weighty topic frequently, usually after spending the odd hour or four trying to decipher a document which I know would tell me something really interesting if it weren't for the blocks of capitals getting in the way.

Now, I've been around for a while and my Defence-Speak (DS) is pretty fluent – I have just got my Translator 2nd Class (T2DS), as a matter of fact, thanks to the time spent translating DS to user-friendly English (UFE) for the *Journal* (AFJ) – but I have to admit I am finding it hard to keep up (LOST) as more acronyms seem to appear with every document that hits my desk.

### Getting out of hand

I am sure the original intention of initialising frequently-used phrases was to make things simpler rather than more complicated – not to mention reducing the number of trees dying to produce enough paper. But it's getting out of hand (OOH). There are some documents with more capitals than words, the caps-lock keys on all MoD computers are wearing out before the rest of the machine is defunct (i.e. in less than 30 days) and acronyms can now stand for more than one thing (Double DS).

We got a letter the other day talking about the AFF in pretty harsh terms (PHT), and just as we were getting steamed up and about to loose off protests hither and thither (HAT), it dawned on us that this AFF wasn't our AFF. Someone had thought up another acronym without finding out whether it was already spoken for, and was carelessly taking ours in vain (IV). This will no doubt lead to confusion somewhere and do terrible things for our reputation in uninformed quarters (UNIFA).

Things can only get worse, with all those keen SOs and EOs out there busy

inventing brand new sets of initials on a daily basis (OADB). I think a Defence Acronym Register (DAR) is needed, to which any new acronym has to be submitted, with full translation, to check that it hasn't already been taken.

Then we could all consult the DAR when we wanted to know what the hell some piece of paper was talking about, instead of wasting time trying to work out the initials. Of course, this is undoubtedly part of their charm

for some – a challenge to be solved, rather like the *Times* crossword (TC). A brief wouldn't be a brief without them, and certainly wouldn't take so long to read (not so brief, then).

At least we can be grateful to the wits who invent deeply comic acronyms (DCAs), giving us a little harmless fun when the penny drops (as in Col APS). Never mind the acronym-solver snobs (ASSs) – the ones who always pretend to know exactly what each set of initials means and claim to understand everything at first read.

You'll get a Round Robin (RR) from at least one this Christmas – "XMAS 2002 will see us celebrating with the annual MILI (Mother-in-law Inspection)".

I have decided to turn this obsession to my advantage. I am now gathering material for an Oxford Dictionary of Defence Acronyms (ODDA) and all submissions are welcome. It will keep me warm in my retirement, as I anticipate selling thousands of copies to the MoD alone, and there will have to be updated editions (ODDA UEs) every year.

Then, of course, there are the lucrative spin-offs – the CD ROMs (DSCDRs), language tapes (DSLTs), website (DS W/S) ...

In the meantime, I hope DXMAS(A) (Brigadier S Claus) brings you your heart's desire (not a Green Goddess) and a quiet, peaceful Christmas with the people you love, in snow rather than sand. See you in 2003.



Sue Bonney is  
Editor of the AFF  
Families Journal



## Banned from bar at 'best' new station in the Army

FOR two months on the trot (Sept/Oct) you published articles about Javelin Barracks, formally RAF Bruggen, at Elmpt Station in Germany, and told us how good the facilities are.

But you are probably not aware that in Javelin Barracks (home of 16 Signal Regiment) there is no all-ranks' drinking establishment.

This makes it extremely hard for the barracks to become "the best community in the British Army", simply because that community can not get together for a friendly pint.

My wife was asked to leave the so-called 16 Signal Regiment bar because it was for junior NCOs and their wives or partners only, even though she has worked with and known some of the JNCO wives for more than five years.

An old friend was posted to 7 Signal Regiment, which is in the same barracks and which does have an all-ranks establishment, and to which we were invited.

Now we have been informed that 16 Signal Regiment SNCOs are not to use this bar. Do we just forget friends we have known for years?

Things are not as happy as you are made to believe at the newest of the British Army's garrisons. — SNCO (name and address supplied), Javelin Barracks, Elmpt Station, Germany.



**Station HQ, Elmpt Station, responds:** The writer will be pleased to learn the Bruggen Bowl bowling centre, currently undergoing refurbishment, is due to re-open this month. This will provide a pleasant bar area and other facilities to meet the requirements of everyone living and working within Elmpt Station.

The 16 Signal Regiment policy of restricting access to its regimental Junior Ranks Club is designed to allow those using the facility the opportunity to relax in an environment away from those who supervise their on-duty activities.

YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda... but please keep them brief. The more space you take up, the less room there is for others, and we are anxious to use as many as we can.

E-mails should include your name and location at the bottom (not necessarily for publication). Anonymous contributions will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to amend for length, clarity or style.

**Please be brief**

## Passport is hitch to taking short breaks

Fijian soldier's leisure travel is restricted by need for visas

I HAVE been serving with the British Armed Forces for more than three years. I am extremely happy and proud to do so, but unfortunately there is one restriction that I feel requires looking in to.

Being a Fijian passport holder, I have to apply for visas (which is time consuming) every time I go overseas, including travel within the EEC countries. This restriction means that I

### Prize letter

cannot go at short notice to France, Holland, Germany (to name just a few) as many of my British comrades do. I am usually confined to station whether it be abroad on an operational tour or in the UK during my R&R package.

Privileges that the Armed Forces have for its soldiers are limited for me. — **Fijian soldier (name and unit supplied)**.

time to make any necessary application.

Once a visa has been obtained it can be used when required, while valid, enabling the holder to make trips at short notice.

If a British soldier needs to go to a foreign country for duty purposes and is not able to travel on a MoD 90 and Nato travel order, he can apply for the relevant visa and apply to have the cost reimbursed by the Army. It may be possible subsequently for him to use that visa for leisure travel until it expires.

If a British soldier is on operations and for any reason he is unable to obtain a visa he should still be able to take advantage of the local R&R facilities available, such as the island of Brac in the Balkans, and need not be confined to camp.



**PS4(A) responds:** When Commonwealth soldiers join the British Army they become British soldiers, but not British citizens. All British soldiers may travel, when on duty, by means of a MoD 90 and a Nato travel order. When British soldiers are not on duty the rules governing travel between countries are controlled by foreign governments (not by the Army) through the equivalent of the British Immigration and Nationality Directorate. For example, British citizens require a visa to enter the USA and Danish citizens require a visa to enter Fiji.

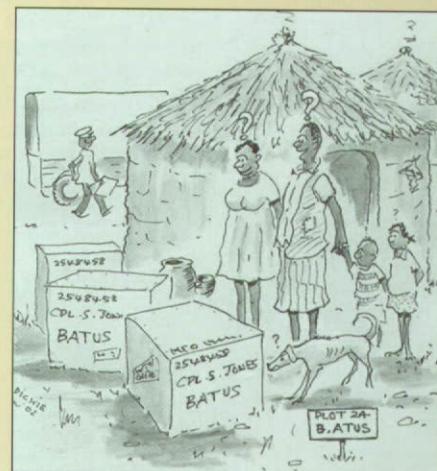
Therefore British soldiers who wish to go to a foreign country on leave must make their own enquiries about visa requirements in

## Make units compensate soldiers for MFO delays

HAVING been both married and single while serving for 18 years in the Army I am in a good position to judge the two-tier system which discriminates against the single soldier.

Recently I was posted from a unit in Germany to Canada. After inquiring about moving my possessions I was told I would have to get rid of all my furniture unless it fitted into an MFO (Military Freight Organisation) box and that, as a single soldier, I did not qualify for free storage for the duration of my posting (unlike married soldiers).

To finally rub salt in the wound I'm still waiting for my MFO. The first I knew of



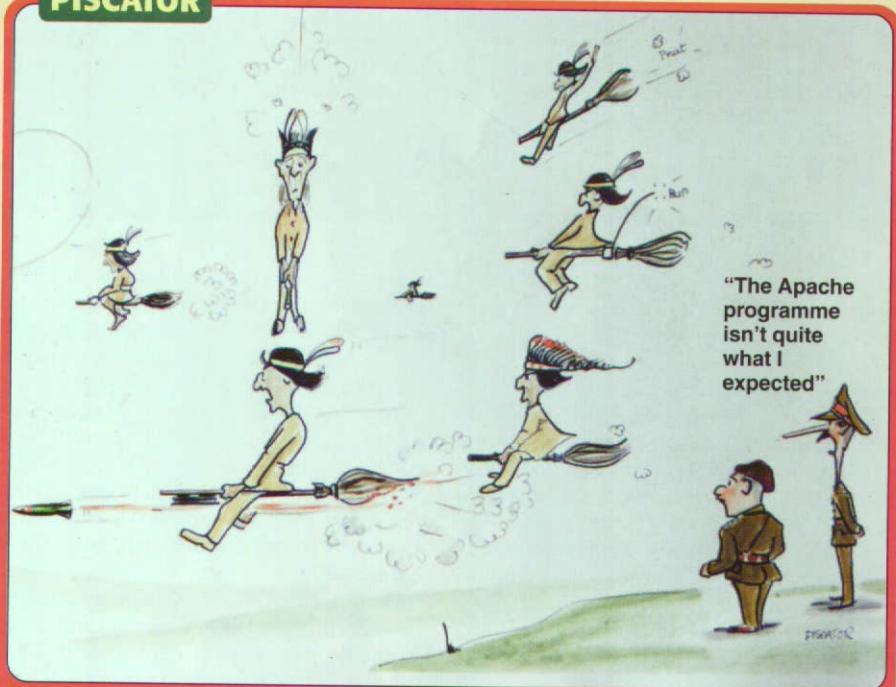
the delay was when the movement company informed me that they had arrived to pick up my boxes and because of paperwork irregularities could not take them.

My suggestion is a charter for single soldiers. Make unit QM departments accountable for delays and regiments liable to compensate soldiers if their possessions

are delayed more than the six to eight weeks — as per movement instructions.

The same goes for civilian movement companies, although in my experience they are generally efficient and professional. — **Sgt P Smith, Batus Wksp, Suffield**.

## PISCATOR



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## Forced move will put me about £90 out of pocket

I AM at Arborfield on an artificer course, where I am living in the sergeants' mess.

With the appropriate permission, I had Sky Digital and a telephone line with internet access put in. Having recently divorced, I have a great deal of personal kit and so occupy one of the larger rooms in the mess.

We've now been told the whole corridor needs to move for health-and-safety reasons as there has been no proper lighting for almost eight months. However, there

**PS10(A) responds:** Your letter raises interesting issues concerning allowances for those required to move accommodation within a Service establishment. PS10(A) has some sympathy with the trouble and cost incurred.

Disturbance Allowance is designed for both eligible married and single personnel.

It is aimed at providing a non-taxable allowance to help meet incidental expenses arising when the requirements of the Service make it necessary for personnel to move their family from one residence to another and

are no large rooms available and not every room has a phone line.

I am looking at at least £50 for a new line and £40 for a moving-home deal with Sky Digital. Is there not some kind of disturbance allowance to compensate me?

Having to move out and set up again (even though it's likely to be only 50m away) is frustrating as the course is intensive enough and nights during relaxation periods are often used for revision and study. – **Sgt PA Martin, Arborfield.**

single personnel to move their own home. It is not designed to cover moves from or to single Service accommodation.

Having had extra facilities installed in your room it is obviously annoying to have to move. However, implicit agreement and understanding had been given that any further move within the confines of the mess would not attract support from public funds.

In short, you carried out the additions to your room for your own benefit and onward movement does not attract financial recompence.

## PS...

VIEWS published in the September issue on the lack of privacy felt by soldiers in single-living accommodation prompted first a reply from WO1 Gary Miller ("Moaning singlies", Oct) of Abingdon, and then a flurry of responses from others. Here is a sample of what they said:

### Embarrassing

I AM in charge of 12 accommodation blocks and must say that the standard of soldiers we are getting from training is appalling. Gone are the days of early mornings to clear your block jobs, gone are regular inspections. Some may say this is a good thing, but I have, on occasions, escorted contractors into the blocks for repairs and have been embarrassed by the smell and condition of rooms. – SSgt Smith, 14 Signal Regiment.

### Reasonable request

IN response to WO1 (SSI) Miller's letter regarding singlies accommodation, I would like to correct him. Singlies are not asking for four-bedroom semis; they are asking to be moved out of four-man rooms. – Sgt R J Salusbury, British Embassy, Ankara.

### No lifestyle change

IN response to "Singlies private spaces" (Sept), a valid point was made, although inspections should continue to ensure that all accommodation is serviceable.

Soldiers should not have to change their lifestyle in order for this check to be carried out (i.e. present your living accommodation as you live in it).

Responsibility does not have to be left in the workplace but can be carried back into the living accommodation, where all block problems could be addressed by the designated living-in block senior. This would ensure that singlies' accommodation is given maximum privacy. – SSgt R A Hamilton REME, Tidworth.

### Happy medium

WO1 Miller's view regarding room inspections is detrimental to singlies' quality of life, or lack of it. Clean and tidy doesn't quite sum up the standard expected for a room inspection; spotless and immaculate is more like the level we are encouraged to achieve.

I believe the flat or block seniors who live-in with the singlies should be responsible for ensuring that a happy medium exists on both sides of the fence. – LCpl T Townsend, Osnabruck.

### Little or no right

I AM 32 and pay rent, as do married soldiers, yet as a singlie have little or no right to say what happens in my accommodation. Would Mr Miller like to be told how many beers he may keep in his fridge or be subjected to three separate block inspections in one week? I don't think so. – Cpl S G Toon, BFPO 47.



## Please can my husband in Falklands have some leave?

I AM wondering why my husband is in the Falkland Islands for six months and not entitled to R&R. We have a very young child and by the time my husband gets back she will not know him.

I know what I write will not bring him home to us, but I think they should rethink the leave aspects for couples in the same situation. Even a week would be enough. — Army wife (name and address supplied).



**J1 Plans PJHQ responds:** Personnel in the Falkland Islands are not entitled to R&R. Instead the MoD has allowed the concession of

Authorised Absence, which is a privilege, not an entitlement, and which allows personnel the option to leave the Falklands for a variety of locations depending on the length of the detachment.

Recently (as from September 1), HQ BFFI was given authority for those on detachments or postings of six months or more to have the option of taking Authorised Absence in the UK (subject to force commitments and RAF flight availability). Consequently, personnel on a six-month detachment/posting may take between five and seven days Authorised Absence in the UK, Chile or Ascension Island, depending on RAF flight schedules, weather, aircraft serviceability and Service priorities.

Personnel may also opt to take their Authorised Absence in the Falklands at a number of facilities, including Hillside Camp for adventurous training.

## If you want to go AIP, log on here

I HAVE been informed that, under Pay 2000, the Royal Air Force can qualify for Accelerated Increment Progression (AIP).

This, I understand, is based on the attainment of relevant qualifications. I would be grateful for more information on this and confirmation of any such scheme within the Army. — Name and address supplied.



**HQ AG Media Ops responds:** PS10(A) have advised that the sender should speak directly to his Regimental Admin Officer or look on the internet for information about Accelerated Increment Progression (AIP). Go to [www.army.mod.uk/servingsoldier](http://www.army.mod.uk/servingsoldier)

## Op Basilica team denied a medal

I AM writing with regard to the qualification for the Operational Service Medal (OSM) for service in Sierra Leone. In March 1999 I deployed to Sierra Leone on the original Op Basilica.

I was part of a small team that inserted into Freetown to set up a training camp and to instruct the first 24 potential instructors for the new Sierra Leone Army.

During the six-week deployment we received 35 tons of weapons and equipment, set up the training camp and proceeded to train the men who then went on to instruct new recruits for the Sierra Leone Army.

In the months leading up to the deployment the security of the country had deter-

iorated rapidly and on January 6, 1999, rebel forces entered Freetown. Several thousand people were killed and up to 90 per cent of the buildings in the eastern suburbs destroyed.

ECOMOG forces, led by Nigeria, stabilised the situation and a ceasefire was signed in May 1999.

With reference to the qualifying criteria regarding the OSM for service in Sierra Leone, it seems nothing happened there before 2000.

As described, it wasn't exactly a stable country in early 1999. I take nothing away from the people who deployed in 2000 but I would like to know why the people who did deploy earlier have been ignored.

— Name and address supplied.

**PS12(A) responds in consultation with the Defence Services Secretariat:** It is with much sympathy that we have to inform personnel serving in Sierra Leone (SL) during the period in question that they do not qualify for the Operational Service Medal.

The process for calculating the start and end date for any British medal is arguably the most important factor. In the case of the OSM for Sierra Leone, debate has and remains extremely detailed concerning the unfortunate Servicemen and women who will inevitably fall outside the medal's eventual criteria.

The debate starts with the medal sponsor (in this case PJHQ), moves across all three Services, up to the MoD, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Honours, Decorations and Medals Committee. We can assure those involved that the Short-Term

Training Teams (STTTs) were considered for the award but were rejected.

To understand the rationale behind this decision we have completed some research on their behalf. First, the political state in Sierra Leone between May 1999 and May 2000, prior to the start of Operation Palliser, was considered stable enough not to warrant an award. Secondly, PJHQ would have taken the lead in the decision of May 5, 2000 to be the start date for the award.

Finally, you must ask yourself the question raised by Defence Services Secretariat: Were you simply doing your job away from your family and the creature comforts of home; and was your life at significantly greater risk than that of other Servicemen and women carrying out similar deployments and duties in other countries, for which compensation is simply the payment of the X-factor?

— Name and address supplied.

## This pension delay is

A RECENT note on daily orders regarding changes to the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) highlights the fact that it requires modernising.

It's proposed that pension accrual begin from the day personnel join up, and that pensions will be based on final salary. The note also indicated that, due to the complexity and the need for a new IT framework, the earliest the new scheme could be introduced would be 2005-06.

It did little to convince personnel that the delays in introduction are not an attempt to reduce cost, similar to tactics used by the MoD in the past.

The MoD has been reviewing these issues for four years, surely sufficient time for the team to overcome even the most

complex problems. The delay reflects poorly on the Government and the MoD. The will to produce a fair scheme for all is lacking. — Name and address supplied.



**Service Personnel Policy Plans:** We do recognise that it has taken longer than originally expected to conduct the reviews of the AFPS and compensation arrangements, but believe it is important to get our proposals right. The delay in introducing the new scheme is not a way to save money, as both the current scheme and future scheme are designed to cost the same.

The new scheme is primarily aimed at new entrants, who will automatically join it as they are recruited. Current members of the Armed Forces will have the opportunity to transfer to the new scheme if they wish, or remain on

## THEN AND THEN



### 50 YEARS AGO

From Soldier, December 1952: Every member of the Army team, above, which beat First Division side Aston Villa 3-1, is on the books of a Football League side. They have a combined transfer fee of more than £100,000.

Thanks to National Service, the Army fielded (back, from left) Pte W Webb RAOC (Leicester City), Pte W E Gunter RAOC (Portsmouth), Pte A V Marchi RAOC (Spurs), Pte W Fraser REME (Airdrieonians), Gr G Twentyman (Carlisle Utd), Pte D J Hines RAOC (Leicester City). Front: Gnr R Simpson (Hudders-

### 25 YEARS AGO

From Soldier, December 1977: Marriage problems now account for over 30 per cent of all cases handled by SSAFA social workers. And one of the big causes of breakdowns is young soldiers being forced to take on a second job to make ends meet, the 91st annual meeting of the organisation was told.

field), Gnr G E Nutt (Coventry City), Pte A Kaye RAMC (Barnsley), LCpl A E Fenton, 14/20 King's Hussars (Blackpool), captain, and Pte J Parry, 2nd Sherwood Foresters (Derby County).

## poor show

the current scheme. It will be a matter for each to consider which best meets their needs; a detailed communication programme will provide the information on which to make this judgement (a new booklet has already been launched).

Introduction of the new scheme is dependent on the new Joint Personnel Administration System (JPAS). This is because the new scheme is final salary and will therefore need access to individual's pay history, which is not currently held centrally. Before any new scheme can be introduced new legislation is required and this will also take some time.

We plan to have completed the Cabinet-level approvals process by early next year and will then be able to inform all personnel of the final recommendations. Detailed work on the scheme rules, administration and communications programme will then begin.

## Respect for past is sadly lacking

A letter to the *Daily Mail* on the 60th anniversary of El Alamein noted that the Australian and Polish governments made funds available to veterans from those countries to travel to North Africa.

The British Government, which exists only because of turning-point battles such as El Alamein, paid nothing. The Army supplied a bugler but the organisers had to pay £1,800 towards his travel.

I am disgusted that a regiment or corps — or the MoD — couldn't fund the bugler's trip as a mark of respect to the occasion. It is a sad indictment of the Services that there is little respect for the past endeavours of Servicemen. — WO2 (RQMS) R E Darkin RAMC.

## PS . . .

### No medal for crew

IN reply to Richard Scott ("Our war in Malaya", Sept), I served with HMS *Crane* in Malaya from 1955-56 as the soldiers' artillery — wherever, whenever. Once the Army requested a bombardment we complied for as long as it took, but unlike Mr Scott, we never received the Malayan General Service Medal (GSM).

HM ships were required to be at sea for 28 days before they could be awarded the said GSM, unless you happened to be based at HMS *Terror*, Singapore.

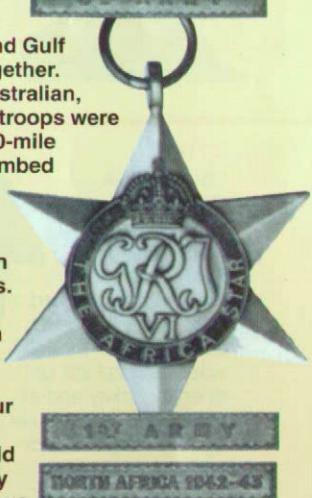
In the same issue of *Soldier* the Suez Medal 1951-54 was again mentioned. Those troops who served in the Canal Zone should without a doubt be awarded a medal. After all, in the past medals have been awarded for Rhodesian monitors and service on Ascension Island. Why? Where's the justice?

The ship's company of HMS *Crane* did get the NGSM although the bar read "Near East" not "Suez". — B C Lilley, ex-Sgt RAF, South Glamorgan.

### Remember Tobruk

I HAVE been following the appeals of veterans for a Suez medal. Good luck to them if they get it. When it comes to medals, does anybody remember the Siege of Tobruk? The longest in British history, it lasted 242 days, probably longer than the Suez, Falklands and Gulf campaigns put together.

Some 35,000 Australian, British and Indian troops were trapped inside a 30-mile perimeter wire, bombed daily by Stukas and continually attacked on the perimeter by Italian and German forces. Of those that were trapped fewer than 23,000 came out. We don't ask for a medal — a bar to our Africa Star would suffice — but I would be surprised if they have ever heard of us either. — J Lightfoot, ex-RTR, Fife.



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### Marine Bike Band

YOUR report on the Edinburgh Tattoo (Oct) contains errors in respect of the photo captions. What you describe as the Household Cavalry (bottom right) is the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, with the gentleman in the white bearskin (unique to RSDG) carrying the Guidon.

Also, bottom left, surely shows the Dutch Bicycle Band changed into their full ceremonial uniforms, not the USMC Band. I hope you don't mind me pointing it out. — Steve Walkley, Fort Halstead.

# Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

**Richard Wilson,  
formerly RAMC**

I was stationed in Singapore and, although we celebrated Christmas, it was New Year that was special to us. I went to a party hosted by a much-hated corporal, but who turned out to be a good chap. At midnight he had a piper play the lament under the Far Eastern night sky. It was beautiful and I cried buckets. • See My Army – Page 34



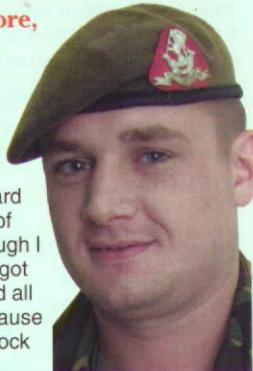
**Maj Jim Mowle,  
HQ 4 Div, RLC**

My first Christmas away from home was in the Gulf. There was a good atmosphere and Father Christmas put in an appearance. The following year I was in Northern Ireland, stagging on. But I was happy.



**LCpl Jamie Moore,  
1 DWR**

The weirdest Christmas Day I have experienced since joining the Army was spent on ceremonial guard duty at the Tower of London. Even though I was working I still got to enjoy turkey and all the trimmings because the chef forgot to lock the kitchen door.



**Pte Sam Smith,  
AGC att 29 Regt  
RLC**

I spent Christmas in Aldershot as duty dental nurse but had no customers. I was living in the block and was more or less on my own. It was very lonely.



**LCpl Dale Copson,  
QRL**

The most unusual place I've spent Christmas as a soldier was at home. Having spent two Christmases away on tour it was something of a novelty to go home and tuck into a proper turkey dinner.



**Tpr Matthew  
Coleman, QRL**

I once spent an entire Christmas day watching Greek and Turkish soldiers from an observation post in the middle of a field in Cyprus. When you're used to freezing temperatures at home in England it felt



**LCpl Michael  
Harrold, QRL**

Last year I was in Cyprus and spent Christmas Day on the beach. It was very, very hot. We had a BBQ and enjoyed a few drinks... it was great.



**Gnr Kevin Skeels,  
29 Cdo Regt RA**

My first Army Christmas was on patrol in Kosovo. I was on guard over New Year and it snowed. We had a cookhouse at the back of the police station so I did get a Christmas dinner. The chefs played a blinder and made it a bit special. Hats off to them.



**Lance Gerrard-  
Wright,  
aka Mr Right**

I remember having to fly back from leave in England to Germany on Christmas Day 1992 and have an enduring memory of us all sat at the airport wearing Santa hats and feeling very sorry for ourselves. To

cap it all I then spent New Year's Eve standing on a bomb cordon in the market square in Dungannon, Northern Ireland. • See Page 18.

Interviews: Ray Routledge and Andy Simms Pictures: Graeme Main and Steve Dock



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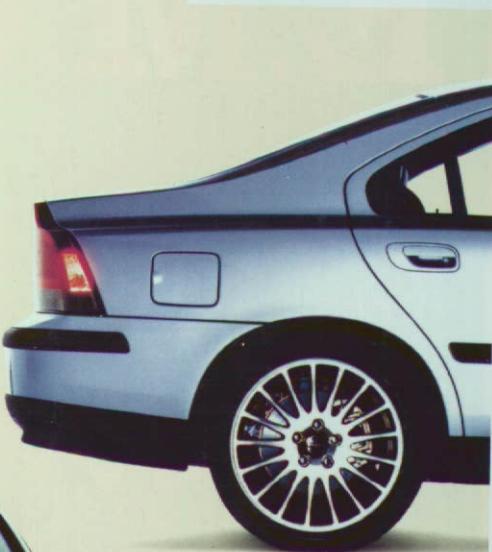


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