

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

November 2000 £2

SOLDIER

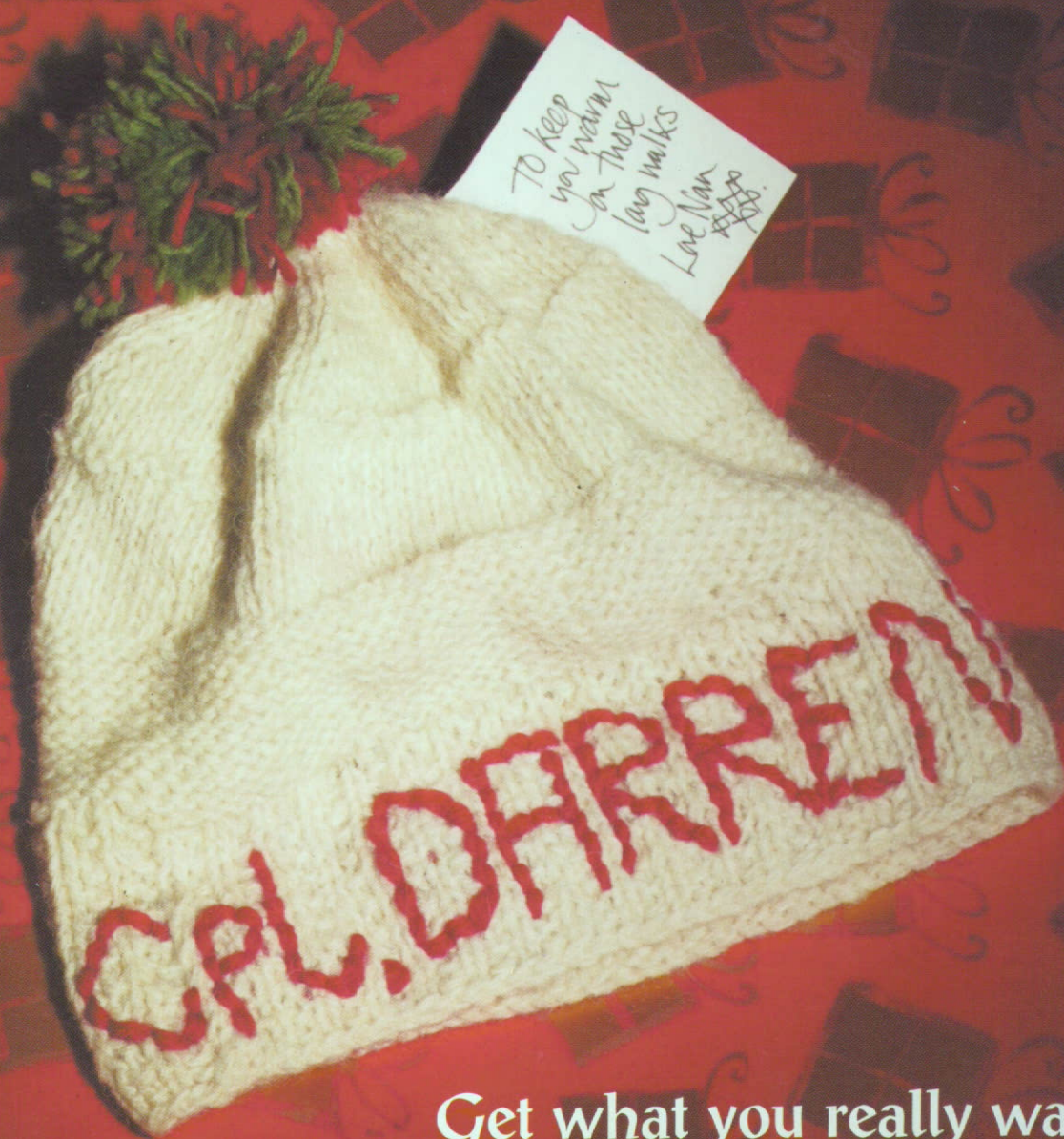
EAGER EAGLES

Battling brigade
at war in Poland

16 Air Assault
spreads its wings

12 Mechanised
gets it together





Get what you really want
this Christmas with a
Warrior Personal Loan from
NAAFI Financial Services

Another year. Another: "Thank you Nan, it's just what I need."

Why not make the most of Christmas this year and get yourself what you really want with a personal loan? We are the UK's only provider of financial services totally dedicated to the Armed Forces, and have branches located 'behind the wire' in the UK, Germany and Cyprus.

Call us free on **00800 21 22 23 24** (UK & Germany)
or **+44 1959 56 89 69** (rest of the world)

Open everyday from 8am - 8pm Monday to
Friday and 9am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

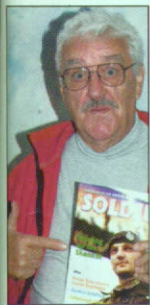
Please, just don't wear that hat...



Calls may be monitored and/or recorded. All loans are subject to status and not available to persons under the age of 18. Written quotations available on request. Loans provided by Warrior Group Limited, Weald House, 88 Main Road, Sundridge, Kent TN14 6HN.



'While we were fixing bayonets, the guy on the right lost control of his and stuck it through my hand ... I was bleeding and Monty insisted I fall out'



— Bernard Cribbins
Pages 40-41

'The needless mess-around factor that all ranks have to endure undermines operational effectiveness' ... two Army recruiters come up with their answer to the current retention problem — Page 70

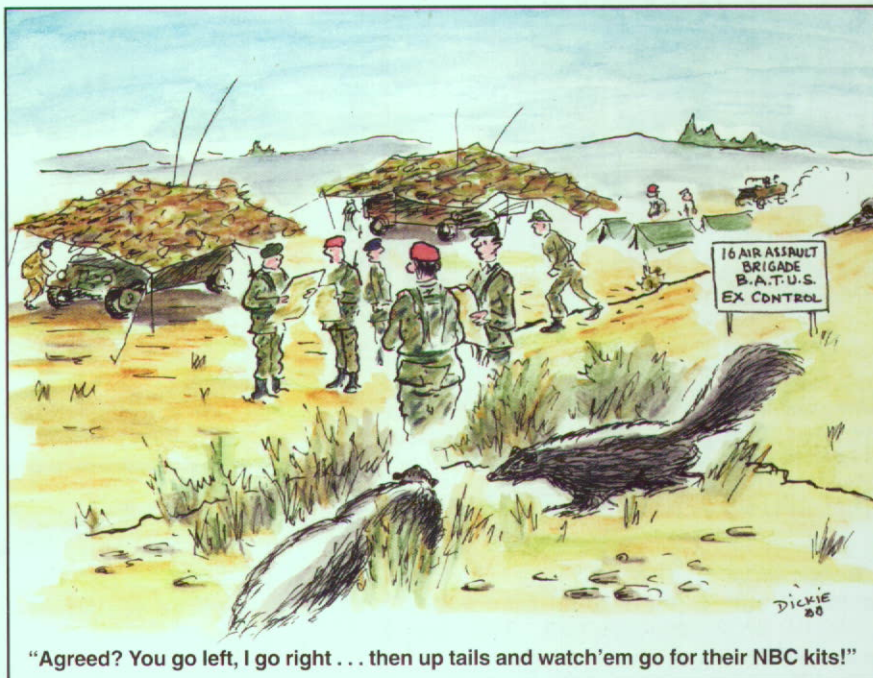


26-27 Cover story

Pte Andrew "Dinga" Bell, 2 RGJ, on guard with his radio pack while his colleagues maintained their vehicles during Exercise Ulan Eagle in Poland.

Picture: Graeme Main

How to contact *Soldier*
— see Page 74



● 16 Air Assault Brigade lands at BATUS, Canada — Pages 4-5 and 14-15

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine

4 16 Air Assault on the prairie

New brigade sharpens its claws on Exercise Iron Hawk

18 Party-time patrollers

Military police take safety option in Cyprus's hot-spots

22 12 Mech Bde gets together

Competitive bonding for new deployable formation

29 Meet the 'pocket rocket'

Soldier aims to compete in British Rally Championships

31 Getting back to normal

More security bases to close in Northern Ireland

33 Safe as a Rock regiment

Royal Gibaltars provide security and ceremonial

37 Life in a very big freezer

Focus on the military detachment on South Georgia

40 My Army: Bernard Cribbins

National Serviceman served with 3 Para in Palestine

42 Northern Ireland images

Top photographer was fired by his own enthusiasm

74 Vox pop

Should women be allowed to fight in the front line?

PLUS 17 Chip cartoons 21 Cyprus: adventure island 25 Kitstop 35 Gibraltar's secret tunnels 38 Penhale Camp 44 Issues 46 Sport 64 Diary 66 Bulletin board 68 Book reviews 70 Mailbag

SOLDIER to soldier

ToPaS's got you covered

THE Ministry of Defence's apparent lack of interest in helping soldiers — or civilians — injured on duty by a third party is a bone of contention.

Although many think it blatantly unjust, the fact is that the MoD (in common with other departments) may only pay compensation or involve itself in claims where it has a legal liability to do so.

It has no authority to pay compensation or to fund a legal action on a claimant's behalf.

A new scheme, outlined on Page 11, should redress the balance. ToPaS offers no-cost legal services to MoD personnel injured by a third party while on duty.

It covers a wide range of circumstances, from road traffic accidents to tripping and slipping, injuries caused by contractors, negligence and assault.

The MoD, long seen by its staff as the bad guy in third party injuries, is delighted by ToPaS and will be promoting it widely via DCIs, posters, paylips and on the intranet.

Between the lines

Gen Sir Mike Jackson, C-in-C Land Command, shared his choice of reading matter when he dropped in on Exercise Iron Hawk at the British Army Training Unit Suffield in Alberta, Canada.

Gen Jackson, who has been taking *Soldier* for the past four decades, told our reporter: "I think you have got your tone right, which is not always an easy thing to strike home on."

"I read it avidly, and have done for nearly 40 years. But I am rather older than today's soldiers and I may not represent their views entirely."

"You were voted best in-house magazine this year and that pretty much says it all. My impression is that the boys enjoy it ... it gets well read."

You wouldn't argue with Gen Jackson, would you?

● Iron Hawk — Pages 4-5.

Iron Hawk sharpens its claws

A revolutionary exercise hosted by the British Army Training Unit Suffield proved a watershed for innovative war games

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

CONSIDERING he was in the middle of a major battle, Maj Gen Richard Dannatt seemed remarkably composed.

He stood in front of the large-scale map on the bird table, left hand in his trouser pocket, feet together at the ankles, almost imperceptibly rocking on the balls of his feet. After digesting the latest intelligence report, he picked up the black phone from the table and issued an order.

Then he returned to silent contemplation of the map.

Outside the headquarters tent of 3 (United Kingdom) Division, the sun was beginning to rise over the snow-dusted prairies of Alberta, Canada, its rays warming the faces and fingers of troops who had spent the night in the field defending key positions.

Their victory or defeat, as well as the immediate fate of thousands of other troops, rested with the tactical decisions being made by Gen Dannatt. Tension in the HQ tent rose along with the throat-tickling dust kicked off the ground by dozens of boots, causing the halogen light to diffuse into an electric orange haze.

Telephone calls were made and received, intelligence reports assessed and map-markers moved.

Once it began, the shooting war was over quickly. The general's manoeuvres had found and fixed the opposing force, putting it in a position where his troops could deliver the coup de grâce. Victory was his and, thanks to digital technology, the defining moments of the battle could be replayed and dissected. There are few places to hide on the prairie... even for a commander.

The battle was the culmination of Exercise Iron Hawk - 15 days of live-firing followed by five days of tactical engagement simulation (TES), leading to a five-day divisional exercise.

Until now the rolling prairies used by the British Army Training Unit Suffield

(BATUS) have been the backdrop for high-intensity armoured warfare training. This year 3 (UK) Division, nicknamed the Iron Division and the only operational division in the UK, went to Canada with two of the new Joint Rapid Reaction Force Lead Task Forces.

The Lead Aviation Task Force, based around the Lynx anti-tank

helicopters of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps, joined up with infantry, artillery and engineer assets under the command of 16 Air Assault Brigade.

Scimitar and Striker tracked reconnaissance vehicles of the Household Cavalry Regiment played a major part in the Lead Reconnaissance Task Force, which along with infantry, artillery and engineer assets fell

under command of 1 Reconnaissance Brigade.

After separate training, the two task forces got together for the final divisional exercise. The programme, designed to test the future possibilities of deploying brigades and task forces onto the prairie, was the first truly

joint Service exercise at BATUS, with helicopters and the RAF's Support Helicopter Force taking part.

It was a huge undertaking involving more than 4,000 soldiers, but the giant stage was more than up to the challenge.

Gen Sir Mike Jackson, Commander-in-Chief Land Command, who, with Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, visited BATUS during the final stages of Iron Hawk, said: "The training area on the Canadian prairie is larger than all other training areas we have access to put together and there are very few restrictions, thanks to the host government. It offers high-intensity training that can't be done anywhere else."

"Iron Hawk is an expansion of BATUS. We are using avia-

tion in a way that has not been brought in before. It is a different force mix. Gen Jackson described the exercise as a "watershed".

"This, I'm sure, is a pointer to a more innovative use of the facility. We are using the exercise as a testbed for new ideas to do with deep battle... how you get into an enemy's entrails."

One of the men who has helped BATUS move into this new role is Col Hamish Macdonald, who took up his appointment as commander of the training base at the beginning of 1998.

Under his stewardship, a vehicle tracking system capable of plotting the movements, in real time, of Army vehicles on the prairie has been developed. Informa-

tion from Direct Fire Weapons Effect Simulators can also be fed into the system so commanders can see not only where their vehicles are, but whether their crews are "alive" or not.

This clever tracking device had its genesis in a Calgary taxi firm, which used the technology to keep tabs on its vehicles as they touted for business.

"The thing about training in Western Canada," said Col Macdonald, "is that not only is it affordable, but the Canadians are delighted to see us as long as we look after the environment. We can train out here in what is the ultimate military theme park."

Not so long ago, troops who played the enemy on these exercises invariably came

Ready and able: A Company, 1 R Irish board a Chinook after taking part in a Lynx refuelling exercise. Troops secured the landing pointing and refuelled and rearmed Lynx helicopters in a matter of minutes

in for a good kicking. There was no way they could win. But at BATUS the OPFOR (Opposing Force) doesn't roll over for anyone.

For Iron Hawk, OPFOR was based on 2 Royal Tank Regiment in UK reconnaissance vehicles adapted to present a different enemy silhouette.

Such is the soldierly pride in OPFOR's tactics (practice makes them very tough to beat) that the troops have had t-shirts printed extolling their skills.

On the prairies that were once home to nomadic Indian hunter-gatherers, the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter will swoop down in 2002 and bring a new edge to the Iron Division. Although still undergoing trials at Boscombe Down back in Wiltshire, its mighty presence was felt hovering over the exercise.

Instead, Lynx was used to replicate Apache in a procedural and tactical sense. "We can't pretend Lynx is Apache, otherwise we wouldn't be buying Apache," said Gen Jackson. "That aircraft is a step change in capability."

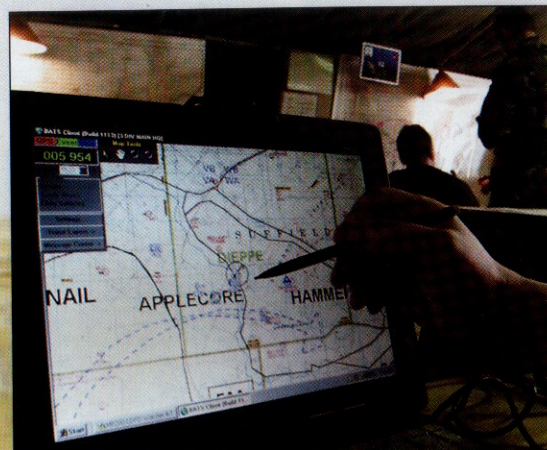
Apache will be the jewel in 16 Air Assault Brigade's crown. Formed just over a year ago, the brigade has, in the words of Gen Jackson, "come a long way in a very short time".

Brig Peter Wall, the Brigade Commander, said: "There's only a small part of the brigade here, but the bit we have got, that's to say 3 AAC including elements of 1 R Irish, has done extremely well."

"This has been an invaluable exercise and an excellent investment for Land Command. If I had the chance to come back again in a developmental way, bringing more of the brigade and linking the exercise with the training area at Wainwright with more RAF numbers, we would make more progress."

"I'd like to come back here with Lynx and I would certainly like to come back here in a couple of years with Apache to put the system through its paces."

● More pictures - Page 14-15



Keeping tabs: The BATUS asset tracking system or BATS monitors the vehicles taking part in the exercise



Future pointer: Gen Sir Mike Jackson said the exercise was a watershed



Excellent investment: Brig Peter Wall looks forward to returning

E.M.C TAX FREE



Europe's Largest Tax Free Specialist

Europe's No.1 Tax Free Specialists

Audi
BMW
Citroën
Ford
Lotus
Mercedes
Seat
Vauxhall
Volkswagen



Ring & Save
££££'s

Let us show you
an easier way of
buying your
Tax Free car with
no small print.

**TAX FREE
NEW**

FOR EXPORT ONLY IF POSTED OVERSEAS
&

**TAX PAID
NEW &
USED**

www.emctaxfree.com

For more details and to order
call **Wayne, Simon and Sam**

UK FREEPOST (BR 1394)
CAVENDISH BRIDGE, EASTBOURNE BN21 5TD

UK Phone 01323 739675

UK Fax 01323 734560

German Freephone 08001 860183/ 08001 827633

E.M.C TAX FREE

People, places, events

UN to issue six medals for Africa and Georgia

SIX new United Nations awards are in the process of being issued, although the MoD is reminding British Servicemen and women that neither the medal ribbon nor the medal may be worn until the Queen has given her approval.

Following a number of international operations, all but one of them in Africa,

the UN is in the course of awarding medals for service in the Congo (MONUC), East Timor (UNTAET), East Timor (UNAMET), Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) and Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and Georgia (UNOMIG).

Following the submission of a paper to the Sovereign on the UN Mission in Georgia, the Honours, Awards and Decorations

Committee is waiting on approval. Publication of a Defence Council Instruction (DCI) is expected in the near future.

Before it can begin the process on the five Africa awards, the MoD has to seek information from the UN about the regulations for the Africa medals, which can take anything up to a year.

Coldstream help out as hurricane hammers Belize

COLDSTREAM Guardsmen helped put Belize back on its feet 48 hours after the former British colony narrowly avoided catastrophic damage as a hurricane scythed past.

Soldiers from 7 Company undergoing jungle training in the west of the country were put at the disposal of the Belize government as the population braced itself for Hurricane Keith.

"We were primarily responsible for the distribution of food and essential supplies," said company commander Maj William Tower. "Our main effort was to get supplies to the more extensively damaged areas of the island."

His 140 soldiers handed out thousands of food parcels and later erected tented accommodation for people whose homes had been destroyed.

Although high winds and downpours lashed the north-west coast, which received 26 inches of rain in a single day, the island escaped the worst of the storm as the hurricane veered to within 30 miles of Belize. The only deaths were believed to be seven fishermen caught in small boats in the open sea.

According to CSM Peter Carr, a third

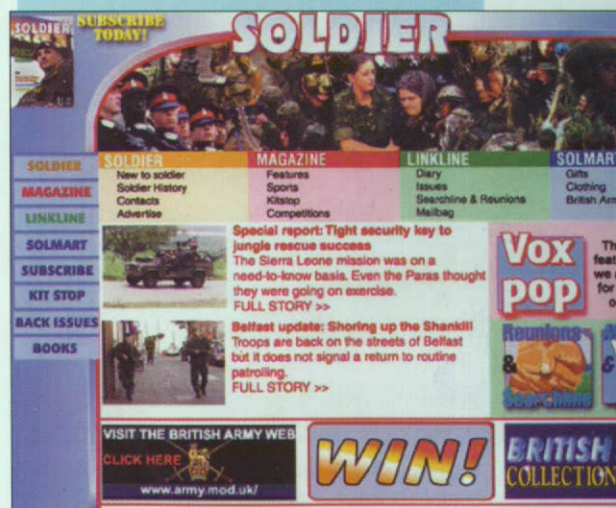


Helping hand: Gdsm Mick Colborn weighs out rice

of the island's buildings were affected by the gales, the main damage being inflicted on roof tiles and wooden huts.

Helicopters from 25 Flight AAC, based permanently in Belize, and HMS Cardiff swept the north-west to search for stranded people and moved men and emergency supplies and equipment to two badly-hit islands off the coast.

Check us out on the web



OUR new website is up-and-running at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk and contains nearly 50 pages of news, views and useful information. Each month the site will include our top stories, a splash of sports features, a selection of letters from our Mailbag pages and our reunion and searchline listings (giving them a new dimension to our audience).

It will take a month or two for the main search engines to work out that our new site is no longer "under construction", but you can bypass them and go straight to www.soldiermagazine.co.uk. You can also find us at the hotlink on the British Army website at www.army.mod.uk

Springfield, Bosnia

A NEW heliport facility at Banja Luka Metal Factory has been formally opened by Maj Gen Rick Hillier, Commander Multinational Division (South West). Construction of the site, named "Multinational Springfield Ops" in honour of TV cartoon character Bart Simpson's home town, was completed by elements of 2 Troop, 4 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment.

IN BRIEF

● Following a massive seven-month charity drive based on the **1st (UK) Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment** at Herford, Germany and supported by **14th Signal Regiment** and **3 DSR**, a cheque for nearly £13,500 has been handed over to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Exercise Silver Child III, the brainchild of WO1 (RSM)

Chris Hymas, is run every three years. It culminated in a three-day race from Sutton Coldfield to the hospital, involving soldiers running, cycling, trailer-pushing and, finally, kayaking down the Thames.



● Joggers, left, pass a checkpoint on the 30th **Cyprus Walkabout**, won for the sixth time by Maj Andy Twell, competing with the Defence Medical Service Training Centre team from Aldershot. There was a record entry for the 90km marathon.

Scotland challenge



Shopping for soldiers: Tourists and bargain-hunters in Edinburgh were stopped in their tracks when a Challenger 2 tank belonging to The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards thundered down Princes Street with Lord Provost Eric Milligan in command. The regiment, based in Germany, was on a recruiting drive in Scotland for the 101 soldiers it needs to form a new squadron. Picture: Maj Jim Gallagher

Carry on, Sarge



The name sounds familiar: Cpl Billy Scott, centre, has been promoted sergeant... the same rank as brothers Ian, left, and Tom. What makes it even more unusual is that all three TA soldiers are now serving together in Coventry-based 126 Port and Reclamation Company REME (V).

PWO sent to Sierra Leone

MORE Army training teams are to be sent to Sierra Leone to help the West African state's embryonic military force to take on rebels from the Revolutionary United Front.

Replacing the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment team at Benguema training camp, 25 miles south of Freetown, at the end of last month were men of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

The Royal Irish took over from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, which arrived at the bush-surrounded infantry training centre in June as the Royal Marines were withdrawing at the end of Operation Palliser, the Parachute Regiment-led mission to extract British nationals from the crisis-torn country. A further two training teams will be sent to the Sierra Leone.

Announcing the continued British military assistance, Defence Minister Baroness Symons said the package of aid would include equipment support, the offer of officers to fill staff appointments in the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) headquarters, and the provision of an operational-level headquarters to command the UK effort and give high-level operational advice to the Sierra Leone Army.

ACF needs your support

THE Army Cadet Force is looking for adult leaders to act as its officers and NCOs. ACF spokesman Lt Col Martin Newman said: "We need people with enthusiasm, energy and a genuine interest in helping young people to get the most out of life." For details, ring 0845 6007799 or visit www.armycadets.com



Clown prince: LCpl Daniel Pincott donned greasepaint to entertain youngsters at the 7th Signal Regiment weekend barbecue in Krefeld, Germany to celebrate the 31st anniversary of the regiment.

Three days of fun began with the barbecue, moved to Burg Linn Castle for a

British country fair, and finished with Ascot Day at the Krefeld Rennbahn, where the racecard included the 7th Signal Regiment Stakes. The celebrations were among the last official functions for commanding officer Lt Col David Jones, who has handed over to Lt Col Jim Richardson. Picture: Caroline Evans

IN BRIEF

- Soldiers from Deepcut and Aldershot are carrying out physiological experiments at high altitude during an expedition to remote Inca ruins and isolated villages in the High Andes. Maj Nic Pratchek is leading a team of ten from 25 Training Support Regiment RLC to conduct experiments into blood pressure and heart rates.

- The Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, is to be rebuilt under a 25-year contract signed with Realm Services (DAC) Ltd, which runs the centre. A new headquarters building and living accommodation are to be ready by the end of next year under the Private Finance Initiative.



Touching moment

Pat for the pony: The Queen meets Cruachan, Shetland pony mascot of the The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, during a parade to mark the Sovereign's arrival at Balmoral, holiday home of the Royal Family. The Queen, escorted by guard commander Maj James Scott, right, is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment.

The Pony Major, left, is LCpl Colin McMurray.

For the second year in succession, the Argylls provided the Royal Guard of four officers and 80 soldiers for the three-month Royal stay in Scotland, traditionally taken from the end of July to the middle of October.

While based at Victoria Barracks in Ballater, the Argylls provided a military guard, took part in ceremonial parades, supported the Balmoral estate team and competed locally in mini-Highland games.

Amnesty brings a deadly harvest

SOLDIERS of Burma Company, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment ended their tour of Bosnia on a high note, persuading many local people to hand in for destruction a huge hoard of weapons.

Project Harvest resulted in 569 guns, 7,958 rounds of ammunition, 250 hand and rifle grenades and 68 rocket launchers and explosive devices being surrendered.

Ops officer Capt Matt Walker said the weapons represented the removal of a potential human tragedy from the community.

"To see the number of local people who turned their weapons in to us made us proud of our information campaign. The arms will be destroyed," he said.

Lethal crop: KORBR troops, right, with some of the surrendered weapons

Picture: Cpl Robert Lidstone, Canadian Forces



- A memorial garden in the shape of a shamrock, left, has been unveiled at Ballykelly by the Duke of York to honour the 27 soldiers of the 5th (County Londonderry) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment killed by terrorist action in the past 30 years. He also presented new Colours to the battalion, which is to disband on December 31.

Return to Arnhem



"Multinationality" in action: Almost 56 years to the day after British airborne troops parachuted on to Ginkelse Heide, near Arnhem, during Operation Market-Garden, Maj Tristan Forster, Para, right, takes part in a joint exercise on the same drop zone with Dutch, German and Belgian paratroopers serving with the Multinational Division (Central) (MND(C)).

They were taking part in an interoperability exercise to establish that the Nato airmobile division's different national elements could use each other's equipment, transport each other's vehicles and refuel each other's aircraft. The exercise involved German and British Tornados, Belgian and Dutch F16 Hornets, and Belgian and Dutch C130 Hercules, and was supported by Javelin-equipped 214 Battery, part of 104 Air Defence Regiment RA(V).

By using Belgian harnesses, soldiers from C Company, 2 Para earned their Belgian "wings". The exercise also provided the setting for the Honourable Artillery Company's annual exercise, for which the HAC's Sabre squadrons were inserted in advance.

Picture: Sgt G Allison

nn Gallagher, Paul Fryer, Michael Smy
obin Davis, Roy Hunt, Tony Steed, Jam
m Kelly, Andrew Knott, George Lamb
awrence Perry, Edward Smith, Charles
obert Niccols, Ralph Adams, Henry Bi
archie Gardiner, Richard Groves, Nicho

The greatest Act of Remembrance

...is to remember The Royal British Legion
with a gift in your Will.

When you wear a poppy in November, it is natural to stop and remember the brave people who sacrificed everything for our freedom.

But the Poppy is more than the emblem of Remembrance, it is a symbol of hope for the future. The Royal British Legion keeps that hope alive by providing care and support for thousands of ex-Service men and women. But we can't do it without your help.

The Poppy Appeal only raises half the funds we need each year, so the money we receive from legacies is vital.

The number of people who turn to us for help continues to grow. In fact, British troops are currently serving in 28 conflicts around the world. By remembering the Legion with a gift in your Will, you would not only be paying tribute to all those who gave so much in the past, you would be ensuring that the Legion is there for the people who will need our support in the future.

For a FREE copy of our new Will Guide, please call Perdita Chamberlain on 020 7973 7297. Or, complete the coupon below and return it to: The Royal British Legion, FREEPOST [SW1345], Dept FR, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5YT.

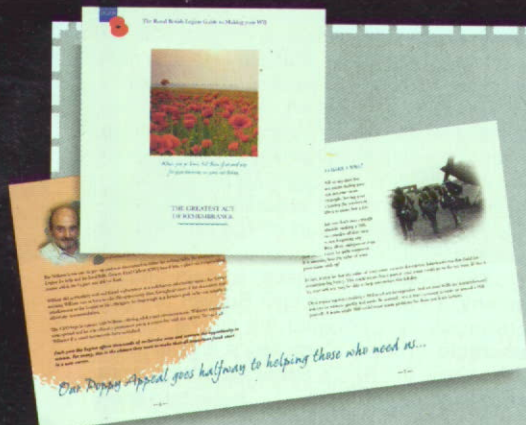
Please send me my FREE Will Guide.

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



SOL2

Registered charity number 219279

Now our loyal army of readers can find us online at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Servicemen injured on duty will get no-win, no-fee legal assistance

A SCHEME to provide legal help to Service personnel and MoD civil servants injured by third parties while on duty will be widely welcomed.

Under common law, the MoD has no liability in these circumstances, and it is the individual's responsibility to pursue a compensation claim, without any help from the department.

Now, in response to widespread dissatisfaction, a no-win-no-fee legal assistance scheme is to be introduced. ToPaS – Third Party Accident Scheme – as it is to be called, will be operated by Betesh Fox and Company, a firm of solicitors specialising in personal injury claims.

ToPaS, which applies only to the UK at this stage, covers any accident where injury occurs (not small claims), road traffic accidents, tripping and slipping cases, injuries caused by contractors, negligence by third parties and assaults. Claims against the MoD are excluded.

In the event of injury by a third party while on duty, MoD staff – Service or civilian – may contact Betesh Fox to obtain immediate advice and assistance free of charge. Legal costs will be reclaimed as part of the compensation awarded by the insurance company or, if the matter goes to trial, by the courts. If the action is unsuccessful, there will be no charge to the MoD or the individual.

Until a Defence Council Instruction on the scheme is published, anyone wishing to use ToPaS should contact the MoD's Directorate of Claims and Legal on 020 7807 0044.



Ranging far and wide: Challenger 2 tanks lead a convoy of armoured vehicles along the newly-opened 26.5km southern range road on Salisbury Plain Training Area.

The £13m highway, opened to military traffic by Maj Gen Brian Plummer, Director General Training and Support, follows the southern boundary of Salisbury Plain (West), ending at Westdown Camp. It cuts

through a live-firing area and is not open to the public.

Varying in width from 6m on straight stretches to 12m on bends, and with passing areas every 500m, the road will help to protect fauna, flora and archaeological sites on the chalk downlands and take heavy military traffic away from villages on the edge of the area. Picture: Sgt Richard Dawson

Troops pour in to aid flooded South

AS torrential downpours and devastating flooding brought misery to many parts of Kent and Sussex, soldiers from several units based across the region were on standby to lend a hand.

At Tonbridge, 70 men from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment worked long, cold and damp hours to shore up the town's defences and help with evacuations.

In nearby Yalding, soldiers helped firemen to rescue and ferry people to safety after the Beult burst its banks, releasing 4ft of water into homes and shops.

"Forty soldiers from 69 (Ghurkha)

Field Squadron RE, part of 36 Engineer Regiment, deployed to an area between Headcorn, Yalding and Tonbridge in four-tonners and Land Rovers, supported by a dive team and boats," said ops officer Capt Gavin Hatcher. They worked around the clock to transport police and civilians and fill sandbags.

The following afternoon 40 soldiers from 20 Field Squadron RE with medium wheeled and combat tractors went on standby at Maidstone as the barge *The Lady of Kent* threatened to break free.

"Despite their enthusiasm, they weren't required to deploy," said Capt Hatcher.

IN BRIEF

● Following news that the **Bradford & Bingley Building Society** is to be floated on the Stock Exchange at the end of the year, Service account-holders have been reminded that, if they wish to receive windfall shares of about £750, it is their responsibility to ensure their registered address with the society is in a "permitted territory" by December 3. These are the UK, Germany, Hong Kong, France, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Netherlands, South

Africa, Spain and the USA. Not on the list are Cyprus, Gibraltar and the Falklands. The registered address can be changed again after the qualifying date.

● Thirteen Army officers and soldiers and 19 Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps cadets have completed an 11,565-mile journey in eight Army Land Rovers from Cambridge to Cape Town. The *Déjà Blue* expedition was organised to commemorate the

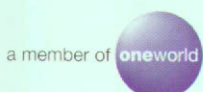
centenary of the Cambridge officer corps battle honour, South Africa 1900-1901, awarded to members of the Cambridge University Rifle Volunteers who served with the Suffolk Regiment during the Boer War.

● Tri-Service staff at the **Joint Arms Control Implementation Group** based at RAF Henlow completed a 60-mile sponsored walk around the Cornish coastal path to raise funds for a children's hospice in Luton.

Absent without leaving you short.

Exclusive discounts for you and your family.

For great savings on British Airways flights, look no further than the MoD Flightline. And what's more, if you recommend a colleague to the Flightline, every month between now and the end of November 2000, you have the chance to win a pair of Club World tickets to any British Airways destination. To book flights or for more information call 0141 226 4321.



Terms & conditions 1. Offer open to MoD personnel and their families only. For full eligibility details call 0141 226 4321. 2. Promotional periods: 01.09.00 – 30.09.00; 01.10.00 – 31.10.00; 01.11.00 – 30.11.00. 3. For each promotional period you can win 1 pair of Club World tickets on any British Airways mainline scheduled service from London Heathrow or London Gatwick which must be taken between 01.01.01 and 31.08.01. 4. No purchase necessary – please call 0141 226 4321. 5. Full terms and conditions available on request – please call 0141 226 4321.

People, places, events



Gnr Maria Davis takes the helm of the *Pintail* with instructor Richie Sunderland keeping an eye on things. She was one of 30 members of 26 Regiment RA who swapped their AS90 guns for sailing instruction in the Baltic on board yachts based at the Army's Sail Training Centre at Kiel.

Find us online at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Soldier on spot to save neighbours

A SOLDIER on leave in Leicester saved two neighbours when fire threatened to sweep through their houses.

Cpl Andrew Whiting AGC was walking to his parents' home late at night when he saw a conifer hedge adjoining the houses in flames. Smoke was seeping into an open bedroom window and he heard a woman coughing.

He hammered at the door until the occupant, a woman suffering from multi-



Cpl Andy Whiting
Picture: Lynn News/Anglia Newspapers

ple sclerosis, woke up, then did the same with the man next door before calling the fire brigade. The woman had already begun to suffer from inhaling smoke.

Cpl Whiting, a former Coldstream Guardsman, is a Regular serving as chief clerk of Leicester-based C (222 EM) Medical Squadron (V), part of the Territorial Army's 4 GS Medical Regiment.

It is thought the hedge was set alight by vandals.

Wives to be asked what they think

ARMY wives – and husbands – are to be given the chance to make known their views on a range of issues which affect their lives.

Topics include stability, mobility, welfare, sources of help, support services, children's schooling, local services, living abroad, and the recognition of unmarried partners.

The Army Families Federation and

SSAFA are sending out a "Changing Attitudes" survey during November to a random selection of serving soldiers, who will be asked to pass them on to their spouses (see Home Truths – Page 45). To find out more, contact the AFF Central Office on 01980 615525 or e-mail us@aff.org.uk or write to the AFF, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 6BE.

Four-tier MQ charge system changed

FOLLOWING an audit of every quarter on the Army's living estate, an exercise which resulted in 13,000 Army personnel paying reduced charges last year, changes have been made to the way accommodation charges are calculated.

The changes acknowledge that some accommodation, notably married quarters, falls below an acceptable standard and lay down a system for regular audits.

Alterations to the four-tier grading regulations, said to be "very good news", affect Service family (SFA) and single living accommodation (SLA).

Significant changes include:

- The practice of grading high-cost area family quarters against a reduced scale has stopped and the quarters revalidated against revised scales.

- A four-year audit period for grading has been laid down to ensure that in future the Army's living estate is regularly validated and that the grading is accurate and fair.

- The requirement to inform occupants of potential changes to their accommodation charge has been made more stringent and a more open policy of informing occupants of deficiency points is to be introduced.

- The MoD has recognised that some accommodation, notably family quarters, is below an acceptable standard and a new zero grading has been introduced for permanent purpose-built quarters.

More spaces to sleep

A SCHEME to make sure former Service personnel do not end up sleeping on the streets has been launched in Catterick Garrison.

Funded by the Government's Rough Sleeping Unit, the SPACES (Single Persons Accommodation Centre) project is being run by the English Churches Housing Group in partnership with the MoD. About a quarter of those sleeping rough have a Forces background.

IN BRIEF

- Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, inspected the first **Gurkha passing-out parade** held at Catterick Garrison since Gurkha training moved from Church Crookham. The first intake of 250 trainees arrived from Nepal in January and moved into the new £7.5m Bhanbhagta Gurung Block.

- **WO2 Maxine Colman**, AGC, pictured right, the only British Army Servicewoman

serving with Nato in Naples at Headquarters Allied Forces Southern Region, assisted 1st Army Association veterans who attended a service of remembrance in the city to honour their comrades killed during the Second World War.



- Troops from **16 Regiment RLC** have said farewell to Bicester, their home for more than 50 years, and, after a disbandment parade, joined other units. The regiment, which had had a presence in the town since 1942, served in the Gulf, Bosnia, Northern Ireland and Kosovo. Its demise came as a result of the Strategic Defence Review.

Wagons roll on prairie

Pictures: Mike Weston

"THIS was a big move in anybody's books," said Capt Paul Scannell, RLC, officer commanding transport and movements at BATUS, the man responsible for the logistic side of Exercise Iron Hawk.

Capt Scannell and his team undertook six months' research to find the best way to get more than 600 vehicles plus 70 containers to the railhead at Suffield, Alberta. The MoD chartered two ships to take the equipment on the ten-day voyage from Marchwood military port, near Southampton, to Montreal.

It was the first time Montreal had been used as a port by the British Army for transporting military kit and trains were specially put together for the move. Canadian railwaymen scoured the US for railcars to make up the 2.7km-long train.

To get the Chinooks in, it was decided to send them by sea to the most westerly point, the port of Churchill on Hudson Bay, which ices over during the winter. From there they flew on to Medicine Hat.

Lynx and Gazelle helicopters were loaded onto massive Antonov transport planes and flown direct to Calgary; troops arrived at the same airport.

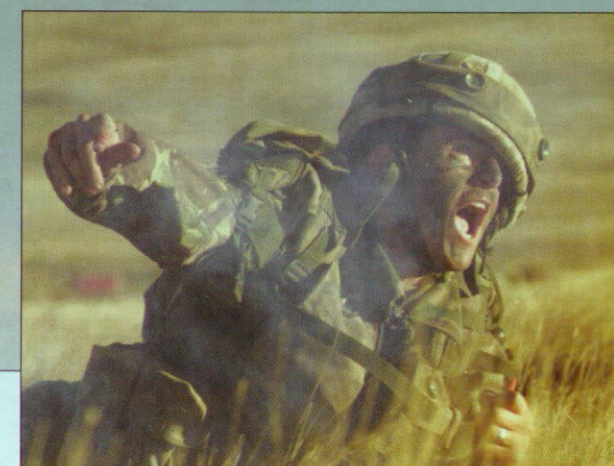
With hundreds of vehicles being imported for the exercise, the Canadians wanted to make sure no soil-borne viruses were carried into the country on equipment. Vehicles which failed the test had to be steam-cleaned at the quayside before they could continue.

To speed up the process, Canadian inspectors deployed to the UK to carry out the work before the vehicles set sail, considerably cutting down on delays.

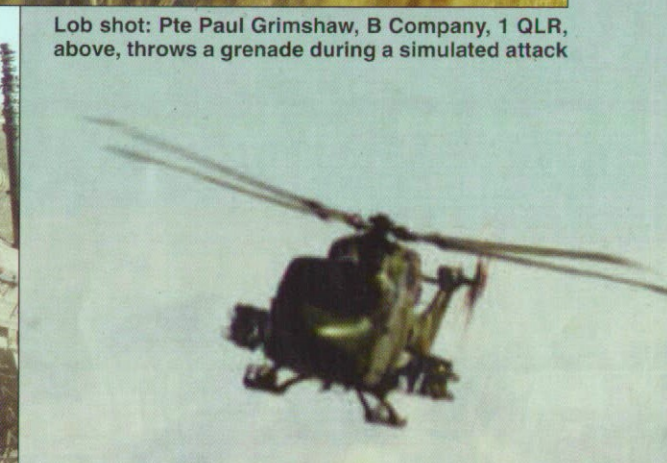


Watching brief: Cpl Scouse Muir, 51 Sqn RE, left, keeps an eye out for enemy troops advancing towards his bridge

Enemy within: Troops from 2 Royal Tank Regiment played the role of OPFOR with considerable stealth and cunning

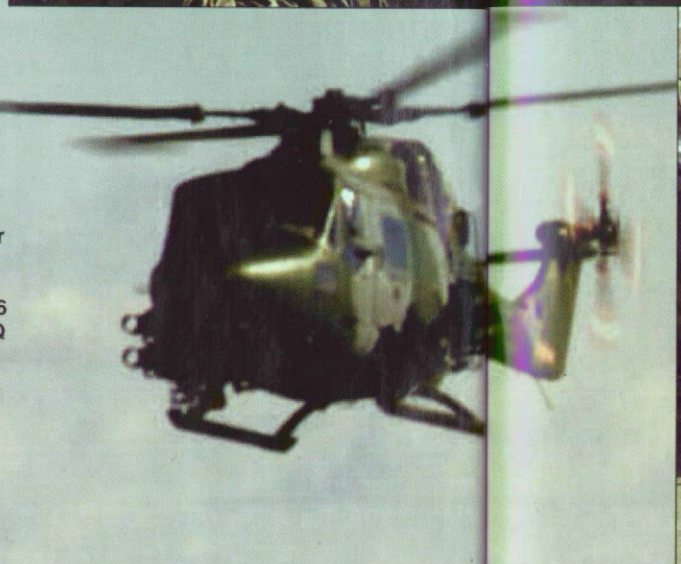


Lob shot: Pte Paul Grimshaw, B Company, 1 QLR, above, throws a grenade during a simulated attack



Big picture: Lt Gee Jenner, left, ops officer of 21 Air Defence Battery, at work with Maj Adrian Palmer in the 16 Air Assault Brigade HQ

Dawn treader: Pte Keiron Malone, 1 QLR, below, tabs across the snow-swept Albertan prairie at first light



Big gun: Pte Simon Cruise, 1 QLR, shoulders a LAW 80 fitted with Direct Fire Weapons Simulator technology that mimics firing the real thing



Waiting game: Above, ground-crew from 3 Regt AAC, from the left ATpr Lee Harris, LCpl Graham Smith and ATpr David Allan, prepare to board a Chinook



On a roll: Pipe Maj Andrew Wilson, 1 R Irish, left, attached to 16 Air Assault Brigade, bounces across the prairie next to driver Rgr Scott Elder at the wheel of a Weapon Mounted Installation Kit



*If your sights
are set...*

*...you're on
target with
microloans^m*

< new car >

< christmas spending >

< debt consolidation >

< holiday >

Whatever you want...

microloans^m

...makes it possible.

**£100 - £2,000 available at
preferential rates for all
serving members of the
British Armed Forces.[†]**

- **Easy to arrange**
- **No admin fees to pay**
- **No security required**
- **Payment Protection
available**

freephone

0800 5424882

overseas + 44 (0)1472 399999

quoting reference ML1003

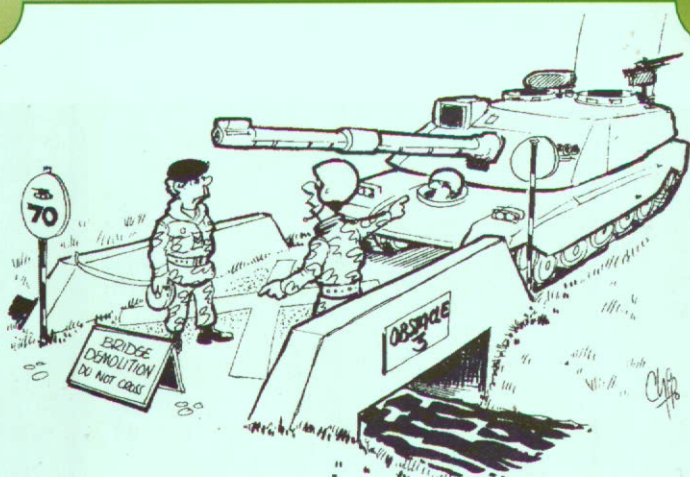
Lines open 8am - 8pm everyday



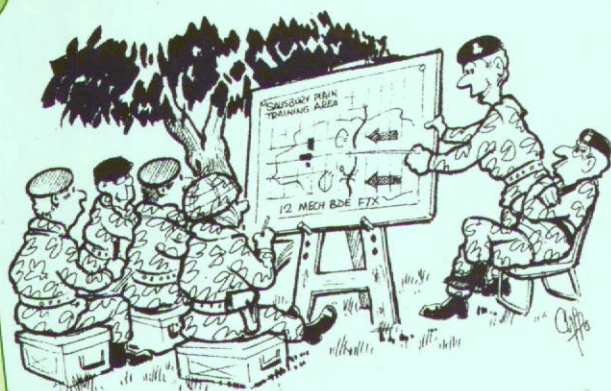
A Division of Imperial Consolidated Financiers Ltd
Registered in England & Wales No. 3430855
Regulated Consumer Credit Licence No. 451201
Part of the Imperial Consolidated Group of Companies

[†]Subject to status. Written quotations available on request. **Data Protection Act:** Telephone calls to and from Imperial Consolidated Financiers Ltd may be recorded or monitored for your security and to help improve our service. In order to process your telephone application, we will need to check your financial standing by making a search at a credit reference agency which keeps a record of that search. Details of how you conduct your loan may also be disclosed to any credit reference agency and this information may be used by other lenders in assessing applications from you and for occasional debt tracing and fraud prevention. **Marketing Information:** Imperial Consolidated Financiers Ltd will retain information provided by you. This may be used to provide you with information about other products and services offered by the Imperial Consolidated Group of Companies. If you do not wish to receive such information, please inform us by calling freephone 0800 5424882. Lines open 8am - 8pm everyday.

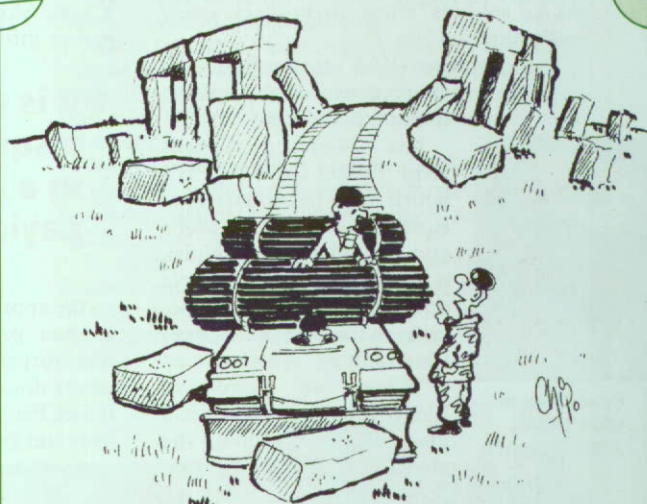
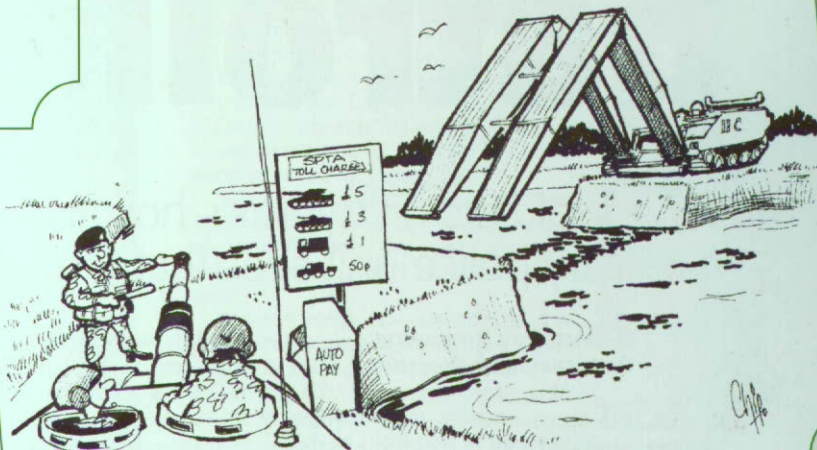
Chuckle with Chip



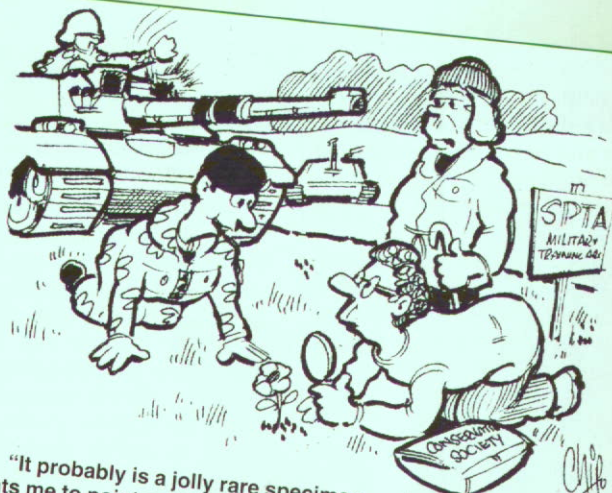
"If I'm to imagine that this is a smoking crater I want you to imagine that's a helicopter!"



"For the Guardsmen among you . . . this is part of the unexplored world beyond Windsor!"



"Oops? . . . That's all you can say? . . .Oops?"



"It probably is a jolly rare specimen . . . but the commander wants me to point out that if you stay there a minute longer, you, the fauna, are in danger of being mashed up with it, the flora!"

We're all on the same side . . .

Party-time patrollers

When soldiers hit Cyprus's holiday hot-spots, a military police unit sees that they do it safely

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

OFFICERS attached to the Cyprus Joint Police Unit spend a lot of their time in the island's hottest nightspots... but it's all in the line of duty. Their job is to ensure young soldiers enjoy themselves safely and within the law.

The joint Army-RAF unit has been successful in policing potential flashpoints on the holiday island.



Peacekeeper:
WO1 (RSM)
John Richards

The 74-strong Cyprus Joint Police Unit (CJPU), which has a headquarters at Episkopi, a unit at Dhekelia and a small post at Akrotiri, is appreciated by soldiers and local people alike, especially in the holiday resort of Limassol.

"When we patrol in Limassol, our presence is a major factor in keeping the area peaceful," said

WO1 (RSM) John Richards.

"If we are seen we can prevent potential problems downtown. We police our soldiers and provide liaison between them, the Cypriot police and the public."

Criminal damage, theft, fights, assaults, and road traffic accidents are all grist to their mill, but despite the party atmosphere in Limassol, WO1 Richards says the resort is relatively quiet.

The force draws support from units based on the island - the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers at Episkopi and the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment at Dhekelia.

"We'll have someone from 1 KOSB with us on patrol because he can recognise his

off-duty soldiers. But don't get the wrong idea, we are not killjoys. We want people to have a good time, but to do so safely and without causing aggravation."

If they do find trouble, their first job is to defuse the situation, which may mean encouraging the soldier leave the scene in a taxi. Should it be more serious, they gather information and evidence to pass

It is not unknown for a squaddie to end up in a topless bar paying £20 a drink

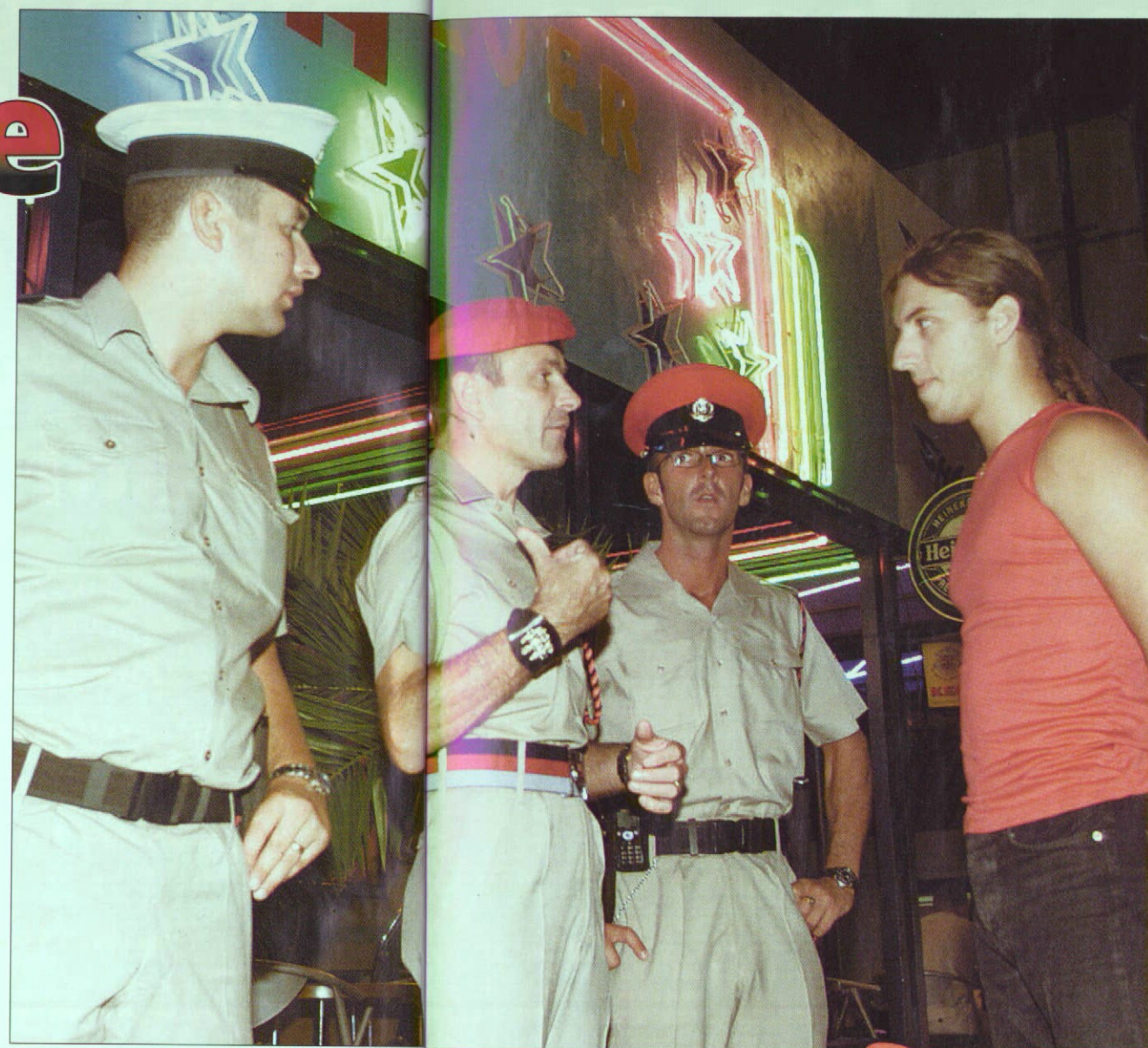
to the appropriate commanding officer.

Most problems are alcohol-related - not surprising at Limassol nightspots where double and treble measures are the norm. People drink quickly because of the heat and get drunk quicker.

Another task for the unit is to warn the less streetwise soldiers of the hazards of letting their hair down. It is not unknown for a drunken squaddie to end up in a topless bar, paying £20 a drink on top of a



Keeping watch: Cpl Scott Fairclough, LCpl Paul Scott, 1 KOSB, and Cpl Mick Leach patrol the noisy streets of Limassol



Customer liaison: From left Cpl Martyn Scott, Police, RSM John Richards and Cpl Jason Bruce ensure everything is in order with Limassol night worker Nick Crystal outside the Car Wash Club

hefty admission fee. Final reckonings of £300 have come as a shock to the system.

"We have to abide by British, Cyprus and Sovereign Base Area (SBA) laws," said WO1 Richards, "which can be confusing."

There are also different police forces - the SBA force, the Cypriot force, the military police (including the RAF), and the United Nations police.

"We have to use common sense. Ayia Napa is now the place for young people to holiday and party in the Mediterranean. It is taking over from Ibiza. For soldiers it is largely

an out-of-bounds area, mostly for their own protection, following the problems of the mid-1990s when, after a rape and murder, soldiers were getting beaten up by locals."

The late-night streets of Limassol host one gigantic party and the three military police officers *Soldier* joined on patrol were constantly stopped by bar owners who appreciate what they do.

Nick Crystal, who works at the Car Wash Club, said: "I find the military police essential as part of my job. If there are any problems, I can get advice. They keep a lid on things and make people feel at ease."

Their first-aid skills were called upon recently when a Russian tourist was knocked down and seriously injured and in another incident the police were able to help a drunken British holidaymaker who had fallen off a wall and hurt himself.

They're a helpful bunch.

● Adventure island - Page 21

Pet passports at the ready

MUCH to the relief of Service families, the pet passport scheme introduced to allow their pets to return to the UK from Europe and other parts of the world is to be extended to Cyprus next February.

Vets at Episkopi are ready. SSgt Alan Inkpen, a member of the Cyprus Defence Animal Support Unit (CDASU), which is manned by Royal Army Veterinary Corps personnel, told *Soldier* they had been prepared for some time.

"We are doing all the blood samples and micro-chipping so we are ready immediately for the pet passport scheme when Cyprus is included," he said.

"Service dogs are already at the appropriate level and we've been working to this standard for several years."

The capacity to prepare family pets for the scheme is already in place. The CDASU's main unit at Episkopi and its sub-unit in Dhekelia provide support for the 100 Service animals, including RAF dogs, on the island. All arrive from the tri-Service Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray.

CDASU vet Capt Pippa Hughes said that one of the biggest problems her team faced was caused by snakebites. Every year several dogs, mostly pets, die from bites. Poison put down to destroy vermin also killed pets.

The pet passport scheme which currently applies to 22 countries in Western Europe is to be extended to 15 rabies-free islands, including Ascension, Australia, the Falklands and Cyprus.

To qualify, owners need to get their pets micro-chipped, vaccinated against rabies, and blood-tested by a recognised laboratory. Owners also have to sign a declaration that their pets have not been outside any of the qualifying countries for the previous six months.



Prepared: SSgt
Alan Inkpen



Stitch-up: Veterinary Capt Pippa Hayes, right, assisted by Cpl Linda Inkpen, completes an operation on a dog at the Cyprus Defence Animal Support Unit

Sleeping bags with standards...

...NATO standards

Ajungilak of Norway have been making sleeping bags to NATO specifications for many years. Using that experience we have developed a range of sleeping bags specifically for UK weather conditions.

The *Nordic NATO Winter* is the warmest bag, comfortable to -7°C yet only weighing c.1700 gm.

Other models in the range are the **3 season** – *Nordic* and the *Nordic Summer*.

Centre Zip Bags

Designed to the brief of **John Bull of Catterick** the *Optima* and the *Optima Lite* are the compact lightweight centre zip bag. All these bags are delivered in a special green stuff sack with re-inforced end caps.



Goose Bay Jackets



Designed primarily to be worn under a wind or waterproof outer garment, the *Goose Bay Jacket* is available in Green or Black with Down (690+ fill power) – finished weight 500 gm, or with a synthetic fill to suit damper climates. Main stockists: John Bull, Catterick.



Green Products from Ajungilak available from: John Bull, Catterick, Expedition Kit Direct, Fulham and all major outdoor retailers

Further information is available from the Ajungilak website: www.ajungilak.co.uk

Cyprus

Adventure island

When it comes to outdoor activities, there are few places better geared for the novice to become an expert than Cyprus

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

CYPRUS is justifiably proud of its adventurous training facilities, which attract customers from far and wide.

Maj Ted Martin, APTC, is commandant of the level four Cyprus Joint Service Adventurous Training Centre, which runs

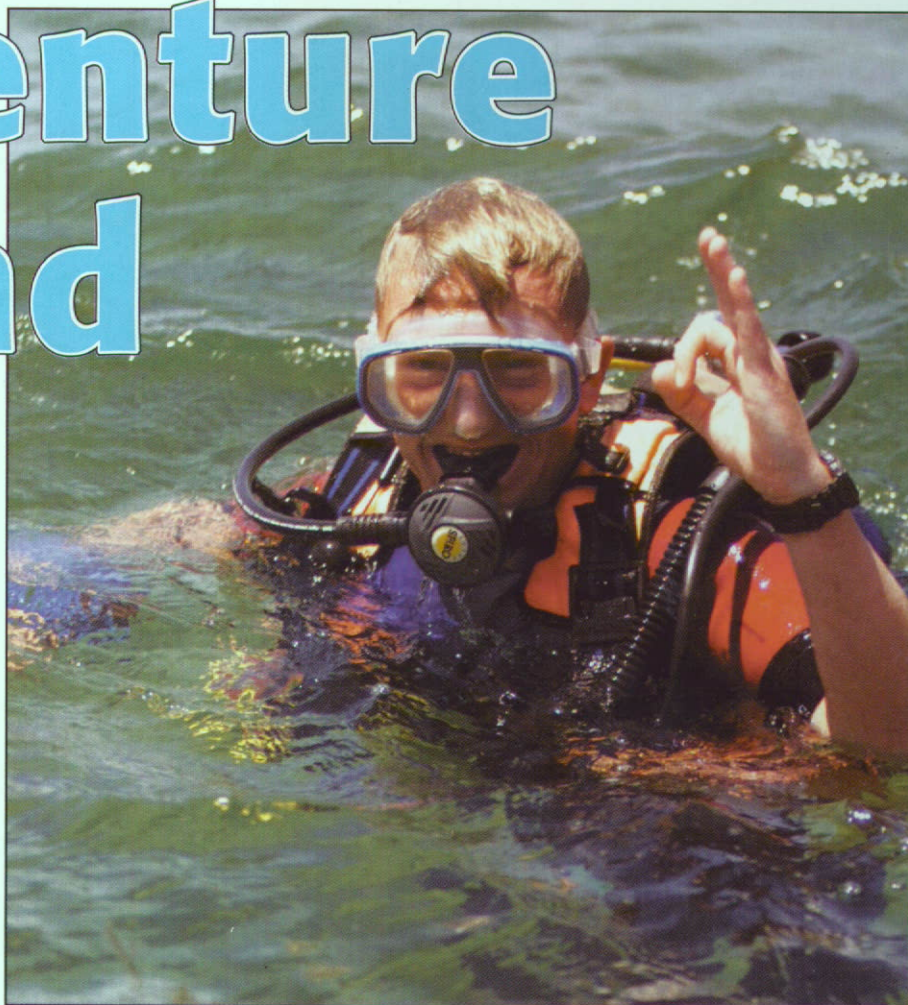
such activities as parachuting, sub-aqua diving, climbing, off-shore sailing and kayaking.

"The directive from Commander British Forces Cyprus is that all Service personnel will do at least seven days of adventure training at levels two, three

or four," he explained.

Level three is expeditionary training on- or off-island (mostly the latter, in locations such as the Red Sea, Jordan, Nepal and India), while four is for instructors.

Most of the centre's instructors are seconded from on-island units for a mini-



Everything OK: Sub aqua instructor Maj Harry Marr is on detachment from HQ 3 Division

mum of three months, funded by the parent units, which benefit from getting back an instructor with upgraded skills.

Maj Martin also supports off-island expeditions and receives more than 30 requests a year from units in Germany and the UK wanting to sub-aqua dive and parachute. Kayak expeditions are a more recent option.

"Cyprus is a wonderful place to do adventurous training and we welcome visiting troops," he said.

Almost every activity has generated its own club of enthusiasts and Maj Martin and his team ensure they have the correct equipment, meet health-and-safety standards, and are conforming to the Joint

Service training scheme. Two special clubs, Try Dive and Try Canoe, encourage Servicemen and women and their families to turn up and have a go.

The training centre is recognised by the British Sub Aqua Club and can take absolute beginners all the way to advanced instructor or advanced diver level. Those trying their hand at parachuting can go from novice to free-fall, while first-time canoeists can be guided up to instructor level.

A soldier on a two-year tour in Cyprus can have a lot of fun and leave with civilian-recognised adventurous training qualifications.

What are you waiting for?

DESPITE the many water-based activities on offer, Maj Ted Martin is concerned about pollution levels in the Mediterranean which is "used as a dumping hole by just about every country that

Sea of pollution

borders it". He and many others believe pollution is a major contributor to the demise of marine life and last year organised a sponsored swim to raise funds for the Cyprus Environment-

tal Protection Association. Maj Martin said factory and ships' oil pollution were a big factor. Sewage added another layer to the problem.

"The Mediterranean is non-tidal and whatever you dump in it stays in it."



Maj Ted Martin

Ace of brigades

A year after its formation as the Army's sixth deployable brigade, 12 Mechanised has bonded its main elements for the first time

JUST a year after its formation under the Strategic Defence Review, the British Army's sixth and newest deployable brigade is taking its first tentative steps as a cohesive unit. The different elements of 12 Mechanised Brigade were brought together for the first time for a week of activities, education and competition.

A chilly week on Salisbury Plain last month provided the setting for a series of military skill competitions and sporting events involving officers and soldiers from The King's Royal Hussars, the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, 19th Regiment Royal Artillery, 12 Mechanised Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (228) and 10 Brigade Support Squadron RLC.

A selected media audience ensconced in a heavy bunker on the plain was subjected to an artillery bombardment as the new formation's Challenger 1 tanks, Warriors armoured fighting vehicles, AS90 guns, mortars and assorted anti-tank weapons announced themselves during a short but violent overture.

The King's Royal Hussars, now converting to Challenger 2, will be operating their Challenger 1 tanks for the last time during a swansong exercise on Salisbury Plain later this month.

The bonding began with the strains of Motorhead's *The Ace of Spades* – reflecting the brigade flash – blasting from Tidworth Garrison Theatre as the different units were introduced to 12 Mech Bde and its concept of operations. Cross-briefings and an equipment day included a demonstration of company group attacks by the KRH and 1 Staffords.

Brigade Commander Brig John Cooper said: "This is the first time that all the units under my command have come together.

Plain thunder: AS90 guns of 19th Regiment RA opened up on a bunker to give a specially selected audience a taste of the brigade's awesome firepower

6 In just over 12 months we will be trained and ready for operations 9

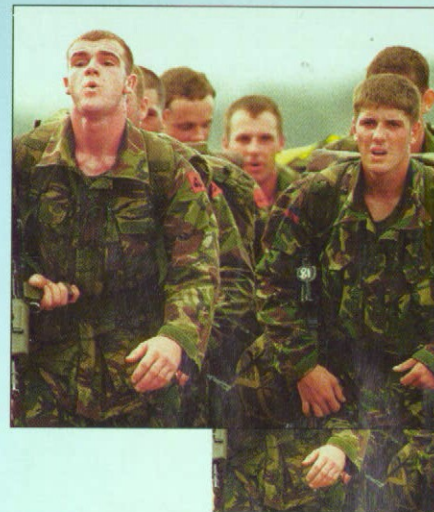
The aim of the week is to develop brigade cohesion through cross-training activities and competition. It is the first stage of the training process that will culminate in just over 12 months when the brigade will be fully trained and ready for operations."

Teams taking part in a catering contest were asked to improvise a three-course meal using a ten-man ration pack, a challenge which 10 Bde Sp Sqn took in its stride, while a six-stand military skills competition was won by the Grenadier Guards.

A commander's team, made up of Brig Cooper and the commanding officers of all the major units, led the way in the shooting, but 12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn won a march-and-shoot on Bulford ranges.

At a sporting finale hosted by the Grenadiers in Queens Avenue, not far from the brigade's headquarters in the old 5 Airborne Brigade HQ in Montgomery Lines, Aldershot, the Welsh Guards won the football, rugby and hockey while 10 Bde Sp Sqn excelled at cross-country.

Another day on the range: A team from the Grenadier Guards, winners of the military skills competition, on the march and shoot

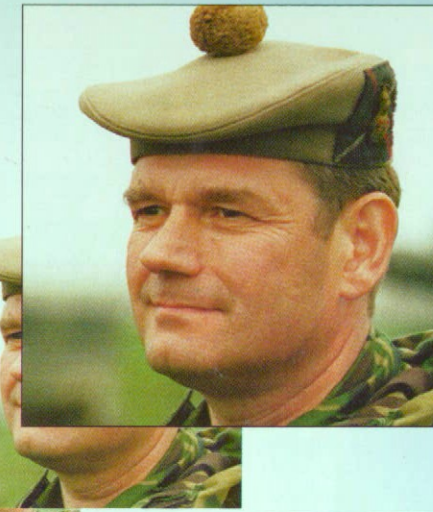


Light force: Gdsm Darrall Mills, left, and LCpl Matthew Barry of the Manoeuvre Support Platoon, 1 WG, mount a general purpose machine-gun in the sustained fire role

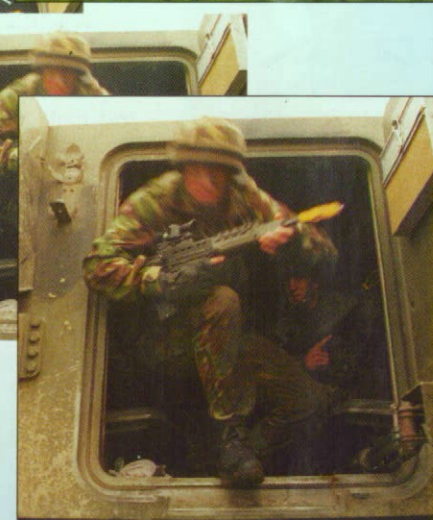
Media target: LBdr Smudge Smith of 19/5 Battery, 19 Regt RA, prepares to deliver more AS90 shells on to the bunker occupied by visiting media



Developing brigade cohesion: Brig John Cooper, Commander of the new 12 Mech Bde



Covering fire: Warriors of 1 Staffords provide solid support during the attack on enemy positions



Go! LCpl Adrian Rice, 1 Staffords, makes a hasty exit from the rear of his Warrior APC



On the move: A King's Royal Hussars Challenger 1 manoeuvres into position during a demonstration assault by 12 Mechanised Brigade units

Pictures: Steve Dock

Help us to help them soldier on.



The Army is like an extended family. When necessary, everyone rallies round. However, when the need becomes more specialised and more substantial resources are required, people turn to us.

The Army Benevolent Fund provides support for soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families when they are in real need. But to continue our support, we need yours.

By making a donation or leaving a legacy you will be providing the 'reinforcements' our soldiers rely on.

Please give generously.



I wish to donate the following amount to the ABF £ _____

I enclose a cheque/PO made payable to Army Benevolent Fund ☐

OR please debit my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ CAF Card

A/C No. _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry Date _____ / _____

Name _____
(your name as it appears on the card)

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____
(This donation is invalid if this form is not signed)

Please send to: Army Benevolent Fund, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR.

For information on making or changing a will, Gift Aid donations, payroll giving and supporting fund-raising activities **call 020 7591 2000.**

(Registered Charity No. 211645)

SOLDIER 10/00, PR1259

The Victory Services Club



The Friendliest Welcome *in the* Armed Forces World

- Close by Marble Arch & Oxford Street
- Affordable room rates
- Choice of restaurants & bars
- Lounges, Library, TV & games room
- Function rooms for dinners, receptions, reunions & private parties

FREE MEMBERSHIP to serving personnel

For information & reservations contact us at:
63/79 SEYMOUR STREET, LONDON W2 2HF
Tel ~ 020 7723 4474 Fax ~ 020 7402 9496
For Enquiries: email: info@vsc.co.uk

They'll push you to your limit.



As a part-time Army cadet leader,
you'll discover qualities you never
thought you had by helping
young people achieve things they
never thought possible.
It's serious. And it's fun.
What's more, it's a chance to
learn new skills and improve your
CV. If you've got the attitude,
we want to hear from you.



ARMY CADET FORCE. ATTITUDE. GIVE IT, GET IT. TEL 0845 600 77 99
www.armycadets.com

Modern Dutch master art of personal comms on battlefield

DUTCH troops will be wearing individual radio headsets in the near future as the Royal Netherlands Army takes delivery of 1,500 modular Cobra kits as part of its soldier modernisation programme.

Supplied by Simoco Europe Ltd to operate with the PRP 7301 private mobile radio, the headsets are likely to be worn with the Schuberth helmet in a single-sided configuration with finger pressel and switch box.

They are said to be easy to integrate with standard Nato equipment, with the added advantage that the modular construction allows for rapid repair in the field.

Part of the Arrowhead range from Thomson Racal Defence, the modular



Getting personal: Modular Cobra set, above, and the FIST prototype, left



Cobra has achieved early success in trials in the UK – where it is part of the British Army's FIST (Future Infantry System Technology) programme – and in Australia, where it is already in service.

Under FIST, individual infantrymen will go on operations wearing personal radio microphones in addition to a range of sophisticated digitised sensors designed to boost their fighting capability while keeping the chain of command in touch with what they are

doing and seeing. The FIST package being developed by the Infantry Trials and Development Unit at Warminster includes night vision devices and laser aimers on rifles. Cameras mounted on personal weapons will provide soldiers with helmet-borne visual displays of the battlefield ahead and around them.

Early versions of FIST, on schedule for service by 2008, have been enthusiastically received by troops involved in the trials. One Argyll and Sutherland Highlander who used the kit on Salisbury Plain last year said: "If what we have seen is anything to go by, the final system will be an outstanding success."

Here's one I made earlier...

Inventor-colonel's stick-it-together shelter could save the lives of homeless refugees

AN easy-to-build kit invented by Lt Col Francis Hobbs, Gren Gds, is child's play to put up... and may attract attention as a refugee shelter in disaster situations.

His Stikaframe kits, which use a system of hook-and-loop connectors (better known in the UK as Velcro), canvas or plastic sheets (or mosquito netting), and ecologically-friendly wooden frames, could mean life or death for people left homeless.

The kits, which were commended at the International Inventors Fair in June, are to be test-marketed from January.

Other uses to which they can be put include mobile operating theatres, mini-greenhouses or cold-frames, garden shelters, office screens and children's tunnels or play houses.

BBC1 has asked Lt Col Hobbs to go on Jim Davidson's *Generation Game* with his

refugee centre. He will demonstrate how it can be put up in little more than two minutes before letting the game show contestants loose on it.

In 1994 Lt Col Hobbs designed the Measurement of Fighting Power, an Army computer programme for measuring operational capability. He has also patented a universal carrying handle and a card game for learning by rote information such as vocabulary or times tables.



Lt Col Hobbs

Before taking up his current post on the Army General Staff at MoD, Lt Col Hobbs was Academy Adjutant at RMA Sandhurst.

More details at Stikaframe.com



Good idea: Lt Col Hobbs demonstrates his shelter at an inventors' fair Pictures: Steve Dock

Training in the Soviets' tracks

Huge training area gives 20 Armoured Brigade the space to go to war...

Report: Maj Sean Holden
Pictures: Graeme Main
and Roger Lortie

UNDER the aimless guns of burst and ruined Soviet tanks the British Army has been back to Poland for large-scale training.

There was no denying the enthusiasm among the 3,000 troops of 20 Armoured Brigade for the work they have done on the fifth Exercise Ulan Eagle. Why? Because it is the full works – Drawsko Pomorskie training ground's 400sq km gives troops the space to do what they have to do.

That is why the Russians, whose military relics – T62 tanks, BTR armoured personnel carriers and Second World War T34s – litter the ground, go there to train against the army whose Challenger 2 tanks growl through the undergrowth.

Space is what Poland gives 20 Brigade... space to fill the landscape with the armoured infantry of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, the Challenger 2 tanks of The Queen's Royal Hussars, the AS90 guns and high velocity missiles of 4, 12 and 26 Regiments, Royal Artillery and 3 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, the M3 amphibian ferry rigs of the Royal Engineers and all the logistical paraphernalia of a brigade set for battle. There is room for them all at Drawsko Pomorskie.

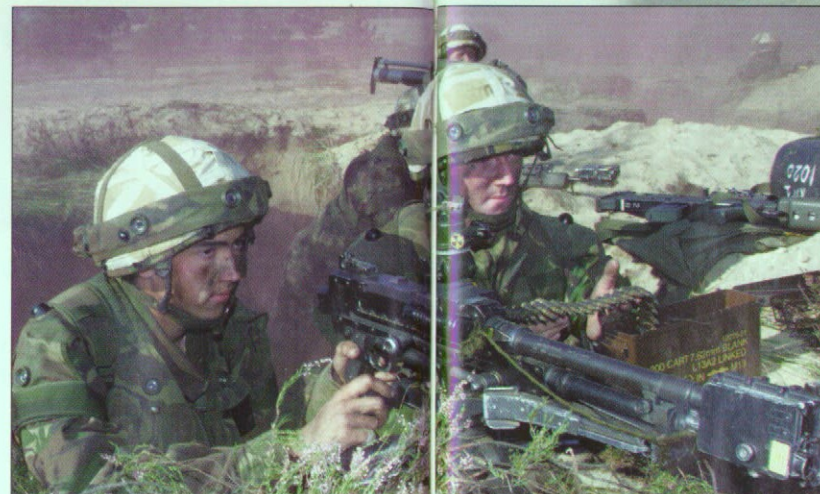
The exercise began with the practising of basic tactical and organisational skills for the different arms and support groups. As events were stepped up to higher levels the scale of a battle-group on the ground impressed soldiers who, in the more restricted exercises near their bases in Germany or on Salisbury Plain, have to imagine other elements.

While the focus of the fighting action was in the sandy scrubland and forest of the training ground 40km south, 2 Battalion REME worked ceaselessly at the old Russian barracks in Stargard to keep the brigade on its tracks and wheels. Ten kilometres north of the training area the Divisional Support Group managed a railhead where wagons laden with guns, tanks, ammunition and supplies came and went.

"You can't have dynamic war-fighting without dynamic logistics," said the brigade commander, Brig Jeff Cook. "The training here is about understanding the real formations of war, where the going is difficult and where map-reading is challenging."

The brigadier played an unexpected additional role in training the medics by breaking his hand in a fall. Three regimental aid posts were in the first line looking after injuries and dealing with simulated exercise casualties.

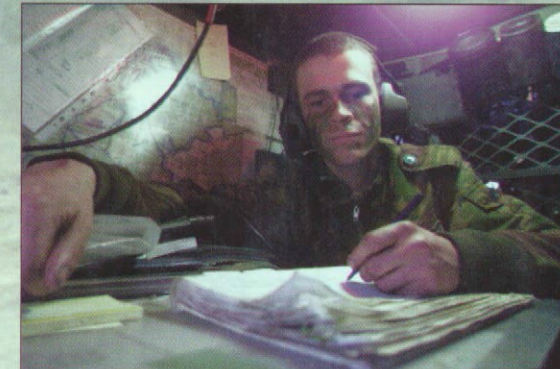
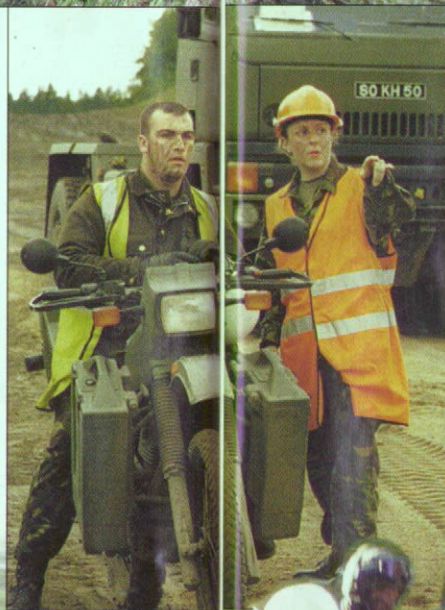
The Royal Engineers made the biggest splash of the exercises with their M3 amphibian rigs. Five of the mobile ferries took the plunge in the well-watered terrain.



Battle stations: Rfn Chris Clarke, above left, and Rfn Tim Simpson, both of 2 RGJ

Logistical talks: Dispatch rider Cpl Dean Cole, left, discussed movements at a railhead with 2nd Lt Suzy Miles. Both are serving with 1 GS Regt RLC

Spartan times: The 1 RRW crew, below right, is driver LCpl Mark Jones, front, Lt Jon Watkins, top left, and Capt Aled Jones, regimental signals officer



Listening brief: Radio operator Rfn Ben Warren, 2 RGJ, in the rear of a Warrior



Into battle: Warriors on the attack during Ulan Eagle



Help at hand: Cpl Ian Hook, 2 RGJ holds a drip for casualty LCpl Richard Reeve, also 2 RGJ, with Army doctor Capt Marcus Stutt RAMC, right, in attendance

Squadron move: D Sqn, QRH advances to contact

Printed or Embroidered

Leisurewear to your own Design



- poloshirts**
- Plain Colours
 - Contrast Styles
 - Short or Long Sleeves
 - Up to 20 Colours



PREMIUM WEIGHT T-SHIRTS

Printed 1 colour from £4.40 each
Embroidered from £5.45 each

t-shirts

- Standard Weight
- Premium Weight
- Short or Long Sleeves
- Up to 20 Colours

sweatshirts

- Raglan Sleeved
- Drop Shoulder
- Hooded
- Up to 20 Colours

rugby shirts

- Single Colour
- Quartered
- Hooped
- Specials-to order



Credit Terms Available to H.M. Forces On Request

For a FREE colour brochure and H.M. Forces Price List including details of our FREE Sample garment offer contact:

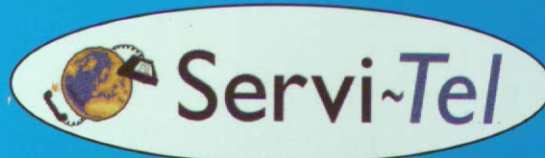
TEES TOTAL
153 High Street,
Wootton Bassett,
Swindon,
Wiltshire SN4 7AB
England

Tel +44 (0)1793 849888
Fax +44 (0)1793 849890



Ranked No. 1

MAKE CALLS TO AND FROM HOME AND SAVE OVER 50%*



With



Open an account
Use your UK home phone
Dial **1843** before you call
Save **50%** on all national calls*
Save up to **75%** on international calls*
Service also available from overseas

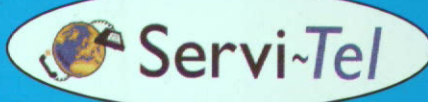


Call rates:

UK National	3p/min
Germany	5p/min
Canada	5p/min
USA	5p/min
Bosnia/Kosovo	19p/min
Falklands	55p/min

Call us for others

*Compared to BT rates



The only company dedicated to helping
the Armed Forces
Keep in Touch



No monthly fees
No call set up charges
Calls charged by the second
What's the catch?
There is no catch!
You only pay for what you use!

www.servi-tel.com
e-mail: servi-tel@servi-tel.com

Call free to open an account on:

0800 073 0111 or +44 151 650 2349

Gunner ignites pocket rocket

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

APPEARANCES can be deceptive. They don't call the 660cc Daihatsu Avanzato the "pocket rocket" for nothing. It may deliver only 75bhp, but as every rally-driver knows, it's not the size of your cylinders that counts, it's what you do with them that matters.

A case in point is the rally team of Sgt Tim Line, 14 Regiment RA, and his civilian driver, Scott Vogl. They have just proved they know exactly what to do with the turbo-charged, 16v box of dynamite that nestles beneath the Daihatsu's bonnet.

The pair won the seven-round Pioneer Daihatsu Challenge and are hoping to pull in enough sponsors to move up a gear and compete in the British Rally Championships next season. "We managed to win with one round to go, which was a fantastic result really," said Tim. "We never finished below second place."

Tim developed his love of motorsport through the British Army Motoring Association. His Army rally career highs have included being selected team captain for the Lex Army rally team and winning the Army navigation championship title twice.

But after six years of competing in rallies with the Army team throughout the United Kingdom, Germany and Iceland,

Army champion rally navigator Sgt Tim Line focuses on world championships



Hot gun: Sgt Tim Line with his Daihatsu

Tim decided the time was right for a fresh challenge. The opportunity came through his old friend WO2 Mark Taylor, AAC, who was the championship co-ordinator for the Daihatsu Challenge.

As luck would have it he was looking for a co-driver to pair up with Scott Vogl. There's an old saying in rally circles that a co-driver won't necessarily win a race, but he (or she) can certainly lose it.

Preparation, concentration and the odd bit of telepathy all play their part in making a successful driving partnership.

In a sport where results are often decided in fractions of seconds, the key to success is the speed through the corners. Drivers need to be short on brake and long on acceleration and the person who makes the difference in shaving off the vital seconds is the co-driver.

"It is a strange relationship," said Tim. "We both have to stay totally focused on our ultimate goal, both inside and outside the car. The turbo-charged, inter-cooled, four-wheel drive Daihatsu is capable of embarrassing far more powerful machines."

Tim and Scott are working on a three-year plan with the ultimate aim of competing in the world championships.

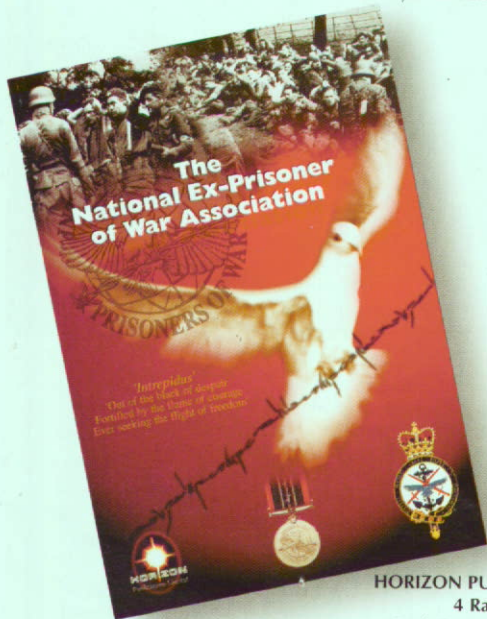
"I am realistic about our chances," said Tim. "Next year we hope to jump from 75 to 265bhp and we would be fooling ourselves if we thought we would win, but we are looking at it in terms of a learning curve."

● To start rallying, contact Lt Col (Retd) Bob Birrell of the British Army Motoring Association at Leconfield Mil (94775) 5243 or 01904 665243.

The Journal of The National Ex-Prisoner of War Association

2000 Edition

Supported by: The Royal Navy Benevolent Trust
The Army Benevolent Fund
The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund



Available From

HORIZON PUBLICATIONS LTD
4 Ravenswood Avenue
Rock Ferry, Wirral CH42 4NX

Send sae A4 envelope £1.20 for despatch

Are you in trouble? Maybe we can help you

Recent changes in the Army disciplinary system have seen an increase in Service personnel eligible for Army Legal Aid to be represented and advised by qualified personnel

We at **RICHARD GRIFFITHS & CO, SOLICITORS** are specialists in military and civilian criminal law. In addition to our own team we use the services of specialist barristers from **3 PUMP COURT CHAMBERS, LONDON.**

We offer

- **FREE** initial interview
- **Expert** knowledge of the military system
- **A user-friendly service**
- **Barrister** representation at Courts Martial
- **A 24-hour 'on call' cover.**

Our experience based on many years of practice extends from the least serious to the most serious. (C.O.'s award to General Courts Martial and Appeals including 'Summary Appeal Courts Procedure'.)

One call and you can be receiving advice.

Richard Griffiths & Co



**18 Milford Street
Salisbury SP1 2AP**



Daytime no. 01722 329966

Fax 01722 329988

24-hour pager 01459 136196

Offer ends
31.12.00

Save up to £45 on RAC membership

There's never been a better time to join RAC

- Limited offer to Soldier readers
- Cover as a driver or passenger in any vehicle
- 4 out of 5 breakdowns repaired on the spot
- Roadside repairs completed in an average of just under 24 minutes
- RAC's unique no call out discount available with certain service levels

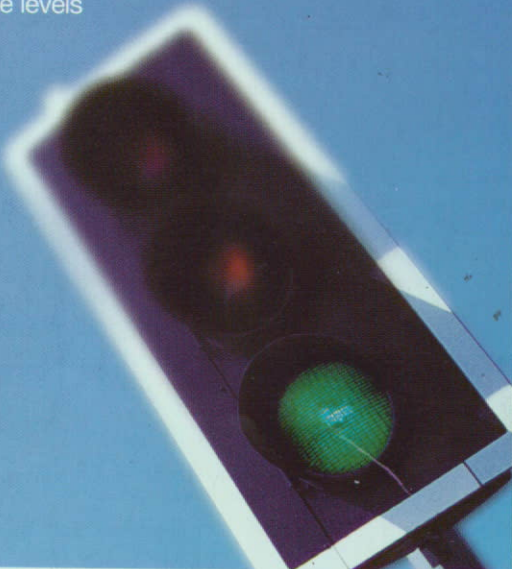
Join today

0800 716 976

For instant cover or further details. Please quote reference DT0069

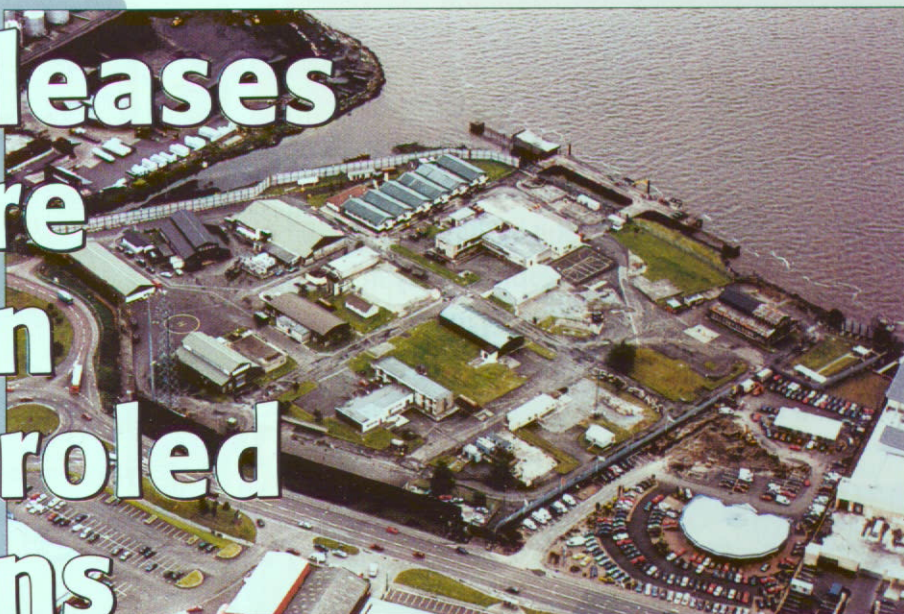


RAC



Lines open Mon to Fri 8am-9pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other RAC offer. Discounts only apply to certain service levels. Prices include Insurance Premium Tax at the standard rate on VAT exempt insurance and joining fee if applicable. All details correct at the time of publication. Full membership details in RAC Terms of Membership.

Army releases two more Northern Ireland-roles battalions



Going: Fort George, Londonderry, now being demolished after nearly 30 years as an Army base. In that time 16 resident battalions have served there

THE Army has announced it hopes to reduce the number of Regular personnel permanently based in Northern Ireland to around 8,000 – the same number as in a comparable mainland garrison – but only after normality returns to the Province, **writes Simon Mander.**

It follows the recent statement by RUC Chief Constable Sir Ronnie Flanagan that Long Kesh camp and the six bases on the Fermanagh border will be closed and demolished.

Welcoming that news, the Ministry of Defence said the latest reduction in bases continued the progress towards normalisation in the Province.

It revealed a long-term aspiration to cut the number of troops operationally deployed, currently 13,500 and already the lowest figure since 1970, to that of a same-sized garrison in a similar-sized area, such as Yorkshire.

But the reductions will not be made until the police are able to operate without military support.

‘The moves represent another important step along the road to normality’

At the time of the Belfast Agreement, the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland exercised direct command over 18 infantry battalions, all of which were deployed in the Province, 12 on resident and six on emergency tours.

Since then five of the six emergency tour battalions have been rear-based on the mainland to be held in reserve.

Sufficient progress has now been made to allow the permanent release of two of these reserve battalions back to Land Command, making them available for wider defence commitments.

As an overall aspiration, it is hoped that the number of military bases in Northern Ireland will reduce further from the current 64 to no more than 20.

The sequence and speed by which the security forces will achieve this goal depends on the continuing reduction in the terrorist threat and the removal of the tensions caused by sectarianism.

Those set to remain will include major

bases at Lisburn, Aldergrove, Antrim, Holywood, Ballykinler, Portadown, Omagh, Ballykelly and Ballymena, as well as the larger military training areas.

Depending on the security situation, the MoD can also envisage closing and vacating other sites whose location will be important for future development of local communities. These include Ebrington Barracks in Londonderry, Malone Road Barracks in Belfast, Steeple Barracks in Antrim, Killymeal House Camp in Dungannon, the Military Hospital at Musgrave Park, Belfast, Laurel Hill House in Coleraine, and Harmony House in Lisburn.

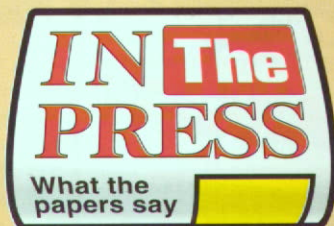
Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike, GOC Northern Ireland, said: “The moves declared represent another important step along the road to normality. However, they can only be taken or put in place as quickly as the terrorist threat allows.”

“This means no definitive time-frame can realistically be given. Overall, and as has always been the case throughout this process, security decisions taken by the Chief Constable and myself remain entirely threat-dependent.”

● British gardeners tending war graves in Europe are planning legal action against the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for cutting their income by £6,000 a year. The 77 gardeners refused to strike when the cuts began. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Militant gangs are bullying retired Gurkhas into handing over their pensions. Thugs from the Gurkha Army Ex-Services Organisation (GAESO) target ex-soldiers and their widows when they arrive to collect their cash at the Gurkhas' Kathmandu HQ. – *Mirror*

● RAF and Navy bosses may offer their Top Gun pilots a “golden handcuffs”



financial package to stop them quitting for well-paid jobs with civil airlines. The news comes after it was revealed 13 Sea Harrier pilots – almost a third of the Navy's Sea Harrier force – were considering leaving the Service. – *Sun*

● Six former members of the Armed Forces tried by court martial under what they said was an unfair system have had their legal costs, totalling £4,500, paid by the Government. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Huge stocks of fuel are being amassed at defence bases as the Government prepares contingency plans to combat a threatened repeat of last month's fuel blockade. – *Daily Mail*

● A celebrity-backed project to commemorate animals who went to war for Britain in the 20th century is entrenched in artistic squabbles with Westminster City Council. – *Independent*

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN THE EXCITING WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS



Established Events
Company with 25 Year Track
Record seeks motivated and
ambitious individuals for
unique opportunity in
expanding market

- ★ Full Hands On Training and Ongoing Support ★
- ★ One-Time only fee £9,950 ★ Low Overheads ★

★ **HIGHLY PROFITABLE** ★



Call 'Hands On Events' **now** on
020-7485-0047

www.handsonevents.co.uk

FOR ARMY PERSONNEL ONLY
FREE NOKIA 3210 - FREE CONNECTION
OFFER WORTH £96. SO ORDER NOW!

New
Special
Offer
£100 Cash Back



* For November Only.

FREE NOKIA 3210
WORTH £9.99

FREE CONNECTION
WORTH £35

FREE 100 MINS OF CALLS
PER MONTH ANYTIME

FREE PORTABLE HANDS FREE KIT
WORTH £19.99

FREE IN CAR CHARGING
LEAD WORTH £17.99

FREE LEATHER CASE
WORTH £12.99

PEAK RATE DOWN TO
18p PER MIN

OFF PEAK DOWN TO
5p PER MIN

NO CREDIT CHECKS

WEEKEND CALLS ONLY
2p
PER MIN

BTcellnet

**Mobiles
DIRECT**

FREEPHONE
0800 018 8200

PLEASE HAVE
YOUR
BANK DETAILS
HANDY WHEN
ORDERING

Subject to contract, inc. notice period, monthly line rentals. Start at £18.00 inc. VAT. Open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

Ideal Christmas stocking filler

SOLDIER CARTOONS



BANG ON TARGET!

The humorous side of
life in the Army as
seen by **SOLDIER**
cartoonist Chip

ONLY
£10.00
(INC P&P)

**ALSO AVAILABLE
ON-LINE AT:**

www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

To order, send a cheque/postal order made payable to 'Soldier' to:
Chip Cartoon Book, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU
ORDER HOTLINE: 01252 347354

Safe as the Rock

Security at one of Army's smaller postings is the responsibility of a home-based unit

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

IF ever there was an example of how well home-basing can work, it is in Gibraltar. Nearly everyone on the Rock knows someone who is serving in the British Army or someone who has, and the result is that the 400-strong regiment has exceptionally strong local ties.

As Maj David Seed, second-in-command of The Royal Gibraltar Regiment, puts it: "Standards of discipline and behaviour here are impeccable, totally brilliant. I cannot remember when there was a serious incident involving the regiment."

"I think it is a wonderful argument for home-basing. This is our home and we are not having a 'run ashore'."

The regiment, which is a fully-integrated part of the infantry, affiliated to the Queen's Division, is a mix of Regular and Territorial Army soldiers in a similar structure to The Royal Irish Regiment.

Primary role of the regiment is to protect the Rock and the nuclear-powered warships and Trident missile submarines which visit the base. The regiment is also involved with ceremonial and has its own band of 15 musicians.

Size isn't everything and the Rock packs a lot into a limited space, opportunities which UK-based Territorial and Regular soldiers take advantage of every year when they visit for low-level training.

It is possible for troops on a particularly energetic exercise to take off from the airfield, parachute into the sea, swim ashore and climb cliffs before embarking on tunnel training.

When possible, soldiers from the regiment are posted away from the Rock. "We like to get people away as often as we can," said Maj Seed.

"We have troops in Northern Ireland at the moment and in Kosovo. What we don't



Changing the guard: Soldiers of The Royal Gibraltar Regiment on patrol outside the official residence of the Governor, C-in-C of the Rock's forces. The residence is one of Gibraltar's oldest buildings



Maj David Seed: Strong argument for home-basing

do is go on operational tours as a unit."

Recruits are tested in Gibraltar before going on to Bassingbourn for phase one training and Catterick for the phase two part.

There are two TA components, a higher-commitment group with 15 days in camp and 12 days' obligatory training throughout the year, and a lower-commitment company for soldiers with previous Regular service, who sign up to six days a year.

The regiment is proud of its sporting achievements, where it has done well in

infantry hockey and sent a team to the Combined Services rowing championships.

It also boasts some excellent cross-country skiers, taking advantage of its proximity to the Sierra Nevada. "It sounds barking, but the ski-ing is better than at Aviemore," said Maj Seed.

Soldiers can take advantage of courses run at the tri-Service skills learning centre, where 12 instructors teach a range of subjects relevant to their military students.

● **Tunnel secrets** – Page 35

● **'Better' homes at Episkopi** – Page 44

A brief history of the regiment

THE forefathers of the present regiment were the Gibraltar Volunteer Corps, which was raised in 1915 and served the garrison throughout the First World War. It was disbanded in 1919 and then re-formed in 1939 as the Gibraltar Defence Force.

During the Second World War, Gibraltar was evacuated with all non-essential personnel sent away. Quite a few ended up in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, a fact reflected in the scattering of Irish names in the regiment.

The force was retained after the war to serve as a training establishment for National Service and in 1958 was re-formed into The Gibraltar Regiment.

In 1971 the Queen approved the granting of Colours to the regiment and on the same day it received the Freedom of the City.

In 1991 the regiment took over garrison duties from the then resident battalion, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. It was re-organised from an artillery battery, an air defence troop and an infantry company into three infantry rifle companies with one headquarters. A second set of Colours was awarded in 1998 and in 1999 the title "Royal" was conferred on it.

ONLY
£6.99

SOLDIER CALENDAR 2001

African odyssey

penguin patrol

Aug

m		6	13	
t		7	14	21
w	1	8	15	22 29
t	2	9	16	23 30
f	3	10	17	24 31
s	4	11	18	25
s	5	12	19	

Snowshoe shuffle

Drama in Sierra Leone

North to Alaska

Way down yonder in New Orleans

The British Army around the world

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Please send me ☐ calendars at £6.99 each (inc p&p UK/BFPO)

I enclose a cheque/postal order* for £

*Please delete as appropriate

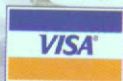
Please make cheques/POs payable to Soldier and allow 28 days for delivery.

Orders should be returned to: Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

All items are inclusive of p&p for UK/BFPO. Overseas rates are available on request.

Credit card hotline: **01252 347353**

www.soldiermagazine.co.uk



Secret of the Rock

Under Gibraltar's streets is a honeycomb of tunnels excavated by Army engineers

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

GIBRALTAR is one of the world's great natural fortresses; an impregnable rock that guards the gateway to the Mediterranean. The defences on the outside look impressive, but it's the ones concealed within that for centuries have been the Rock's greatest asset.

Today a number of soldiers from The Royal Gibraltar Regiment are qualified to act as guides and, on their days off, show tourists around this extraordinary defensive network.

In 1782, during the American War of Independence, British Army engineers set about improving on nature. At the time Spain and France were engaged in an all-out attempt to recapture the Rock.

Sgt Maj Ince, a member of the Company of Soldier Artificers, forerunners of the Royal Engineers, suggested a plan to position guns on the northern face of the Rock, an area known as the Notch. His idea was brilliantly simple, but technically difficult. Using crowbars, sledgehammers and gunpowder, 18 men drove a tunnel 25m into the Rock. The tool-marks where they cut into the walls are still clearly visible.

But before they reached the Notch, the fumes generated by the gunpowder threatened to choke the miners. They had to have air so they smashed through to open a vent. As soon as light flooded in and the dust cleared, they realised the position would make an excellent gun embrasure. By the time the Great Siege ended in 1783 the tunnel was 113m long and four guns had been mounted along it.

The excavations were not without hazards. Rockfalls claimed lives and some tunnel guides swear they can feel the temperature drop at the spot where men were buried alive.

After the Great Siege was broken, more chambers and tunnels were added. In one, the President of the United States,



"He thinks it'll attract more tourists"

General Grant, was the guest of honour at a banquet hosted by the Governor of Gibraltar.

During the Second World War, the Royal Engineers added 40km of tunnels to the complex, which the Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces, Gen Dwight Eisenhower, used for his secret headquarters. Here he finalised his plans for the invasion of North Africa in 1942.

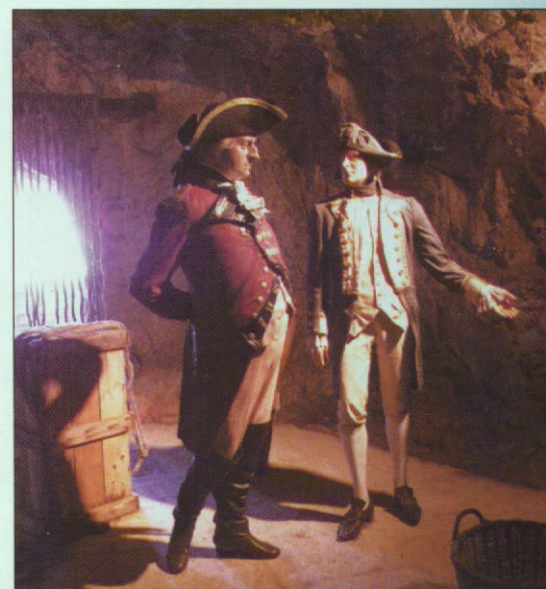
During this time the chambers were put to many purposes, housing a hospital, electricity generator and telephone exchange.

At the height of the war a team of observers volunteered to stay inside the tunnels in the event of Gibraltar falling into enemy hands. Equipped with food and water, they were prepared to stay hidden for year, transmitting information on ship movements through the Straits.

The tunnels are one of the Rock's most fascinating and atmospheric attractions. Even the guides admit to getting a little spooked when they are on their own. Cpl John Hargreaves of the AGC said: "When I walk back through the tunnels alone, it sometimes feels like someone is watching me."



Spooky but historic: In a room off this tunnel, Gen Dwight D Eisenhower planned the invasion of North Africa



Ace in the hole: These waxworks in the tunnels depict, above left, the Governor of Gibraltar at the time of the Great Siege, Gen Elliot, inspecting a gun embrasure, and, below, a soldier warming the chamber during a dinner for President Grant



MOFFATS SCHOOL

for BOYS & GIRLS 4 to 13 +

A happy family school in beautiful countryside
on the SHROPSHIRE/WORCESTERSHIRE border
proud of our long association with Service families

- Over 90% of our pupils are full boarders
- Small classes; high all-round achievement without stress
- Expert help and support for dyslexia and other special needs
- Classwork balanced by many activities incl. music, art & drama
- All games and riding taught in our 100-acre grounds
- Our own escorts to and from major stations and all U.K. airports
- Hospitality and fun for children in at half-terms and exeats
- INTELLIGENCE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP & SERVICE BURSARIES

Kinlet Hall
Nr Bewdley
Wores DY12 3AY

Tel: (01299) 841230



**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE:**

www.soldiermagazine.co.uk



Natocars' special new car discounts

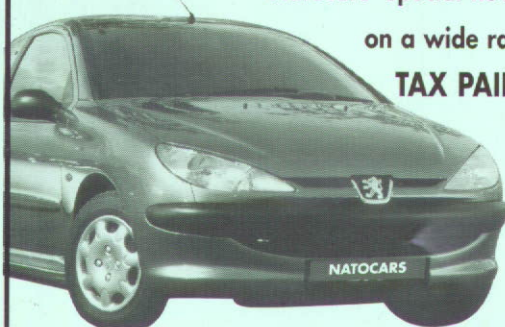
on a wide range of makes,

TAX PAID for UK use

or **TAX FREE**

for export,

offer you



Special Military Prices
on 100's of new cars

PLUS

- Best rate part exchange
- Low rate finance
- Discount insurance

and you will enjoy the NATOCARS'
renowned 'take care of it all' service

**Can you afford not to buy from
NATOCARS? Call us NOW!**

Tel: 01278 455555



NATOCARS
For People Who Drive A Good Deal!

Wylds Road • Bridgwater • Somerset TA6 4BH
Tel: 01278 455555 • Fax: 01278 450396

www.natocars.co.uk • E-mail: sales@natocars.co.uk (Please give full postal address)



SOL PEU 4

G.D. Golding

The Military Tailors



G. D. Golding



CIVIL & LIVERY

• Suits • Sports jackets • Blazers • Trousers

MILITARY

• Mess kit • No. 1 dress • Service dress • Accoutrements

SERVICE

• Visiting service (UK & Germany) • Account facilities
• Customer satisfaction guarantee

220 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW
and 183 London Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3JS

Telephone: 01727 841321 Facsimile: 01727 831462

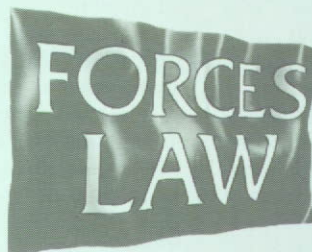
website: www.goldings.co.uk

email: tailors@goldings.co.uk

Legal Advice

If you're in the **Forces** there's a fast way to make contact with a solicitor who'll speak **your** language. The Forces Legal Network is a national group of established, independent solicitors who all provide:

- FREE 30 minute initial diagnostic interviews
- Staff with experience of service problems
- Legal Aid and "No Win-No Fee" accident claims
- 24 hour emergency legal cover
- A full range of quality assured legal services
- Competitive fees



The Forces Legal Network

One call puts you in touch with confidential advice on any service or family legal matter.

FORCES LAW HELPLINE:
0845 6011260

Life in the freezer



Far from their homes, a military detachment is preparing the island for the arrival of scientists

Ravishing backdrop: Members of the South Georgia detachment get a seaborne view of the Antarctic base from their Rigid Raider craft

Report: Capt Caroline Kirman
Picture: Sgt Mick Lynn

SINCE the 1982 Falklands conflict, sparked by the occupation of South Georgia by Argentina, there has been a military detachment based permanently on the tiny Antarctic island.

This amazing crescent-shaped chunk of 9,000ft-high mountains rises steeply out of the Antarctic ocean, and the sight of its glaciers tumbling into the sea to create huge icebergs is not easily forgotten.

Capt Chris Brogan RE commands the 18-strong military presence on South Georgia. Most of his men are from 33 Engineer Regiment EOD, usually based in the more temperate climes of Wimbish in Essex.

The signals element is part of the Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands, currently from 3 (UK) Division HQ and Signal Regiment based at Bulford. With expert advice from Sgt George Singer RM, the resident mountain leader, and Sgt Kev Brooks RM, who runs and maintains the fleet of nippy Rigid Raiders, this hand-picked group is employed for very specific skills that allow the detachment to survive in one of the most harsh and

isolated regions of the world. South Georgia is 8,000 miles from the UK, 1,000 miles from mainland Antarctica and 900 miles from the team's re-supply point in the Falklands.

Its main claim to fame is the epic journey that polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton made in 1916. He traversed the island in search of help after his ship, the *Endurance*, became trapped in ice floes as

6 Their base is 8,000 miles from the UK and 900 miles from its resupply point in the Falklands 9

he attempted the first crossing of Antarctica.

Shackleton and five colleagues had sailed 800 miles to South Georgia in a ship's boat before crossing mountains and glaciers without food or shelter in 36-hours to reach a whaling station at Stromness. *Endurance's* crew was subsequently rescued without a single life lost.

Base at King Edward Point on South Georgia, the military detachment falls under the command of Commander

British Forces, Falkland Islands, Brig Geoff Sheldon. Its focus at present is on preparing the infrastructure for British Antarctic Survey scientists due to return to the island 19 years after the occupation by Argentinian forces. Some of the work has involved specialist teams, but as winter sets in the climate becomes so hostile that the basic day-to-day running of the buildings, re-supply, and assistance to the South Georgia Government is a full-time job.

Fresh supplies of essential stores, equipment and fuel arrive once a month by ship, supplemented by a monthly air-drop from a Falklands-based C130 Hercules.

But the island provides the detachment with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take advantage of its unique location. Keen mountaineers are in their element, and the spectacular views and experiences of a tour of duty in Antarctica are unlikely to be forgotten.

The island is home to penguins, fur seals and albatross, some not found anywhere else in the world. While maintaining their tough exteriors, members of the detachment have been known to soften in the close proximity of wildlife.

Do you dare to go West?

A tri-Service camp on the rugged and spectacular North Cornwall coast offers a wide range of possibilities for the adventurous

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

NEXT time your unit is looking for a spot of adventure, you could do a lot worse than turn to the West Country. Tucked away on the rugged North Cornish coast is a military establishment covering 925 acres of stunning sea and countryside.

Penhale Training Camp, seven miles from holiday hotspot Newquay, can accommodate up to 659 people of all ranks, yet most of the tri-Service base's summer visitors are from the cadet organisations.

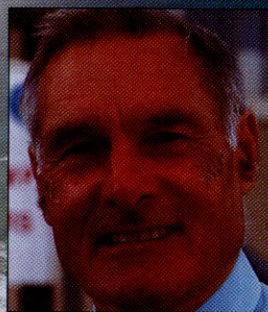
Penhale offers sailing, windsurfing and canoeing facilities, the walking delights of the South West Coastal Path, and the National Bike Trail, which runs along the site of an old 17-mile railway line between Bodmin Moor and Padstow.

Part of the camp has been designated an area of special scientific interest.

Penhale's cliffs offer eight abseil sites up to 60 metres high, each with a facility for two ropes. Although visitors may sunbathe on nearby Perren beach, swimming there is forbidden because of the area's ferocious rip-tides.

The training camp boasts a new 30-metre climbing wall and an aerial slide is scheduled to be constructed soon.

Other available adventurous training activities include climbing, caving, and orienteering, while recreational facilities on offer include pony trekking, gliding, land yachting, clay-pigeon shooting, mountain-biking, golf and and quad-biking.



Cliff-hanger: Penhale Training Camp.
Inset: Camp commandant Maj (Retd) Barry Andrews

Our man travelled to Penhale to sample its facilities . . . but let a quad bike get the better of him

WHEN *Soldier* was invited to Penhale Training Camp to sample the activities on offer, little did writer Ray Routledge know that the potentially dangerous pastimes would prove a doddle, while the fun bit of the visit would turn out to be a rather painful experience.

Camp commandant Barry Andrews, a former major with The Parachute Regiment, began by suggesting Ray try abseiling.

Here's his account of what happened:

It's a good job I've a head for heights, **Ray writes**, so I had no worries about tackling the 50m descent to Perren Bay under the watchful eyes of instructors Sgt Graham Cork, REME, Sgt Alf Tupper, RA and Sgt Eddie Waring, R Signals.

What I didn't expect was how tiring it would be on the shoulders, stretching my arm at 90 degrees and holding the rope in

order to make a controlled descent. Barry's words rang in my ears: "There's a lot to think about, arm back is the breaking position; put it in front and the rope can easily slip and the descent becomes a little more rapid."

A few minutes later I was on the beach, only to be asked by our photographer: "Can you do it again? I need some shots from a different angle."

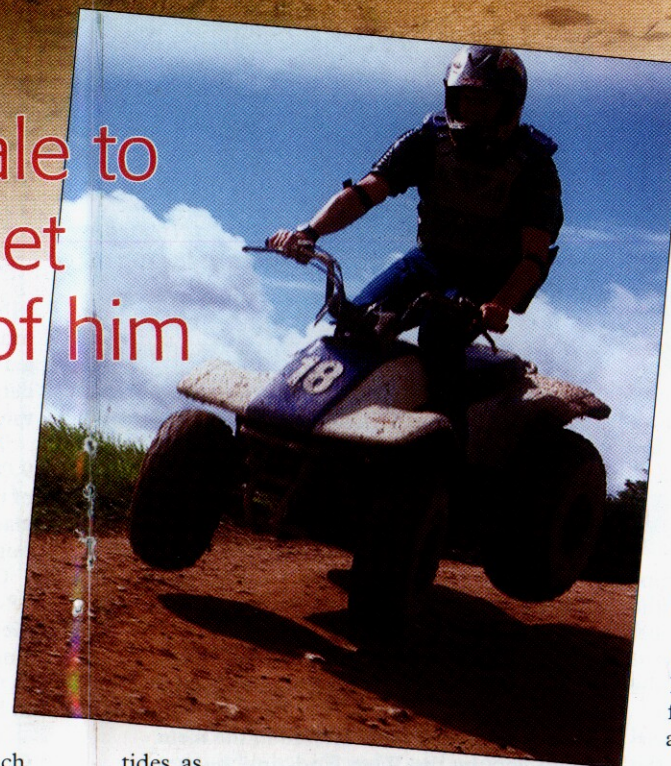
Second time round it was much easier (apart from the slog back up to the top of the cliff). I could get used to this abseiling.

Next on the agenda was shark fishing. "Very popular with the soldiers," said Barry on the drive to Newquay to join the fishing boat *Bounty* and skipper Jim Hoare.

Jim, it turns out, has spent a lifetime fishing these waters and knows the wind and



Jaws: Not quite a shark, but he put up a hell of a fight



tides as well as anyone. Unfortunately, he had disappointing news. The sea was just too rough to go out the 16 or so miles we needed to if we were to try for shark, so instead we would go reef fishing four miles from shore.

First, catch your bait: mackerel (landed by the bucketful) before Jim anchored up after consulting a sophisticated, sonar-like



Don't look down: Ray, above, prepares to go over the edge for his first descent to Perren Bay while, left, he is on the quad-bike track riding high before his fall

fish-finder. After two hours of pitching and rolling in driving rain I hooked a couple of pouting, which, for someone who has never attempted this form of fishing in his life, wasn't bad – and no seasickness.

That was the two dangerous parts over – I hadn't fallen down the cliff face and I hadn't drowned at sea.

"You'll love this next bit," said Barry. "We're going quad-biking."

We set off to the ATV Centre outside Truro to collect a 125cc Yamaha quad. Assistant manager Simon Butler told me that accidents were rare and there would be marshals positioned around the course in case of trouble.

The quad is easy to ride . . . children as

young as six use some variants, so this is going to be fun, I thought. The trouble is that the kids who do ride don't have a lot of road sense . . . and on the third circuit, disaster struck.

A youngster who was breaking several Highway Code rules and didn't have a lot of respect for his elders, shunted me into a tyre wall. Michael Shumacher couldn't teach this guy a thing.

I landed painfully, and with a maximum loss of dignity, on my backside. Thankfully my hip was not broken, as the medics at first suspected, only muscle damage to my leg, ankle and pride.

Although I hobbled away from Penhale Training Camp considerably the worse for wear, I'd be happy to go back any time. I'm a risk-taker.

I wonder if Barry and Co could teach me to play bridge?



Footnote: Although ministered by Lt Ceri Anderson, 208 Fd Hospital, Ray may never play bowls again

Carry on Para

One of Britain's favourite actors tells how he survived a Naafi blast – only to be stabbed by a bayonet in front of Field Marshal Montgomery

Interview: Ray Routledge
Main picture: Steve Dock

WHEN genial star of stage and screen Bernard Cribbins signed on for The Parachute Regiment in 1947 he wasn't motivated by duty or glamour. It was to claim the extra half-a-crown a week which went with the job.

Now, more than 50 years later, the man from Oldham looks back on his time in the Army with great affection and admits he was tempted, albeit briefly, to stay in.

Bernard Cribbins volunteered for the Paras following his call-up for National Service in 1947. After completing his basic training he found himself in Aldershot.

"I think there must be a moment for everyone when you think: 'Is this right?' In that second, Jack Marlborough, who looked after us, would shout Go! and before you knew it, you were away," recalls Bernard.

"I did 13 weeks' infantry training and then we went off to Upper Hayford and did eight qualification jumps from a DC3."

After training he was posted to Palestine, where he joined the 3rd Battalion at a tented camp in Azib before moving to Peninsula Barracks in Haifa when the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were amalgamated.

He remembers one incident as though it happened yesterday.

"I was walking to the cookhouse to collect the tea in a big bucket. There was a glow in the sky and I thought how romantic it was... sunrise over the Mediterranean. It turned out the Naafi was on fire.

"The problem was that the Naafi was next door to the armoury, which was housed in two wooden huts. The RSM, with a cocked 9mm pistol, had men in

their pyjamas and less, getting the ammo out of the huts and stacking it across the road next to the cookhouse.

"We were pulling out boxes of bombs and hand-grenades and mortars. The ceiling caught fire and we stopped and ran. Two minutes later the whole lot went up, shortly followed by the stack we had made. The explosion destroyed the cookhouse and the Naafi."

There was a strange coincidence many years later in 1964 when he returned to Israel to make the film *She*.

"While I was chatting to one of the assistants, Felix, he told me he was in Haifa and was part of the unit that fired the Naafi."

When the Paras returned from Palestine in April 1948, the battalion formed a guard of honour for Field Marshal Montgomery.

"I didn't get to do it all because while we were fixing bayonets, the guy on my right lost control of his and stuck it through my hand," sighed Bernard. "I was bleeding and Montgomery insisted I fall out."

"I was so fed up because we had rehearsed for weeks. What a disaster."

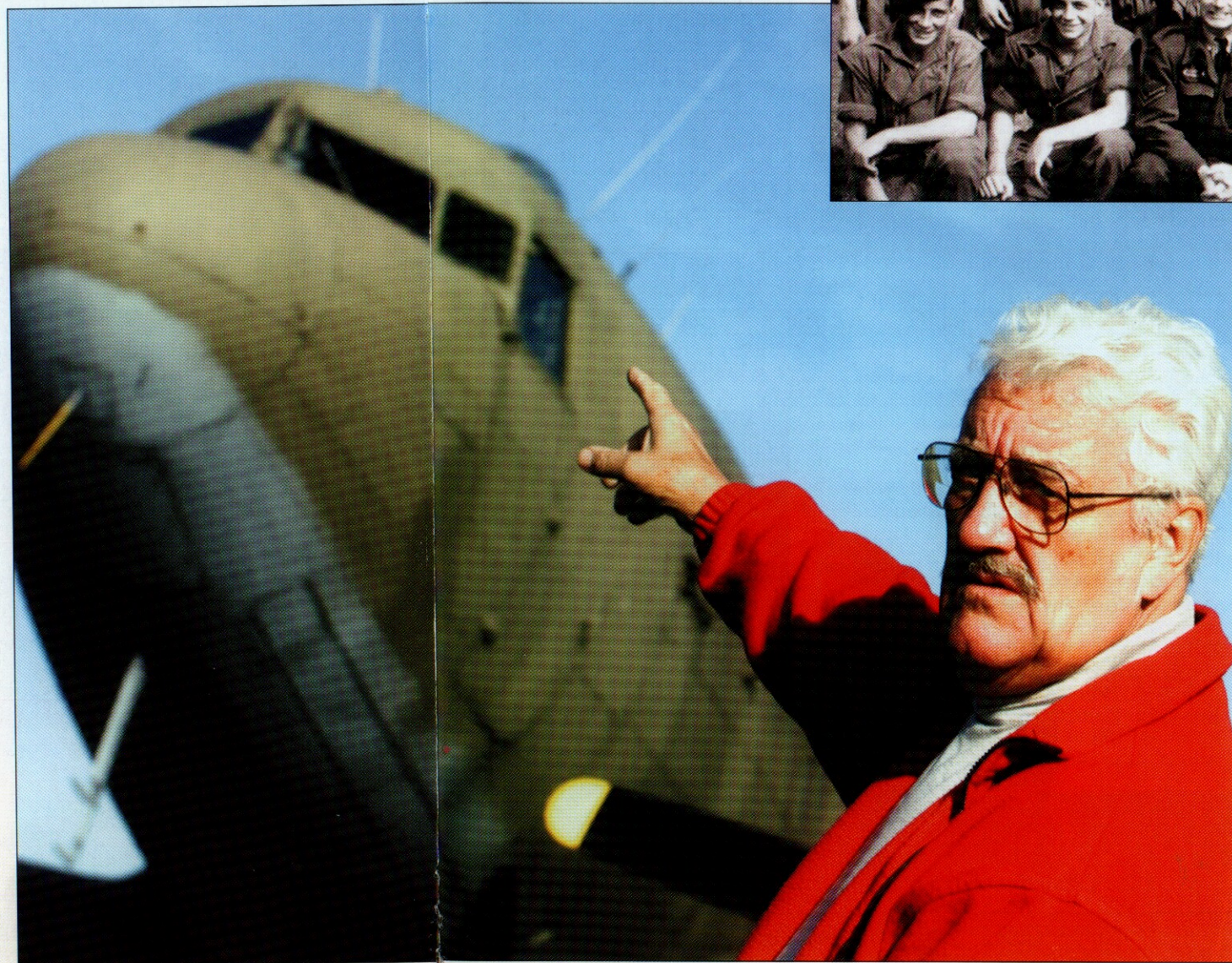
After serving in Germany, Bernard was demobbed in York in 1949.

"Incredible friendships form very quickly in the Army, but I wanted to get back to being an actor. I had done four years in the theatre before joining up."

Bernard's theatrical career began when he was just

14, working as an assistant stage manager and actor at the Colosseum Theatre in Oldham. There, in weekly rep, he took on 50 plays a year and worked with the likes of Dora Bryan and Eric Sykes. "We had to learn a lot of scripts, as you can imagine," he said. "But I think the memory is like a muscle that develops with use."

He married his wife Gillian in 1955, in



Class of 1947: Bernard Cribbins, back row, second from left, begins two years of National Service during which he served in Palestine

Memories: Bernard, who did eight jumps while in training, admires the Dakota, left, at the Airborne Forces Museum in Aldershot

Cribbins quotes

● 'I volunteered for the Paras. The thing that attracted me was the extra half-a-crown a week.'

● 'I was posted to Schleswig-Holstein in Germany, where I was a batman at a transit camp. I spent most of my time fishing.'

● 'I did my eight qualification jumps at Upper Hayford. I went to Palestine but did no jumps there because of the troubles. And I didn't do any in Germany because of the Berlin airlift. Then I was demobbed.'

● 'I know we had been trained to jump, but it is an unnatural thing to do.'

a bit of a rush as it turned out. "I got married in the morning, did a matinee and evening performance and then went home to a little bedsit flat in Earls Court," he said.

Bernard's big break arrived in the form of a job in the West End and he has worked there, or in television or films, ever since.

Although his was the voice of *The Wombles*, many youngsters will not be familiar with his recording successes. "I was doing a review in the Fortune Theatre when George Martin, who was with the Parlophone label and who went on to produce the Beatles, arranged to record *Folk-*

song, a very silly piece. We quickly sold 25,000 copies so they came back for more."

Hole in the Ground was next and became a top-ten hit, followed by *Right, Said Fred* and *Gossip Calypso*, written by Trevor Peacock, who has carved a niche for himself as "No-no-no" Jim in the BBC's *The Vicar of Dibley* comedy series.

"They were great fun to do and a side-step from my acting career."

Bernard has made a hatful of films and worked with some of the cinema's biggest stars, including Ursula Andress. "She was a lovely fella," he grinned. There were also films with Peter Sellers, Peter Cushing,

William Holden and David Niven. "*The Railway Children* was good fun and it meant working with Lionel Jeffries, who was always superb."

He also made three *Carry On* films, the last being *Carry On Columbus*, which he described as a disaster.

Today, Bernard does a lot of work for charities when he is not doing TV commercial voice-overs and commentaries. He is a past president of the Sport Aiding Medical Research for Kids (SPARKS).

Despite his success on film, Bernard prefers working in the theatre. "It's what I know best, it's what I do best," he said.

Asked to name his favourite acting col-

league, several sprang to mind. "Lionel Jeffries was always good fun; a stunt man named Gerry Crampton; Peter Sellers, who in his early days was a fine character actor; and Ursula Andress, who was charming."

As for his favourite production, he answered without hesitation. "*Guys and Dolls* at the National in about 1983 has to be the favourite. I always say it was like being back in the Paras. There was great spirit, a great sort of pulling together and everyone working to a focused point.

"It was a terrific production... it was like being back in the mob.

"It doesn't get better than that."

Images: NI Photo Competition

Nelson touch is victorious

'Newcomer' Bobby sets the photo world alight and fills his garage with smoke in the process

IT must be one of the most unusual and bizarre self-portraits ever created, writes **Chris Horrocks**.

Multiple award-winner Cpl Bobby Nelson set to work on what was to become the Image of the Year (main picture) just weeks before the Northern Ireland Tri-Service Photo Competition was judged.

Using his garage as a studio and Agfa 100 film, he applied green and red gel to two flashes, put on a respirator and photographed himself through another, using his left hand to press the shutter release. But first he decided to add a smoke effect.

"I couldn't get a smoke machine so found some leaves, put them in a metal tin and set fire to them. I didn't set the alarm off but my garage had a bit of smoke damage," he confessed. "But it's all worth while now."

Bobby, who also won awards for the best digital, sport, and colour images, has been an Army professional photographer for only two-and-a-half years, joining the RLC after

impressing as battalion photographer with The Highlanders.

Eight superb images by SSgt Dave Bridges, RLC earned him the coveted title of NI Professional Photographer of the Year to add to one runner-up and two "highly commended" prizes.

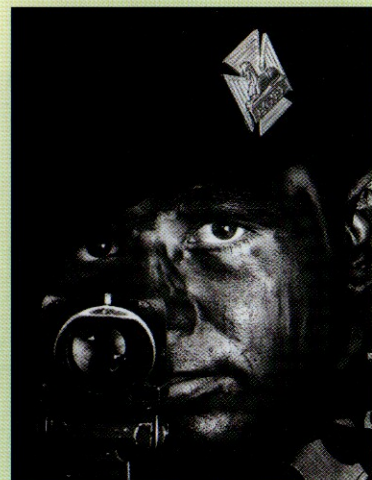
Meanwhile, Amateur Photographer of the Year Capt Sam Potter, RAMC made it a glorious double by also picking up the *Soldier*-sponsored Own Choice award.

Another name frequently cropping up at the Lisburn award ceremony was Sgt Shane Wilkinson, RLC, who, not content with the Mono category award, was runner-up or highly commended in four other classes.

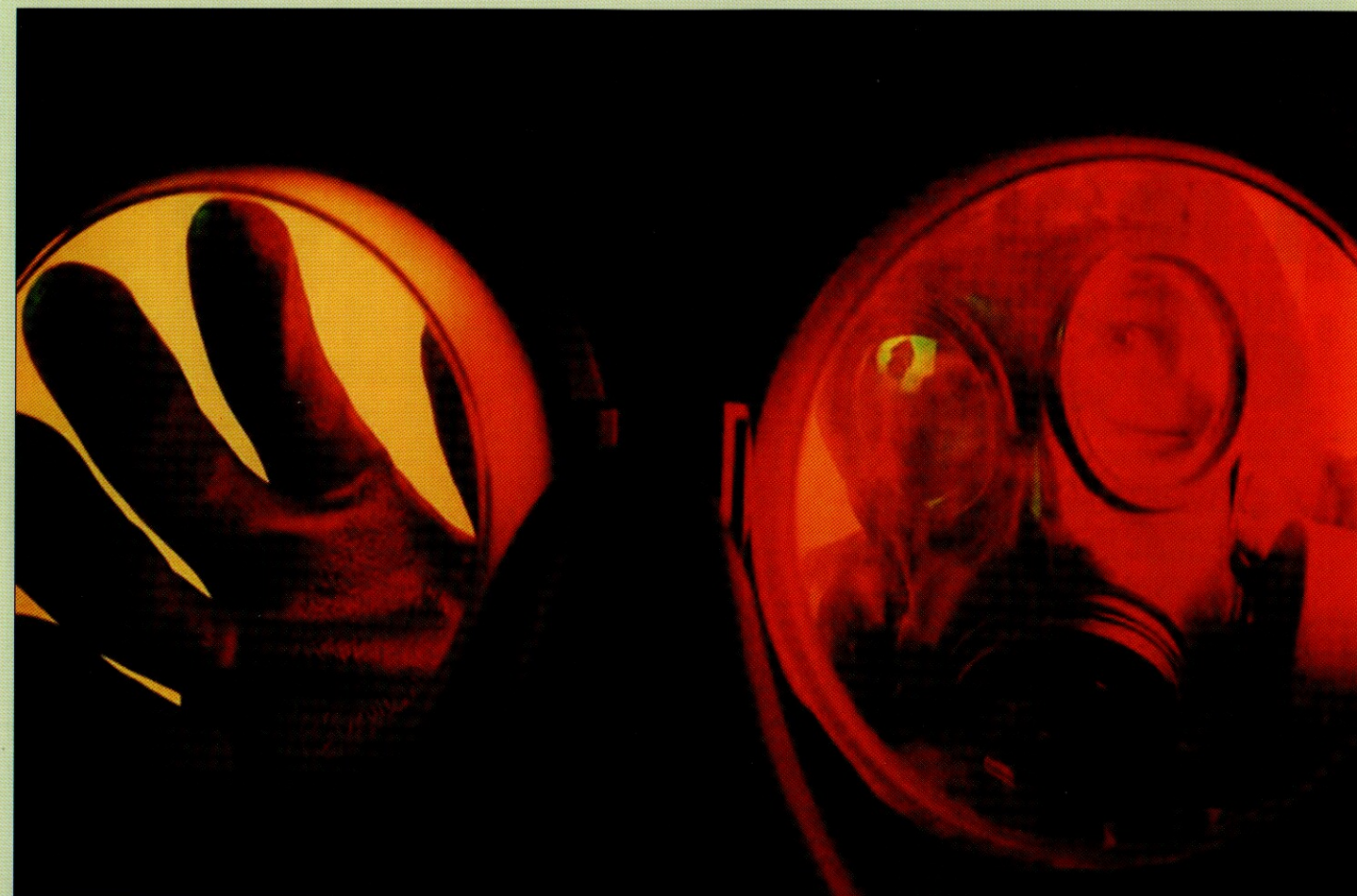
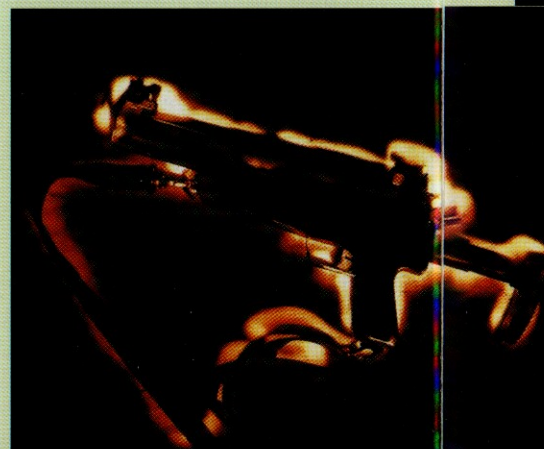
The judges were Linda Salem, of the British Institute of Professional Photographers, Roger Goodwin, Chief Information Officer at HQNI, and Stephen George, Principal Photographer, HQNI. Prizes were presented by Cdr Kevin Broadley RN, Senior Naval Officer, Northern Ireland.



Cpl Bobby Nelson



Don't shoot until you see . . . Sgt Shane Wilkinson's monochrome hit

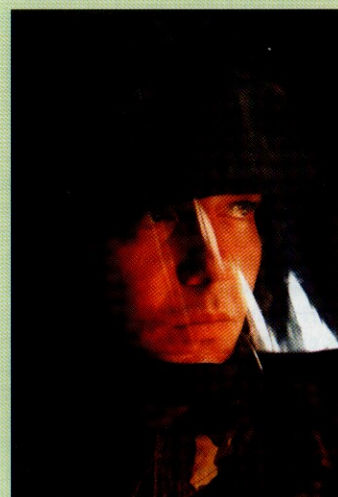


Self-portrait with a difference: Cpl Bobby Nelson's intriguing Image of Year and Best Colour Photo, above

Hotshot: The picture on the left, from top amateur Capt Sam Potter's portfolio, also won the "Own Choice" prize

Net result: The image on the right helped win SSgt Dave Bridges the Professional Photographer of the Year title

Eye-catching: Cpl Nelson's Best Digital Image, below



Double take: Best Portrait and Image of Year runner-up was Sgt Trevor Bull's brown study, above

Basketwork: Cpl Bobby Nelson scored from an unusual angle in the Sports Image category, right



All the results

Image of the Year (sponsored by GOC NI): Cpl Bobby Nelson, RLC; runner-up, Sgt Trevor Bull, RLC.

Professional Photographer of the Year (Kodak): SSgt Dave Bridges, RLC; runner-up, Sgt Shane Wilkinson, RLC; highly commended, Cpl Jim Hennessey, RLC.

Amateur Photographer of the Year (Fuji): Capt Sam Potter, RAMC; runner-up, LCpl Patrick Vinke-Tuke, 9 RIR.

Best digital image (Photographic Maintenance Services): Cpl Bobby Nelson, RLC; runner-up, Cpl Jim Hennessey, RLC; highly commended, SSgt Dave Bridges and Sgt Shane Wilkinson.

Best sports image (Photo Services): Cpl Bobby Nelson, RLC; runner-up, LCpl Patrick Vinke-Tuke, 9 RIR; highly commended, Sgt Shane Wilkinson, RLC.

Own choice award (*Soldier*): Capt Sam Potter RAMC; runner-up, Sgt Shane Wilkinson, RLC; third place, Cpl Ben Duggan, 1 R Anglian; highly commended, SSgt Dave Bridges, RLC and Sgt Shane Wilkinson, RLC.

Best military portrait (KJP): Sgt Trevor Bull RLC; runner-up, Cpl Chris Redford, RLC; highly commended, Capt Dave Chrystal.

Best colour photograph (Agfa): Cpl Bobby Nelson, RLC; runner-up, Cpl Jim Hennessey, RLC; highly commended, LCpl Patrick Vinke-Tuke, 9 RIR.

Best monochrome photograph (Ilford): Sgt Shane Wilkinson, RLC; runner-up, SSgt Dave Bridges, RLC; highly commended, Cpl Rob Leyland, RLC.

Lionheart – pride of Cyprus

A brave new housing project at Episkopi has proved a winner with Service families

THE Lionheart estate, a showpiece housing development in Cyprus's Western Sovereign Base Area, has proved a huge success with Service families . . . and for one in particular it is the answer to a prayer, **writes Ray Routledge.**

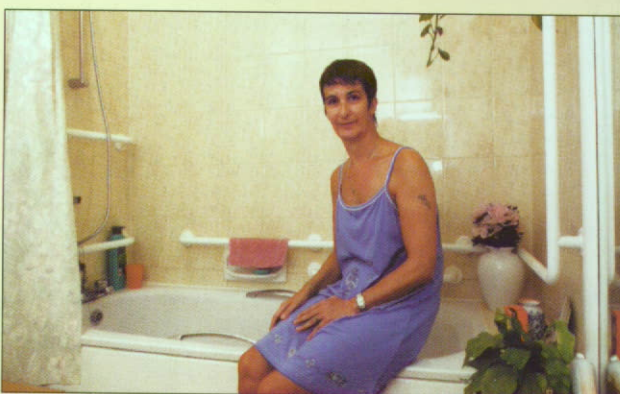
Mary Milligan, who is married to LCpl Robert Milligan of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, suffers from osteoarthritis and frequently needs a wheelchair. Until now, Army accommodation has been a real challenge for her.

Mary and her husband are delighted with their new purpose-built bungalow at Episkopi. "The things they've put in have made my life so much easier and I'd like to shake the planner by the hand," she said.

Helpful touches include wider doors to



Home from home: Lionheart village, above, at Episkopi



Room to move: Mary Milligan in her carefully planned bathroom

Pictures: Mike Weston

rails, while the chunky taps have easy-to-grip lever-style handles.

Cupboards and work surfaces are set a little lower than usual to

make life easier for Mary.

"Whoever was involved at the planning stage clearly undertook research to address the problems faced by people with disabilities," she said. "Adapting a house never really works; this is very impressive."

Planning extended to wardrobes with an easy-to-use drop-down hanging facility and outward-opening bathroom doors. The doors, incidentally, have corresponding locks on the outside as well as inside in case of emergencies.

"I've never had anything like this before in Service accommodation," said Mary. "I think there should be more like it. Our next move is to Catterick and the combination of cold weather and lack of facilities there could mean five very miserable years for me."

"I would like them to send people here to show what can be done. Good housing is a great aid to retention."

allow wheelchair access and doors with kickplates. Light switches and plug sockets are at wheelchair height and the rooms, including the bathroom, are larger to allow for a wheelchair turning circle. For added safety there are plenty of hand

House is 'ten times better'

TWO of the 120 properties which make up the £12m Lionheart Village housing project at Episkopi have been modified for disabled people.

Most of the properties have three bedrooms while ten houses have four. The plans were a compromise between British and Cypriot design, with basic construction being typically Cypriot, with reinforced concrete used to meet the Cyprus earthquake code.

Shona Hastings, who lives in her new quarter with husband Cpl William Hastings, 1 KOSB, and their children, reckons

the house is "ten times better" than a previous new quarter they lived in.

The Lionheart houses boast solar panels, which means that during the summer months residents don't need to switch on hot water heaters. "The panels provide all the hot water for bathing and washing," said Mrs Hastings. According to her husband, the only thing the house lacked was air-conditioning.

And there's more good news for Service families posted to Cyprus: Lionheart Village is only the first part of a three-phase development.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

British Limbless Ex-Service

Men's Association 020 8590 1124

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 020 8543 6333

Family Escort Service UK 020 7463 9249; Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272

Gulf Families Association 0121 711 3028

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

Joint Service Housing Advice

Office 01722 436575

National Gulf Veterans and

Families Association 01482 833812

Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011

RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783

SSAFA Forces Help housing

advisory service 01722 436400

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858

WRVS 01235 442940

Help us attempt to make change an informed process

I THINK it was the Chinese who gave the world the curse: "May you live in interesting times". We in the Army seem to have been blessed with constant "interesting" change for more years now than I care to think about.

Of course, much of the change has been to the good, and Army Families Federation has been instrumental in bringing some of it about. But I suspect I am not the only person wondering just how far we can, should, or want to go in certain areas.

Last month's Vox pop feature reflected the widely-held mixed feelings about the Human Rights Act and the questions it may begin to raise. Where does an individual's rights stop and Army discipline begin?

Just how far can the Army and its soldiers be seen as ordinary employer and employees and conform to legislation clearly aimed at normal civilian life?

What about such things as entitlement to housing? *Soldier's* Mailbag pages have recently been featuring letters arguing the case for and against entitlement of unmarried partners to Service housing. Do we think unmarried partners should be entitled to quarters? Only when the relationship can be proved to be long-term or when children are involved?

Or should people who want Service housing just bite the bullet and get married? Society has accepted that many people who are not married live together – it happens all the time. So why shouldn't it happen in the Army? And if it does, are there enough quarters to go around?

What about accompanied service? Will the career aspirations of modern spouses and concerns about the continuity of education eventually win against a family's need to be together?

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon told the *Daily Telegraph* recently that it was an aspiration that units in the Army should have more "home bases" in the UK. I thought we already did, but it seems this plot could pro-



Sue Bonney is editor of the *Families Journal*

vide the stability many families have asked for by allowing them to stay put, spouses to develop careers and children to stay in one school. It also implies that soldiers would go away without their families for longer periods of time... rather like the Royal Navy.

Does this mean the end of accompanied service and regimental communities, and if so, is that what we want? I seem to remember arguing on this page that what many families wanted was a choice – to stay put in one

place when necessary, but to be able to accompany their soldier when they could.

If postings were longer – and three-year postings are one of the desires most commonly expressed to the AFF – this could solve many of the problems caused by frequent moves. But what difference would that make if, during a three-year accompanied posting overseas, your soldier disappears on operational tours at regular and prolonged intervals?

How accompanied is that? Would families in those circumstances prefer to stay put back at UK home base? And if they go, would they prefer to be in quarters or live in their own home, like so many naval families?

The Federation is trying to find out what the Army community thinks about such questions and how life with the Army should be in the future. It has recently published an AFF/SSAFA Changing Attitudes Survey. If you receive a questionnaire, make the most of the opportunity to tell us what you and your spouse think should happen.

Let us know your views via AFF's website at www.aff.org.uk

on the discussion and voting pages.

Change, as Him Indoors is fond of saying, is a constant – it will always be with us. But we can all try and make it an informed process.

The autumn edition of the *AFF Families Journal* is published this month; have you seen your free copy yet? Make sure you ask for it at your unit.

I suspect I am not the only person wondering how far we can, should or want to go in certain areas

Forces' financial services watchdog launched

A NEW advisory panel has been launched to reassure Service personnel that they are getting financial advice from firms that are aware of the special needs of the Armed Forces.

The Services Insurance and

Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) is recognised by the MoD and operates on behalf of Servicemen and women. Chairman of the SIAP management committee is Keith Frampton of the Warrior Group/Naafi Financial Services.

Pension-share on divorce set to become law

COUPLES who begin divorce proceedings on or after December 1 will have the option to share pension rights as part of their financial settlement under new legislation coming into force on December 1.

Under pension sharing, the pension rights which a qualifying scheme member has accrued are divided in whatever ratio the court considers appropriate.

The system is not compulsory, because it will still be possible to offset pension rights against other assets, such as savings or the marital home, or to use the earmarking provisions of the Pensions Act 1995 (explained in Joint Service Defence Council Instruction 90/96). More information can be found in booklet *AFPS 1* available from unit admin offices.

Scheme members will have their accrued pension rights calculated to find the cash equivalent (CE) value. A percentage of the CE is then allocated to the former spouse by the court as part of the financial settlement. This "pension credit" will then buy the former spouse pension rights within the Armed Forces Pension Scheme which must remain preserved within the scheme until they become payable to her (or him) when she (or he) turns 60.

If you remarry, your new spouse may be eligible for widow(er)s benefits on your death based on your pension entitlement after the pension-share.

Car-buyers: This form will leave you CoC-a-hoop

IF you are about to buy a new car, read on... it could save you a few bob.

European Union states are signed up to the, wait for it, European Community Whole Vehicle Approved Certificate of Conformity (or ECWVTA CoC), a document that allows a "motorised passenger-carrying vehicle, to a maximum of nine seats", registered in one member state to be re-registered in another. Still with us?

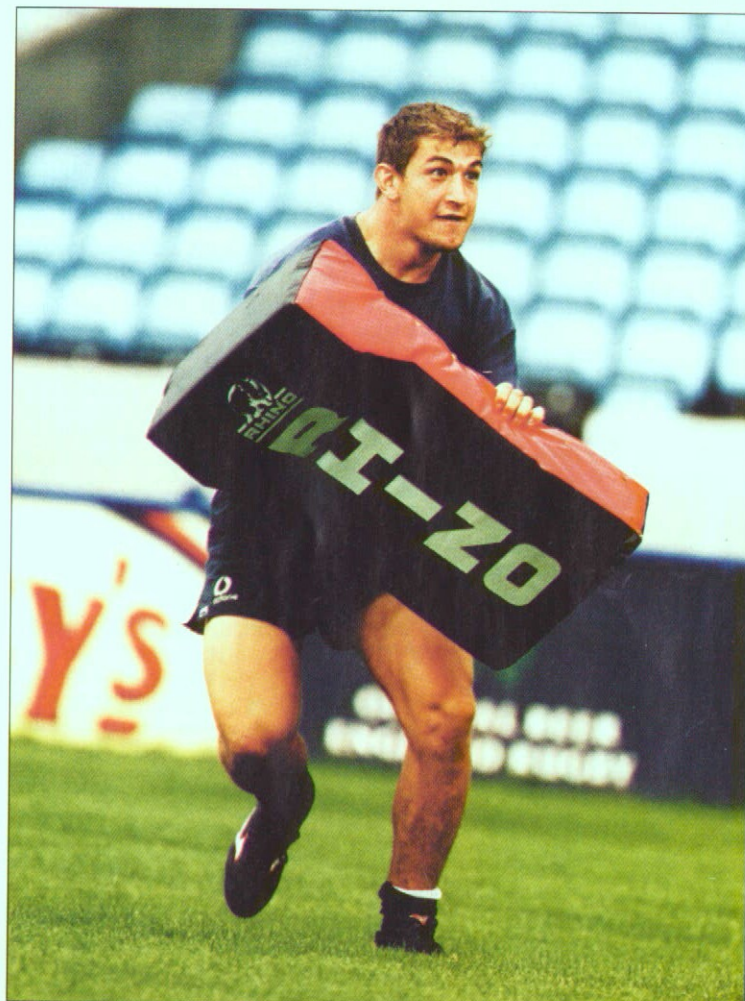
Anyway, the CoC won't cost you a bean if you ask for it when you buy the car, but if you do so once it's on the road, the EU recommends car makers charge for the service.

The MG Rover Group asks for £50 for a CoC, the same amount as BMW. Land Rover, Volvo and Jaguar charges £94, as does Mercedes, while Vauxhall will set you back £74, and VW/Audi £58.75.

Many Service personnel, apparently, don't know they can avoid the charge altogether by requesting the CoC when they order their new car. They do now.



Duo's Quins-essential performance



Picture: Harlequins RFU

Padded up: Gnr Andy Dawling (7 Para RHA) braces himself for impact at The Stoop Memorial Ground, Twickenham – the home of Harlequins RFC

Dream becomes a reality for two of the Army's rising stars

PLAYING for a top-flight club alongside some of the biggest names in world rugby has become more than just a pipe dream for 7 (Parachute) Royal Horse Artillery's Gnr Andy Dawling and LBdr Lee Soper.

Careers as professional rugby players are now on the cards for the two burly forwards, who have been signed by rugby union giants NEC Harlequins.

Dawling and Soper joined the star-studded Quins, coached by former New Zealand great Zinzan Brooke and former England scrum-half Richard Hill, on a trial basis during the pre-season and have not looked back since, each notching up a number of first team appearances.

Four months after arriving at the club the pair have, in the words of Quins' general manager Ross Young, become "an integral part of the squad". No mean feat when you consider that the likes of Irish international Keith Wood and Australian David Wilson are among the club's star names.

Flanker Wilson, who has won 74 caps over nine years for the Wallabies, played a major role in taking the World Cup back down under last summer.

For 23-year old Soper the move to Quins, who play their home games at The Stoop, Twickenham, marks a spectacular rise to the top.

"I only really started playing rugby seriously when I was 17," he told *Soldier*. "After college I went to my local club, Truro, and played for their colts side before joining the Army. I then played for my regiment, the Army under 21s and captained the Combined Services under 21s.

"Last season I played for Camberley RFC and also got my first two caps for the Army – and now here I am. It really is a dream come true. I feel like I'm learning a lot here.

Training with world-class players helps you along so much

Training with world-class players helps you along so much. I feel stronger, more powerful and my technique in line-outs has improved."

Soper's Army team-mate, Andy Dawling, is no stranger to life in the professional game, having already enjoyed a spell at Gloucester, but the 26-year-old is equally gratified to be associated with one of England's most famous clubs.

"I've played since I was about ten but most of my rugby has been Service rugby," said Dawling.

"Three seasons ago I moved to Newbury and then went on to play for Gloucester and Coventry. I'm delighted to be with the Quins now – everyone wants to compete at the highest level in their sport and I am doing just that."

Now a regular face in the first team squad, Dawling is taking his new-found fame in his stride.

"I certainly do not feel like a star, you go back to the regiment and you soon get bought back down to earth. The lads are all pleased for me and as long as I keep the Quins T-shirts going their way they give me an easy time."

Testament to their motto – "When you play, you play with style" – the Quins are responsible for producing more international players, including 21 England captains, than any other club.

But as far as international aspirations are concerned Dawling, whose accolades include five caps for the Army and two for the Combined Services, is not getting ahead of himself.

"It is everyone's dream to play for their country and I am no different but for the time being I'm concentrating on staying in the Harlequin squad. I have always hoped to play rugby at this level and I am just happy to see how it goes."

♦ **Soldier has teamed up with NEC Harlequins to offer its readers discounted entry at The Stoop.**

Readers purchasing a £10 Jester ticket for either the open north or south stands, or the closed east stand, will receive a second ticket free.

To collect your discounted tickets take a copy of this magazine to the club's box office on matchdays. The offer is valid until December 28.



Picture: Graeme Main

Star status: LBdr Lee Soper (7 Para RHA), left, talks tactics with Samoan international and new team-mate Tani Fuga during a rare break in training

RESULTS SERVICE

CRICKET: Combined Services (200-8 dec) lost by seven wickets to Sir Paul Getty's XI (201-3).

MCC (191-8 dec) beat Combined Services (84) by 107 runs.

Oxford University (248 and 238-5) drew with Combined Services (284-8 dec and 177-7).

The Combined Services match against Cambridge University was declared a draw after the fixture was abandoned due to rain.

♦ A run of eight straight wins ensured that the Royal Signals Cricket Club finished worthy winners of the Grouse Inter-Corps championships.

FOOTBALL: The Army beat Ryman Premier

League high-flyers Farnborough Town 2-0 with goals from Cpl Bomber Brown and Cfn Craig Wall.

The team extended their 100 per cent record to four games with an 8-1 mauling of Carshalton Athletic.

Wall (2) and Brown (1) were again on the score sheet and were joined by LCpl Simon Bell (2), Cpl Eugene Shannon (2) and Sgt Pete Tagg (1).

Under the watchful eye of new coach WO1 Alan Higgins, the team then picked up their first piece of silverware of the season.

A lone goal from Wall was enough to beat the Metropolitan Police and lift the Grenadier Guards challenge trophy.

♦ The women's team were beaten 4-0 by a

strong Southampton Saints team.

♦ A tense penalty shoot-out decided the annual six-a-side tournament held at Aldershot, 11 Signal Regt beating 9/12th L 7-6.

♦ DCRE beat civilian side, Hyder 6-1.

ROUNDERS: The APTC won the Inter-Corps rounders championships, defeating the Royal Signals in the final.

SHOOTING: WO2 Tony Masters (RA) was awarded the gold jewel in the Army individual clay target championships with a score of 221.

WO2 David Beattie (R Irish) finished three clays behind and Sgt Simon Arbuckle took third with 215.

♦ The Inter-Services long-range small bore

rifle championships were marred by the recent fuel crisis, which prevented the Royal Air Force and Royal Air Force Reserve sides from attending.

The Royal Navy pulled out because of a lack of numbers.

With the Territorial Army offering the only opposition, the Regular Army retained the Gilbert Trophy for the second successive year.

Maj Martin Sinclair (TA) won the Wilkinson Sword in the Inter-Service individual championship with a score of 1966 – an agonising one point short of the record set in 1989. Capt Guy Brewsher (TA) beat WO2 John Frame (RLC) to second place by two points.

Sgt Fran Weston (AGC) was presented the

Peter Martin Trophy as the leading woman competitor.

♦ The Royal Air Force took both the centre fire and air pistol titles at this year's Inter-Services target pistol team championships.

The individual championship, introduced for the first time in 1997, was won by LCpl Willy Kennedy (R Irish) with a record score of 1,447 points.

♦ The annual match between the Combined Services and the English Small-bore Shooting Union (ESSU) saw the ESSU again finish on top.

However, the Combined Services will take consolation in the fact that the winning margin was reduced to 85 points from last year's 107.

♦ The Police Athletic Association won their

annual match against the Army, winning all three matches.

♦ The Combined Services match against Great Britain, sponsored by the Joint Services Shooting Committee, produced a clean sweep for the Services side.

Cpl Robert Doak (R Irish) was the highest scoring individual with an aggregate score of 1,725 (ex 1800).

Cdr Peter Flippant (RAF) took the runners-up spot with 1,694, one point ahead of Great Britain's Peter Clark.

TUG OF WAR: Newly-formed 1 Close Support Medical Regiment were crowned women's champions at the Army tug-of-war finals in Larkhill.



Blood Donor Carers & Blood Donor Carers and Blood Mobile Drivers (LGV C+E)

North London Teams

The National Blood Service is responsible for supplying the National Health Service with vital blood and blood products. Our Donor Carers are a vital part of each blood collection team and are responsible for caring for donors before, during, and after their donation. In addition they are responsible for a wide range of associated duties, including the setting up of each mobile blood donor session and the registration of donors on our computer system.

Formal qualifications are not essential, but experience of working with the public is. Experience of working in a caring environment would be an advantage. As the teams are mobile, staff should be able to drive service vehicles to sessions and possession of a full driving licence is therefore essential. We are also seeking people for this role who can drive LGV C+E Blood Mobiles.

Full training is provided in all aspects of the role. Salary details and informal visits to blood donation sessions are encouraged and can be organised by contacting our Team Support Office on 020 8258 2777.

For application details write to the Personnel Department, National Blood Service - South Thames Centre, 75 Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RB or telephone 020 8258 8515 quoting reference number **NL/230**.

Working towards equal opportunities

When flowers are not enough

A unique service which specialises in sending select gift wines quickly and efficiently for any special occasion. We despatch one or two bottles of expertly chosen wines and deliver them anywhere in the UK. Whether your message is one of congratulations, affection or simply a thank you let the WINE MESSENGER convey your sentiment. Each bottle will be despatched in a strong and secure box with an attractive gift tag and your message, attached.

Tel: 01822 611011 Fax: 01822 617094
www.winemessenger.co.uk



Replica Model in 1.35th scale of 105 mm Light Gun

Models are hand-cast in white metal and then hand-painted, overall length 8" long, mounted on a wooden plinth 6" x 6", complete with silver name plate (personalised inscription).

£60.00

(inclusive of P&P)

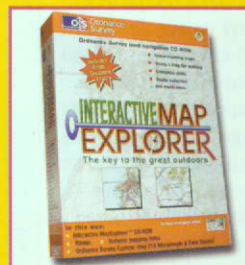
Please allow 28 days delivery

Also available in 1.76th scale measuring 3.5" long mounted on a plinth 2.5" x 4" with name plate @ £16.00.

To order your model, simply send your name, address and daytime telephone number along with plaque inscription, cheque or credit card details to:

Angela Bowler, Skytrex Ltd, Park House, 25 Park Road
Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2ED
Tel: 01509 233298 Fax: 01509 210336

Brush up your map reading skills with . . .



An ideal Christmas present!
This exciting CD-based approach to Map Reading and Land Navigation is a self-teach package containing a multi-media PC CD-ROM, OS Explorer Map 213, the National Mapping Index and a romer.

To order send crossed cheque, made out to 'GWA', to:
Gordonwood Associates, Street Farm Cottage, Barton Stacey, Nr Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 3RT.
Please allow 14 days for delivery.

Normally £29.95
Special offer to readers
£24.99 (including P&P)

Min. system: Windows 95/98, multi-media PC with Pentium 120 processor, 16 Mb RAM with usual peripherals

The Ordnance Survey symbol and Interactive MapExplorer are trade marks of Ordnance Survey.
The GWA 'open door training' symbol is a registered trade mark of Gordonwood Associates.



World CHALLENGE
EXPEDITIONS

Reach your potential
& help them reach theirs...
Lead a Team Challenge expedition



World Challenge Expeditions organises four week educational expeditions for young people to South America, Africa & Asia

We require qualified & experienced expedition leaders

To find out more come to a
Leaders Evening

Plas Y Brenin - 7th November

Tiso's, Edinburgh - 8th November

Buxton, Derbyshire - 9th November

London - 14th November

For further information call 01298 767900
or refer to the DCI JS 00/01

Master Chief's

Britain's first retailer of Blackhawk Industries Inc. Equipment.
This product has already made a name for itself in the USA.

Slings - Bags and Cases - Carlos Hathcock Products
Dieter CQD - Vests - Sheaths - Belts + Harnesses - Packs
Tactical Rigs - Gear Pouches - Mag Pouches - Holsters

All products come with Manufacturer's LIFETIME GUARANTEE

Phone: (015242) 63435 for more details

Regimental and Cap Badges - Signed Prints by Liz "Maverick" Mason
5% of our profits are donated to military related charities

When kit shouldn't be an issue

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

SAILING

Just plain sailing



FENDING off the challenge of some of Great Britain's best yachtsmen, the Army sailing team claimed ownership of the Royal Docklands Cup.

The raising of the silverware was a fitting climax to an exciting Mumm 30 City Sailing Challenge for the Army team of Cpl Stan Macmillan, Maj Paul Ingram, SSgt Paul Andersen, Maj Ben Archer, Cpl Lloyd Hamilton and Spr Stuart Smith.

Sailing in the heart of London's Docklands, the Army team qualified for the final, and a showdown with the Andersen Consulting crew – skippered by Adrian Stead – ahead of teams from Panasonic and Bloomberg.

With the Andersen team twice penalised by RYA umpire Robin Robertson, the Army took an unassailable two-race lead.

Team skipper Maj Ben Archer (RA) said: "Adrian Stead is the leading yachtsman in the country, having won boat-of-the-series in the last Admirals Cup regatta. To beat him in the final is a scalp to be proud of and one which will be cherished by the Army team for some time."

ROWING



Class act: Col Max Heron, left, and Lt Col Des Norton earn themselves world recognition

Army's vintage performance

LIKE a bottle of fine wine, rowers Col Max Heron and Lt Col Des Norton are getting better with age.

Fresh off the back of winning the open coxless pairs at the Army regatta and the veteran coxless pairs at the Joint Services' regatta, the duo have added a world gold to their list of accolades.

Contesting the FISA World Veteran

Championships in Belgium, Heron and Norton pulled their way to victory in their respective division (over 43), finishing six seconds ahead of the crew in second place.

In the Veteran B event (over 36) they were again in the thick of the action but were denied their second gold by a German crew.

SHORTS

Best foot forward

MORE than 1,000 soldiers completed the Flora London Marathon this year and the Multiple Sclerosis Society is asking for your help to surpass that figure in 2001.

As an official charity to next April's event, the society has guaranteed places for the marathon. If you would like to fill one of them call 0870 2413565.

Medical break-through

FOR the first time in its history the British Army (Germany) major units athletics championships have been won by a medical unit.

The team from 1 (CS) Medical Regiment not only won both the men's and women's competition held in Sennelager but also collected the Viking Trophy for the most accumulated points.

Under the guidance of SSgt Tom Wright the team, comprising 35 athletes from all squadrons of the regiment, dominated the competition despite the presence of strong opposition.

Officers stride ahead

ORIENTEERING is part-and-parcel of military training and so it came as no surprise that six officers from the Adjutant General's Corps were among the front runners in the UK Relay Cup.

The civilian competition was made up of four orienteering relay events staged nation-wide. The team of Maj Nikki Miller (AGC (SPS)), Maj Woo Allen (AGC (ETS)), Maj Bev Walters-Davies (AGC (SPS)), 2nd Lt Sarah Rollins (RAMC) and Maj Gabi Bushell (AGC (SPS)) finished fourth overall.

Irish eyes are smiling

PLAYING their first game on Northern Ireland soil, the Army's under 21 rugby team beat Queen's University Belfast 38-17.

The fixture, hosted by Ballinahinch Rugby Club, was the Army's first match of the season and signalled the beginning of the build-up to the Inter-Service championships.

Read boxes clever

THE Army boxing team began the season in customary style – on the winning side.

Fighting at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London in aid of the Bud Flanagan Leukaemia Fund, the team contested six bouts and lost just one.

Middleweight LCpl Mark McMahon got his season off to an explosive start, knocking London-based fighter Chris Shobiya out in the first round. And wearing an Army vest for the first time, Gdsm John Read (1 IG) easily out-pointed his opponent.

GOLF

Teeing up for the cup

ENTRENCHED in history and nostalgia, the Army Golf Challenge Cup is one of the few trophies in sport still awarded for the reason it was originally presented.

And weighing in at around six kilos and standing over one metre tall, the Challenge Cup dwarfs football's FA Cup. In raw material alone it is worth a fortune although its real value lies in its heritage.

The prestigious trophy was first presented to the winners of the Army's inter-unit golf championship in 1904 by a captain in the Highland Light Infantry and, despite a break during the war years, it has been fiercely contested ever since.

The road to lifting the irreplaceable 96-year-old cup is suitably arduous.

After battling through qualifying rounds in their own districts, eight teams, made up of four players and one reserve, won their way through to this year's Serco Defence-sponsored final held at Aldershot's Army Golf Club.

The unforgiving Aldershot course is one of the military's best-kept secrets and

Gunners revel in challenge triumph

provided a challenging last hurdle for the finalists.

Club professional Graham Cowley told *Soldier*: "This is as good as any civilian club. It's a tough course with plenty of hazards and that's why we have so many civilian members."

The eight teams contested a knockout competition, with the two remaining teams drawn against one another in a grand final.

In a very close match 12 Regiment Royal Artillery defeated 1998 and 1999 champions Army Training Regiment Pirbright.

After 18 holes the two sides were level and one player from each side was selected to take part in a

sudden death decider. Playing the course's narrow five-par first hole, Gnr Chris Brewer (RA) reached the green in three shots but missed his putt for birdie and had to settle for par.

CSgt Tam Wilson (ATR) drove into the trees from the tee but managed to recover just short of the green with his third. Despite chipping on to the green he missed his putt to halve the hole, confirming the gunners as champions.

◆ The British Army India Cup was presented to 11 Signal Regiment, who beat 7 R Irish in the plate competition after playing two extra holes.

The Stableford competition, contested by the teams who had not qualified for the championship or plate finals was won convincingly by 8 Transport Regiment RLC with 123 points.

Runners-up were 39 Engineer Regiment on 100 points.



LARKHILL STADIUM

Lights turned on at Larkhill

ARMY and Scottish prop Cpl Mattie Stewart (PWRR) unveiled Larkhill's floodlit rugby ground ahead of a show-piece match between the Royal Artillery and an Army XV, writes **Roger Thompson**.

The new ground will enable regimental and corps matches to be played under lights so that all rugby players can participate without detriment to the day job.

Equally important, members of the Larkhill Garrison can now support their team on one of the premier playing surfaces in the country and certainly the best in the Army.

This project, masterminded by Lt Col Robbie Campbell, the Army's Director of Rugby, was completed with a grant from the Army Central Fund as part of the Land Millennium Project. It was built in conjunction with a hard hockey pitch and training area.

Lt Col Campbell said: "This was a prototype for other major garrisons. The aim was to make rugby union more widely available to the players, coaches and referees who could not be released during the day".

Rob Dixon, the Scottish international



Night vision: The Army and Royal Artillery train under the floodlights at the new stadium

referees, who also has a busy civilian job in London, was delighted to officiate, something that would not have been possible earlier in the day.

The match produced some exciting passages of play, with Fijians on both sides creating fire and manoeuvre down the centre.

For the Army, Pte Kite Rawelai (RS), Spr Jim Poli (3 RSME) and LCpl George

Kemble (RWF) showed great early-season form. While for the gunners, Lt Dave Blackburn and Bdr Reilly (26 Regt) attacked remorselessly behind a strong pack. The Army, stretched to the limit, just held on for a 29-23 victory.

The gunners are a very good team and on this showing at their new home will take some holding to a respectable score in the Inter-Corps merit table.

Picture: Sgt Richard Dawson

RUGBY LEAGUE



Picture: Steve Dock

Roles reversed: REME upset the form book to end the sappers' monopoly at the top

Perfect REME-dy

THOSE who had money on the favourites will have left the Lawson Cup final with lighter wallets.

After stamping their authority on the Inter-Corps Cup in recent years, Royal Engineers looked odds-on to regain the silverware at the Aldershot final – especially as their opponents were habitual runners-up REME.

But how sweet revenge can be.

True to the form book it was the sappers who made all the early running and within 15 minutes they had breached the REME line.

A further try and conversion suggested that the result was a foregone conclusion, but REME stuck to the task and tries from Cfn Carl Roderick (SEAE) and Cpl

Stu Williams (ATR Pirbright) reduced the deficit to 8-10.

With the second half still in its infancy the sappers extended their lead by six points but, spurred on by man-of-the-match LCpl Ratty Ratcliffe, REME continued to assert pressure of their own.

Their efforts were rewarded on the hour when Cfn Shaun Henley (6 Bn REME) crossed the line and SSgt Mark Walker (5 Bn Reme) successfully converted to leave REME just two points adrift.

The scene was set for an upset and Cpl Marcus Noye (ATR Pirbright) became the hero of the hour, stealing down the left flank and crossing the line for a try that earned his side a hard-fought 18-16 victory.

Army in seventh heaven

THE Army have retained the Naafi Inter-Services Rugby League Challenge Cup for the seventh year in succession.

Determined not to loosen their stranglehold, they began the defence with a hard-fought 28-18 win over the Royal Navy at the home of Super League side Hull.

Spr Kevin Sutcliffe (RE) was instrumental in the Army securing the Jack Harrison VC Trophy and was deservedly named man-of-the-match.

The competition moved to RAF Uxbridge where the Army beat the Royal Air Force 22-8 to secure the championship trophy. WO2 Paul Roberts (REME) was man-of-the-match.

♦ Any soldiers who are playing civilian Rugby League at a serious level and want to know more about the Army set-up should contact WO1 Mick Scholes by e-mail on mjscholes@aol.com, or by calling: Mil (94659) 3661.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to November...

ANGLING: 1 – Army open championships.

ATHLETICS: 8 – Army cross country relays (Tweseldown); 15 – AGC cross-country championships (Grantham); 18 – RLC cross country championships (Worthy Down).

BADMINTON: 1-3 – RE championships; 4-5 – AGC championships; 16-18 – Inter-Corps championships (Coleme).

BOXING: 4 – Army v Basingstoke (Basingstoke); 10 – Army Select v NW London (London); 16 – Army charity match v London (Hereford); 17 – Army v SE London (London); 18 – ABA(E) novice quarter-finals (TBC).

CANOEING: 18-19 – Land Command championships (Barnard Castle, Richmondshire).

FOOTBALL: 1 – Army v AFA (Away); 4 – Youth v Devon (Away); 7 – Army v Essex (Aldershot); 14 – Army v Gloucester (Aldershot); 16 – Women v Gloucester (Aldershot); 19 – Youth v Bury Academy (Aldershot); 22 – CS Women v Netherlands (Away); 23 – Youth v AAC Arborfield (Aldershot); U21 v Dorset (Away).

HOCKEY: 2-3 – CS Indoor Tournament (Collingwood).

JUDO: 4 – Army novice and intermediate championships (Aldershot); 25 – Army open (Aldershot).

LAWN TENNIS: 4 – Army men v 45 Club (Aldershot); 25 – Army men v Gerard's Cross (Aldershot).

MODERN PENTATHLON: 18-19 – Winter pentathlon series (RMAS).

NETBALL: 15 – Inter-Unit competition (Aldershot); Inter-Corps championships (Aldershot); 17-19 – Army squad selection and training (Aldershot).

ROWING: 4 – Men/women fours head (London); 5 – Veteran fours head (London); 18 – Army head (Eton).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 19 – Army v Rochdale Hornets A (Rochdale).

RUGBY UNION: 4-5 – Singapore Sevens; 7 – CS v Barbarians (Gloucester); 22 – Army trial (Aldershot rugby stadium from 9.30am); 26 – Army U21 v Royal Navy; 29 – CS match (opponents to be confirmed).

SQUASH: 2 – Army v Camberley (Aldershot); 3-5 – CS individuals (Aldershot); 6 – Vets v Greenacre 2 (Aldershot); 20-22 – Inter-Corps championships (Aldershot); 29 – Army v Cambridge University (Away).

TENNIS & RACKETS: 12 – Army v Bath and Bristol (Away).

TUG OF WAR: 18-19 – British Army (Germany) annual indoor championships.

COSTELLO

Civil & Military Bespoke Tailors



LADIES & GENTS MESS KIT SPECIALISTS

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

For All Your Uniform, Suit, Blazer and Accessories Contact:

UK: 020 8478 2780 GERMANY: 05252 4631

UK: 284-294 Ley Street, Ilford Essex IG1 4BS

For details of advertising rates and publishing dates please call Soldier magazine on 01252 347352/355056

STAND BY! STAND BY! FREE CATALOGUE

WHEN YOUR JOB
DEMANDS MORE!
WILL YOUR KIT
MEET THE
CHALLENGE?

The new SASS
Catalogue No 15,
is **NOT** just
another kit list.



It offers you exclusive innovative items and selected issue equipment. Optional extras, after sales, repair service...

For your FREE colour catalogue, write, telephone or fax to the following address, or send the coupon below to:

SPECIAL AIR-SEA SERVICES
St. George's Works, St. George's Quay,
Lancaster, Lancashire, LA1 5QJ
Tel: 01524 64204 - Fax: 01524 844239

Email: info@sass-kit.fsbusiness.co.uk - Website: www.sass-kit.fsbusiness.co.uk

Please send me your latest catalogue:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:S

BODYGUARDS

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

For an information pack
send a large SAE to:

Professional Bodyguard Association

The White House, 24 Cumberland Tce,
Willington, Co Durham, DL15 0PB

No telephone enquiries

Such is the reputation of the
PBA that in 1997 we acted
as Close Protection advisers
to the Chiefs of Staff at the
Pentagon.

'British expertise at work through the PBA'

FOR THE VERY LATEST STOCK UPDATE
JUST CALL US - NOW!

Audi . BMW
Chrysler . Jeep
Ford . Mazda
Nissan . Peugeot
Renault
Vauxhall . VW

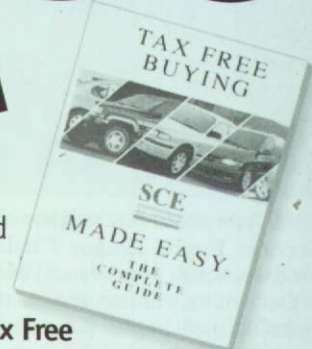
01367 710333*

Tax Free

*** CALL FOR
BIG SAVINGS
UK TAX PAID
TOO!**

To get the very best
all-round package, you need
all the latest facts and
figures - now they're here
in the brand new, **2000 Tax Free
Buyer's Guide** - and it's yours
ABSOLUTELY FREE! For your copy
just call the SCE Information line
on (UK) **01367-710333** now!

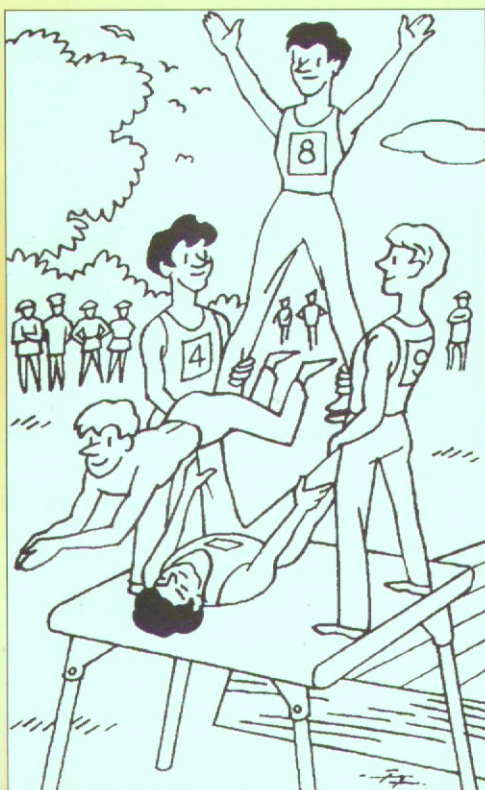
OR WRITE TO US AT:- SCE LTD, PO BOX 177,
FARINGDON, OXON, UK, SN7 7EW



SCE
auto international

How observant are you?

WIN £100!



Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in one of the images, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 708, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by November 30.

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 January 2001 issue.

September competition (No 706): First correct entry drawn was from SSgt Andy Relph, BTP 1 Sqn, 10 Tpt Regt RLC, Colchester, who wins £100. Runners-up Sgt Edwards, Minden Pl, A Coy, ATR "L", Whittington Barracks, and Lee Grubb, of Ripon, N Yorkshire, receive a £10 voucher each. The ten differences were: building design; second palm tree from left; radio aerial; fringe on mat; sunglasses; flip-flops; trunks on swimmer; ship's boat and flag; ripples in water.

Name: (Give initials and rank or title)

Address:

Subscribe and save!

● Save cash when you subscribe today

● FREE postage ● FREE binder

UK:	(12 issues)	£23.00	(24 issues)	£40.00
Overseas	(12 issues)	£32.20	(24 issues)	£60.00
BFPO:	(12 issues)	£13.80		

I would like to subscribe to **SOLDIER** for: ☐ One year ☐ Two years

Please start my subscription with the issue.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

I enclose a cheque/PO payable to **SOLDIER** for:
Return to Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU



Credit card hotline: 01252 347353



OIL RIGS
- The Essential Guide -
FOR ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN WORK OFFSHORE ON OIL RIGS AND DOESN'T KNOW WHERE TO START. PACKED FULL OF ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WILL EVER NEED ABOUT OIL RIGS.
• BOOKS TODAY •
01253 869808
 8 Clegg Ave, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancs FY5 1BJ, U.K.

C.V. EXPRESS
 Confidential Consultations, Advice, Draft & Master Copies, Free Disc Storage & Re-Type Services, over 2200 type fonts and more than 20 different Media Presentation types available. Complete package providing Unbeatable Quality.
 For an Information Pack please Phone or write to:
Mr MacDonald
 101 Market Place, South Cave, Brough, East Yorkshire HU15 2AS
 Tel/Fax: 01430 423758 (Open 7 days a week)



MILITARY CV SERVICES

A long established CV firm run by a former Army officer. Clients include men and women of all ranks from every part of the Army.

- Also
 ★ Applications
 ★ Job Search skills
 ★ Self Marketing
 ★ Interview Coaching

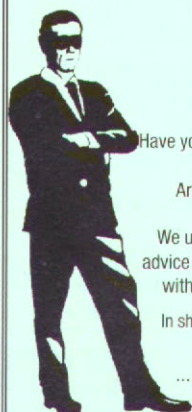
Full details from:
 66 High View Road,
 Guildford, Surrey GU2 5RU.
 01483 823766 (fax 534518)
 Email: ajacques@milcv.freeserve.co.uk
 Website: www.milcv.co.uk

EMBROIDERED & PRINTED SPORTS & LEISURE WEAR

TEES POLOS SWEATSHIRTS SWEATERS TIES RUGBY JERSEYS CAPS.....& MUCH MORE
FULL DESIGN AND PERSONALISED SERVICE FOR QUALITY WEAR - SEND FOR OUR PRICE LIST

JENKINS KNITWEAR

57 Woodbank Drive, Wollaton, Nottingham NG8 2QW
 Tel or Fax 0115 928 3628
 E-mail: sales@jenkins-wear.co.uk
www.jenkins-wear.co.uk



BODYGUARDS FREE REPORT!

Have you ever considered a career as a professional Bodyguard?... or do you just require further information?

Are you nervous or suspicious about who to contact?... or who to train with?

We understand your concerns, and we are confident that the expert advice and guidance contained in our **FREE REPORT** will provide you with invaluable assistance in successfully entering this profession

In short, **if you want to be a Bodyguard - this is the way to start!**

For further details tel: **0207 644 3075** (24 Hrs)
 ... or write to: **Elite Marketing Dept. (S), P.O. Box 2112, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1QY U.K.**

REGIMENTAL BROOCHES

DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURER

Many regiments' gold brooches in stock
 Commissions for that special item undertaken
 SUPERB DIAMOND SET BROOCHES MADE TO ORDER

J.M.BICKERTON

Manufacturing Jewellers

23 Vyse Street, Birmingham B18 6LE

For List & Quote Tel/Fax:- 0121 551 7366

Callers at our showroom welcome

HIGH QUALITY ASSURED

E-mail jmb@regimentalbrooches.co.uk

Visit our website www.regimentalbrooches.co.uk



Royal Engineers
 9ct gold £140

Forces and Ex-Service Personnel
WOUNDS? DISEASES? INJURIES? CAUSED BY SERVICE

ALSO INDUSTRIAL INJURIES, DISEASE AND PERSONAL ACCIDENT CLAIMS

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO

COMPENSATION

CALL THE CLAIMS SPECIALISTS!

FREEPHONE

0500 22 20 22 NOW!

THORN COMPENSATION SERVICES LTD MARSH HOUSE, 92A MARSHLAND ROAD, MOORENDS, DONCASTER, DN8 4SZ.



"Cold cast bronze"
 MR120
 (approx 25cm)
 £55.93 incl.

PHOENIX WORLD

A full range of pewter and "cold cast bronze" figurines to suit your needs.

COMMISSIONS ACCEPTED

Send crossed Cheque/P.O. with order or S.A.E. for Brochure.

PHOENIX WORLD REPRODUCTIONS

437 Valley Drive, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5UE.

Tel: Gravesend (01474) 365511.

Fax: (01474) 537166.



MESS DRESS

Prices from £349

- RLC & AGC - £349
- RE & RI Signals - £369 (inc shirt & tie)
- George boots - £75
- Most medals = £10 & £12 each (Court mounted)
- AGC female Mess dress - £455

Please ring for more details on:

01202 302846

Made to Measure Tailoring
 85 Stewart Road, Bournemouth BH8 8NZ
 Tel: 01202 302846 Fax: 01202 383874
 Email: beskardes@yahoo.com

DEBT PROBLEMS?

Are your outgoings more than your income?

Are your creditors threatening you with:

Court summons, **Solicitors**, Bankruptcy, **Bailiffs**, Debt collectors, **Disconnection**, Attachment of earnings?

If you can answer yes to any of the above, then contact us now. We provide realistic solutions for all debt problems without the need to borrow more money.

Telephone **01329 515532**

for a **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** consultation.

Or visit our website: www.wellbeingservices.co.uk

WELLBEING SERVICES

PROVIDING DEBT SOLUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

EMBROIDERED LEISUREWEAR

- Wide range of quality garments. ● Low minimum order.
- Full colour brochure. ● Caps & Printed garments supplied
- Free embroidery proof. No origination charge.*
- Embroidered Polos from £6.00ea, Sweats £8.00ea, T-shirts £5.00ea.

Banana Moon Workshop

48, Old Lane, Birkenshaw, Bradford BD11 2JX Tel: 01274 688103 Fax: 01274 652524
www.bananamoon.co.uk



UNIFORMAL

MESS KITS

*'The Highest Quality and Value for Money
in Military Tailoring for Over 30 Years'*

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

UK: TEL: 0113 282 6102 FAX: 0113 282 1457

VAN DUNGIE HOUSE
MEYNELL AVENUE, ROTHWELL, LEEDS LS26 0NU

German Office: 05141 881570

Mobile: 0172 5409415

WORCESTERSHIRE MEDAL SERVICE LTD
56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove B61 8LL
Tel: (01527) 835375 of Fax (01527) 576798

Specialists in Ribbons, Full Size & Miniature Medals
and Medal Mounting either for wear or display.

Send SAE or call for comprehensive price list of Full Size & Miniature Medals.
Now available - new Territorial miniature medals.
The Volunteer Reserve Service Medal and the
Queens Volunteer Reserve Medal

See our website for full details of all our services.

"Secure on-line ordering on our website"

www.worcmedals.com

Credit card orders accepted by phone or fax. UK customers please add 17% VAT.



LOST OR NEW MEDALS

Full size & miniature supplied
Professionally mounted
Hand-sewn ... not glued

K&D Medals

33 The Crescent,
West Wickham, Kent BR4 0HB
Tel: 020 8777 2428

EPAULETTE SLIDES

For officers or other ranks.
With or without unit
designation.

also

DRAB NAME TAPES

(in sets of six)

Any quantity supplied

S.A.E. for price list

Lancashire Embroidery
& Insignia Ltd
Knowsley Industrial
Park North, Kirkby,
Liverpool L33 7SA.
Phone: 0151-546 5161
Fax: 0151-549 1128

SQUADDIE GNOME

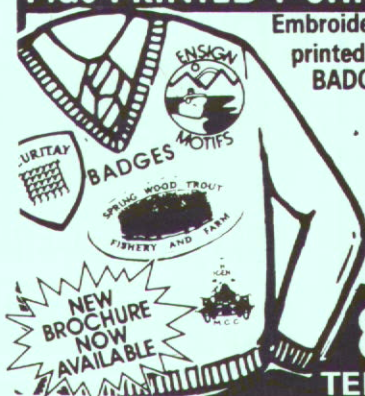


- 15" tall
- Sitting on ammo boxes
- Beret colour & badge of your choice

£32.00
(+ £8.00
delivery)

Cannon Militaria
21 Bulford Road
Durrington
Salisbury SP4 8DL
01980 - 655099

EMBROIDERED LEISUREWEAR & BADGES Plus PRINTED T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS



Embroidered garments - Free original 24+
printed sweats and T-shirts, min. qty. 36
BADGES-EMBROIDERED - min. qty. 25

ENAMELLED - min. 100
BLAZER BADGES - min. 5
TIES - Woven - min. 50
Printed - min. 36

Also - BASEBALL CAPS - min. 50
SPORTS BAGS - min. 50
GOLF UMBRELLAS - min. 25

Ensign
MOTIFS

WRITE, PHONE or FAX for colour brochure
to Kilcreggan, Dunbartonshire G84 0JN
www.ensignmotifs.co.uk

TEL: 0143684 2581/2716; FAX: 0143684 2854

LOST YOUR MEDALS?

WE CAN REPLACE THEM
FULL SIZE & MINIATURES
PROFESSIONALLY SEWN
IN COURT OR SWING STYLE
SAE OR PHONE FOR QUOTE

TOAD HALL MEDALS, NEWTON FERRERS, Nr PLYMOUTH, DEVON PL8 1DH
Tel: 01752 872672 Fax: 01752 872723 E-mail: th.medals@virgin.net

traser
Watches

The best for night vision

Don't be left in the dark!
Come and see our military products at...

www.traser-uk.com

Tel.: 07000-87-27-37
Fax: 07000-86-26-36

The Eastern Service Medal



This superb die-struck commemorative medal
is available in *full size and miniature*
to all who served in Near, Middle and Far East.

Send s.a.e. for your application form today.

DPS Awards, P. O. Box 6961,
Bromsgrove B61 8LA

EMBROIDERED

SWEATERS SWEATSHIRTS
POLO SHIRTS BADGES

PRINTED

TEESHIRTS SWEATSHIRTS
BADGES COFFEE MUGS
AND LOTS MORE!

ALL FROM ONE SUPPLIER

No artwork or setting-up costs on the majority of
our goods. High quality, competitive prices and
prompt delivery. BFPO tax-free service.

Send for our new price list:

REYNOLDS SPORTS
51/52 HIGH STREET, LINCOLN LN5 8AP
Tel: 01522 513333 Fax: 01522 530383

TIES, BADGES & PLAQUES

by Mail Order

REGIMENTS, SHIPS, SQUADRONS

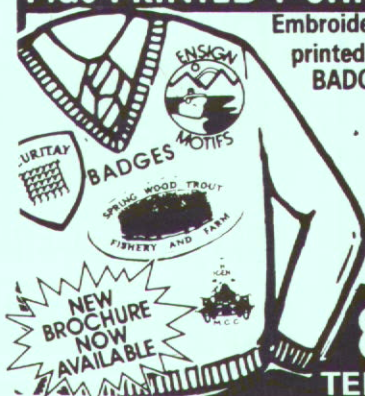
Clubs & Reunion Associations.
Blazer buttons, medals, ribbons, etc.

SAE appreciated

The Heraldic Co (GB), Dept S
Overbriar, Beechwell Lane, Edge End,
Coleford, Glos GL16 7HA
Tel/Fax: 01594 832200 (8am/10pm)

Commemorative medals are not official but may be obtained
as a souvenir/keepsake. They should not be worn with/along-
side British official decorations/medals/honours.

EMBROIDERED LEISUREWEAR & BADGES Plus PRINTED T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS



Embroidered garments - Free original 24+
printed sweats and T-shirts, min. qty. 36
BADGES-EMBROIDERED - min. qty. 25

ENAMELLED - min. 100
BLAZER BADGES - min. 5
TIES - Woven - min. 50
Printed - min. 36

Also - BASEBALL CAPS - min. 50
SPORTS BAGS - min. 50
GOLF UMBRELLAS - min. 25

Ensign
MOTIFS

WRITE, PHONE or FAX for colour brochure
to Kilcreggan, Dunbartonshire G84 0JN
www.ensignmotifs.co.uk

TEL: 0143684 2581/2716; FAX: 0143684 2854



206

PEUGEOT

Coupe Cabriolet



THE ULTIMATE IN DRIVING PLEASURE

Don't be disappointed - Place your provisional order NOW!

RANGERS
MILITARY SALES

Sales Hotline: 01980 653434
Fax: 01980 654256
www.peugeotmilitarysales.co.uk

Mazda Tax Free Sales

- * Immediate delivery on most models
- * Full UK spec * Low/no deposit finance
- * Part exchange * Continental/UK delivery
- * Demio from £6,250 * MX5 from £11,099
- * 626 from £10,500 * Premacy from £10,200
- * 323 from £8,300 * 4 Action (4x4) from £15,099
- All New MPV from £14,650

EXCLUSIVE EXPORT AGENT FOR BFG
AND BENELUX ON BEHALF OF MAZDA

POOL AUTOS

7020 Mons, Belgium
Tel: (65) 728836 Fax: (65) 724467
Serving the Services since 1968

Please forward details on:

323 ☐ 626 ☐ MX5 ☐ Xedos ☐ Demio ☐ MPV ☐
Premacy ☐ 4 Action ☐ Other makes ☐ LHD/RHD ☐
Name Rank
Address
Tel No

Stringtown Supplies

29 High Street, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 5AB

- P.L.C.E
- Arktis
- 58 webbing
- Berghaus
- Matterhorn
- Hi-tec
- Buffalo
- N.B.C
- Snugpak
- Maglites
- Soldier '95



No. 12
Year 2000
Catalogue

Military, survival & replica weaponry catalogues.

Tel: (01323) 488844

or Fax: (01323) 487799

FOR YOUR COPY

www.stringtownsupplies.co.uk

Email: enquiries@stringtownsupplies.co.uk

THE GOLD WIRE BADGE COMPANY

GOLD WIRE BLAZER BADGES £10.00
FAIRBAIRN-SYKES COMMANDO KNIVES (Black)
WITH LEG SHEAF £22.50
BERETS, RED, BLACK, GREEN.
LEATHER HEADBAND, DRAWCORD £7.00
REGIMENTAL TIES & BOWS £8.55
WHITE LEATHER GAUNTLETS £20.00
BRASS INSERTS £12.00
LEATHER STANDARD CARRIERS £25.00
PARACHUTE REGT ASSN STANDARD CARRIER
WITH ALL 11 BATTLE HONOURS £35.00
LAPEL BADGES; R.A. COMMANDO
GREEN BERET - PARA REGT RED BERET £2.00
COMMEMORATIVE LAPEL BADGE
PEGASUS 1942-99 £2.00
BLAZER BADGES ONE-OFFS, A SPECIALITY.
A CD ROM TITLED "BRITISH MILITARY BADGES"
CONTAINING OVER 2,500 ILLUSTRATIONS IS NOW
AVAILABLE PRICED AT £39.95
OVER 300 CAP BADGES AVAILABLE
FROM £3.50 SEND FOR FREE LISTS
11 Dalehead Drive, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs OL2 8TJ.
E-Mail: robboy@thegoldwirebadge.co.uk
Telephone/Fax: 01706 846648
www.thegoldwirebadge.co.uk

TAX FREE CARS

**MOST MAKES
SUPPLIED**

FREEPHONE GERMANY 0130-8544-96

SOVEREIGN

Telephone U.K.:
0044-1980-600-400

Joy's Roses & Flowers

A GIFT OF LOVE

Flowers for all occasions – not just Christmas/ Valentines Day/ Mothers Day
But for – Anniversaries/ Congratulations/ New Born/ Birthdays.

Flowers sent to any address in the U.K. & N.I.

SOMEONE SOMEWHERE IS WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU

BOUQUET – ROSES RED/YELLOW/PINK/WHITE or MIXED (12 Blooms) .. £13.85
BOUQUET – ROSES RED/YELLOW/PINK/WHITE or MIXED (24 Blooms) .. £18.50
BOUQUET – FREESIA & FERNS (40 Blooms) £14.75

CHRISTMAS BOUQUETS PLEASE ORDER EARLY

BOUQUET – RED CARNATIONS or WHITE or GOLD & GYPS & FERNS, LONG
LASTING (30 Blooms)..... £16.50
BOUQUET – RED CARNATIONS & WHITE & GOLD & GYPS & FERNS, LONG
LASTING (30 Blooms) £16.50
BOUQUET – RED ROSES/GOLD CARNATIONS & FREESIA & GYPS & FERNS
(30 Blooms) £17.50
BOUQUET – RED ROSES/RED & GOLD CARNATIONS & FREESIAS & GYPS &
FERNS (50 Blooms) £20.00

ALL C/Cs ACCEPTED. (Please include start date, exp. date, issue number)
CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO:

Joy's Roses & Flowers
Flamingo, St Sampsons,
Guernsey, C.I. GY2 4WB
Telephone: (01481) 246708
Fax: (01481) 243406

The Association of British Military Parachutists

In conjunction with the **DAKOTA CLUB**



is pleased to announce

A B M P

JUMP DAKOTA 2001

"Be one of the stick making military style stand
up parachute exits from a historic C-47."

14th April, 21st April, 28th April & 5th May

**To promote military parachuting
with round canopies**

**For more information contact
Graeme Taylor on: 01575 582224
or write to: Presnerb, Folda,
Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH11 8QW**

We actively support British Special Forces charities:
Airborne Forces Charity, Commando Benevolent
Fund, NO.1 PTS Museum, Brize Norton.

Military Marketing International

Suppliers of Plaques, Clocks and other presentation pieces
Also T-shirts, sweatshirts, baseball caps, etc.

In good company with most
Regiments and Corps of the British
Army, we made your Shields for the
Falklands,
the Gulf and now Bosnia and Croatia
and most other UN locations.
Let us design you Regiments and
Operational Shields.

Write for a full colour brochure:

**74-77 STEWARD STREET,
SPRING HILL,
LADYWOOD, BIRMINGHAM
B18 7AF**
Telephone/fax : 0121 454 5393

Email: mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk
Website: militarymarketing.co.uk
Minimum order 25 shields – £11.95.
No VAT outside the UK. Shieldclocks – £19.00



CITADEL



AWARDS

THE MEDAL FOR NATIONAL SERVICE



No official medal has ever been awarded for National Service.
This superb, hallmarked solid silver
commemorative medal is available for all those who served their
country under National Service.

This medal is supplied ready to wear in a fitted box.
A silver miniature medal is also available.

Also available: Voluntary Service Medal, General Service Cross,
Maritime Service Medal, Suez Canal Zone Medal & BAOR Medal.
Send SAE for details.

Full size Medal for National Service	£39.50
(Price includes £2.50 carriage and insurance.)	
Engraving	£8.00
Miniature Medal in Silver	£16.50

ORDER BY PHONE: 01752 872672 FAX: 01752 872723
Credit Card Holders – 8am–7pm. Monday to Saturday.



OR BY POST

CITADEL AWARDS, NEWTON FERRERS, PLYMOUTH, DEVON PL8 1DH, ENGLAND.



SPORTSWEAR

Manufacturers of

Embroidered, Screen Printed and Heatsealed:

- Leisurewear
- Sportswear
- Workwear
- Corporate and Promotional Clothing

We currently supply a range of garments to a number of Army Corps and Regiments including the Queen's Dragoon Guards, Welsh Guards, Royal Welch Fusiliers, Royal Regiment of Wales, Army Medical Services, Adjutant Generals Corps and Units of The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers



PSM Professional Sportswear Marketing Limited

Units 5 & 6, Hill Street Industrial Estate, Cwmbran, Gwent NP44 7PG
 Tel: (01633) 874466 Fax: (01633) 874499 E-mail: sales@psm-sportswear.co.uk
 Website: www.psm-sportswear.co.uk

VISTA SPORTS

Suppliers of Sweatshirts, Polo Shirts, T/Shirts Hooded Sweatshirts, Rugby Jerseys, Baseball Caps and many other items. All can be printed or embroidered. Send for a free colour catalogue and price list.



VISTA SPORTS LTD
 28 HIGH STREET
 MERSTHAM
 SURREY RH1 3EA
 Tel: 01737 645113
 Fax: 01737 645892

MICHAEL JAY

UNIFORMS

MADE TO MEASURE

OR's and Officers Mess Dress
 OR's and Officers No. 2 Dress
 OR's and Officers No.1 Dress
 British Warm Overcoats
 S.B. Blazers
 Regimental D.B. Blazers
 Sports Jackets and Trousers
 Dinner Suits
 Lounge Suits

48Hr. or 2Week Make up

Michael Jay Tailoring
 5 TOMO BUSINESS PARK, STOWMARKET
 SUFFOLK IP14 5AY
 TEL: 01449 614602 FAX: 01449 614604

VISTA TIES

are Tie Manufacturers and can supply your existing tie or design you a new one. Please send us a picture of your badge or cypher and we will post a free coloured visual with a quotation.....OVER 300 DIFFERENT REGIMENTAL TIES IN STOCK



VISTA TIES
 28 HIGH STREET
 MERSTHAM
 SURREY RH1 3EA
 Tel: 01737 645113 Fax: 01737 645892

Tax Free

For a smart deal its got to be from CARSMART INTERNATIONAL LTD VAUXHALL, RENAULT, BMW VOLKSWAGEN, AUDI, PEUGEOT Plus many more, please ring with your requirements

Competitive finance plans available*

Call +44 (0)1235 511734

It could save you £1000s

Tax paid plans available for UK use

Carsmart International Ltd

PO BOX 128, Didcot, D.O., OX11 7GL

*Finance subject to status

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Attention HSF Vets



The National Home Service Force Association

E-mail:

HSF@studio44.co.uk

Web Site:

www.studio44.co.uk/HSF

Secretary: P.O. Box 5789
 Leicester, LE3 1YZ

Buying the
 ideal car
 needn't be
 at all taxing



CARFORCE

INTERNATIONAL

MILITARY OVERSEAS DIPLOMATIC SALES

58 Portland Road, Worthing,
 Sussex BN11 1QG

Tel: +44 (0)1903 821188

Fax: +44 (0)1903 236905

GERMAN FREEPHONE

0130 857874

Name Tapes £3.95 for 72
Woven up to 30 letters/spaces - Choice of BLACK RED or NAVY lettering on White 100% Polyester

Able-LABELS™
1000 self-stick labels
Name, Address, & or any words up to 6 lines

Black on White	£4.75
Black on Yellow	£6.30
Gold or Silver	£5.25
Black on Clear	£6.45

PERSONALISED PRODUCTS SINCE 1954
Luggage Strap £6.95 (2 or more £6 each)
100 Correspondence Cards £10.95
240 Piece Stationery Set £14.95
Self-Inking Printer only £7.95
100 Personalised Golf Tees £8.75

UK prices include Post/VAT. Delivery Payment with order please. 14 days

Able-Direct Centre Ltd - Dept SO
Earls Barton - Northampton NN6 0LS
☎ 0870 444 2733 - Fax 0870 444 2766

MINIATURE MEDALS

Return of post Service

Example of prices:-

CB: £32; CBE: £20; MC/DCM/MM/QGM: £12; OBE/MBE/BEM: £12; MSM: £10; LS & GC: £7; Coronation/Jubilee Medal: £9; UN Cyprus: £7; UN Bosnia: £7; Nato (Ifor) medal with clasp: Former Yugoslavia: £7.50; Accumulated CSM: £7; S/Atlantic + rosette: £7.50; GSM G.V.I.R. / E. II R. with clasp: £10; CSM with clasp: £7.50; Gulf Medal with clasp: £7.50; NATO (Kfor) with clasp: Kosovo £7; Miniature Mounting Bars for D.I.Y. mounting: 1 space - £1.10; 2 - £1.20; 3 - £1.30; 4 - £1.40; 5 - £1.50; 6 - £1.60; 7 - £1.70; 8 - £1.90; 9 - £2.30; 10 - £2.50 plus 17.5% V.A.T. and £1 postage.

● 7-day medal mounting service for full-size and miniatures in both 'ordinary' and 'court' style.

- Wire Blazer Badges ● Mess Kit Badges
- Display Cases, medal ribbon, mounting bars, ribbon bars, etc.

FULL-SIZE MEDALS SUPPLIED
Please write for quotation

Send for comprehensive catalogue to the Medal Specialists
(26p stamp appreciated):
MINIATURE MEDALS
P.O. BOX 4, HINCKLEY
LEICESTERSHIRE LE10 3ZT
Telephone: (01455) 239262

SUPPLIER OF ALL INCLUSIVE EMBROIDERY AND PRINTING

Tee-Shirts- Sweatshirts-Polos
Hooded Sweatshirts-Fleece Jackets
Base Ball Hats

Details From
Nottingham Screen Prints, 10, Park Road.
Woodthorpe, Nottingham. NG5 4HR
Tel: 0115 9676262 Fax: 0115 9263599

MIDLAND CD CLUB

Mail-Order Brass & Military Band CDs

To obtain our free colour catalogue contact us on:

Tel: 0121 244 4605/6

Fax: 0121 680 9018

E-mail: sales@midland-cd-club.co.uk
www.midland-cd-club.co.uk

Bands who have CDs they would like to see included in our catalogue, please contact us for further details.

LATEST RELEASES ALWAYS AVAILABLE



MICHAEL JAY
Exclusive HAND CUT
TAILORING

Our unbeatable
MESS DRESS
offer

INCLUDES

- ✓ 14 day Make or
- ✓ 48 hr EXPRESS
- ✓ Lowest prices
- ✓ Best fit
- ✓ Highest quality
- ✓ Best payment terms

Local agent to measure in most areas

Tel: 01449 614602 Fax: 01449 614604

As our customers say
The service is simply unbeatable

5 TOMO BUSINESS PARK, STOWMARKET SUFFOLK IP14 5AY

LOST MEDALS

Replaced in record time

FULL SIZE & MINIATURE
3 DAY MOUNTING SERVICE

Write or phone for quotation

RAYMOND D HOLDICH

Trafalgar Square Collectors Centre, 7 Whitcomb Street London WC2H 7HA

Tel: 0207 930 1979 Fax: 0207 930 1152

www.rdhmedals.com E-mail: rdhmedals@aol.com

VERNON REES & GOODALLS
CIVIL, MILITARY & LIVERY TAILORS

MESS KITS

High Quality • Competitive Prices
Easy Payment Terms

GERMANY-TEL: **0173 2992845**
ENGLAND-TEL: **0113 2 880 880**

VERNON REES & GOODALLS - CIVIL, MILITARY & LIVERY TAILORS
UK - LEEDS - TEL: 0044 113 2 880 880 - FAX: 0044 113 2 880 864

CARICATURES

by Rick

Singles, doubles groups or the whole mess.
Ask for samples and prices



Also
ON-THE-SPOT
Quick fun caricatures
at your event

Over 60 Mess Cartoons to date
GET THE BEST
01707 658 853

email: rick@caricature.co.uk website: www.caricature.co.uk

SUPPLIER TO PRI SHOPS & INDIVIDUALS of:

Snuggak, Berghaus, Karrimor, Ron Hill, Helly Hansen, Mardale, Lyon
Equipment - jackets, sleeping bags, rucksacks, etc. -
Leatherman, Gerber & Bucks tools & knives.
Prices on application to:

CONDOR SUPPLIES

63 Gisburn Road
Barnoldswick
Lancs BB18 5HE
Tel/fax: 01282 813821

Fax: 01503 230421 www.palamanando.com

FOR CAMPAIGN SERVICE

Carved from yesterday's

headlines, set in the Belfast of 1972.
This is how it was to be in the Army then...

(Publication date 7 October)



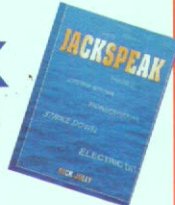
IN CONFIDENCE

Over 500 politically incorrect
comments from Army, RN, RAF and
RM confidential reports!

JACKSPEAK

The revised guide to Royal Marines &
RN slang / usage, illustrated by Tugg

(Publication date 21 October)



For Campaign Service - £7.95

Jackspeak - £9.95 • In Confidence - £9.95

Special pre-Xmas launch offer - p&p free!!

Send name, address and cheque/postal order,
or send/fax credit card number & expiry date to
Palamanando Publishing, PO Box 42, Torpoint,
Cornwall PL11 2YR. Fax: 01503 230421 or visit
www.palamanando.com

Palamanando Publishing, 11 Carew Estate, near Torpoint, Cornwall PL11 2YR.

Fax: 01503 230421 www.palamanando.com

MIL Internet Services for the Army

MilNetUK can provide a variety of internet
services: Web design, Domain registration
and hosting, dial up access, etc.

Our dial up services costs you only the price of your phone call,
charges at local rate. It is a first class (fast) service, compatible
with UK based MoD telephone exchanges. Use it from work or from
home. For your personal security, we require no personal details
from you. A proportion of our profits will be donated to Service
Charities such as the Army Benevolent Fund.

For more information about MilNetUK, visit:

www.milnet.uk.net

or phone 01258 454834/472473

For free CD (Win9x/NT) write to MilNetUK, Box 4111, Blandford, Dorset DT11 7YH

SILVERMAN'S

OVER 50 YEARS
OF SERVICE
TO THE SERVICES



W W W . S i l v e r m a n s . c o . u k



**British Army
Navigators + Date**
NEW £110.00
Available with Blk,
Grn or Sand dial



**R.M. Special
Boat Service**
300mtr
NEW £299.00



**Quartz British
Military Chronograph**
NEW £230.00



**Black Traser
USA Seals Watch**
NEW £150.00



**CASIO
PRT 500**
NEW £189.99



**Seiko Chrono
SQ100**
NEW £150.00



SAS Windproof Smock
£ 90.00
Dpm Para smocks
£67.99



**Soldier '95
PLCE DPM**
Tactical Assault vest.
£ 125.00.
Genuine Norge shirt
shown under tac vest.
£25.00



**DPM Lightweight
Tropical trousers**
- sold '95 kit
NEW £32.99
40+ NEW £37.99



**Buffalo
Special 6 shirt**
Olive or Black
£ 89.99



**SNUGPAK SLEEKA
PADDED JACKET**
Military Green
(Black also available).
NEW £69.99
Blk/Grn Rvrsble £ 79.99



**Magnum
Sympatex**
New from £ 85.00



**Magnum
Classic CEN Boots**
NEW from £ 55.00



**British Army
Pro Boot**
from £ 115.00



**Danner Acadia Insulated
Goretex lined**
£ 185.00



**USA Issue
Desert Boot**
From £80.00



**Snugpak
Softie
Merlin3**
5Deg
£ 59.99
Hawk
-5deg
£ 84.99

Garmin GPS 12XL
Brand New £199.00
(Not Reconditioned)



Shemagh
£ 6.99

PLCE BERGEN 125ltr. £ 175.00
Green, DPM or Black
Patrol packs
and small
arms
bergens
also
avail.



**M.U.L.E. - 3 litre hydration
system with extra storage.**
Nato stock no.
8465-01-396-9920
woodland
or Black
£69.99.



SUPPLIERS TO THE MILITARY

**GERBER, LEATHERMAN
-SWISS & SOGG TOOLS**
Available



**GERBER
multi lock** £ 59.99

**BRITISH ARMY
STAINLESS STEEL
POCKET KNIFE**
NEW £17.99



**BRITISH ARMY NEW
ISSUE POCKET
KNIFE** Lock Blade
NEW £17.99



Socks



**MINI
RUBBER BINOS**
NATO GRATICULE &
StadiaMetric rangefinder.
wt.330grms size 8x21
£135.00



JETPACKER Lightweight
one man
backpacking tent.
From £185.00

2 Harford Street Mile End London E1 4PS
Tel: 0207 7 900 900 Fax: 0207 791 0008
Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 09:00 - 17:30
Sat CLOSED Sun 10:00 - 13:00
E - mail: soldier@silvermans.co.uk

Prices subject to current cat. Standard UK p&p £3.99

Contact for FREE Catalogue quoting Soldier

www.celebrations.4u.com

GREETINGS CARDS TO THE UK

Just click on our website, choose your card from our wide selection, add your own personal message and we will handwrite it, and send it **POST FREE** in the UK for you!

flowers say... thinking of you

Fresh flowers and bouquets for every occasion

Everlasting silk and artificial flowers

Special offers from £9.49 + p&p

Delivered anywhere in the mainland UK

Visit www.flowerssay.co.uk or tel: 01406 424703



MILITARY DIRECT

Suppliers to HM Forces:

FOR BEST PRICES & CATALOGUE



01642 888405

OPEN 7 DAYS
08.30 to 20.00 hrs

Baxters of Yarm (Military Direct Dept.)
Fairfax Court, High Street, Yarm TS15 9Q



OPERATION NIMROD

This beautifully framed print has been obtained by Picture Hook as one of only 10 signed by Andy McNab. It comes complete with certificate and 4 page booklet about the raid.

PRICE £325.00 (COLLECTION ONLY)

We also have a few of the following prints:

Operation Nimrod Unsigned £41.95

SAS Montage Unsigned £41.95

The SAS Rendezvous Unsigned £41.95

ea

Enquiries - Tel: 020 8648

THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE

Have you a romantic entertaining or poignant love story?

Can you see yourself on TV?

If you live in the South of England and would like to share your love story or find out more please ring:

Mary-Jane: 020 7664 1623

Graham: 020 7664 1656



PORTRAITS - MILITARY AND CIVIL

From life or photographs, oil & water-colours

jhlbeattie@hotmail.com

Mobile 07790-035407 or 020 7274 7032 Studios in Wilts & London



PEN PALS

REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to *Soldier Magazine* at the address below. When replying to more than one pen pal please place all the letters in one envelope and send it to *Soldier Magazine*. The box number must be clearly written in the top left corner of all your replies. Replies should consist only of a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and large, heavy or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

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

TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL. Please send for details enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to *Soldier Magazine*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU or visit *Soldier Magazine* online at - www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Emily - fun, friendly, sporty, literate, female in her mid-20s, would like to hear from similarly minded, single soldiers, 25+. **P782**

Anne, mid-40s, 5'6", curvy brunette with blue eyes. Enjoys music, walking, clubbing, travel and dining. Life begins at 40 and looking for pen pals, 40+, to please help me start mine. **P783**

Leona, 35, slim blonde. Hobbies include reading, jogging, aerobics, pre-1990s music and classical, and going out. A mum of two who would love replies from soldiers, 30-45, who would like a genuine pen pal. **P784**

Joyce, slim, 39-year-old with GSOH. Enjoys keep fit, swimming, the cinema, eating out and a good laugh - a typical Aquarian. Seeking easy-going and good-humoured pen pals, 30-40. **P785**

Patricia, Piscean, long blonde hair and brown eyes. Likes socialising, all kinds of music, walking, TV, wine and dining and meeting people from all walks of life. Would like to hear from pen pals, 45+, who are good conversationalists and have a GSOH. **P786**

Brenda, 5'3", 35-year-old redhead. A single mum who is interested in all the usual stuff and, of course, writing long letters. Seeking pen pals, 30-40. **P787**

Lorraine, 32, 5'8", brown hair and grey eyes. Enjoys cooking, nights in/out, good company, music, keep fit and life. Seeking pen pals, 25+, and will answer all letters. Would appreciate a photo where possible. **P788**

Jennifer, 33-year-old, blonde nursery nurse. Enjoys spectator sports, music, animals, the theatre and cinema and would like to write to Servicemen, 30-40, at home or abroad. **P789**

Heaven and Angel, 29 and 25, slim redhead and slim blonde respectively. Both swim, do keep fit and love writing. Replies please from any pen pals, 20-40, who enjoy writing. **P790**

Julie, 33-year-old blonde with blue eyes. Interests include music, cooking, the cinema, UK travel, reading and generally relaxing. Seeking pen pals, 28-36. **P791**

Jackie, 44-year-old, young-looking, slim, attractive blonde. A widow who is happy and fun-loving by nature and enjoys keep fit, swimming, walking, the gym, netball and writing. Replies please from male pen pals, 35-46, with photo. **P792**

Lisa, 27, 5'6", long, dark hair, blue/green eyes and GSOH. Enjoys pubs, clubs, the cinema, writing, reading, meeting people, travel and life to the full. Would like to write to anyone, 23+, with GSOH and who enjoys life as much. **P793**

Carole, 5'4", energetic, green-eyed blonde. Likes to walk, travel, listen to music and enjoys all aspects of home life. Is seeking loyal and considerate pen pals, 40-50, who enjoy life and have GSOH. **P794**

Glenda, bubbly, single, blue-eyed blonde. Second-year student nurse with an honest and caring nature who likes animals, driving, gardening and a wide choice of music. Seeking pen pals, 24-40, to relieve the boredom and spice up my life. All letters will get a reply. **P795**

Sharon, 28, naturally curvy brunette who likes music, going to the cinema and reading. Would like to hear from pen pals, 26-30, and would appreciate a photo where possible. **P796**

Tina, 5'9", blue-eyed blonde of fit build. Enjoys pubs and clubs, keep fit, motorbikes and writing to squaddies. Replies please from pen pals, 25-35. GSOH a must. **P797**

Joan, 48-year-old attractive brunette. Interests include travel, dining in/out, music, writing letters, the theatre, films and socialising with friends. Would like replies from pen pals, 38+. **P798**

Clare, 5'4", brown hair, blue eyes. Likes DIY, walking, cycling, gardening, art, reading and sewing. Currently studying to be a nurse and would like to hear from pen pals, any age. **P799**

BOOKS

Probably the best internet military book site in the world. www.militarybooks.co.uk/dhmb Secure credit card online ordering. Browse/search 4,000+ military books or send for regular catalogue. Derek Hayles Military Books, 35 St Marks Road, Maidenhead SL6 6DJ. Tel: 01628 639535 Fax: 01628 788377

01/01

The French Foreign Legion. A Guidebook to Joining. The definitive guide to joining this elite Army is packed with information including selection procedure; recruiting centre addresses; the 'real' contact. £15.99 - Salvo Books, 114 Salisbury Road, St Judes, Plymouth PL4 8TB. **06/01**

Military history bargains - books bought and sold. SAE brings catalogue. 15 Woodlands, Saltley, Birmingham B8 3AG. Tel: 0121 328 2878.

MONTY'S TANK BATTALIONS - *Taming the Panzers* (3 RTR) WW1 AND WW2. Signed hardback copy direct from author - £13-50. Tel/fax 01273 564372. **11/00**

Books for Soldiers - contact the experts. Free catalogue. The Outdoorsman's Bookstore, 27 Monument Industrial Park, Chalgrove, Oxon OX44 7RW. Tel: 01865 400256. Fax: 01865 400257. **12/00**

"Head-dress Badges of the British Army"

by Kipling & King.

The Collector's Bible.

Volume One: (1800-1920) £65.

Volume Two: (1920-1998) £45.

Post free

H. L. & P. King, 3 Saxon Court,
Farnham, Surrey GU9 7QB.
Tel: 01252 716303

Second-hand bookshop requires books on all subjects, especially military and history. We collect! TLOO BOOKS, Merton Abbey Mills, Merantun Way, London SW19 2RD. Tel: 0181 540 4371. 12/00

FREE MILITARY catalogues/ books wanted. Will collect. Marine & Cannon Books (*formerly Attic Books*), Sandowne, Tiverton Heath, Tarporey, Cheshire CW6 9HN. Tel: 01829 732524 12/00

"A SOLDIER'S POCKET BOOK"

380 pages of info all soldiers need to know. Includes: Basic Battle Skills, Fieldcraft, Orders, SOPs, Scouts, Emergency Alarms, Routines in the Field, Tank Target Indication, Working with Helicopters, Map Reading, Orienteering, First Aid, NBC, Adventure Trg, Skill at Arms SA80, LSW, Tests and APWTs, GPMG Light Role, Signals, Mines, MT Driver, AFV and Aircraft Recognition, etc. ISBN No: 1-874528-02-0. £7.50 (inc p&p UK/BFPO). Available from selected Naafi Branches, Bookshops or by Visa or cheque from publishers: MILITARY POCKET BOOKS, PO Box 28, Leven, Beverley, East Yorks HU17 5LA. Tel/fax: 01964 542878. Visit www.milpkbk.co.uk 12/00

BUSINESS OPPS

Leaving the Forces? Want THE job but not A job? Ex-Services in business? Join The List - it's free. Open to Services/ex-Services and all ranks. The essential job search and business directory. "There was not one person contacted through The List who did not find time to help me." List member. www.thelistuk.com Tel: 01483 200 863. P O Box 156, Dunsfold, Godalming GU8 4YH. 12/00

THE ULTIMATE LOW COST FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITY.

Realistic earnings in excess of £70,000 per year. Establish your own *Wheeled Bin Washing Company*, using Europe's leading bin washing equipment and following a proven system with full professional training and support, with a franchise free of only £7,500. For more information contact Karl Fretwell at: GREEN CLEEN, 13c Raleigh Hall, Eccleshall, Staffs ST21 6JLTel: (01785) 851935 or Fax: (01785) 851389. 10/00

THIN RED LINE

Manufacturers of historically accurate and authentic Victorian military uniforms for museums and collectors, are looking for a retired (or about to retire) **military tailor** to undertake interesting part-time work on an outworker basis

Applicants should ideally reside in the central south and should write initially to: K.Perks, **Thin Red Line**, 22, Kennard Road, New Milton, Hants. BH25 5JU Tel: (01425) 615102 Fax: (01425) 614163 kperks@thinred.co.uk or visit our website at www.thinred.co.uk

RAMC SNCO medics. Looking for a new career with great prospects? If you have between 6 and 18 months left to serve, send your CV to DenMac Medical International, 108 King Street, Hoyland, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S74 9LL. E-mail: DenMac1@tinyworld.co.uk 11/00

ENTERTAINMENT

Millennium Catering Management LTD

MoD recognised (vetted), HCIMA qualified caterers with a wealth of experience of commercial catering and specialising with **Service & Diplomatic functions & banqueting.**

Director: Hasanali Khoja

260 WATLING AVENUE, BURNT OAK, EDGWARE, MIDDLESEX HA8 0NH
Tel: 020 8931 1442/ 0207 915 4812 (daytime)
0208 931 1442 (evening)
07811 787196 (mobile)

or visit our website:

www.millennium-catering.com

FOR SALE

Bioflow® Magnotherapy Products

for people and pets.
A drug-free approach
to easing aches and pains

NINETY-DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

For product brochure
and more information contact:
Joanne Clements
INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTOR
Tel/fax: 020 8650 5010
E-mail: jsbc007@aol.com

(UK AND EUROPEAN DISTRIBUTORS WANTED)

Patrol packs (20ltr) DPM £31.99; PLCE chest rigs £47.99; shemaghs £6.99; DPM notebook covers £9.99. Credit card order line - Dragon Supplies 01473 822495. 12/00

Smocks and tops. Don't pay outrageous prices anymore. Para smock - £45; windproof SAS - £55; windproof Arctic - £57. All brand new. Contact Neal on 07989 556861 PRIs welcome. Postage £2.95 per item. 11/00

Good quality jumpers in regimental colours and other military gifts. For further information please call 020 7924 5007 or Email inf@smartturnout.co.uk or www.smartturnout.co.uk 12/00

REME Sergeant's No.1 dress, immaculate condition with two pairs of trousers. Worth £800 new - will sell for £500 ono. Size 22, height 5'10", chest 38", waist 32 3/4", leg 32 1/2". Phone Kim 01948 664389. 11/00

Black and brown brogues, loafers, cavalry boots and chukka boots in leather and suede. For further information please call 020 7924 5007 or Email: inf@smartturnout.co.uk or www.smartturnout.co.uk 12/00

BRITISH ARMY CAP BADGES. 3 x 1st stamps for list. Many scarce. Anthony Webb, 84, Merritt Road, Greatstone, New Romney, Kent TN28 8SZ. 12/00

NOTICE TO READERS

The publishers of *Soldier Magazine* cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any advertisement or for any losses suffered as a result. Readers are strongly recommended to make their own enquiries and seek appropriate commercial, legal and financial advice before sending any money or entering into any legally binding agreement.

Low volume - low price - your design. Keyrings, magnets, drink coasters, etc. Hand-made wall clocks. Website/email: www.xarim.co.uk Tel: 01843 851956 11/01

Soldier '95 shirt or trouser new £22.99, grade 1 £15.00. Ripstop jacket £30.00; bush hats £5.95; DPM 28 litre patrol pack £35.95; new assault boots + combat socks £39.99. Call CAMO SUPPLIES on 020 8482 0556 mike@camo.fsnet.co.uk for full list. 11/00

POSTCARDS and CIGARETTE CARDS of British Army uniforms. SAE for catalogue and samples. Geoff White, 19 Rushmoor Lane, Backwell, Bristol BS48 3BN. 12/01

British Military cap badges and insignia. Send SAE for lists to INKERMAN Badges, PO Box 1022, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3JQ. 12/00

Army Cap Badges. Send SAE plus 80p for lists. Also military cigarette cards in sets - send SAE for free list. Clans and Regiments, 14 Elm Grove, Aldbrough, East Yorkshire HU11 4RQ. Guarantee and generous discounts. 12/00

Peter Hicks Associates, comprehensive range of military figurines available in resin bronze and silver. Commissions always considered. Ring for information/brochure. Tel/fax: 01380 828382. Website: www.wiltshire-web.co.uk E-mail: PHA@FSBDial.co.uk 12/00

Military cap badges for sale please send £1 for list. John Broom, 49 Townsend, Williton Somerset TA4 4RB. 11/00

Military Fine Arts. Britain's leading British military art dealer. Access to all British publishers, artists and dealers. Send £3.50 for Edition 7, 2,500-item catalogue (incl 20+ SAS). Cheques payable to G Jennings-Bramly, 5 Feversham Road, Salisbury SP1 3PP. Phone: 01722 328523. 12/00

Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer badges, medals, insignia. Send £2.00 for list to: Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorkshire. Website address - www.cairnson.freeserve.co.uk 12/00

Military insignia sample list, 44 pages, £1.50. Shotton, 7 Peak Road, Clanford, Hants or visit <http://freespace.virgin.net/lew.shotton/> 10/00

Regimental Shields, Plaques and Shieldclocks. In good company with most regiments and corps of the British Army we made your shields for the Falklands, the Gulf and now Bosnia and Croatia and most other UN locations. Let us design your regimental and operational shields. Write for a full colour brochure to: Military Marketing International, 74-77 Steward Street, Ladywood, Birmingham BA18 7AF. Tel/fax: 0121-4545393. Minimum order 25 Shields. £11.95, no VAT outside the UK. Shieldclocks £19.00. Website address: www.militarymarketing.co.uk Email: mmisales@military ***** 11/01

British military insignia. Fully illustrated catalogue, 2000 - £2. Dealer since 1981 (ex-1RGJ). Mike Lapworth, 26 Soutdown Road, Bristol BS9 3NL. 12/00

Quality makers of Army, Navy and Air Force hand-embroidered badges,

family crests, pipe banners, sashes and regimental flags in bullion wire or silk. MELODIUS brand bagpipes and accessories, practice chanter, flutes in cocus, sheeshamwood or African blackwood, drums, bugles and tambourines. Old classical Indian instruments, tablas, tota, bansari sitars, etc at rock bottom prices. Topflyz Industries, 21/414 Majidpura, Sialkot-51310, Pakistan. Tel: 0092-432-580913. Fax: 0092-432-588547. E-mail: topflyz@skt.comsats.net.pk Website: www.topflyz.com 12/00



Hand-embroidered wire and silk thread badges. Quality and delivery guaranteed.

Kalsara International

Send design or pattern for sample to:
Kalsara International
P O Box 1034,
Sialkot-51310, Pakistan.
Fax: 0092 432 554997

British and overseas military badges, collars, titles, formation signs. Regular comprehensive stock lists £2.00. Castle Armoury (S), 18 Castle Street, Dover CT16 1PW. 12/00

GIFTS

This Christmas give someone an original newspaper dated the very day they were born - £19. Tel 01492-531195. 12/00

HAMPERS

Send a luxury hamper for Christmas. Prices from **£10 + delivery.** Visit our website: www.alloccasions.co.uk or call +44 1386 870551



WANTED

LEFT HAND DRIVE VEHICLES
MINI BUSES/VANS

Any condition
Cash buyer

Tel: 0181 534 4016
(10am to 10.30pm seven days)

HOLIDAYS

Cazorla, Andalucía. Our discovery of a converted mill, in the stunning mountainous surroundings of the Cazorla nature reserve is the perfect all-year-round retreat for walking, bird-watching, painting, photography or enjoying the abundance of wildlife and flora or simply relaxing in unspoilt surroundings. For 9095 pesetas (£33-50) for a double room per night you can enjoy excellent accommodation, an outstanding breakfast and other facilities including seasonal pool and extensive gardens. Contact George du Pré on 01980-622077 (fax 01980-635653) or e-mail: trantex@tinyonline.co.uk 11/01

Haus Hohenegg, Deitnau, Bavaria. Run by Pam and Ray Charlton, former RE. Sixteen comfortable apartments, all en-suite, cosy bar, sauna. Beautiful Bavarian countryside. Complete ski package available. Ideal for Christmas, New Year or R & R. Groups welcome. Tel 0049 (0) 8375 8882. Fax 0049 (0) 8375 1664. Check out www.haus-hohenegg.de 10/00

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

SEPTEMBER 16, 2000

Three-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £2,811.11 each): LCpl DG Alexander, Defence School of Tpt, Leconfield; WO2 ILC Briffett, Medical Centre, Gütersloh; Capt NJ Collins, 135 Indep Topo Sqn RE (V), Ewell.

Six-way tie for fourth prize (19 goals, £677.78 each): LCpl AG Annett, 7 R Irish; Brig JBA Bailey, HQ DRA, Larkhill; Tpr AJ Foster, KRH, Tidworth; LCpl Jiwan Pun, 1 RGR, Brunei; Cpl RG Longland, 42 Svy Engr Gp, Hermitage; WO2 G Mazzone, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Chippenham.

Note: Only nine prizes – rule 9 applies.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2000

Four-way tie for first prize (22 goals, £2,425 each): Cpl DM Meggitt, BATUS, Suffield; Lt Col C Miskelly, Army Prosecuting Authority, Uxbridge; Cpl AE O'Connor, 3 CS Med Regt, Catterick; Capt JD Wright, SA Avn, Middle Wallop.

16-way tie for fifth prize (21 goals, £175 each): Cpl DJ Back, 5 Bn REME, Catterick; SSgt JK Barraclough, 39 Engr Regt, Cambridge; Cpl BJ Bates, AGC Centre, Worthy Down; Maj SM Bryce, 7 R Irish; 2Lt WG Calderhead, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford; Sgt J Driver, HQ AFCENT; Pte N Elliott, HQ NI; SSgt PS Fisher, 253 (NI) Fd Amb (V); Fus LA Godden, 1 RWF, Tern Hill; Cpl CA Heaton, 1 QLR, Catterick; SSgt LJ King, 16 Regt RLC, Bicester; Capt RJ McNeil, RMCS, Shrivenham; Lt SSM O'Neill, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; Capt SM Polhill, Royal Brunei Armed Forces; LCpl K Watson, 1 RHF, Fort George; Cfn K Wilcox, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2000

First prize (£925 goals, £4,500): Cpl G Oliver, BVD Ashchurch.

Four-way tie for second prize (24 goals, £888.89 each): Cpl G Colquhoun, 1 BW, Fallingbostal; LCpl SJ Elkin, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh; Pte R Grafton, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Aldershot; CSgt CG Graham,

1 A and SH, Edinburgh; Lt Col ML Jackson, MOD, London; CoH SR Matthews, HCR, Windsor; Sgt E Perry, 16 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Fallingbostal; Cpl MV Porter, UKDSU Heidelberg; SSgt RW Thoresen, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. Owing to the non-participation of Premiership clubs on the weekend of October 7, the following second and third division clubs took their places on the line shown.

31 Brighton	12 Macclesfield
32 Carlisle	13 Mansfield
1 Cheltenham	14 Northampton
3 Exeter	15 Peterborough
4 Halifax	16 Plymouth
5 Hartlepool	17 Rochdale
6 Hull	22 Shrewsbury
7 Kidderminster	24 Southend
10 Leyton Orient	25 Torquay
11 Lincoln	27 York

OCTOBER 7, 2000

Five-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £2,500 each): SSgt NJ Davies, 12

Regt RA, Sennelager; Capt TA Hanks, 4 GS Med Regt, Aldershot; WO1 SJ Kelley, SSO Münster; Cpl DJ Nash, Cyprus Log Unit, RAF Akrotiri; OCdt DM Shepherd, RMCS, Shrivenham.

Note: Only five prizes – rule 9 applies.

OCTOBER 14, 2000

Three-way tie for first prize (26 goals, £2,800 each): SSgt MO Eldridge, 1 RWF, Tern Hill; Sgt DL Mackenzie, HQ AFCENT; Pte P Wain, 1 Staffords, Tidworth.

10-way tie for fourth prize (25 goals, £410 each): Pte B Ashcroft, HQ Lisburn Station; WO2 GD Broughton, 1 MI Coy, Herford; SSgt D Bunting, British Alpine Centre, Sonthofen; Sgt G Harbage-Brown, 243 Signal Sqn, Bulford; SSgt CRA Holcombe, 251 Signal Sqn, Aldershot; LCpl J Kane, 1 A and SH, Edinburgh; Pte E Kevan, 3 R Irish; Maj DE Langford, 42 AEC, Hohne; WO2 WA Pike, Warminster Sp Unit; Maj JB Sales, 32 AEC.

Kissimmee, Orlando – three-bedroom, two bath villa with own pool. Sleeps 6-8. Disney 15 mins. From £325 per week. Contact 01371 8504078 after 6pm

Florida, Sarasota, Gulf of Mexico. Two luxury villas – three bedrooms, two bathrooms on wildlife lakeside setting. Solar-heated pools, jacuzzis. Golf courses, beaches only minutes away; from £395 pw. Tel 0191 487 4533 or 001 941 377 7606.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

All classified advertisements are accepted on a pre-paid basis only and are subject to the following conditions. The Publishers reserve the right to decline any copy material of which they may not approve whether an order shall have been accepted or not. All advertisements are accepted subject to approval and conditionally upon space being available. The Publishers reserve the right to make any alteration they consider necessary or desirable in an advertisement to meet their approval. The Publishers also reserve the right to cancel or suspend any advertisement without stating a reason. While every endeavour will be made to meet the wishes of advertisers, the Publishers do not guarantee the insertions of any particular advertisement. The Publishers shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. The Publishers shall not be liable for errors occurring after the first insertion of an advertisement in a series. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to inform the Publishers of any such error in sufficient time to allow the amendment. A voucher copy will not be supplied. Advertisements will be placed under the following headings: **Accommodation, Business Opportunities, Cars, Cars Wanted, Entertainment, Exhibitions, For Sale, Gift Services, Holidays, House Lets, Notices, Property for Sale, Reunions, Services, Situations Vacant, Situations Wanted, Training, Wanted.** Other headings will be applied if deemed acceptable by the Publishers. The placing of an order for the insertion of an advertisement shall amount to an acceptance of the above conditions and any conditions stipulated by an agency or advertiser shall be void insofar as they are in conflict with them.



Gorkha Treks UK
NEPAL - TIBET -

Planning a Unit expedition or just an adventure holiday in NEPAL.

Gorkha treks can offer you a full trekking package

12 years' experience with trekking groups from the MOD(A).

We provide an excellent service with discount prices to the Forces.

TREKS, CLIMBING, RAFTING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, JUNGLE SAFARIS
For details and full brochure Tel: 01782 257914 or email: gorkhatreks@unitedkingdom99.fs.business.co.uk
Visit our website: www.gorkha-treks.com

NOTICES

FREE KIT & CONTENTS INSURANCE QUOTES

COMPREHENSIVE COVER FROM JUST £3.75 PER MONTH.
ARE YOU CURRENTLY PAYING TOO MUCH?
DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR RENEWAL DATE.
FIND OUT NOW.

CALL ELITE INSURANCE SERVICES FREE ON 0800 096 3058.

WE ARE IMPARTIAL AND INDEPENDENT.

E-mail: eliteinsuranceservices@exchange.uk.com

SERVICES

Charity Commission CHY-1161D

CHARITY: Charities for the benefit of the Royal Anglian Regiment

REFERENCE: 3955217/118920

The Charity Commission has made Schemes to amend the trusts of these charities. Copies can be seen for the next month at The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to that address, quoting the above reference.

Visit our website: www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

NAME

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

ADDRESS

CLASSIFICATION			Postcode	
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35

If you need more space, or do not wish to cut the magazine, please write clearly on plain paper.

COST: 65p PER WORD, MINIMUM CHARGE £13.00. VAT AT 17.5% MUST BE ADDED

NB: NAME AND ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN COST AND ONLY ONE WORD SHOULD BE INSERTED IN EACH BOX.

IF YOU REQUIRE A CONFIDENTIAL BOX NUMBER ADD £3.00 (INC. VAT) PER INSERTION AND TICK BOX ☐

____ WORDS AT 65p = £____

x____ INSERTIONS = £____

VAT AT 17.5% = £____

BOX NUMBER (INC. VAT) £____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = £____

CHEQUE/PO Number _____ (Payable to **SOLDIER**)

Send to:

CLASSIFIED ADS

SOLDIER

ORDNANCE ROAD

ALDERSHOT

HANTS GU11 2DU

ALL CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE PREPAID AND WILL BE INSERTED IN THE FIRST AVAILABLE ISSUE

Fraser's cap stops pocket explosions

MAJ Fraser Macdonald's snag-free safety pin will have come as a relief to everyone who uses distraction grenades... and it earned him an award of £570 under the GEMS scheme for good ideas.

Fraser, pictured, from the Defence Procurement Agency, was responsible for the acquisition of internal security pyrotechnics, including 6,000 distraction grenades. The trouble was the pin had a nasty habit of snagging in pockets. Several rather dodgy attempts were made to beat the problem and Fraser was unable to resolve it through the research agencies or outside competition.

So he devised a small plastic cap which fits over the protruding portion of the pin and asked the MoD to trial it. Perfect solution first time – and at no extra cost. The makers of the grenade now intend to use the cap on all twist-and-pull mechanisms.

GEMS awarded him £320 but, because there had been accidents with the old safety pin, he got an extra £250 for "alleviating risk to human life". DPA's Maj Gen Peter Gilchrist presented the cheque and a GEMS certificate of merit.



Wash-day heroes: WO1 Roger Blisson, left, of 710 Laundry Squadron RLC (V) enjoys a visit from Peter Crane, Master of the Worshipful Company of Launderers, to the unit's headquarters in Grantham.

The specialist launderers, who became members of the London-based guild in 1998, provide cleaning services for the Army all over the world. Their main role is in support of field hospitals, for which they clean up to 2,500kg of washing a day. The unit also provides much-appreciated hot shower facilities.

Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Tribute to Violette

A MUSEUM dedicated to Second World War secret agent **Violette Szabo** has opened in Wormelow, near Hereford. Created by Rosemary Rigby, whose home was used by Violette between wartime operations, the museum was opened by Virginia McKenna, who played the part of Violette in the 1950 film *Carve Her Name With Pride*.

After torture and forced labour, Violette was executed by the Gestapo at Ravensbruck prison in January, 1945. She was just 23 years old.

The museum will be open every Wednesday during the summer and by special appointment at other times. Contact Rosemary Rigby on 01981 540477 for details.

DATES

NOVEMBER
9: Maj Jack Watson MC lectures on the Rhine crossing, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (tickets on 01252 349619).
18: Bugle Call 2000 model show, Pavilion North, Parade Road, Bath, presented by Bristol Area Branch of British Model Soldier Society.
25-26: Birmingham International Tattoo, National Indoor Arena.

Black Watch returns to Crete

A PLAQUE presented by the 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch has been laid by former members of the battalion at the international airport in Heraklion, capital of Crete, to commemorate those who died defending the airport in 1941.

Bill Lark, a piper in 2 BW who went on to serve in Tobruk, India and Burma, played the Black Watch salute, *Garb of Old Gaul*, on the bagpipes and reminded all those present of the part played by the battalion in the Battle of Crete. The names of all who died were read out and a wreath was laid by David Hutton, who, as a corporal in A Company, was wounded and captured while dug-in on high ground overlooking the airport.

Arrangements for the ceremony were made by Sgt Manousos Trevlakis of the Heraklion police, a former Greek paratrooper. His son, Gianni, who is about to join the Greek Army, acted as interpreter.

BRONCO Lane, conqueror of Everest 24 years ago, came up with a novel gift to the National Army Museum after delivering a lecture on military mountaineering. He handed over 15 frostbitten fingers and toes, the high price he paid for scaling Everest with fellow soldier Brummie Stokes on May 16, 1976.

King's Own on world web

THE King's Own Royal Regiment Museum in Market Square, Lancaster is launching *Remember!*, a website which explores the Great War experiences of local men. Designed by school-teacher Steve Irwin in conjunction with the museum, it is intended for secondary schools as an educational resource. The site – found at <http://cleo.ucsm.ac.uk/content/history/remember> – will also be of interest to those seeking information on the regiment during the First World War.

Musicians on parade

COL Robert Rowe, left, Commandant of the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall, inspects some of the 15 phase-two trainees on their pass-out parade after graduating.

The trainee musicians joined Regular bands for RMSM's successful season of seven outdoor summer concerts, usually playing before audiences of 2,000 or more.

Given their operational role as medical attendants, the graduates now move to the Defence Medical Services Training Centre at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot for a three-week course before joining their regimental and corps bands.

Five of the candidates held music degrees before joining the Army and one, Musn Sinead Maxwell, converted from cornet to oboe, achieving a grade eight with merit in just 12 months. Another, Musn Melanie Parker, will become the first female member of the Band of the Coldstream Guards.

Marching band skills form a large part of the Kneller Hall course, while instrument skills are honed by 17 resident professors.



Hussars' Boer War tribute

VETERANS of the Royal Bucks Hussars Association took part in a Boer War centenary memorial service on Coombe Hill, the highest point of the Chiltern Hills.

They laid wreaths at the imposing Buckinghamshire Boer War Memorial, which overlooks the Vale of Aylesbury and commemorates the lives of all men from the county lost in South Africa.

Wreaths included the Grenadier Guards Association, 1 (Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Special Communications), the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, the RMP Association, the Royal Green Jackets Association and TA and cadet bodies.

At the exact moment that the Hussars' wreath was being laid in the Chilterns, a second was being placed on the regimental Boer War monument in Johannesburg.

To mark the centenary, a 60-page booklet on the Royal Bucks Hussars at war in South Africa has been published. It is available from Alastair Eaton, 198 Wendover Road, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Bucks (01296 613238), costs £9 (UK post paid), £9.50 elsewhere, and cheques should be made payable to A R Eaton. All profits will go to the Hussars' welfare fund.

Signallers exercise freedom

ST Tönis-based 280 (UK) Signal Squadron exercised its right to march through the German Stadt of Tönisvorst with drums beating, flags flying and bayonets fixed. The freedom of St Tönis's cobbled streets was granted to the signallers' predecessors, 28 (BR) Signal Regiment, in 1976.

Galaxy of VCs on display at Keogh

FOLLOWING their move from Millbank in London to Keogh Barracks near Aldershot, 22 of the 29 Victoria Crosses won by men of the Royal Army Medical Corps can be seen by the general public for the first time.

They have been found a new home in the Army Medical Services Museum, where security measures have been considerably tightened to protect the priceless collection.

With uniforms and other artefacts belonging to RAMC VC heroes, the medals have pride of place in the Arthur Martin-Leake gallery, named after one of two Army doctors to win a second VC.

Martin-Leake won his first as a surgeon captain during the Boer War and a bar to it in Belgium 12 years later during the opening months of the First World War.

The VC and bar of Capt Noel Chavasse, also of the RAMC, are in the Imperial War Museum in London. The corps' other VCs are in Canada or in private ownership.

The new exhibition, opened by Maj Gen David Jolliffe, Director General AMS, contains a 23rd VC acquired by the museum. According to curator Capt Peter Starling, it was discovered in a casket buried in 1856 by Queen



Medal men: Former RAMC In-Pensioners WO1 Hywel Bisant, SSgt Francis Chippett and WO2 Paddy Hayes were guests of honour at the opening of the new exhibition of Victoria Crosses at the Army Medical Services Museum

Victoria in the foundations of the military hospital at Netley, near Southampton, to mark the start of construction. It also contained a Crimean War campaign medal.

Until recently the VCs had been housed at Millbank, former home of the Royal Army Medical College. Because the family of one of the VC recipients wanted his medal displayed where young RAMC soldiers could see it, moves were already under way to transfer the collection to Keogh Barracks. The museum is open Monday to Friday, 1000 to 1530.

Redcaps back on parade

MEN of Kent who served in the Royal Military Police have re-dedicated the standard of their county branch of the RMP Association. The branch closed in 1995 because of lack of numbers,

but has been given a new lease of life by the arrival of WO Roy Beale as branch secretary. The standard, laid up at the RMP College at Chichester, has now been recalled to duty.

Legends of the regiments and corps

17 Gordon Highlanders Museum, Aberdeen



Noted: Harry Lunan, seated, gives Lt Gen Sir Peter Graham, chairman of the museum trust, his old pipes

Harry's pipes sounded on the Somme

PIPER Harry Lunan piped his battalion of Gordon Highlanders over the top at the Battle of the Somme and lived to tell the tale.

After the war he emigrated to Canada, where his enthusiasm for passing on the mysteries of the bagpipes to younger generations made him a popular character.

In 1993, aged 98, he flew to London for the Remembrance Day parade at the Cenotaph and the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall.

PRESENTED

While in the UK Harry visited his home town, Elton in the North-East, and was flown by the regiment to Aberdeen, where he presented his Somme bagpipes to the Gordon Highlanders Museum.

The First World War veteran died not long afterwards but his pipes, described as being "in a good state" are in store in the museum.

Although featured last year in the museum's "Stirring the blood" exhibition on the history of piping in the Gordons, Harry Lunan's bagpipes are not currently on display. The museum says, however, that anyone who has an interest in seeing them may ask the curator to arrange a viewing.

The Gordon Highlanders Museum, St Luke's, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen AB15 7XH is open to the public Tuesdays to Saturdays, 1020 to 1630, Sundays 1330 to 1630, from April to October. Groups or individuals from distant places are welcome by appointment outside the season. Tel 01224 311200 or fax 319323.

To appear in this feature, contact the Editor

Bulletin board

Eye-witness account of the Rhine crossing

● Maj Jack Watson MC, who led A Company of the 13th (Lancashire) Battalion of The Parachute Regiment during 6th Airborne Division's crossing of the Rhine on March 24, 1945, will be giving an eye-witness account of **Operation Varsity** in the Airborne Forces Museum at Aldershot on November 9. Tickets (£6.50) are available from the the museum on 01252 349619.

● While visiting the grave of a friend in Leopoldsburg (formerly known as Bourg-Leopold) war cemetery in Belgium, reader Mr Cullen of Wigan, a former private in the RASC, noticed the Sherman Firefly tank mounted on a plinth outside the railway station. He says a tankie of the **Guards Armoured Division** may be proud to know it is still in "service".

● A 40-strong multinational team of arms control inspectors completed the Nijmegen marches. A British quartet from the **Joint Arms Control Implementation Group** based at RAF Henlow was joined by colleagues from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Georgia and the Ukraine, nations which had never previously taken part in the marches.

● WO2 Ewan Hall has received the Uxbridge College Superstar Award from yachtswoman Tracy Edwards after being named the college's top student. Ewan, pictured, who is serving in the Royal Signals, attended evening classes at the Middlesex college for two years to gain distinctions in Higher National Certificates in business and finance. When he leaves the Army next year he has his eye's set on a place at Loughborough University.



● If you live in the Meridian TV area and have a love story you'd care to share, contact Graham on 020 7664 1656 or Mary-Jane on 020 7664 1623. They want to talk to people aged 16 to 100, single or couples, for a new series entitled **The Things We Do for Love**, and are anxious to include the Service community. They say they are looking for stories that are "happy, sad, poignant, fantastic".

● The finishing touch to a new £5 million facility at the Royal Logistic Corps Territorial Army's Grantham home was unveiled by **Brig the Duke of Westminster**. He opened a £1.2 million warrant officers' and sergeants' mess at the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks. It replaces a mess built in 1927 and will cater for about 600 Regular and Territorial Army personnel.

Bomb disposal veterans enjoy 60th anniversary

OLD and bold bomb disposal experts from far and wide gathered at Brompton Barracks in Gillingham, Kent to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the formation of 25 bomb disposal companies during the Second World War.

The units, each of ten or 12 sections and consisting of an officer and 31 men, were authorised on May 25, 1940. Quickly sent into action, they had dealt with 20 bombs by the end of June, 100 by the end of July, 300 by the end of August and 2,000 during the first 20 days of September.

The statistics are staggering. Despite their frantic efforts, that left them with a mere 3,759 bombs to deal with when day dawned on September 21, 1940.

Lt Col (Retd) Eric Wakeling, secretary of the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Officers' Club and author of *The Lonely War*, tells us that the 300 officers and 10,000 other ranks who made up the bomb disposal companies

were called to 24,108 bombs between Sept 1940 and July 5 the following year. Thirteen George Crosses, 115 George Medals and 14 MBEs were awarded for bravery which cost the lives of 151 officers and 339 other ranks and more than 200 injured.

During the diamond jubilee celebrations the Bomb Disposal Branch standard was trooped to the garrison church, where Lt Col Graham Gibbs, commanding officer of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), and Lt Col Jon Gunns, CO of 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD)(V), gave readings. Soldiers from both regiments played a part in arranging and supporting the celebrations.

Among those who travelled some distance to take part were Capt Jack Howett from Canada and former sappers Bert Lawson GM and Bill Matthews from Australia.

To mark the anniversary, a special display was mounted at the RE Museum.

REUNIONS

33 Independent Field Squadron (1974-92): Reunion at 1 RSME Regiment, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Nov 25. Contact Chris Sturdy on 01634 822279.

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (London Branch): Christmas social, Dec 1, Victory Services Club, London. Details from Veronica Joel Newton on 020 8888 9739.

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) Regt Assoc: Scottish branches annual dinner and dance at Normandy Hotel, Renfrew, Feb 23. All former members and friends of regiment invited. Contact secretary J Gaughan, 49 Cartha Crescent, Paisley (tel 0141 8899120) or Lt Col (Retd) J Lauder (0141 884 8483).

Fusiliers band: Third reunion being

organised for March 3, 2001. Ex-Royal Lancashire, Warwickshire and Royal Regiment of Fusiliers wishing to attend should contact Steve Holt on 07970 185772.

No 4 Company, 3rd Bn, Coldstream Guards (1950-1955): Ninth reunion dinner in Derby on April 7. Details: Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (01482 503649).

Woolwich and India Wartime Boys' Batteries RA Association: 54th reunion on May 4-5 at RSA Larkhill. Contact Graham Tooley on 01403 822758.

Huntley's Platoon, Kent ACF: Reunion for former officers, instructors and cadets planned for May. Details from Maj C M Riley, Kent ACF, TA Centre, Boxley Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2AR.

SEARCHLINE

Alastair "Dave" Sim seeks news of **Kevin McGuinness** and other members of **11 and 19 Squadrons RCT**, part of 4 ADTR and based in Minden, Germany, for a possible reunion. Anyone interested should contact Alastair at 27 Wilkinson Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 9FD, tel 01442 394940 or by e-mail to alastair.sim@ntlworld.com

Bryan Waller (01273 413604), who completed his National Service in the RMP (1951-1953) and was posted to the **Suez Canal Zone** from Jan 1952 to July 1953, is researching the period and would like to hear from colleagues stationed anywhere in Egypt at the time. He wants to hear from anyone at the battle for the Caracol, Jan 25, 1952, and needs stories, anecdotes, photographs from Aug 1951 up to the departure of troops in 1956. He also urges colleagues to keep petitioning for a medal.

Rodney Travers-Griffin is trying to contact members of **46B, C Company, AAS Chesham**, particularly gun-fitters. He would like to hear from **Fred Crooks, Cliff Chetwynd, Len**

Hancox and Frank Gazely. Replies to 29 Glen Stewart Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4E 1P6 or teegees@home.com

Tony Currie (0191 4276201) seeks news of old Army friend **John "Geordie" Gardiner**, who was a corporal in the RCT in Duisberg, Germany in June 1979. Previous service with 63 Para Sqn RCT at Aldershot.

Reunion for adult instructors and cadets from **B Company, Avon ACF**, especially **Purdown Detachment**, 1982 onwards, planned. Contact B Company ACF, c/o SSgt J Foster, Horfield TA Centre, Dorian Road, Horfield Common, Horfield, Bristol.

Former Cpl R Pemberton (REME) seeks news of his cousin, **Christopher Ivan Martin Wilson**, who was born in Jamaica in March 1950 and emigrated to New Zealand in 1958. He is believed to have obtained the rank of WO1 in the New Zealand REME. Replies to 174 Nottingham Road, Stapleford, Notts NG9 8AR (0115 9392149).

MUSIC/Gordon Turner

No end of pageantry



DESPITE the sorrow felt when the Royal Tournament came to an end last year, reports of the death of military pageantry have proved premature.

This summer we saw a succession of ceremonial events on Horse Guards Parade, with the Household Division's annual Beating of Retreat and Queen's Birthday Parade (also known as Trooping the Colour) being joined by two special events: the tribute to the Queen Mother, who celebrated her 100th birthday, and the Royal Military Tattoo 2000, a one-off outdoor successor to the Royal Tournament.

Beating Retreat opened with the glorious sound of the State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry playing a new fanfare, *Millennium*. Another new work for trumpeters and band is *Theme for 2000*. An unusual feature was a number

entitled *Irish Jiggery* performed by three violinists and accompanied by the massed bands. The Corps of Drums and the Pipes and Drums have their own spots, and the finale was the *1812 Overture*, a perennial favourite of audiences if not always of bandmen. A studio recording titled **Music from Beating Retreat** is available on the Droit Music label (TRCD 202).

Trooping the Colour this year was Number 7 Company, Coldstream Guards, and Lt Col Jonathan Bourne-May commanded the parade for the second year in succession. The 1st Battalion colour was trooped in 1999 and this year No 7 Company trooped that of the 2nd Battalion. Droit has issued a live recording of **Trooping the Colour 2000** (TRCD 201).

Both compact discs are available from

Droit Music Ltd, PO Box 2638, Eastbourne, BN20 7HJ (£13 each, including p&p to anywhere in the world, or both CDs for £22).

Sadly neither the Royal Military Tattoo nor the 100th birthday tribute was recorded, but an excellent compilation of music associated with the Queen Mother has been produced by Band-leader Recordings.

The military band programme includes *Knights of the Thistle, Elizabeth Tudor, Vivat Regina, Royal Windsor and Royal Birthday*, while the pipes play *Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mother, Glamis Castle, Queen Mother's Welcome to the Mey Games and Lillibet's Lullaby*. In **Celebration** (Bandleader BNA 5162) is available from Discurio, 9 Gillingham Street, London SW1V 1HN (price £12 inclusive of UK p&p).



Gurkha reivers: Four serving Gurkhas and a former soldier completed the 340km Southern Upland Way from Scotland's most south-westerly point to the North Sea to raise funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust - and succeeded handsomely. After 8½ days they were able to bank more than £30,000.

Former Royal Hampshire Neil Griffiths, press officer for the Royal British Legion Scotland, pictured front right, was joined by (back, left to right) Rfn Bishwa Anjan Rai (Gurkha Demo Coy, RMA Sandhurst) and SSgt Gyanbahadur Tamang (Queen's

A stroll in the uplands nets £30,000 for Gurkha welfare

Gurkha Signals, Royal School of Signals), and (front) Cpl Kalibahadur Yonghang (Gurkha Demo Coy) and Cpl Dhalbahadur Sahi (30 Signal Regt).

Win film of Britain at war

PREVIOUSLY-unseen film footage from archives and individuals throughout the world has been edited by Warner Vision International into **Britain at War in Colour**, a double box-set video released on November 6 (price £19.99).

The follow-up to Warner's acclaimed **The Second World War in Colour**, it depicts events on the home front between 1934 and 1945, both social and political, as well as the battlefield experiences of British Servicemen.

In addition to two episodes to be shown on ITV, the video features William Wyler's air war film **Memphis Belle**, first shown in 1944, and 25 minutes of exclusive footage not seen on television.

John Thaw provides the narration to the 163-minute video, which is accompanied by a hard-back book from Carlton Books (£17.99).

Soldier has two double box-sets of **Britain at War in Colour** plus two of the companion books to give away in association with Warner Vision International.

To have a chance of winning, tell us on a postcard or sealed envelope, to reach us by Nov 30:

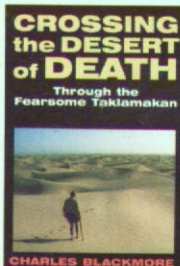
Who was on the throne during the Second World War? a) King George IV b) King George V c) King George VI

Normal competition rules apply and the Editor's decision is final.



Former Army officer who cheated death

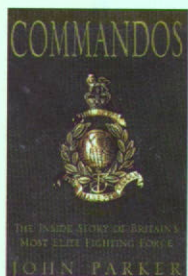
TO the Chinese, the Taklamakan desert, skirted by the Silk Road, was for centuries synonymous with death – those who went in never came out. No traveller had dared to cross the 780 miles of this awesome, egg-shaped waste from end to end until intrepid former British Army major Charles Blackmore and his team did so. They raised £25,000 for charity and he lived to



write the book, **Crossing the Desert of Death**, new in paperback from John Murray at £9.99 and originally published in 1995 under the title *The Worst Desert on Earth*.

Commando book tries to patch up an old rift

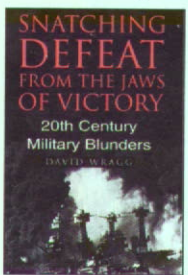
JOHN Parker reminds readers in **Commandos: The Inside Story of Britain's Most Elite Fighting Force** (Headline, £17.99) – a provocative title – that although



they are now part of the Royal Marines they started out as Army units but were "taken over". "It was a contentious issue... with the original Army personnel adamantly and sometimes vehemently reminding the world that they formed as volunteers, not as conscripts or as Regulars," he writes. In his book he attempts to patch up the quarrel by telling the whole story – much of it in the men's own words.

Was Kosovo 1999 another Cyprus?

OH, NO, not another book about military cock-ups. Don't we just love 'em? In the cutely-titled **Snatching Defeat from the Jaws of Victory** (Sutton, £15) David Wragg runs chronologically through 20th century episodes



from Tsushima 1905 to Serbia 1999. The theme is the alleged incompetence of politicians and commanders. Not much new there, then. The Kosovo operation, he argues, was "unnecessary and, quite probably, illegal", and he compares it with Cyprus, where much smaller United Nations forces have been keeping the peace on the Green Line separating the Greek and Turkish communities for almost 30 years.

Enigma in all its variations

LAST month a £100,000 German Enigma coding machine which had disappeared from Bletchley Park museum in Buckinghamshire turned up in TV presenter Jeremy Paxman's mail, minus a few vital parts.

Whatever the reason for this bizarre means of returning stolen property, the publicity from the incident probably helped educate the few people who did not already know about the machine or about the British codebreaking activities at Bletchley Park in the Second World War.

Robert Harris dramatised the war story in his novel, *Enigma*, recently filmed with Kate Winslet, but a lion's share of the credit for increasing public awareness of the Bletchley operation must go to Michael Smith, whose book *Station X* was accompanied by an extremely popular TV series.

In *The Emperor's Codes*, Smith, who served in the Intelligence Corps for nine years (the dust-jacket describes him as a "latter-day codebreaker") and is now defence correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, widens his canvas. He covers the deciphering and interpretation of codes used by Japan and the role played in this by Bletchley Park, its Far Eastern

The Emperor's Codes: Bletchley Park and the Breaking of Japan's Secret Ciphers by Michael Smith (Bantam Press, £16.99).

Review: Brian Jewell

outstations, and the American codebreakers whose success is shown to have been over-emphasised.

This comprehensive book reveals the enormous complexity of codebreaking and the diversity of the people involved in it, drawing on recently-released British and Australian archive material as

well as the personal recollections of men and women who took part in codebreaking operations.

It counters the popular myth that Bletchley Park was manned by outlandish amateurs, although at one point we are told of two RAF sergeants who took one look at the place and turned tail, thinking they had been posted by mistake to a Services lunatic asylum.

Of course, brilliant eccentrics like Alan Turing did work there, but most were unsung men and women slogging away, day after day, at

what must have been a frustrating task of making sense of seemingly unreadable groups of letters and figures. In the case of Japanese codes there was the additional difficulty of coping with an inscrutable oriental language.

Readers should not be put off by the amount of technical information about codebreaking methods and the cipher machines used. Even if the German Enigma machine is now familiar to most people, few know of the Japanese Type A and B devices. It took a team in Washington 18 months to decode the second version.

Two RAF sergeants turned tail thinking they had been posted to a lunatic asylum

Many characters of widely varying personalities appear in this book but as Smith tells us: "These codebreakers were of

course only the most prominent of the many thousands of men and women who intercepted or decoded Japanese messages during the Second World War.

"The historians estimate that the actions of all these men and women shortened it by two years and the countless lives they must have saved in so doing remain the most fitting testament to their remarkable achievements."

IN BRIEF

Mist Over the Rice-Fields By John Shipster. Latterly Commandant British Forces Belize, Col (Retd) Shipster fought with the Indian Regiment in Burma and the Middlesex Regiment in Korea. He won the DSO at the age of 22. This is his story of those two conflicts. (Leo Cooper, £19.95.)

Have You Forgotten Yet? The First World War memoirs of a Coldstream Guards officer, Carlos Paton Blacker MC GM, who was awarded the George

Medal in 1940. Edited by his son, Jon. (Leo Cooper, £25.)

The Armed Forces of Aden 1839-1967 by Cliff Lord and David Birtles. The authors of this 112-page illustrated history are former members of the Corps of Royal Signals. Available from Helion & Company (see ordering panel in facing page for details) at £29.95 plus £3 p&p.

The Irish War: The Military History of a Domestic Conflict by Tony Geraghty. Controversial

account by a former para. (HarperCollins, paperback, £7.99.)

Hope Against History: The Ulster Conflict by Jack Holland. Readable paperback telling concisely the story of the past 30 years. (Coronet, £6.99.)

Salute to the Soldier Poets Vol Two. Illustrated biographies of the famous as well as some of the lesser-known poets of both world wars. (Available direct from *This England*, PO Box 52,

Facts behind the grim headlines

Trouble Spots: The World Atlas of Strategic Information by Andrew Duncan and Michel Opatowski. Sutton, £25.

Review: Chris Horrocks

AS this issue of *Soldier* went to press the hottest hotspot of them all, the Middle East, was being teased back by world diplomacy from the edge of conflagration.

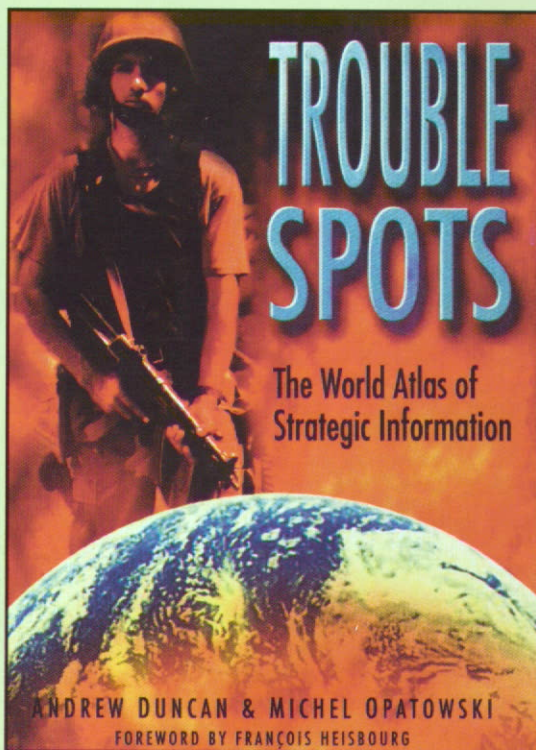
By the time you read this, the recent flare-up between the Israelis and the Palestinians may have been finally extinguished – or may still be threatening regional and world peace.

Trouble Spots, Col Andrew Duncan's informative and glossily produced overview of zones of potential conflict, went to press on June 1, too early to reflect the most recent eruption of hostilities.

But the value of this deeply-researched book is that as well as predicting likely areas of imminent friction, it provides vital background detail to keep you briefed wherever and whenever the flare-ups may occur.

By reading the chapter headed "The Middle East: The World's Most Volatile Region" you will learn most of what you want to know about what is already happening and its causes.

It will tell you, for example,



that regional tensions are triggered not just by national claims but also for environmental reasons such as a shortage of water.

Col Duncan, a former British defence attaché in Tel Aviv, and Opatowski, who is based in Israel and whose superb maps are a useful guide to overall understanding, take an independent, objective and non-critical view of the issues they tackle.

The general reader will appreciate the fact-boxes accompanying the main text.

Many may not be aware that since 1946, more than 19 million people have died as a result of armed conflict: three million of them in the Korean War, two million in

Vietnam, a half a million in the 1980-88 strife between Iran and Iraq, and 1,000 in the Falklands in 1982.

Statistics such as these still have the power to shock. Others have a different effect: you wonder why you are surprised that none of the conflicts that caused those deaths occurred in Australia, New Zealand, or the continent of North America (barring Mexico).

These appear to be the most peaceful areas of the world, though of course, like the United Kingdom, their soldiers have played a distinguished part in major and minor conflicts or peace-keeping missions elsewhere in this troubled world.

Soldier ordering service

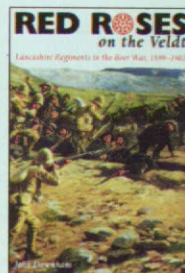
All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days

for delivery. Postal address: Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, UK (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315).

E-mail: books@helion.co.uk
Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

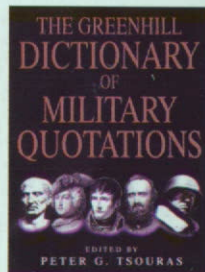
Boer War tribute to Lancashire lads

MANY books on the Boer War focus on political, strategic and tactical issues rather than the experience of ordinary soldiers. Lt Col John Downham's *Red Roses on the Veldt* (Carnegie Publishing), draws on first-hand accounts and photographs to tell the dramatic and sometimes humorous story of the Lancashire regiments at battalion level and below. It is available at £17.50 (plus £2.50 p&p) from Regimental Headquarters The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, Fulwood Barracks, Preston, PR2 8AA. All royalties will go to regimental charities.



Gulf War leader's Crazy Horse link

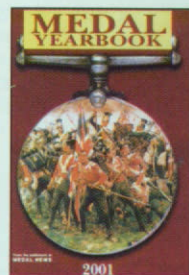
WHAT have Gen Sir Peter de la Billière and Crazy Horse, the Lakota warrior leader of Little Big Horn fame, in common? Answer: they figure among almost 6,000 sayings in *The Greenhill Dictionary of Military Quotations* (edited by Peter G Tsouras, £29.95). Culled from the past 4,000 years, the words, uttered or written by 800



military figures, fill 500 pages of a new collection military buffs will not be able to keep their hands off for too long. And that 1876 Crazy Horse quote? "Come on, Lakotas! It's a good day to die!"

Interested in medals? This book's for you

IF you're a serious medal collector or just have a passing interest in this fascinating hobby you will want to get hold of a copy of the *Medal Yearbook 2001* (Token Publishing, paperback, £16.95), edited by James Mackay, John W Mussell and the editorial team of *Medal News*. Its 470 packed pages are not just a price guide, more a comprehensive handbook to British and Empire medals, plus much more, including ribbons in colour. This year's edition also contains expanded sections dealing with current Commonwealth awards, with Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India now included.



Cheltenham GL50 1YQ, price £11 inc p&p.)

Chronology of World War Two by Edward Davidson and Dale Manning. Invaluable day-by-day reference. (Cassell, paperback, £14.99.)

1918: War and Peace by Gregor Dallas. The transition to stability, charted across more than 600 pages from the perspective of five capitals – Berlin, Paris, London, Moscow and Washington. (John Murray, £25.)

Get rid of the mess-around factor to beat the problem of retention

WE would like to voice our concerns as two current Army recruiters. We would also like to point out that this is not a whinge heard throughout the Forces. It is simply the answer to all recruiting problems – as seen by two experienced senior NCOs currently recruiting for the British Army.

Stop worrying about the image and what the public think... nobody cares. The Army sells itself, pay and lifestyle are good, just about every other feature of the

Prize letter

Army is fantastic, and most of the population feels the same way about it. Instead of wasting time and money on recruiting drives, we should find ways of improving the quality of life and environment of the soldiers we already have.

We still can't believe the way soldiers are treated and the way careers are mismanaged. We spend so much effort on convincing young men and women that the Army is the best job in the world, only for them to leave a few months later because they have been messed about from pillar to post. It makes us feel we are wasting our time.

All most soldiers want to do is get on with the job. The needless "mess-around" factor that all ranks have to endure undermines operational effectiveness.

We are not saying we should be soft, and we are not saying we should drop standards. These are things that set the British Army apart.

What we are saying is we should look after our men and women because one day we might have to ask them to give up their lives. Let's retain more soldiers rather than increase recruiting. – Sgt Turner and Sgt Denvey, Recruiting Group, North England.

Here's a way to keep all that empty housing stock in good shape

THE letter "In civvy street we'd be classed as wed" (Mailbag, Sept) attracted my attention. I am a 31-year-old single soldier in a steady heterosexual relationship with my fiancée. We are moving to Warminster together in the near future but find rental accommodation too costly at an average of around £390 a month (not including bills) while married quarters cost from about £100 to £180 a month.

I think that if the hierarchy would only discuss the idea of single soldiers in

Army support was not there for me when I needed it

ON July 20 my brother was taken to hospital in England with serious burns following an epileptic fit in the kitchen in which he worked.

I informed the squadron 2iC and was told it would be classed as a compassionate C case, which meant that I had to pay for my own flight home and for a hire car from RAF Brize Norton to Wakefield, where my brother was taken.

My sister informed the compassionate hotline and was told that they would ring the hospital and make a decision as to when or if I could come home, depending on the seriousness of his illness. While at the airport waiting for my flight I was speaking to a colleague who was also flying home on a compassionate C and had been told she didn't have to pay for her flight.

When I reached the hospital I was told the Army had been ringing to find out the condition of my brother. The hospital told me it was not their policy to discuss patients with people over the phone and that they could only give a stock answer – that my brother was critical but stable. As they were unsure why the Army was ringing, they would not release further information.

On July 26, two days after I returned to England, my brother died from his injuries.

I informed my unit of the situation and was told I was booked on a flight to return to Cyprus on August 10. I arrived at the airport for my return journey and was informed that I would have to pay for the flights of both my wife and myself. I would also have to pay for our accommodation in the Gateway Hotel at Brize Norton.

When I returned to Cyprus I found the time I had taken off to be with my family

would be taken from my annual leave. I have received no compassionate time off. Both my mother and sister received the full support of their employers and compassionate time off and I cannot see why the Army is any different.

I am disgusted that at a time when I needed the Army's support it was not there. During this most distressing time, the Army was not there for me.

I feel the system needs to be changed and that all immediate family – mother, father, siblings and partner – should be classed as next-of-kin and given the same priority. – Cpl Simon Dunn, 83 PC Sqn RLC, Dhekelia Garrison, Cyprus.

▲ We have received the following response from the Directorate of Personal Services (Army): "Cpl Dunn's frustration and annoyance are quite understandable, and indeed the whole question of compassionate travel is currently being reviewed.

"The existing rules, however, are quite clear: Category C allows the individual to go to the top of the indulgence passengers' waiting list, paying a substantially reduced fee rather than a full civil air fare. It is available to siblings and also in circumstances when the immediacy of the situation does not attract either Category A or B for the next-of-kin.

"As with all indulgence flights, it is made quite clear that if seats are not available for the return, the individual is liable for meeting the full fare costs. Cpl Dunn was clearly fortunate in getting a return indulgence flight from RAF Brize Norton for both himself and his wife, who, not being a blood relation, did not attract a compassionate category.

"As regards his colleague, it is understood that she was in fact on exercise in Cyprus and was therefore flown home early as a duty passenger.

"Cpl Dunn was entitled to compassionate leave at the discretion of his commanding officer and this has now been adjusted by the unit on his leaver record card." – Editor

long-term relationships being allowed to live in MQs, they would realise that it is profitable and sensible. Instead of having a quarter lying empty they could put a single soldier and his/her partner into the quarter.

This would mean that rent was paid on the property and that it was maintained. This would save the Forces thousands when it came to repairing unoccupied MQs to make them habitable again. – LCpl M S Gibson, Asst Pnrs, 1 KOSB, Episkopi, Cyprus.

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, Nov 1950: When the Middlesex Regiment took over a sector of the front line somewhere in Korea from the American Army, Pte Peter Munn, above, was presented with this puppy – named Bob – by GIs who had adopted it. As we went to press British troops in Korea were re-grouping in the area of Seoul after a protracted period of mopping-up isolated North Koreans in the south.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, Nov 1975: Soldiers from the Aldershot-based Training Battalion and Depot, Army Catering Corps carried off first prize in the 15th annual Cambrian March over 70 miles of rough terrain in mid-Wales. Among the 23 teams were six from The Parachute Regiment, two from the Royal Marines and one from the Netherlands Marine Corps. Winners of the two-day event were B Coy, 4 Para (V).

Stop moaning and get on with the job

AS two serving SNCOs in the infantry, we have read with amusement some of the letters from rear-echelon soldiers complaining about trivial matters.

Although we understand and appreciate the various roles they have, why do so many non-infantry have to make such a fuss over nothing when the majority of infantrymen can complete their tasks in difficult circumstances with a minimum of fuss?

It seems that so many people want the Army to revolve around them – for example, the allocation of quarters to single

soldiers, not enough combat clothing to go around, the non-issue of medals for various theatres, entitlement to allowances and so on. The list is endless.

The Army is the way it is for good reason. If we were to open the floodgates for everyone and give everyone everything they wanted, it would become anarchy. These people signed on the dotted line and should accept their lot. Let's get on with it and stop whingeing for the sake of it. – Sgt M L Field, PWO, LSgt D Skinner, SG, 3 Battalion, Infantry Training Centre, Catterick.

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Mail us!

PS...

Uniform response

LIKE Pte Taff Harries ("All monthly quotas ... and no trousers", Mailbag, Sept) I too have been told there is no chance of getting some of my worn Combat 95 uniform changed. What annoys me is the shrug I get from civilian stores personnel who have no idea what it means for us to be told by our RSM to get our threadbare trousers or jackets exchanged.

Half the people I work with are walking around with patches in their uniforms as they cannot get new ones.

Another thing that puzzles me is why 100 per cent of military staff working in clothing stores have uniforms that are in tiptop condition. – Corporal (name supplied), Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

First C17 jumpers

YOUR article on the Dixie gunners (Sept) was incorrect. The first British formed unit to jump out of the C17 was 148 Forward Observation Commando Battery, 29 Commando Regiment RA. We carried out a jump in July 1997 with on Exercise Burmese Chase, an exchange exercise with the 2nd Anglico US Marines on DZ Falcon at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. – Bdr Warren Jackson, Royal Artillery.

Cherry-picking...

I READ with interest the item (Aug) about the presenting of the Guidon to The King's Royal Hussars, described as the Cherrypickers, at Tidworth. The regiment famous for the name "Cherrypickers", and for the crimson trousers and brown beret, was the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), and not, with all due respect to the regiments, the Royal Hussars or KRH. However, it is good (written somewhat grudgingly) that regimental customs and traditions are taken into amalgamated regiments so they are not lost forever. I was part of the parade when the 11th Hussars received their Guidon at Hohn Garrison, Germany, in the mid-Sixties. Extremely proud Cherrypickers we all were. – Lawson Kent, Truro, Cornwall.

Dangerous piles?

I MUST take issue with the unsafe practice shown in your article "Warrior to warrior" (June). One caption talks of the dangers of tampering with unexploded munitions while the other shows a sapper from 49 Field Squadron (EOD) doing just that ... handling a pile of blind shells. During my service we taught that a blind must never be touched or moved, but must be destroyed by placing an explosive charge close to it, but not touching.

Perhaps I am over-reacting and procedures have changed since I left the Service, or is it that Royal Engineers are explosion-proof? – Maj (Retd) A G Luckhurst, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Fairer way over LSSA

IN response to the letter from Maj Christmas ("How Soldier Smith could be £2,000 better off", Aug), I believe the point the author of the original letter was trying to raise was that a soldier could have more than 400 days' accumulated LSSA days on his pay statement and still not receive one bonus.

Maj Christmas's point about Smith's first absence becoming "effectively ruled out" has caused some confusion among soldiers I administer. The rules state that if a soldier does not have the required LSSA day in the two years, the first period of LSSA is deducted and the next period added on, and not ignored, as Maj Christmas implies.

After speaking to colleagues, I believe a fairer system would be to drop the stipulation to complete the 280/365 days within a prescribed limit. This would then not detract from paying a bonus to compensate for excessive separation, which is after all what the AT and AT+ bonus was. — **Cpl J W Harding, UAO, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn.**

Expensive toiletries

I AM currently serving a six-month tour in the Balkans and, after visiting a number of foreign PXs (or the equivalent), I am shocked at the low standards and high prices of our own EFI. Why are such items as toiletries (obviously a necessity) as expensive if not more so than in the UK? Does the EFI have a monopoly on British camps? — **Cpl Williams, Podujevo, Kosovo.**

That was my AS90

YOUR caption to a photograph of an AS90 gun (Page 13, Oct) states that it was from 127 Battery. Actually it is from 159 Battery. I'm not complaining... just thought you might like to know. — **Bdr Partridge (crew commander), 159 Bty, 26th Regiment RA, Gütersloh.**

In support of No 2s

WE totally agree with the letter from Cpl Parsons and LCpl Beard ("No 2s are best on parade", Sept). Regular inspections should be done because if a special parade was to come up, we need to make sure in plenty of time that every soldier's No 2 dress still fits and is in good repair. — **Pte Helen Bailey and Pte Becky Goodwin, 5 GS Medical Regiment, Preston.**

Deserved bonus

IN reply to Cpl Orr ("Tax-free incentive to enlist would be good idea", Sept), as a TA soldier with 22 years, averaging more than 80 days a year, I do get a tax-free bounty. But it will never come close to compensating me for the pension that I will never receive even though if all my days were added up they would equate to several years' service, especially as I intend to do another 11 years before I call it a day. On the whole, I think we've earned our bonus. — **Sgt Gardner, 207 Field Hospital, Manchester.**

Warrant ruling is unfair to my son

MY wife left me recently for someone else and shortly after that I moved to Northern Ireland. Due to the housing problems here we decided that it would be easier for our son if he stayed with his mother so he could have a more settled life.

On arriving at my new unit, I confirmed my new marital status as separated and was informed I was entitled to seven annual warrants, of which four can be terminal. I left the orderly room quite content, but then found out something that really confused me.

People I work with who are voluntarily separated receive Married Unaccompanied Separation Allowance and are entitled to 12 terminal warrants a year. To add insult to injury, as of October 10 they are also entitled to welfare phone cards.

Anyone who is separated but looks after their child or children is entitled to 12 warrants a year. Why, after being separated involuntarily, am I being discriminated against? If I want to see my son after my warrants have been used I will have to pay

for the journey. If someone who is voluntarily unaccompanied wishes to see their child or children, not only do they have extra money to pay for the trip, but they get extra warrants.

Surely I and others in the same position have the same rights to see our families even though we are no longer married. If not, the voluntarily unaccompanied should have the same entitlements as us. — **Sgt I Curzon, NIEW, Aldergrove.**

▲ *Sgt Curzon's confusion is well understood, PS4 informs us. The reason he is not entitled to the same number of warrants as an unaccompanied soldier is because a recent complicated ruling under the Sex Discrimination Act forces the Army to treat a soldier who is separated from his wife as though he were single. Sadly, the fact that he has a son he quite naturally wants to see as often as possible does not entitle him to more warrants than a single soldier. PS4 adds that, compared with those in every other theatre, he is particularly well off for travel entitlements and has the same telephone card allowance as a soldier whose family is on the mainland.* — **Editor**

Separation bonus was never tax-free

The following letter has been received from Personal Services (10):

IN the September prize letter ("Taxing problem takes shine off reward pay"), WO1 Broadfoot raised concerns over the level of taxation incurred when receiving the Longer Separated Service Allowance (Accumulated Turbulence) – LSSA(A) – bonuses.

While we have sympathy with the points he makes, we regret we are unable to resolve them.

LSSA was introduced to support and improve retention by providing a form of recognition for Service personnel, whether married or single, who were considered to have suffered excessive turbulence due to service away from their normal duty station. LSSA(AT), in common with all pay and many allowances, is subject to income tax at rates directed by the Chancellor.

The MoD has no influence over this policy and our liability is laid out in the Income and Corporation Tax Act 1988.

We are therefore unable to introduce the new bonuses tax-free. This was made clear when they were introduced.

We are able to publish only gross rates for all pay and allowances because the level of tax liability differs for each individual. In general, the majority of soldiers on the lower income tax rate would attract a tax liability of 24 per cent (ie £240), moving up to a maximum of 40 per cent (or £400) for those whose income before the allowance puts them above the threshold for the highest rate of tax.

WO1 Broadfoot says he was debited £456 for his LSSA(AT) bonus, which appears very high and certainly warrants investigation through his regimental admin office.

On an upbeat note, recent visits to the Balkans and other theatres confirm LSSA(AT) and LSSA(AT+) have been welcomed positively. As at the beginning of September, 6,029 individuals had received LSSA(AT), of which 1,407 had received LSSA(AT+).

Freeze-frame



"The officer's exaggerations made his new recruits want to puke"

Write your own funny caption for the photograph above, first published in *Soldier* in July 1954. The best, in the opinion of the Editor, will win a prize from our silver collection bearing the Army logo. Usual competition rules apply and entries should reach us by November 30.



Winner of our September freeze-frame (left) is LCpl Blaney (1 RRW, BFPO 22) with "Yes Sir... your horse is definitely a male". While we also liked "Is that what you meant by 'you have to have balls to be in the Army', Sir?" from Adrian Vickers of MNCP, 259 Signal Squadron, Episkopi, Cyprus, we drew the line at "A military interpretation of jumping over planks" from Peter Granger, STS4(MW), Middle Wallop. Whatever can he mean?

These pay problems are not supposed to happen

SINCE deploying on Op Agricola 4 in August I and my colleagues – from the OC down – have been subjected to a number of pay problems relating to LSSA, CILOCT, accommodation and food charges. While I admit some if not all these errors were initiated by my unit admin office in the form of a UNICOM data burst to the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow that didn't actually get there, what is being done about it?

I thought this sort of thing wasn't supposed to happen. As managers of soldiers' welfare, we are told not to mess up pay, mail and rations, especially while on tour. I believe we generally do our best to prevent this, so why don't the agencies that work for us? – **WO2**

(TQMS) T Gibson, 8 Armd Engr Sqn, 26 Engr Regt, Op Agricola 4.

▲ Worthy Down tells us the regiment has confirmed that all its members, bar one or two individuals, have been paid correctly, with all food and accommodation charges refunded and allowances paid by the end of September. It says that for WO2 Gibson to have had a pay statement in his hand by mid-September, the regimental admin officer, who deployed with the main body on August 18, would have had to have processed the entire regiment and transmitted all data by September 5 to meet the pay run deadline on September 7. This would be reliant on the mail service. – **Editor**

PS...

Phoning home...

I HAD the pleasure of being posted to AFCENT, Holland between 1993 and 1995, working with the International Military Police. Personnel from one of the nations involved, namely the Americans, were able to ring home to the USA using the military operator, giving their social security number and a password or number. The phone bill was then taken out of their monthly salary.

Serving in south Armagh, Northern Ireland, there have been times when the free BT phone cards have run out. I am fortunate to have an account with First Telecom that charges a better rate than BT. Has a system like that used by the Americans ever been tried by the MoD? – Cpl Toon, AGC(RMP), Newtownhamilton.

Kyrenia VC grave

DURING a holiday in Kyrenia, Cyprus my wife and I found the British cemetery and explored it. We came across four graves of Black Watch personnel and one from the Army Hospital Corps: Sgt McGaw VC and Ptes McDonald, Barrie and Marr of the BW and Pte S Troubridge, AHC, who died in Sept and Oct 1878.

Can anyone shed any light on these soldiers and what campaign they were on? We have photographs of the headstones should anyone want one. – Sean McQuinn, 24 Meadon Road, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs WR11 5YE or e-mail to seanmcquinn@hotmail.com

▲ Sgt Samuel McGaw won his Victoria Cross at the Battle of Amoaful in January 1874 during the Ashanti War in West Africa. He died from "heat apoplexy" – what we know as heatstroke – while on a march to Camp Chifflik Pasha, near Larnaca. He, and presumably the others, were members of the garrison at Larnaca. – **Editor**

Infantry opinions

WHY is your Vox Pop feature not more concerned with the opinions of infantry battalions? A glance at past issues will show that the proportion of soldiers in infantry interviewed is way below the ratio of infantry to other arms. – Capt J Fieldhouse, HQ 3 Inf Bde, Northern Ireland.

▲ The infantry never stays in one place long enough to be interviewed. You are always on exercise or operations. That's our excuse and we're sticking to it. – **Editor**

Wives on prairie

ON Page 11 (Sept) you state in an article about the High Velocity Missile at BATUS: "Another first was the group of wives taken onto the prairie to watch their husbands at work." This is incorrect, as in June 1997 my wife and five others went with the then RSM, Martin Gardiner, onto the prairie to watch what we do for a living. – Sgt P M Witts, 4 Regt AAC Wksp REME, Wattisham Airfield.

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Should women fight in the front line?

Sgt Dave Stevenson, RGJ

Definitely not. They are a distraction and can't do their jobs. If they are captured they will be in extreme physical danger. It would be very demoralising. And what about defecating drills. I can't see a bloke holding a bottle for them. Infantry soldier is a man's job and should be left to the men. It's no place for women. Equal rights is fair enough, but there are some jobs they just can't do.



LBdr Donna Welch, 22 Regt RA

If we are doing the same jobs and getting paid the same as men, then why not. At the end of the day that's what I joined up for, I don't want to be stuck in

an office. I can't see any particular problems now there are injections to control periods and other ways around it.

Pte Phil Ord, 1 KORBR

If they can physically do it then no problem, but otherwise you would end up carrying them. Close proximity in the field would not work.



LBdr Joe McLean, 40 Regt RA



The family unit is the most important thing in the world. I think women have a responsibility to be mothers and to raise children. I would not like to think of my mother or sister fighting at the front,

The Defence Secretary has said women should be allowed to fight in the front line unless senior officers can prove operational effectiveness would suffer. We asked troops in Canada what they thought

especially when it is unnecessary to do so. It's not the place to be.

Pte Marc Coldrick, 1 QLR

They are equal to us, they can do jobs like us and are as capable as men, if not better. The only problem I can see is if they get shot. If they are injured men will rush to help them. Men are soft when it comes to women.



WO2 Charlie Ellis, LD

I am amazed that it has not happened already. I would be very surprised if it has not happened in the next three years. If they want to do it, are up to the job and

don't hinder the guys, I could not care less.

LCpl Bernie Barnes, 2 RTR

If your friends get captured you worry about them. If it's a woman you can imagine the stress for the boys. I am in two minds about it. The tanks are a boy thing... big toys for big boys. Changing tracks can be physically hard.



Cpl Jason Styles, 9/12th L

Of all the women I have met in the Services I think I have met only two who could do a man's job. But if they want to and they can, then go for it. But I don't think it will be many and I don't think it will last.



LCpl Katherine Robinson, 3 (CS) Regt RLC

I think they should if they can get through the training and are robust enough. Women are not as physically strong as men – but how hard do you have to be to hold a rifle?



Cpl Andy Pumford, 9/12 L

If they can do it then yes. But they would have to have the same fitness as the guys to gain their respect.

Pte Claire Taylor, 3 (CS) Regt RLC

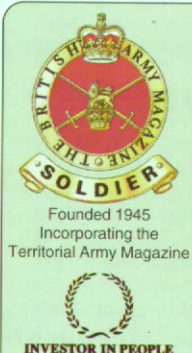
They did not know it would work when they brought women into the Army and they won't know if having women in the front line works until they try it. If it works, it works. If it does not they will have learned.



Sgt Darren Pagett, 9/12th L

Only a certain number of women would be able to do it. Blokes would spend more time helping the women than doing their own jobs.

Interviews: Anthony Stone Pictures: Mike Weston



SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU
Distribution and general enquiries: 01252 347353 (or Aldershot mil 2353)

Fax 347358 (2358)

E-mail: solmag@btinternet.com

Visit our website on
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Visit the Army website on
www.army.mod.uk

Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 01252 347355 (Aldershot military ((9)4222) 2355)
Editor John Elliott 347356 (Aldershot mil 2356)
Assistant Editors Ray Routledge 340753 (5753), Anthony Stone 340462 (5462), Andy Simms 347362 (2362)
Art Editor Les Gwyer 347169 (2169)
Chief Photographer Mike Weston 347357 (2357)
Photographer Graeme Main 347357 (2357)
Librarian Stuart Robinson 347351 (2351)
Advertising Manager Sheila Little 347352 (2352)
Business Manager Andy Clarkson 347353 (2353)

SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by St Ives (Andover) Ltd. Crown Copyright 2000.

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

REVISED VOLVO RANGE, REVISED VOLVO VALUE

ENJOY UP TO £1360 OF SPECIFICATION ENHANCEMENTS AT NO EXTRA COST

THE S40 1.6 S ONLY £10,390*

Now including:

- 15" Alloy Wheels
- 6 Speaker CD Player

THE S80 2.4 S ONLY £15,523*

Now including:

- Cruise Control
- CD Player
- Wood Effect Trim
- 16" Alloy Wheels
- Upholstery Upgrade

THE V70 2.4 S ONLY £15,468*

Now including:

- Cruise Control
- Leather Steering Wheel
- CD Player
- Wood Effect Trim
- 15" Alloy Wheels
- Upholstery Upgrade

THE C70 CONVERTIBLE 2.0 T ONLY £19,447*

Now including:

- Cruise Control
- Electronic Climate Control (ECC)
- Wood Effect Trim
- Leather Upholstery



*Excluding delivery & VAT

Only available to HM Forces personnel currently undertaking, or about to embark upon official overseas postings.

EXPERIENCE A NEW GENERATION OF VOLVO CARS, AT NEW VOLVO PRICES

Volvo British Military Sales have announced specification enhancements across the entire Volvo range. This means that you can enjoy up to £1360 of specification improvements at no extra cost. Features such as air conditioning, alloy wheels and a CD player are now standard on every new Volvo. From the stylish S40 phase II to the exhilarating C70 convertible, it has never been easier to own and run the Volvo of your choice.

For more information on the outstanding Volvo range and the exceptional benefits on offer with a tax free purchase from British Military Sales, including Volvo's Own Low Rate Finance Schemes, contact us directly on;

TELEPHONE - 01707 262388 OR

E-MAIL - VCC4.TDSUK@MEMO.VOLVO.SE

Alternatively, please complete and return the coupon below



Title _____ Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Model of Interest _____ Current Vehicle _____

Please return to
VOLVO CAR UK BRITISH MILITARY SALES

Freepost 30
Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 7BR
Tel: 01707 262388
Fax: 01707 261712

VOLVO
for life

at ease

It's easy for you to keep in touch
with this exclusive MoD offer

- free Nokia 3210e, Motorola cd930e or Nokia nk402
- 40% off all phones worth up to £99.99 (RRP)
- one month's free subscription on Everyday 50 and selected Talk Plans
- complimentary connection, saving you £35
- free personal handsfree kit with every order
- up to £15 cashback donation to the nominated Armed Force's charity



You, your family and friends can all keep in touch with our exclusive offer for MoD personnel. As well as the benefits described above, Orange International Roaming also means

you'll be able to stay in contact around the world. But don't stand easy yet – this offer is only available until 31 December 2000. Call Orange direct now on the number below.

0800 168 168

Please call between 8am-10pm weekdays and 9am-5.30pm weekends, quoting reference SOL/11/00.

Connection is subject to status and a minimum twelve month contract. Free connection offer available on selected Talk Plans and Everyday 50. This offer excludes upgrades and monthly charges start from £15.50 on Everyday 50. All prices include VAT. All phones are subject to availability. One month's free subscription available on Everyday 50, Talk 60, 150, 500. A cashback payment of £10.00 for every pre-pay package and £15.00 for every contract package will be made to the Armed Force's nominated charity. This offer closes 31 December 2000.

orange™