

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY November 1999 £1.60

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# SOLDIER

## EAST TIMOR: ON ROAD TO PEACE



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Green Jacket 'Warriors'  
Argylls celebrate





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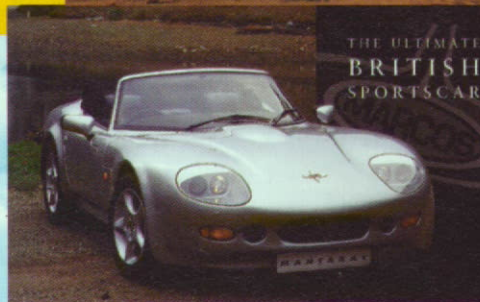
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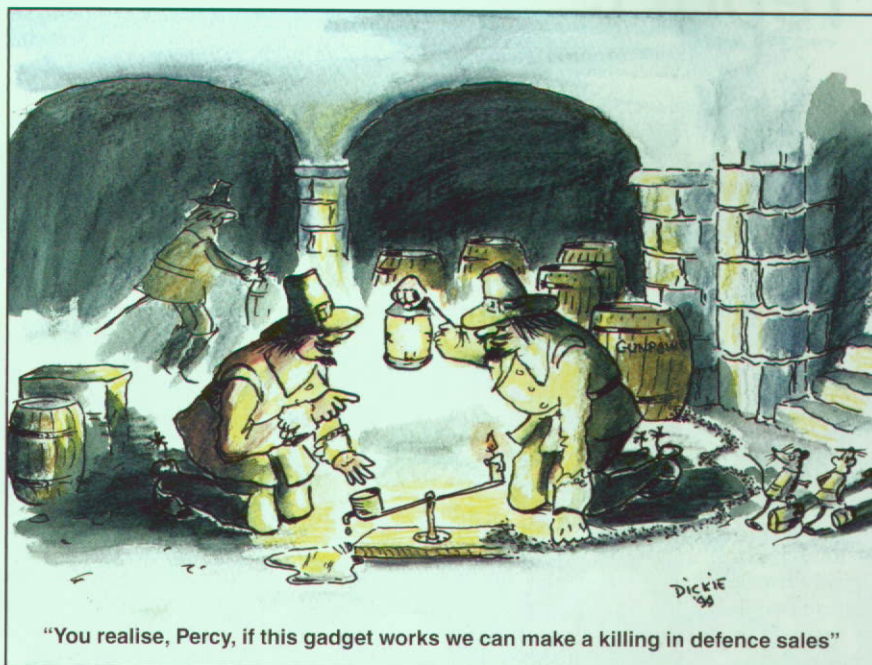
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of welfare money



Picture: Sgt Ian Lipiot, Gren Gds

### 4-5 COVER STORY

On the road: Cpl Topbahadur Palli, of A Coy, 2 RGR, guards a stationary United Nations convoy making its way from Dili to Cairui in East Timor. A very real threat was posed to peacekeepers by fleeing pro-Jakarta militia.

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## SOLDIER to soldier

### It's just not fun any more

"I'VE enjoyed my 16 years in the Army but I wouldn't join it if I was starting out now" was the gist of an unsigned bluey from Kosovo addressed to this office.

Anonymous letters invariably end up in our bin, but given the massive efforts to improve retention, we felt the author (revealed only as a senior NCO in 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards) deserved a wider audience.

Expressing a degree of scepticism about the report "Action to ease tour intervals" (Westminster column, Sept), he listed his own regiment's recent and future tour commitments and reckoned its tour interval during that period was ten months, "not including training and exercises".

The consequence was, he wrote, under-manned tours, missed trade courses, lost trade pay, and the loss of adventurous training opportunities and qualifications.

#### NO TOURNAMENT

"The fun is gone... no tattoos, no Royal Tournament. The Army was about fun, while in or out of camp, on or off tours. Today you aren't allowed to have fun."

His words recalled those of the Chief of the General Staff who, in an interview with *Soldier* two years ago, spoke of the importance of sport and adventurous training and his strong belief that "the Army needs to be fun".

On Page 7 we report the launch of CGS's Briefing Team, which might well cross the path of "SNCO QDG" in person. If that was to happen, his views could be conveyed straight to CGS. In the meantime, our anonymous correspondent might consider sharing his opinions, confidentially, with the Army Retention Study team (HQ Adjutant General, Upavon, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 6BE), set up with the specific aim of improving retention by making the Army a better place to be.

More fun, perhaps?



# Scarlet Pimpernel of East Timor

RMP officer with UN smuggled villagers out under the noses of murderous militia

MILITARY policeman Maj John Petrie has told how he and a Brazilian colleague smuggled terrified East Timorese people to safety through roadblocks manned by murderous pro-Indonesian militia.

The AGC (PRO) officer, who was working for the UN Mission in East Timor (Unamet) preparing the island for its fateful independence ballot, risked his life to save members of a family with whom he and other Unamet staff had been staying.

In all, Maj Petrie, seconded from HQ London District, made four trips through militia and Indonesian army checkpoints to carry 30 villagers to safety in his UN Land Rover.

On each occasion, adults were concealed in the back of the vehicle under a tarpaulin covered with boxes of bottled water, while women and children were squashed into the well between the front and rear seats. On one occasion he turned up the volume of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* on the stereo to drown out the whimpers of a terrified little girl as militiamen prowled around the Land Rover.

Maj Petrie, who made the trips on the day before the result of the referendum were announced, told a national newspaper that if his passengers had been discovered he and they would have been killed by the militia.

He and his Brazilian colleague had felt responsible for the people with whom they had lived in the town of Manatuto,



Picture: Popperfoto/Reuters

Relief all round: Maj John Petrie is delighted to find the villagers he rescued safe and well

where he worked as a military liaison officer. The families feared that once the ballot result was announced they would be singled out and slaughtered by the pro-Jakarta militias and their Indonesian army allies.

Maj Petrie was in the UN building when the result was broadcast at 0900 hours. By 0945 the first of three attacks had begun and the next day the Unamet staff were evacuated.

Weeks later, when he returned on a UN flight, Maj Petrie was able to establish that the people he had rescued were still safe and well.



Helping hand: British Army doctor Lt Col Hem Goshai, left, from 2 RGR, administers first aid to Dili residents

Watchful: Soldiers from 2 RGR, right, guard a post overlooking Dili, capital of East Timor. The Gurkhas were responsible for the security of the hills around Dili and the United Nations compound in the city

Pictures: Sgt Ian Liptrot



## Investigator joins war crimes team on island

WO2 John Harvey of the RMP's Special Investigation Branch is in East Timor to assist Australian investigators looking into alleged war crimes on the island.

He is one of a number of different capbadges serving with the peacekeeping force. Others include 18 soldiers from

## Gurkhas open fire as militiamen flee

GURKHAS deployed in East Timor opened fire for the first time while pursuing armed militiamen who had been terrorising thousands of refugees in a quayside shantytown.

A patrol of 20 men from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, under the command of company commander Maj Tim Warrington, was despatched to the eastern port of Com to capture the thugs who were holding about 3,000 terrified refugees.

The Gurkhas fired warning shots to prevent the gang fleeing into surrounding hills and captured four militiamen during the two-day operation. The Gurkhas had earlier escorted a humanitarian convoy into Los Palos, where they had been told of the dangerous situation in Com.

The Gurkhas chased the militia into

the forest but were thwarted when they found large numbers of refugees, mainly women and children, hiding among the trees. At last light the Gurkhas re-deployed to Com to secure the area and prevent the militiamen from returning. Four were captured the following day and their leader handed himself over to the local pro-independence Falintil guerrilla group.

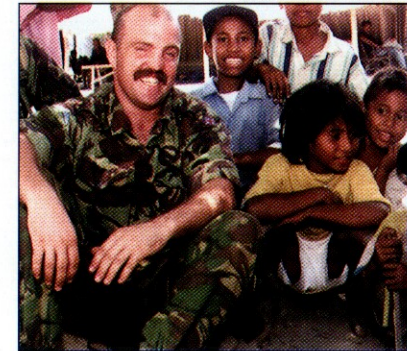
A 27-vehicle aid convoy escorted into Los Palos by the Gurkhas was the first to reach the militia-infested extreme east of the island. It took two days to grind its way up the rugged north coast and was greeted by jubilant refugees streaming back from the hills to their badly damaged town. Every shop in Los Palos was reported to have been destroyed.

Some Gurkhas arrived ahead of the convoy on board Black Hawk helicopters to secure the area in which militia gangs had murdered nuns and church workers a few days before.

The aid operation coincided with the launch of a major drive west by Australian forces into the region along the border with West Timor.

While the remainder of the Gurkha company returned to Dili, from where they deployed to the border area under the command of the airborne-trained Australian 3rd Battalion, a platoon remaining at Los Palos discovered 1,600 refugees hiding in a cave near the town of Tuala on the eastern tip of the island. They were running out of food and water and were in a desperate state when the Gurkhas got to them. The platoon later returned to Dili to resume humanitarian aid duties.

Moving: LCpl Amanda Prentice, right, on the runway at Darwin. An air transport liaison officer with 29 Regiment RLC, she is one of two movers dividing their time between Darwin and Dili to help the flow of troops and equipment



Kids' play: Sgt Taff Jones, REME, serving with 2 RGR, in the village of Cairui

## UN praise for British Forces in East Timor

UNITED Nations staff have praised the efforts of British Forces contributing to the peacekeeping mission in East Timor.

But while the front-line contribution by soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles was singled out, Servicemen and women from all three Services and a wide range of cap badges have been working out of the spotlight.

With many of the Brunei-based Gurkhas being fluent in Indonesian, they were able to break down barriers quickly and establish good relationships on the ground. This led to a rapid transfer of security control at the UN aid compound in Dili, allowing the mission to build up its workforce more quickly than anticipated. C130 Hercules pilots

from 30 Squadron RAF ferried in troops during the initial stages of the insertion and continued to fly in much-needed supplies of water and general military equipment.

British participation included the Royal Navy's HMS *Glasgow*, movement controllers from 29 Regiment RLC based at South Cerney, and a contingent from 30 Signal Regiment at Blandford.

Hundreds of journalists in theatre kept Media Ops representatives from HQ Land Command at Wilton and HQ 4 Division at Aldershot busy on the ground in Australia's Northern Territory capital, Darwin, and in Dili itself.

As the peacekeeping mission gained momentum, Maj Debbie Noble, RLC, and Maj Lucy Giles, RLC, from 4 Div and Capt Nigel Best, QRL, were among those briefing the press corps, while a mobile news team from Wilton was deployed with the Gurkhas to provide stills and television footage.





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Picture: Steve Dock

Opinion seekers: Cpl Dan Dare, left, Sgt Maj Steve Wall, centre, and Lt Col Adrian Foster

## They want to hear your point of view

THE Army wants to hear your opinions and those of your family. That is the message from the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, who has created a team to see that it happens.

The Camberley-based CGS's Briefing Team will visit every unit to seek views, particularly from junior ranks and their families, on Army-wide topics.

Announcing the launch of his briefing team following a pilot held this summer, Gen Wheeler said: "Good communications lie at the very heart of any successful organisation. We, the Army, use our chain of command at all levels to communicate information.

"I want to improve that essential channel by using a specially chosen team not only to convey my message to the Army but to relay the Army's views back to me. I am sure that is exactly what the team will achieve."

The formation of the team follows similar initiatives introduced by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

The three-man team – Lt Col Adrian Foster RA, Sgt Maj Steve Wall, 2 PWRR and Cpl Dan Dare, 36 Engr Regt – will tour units and produce three reports a year directly for CGS.

Lt Col Foster said anyone giving an opinion would be guaranteed anonymity. Names and units will not be included in the final reports which go to CGS.

"We are there to pick up themes," he said, "not simply to listen to soldiers' gripes. If we identify a theme across a number of units we will report it up directly to CGS. For example, soldiers may have a view on Pay-As-You-Dine (PAYD)."

The team has been set up to assist, not undermine, the chain of command.

"We are also keen to have the views of soldiers' families. They have valid points to make and this will provide a forum for them to be heard," he said.

"However, people should not expect changes overnight as a result of the reports. It will take time."

The first team tour plan is being drawn up and scheduled for this winter. It will include visits to units in Northern Ireland, Germany and the UK mainland.

● To contact the team write to: CGS's Briefing Team, The Cottages, RMA Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4PQ (tel: 01276 417009 or e-mail [apt.mod@btinternet.com](mailto:apt.mod@btinternet.com)).

## Simply the finest – Robertson

IN a message to soldiers as he prepared to take up his new post as Secretary General of Nato, Defence Secretary Lord Robertson described British Servicemen and women as "some of the finest, most professional, dedicated and committed people anyone could hope to meet." He said their reward was to make the world a safer place.

Lord Robertson, pictured, acknowledged the huge strain put on soldiers and their families by operational commitments and said that the Strategic Defence Review had been designed to tackle what was a chronic problem. As well as 3,300 more soldiers being recruited and the formation of a sixth deployable brigade, troop levels in Kosovo, Bosnia, the Gulf and the Falkland Islands were being reduced to ease overstretch.

When the British Government took on fresh operational commitments time limits would be imposed at the outset.

He said the validity of Territorial Army reforms – which made the TA more relevant, usable and integrated with the Regular Army – had been increasingly recognised within the TA.

"The bulk of the TA was trained for a Soviet invasion when there wasn't even a Soviet Union."

To coincide with Lord Robertson's departure to Brussels, every Army family is to receive a pamphlet outlining specific measures introduced to tackle overstretch, support dependants during overseas deployments, ensure fairer schools admission and eligibility for student loans for the children of Service personnel, help with access to NHS dental practices and medical waiting lists, and easier entry to Jobseekers Allowance on postings within the UK.

● Latest measure on the welfare front is a doubling of free telephone call time from operational theatres to 20 minutes a week. Where operations prevent the allowance being used, troops will be allowed to accumulate it. If there are no telephones they may use military communications.

### New man at the helm

GEOFF Hoon, who has succeeded Lord Robertson as Defence Secretary, moves from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where he was appointed Minister of State in May. His previous posts include a ministerial position in the Lord Chancellor's Department. Before becoming MP for Ashfield in 1992 he lectured in law at Leeds University.

### IN BRIEF

● More than 2,000 troops from the new Colchester-based **16 Air Assault Brigade** took part in its first major exercise last month. The nine-day test of airborne and air assault capability was held on Salisbury Plain.

● One hundred soldiers from **1 RGBW**, who

were among the first troops to enter Kosovo, have returned to their barracks in Colchester.

● A parade at RAF Laarbruch, Germany was held to mark the closure of **220 Signal Squadron (Air Formation)**. The name will return to the squadron's parent unit, 21 Signal

Regiment (Air Support) at Colerne, and its personnel will transfer to other units.

● Half a century of British map-making in Germany ended on October 31 with the closure of the **Survey Production Centre (Royal Engineers)** at Monchengladbach.





Double first: Britain's first Apache WAH-64 and Maj Erik "Bloo" Anderson, first British Apache instructor  
Picture: HQ Land Command

## Next AG to have three-star rank

THE appointment of Adjutant General is to be reduced in rank to lieutenant general when Gen Sir Alex Harley leaves the Army next May. His successor, Maj Gen Tim Granville-Chapman, Commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College, will assume his new post on promotion to lieutenant general.

The change is part of the measures recommended by the Bett Review of Armed Forces' pay and conditions three years ago. At the highest level it resulted in the Army losing the rank of field marshal for its peacetime Chiefs of the Defence Staff.

All senior officers' ranks were evaluated two years ago and, on the recommendation of the Senior Salaries Remuneration Body (SSRB), it was decided that the Adjutant General's should be a three-star appointment. The change will bring it into line with the principal personnel officers of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

## Northern sappers form up

THE first new Territorial Army unit to be formed as a result of the Strategic Defence Review, 71 Engineer Regiment, held its formation parade in Edinburgh.

● Call-up – Page 11; new TA – Pages 27-29

# Car-park Apache steals limelight

## HQ Joint Helicopter Command launched

EVERYONE who attended the official launch of HQ Joint Helicopter Command at Wilton had eyes for just one thing: Apache.

The Army's new attack helicopter, 67 of which will be introduced to the Army Air Corps over the next few years, made its public debut at HQ Land Command. It was not overhead with other examples of the huge tri-Service fleet which now comes under the control of HQ JHC, but sitting rather coily in one corner of Land Command's car park.

Even flightless, Britain's first WAH-64 Longbow Apache was impressive, attracting an admiring crowd of VIPs, including Armed Forces Minister John Spellar and senior officers.

The 30mm cannon pointed to the ground and missile pylons were mounted with dummy weapons, but Apache had, in its matt green-and-black warpaint, a remarkable aura of menace.

Mr Spellar, who launched HQ JHC, which brings together the rotary wing support and attack assets of the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the

Army, did not seem to mind his limelight being stolen. Indeed, Apache gave credence to his words. He spoke of the new purple organisation and its recently-unveiled combat arm – 16 Air Assault Brigade – as giving Britain one of Europe's best war-fighting capabilities.

He expressed pride in the achievement of having a new force of 12,000 personnel drawn from all three Services with 350 helicopters and an annual budget of £300 million, launched within 16 months of the idea emerging from the Strategic Defence Review.

● Maj Erik "Bloo" Anderson, OC 671 Squadron AAC and the corps' first qualified Apache instructor, presides over the training in the United States of the Army Air Corps' next 21 Apache pilots.

Maj Anderson, who went to the US in 1991 for training on the early A-model, recently completed a seven-month conversion to the more advanced British variant.

The one-time Para, who gained his wings as a sergeant, completed two tours as a display helicopter pilot and was the first aviator to "roll" a Lynx, a manoeuvre usually confined to fixed-wing aircraft.

# Three new operational medals given approval

BRITISH troops involved in the liberation operation have been given the Queen's approval to wear Nato's Kosovo medal.

Those who complete more than one tour will be eligible for a numeral on the ribbon. Numerals on ribbons will also be introduced for multiple tours for the Nato Medal with clasp "Former Yugoslavia".

The Queen has also approved the Operational Service Medal (OSM) to replace the General Service Medal 1962 for operations after January 1, 2000. It

will be used where a separate campaign medal – such as the Gulf Medal – is not warranted and where the operation in question does not qualify for a UN or Nato medal.

The monarch has also approved the concept of a humanitarian-peacekeeping medal for issue to military and civilian personnel who take part in humanitarian or peacekeeping operations which do not warrant the OSM and do not attract the issue of a UN or Nato medal.

Details will be published in a DCI.

## IN BRIEF

● Recruits joining the Army after November 1 will have to sign up for a minimum period of four years instead of the current three-year commitment period. The change will not affect soldiers already in the Army.

● A 12-man team from 101 Provost Company Special Operations Unit RMP

(G) swept the board in the Army Rifle Association's 5.56mm shooting events held in poor weather at Haltern Ranges, Germany. The 12-strong Rheindahlen-based team won the King Edward VII Cup and ARA Shield as minor unit champions, the Artillery Cup, the Hopton Cup and the Squadron Shield for winning the 25-yd rifle match.



Picture: Steve Dock

Thar she blows: The first public firing by Challenger 2 in Britain takes place at Imber Clump on Salisbury Plain. The tank, from the RTR-manned Armoured Squadron of the Combined Arms Training Centre battle-group, was taking part in a mock battle last month

# More soldiers eligible for families' tax credit

MARRIED soldiers ranging in rank from private to lieutenant may be eligible for a new benefit available from last month, according to the Directorate of Personal Services (Army).

The Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC), announced in the last Budget, is wider-ranging than the old Family Credit which it replaces, and it applies to middle-income families with children as well as those on low incomes.

All married personnel with a child or children in the ranks of private, lance corporal, sergeant, second lieutenant and lieutenant, stationed home or abroad, may be eligible.

## Soldier readership survey

A big, big thank-you to the thousands of you who told us exactly what you think of us. Sacks of Soldier readership survey forms are now being professionally processed and the results will be published in due course. Winner of the £100 prize for the first form drawn out of the hat will be announced in a forthcoming issue. You can visit us at our new website at [www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk)

WFTC consists of four parts: a basic tax credit of £52.30 a week; an extra 30 working hours' tax credit of £11.05 a week; a differing rate of tax credit for each child; and a childcare tax credit worth up to 70 per cent of eligible childcare costs up to a maximum of £100 a week for families who pay for childcare for one child and £150 for those who pay for two or more children.

Tax credits for each child are £19.85 from birth; £20.90 from September following the 11th birthday; and £25.95 from September following the 16th birthday until the child turns 19.

DPS(A) has calculated that some Service personnel may still be eligible for WFTC even if their spouses are working. Those already receiving Family Credit will continue to do so until the end of the current 26-week period but will then need to apply for WFTC. Families not previously eligible for Family Credit are being urged by DPS(A) to apply for WFTC as soon as possible.

Families based in the UK should call Freephone 0800 597 5976 for an application form. Those stationed overseas should see their admin officer.

# Tax concession on HQ mess subs to go on

A DECISION by the Inland Revenue to allow the continuation of the current tax concession for headquarter mess subscriptions has been welcomed by the Army. On current salaries, brigadiers will benefit by £73.92 a year, colonels by £63.52, lieutenant colonels by £54.65 and majors by just over £41.

The concession, last reviewed nearly 40 years ago, is one of a range of MoD allowances and benefits which the Inland Revenue is studying.

Uniquely, Army officers pay two mess subscriptions: annually to their respective headquarter mess, whether they are members or

You're better off paying tax on ops – see Issues, Page 41

not, and monthly to their local mess. Headquarter mess funds, received as subscriptions from all officers on the Active List, are used to fund events to preserve *esprit de corps*. Subscriptions – a day's pay less food and accommodation charges – are normally deducted direct from the pay of the officer, who has no option but to pay when levied. Funds of headquarter messes fall under the umbrella of the Service charities and are run by regimental trustees.

They are entirely separate from local mess subscriptions. Every officer in the Army is required by Queen's Regulations to be a member of his or her local mess, which levies its own subscriptions on a monthly basis.

## King Charlie



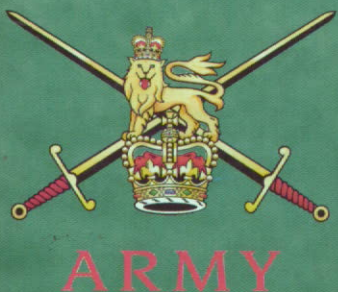
King of the karaoke: Bryan Adams-singalike LCpl Charlie Brown, serving with Aldershot-based 4 Field Ambulance RAMC, won Naafi's XL Leisure-sponsored "Search for a Star" finals at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut. A regular karaoke singer, Charlie earned a holiday worth £1,200. Regional heats were held in Germany and Cyprus.



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# People, places, events

## South Africa team wins Sword of Peace

BRITISH Service personnel who helped once bitter foes in South Africa to integrate into a unified military force are to receive a Wilkinson Sword of Peace special award.

The tri-Service British Military Advisory and Training Team in South Africa played a key role in fashioning the South African Defence Force from seven warring conventional and guerrilla armies, says a citation. Individual BMATT mem-

bers operated at an unusually high political and military level, ensuring even-handed, impartial and consistent implementation of the rules.

In a country beset by violence and suspicion they set an example of how to cross racial barriers by inclination rather than compulsion. While acting as referees in potentially volatile disputes they exercised tact, diplomacy and, occasionally, physical courage, said the citation.



Lucky: Cpl Dave Richmond, left, and Lt Mark Nooney, of 2 PWRR, who escaped unscathed

## Helicopter quartet walk away from jungle crash

FOUR soldiers walked away from a helicopter crash in dense jungle in Belize after their Gazelle from 25 Flight, Army Air Corps came down in the only safe area for miles around.

The aircraft, carrying the pilot, a jungle warfare instructor and two soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, was on a routine exercise support flight when it crashed on the bank of the Macal River in the remote Chiquibul Forest Reserve.

Although their Gazelle helicopter was

totally destroyed, the soldiers suffered no significant injuries and were able to hack their way through the jungle to a road from where they were picked up by a second helicopter and returned to Airport Camp.

Lt Mark Nooney and Cpl Dave Richmond of C Coy, 2 PWRR, normally based at Tidworth, were back at Sibun Gorge training camp within days of the ordeal. Both have trained before in Belize and are experienced jungle warfare instructors in their own right.

## Compulsory Territorial Army call-up under consideration

PROPOSALS to mobilise Territorial Army units for peacekeeping tours in Bosnia and Kosovo are being assessed by the MoD.

The compulsory call-up would be aimed at relieving overstretch in the Regular Army and at the same time giving the TA a higher profile and more integrated role with the full-time Army.

Under proposals being considered, members of formed units, such as infantry companies, signals squadrons or gunnery batteries, could be ordered to leave their civilian jobs for up to six months.

Although individuals who refused to obey a mobilisation order could be taken to court, there are no legal restrictions on part-time soldiers wishing to leave the TA.

## Charity cheer



T-Day: Just back from a six-month peacekeeping tour in Bosnia, these soldiers were among 400 troops, mainly from 10 Transport Regiment RLC, who turned their parade square at Colchester into a giant kitchen in support of SSAFA Forces Help's Big Brew Up. The troops added their cuppas to the Service charity's target of 25,000 cups which it hoped would be consumed on the same day by Service personnel all around the world

## Frank exchange



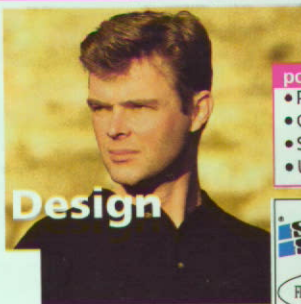
Chinwag: Army boxer LCpl Michael Connelly, Irish Guards, gets well within range of Frank Bruno during the former World heavyweight champion's visit to the regiment at Minesavo, Kosovo. During his theatre-wide trip, Frank also called on Camp Arctic Circle where he met soldiers of 74 (HQ) Sqn, 3 (Tank Transporter) Sqn and the REME Workshop, all part of 1 (UK) Logistic Support Regiment RLC

Picture: Sgt Dave Miles



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# People, places, events

## ABF minibus on road at Tidworth

CHILDREN at Tidworth will be among the first to benefit from the Army Benevolent Fund's gift of a minibus to the garrison.

The £20,000 vehicle, painted in the charity's red-and-blue livery, was handed over by the Controller of the ABF, Maj Gen Mike Regan, to the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Alex Harley, at Mooltan Barracks.

Among many uses, the minibus will ferry youngsters from the Beeches Families' Club to after-school sporting and social activities.

The ABF is hoping to provide a minibus in each major garrison for soldiers, ex-sol-

diers and their dependants.

The handover was marked with a fanfare played by trumpeteers from the Army Air Corps and the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry.



Picture: Steve Dock

**Key moment:** Gen Sir Alex Harley, right, presents the keys of the ABF minibus to Garrison Commander Col Robin Faulkner

## Suntan Dragoons save boy bleeding to death

SUNBATHING soldiers saved the life of five-year-old Nicholas Savva when he ran through a plate-glass window at a Curium Beach restaurant.

The screams of the badly lacerated youngster, who lost a considerable quantity of blood after crashing through the pane, alerted members of The Light Dragoons sunbathing nearby. They quickly placed the child on a table while applying pressure to stem the bleeding as bar staff telephoned the emergency services.

"It took four of us to hold the main injuries and slow the blood-loss," said WO Mark Thompson. "The little lad was in a

terrible state and we had to commandeer towels and cloths as dressings. It was a time for us to remember our training and just get on with the job of giving first aid."

Others involved in the incident were Cpl Alan Ruddock, Cpl Bob Cooperwaite, Tpr Jamie Bower and Tpr Karl Lambie.

Maj Malcolm Russell, an Army doctor who arrived at the scene six minutes after being called, said: "The prompt action by these men probably saved the child's life."

B Squadron of The Light Dragoons was on exercise in Cyprus at the time. It is usually based at Hohne in Germany.

## Family feat



**Like father:** Lt Marcus Butlin, right, carries the new Colours of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires). Soldiers from the old 5th and 6th/7th Battalions, merged under the Strategic Defence Review, paraded in front of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, at Ardingly, West Sussex. Nearly 25 years ago Marcus's father, **Michael Butlin**, carried the new Colours of the old 5th Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, also presented on that occasion by Queen Margrethe. "It is a sad occasion to see a chapter of our history close," said Mr Butlin, "but I am so proud of Marcus. This could turn into a family tradition."

Picture: Chris Fletcher

## Para Colours laid up at Arnhem



**Laid to rest:** Former Paratrooper Tom Harding pays his respects to the Colours of the disbanded 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, before they are laid up in Oosterbeek, during ceremonies to mark the 55th anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem. They are the only Colours laid up outside the Commonwealth. Soldiers from 4 Para, through whose 10 Company the 10 Para name will live on, jumped on to Ginkel Heide, just as their forebears did 55 years ago.



# Exercise report

## Siesta fiesta

Gunners find the Iberian way to their liking

Report: Dennis Barnes  
Pictures: Kevin Capon

GUNNERS from Thorney Island helped to promote Nato harmony and create a better working relationship between the Spanish and British Armies during an exercise in Pontevedra, northern Spain.

Seventy-eight soldiers from 47 Regiment RA were involved in the exchange exercise, Iberian Way, with a similar number of Spaniards from the Grupo de Artilleria.

When the gunners arrived at the General Rubin Barracks at Pontevedra they found things a little different from their lot on the South Coast. They were accommodated in a single large dormitory with bunk-beds and bare floors, lockers located in a separate room... and French-style squat toilets.

Battery commander Maj Alistair Hamer-Philip said: "The idea of the exchange was for us to explore links and develop friendly relationships with another nation. What better way to do this than to go to Spain."

Galicia is a beautiful region, wooded and with a rough, rocky coastline reminiscent of Ireland. Another similarity is the rain... for much of the visit the skies opened and it poured. "The rain in Spain certainly does not stay on the plain," said Gnr Christopher Hammill after completing a testing 15km march with the Spaniards.

During a programme which balanced military exchanges with an experience of their hosts' culture, the Close Air Defence Battery gunners were eager to use the Spanish Mistral missile system simulator. They also got a chance to fire rifles, pistols and heavy weapons.

Gnr Alex Ransome said: "I prefer our weapons but the Spanish have a better set of cleaning tools."

It became a standing joke that whenever the British artillerymen fired Spanish weapons, there always seemed more guns to clean than they had actually fired. Gnr Nigel Beacock reckoned the armourer was taking the op-



Together: Spanish SSgt Garcia Riveira, left, and Bdr Marc Davies of 47 Regiment Royal Artillery show solidarity in front of a plaque of the Grupo de Artilleria, Spain's equivalent of the Royal Artillery.

This is how you do it: Right, Gnr David Barker, left of picture, and Peter Newman are shown how Spanish soldiers clean their weapons after a live-firing session.

portunity "to get us to clean his entire armoury".

Galicia has historic links with Britain's Army and Navy. It was there that the tide began to turn against Napoleon in the Peninsular War, with the Battle of Corunna in 1809 proving to be an early chink in his invincibility. Gen Sir John Moore's force of 30,000 was withdrawing towards the port when it was forced to fight Marshal Soult's 70,000 French regulars. Both sides claimed victory, although the British inflicted the heavier casualties.



Big guns: Soldiers of 47 Regiment RA look out from one of Gen Franco's 152.4 calibre coastal batteries, now rusting in the salt-laden Atlantic winds.

The Galicians have never forgotten Gen Moore, who died of shrapnel wounds sustained at Corunna, and a large-scale model of the battle forms the centrepiece of a military museum in the old barracks at the Casa Jardines de Carlos. Sir John's remains lie in a raised sarcophagus in a beautiful formal garden within the grounds of the museum.

Soldiers from both countries held a ceremony at the tomb. Gnr Kevin Hartley, the youngest member of the battery, laid a wreath and Lt Charles Anderson, who gave a short address, said: "It was a joint ceremony and even Spanish civilians who were passing stopped and paid their respects."

The immaculate garden haven was in direct contrast to the shabby and unkempt state of the British naval cemetery near Vilagarcia, with its



Tribute: Gnr Keith Hartley lays a wreath on the tomb of Gen Sir John Moore in the beautiful memorial gardens at Corunna.

row of 14 graves, mostly the final resting places of boy sailors, dating back to 1906.

Of the many highlights on the exchange, General Franco's "Ring of Steel" - the huge artillery pieces of his coastal batteries - made a lasting impression on the gunners. The emplacements, squat and brooding above the grey Atlantic, were dug into the wild and craggy northern coast and their 152.4 calibre monsters made in Britain by Vickers.

They are linked by underground tunnels and secret passages. Last fired in

anger during the Spanish civil war, the huge guns have fallen into disrepair, their rusting dereliction a testament to another age.

The gunners were hosted superbly by the Spanish, but one aspect of the visit particularly impressed LBdr Steve Wenham. "Every afternoon the whole nation stops at 1.30pm for a couple of hours. It is the siesta... and I think the British Army should introduce it as a trial. On the downside, the evening meal was served at ten o'clock at night, which wasn't such a good idea," he said.

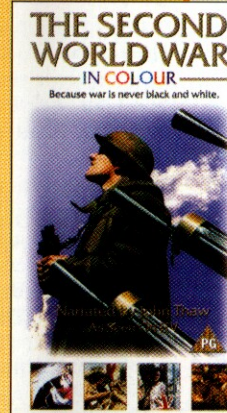
Back in England, the Spanish artillerymen visiting Thorney Island on the Hampshire coast were treated to a tour of Portsmouth's historic dockyard, the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, and some weapon-firing on Salisbury Plain.

Maj Hamer-Philip summed up the exercise: "We have cemented relations and experienced the working of one of our Nato allies, and at the same time had a relaxing time in Spain. This has prepared us for a full programme over the next few months."

## Win war video set and book

TO ANYONE born after 1945, images in the mind's eye of the Second World War, like those of the First, will have been almost exclusively in black-and-white.

That all changed with the dramatic Carlton TV series *The Second World War in Colour*, with haunting narration by John Thaw, a production made possible by a long quest for previously unseen colour film.



Now the Carlton Video series, with its graphic first-hand accounts by those who took part, is on sale at all good video stockists at £19.99. It includes some film not shown on TV. A companion book by Stewart Binns and Adrian Wood is published by Pavilion Books.

*Soldier* has a video set and book to give away as the prize in a simple competition. Just answer the following question:

**On what date in 1939 did Britain declare war on Germany?**

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Video reviews - Page 65



## Bosnia briefing

# They break it, we fix it

REME soldiers based in Sipovo are making a big contribution to the Army's efforts in former Yugoslavia

Reports: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Mike Weston

SIPOVO is familiar territory for the soldiers of 15 Field Workshop, 5 Battalion REME. They have been there before. Now on their second tour in three years, the Catterick-based troops are again operating from their main workshop in the town.

Their operational brief is to support the British contribution to the SFOR operation in Bosnia and to provide second-line equipment support to the British-led Multi-National Division (South West).

In practice that means they are there to keep the Army running, replacing tank and Land Rover engines and gearboxes if necessary, as well as optronics ranging from simple electronics to complicated telecommunication equipment.

The REME specialists man five outstations up and down the country, including detachments in Sarajevo and Split, and cover all the main supply routes. They also provide support for forces deployed in Kosovo and Macedonia.

Capt Tony Parkinson, 2iC of 5 Fd Wksp, explained REME's three-pronged role. "First comes equipment support, which we see as sustaining and generating equipment held by BRITFOR units within the MND(SW). But we also have an important role in advising units how to look after equipment and we have a role to play in peace-building in Sipovo."

To ease the strain on manpower and lengthen gaps between tours, four local civilians have been employed to work alongside 5 Fd Wksp personnel in Sipovo, said Capt Parkinson. "It has allowed us to reduce the amount of time our soldiers spend in theatre, and we also make use of Territorial Army and Regular reserves."

If push came to shove, soldiers held in



Box of tricks: Cpl Daz Levay, REME, left, uses state-of-the-art electronics to diagnose problems

## In at the deep end

WHEN Cpl Roy Christie was last in Sipovo in 1996 he and his colleagues built a swimming pool for local children while constructing a road beside a river.

"It took ten of us about a week," he explained. "Over the past three years the logs we used to make the dam have been taken, probably for firewood, so we are doing it again. This time it will be reinforced."

The pool will have a seating area so parents can watch their children at play.

## Rebuilding Sipovo

BEFORE the war, Sipovo was a prosperous community of 15,000, built on agriculture and light industry. The town, in which Serbs predominated, was largely untouched by the fighting. That changed in 1995 when Croat forces moved in and "ethically cleansed" 35,000 people from it and the surrounding area. Following the peace accord, the Croats left, burning as they went.

By the time SFOR arrived, much of the town had been torched. Today the population is roughly what it was, although the ethnic mix is different. Some Muslims have returned and the few Croats who went back are not made welcome.

Community projects taken on by REME units, including the repair of the town's sewerage system, renovation of a primary school and the construction of playgrounds, have gone a long way to rebuilding Sipovo. Current schemes include the refurbishment of a kindergarten play area.

REME is bringing hope to Sipovo.

readiness at Catterick could be on the ground in Bosnia within six days.

The employment of local people in the workshops (following a rigorous selection process) has also allowed 15 Fd Wksp to put something back into the local economy.

REME's facilities in Sipovo are impressive. The stores section holds several thousand different items with an inventory

valued at £6.5 million. Supplies from UK depots at Donnington and Bicester arrive by sea, air, or road, depending on priority, the majority within five to 14 days to Kupres, where they are broken down for distribution in theatre. In an emergency, spares can be delivered within 24 hours. All stores are bar-coded and can be quickly traced via Logtrack, the satellite system which is proving enormously useful.

Massive engines and gearboxes from the Army's largest vehicles can be repaired in the workshops, which also provide repair packs for vehicles deployed to Kosovo. There is also a section that carries out the Army's version of the annual vehicle MOT.

## EXPENSIVE ITEM

The General Purpose Digital Test and Diagnostic Facility (GPDITDF), operated by the enthusiastic Cpl Daz Levay, is used to repair the most sophisticated electronic equipment. "It is the single most expensive piece of land equipment in theatre and worth about £5 million," he explained.

"The equipment we cover includes the gunnery control on the AS90 gun, Challenger 2, Javelin and a host of other vehicles. They break it, we fix it."

Morale is high and Capt Parkinson aims to keep it that way. "Responsibility and empowerment, career advice and education, recognition of achievement, and variety in tasks of work are all part of the Investors in People initiative and we

have managed to transfer a lot of those objectives into what we do here." He is particularly pleased with his soldiers' involvement in community work such as the refurbishment of the local technical college. In conjunction with the Bosnia Aid Relief Foundation, they brought in lathes and other equipment which were refurbished in-theatre and installed by REME personnel at the town's technical college.

"We must be sure that the projects we take on are going to be beneficial to people and we look for a positive impact on hope, family, and freedom."

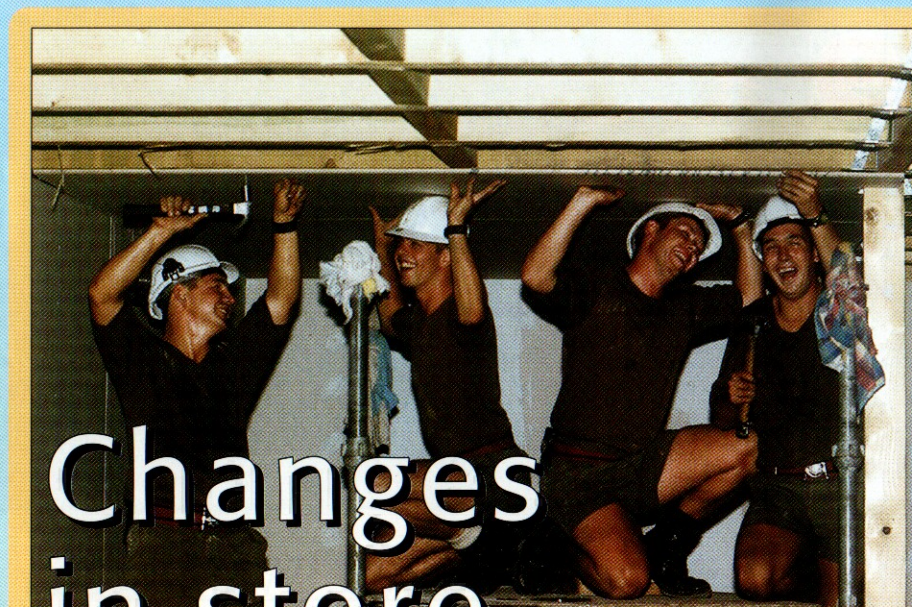
# In safe hands at Sipovo

SIPOVO boasts a facility that most soldiers deployed in Bosnia are glad is there but don't ever want to see.

The town is the home of a military surgical hospital which serves the Multi-National Division (South West). And it is precisely what it says it is - multinational.

By any standards, the Sipovo facility is impressive, a smaller-scale version of what you would expect to find in a large NHS hospital at home. The hospital is headed by the British contingent and when *Soldier* visited 4 Field Ambulance was in charge.

Its role is to provide surgical resuscita-



## Changes in store

Dalma Warehouse is to close

DALMA Warehouse, a key storage facility at Split, main entry point for soldiers and resources serving the British elements of SFOR, is to close its substantial doors.

Under a project codenamed Basha, everything will be moved five miles from Dalma to North Port, where, at the same time, facilities are to be improved. Project officer Lt Vince O'Brien, of 5 Field Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, said the scheme had not been without its challenges.

"The original plans were changed late on when the port authority altered the use of one of the warehouses," he said. "This resulted in fundamental changes to our plans."

And the local power company could not provide sufficient mains power to meet all North Port needs, so is upgrading the supply. In the meantime, temporary generators are making up the shortfall.

Closure of Dalma Warehouse has been on the cards for some time. Lt O'Brien said: "Project Basha has been in conception now for

Raising the roof: Sprs Danny Warhurst, Dixie Dixon, LCpl Dan Springett and Spr Lee Gorbett prepare new Split North Port facilities

several years with the object of reducing the size of the two logistic elements that we have in Split, one responsible for the transport and one for stores.

"The transport element has always been based in Split North Port while the stores were based five miles away at Dalma Warehouse. It seemed logical to close down the Dalma facility, move the stores squadron into Split North Port and save £1 million a year."

At the same time, the sappers are upgrading accommodation for all personnel based at North Port. RFA *Fort Grange*, for so long a fixture at Split, is to depart at the end of the year and the officers who live on the vessel will be moved into the new quarters.

"We've had a great deal of help from a specialist team of engineers from Banja Luka," said Lt O'Brien. "At the end of the project we will have closed down the Dalma complex, saved a lot of money, and built a 350-man camp inside the port as well as excellent workshops and stores."

## Sipovo field hospital provides medical cover... and peace of mind

tion and stabilisation of casualties to make them fit for transfer to appropriate facilities or return to their units. The staff, all military, are drawn from the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium and Iceland, and will soon be joined by a contingent from Canada. Language, it is a relief to discover, has not proved a stumbling block.

The hospital has an operating theatre, intensive-care unit, an accident-and-

emergency cell (the work of which involves mostly road traffic accidents), a ward which can handle up to 12 patients, a physiotherapy department, a dentist, and for emergencies its own dedicated Sea King helicopter and flight crew.

Capt Claire Adams, in charge of the ward, explained that the hospital's routine surgical work mostly involved fractures and lacerations. Medics help occasionally in the local community, but only in urgent or life-saving situations.

"We recently operated on a local man who had to have an appendectomy," she explained. "The two-hour journey to the

● Turn to Page 19





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# Bosnia briefing

## Peaceful presence

The war in Bosnia may be over, but for the HCR promoting harmony and taking weapons off the street is a full-time job

FOR two squadrons of the Household Cavalry Regiment deployed in Bosnia, maintaining the stable environment that will encourage civilians to return to their homes is a fundamental part of the job.

Despite the friendliness of the local population, Maj Tom Thorneycroft, who commands C Squadron, is convinced this would change if SFOR were not present. "The wounds of the war run deep and people need the security of SFOR in the area," he said. "If we left it would become a serious flashpoint very quickly."

Although the war largely bypassed the area there was a huge movement of Serb refugees from the north in 1995. Many were killed by Croatian artillery which shelled the main road.

Maj Thorneycroft said: "The Serbs in our area look on the British favourably. They know where they are with us. We provide a credible military presence and our Scimitars, which to the untrained eye look like tanks, make people feel secure."

Lt Rupert Lewis is a platoon commander with C Squadron (Blues and Royals), which operates in the north in an area between Banja Luka and the border and as far east as Prijedor. Based in Mrkonjic Grad, he and his men patrol six days a



Here to help: Soldiers of the HCR on patrol to keep the peace in the village of Doribada, near Jacje. Maj Tom Thorneycroft, inset left

week in their Scimitars. "It's to show a presence as much as anything," he said. "We discuss issues

with the mayor and the chief of police, deal with displaced persons and collect guns under Operation Harvester."

The population in the C Sqn area is about 90 per cent Serb, with pockets of Bosnians and a few Czechs and Slovenians. And they could not be more friendly, according to Lt Lewis.

Unlike most people in Bosnia, he and his soldiers do not have to worry unduly about mines. They still have to take care, however, because although relatively few were laid in the area and then only along river banks, floods can and do flush the deadly devices all over the flood plain.

In the south, B Squadron, The Life Guards (HCR) is based at Jacje under Maj Crispin Lockhart.

His patrols checked on a returnee

Muslim woman while *Soldier* was there. Lt Johnny Rees-Davies, communicating through an interpreter, learned that she was grateful to SFOR. "A German charity helped her rebuild her house and she's been back for four years in this Croat and Muslim village and not had any trouble," he said. "People are moving back all the time thanks to SFOR."

### MUNITION HARVEST

Meanwhile, under Op Harvester, carried out in support of the civil authorities, B Sqn has collected several weapons, thousands of rounds of ammunition, more than 200 grenades, 100 mines, some rocket-launchers, a surface-to-air missile guidance kit, and a burned-out T55 tank.

The HCR soldiers are taking weapons off the streets and putting people back on them by maintaining a high profile and a trustworthy presence. And it seems to work.

## In safe hands

● From Page 17

civilian hospital at Banja Luka was considered life-threatening."

An out-patients' clinic, which runs from Monday to Friday, receives soldiers from widespread locations who are seen by the doctor and surgeon. Many of these referrals from unit medical officers are orthopaedic cases and the clinic frequently undertakes small operations to sort out the problem.

One of the Army's most cost-effective posts in the hospital has been that of the full-time physiotherapist. Whereas soldiers requiring physiotherapy were once sent home, much of the treatment can now be done in Sipovo.



Legging it: "Casualty" Cpl Lisa Cribson is treated by Maj David Hinsley, Lt Darryl Stearn, LCpl Foppo Walters, Lt Denaouda Karim and LCpl Sharon McCourt

The hospital's Incident Response Team (IRT) is a vital element of the facility. Team leader 2nd Lt Dan Searson ex-

plained: "We provide emergency cover across MND (SW)."

One recent incident involved a Scimitar that had rolled off the road. The IRT had to assume there was a mine threat so had themselves winched to the site from the Sea King helicopter, which is always kept at 45 minutes' notice to scramble.

Crash ambulance teams positioned at out-stations around Bosnia, augmented by the Sea King, cover the military's main supply routes. Because the country is heavily mined, the Sea King is an ideal emergency aircraft with its size, range and winching capability.

Soldiers in Bosnia can rest assured that if they ever need a hospital they are in good hands.



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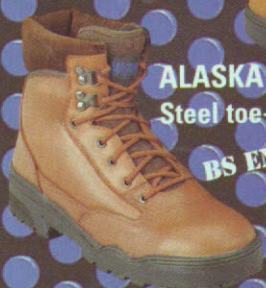
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## Celebrating the Thin Red Line

A and SH passes another milestone in its proud and distinguished history

THEY earned their famous nickname, the Thin Red Line, in battle and now their regiment is 200 years old. So it was appropriate that 200 officers and soldiers of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) took part in a parade to mark that special anniversary.

They marched out in the ancient town of Stirling in a celebration of two centuries of illustrious soldiering.

The regiment was formed in 1799 as the 93rd Regiment of Foot but it was in 1854, at the Battle of Balaclava, that 1,500 men of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders repulsed a charge of massed Russian cavalry, and earned their famous name.

The *Times* correspondent William Russell witnessed the attack and described the Sutherland Highlanders as: "A thin red streak tipped with a line of steel." The Thin Red Line was born.

In 1857 the regiment won six Victoria Crosses in 24 hours at

The Thin Red Line: Soldiers of 1 A and SH put on a Battle of Balaclava demonstration

Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny, and in 1881 it amalgamated with the Argyllshire Highlanders and formed two battalions under its present title. After service in India the 2nd Battalion was sent to South Africa, where it served with distinction during the Boer War.

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders saw action in France, Flanders and the Mediterranean during the Great War and in Malaya in the Second World War.

The 2nd Battalion, the old 93rd Sutherland Highlanders, was disbanded in 1948.

In more recent times, men of the regiment have served in Palestine, Korea, Suez, British Guiana, Borneo, Northern Ireland, and perhaps most famously, Aden, where they will forever be associated with Lt Col Colin "Mad Mitch" Mitchell.

In Stirling's King's Park, today's soldiers –

Regulars and TA – were joined on parade by cadets, retired soldiers and the regimental mascot, a Shetland pony called Cruachan III. Lord Provost Tom Brookes and the Lord Lieutenant of Stirling, Col James Sterling, accompanied Colonel of the Regiment Maj Gen David Thompson in taking the salute. Stirling is the home of the regiment and the RHQ is housed in Stirling Castle.

The Edinburgh-based regiment has long-standing traditions, including a cap badge designed by the regiment's first Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Louise, a daughter of Queen Victoria.

Celebrations to mark the special anniversary were open to the public and included an historical re-enactment of Balaclava, highland games, Army life

demonstrations, a regimental reunion, a performance by the massed pipes and drums and the presentation of a birthday cake to the residents of Erskine Hospital, Bishopton, Renfrewshire.



Slice of the action: LCpl William Davers, pictured left, baked a special cake which was presented to Bobby Steel of Erskine Hospital, Bishopton, by Lt Col Bruce Russell, CO 1 A and SH, right

On parade: Members of the 1st Battalion proudly display their colours on the streets of Stirling during their 200th anniversary celebrations





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the Chiefs of Staff at the  
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### When Every Second Counts

**Aireshelta** inflatable buildings, emergency lights and generators have proved themselves when it counts ... in action. Robust and weatherproof, the double air insulation makes Airesheltas warm in winter, cool in summer and, even if punctured, the constant air-flow system will keep them blown-up.

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REME relies on huge **Airesheltas** as workshops in Bosnia and **Airesheltas** are also used by units as diverse as the Army Air Corps to protect Lynx helicopters, the Royal Military Police for roadside checkpoints and both the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy aircraft crash investigation and salvage teams.



This amazing bird's-eye view shows the major incident set-up deployed by Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust. **Aireshelta's** pioneering **Aireshower** inflatable decontamination unit – named as a Millennium Product by The Design Council for its role at the forefront of technology and creativity – is linked to several **Airesheltas** to provide a mobile mass casualty evacuation headquarters. This set-up would also make an ideal instant field hospital.

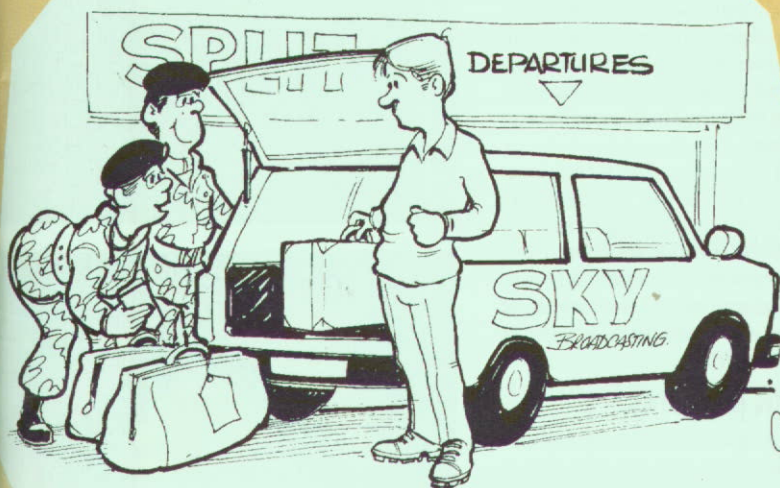
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# Chuckle with Chip



## On ops ? Ooops ...



# Innovation is name of the game

Reports: Graham Bound

DEFENCE Systems and Equipment International, the major new exhibition held at Chertsey, boasted enough heavy weaponry to start a medium-sized war.

*Soldier* was there, but instead of heading for the big guns and missile systems, we looked for the smaller bits of kit which promise to make soldiers' jobs easier and safer



## Tucker tins in titanium

CONCERNED about weight in your bergen? You will be next time somebody points at a line of hills and tells you to "climb 'em". At that stage you might like to consider replacing your old eating irons with a mess kit made of titanium.

It is remarkably durable, stainless and very light kit. And the price? Well, not cheap... but what can you expect from the same material that keeps Apache and the Eurofighter in the air?

Cardiff-based BCB International, which specialises in personal kit, has created mugs, mess tins, knives and forks (pictured above). The knife, fork and spoon set costs about £30. But you do get quality. "You buy these once, and you don't need to buy them again," said sales executive Paul Ames. Quite.

### SCOPE

BCB is also marketing the Owl-scope, a night vision monocular (pictured right). Retailing for £199 (similar, if higher-spec, military kit can cost three times as much), the scope intensifies tiny amounts of light, enabling the user to get a good idea of the lie of the land, and who might be inhabiting it, on the darkest of nights. For BCB products try Naafi or call 029 20464463 for details of stockists.



Pictures: Steve Dock

## Fresh water, and fast, from new portable kit

PROVIDING a rapid supply of plentiful fresh water can be a major headache for any operational unit. The Army has water filtration kits which do the job, but the equipment is heavy and relies on the slow process of reverse osmosis (forcing water through a membrane). It also requires specially-trained operators.

Clearwater International, a Scottish company targeting military needs and those of humanitarian organisations operating in the third world, has come up with a compact new system which promises to change all of this.

Their model 42 purification kit is about the size of a jerrycan or "Norwegian" insulated food container, weighs just 15 kilos and produces drinkable water from water supplies which are biologically and chemically contaminated: the kind of water that most of us would not want to step in, let alone drink.

### TEN MINUTES

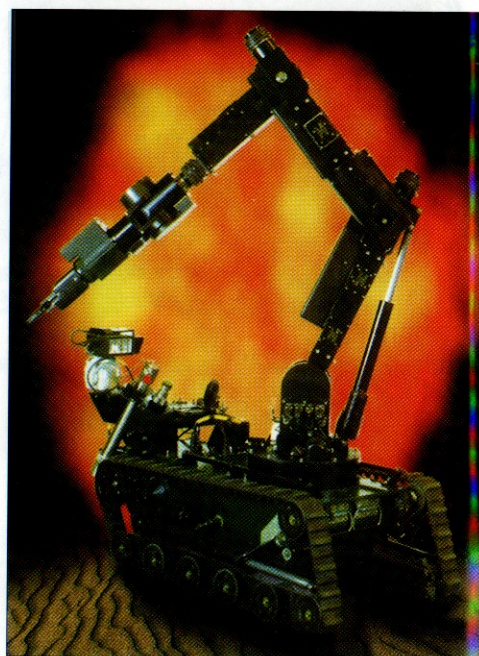
An untrained operator, simply following the directions on the kit, can use a hand or electric pump to produce up to three litres of safe water a minute, filling a jerry can in ten minutes. Equally attractive is the equipment's cost: about £700.

Revolutionary copper-zinc alloy elements extract dangerous heavy metals (such as those left by pesticides and herbicides) before the water moves through charcoal and ceramic filters which extract 99.99 per cent of bugs and other biological elements. This is the same standard achieved by industrial domestic water suppliers.

The kit, being tested by the Army, is said to have met one vital requirement: the water it produces makes good tea.



Picture: Steve Dock



Picture: Alvis

## Alvis's new Wheelbarrow Plus II-T is far from armless

ALVIS Logistics Ltd, has produced a major improvement to the Mk 8 Plus Wheelbarrow, the remotely-controlled bomb disposal device which has been a vital tool for EOD teams for more than a decade.

The Mk8 Plus II-T, on show at Chertsey, shares a chassis with the older model, but is a much more capable machine, rather spookily resembling the robots of science fiction.

Sporting a large articulated hydraulic arm, the new model has much greater dexterity and the ability to change tools without returning to an operator who could be as far as one kilometre away. The Plus II-T should be able to rumble into a danger area and remain there until the job is done - a useful skill when the clock is ticking down.

So far the robot's tool box consists only of a gripper and a disrupter - a powerful

Going with the flow: Clearwater International's new portable kit, above, being tested by WO2 (MPF) Jake McQueen

No buts robots: A range of tools gives the new Mk 8 Plus II-T Wheelbarrow, left, from Alvis Logistics far greater capability

Security without savagery? Hornet, pictured below in a woodland setting, may give the early warning once provided by the now banned anti-personnel mine



Picture: Arkonia

## Hostile feet could stir up a Hornet's nest

HORNET, a new product from Arkonia Systems of Hampshire, is an easily-concealed sensor system which uses radar and infra-red to detect and identify approaching individuals, vehicles and even helicopters.

The MoD has just purchased 24 of the devices for early operational deployment.

According to the manufacturers, Hornet is relatively simple to use and may give soldiers an alternative to anti-personnel land mines, now banned for humanitarian reasons. Now soldiers may have a much better and humane way of telling whether they are under threat from an approaching enemy.

### INTERLOCKING ARCS

Each unit is sensitive through 40 degrees and the system is designed to be deployed with interlocking arcs.

Once an approaching object has been detected, it will be "interrogated" with a burst of radar. Hornet then compares the returned radar signature with computer profiles of enemy and friendly assets and transmits the information to the operator.

A conventional pocket pager held by an operator will tell him the nature of the contact and the direction in which it is moving. The defenders can then decide whether or not to engage.

Second generation Hornet is already under development. This will use "detector scouts", widely dispersed sub-sensors to radically increase the system's range and sensitivity.

## Increased range for forward air controllers

FORWARD air controllers can look forward to a slightly easier life now that a new radio system from Hunting Engineering has been introduced.

Unlike the 344 Clansman system, which it replaces, PRC346 has an anti-jamming capability, and comes complete with a GPS positioning system, enabling operators to give attacking pilots very accurate target positions. Range is around 15 nautical miles.

Hunting's new radio is fitted into backpacks which are fully compatible with Combat 95 clothing. A thousand sets are now being delivered.



## Who should be in line with who?

● Is it not odd that our Armed Forces, which enjoy the highest international reputation, are constantly being ordered to get into line with our civilian sector, which does not? Couldn't we try it the other way round for a change? - Letter to *The Times*  
Vox pop - Page 70

● Scientists have discovered bacteria that digest the TNT in explosives and mixed in the gene which makes jellyfish glow. The result is that minefields sprayed with a solution containing the bacteria literally glow on the surface. Ultra-violet light then reveals the position of individual mines. - *Express*

● MoD researchers have found a way of resetting soldiers' body clocks so they can go without sleep for up to 36 hours. Tiny optical fibres embedded in special spectacles fool the brain into thinking it has just woken up. - *Sunday Times*

● The Afrikaner community is accused of hijacking events marking the start of the Boer War 100 years ago to promote an anti-British view of the conflict. - *Sunday Telegraph*

● Despite pressure from South Africa, the word "sorry" did not appear in a speech by the Duke of Kent after he visited graves of some of the 50,000 innocent victims of the concentration camps used by Britain during the Boer War. The omission has angered some Afrikaners and black Africans. - *Sunday Express*

● The US Army has announced the creation of two highly mobile brigades able to deploy anywhere within 96 hours. The units are a response to criticism that the army is too cumbersome to take on the role of world policeman. - *Daily Telegraph*

● Government plans to hold an annual day of commemoration would be unacceptable without similar events to mark atrocities carried out against British citizens. During the Second World War, British soldiers in the Far East were caught up in suffering almost as grotesque in its cruelty as that perpetrated in the Nazi concentration camps... we should also honour those who died on the Burma Road and elsewhere in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps. - *Leader column, Express*

● Britain is the worst offender in Europe for being the only country to send under-18 "child soldiers" into combat, an international conference in Berlin was told. - *Guardian*



# READER OFFER

The part played by the British Army, both in war and at peace, can never be underestimated. Its place in history is now being celebrated by a new video release, *Century of Army*.

*Century of Army*, a boxed, two-hour video set, is part of a series specially commissioned by W H Smith.

**This unique record\* of the Army is available to *Soldier* readers at a special price of £17.99 – including free post and packaging.**



## CENTURY OF ARMY

NARRATED BY ROBERT POWELL

\* Other videos in the series feature *Century of Navy*, *Century of RAF*, *Century of Sport* and *Century of Golf* and are available in all W H Smith stores, priced at £19.99. *Century of Army* is made to full broadcast quality and is produced for W H Smith by Green Umbrella. For details of other titles in the "Century of" series, please call Green Umbrella on 01483 223022.

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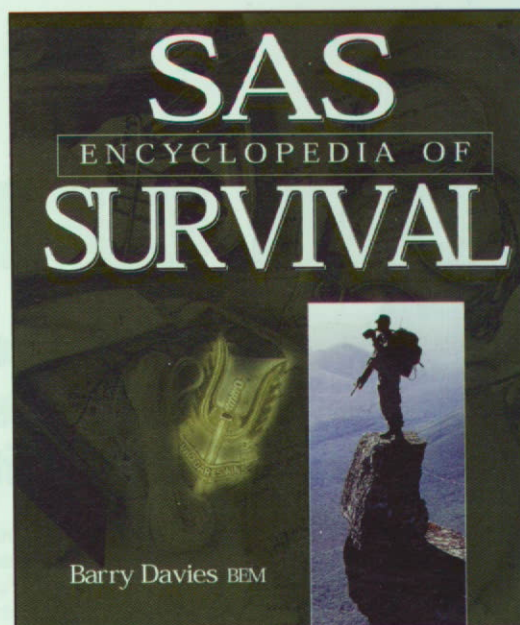
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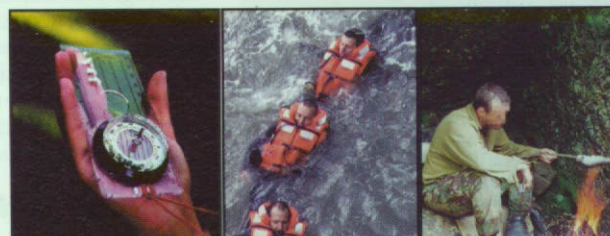
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# This is the NEW Territorial Army

A year on from the Strategic Defence Review and the TA restructuring, a new force has emerged

Report: Graham Bound

TERRITORIAL Army units across the country felt the full force of the Strategic Defence Review (SDR). But initial fears that the TA was to be cut indiscriminately were unfounded.

Some will continue to say that reducing the size of the TA by 13,000 was an ill-conceived way of saving money, but in reality the review was driven by three principles: the new TA had to be more usable, better able to integrate with the Regular Army and, above all, more relevant to the country's defence needs in an increasingly volatile world.

The result is that while the infantry and the yeomanry have been reduced in strength, medical and combat support services have been radically enhanced.

## TITLES PRESERVED

For disbanded units, SDR brought sadness, but it must be some consolation that, wherever possible, regimental titles have been preserved at sub-unit level.

It is also good news that units are embarking on training programmes which could not have been expected in the days before SDR. TA soldiers are now, or soon will be, gaining experience on the Challenger 2 main battle tank, Rapier anti-aircraft systems and the Royal Artillery's AS90 guns.

A year on, there is some proof that the new TA is working: proving itself both more relevant and a vital partner to the Regular Army. Although smaller, at any time about 400 reservists continue to work with Regular units on operational tours; a figure which has not changed significantly since the days when the TA was very much larger.

Listed here are the Territorial Army's regiments, battalions, companies and squadrons and their approved locations; a broad view of the independent units and sub-units that make up Britain's new part-time army.



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Changing of the garb: When the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, formerly B Squadron, The Queen's Own Yeomanry, re-titled S Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry, some soldiers retired from the ranks. Others, such as Shaun Feereday and his comrades, pictured above, went through a ceremonial changing of their cap badges

## Royal Armoured Corps

**Royal Yeomanry:** RHQ London; squadrons at Swindon, Leicester, Croydon, Nottingham, London

**Royal Wessex Yeomanry:** RHQ Bovington; squadrons at Bovington, Salisbury, Cirencester and Barnstable

**Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry:** RHQ Telford; squadrons at Dudley, Telford, Chester and Wigan

**Queen's Own Yeomanry:** RHQ Newcastle; squadrons in York, Ayr, Belfast, Cupar, Newcastle

## Royal Artillery

**Honourable Artillery Company:** RHQ and five squadrons based in London

**100 Regiment:** RHQ Luton; batteries at Luton, Bristol and Nottingham

**101 Regiment:** RHQ Gateshead; batteries at

Blyth, Newcastle and South Shields

**103 Regiment:** RHQ St Helens; batteries in Liverpool, Manchester and Bolton

**104 Regiment:** RHQ Newport; batteries in Wolverhampton, Newport and Worcester

**105 Regiment:** RHQ Edinburgh; batteries at Newtownards, Glasgow and Arbroath

● Turn to next page



# The new Territorial Army



## Vital statistics

BEFORE SDR, the TA had a target strength of 54,000, although actual strength was 50,000. The new target strength is 41,200. Draw-downs, redundancies and retirements will bring the actual strength down to that figure.

## New regiments

NEW Territorial Army infantry regiments and battalions have been formed by troops from disbanded units. And the old units should not be forgotten. As far as possible these names will be transferred to companies, and many of the soldiers will retain their old cap badges.

The new regimental names: Tyne Tees, King's and Cheshire, 51st Highland, 52nd Lowland, East and West Riding, East of England, Royal Rifle Volunteers, Rifle Volunteers, West Midlands, Royal Welsh, Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers, Royal Irish Rangers.

## Prognosis is good for TA medical units

OVERALL TA numerical strength has been reduced radically, but in one crucial area the recruitment target is up. The Army Medical Staff TA is increasing its strength by 50 per cent.

Before SDR, there were just 4,786 medical staff; now the recruitment target is 6,884. The increase reflects the need for medics, Regular or TA, on peacekeeping missions and other operational roles, including Kosovo and Bosnia.

A major recruiting effort, directed at health professionals, was launched in September.

### From Page 27

**106 Regiment:** RHQ London; batteries at Bury St Edmunds, London, Leeds and Southampton

**Central Volunteers HQ RA:** London

### Royal Engineers

**Royal Monmouthshire RE (Militia):** RHQ Monmouth; squadrons at Cwmbran, Swansea and Warley

**71 Regiment:** RHQ Leuchars; squadrons at Paisley and Newcastle

**73 Regiment:** RHQ Nottingham; squadrons in Sheffield, Nottingham, Chesterfield and St Helier, Jersey

**75 Regiment:** RHQ Farnborough; squadrons in Birkenhead, Stoke on Trent and Walsall

**101 Regiment:** RHQ London; squadrons in London, Rochester and Tunbridge Wells

**131 Independent Commando Squadron:** London

**135 Topographical Squadron:** Ewell

**412 Amphibious Engineer Troop:** Hameln

**Central Volunteer HQ RE:** Camberley

### Royal Signals

**31 Signal Regiment:** RHQ London; squadrons at Coulsdon, Eastbourne and London

**32 Signal Regiment:** RHQ Glasgow; squadrons in Aberdeen, East Kilbride and Edinburgh

**33 Signal Regiment:** RHQ Huyton; squadrons in Manchester, Liverpool and Runcorn

**34 Signal Regiment:** RHQ Middlesbrough; squadrons in Leeds, Darlington and Middlesbrough

**35 Signal Regiment:** RHQ Coventry; squadrons in Birmingham, Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Rugby and Shrewsbury

**36 Signal Regiment:** RHQ Ilford; squadrons at Grays, Colchester and Cambridge

**37 Signal Regiment:** RHQ Redditch; squadrons in Cardiff, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Manchester and Coventry

**38 Signal Regiment:** RHQ

Sheffield; squadrons in Derby, Sheffield and Nottingham

**39 Signal Regiment:** RHQ Bristol; squadrons at Uxbridge, Banbury and Gloucester

**40 Signal Regiment:** RHQ Belfast; squadrons in Belfast, Limavady and Bangor

**71 Signal Regiment:** RHQ London; squadrons at Lincoln's Inn, Bexleyheath and Chelmsford

**72 Signal Regiment:** RHQ Oxford; squadrons in Bath, Windsor and Aylesbury

**1 Signal Squadron:** Bletchley

**2 Signal Squadron:** Dundee

**5 Communications Company:** Chicksands

**63 Signal Squadron (SAS)**

### Infantry

**The Tyne Tees Regiment:** Bn HQ Durham; companies at Scarborough, Middlesbrough, Bishop Auckland, Newcastle upon Tyne and Ashington

**The King's and Cheshire Regiment:** Bn HQ Warrington; companies in Liverpool, Warrington, Manchester and Crewe

**51st Highland Regiment:** Bn HQ Perth; companies in Dundee, Peterhead, Inverness, Dunbarton and Stirling

**52nd Lowland Regiment:** Bn HQ Glasgow; companies in Edinburgh, Ayr, Glasgow and Galashiels

**The East and West Riding Regiment:** Bn HQ Pontefract; companies at Huddersfield, Barnsley, Hull, York and Wakefield

**The East of England Regiment:** Bn HQ Bury St Edmunds; companies in Norwich, Lincoln, Leicester, Mansfield and Chelmsford

**The London Regiment:** Bn HQ Battersea; companies in Westminster, Edgeware, Balham, Camberwell, Mayfair and West Ham

**3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire's):** Bn HQ Canterbury; companies at Farnham,

Brighton and Canterbury

**The Royal Rifle Volunteers:** Bn HQ Reading; companies in Oxford, Reading, Portsmouth and Milton Keynes

**The Rifle Volunteers:** Bn HQ Exeter; companies in Gloucester, Taunton, Dorchester, Truro and Exeter

**The West Midlands Regiment:** Bn HQ Wolverhampton; companies in Birmingham, Kidderminster, Burton upon Trent, Stoke-on-Trent and Shrewsbury

**The Royal Welsh Regiment:** Bn HQ Cardiff; companies at Wrexham, Swansea, Cardiff and Colwyn Bay

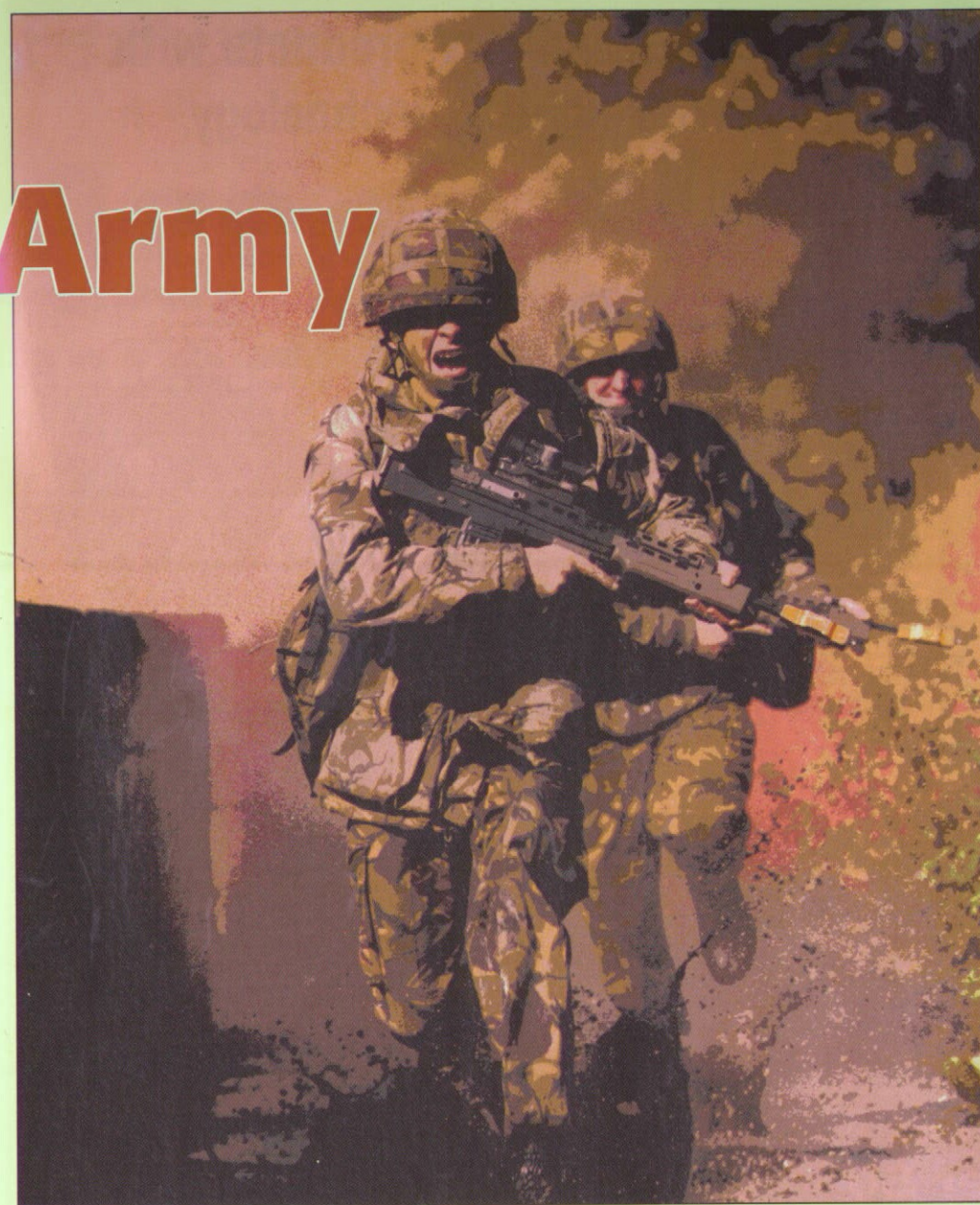
**The Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers:** Bn HQ Preston; companies at Barrow in Furness, Blackburn, Workington and Preston

**The Royal Irish Rangers:** Bn HQ Portadown; companies at Newtonards and Newtownabbey

**4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment:** Bn HQ Pudsey; companies in London, Pudsey and Glasgow

### Army Medical Services

**201 Field Hospital:** RHQ Newcastle upon



Tyne; squadrons at Newton Aycliffe, Stockton-on-Tees and Newcastle upon Tyne

**202 Field Hospital:** RHQ Birmingham; squadrons in Birmingham, Stoke on Trent, Oxford and Shrewsbury

**203 Field Hospital:** RHQ Cardiff; squadrons in Cardiff, Swansea and Aber-gavenny

**204 Field Hospital:** RHQ Belfast; squadrons in Belfast, Ballymena, Newtownards and Armagh

**205 Field Hospital:** RHQ Glasgow; squadrons in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh

**207 Field Hospital:** RHQ Manchester; squadrons at Stockport, Blackburn and Bury

**208 Field Hospital:** RHQ Liverpool;

**Getting real:** Soldiers of the new 1st Battalion, The East of England Regiment (1 EER) brush up their house-clearing skills during the battalion's first field exercise at Imber Village on Salisbury Plain

squadrons in Liverpool, Ellesmere and Lancaster

**212 Field Hospital:** RHQ Sheffield; squadrons in Sheffield, Bradford, Nottingham and Leeds

**243 Field Hospital:** RHQ Keynsham; squadrons at Keynsham, Exeter, Plymouth and Portsmouth

**256 Field Hospital:** RHQ Walworth, London; squadrons at Walworth, Hammersmith, Kingston and Bow

**253 Field Ambulance:** Belfast

**254 Field Ambulance:** Cambridge

**152 Ambulance Regiment:** RHQ Belfast; squadrons in Londonderry, Belfast and Bridgend

**C (144) Parachute Medical Squadron:** London

**B (220) Medical Squadron:** Maidstone

**B (250) Medical Squadron:** Hull

**B (225) Medical Squadron:** Dundee

**C (251) Medical Squadron:** Sunderland

**C (222) Medical Squadron:** Leicester

**HQ Army Medical Service TA:** York

### Royal Logistic Corps

**150 (Northumbria) Transport Regiment:** RHQ Hull; squadrons in Hull, Tynemouth, Leeds and Doncaster

**151 (Greater London) Logistic Support Regiment:** RHQ Croydon; squadrons at Croydon, Romford, Sutton, Barnet and Southall

**156 (North West) Transport Regiment:** RHQ Liverpool; squadrons in Liverpool, Birkenhead, Salford and Bootle

**157 (Wales and Midland) Logistic Support Regiment:** RHQ Cardiff; squadrons in Cardiff, Telford, Swansea, Carmarthen and West Bromwich

**158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment:** RHQ Peterborough; squadrons in Peterborough, Kempston, Ipswich and Loughborough

**Scottish Transport Regiment:** RHQ Dunfermline; squadrons in Dunfermline, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Glenrothes and Irvine

**168 Pioneer Regiment:** RHQ Grantham; squadrons at Grantham, Cramlington and Coulby Newham

**CVHQ and HQ RLCTA:** Grantham

### Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

**101 Battalion REME:** Bn HQ Queensferry; companies at Prestatyn, Coventry, Clifton and Grangemouth

**102 Battalion REME:** Bn HQ Newton Aycliffe; companies at Newton Aycliffe, Rotherham, Scunthorpe and Newcastle upon Tyne

**103 Battalion REME:** Bn HQ Crawley; companies in Portsmouth, Redhill and Ashford

**104 Battalion REME:** Bn HQ Bordon; company in Northampton

**HQ REMETA:** Bordon

### Adjutant General's Corps

**4 Regiment, Royal Military Police:** RHQ Aldershot; companies at West Bromwich and Brixton

**5 Regiment, Royal Military Police:** RHQ Livingston; companies at Livingston and Stockton-on-Tees

**CVHQ AGC:** Worthy Down

### Intelligence Corps

**3 (Volunteer) Military Intelligence Battalion:** BHQ London; companies in London, Edinburgh, York, Keynsham and Birmingham

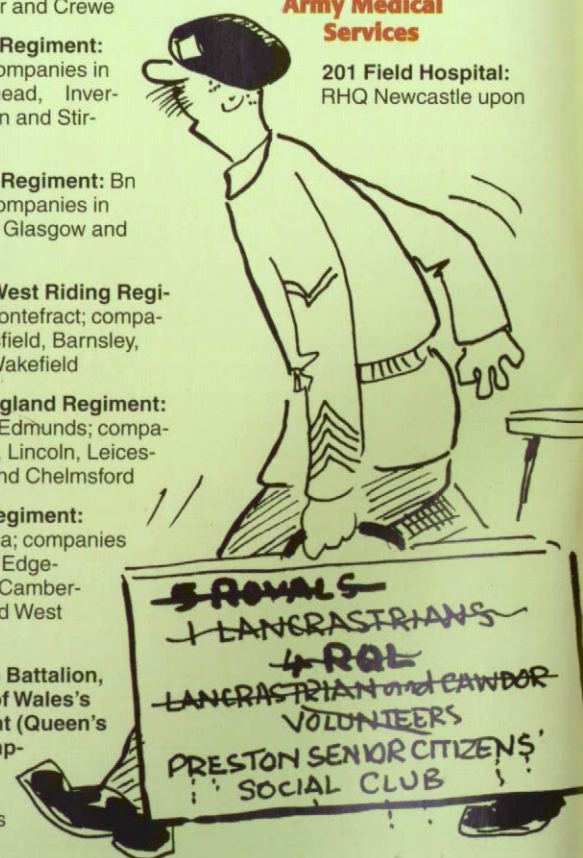
### Special Air Service

**21 and 23 Regiments SAS**

### Army Air Corps

**7 Regiment AAC:** Netheravon

**CVHQ AAC:** Netheravon





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# Age shall not weary them



Unique memorial commemorates 200,000 Scottish dead

Report: Anthony Stone  
Pictures: Mike Weston

ON a bright autumn morning high inside Edinburgh Castle, tourists pose for photographs and chat in the sunshine before making their way to the entrance to the Scottish National War Memorial.

As soon as they step over the threshold, the talking peters out and the only sounds remaining are the echoes of gentle footfalls reverberating from the massive stone walls. Young and old walk in respectful silence, the dignity and peace of the building drawing them to quiet contemplation.

The memorial has an atmosphere as real and profound as the inscriptions and plaques that bear witness to the ultimate sacrifice of Scots – men and women – who fell in the First and Second World Wars and of those who have been killed since while serving with Scottish regiments.

This is a Scottish memorial, paid for with Scottish money and built by Scottish hands from Scottish materials. The only exception is a huge block of green Italian marble which serves as the Stone of Remembrance upon which is cut the Cross of Sacrifice and the words "Their name liveth".

Architect Sir Robert Lorimer and 200 craftsmen transformed a barrack block in the castle into a Hall of Honour, a place of record where the names of the dead are on permanent display. Every branch of the armed services and their civilian auxiliaries are represented.

The idea for the memorial was first mooted in 1917 and eventually came to fruition ten years later with the official opening. The building is rich in symbolism and it would take a scholar to fully understand the significance of some of the art.

But what is readily accessible to all is the architect's vision, which has achieved a delicate balance between proportion



**Healing hands:** This panel is a memorial to all nurses. It shows stretcher-bearers and a wounded man. The inscription reads: "They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old"

and light and shade to create a monument of dignified beauty.

Brig Hughie Monro, Commander 52 Lowland Brigade, has a special affinity with the memorial. His great-great grandfather, Gen Sir Spencer Ewart, was GOC Scottish Command throughout the 1914-18 war and was a moving force behind the project. During the Great War a larger proportion of Scottish Servicemen and women were killed than any other nation of the British Empire.

"Whenever I go into the memorial my

spine tingles," said Brig Monro. "When I take visitors from all parts of the world round it they are amazed at what they see and feel when they get there."

The numbers of the fallen are difficult to comprehend: nearly 150,000 Scottish casualties in the Great War and more than 50,000 in the Second World War and the campaigns since 1945.

Brig Monro said: "It is a very poignant memorial and I think it should have greater visibility, not only in Scotland, but in the Services generally."



**Brig Monro**

**Hall of Honour:** The entrance to the Scottish National War Memorial



Picture: Trustees of Scottish Memorial



## Bitter legacy

Historian Stephen Dance describes in his final instalment how a nation was subjugated

MANY people thought the war was over when the Boer capitals of Bloemfontein and Pretoria were occupied in March and June 1900 respectively.

They were wrong. A new phase of guerrilla warfare began with small bands of mounted Boers hitting British columns hard and disappearing as fast as they had appeared.

The slow-moving convoys drawn by oxen were particularly vulnerable, as were isolated garrisons and towns. Boer leaders like De Wet and De La Rey became famous for their ability to keep the might of the British Empire at bay.

But the Boers did not have it all their way. The introduction of fortified blockhouses made of stone or iron – a Boer War version of the pillbox – barbed wire and “drives” by British columns across set areas of country combined to reduce the commandos’ ability to come and go as they wished, and would eventually force the Boers to the negotiating table.

### SURRENDER

The “bags” could often be large. In July 1900, for example, Gen Hunter cornered 4,000 Boers in the Brandwater Basin area and forced them to surrender by closing off the passes. The surrender went on for days with columns of Boers coming in to hand over rifles and ammunition.

Aid provided by Boer families also became a thing of the past as farms were burnt and women and children taken into refugee or concentration camps. The huge loss of life in these civilian camps – some 20,000 due to typhoid and other diseases – has left a legacy of Afrikaner bitterness to this day. It provoked strong condemnation in Parliament, with the then British Government being accused of pursuing the war through methods of barbarism.

It is necessary, however, to see it in the context of the Army’s own losses from illness: some 22,000 soldiers died in South Africa, about two in every three as a result of disease. If this was happening to an army on the move, what chance civilians herded into crowded camps? Soldiers’ letters and diaries show that few took pleasure in evicting families, although most were only too well aware of the prac-

tical aid civilians were offering to Boers still in the field.

To prevent escape, Boers captured in action were not only interned but also transported to faraway British colonies for the duration of the hostilities. Camps were established in places such as Bermuda, St Helena, India and Ceylon. For many Boers it was the first time they had seen the sea.

In the guerrilla phase of the war the British taxpayer had the dubious pleasure of paying for both sides as the ragged Boer commandos relied on captured weapons and ammunition picked up in British camps, ammunition which had fallen out of ill-fitting bandoliers.

But increasingly their position was desperate; one old veteran who had been captured when De Wet launched a surprise attack on a yeomanry camp at Tweefontein in the early hours of Christmas Day 1901 told me of the Boers he had seen wearing old sacks and women’s bonnets. Firefights such as that became relatively rare as the war progressed, but when they did occur they served to show that the Boers were still a force to be reckoned with.

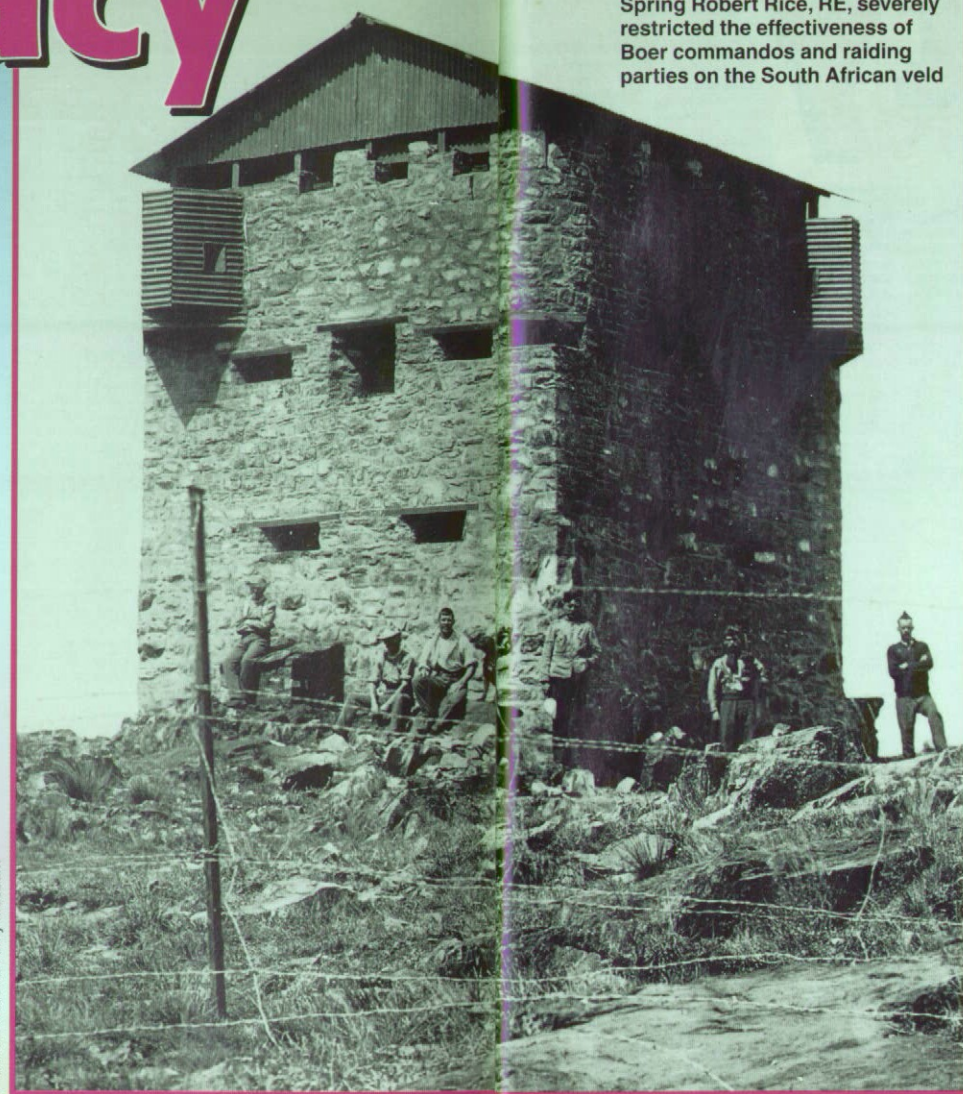
Many personalities served in the war. The political career of a young war correspondent by the name of Winston Churchill received a significant boost when he was involved in the defence of a wrecked armoured train and subsequent-

ly escaped from a Boer PoW camp. The creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, worked in a hospital, and the Indian pacifist, Gandhi, served with stretcher-bearers in the Natal Field Force.



Total war: Boer women and children in a British concentration camp, described as “barbaric”

No way through: A line of cheap, mass-produced blockhouses devised by Maj (later Maj Gen Sir) Spring Robert Rice, RE, severely restricted the effectiveness of Boer commandos and raiding parties on the South African veld



Pictures: National Army Museum

Many of the generals of the Great War of 1914-1918 came to prominence in South Africa. The Anglo-Boer War is all around us but few people notice. There are many towns with roads named after the famous sieges of Kimberley, Ladysmith, and Mafeking and the leaders of the day such as Roberts and Buller, just as there are Army barracks at Larkhill and Aldershot. There is also Liverpool FC’s famous Kop, which recalls the losses to Lancashire regiments during the battle of Spion Kop.

### MEMORIALS

But perhaps the war’s most enduring legacy are the memorials scattered throughout this country and overseas. These range from statues and columns in public places to personal memorial brasses in churches. My own preference is for the more lifelike representations, such as the memorial by the river at Bedford.

Here you find a Boer War soldier in full marching order resting on his rifle. As

1900  
February 27 Relief of Ladysmith.

March 31 After the defeat of Cronje at Paardeberg, Gen Lord Roberts with a reinforced army defeated the Boers and drove them out of Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State. Advancing north, Roberts seized Nroonstad on May 12.

May 17 Relief of Mafeking by cavalry column under Col Mahon. Cronje, with a force of 5,000 Boers, had besieged the town in October 1899. The defenders were some 700 irregulars and recruited townsmen under Col Baden-Powell. The bombardment was continuous but only one determined attempt to penetrate the defences was made. This was on May 12 when 300 Boers succeeded in getting through the lines, but were surrounded and captured.

May 24 Orange Free State annexed by Britain.

## Milestones

by Brian Jewell

June 5 Revers Buller occupies Pretoria, capital of the Transvaal.

July 4 Roberts’s and Buller’s forces meet at Vlakfontein.

July 27 Louis Botha defeated at Bergendal.

July 31 Johannesburg occupied by Roberts.

October 6 President Paul Kruger, now in Europe, is refused audience by Kaiser Wilhelm II, who had hitherto supported the Boer cause.

October 25 Britain formally annexes Transvaal.

November Boer guerrilla activity against British outposts intensifies in both Orange Free State and Transvaal.

1901  
January Kitchener builds chain of blockhouses and devastates farms to combat Boer guerrillas

February Invasions by Louis Botha in Natal, and Christian de Wet and James Hertzog in Cape Colony all fail.

February 26 Meeting of Kitchener and Botha at Middeberg, but there is no agreement on amnesty for Cape rebels.

1902  
May 31 War ends with Peace of Vereeniging. Boers accept British sovereignty and in return are promised representative government and compensation of £3 million to restock devastated farms.

with many such memorials, it is remarkable to note the variety of units recorded.

The Victorian Military Society’s Anglo-Boer War Memorials Project, under the direction of Meuriq Jones, has to date located 1,100 individual memorials in Australia, Bermuda, Canada, the Channel Islands, Eire, England, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Wales. Nearly 18,000 names have been recorded, thus providing interesting possibilities for cross-referencing with casualty returns and other data sources.

Two-thirds of the memorials located do not appear in Colonel Gildea’s book on the subject, published in 1911. The majority of the memorials are to those who died from wounds or disease, but some simply commemorate the men from particular districts who served.

In a very real sense, the Anglo-Boer War was Britain’s Vietnam. Up to 500,000 men from virtually every regiment had to be deployed to subdue an irregular army which could draw aid and sustenance from the civilian population. It was not uncommon for a Boer woman to be handing water to British patrols one minute and uncovering rifles for a

commando the next.

The “click-clack” double report of a sniper’s Mauser rifle was often the response to soldiers who dropped their guard in areas thought to be “friendly”. The war has often been called the last of the gentleman’s wars.

Such a claim has to be treated with some caution but there is evidence that, on the whole, both sides

had confidence in leaving wounded men to the care of the enemy.

The Anglo-Boer War has been consigned to the sidelines of history, due largely to the fact of two world wars. The horrendous casualty lists of the Great War made even the fiercest Boer War battle look like a skirmish and people have forgotten the achievements of soldiers, both the Regulars and the volunteers, who, often dressed in rags and miles from decent food and clean water, stormed up kopjes in the face of a brave and determined enemy.

It is to be hoped that the centenary brings a reappraisal of the war: it is long overdue.

The Anglo-Boer War Memorials Project website is at <http://members.aol.com/abwmp/default.htm>

● See My Army, Pages 34-35; Books 66-67





# This dirty war

In his new book on the Boer War, Field Marshal Lord Carver expresses the view that we should not be proud of the British Army's conduct in southern Africa. But lessons were learned

Interview: Graham Bound

"THE Boer War was trumped-up by the British: there isn't any doubt that the dispute could have been settled peacefully if the Government had been prepared to do so."

Listening to Field Marshal Lord Carver, one rapidly gets the impression that Gladstone's government was very foolish indeed.

The country embarked on its first real war for 50 years completely under-estimating the bloody price the Boers would extract for the conquest of their Orange Free State and Transvaal.

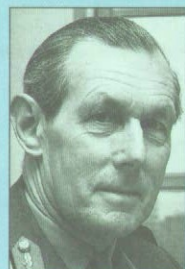
But with the British Empire at its peak, London wanted, as Lord Carver puts it, to see the map of Africa "painted red from the Cape to Cairo", and a group of farmers living a life straight out of the Old Testament was not going to stop them.

Boer leader Paul Kruger was rather more canny. When he heard that troops were being mobilised in the UK, he ordered modern weaponry from Germany and began organising rural Boers into the famous commandos.

"To start with," explained Lord Carver, "the Boers could put more men into the field. Every man was accustomed to using a rifle, riding a horse and living life in the field. By their very lives they were natural soldiers."

Coming from a man who spent his military life working according to strict doctrine, it seems strange to hear Lord Carver admiring a military system which

## Peer, field marshal, author



Top job: The then Gen Carver, pictured on his appointment as Chief of the General Staff in 1971

MICHAEL Carver, a descendant of the first Duke of Wellington's brother, was born in 1915, just 13 years after the Boer War ended. He was commissioned in 1935 and was with the 1st Royal Tank Regiment at the outbreak of the Second World War.

He served in armoured formations throughout the North African desert campaign, commanding his regiment there as well as in Italy and Normandy. At the age of 29 he was put in command

of the 4th Armoured Brigade. He eventually rose to the posts of Chief of the General Staff and, in the rank of field marshal, Chief of the Defence Staff. He was made a life peer in 1977.

Lord Carver wrote his first book, a regimental history, soon after the war, and produced the first comprehensive account of the Battle of El Alamein, a second paperback edition of which is out soon. He has since written 11 more books and edited two others.

had virtually none. After a year or more spent poring over contemporary accounts of the conflict, he is still amazed at the way the British's enemies went about their deadly business.

"They had an extraordinarily democratic system. When they were called up, each man would trot off to form a temporary commando, which could be between 300 and a 1,000 strong, and elect a commander. Rather like Che Guevara's fighters, military decisions were taken by a council of officers."

### RUTHLESS CAMPAIGN

Not only were the Boers highly mobile, they were in crucial respects also better armed. Mauser rifles bought by the thousands from Germany were superior in almost every respect to the rifles carried by British soldiers during the first half of the war. Using smokeless ammunition from defensive positions, the Boers were often able to pick off their enemy at will.

Artillery was crucial, and here too the Boers had the upper hand. Although they had far fewer guns, theirs had much greater range and fired high-explosive shells rather than the shrapnel employed by the British.

It became clear to Kitchener, Buller, Roberts and the other British commanders that the war would be won only if Britain could mobilise substantial reserve forces but, according to the law, only the Militia could fight overseas. Yeomanry and the Volunteers could be used only in the defence of Britain itself. To get

around this, Yeomanry and Volunteer regiments were encouraged to form special companies prepared to fight overseas.

Sheer force of numbers and a ruthless campaign of almost total destruction and incarceration, which Lord Carver does not hesitate to describe as "a dirty war", eventually defeated the Boers.

Fuelled by imperial brava-do, Britain portrayed this as a great victory, but Lord Carver sees it differently. "The British did not come out of it well in any respect," he says. "The soldiers fought bravely and put up with a rough life, but in no respect can you say that it brought great honour to British arms."

He gets into his critical stride easily. "I can't put my finger on any general who did well. The medical and transport systems did not work well; the artillery had inadequate range and fired the wrong shells; the cavalry – still equipped with sabres and lances – couldn't make up their minds what they were meant to be doing."

Must our national memory of the Boer War be totally negative? No, not entirely, says Lord Carver. "If there was any good to come out of evil, it was the reorganisation of the War Office and the Regular and Reserve Forces following the war. As a result, he insists, the Army was fit to

Picture: Steve Dock

Compiler of memories: Lord Carver leafs through his latest book

fight when the First World War began in 1914.

It is, however, hard to imagine a soldier who fought the unforgiving, determined Boer taking any solace from the likelihood that the Army would learn from his suffering.

Instead he would probably share the feelings of one low-ranking eyewitness, whose poignant letter home is reproduced in Lord Carver's book. "It is a beastly country here," wrote 17-year-old midshipman James Menzies, a member of a naval gun team attached to the Army. "The Boers are quite welcome to it all."

The National Army Museum Book of the Boer War by Field Marshal Lord Carver is published by Sidgwick & Jackson at £25.

● 'Sporting war' myth exposed – Page 66

## Grand Daddy

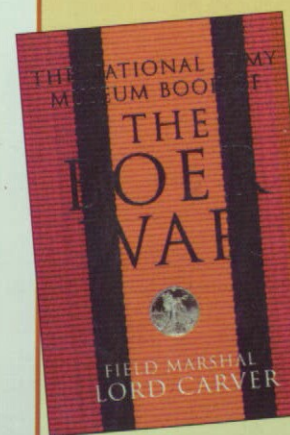
ASKED if he had known any veterans of the Boer War, the field marshal responded with a slightly prickly "I'm not that old, you know" before recalling that he had indeed served with a veteran of the veld during the Second World War.

"I had a soldier in my HQ called Daddy Phillips, who had falsified his age to join the Royal Signals. God knows how old he was."

At the end of the war, Daddy was concerned that he should say goodbye to the Army wearing all the medal ribbons to which he was entitled from the Boer, First and Second World Wars.

The young Michael Carver, then stationed in Germany, called at Spinks, the medal specialists, during a brief visit to London and returned to BAOR with the vital ribbons. The heavily-decorated Boer War veteran finally retired from the Army a happy man.

## Win The National Army Museum Book of The Boer War



WE have three hardback copies of Lord Carver's new book to give away, including a signed copy. To win one, answer the following question correctly:

**What was the name of the German rifle used by the Boers?**

Send your answer on a postcard or the back of an envelope to Soldier,

Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, to reach us by December 1. The first three correct entrants selected at random will receive the books. The first correct entrant will receive the copy signed by the author. Only one entry per person is permitted. Soldier staff and their families may not enter, and the Editor's decision is final.



# Digital delight

Chris slips in at last minute to take top prize

CPL Chris Redford, RLC, arrived in Northern Ireland just ten days before entries to the province's tri-Service photographic competition closed, just long enough for him to walk away with one of the top prizes.

His simple but eye-catching digital manipulation was the unanimous choice of all three judges as the overall image of the year. It was the first time an entry in the digital category had been selected as the overall winner.

His efforts earned 25-year-old Chris, who also did well in the military portrait category, a cheque for £250 and a top-of-the-range, photograph-quality printer.

But whisper it softly, the Army's long-running claim to the Northern Ireland professional Photographer of the Year title was sunk by Royal Navy leading photographer Steve Lewis, whose portfolio shot during six months on patrol in South Armagh with 42 Commando, Royal Marines, earned him the coveted trophy. Steve, the Navy's only representative in the competition, produced a consistency and quality that singled him out.

Judges Linda Salem, regional chairman of the British Institute of

Professional Photographers, Stephen George, the MoD's Principal Photographer Northern Ireland, and Flight Sgt Nigel Burton, Chief Photographer RIC, RAF Aldergrove, were confronted by 300 images, a big increase on previous years, entered by more than 50 professional and amateur snappers.

Sgt Shane Wilkinson, RLC, made a

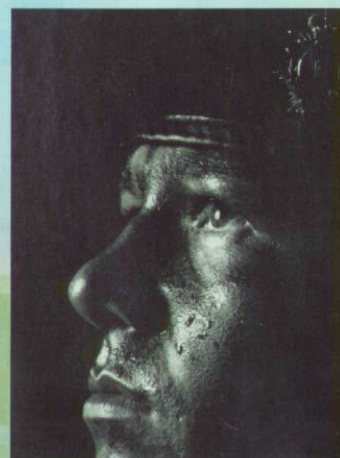
big impact on the competition. He won the monochrome and colour categories, finished as the runner-up in the portrait, image of the year and *Soldier*-sponsored own choice categories, and was highly commended for his entry in the sports section. LCpl Ian Woods of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment retained the amateur title for a second year.



Making a splash: Cpl John Skillen's picture won the *Soldier*-sponsored own choice category



Winning smile: Sgt Fiona Stapley's entry won her the best military portrait category



Serious: Sgt Shane Wilkinson's prize-winning monochrome entry

Right: Amateur Photographer of the Year LCpl Ian Woods was clearly shooting on the right track



Left: Digital Image of the Year, taken by Cpl Chris Redford RLC

Below: A flaming good entry from LCpl Bobby Nelson RLC, who finished as the runner-up in the overall category for Professional Photographer of the Year



## All the results

**Professional Photographer of the Year** (sponsored by Kodak): LA (Phot) Steve Lewis, RN (£250 and trophy); runner-up, LCpl Bobby Nelson, RLC (20 rolls of film); highly commended, SSgt Dave Bridges, RLC.

**Best monochrome photograph** (Ilford): Sgt Shane Wilkinson, RLC (£150); runner-up, LCpl Alan Scott-Brown, 4 R Irish (£50); highly commended, Cpl Mark Jones, RLC, and LCpl Ian Woods, 1 Cheshire.

**Best colour photograph** (Agfa): Sgt Shane Wilkinson (£125); runner-up, LCpl Bobby Nelson (£50); highly commended, Sgt Paul Taylor, RLC, and Cpl Rob Leyland, RLC.

**Best military portrait** (KJP): Sgt Fiona Stapley, RLC (£125); runner-up, Sgt Shane Wilkinson (£50); highly commended, Cpl Chris Redford, RLC, and SAC Mike Davies, RAF.

**Amateur Photographer of the Year** (Fuji): LCpl Ian Woods (£250); runner-up, Capt Sam Potter, RAMC (20 rolls of film); highly commended, LCpl Scott-Brown and LCpl Geoff Clapin, Gren Gds.

**Own choice award** (*Soldier*): Cpl John Skillen, RLC (£125); runner-up, Sgt Shane Wilkinson (£50); highly commended, SSgt Dave Bridges and Cpl Rob Leyland.

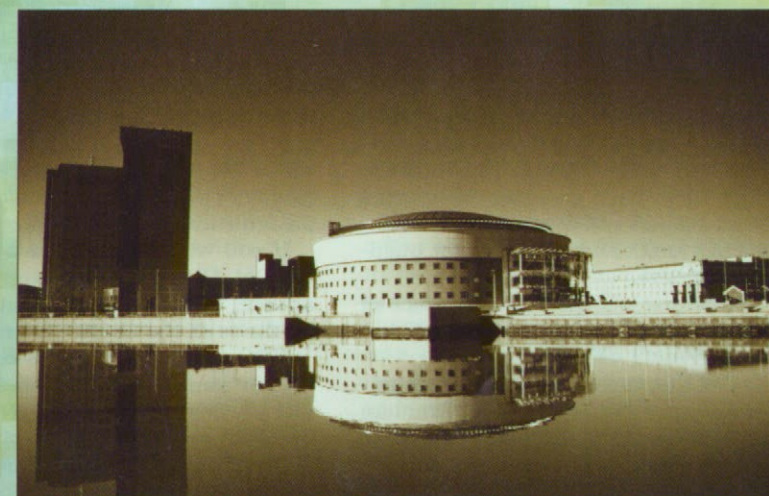
**Best sports photograph** (Jessops): Cpl John Skillen (£125); runner-up, LCpl Bobby Nelson (£50); highly commended, Sgt Shane Wilkinson and Sgt Fiona Stapley.

**Best digital image** (Photo Maintenance Services): Cpl Chris Redford (Epson printer); runner-up, Cpl John Reid, RAF (Photoshop 5 Bible); highly commended, Cpl Paul Taylor, 2 Para.

**Image of the Year** (GOC NI): Cpl Chris Redford (£200); runner-up, Sgt Shane Wilkinson.



Night-time patrol: A highly-commended entry from SSgt Dave Bridges



Mirrored: By Amateur Photographer of the Year runner-up Capt Sam Potter



# How to make your wishes come true

If you have a great idea for improving the welfare of soldiers and their families, the Army Central Fund could help make it happen

**Report: Anthony Stone**

A STAGGERING £10m is being spent on special millennium welfare projects as a result of grants to improve the quality of life of soldiers and their families. The huge sum already agreed by the Army Central Fund is in addition to £1 million in grants spent annually by them on projects ranging from building play schools and all-weather sports pitches to equipping gyms.

There is a very large pot of cash out there and if you are a Regular serving soldier with an original idea about how to make life better for you and your family, some of it could end up in your unit.

The man responsible for administering the funds is Lt Col (Retd) Nick Claypoole, who does so from his office at Headquarters Land Command, Wilton. He is the secretary of the Land Command Welfare Trust, which decides how the money is allocated.

Lt Col Claypoole explained how the system operates: "The funds are made up of money from the Army Central Fund (ACF), the Nuffield Trust and the Land Command Trust Fund.

"We have a yearly cycle where units apply for money, the applications are processed and considered at divisional level and then go before a meeting of the trustees at HQ Land Command.

"The trustees decide on the merits and make an award and the unit is given the instruction to go ahead and spend the money. If we feel it will benefit the well-being of the garrison we'll go for it."

Land Command's area of responsibility is vast, covering every unit in the United Kingdom as well as overseas detachments based in Kenya, Belize, Brunei, Nepal and Canada. It also provides welfare funds for troops deployed in Bosnia and



It could be you: Lt Col Nick Claypoole is happy to discuss possible grant ideas with units

Kosovo, where welfare funds have recently helped finance a cyber café. In fact, the only areas not covered are Cyprus, Gibraltar, the Falklands and Northern Ireland.

Money available varies from £2,000 to £20,000 for the more usual grants up to around £3million for the one-off millennium grants. But the one thing they have in common is that they must be used for welfare.

### MANY SOURCES

During the past year smaller grants to units have been used to buy ski and fitness equipment and musical instruments. Larger sums have gone on commercial clothes washers and dryers, the refurbishment of a junior ranks club and the building of a crèche.

The largest non-public fund grant at the moment is for the extension of Aldershot Garrison's swimming pool.

Lt Col Claypoole said: "We also administer Army Central Fund millennium grants of about £10 million and the Nuffield Trust. There is a lot of cash being spent at the moment, mostly for the welfare of soldiers and their dependants."

Money from non-public funds comes from many different sources, but mainly from donations, bequests, the Naafi and SSVC. It is invested and the grants are taken from the profits. Booming stocks have meant there is plenty to go around.

Naafi's dividend and gaming machine income is also ploughed back into the Army. In recent years this has been low because of poor trading performances as a result of the drawdown of the Army in Germany and elsewhere, but the corner has now been turned. Naafi's next six-monthly dividend payment to the Army is expected to be around £700,000. Half the profits from gaming and amusement machines in Naafi clubs around the world are returned monthly to units.

**If you would like to find out more, Lt Col Claypoole is happy to offer advice, but formal applications must go through the chain of command.**

"The trustees are always on the lookout for innovative welfare bids," said Lt Col Claypoole. "The only proviso is that welfare money should not replicate public money. We also expect units to show a commitment by making a contribution themselves."





In charge: WO2 Phil Jeffries, 2 RGJ, above, and actor Ioan Gruffudd, inset right, as Lt John Feeley

# Warrior heroes

**Report: Ray Routledge**

SOLDIERS from the Paderborn-based 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets are to feature in a new BBC TV drama about the conflict in Bosnia.

Two 90-minute episodes of *Warriors* tell a fiction-based-on-fact story of a group of soldiers and the dilemma they faced while serving with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the early 1990s.

Starring Ioan Gruffudd, best known to television viewers as C S Forester's eponymous midshipman in the *Hornblower* series, it is the latest production from BAFTA award-winning director Peter Kosminsky.

His previous work includes documentaries about the Falklands War and Cambodia, and dramas such as *Wither Heights* starring Ralph Fiennes.

Explaining the background to the *Warriors* storyline, he told *Soldier* of the important role members of the RGJ had played in its production.

Written by Leigh Jackson, *Warriors* is a story about the emotional conflict suffered by a group of soldiers who witnessed the Ahmici massacre in the early days of Operation Grapple, the United

A tale of British troops powerless to save civilian lives during the war in Bosnia is the subject of a new BBC television drama

Nations peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

"Right at the outset I decided to focus the story at platoon level," said Peter Kosminsky. "I was interested in what it was like for them to watch as neighbour butchered neighbour and yet be powerless to prevent it.

"The soldiers were stopped from taking action because they were working to the UNPROFOR mandate and that placed restrictions on them. They were allowed to fire their weapons only if their own lives were directly threatened. It meant they were powerless to intervene and had to stand and watch as some of these appalling atrocities took place.

"When deployed they were told they would be going in to save lives. None of

them expected to be touched emotionally. We wanted to show the effect that can have on young soldiers."

Kosminsky spent several years on the project and his research includes hundreds of interviews with soldiers. He is fully aware of the sensitivity of the subject and has aimed to be sympathetic.

Much of the filming took place in the Czech Republic, where the set for the village was built, partly with the assistance of the RGJ. It was then burned to simulate an attack by Bosnian Croats.

Kosminsky was full of praise for the efforts of the Greenjackets and said the film could not have been made without their help.

"WO2 Phil Jeffries was the senior figure with the RGJ and he and his men were fantastic. We ran into all kinds of difficulties and it was only their resourcefulness and support that enabled us to complete the film," he said.

Also featured in the production are nine Warrior infantry fighting vehicles and their crews from Paderborn.

"In making the film we grew to respect the RGJ soldiers who effectively became actors. It is a better and more accurate film because of their input."



# Issues

## Dependants' funds will merge into single charity

TWO Army charities are to merge on January 1 when the Army Officers' Dependants Fund and the Soldiers' Dependants Fund become a single charity to be known as the Army Dependants' Trust. Its aim remains the relief of immediate financial hardship for the family on the death of a member.

The fund for officers' dependants traces its origins to the Army in India in 1820, while that for soldiers dates back only to 1964. Each currently pays discretionary grants up to £8,000 for married personnel and £5,500 for single people. Of 110 serving officers and soldiers who died last year, 98 were members of the funds and their dependants received grants.

Funds secretary Maj (Retd) Tony Bettaney said: "We would like to pay grants to the dependants of all who die, for whatever reason, while serving. Just a few pounds a year can make all the difference to dependants going through a most traumatic time. The idea is to provide immediate help. Longer-term support is available from regimental charities and the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF).

"Any surpluses we have at the end of the year from investments are given to the ABF for longer-term assistance."

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

As the new trust will be a charity and not an insurance scheme, a three-tier subscription with discretionary grant levels will continue. Annual subscription for officers and soldiers will be just £5 a year for those who are married, widowed, separated or divorced, and £3 for singles. Retired officers (ROs) in post may also be members of the trust on payment of an annual subscription of £10.

Under the new trust, discretionary grants will be raised to a maximum of £6,000 for single members and £10,000 for other categories. Payment is normally made within two working days of the member's death.

Ninety-five per cent of serving officers and soldiers are already members of the two funds and the trustees hope to sign up the remaining five per cent. Membership runs from the day of joining until the last day of paid service in the Army. The new trust will be open to all Regular Army personnel, including retired officers in RO or Army Careers Officer posts; full-time members of The Royal Irish Regiment; Gurkhas; non-Regular permanent staff (NRPS); reservists recalled to full-time service; and members of the TA on full-time Regular service.

With the exception of ROs, the annual subscription is normally paid through a deduction from the January pay. The new trust will be administered from offices collocated with the Casualty and Compassionate Cell in the Directorate of Personal Services (Army) at Upavon, Wilts (tel 01980 615734).

Full details of the existing funds can be found in DCI (Army) 44/98. A DCI containing details of the new trust is in preparation, while Chapter 88 in Vol 3 of AGAIs (Rules of the Trust) is also being rewritten.

# Help's about

If you would like to share a problem, write to Cari c/o *Soldier*, or BFBS, BFPO 786

**Dear Cari** We are moving to Germany and have a three-year-old daughter who has special needs. I've had a lot of assurances about how we will be looked after but I'm still really worried. One of my neighbours says it would be better if I remained in the UK with my daughter. - Army family in UK.

**Cari replies:** Your neighbour doesn't sound very helpful. This summer, SSAFA Forces Help and the Forces Special Needs and Disability Support Group held a seminar which was attended by more than 100 people from the UK and abroad. It covered just about all the worries I know you have. While I would not presume to suggest that you will encounter no problems, I would say that SSAFA Forces Help and the Army Families Federation can help you, both in the practical sense



Cari Roberts

and with support. If you haven't seen the latest Army Families Journal (dated Autumn 99), do try to get a copy. You can call AFF Central Office on 01980 615525.

**Dear Cari** I recently put an ad in the Pen Pals section of *Soldier* but had only one reply. I have written to him a couple of times since but have heard nothing from him. I want to write to Service people around the world, particularly those without close family because I want to let them know someone cares about them and appreciates their work. - Single mother in UK.

**Cari replies:** I can tell from reading your letter that you genuinely want to support the work of those who serve in the Army. You know quite a bit about the environment and you know how much this kind of support means to soldiers. But I'm not sure that the pen pals route is the right one for you. Have you thought about contacting your local branch of SSAFA Forces Help or the Royal British Legion to see what you can do to help them? It would give you contact with the world of the Armed Forces and a real chance to do something practical.

## Please don't just dump your pen pal

*A quick word on the subject of pen pals. If you have been writing to someone and you want to put a stop to it, please do the kind thing and tell them. Be as diplomatic as you want to be, but don't just stop writing. I get a fair amount of correspondence from people (usually young women) worried that their pen pal has suddenly disappeared. They sometimes ask if I can trace the person to see if everything is all right.*

### Cari comments

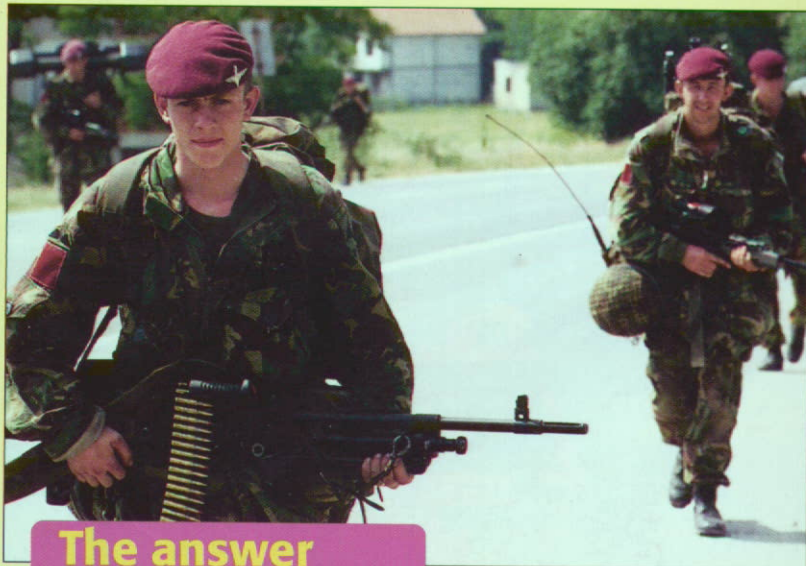
*Unfortunately, I cannot. And if your partner is serving away from home, don't underestimate the power of a note. You don't have to write a book; just a few lines to say you are thinking of him, or her, will lift the spirits. When I asked for ideas some time ago, postcards of favourite places and children's paintings and drawings cropped up a lot. If you've been thinking you must write to a loved one, take a break and do it now.*

## Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 591 2000  
Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569  
Army Welfare Service 01722 436565  
Army Families Federation 01980 615525  
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 0181 590 1124  
Confidential support lines:  
UK 0800 731 4880  
Germany 0800 1827 395  
Cyprus 080 91065  
Bosnia 0800 731 4880  
Others UK 1980 630854  
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Family Escort Service UK 0171 463 9249;

Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272  
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065  
Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575  
National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 01482 833812  
RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725  
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## The answer

## The question

WHY do Service personnel pay tax while on operational tours? While serving in Kosovo I have met soldiers from other nations within Nato who are tax-exempt while in operational theatres. They also receive additional payments.

Service personnel within operational theatres may be away for anything up to six months at a time, so why are those who do not benefit from tax-related services during that period required to pay such a high amount of tax?

With our commitment in the Balkans no longer confined to Bosnia, it is apparent that soldiers will be out of Britain more frequently. It appears the British soldier is the poor relation of his or her Nato cousins in terms of benefits in the operational theatre. — C Smith, 1 Para, Kosovo.

● More readers' letters — Pages 68-69

# You're better off paying tax on ops

BRITISH soldiers are better off being taxed while on operational duty overseas than they would be if they were NOT taxed, according to the Directorate of Personal Services (Army).

After fielding an increasing number of queries on why British troops deployed on operations in Kosovo have to pay UK income tax while soldiers from other Nato armies are tax-exempt, DPS(A) — which is responsible for policy on pay and financial conditions of service — has responded at length to the paratrooper's letter (see above).

The topic has caused heated debate in messes far and wide and a Royal Signals lance corporal was so concerned he wrote directly to the Secretary of State for Defence. He received a reply, apparently, via his commanding officer.

DPS(A) staff keep a watching brief on the financial conditions-of-service of other armies and had already noted that some countries allowed remuneration to be income tax-free for Armed Forces personnel deployed in specified operational zones. Earlier this year the directorate investigated the feasibility of non-payment of income tax by UK Servicemen and women during operational deployments.

At the same time, DPS(A) staff conducted a direct basic pay comparison with the US Army. The results were staggering. In almost every case they discovered that the British soldier was

'In almost every case the British soldier is better paid and has better pay prospects than his US counterpart...'

better paid — and has better pay prospects — than his US counterpart.

Add to this the requirement for the US soldier to complete an annual tax return (something his British counterpart would have to do if the law was changed to allow income tax to be reclaimed) and it can be argued that the British soldier has quite a good deal.

### ANNUAL PAY RATES

The issue is far from simple. Payment of UK income tax is governed by the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (ICTA 88) — a piece of primary legislation — and the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) acknowledges the continuous payment of UK income tax when recommending the Army's annual rates of pay.

The 1988 Act covers all aspects of income tax and ensures common tax provisions for British Service personnel

worldwide. In this respect it protects personnel from local taxation laws when serving outside the UK.

The Act also applies to a whole range of remunerations (allowances, charges and so on) and not just to basic pay. ICTA 88 covers all Crown servants, not just Service personnel, so to waive payment of income tax during operational deployments would require a change to primary legislation, either as an amendment or in the form of new legislation.

Because this would require Parliamentary time and backing from the Secretary of State for Defence and the Treasury, it could be a lengthy process.

Adoption of such a policy could also have an effect on the AFPRB's recommendations for the Army's annual pay award. The Review Body, which recommends daily rates of pay, bases its assessments on comparisons with civilians, who, of course, pay UK income tax. So to give Service personnel an advantage by exempting them from paying tax could have a knock-on effect in terms of daily pay... and subsequently pensions.

Non-payment of income tax while on operations may sound attractive, but when the big picture emerges real disadvantages begin to reveal themselves.

This explains why British Servicemen and women will continue to pay income tax while on operations abroad. Believe it or not, says DPS(A), you are still better off.



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# Superbike road test

## Stirred but not shaken

SOME bikes lead to a soggy mind and mental impoverishment, but the Suzuki GSX 1300R Hayabusa provides a single ticket to Gomorrah – it's that wicked, writes Syd Taylor.

Raising the stakes in the hyperbike arena, Suzuki has picked its shot and produced the most horsepower-intensive bike yet. This behemoth bristles with 173 bhp and tractor-like torque to make it the fastest production street-bike ever built, with performance to leave seasoned testers slack-jawed in amazement.

How, you ask, does a motor cycle so unashamedly fast fit into this pseudo-life of disinfected cling-film-covered apples, where whining blockheads worry themselves sick at every turn?

Well, the sad fact is that it doesn't. We've seen things happen in other countries where paranoia over BHP has resulted in powerful bikes being muzzled – but the most ironic thing of all is that the Hayabusa is one of the safest bikes I've ever ridden. Sure, it's fast, but you haven't got to go 100 per cent all the time.

### HARD-WEARING

Over the years Suzukis in general have never been the very best when it comes to quality of fit and finish, but the Hayabusa sets new standards for the marque. It is downright excellent, exuding deep hard-wearing quality in the same way that Hondas and BMWs do. This is a bike that looks and feels worth every penny of the £7,699 price-tag.

The styling and seating position tilt this motor cycle to a clientele that wants zippy looks and a riding cant that goes with them, so this exacts a small toll in city riding functionality. The comfort of the riding position, though, depends on rider height and build. Being about 6ft, I loved the Hayabusa just the way it is.

Switching on the ignition, you're faced with a battery of lights on the instrument cluster as the rev-counter and speedo needles come to life and spin round their dials as if in anticipation of what's to come



Suzuki GSX 1300R Hayabusa

before settling back to zero. An on-board computer with two trip-meters and a clock and fuel gauge enable you to keep a wary eye on consumption, which averages about 37 mpg.

The engine is a product of evolution and refinement and the 1298cc DOHC 16-valve "four" makes awesome power and torque. It's difficult ever to be caught in the wrong gear – such is the flexibility – but if you do enjoy using the gears, the ratios follow one another with typical Suzuki slickness. If you open the throttle wide, though, you appreciate being wedged in by the tail hump, since otherwise you would simply be dangling from the bars as the speed rapidly builds up.

Without ceremony this rolling reservoir of power is inscrutably forceful and capable of taking the average rider to a top speed of 185-190 mph. One tester wearing racing leathers and small enough to get right down behind the low fairing has managed a timed run of just over 200 mph at Bruntingthorpe test track.

It is, however, the sheer obedience and courtly manners that impress as much as the electrifying performance. Going

through its paces with such magnificent ease you are taken to a kind of Nirvana of all the thrills and sensations that make riding powerful bikes so worthwhile.

A Hayabusa is as calm and assured on the road as most other bikes would be at half the speed. It's certainly not to be ridden at full bore and nothing less: it's equally at home chugging around town.

### WRIGGLE-FREE

With a massive twin-spar aluminium frame and box section swinging arm, strong inverted front forks, hollow-cast aluminium alloy wheels carrying huge Bridgestone Battlax tyres made specially for the Hayabusa and twin discs with six-piston callipers at the front, the whole predictable platform inspires great riding confidence. You can run the big Suzuki deep into tight bumpy corners and the bike always retains its composure and through fast sweepers – whether bumpy or smooth – it is wriggle-free.

The Hayabusa (Japanese for peregrine falcon) is a bike to soar high in the firmament of all-time greats, giving you a riding experience that leaves you thoroughly stirred, but supremely unshaken.

The style of the Hayabusa has obviously been determined by the need for aerodynamic efficiency with the result that, although distinctive, it is by no means universally regarded as beautiful. Seen, as it will surely be, as a rapidly-growing image in most rear-view mirrors, there's a hint of Darth Vader in the mean and menacing-looking nosecone.





## PROFILE: LCpl Ricky Nicholson

# Hard act to follow

LCpl Ricky 'The Tank' Nicholson has been crowned kickboxing super-heavyweight world champion

Interview: Anthony Stone  
Picture: Mike Weston

KICKBOXING has a bit of an image problem in this country, admits LCpl Ricky Nicholson of the Ballykelly-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers. And that is something he is trying to change.

"It is no more violent or aggressive than normal boxing but people don't usually see men kicking one another unless it is in a street fight," he said. "They have this idea that it is horrendously vicious, but there are actually fewer injuries in kickboxing than in normal boxing."

The sport is one of the world's fastest-growing martial arts and can be taken up by women and men, not only for self-defence but as a way to keep fit.

He hopes his success will spur on others to take up the sport. He won the super-heavyweight crown – that's anyone over 15 stone – by knocking out his Lithuanian opponent in the fifth round of their contest at Worcester. At 6ft 5in Rolandus Digrys weighed in at 17st 21lb, somewhat dwarfing the 6ft Nicholson who tipped the scales at a mere 15st 7lb.

### FULL-CONTACT

Nicholson, nicknamed "The Tank", can now add the crown to a fistful of other titles including that of European super-cruiserweight champion.

It is easy to be cynical about claims that this sport is not only for hard-as-nails headbangers. The world title contest was a full-contact bout with the fighters wearing ten-ounce gloves and groin protectors, but nothing to cushion blows to the head.

That makes good sense as far as The Tank is concerned. "I honestly think a head guard gives a false sense of security once you are in the ring because you don't rely on your defences as much as you should," he said.

"You think because you have padding on you can take twice as many blows. It clouds your judgement."

Nicholson's long road to the title began when he was six years old and being picked on by older boys.

"My mother was keen that I learned how to defend myself because when I was young I was bullied quite a bit," he said. "I have been involved in martial arts all my life, starting with tae kwon do."

Self-discipline is the key to understanding the sport. People who know nothing about kickboxing think it is a free-for-all. But it is actually skilful and technical. That goes some way to explaining why Nicholson is treated with something approaching awe in Japan, where people appreciate the iron will required to rise to the top of any martial art. This is a country where children train for martial arts before they go to school.

Earlier this year the Army lance corporal fought in front of a crowd of 40,000 in Japan. The sport is also very popular in Thailand and the United States.

Nicholson has tried his hands and feet at most martial arts but as far as he is concerned kickboxing beats the others by a TKO.

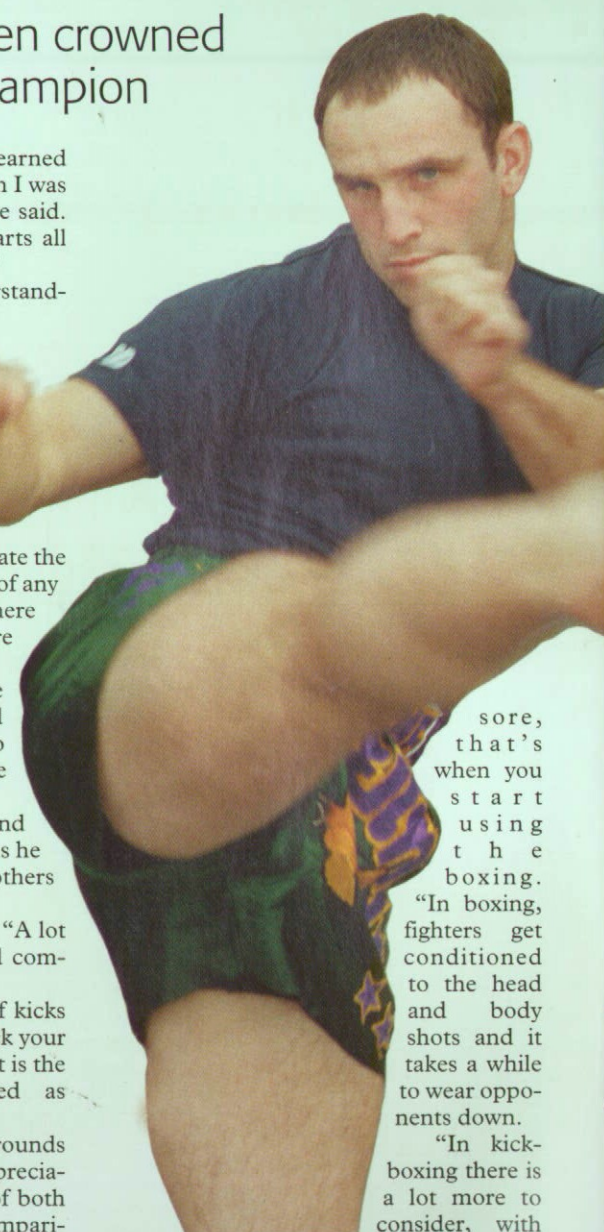
"It is a technical sport," he said. "A lot of the moves are very complicated compared to most other martial arts."

"Kickboxing is a combination of kicks and punches and the aim is to knock your opponent out or to win by points. It is the same point-scoring system used as boxing."

Nicholson has sparred many rounds with professional boxers and is appreciative of their skill. His knowledge of both sports allows him to make this comparison.

"The techniques we use, if executed correctly, can be far more devastating than a professional boxer's. The arsenal is far superior because we use our feet as well. A kick to the head can produce a quick knockout."

"But in kickboxing most stoppages are done with kicks to the legs. A kick to the top of the thigh deadens the leg. Once your opponent's legs are getting tired and



sore, that's when you start using the boxing.

"In boxing, fighters get conditioned to the head and body shots and it takes a while to wear opponents down."

"In kickboxing there is a lot more to consider, with kicks coming at your legs, body and head as well as the punches."

"The idea is not to hurt people. Because I am fighting someone of a professional standard I have as much respect for him as hopefully he has for me. My main aim is to win and get out of there without too many injuries."

Despite being incredibly conditioned, win or lose, The Tank always goes away

from a contest with some damage, mostly bruising, which usually means he has to take a week off after a bout.

"Most of the punishment is done with kicking to the shins and whether I connect with a good or a bad kick it takes its toll. I have not broken any limbs yet, apart from my nose."

Bouts are fought over 12 rounds. If you have two good tacticians in the ring it is rare to get a knockout – unless someone gets lucky.

Nicholson hopes to persuade the Army Martial Arts Association to endorse kickboxing by raising the ancient art's profile and explaining its rules. His favourite kickboxing style is Thai, which allows the use of knees, elbows and bare feet. Believe it or not, there is a shortage of opponents. "I went through a stage for two years without finding an opponent to fight me under kickboxing rules," he said.

Bouts are regulated, there is medical supervision and refereeing standards are high. "As soon as you get caught with a shot the ref will step in and give you an eight. In the past 25 years there has been one death from kickboxing."

### SELF-DISCIPLINE

When he is not soldiering, Nicholson instructs children and adults in the art of self-defence and fitness. "I have women, kids and grown men who come to my gym purely to keep fit. Training consists of aerobics, circuits and self-defence. If they ask me how to beat people up I show them the door."

The Army's lifestyle and that of a martial artist are well-suited. Both revolve around large doses of self-discipline and self-control. "At the end of the day we are trained to kill in a war situation, not on the streets. My life revolves around self-discipline."

Ricky Nicholson attributes his success to the support he has received from his regiment and he believes, with their backing, he can go even further.

"It was hard enough winning the world championship, but now it is even harder to keep it within my grasp."

But rest assured, The Tank won't relinquish it without a fight...

## BOXING

# Promising start

HOPES for success are high for the Army boxing team on the eve of a new season after a month of intensive training, writes Ray Routledge.

The 26-man squad under coach Sgt Neil McCallum includes 12 new fighters. They got off to a winning start by beating London District 4-2 at the Royal Lancaster Hotel.

Sgt McCallum, who has his sights firmly set on the Combined Service Championships at HMS Nelson in Portsmouth next February, is grateful once again to the commanding officers for releasing the soldiers to the squad.

High on the agenda this year are the ABA Novice Championships and the ABA main tournament.

"Last year the novices lifted six titles and we hope to continue that success this time," he said.

It has been a busy time outside the ring too as the team has signed a sponsorship deal with equipment supplier BBE and is arranging some international trips, to Cyprus, Jersey and, subject to negotiation, South Africa. This will follow their busy domestic season.

"But there is a lot of work to get through first," said McCallum.



In training: SSgt Neil McCallum, centre, leads out members of the new Army boxing team

# Bessey moves up rankings

ARMY light-middleweight boxing champion Cpl Chris Bessey, 27 Transport Regiment RLC, failed to lift the title at the World Amateur Boxing Championships in Houston, but improved his ranking to number five in the world.

The five-times ABA champion and Commonwealth gold medallist from Portsmouth, lost in the quarter-finals of the competition to the eventual winner from Romania.

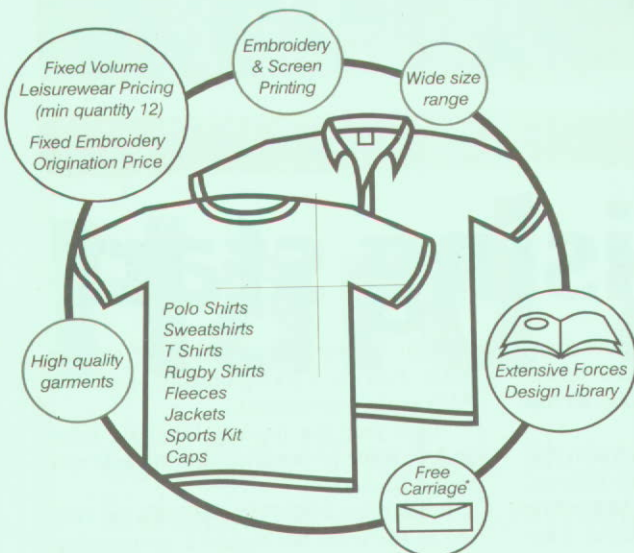
Although he still has to qualify, Bessey is now in Australia undergoing acclimatisation training ahead of next year's Sydney Olympic Games. Qualification starts with a tournament in Finland in November. With only eight boxers at his weight qualifying from the whole of Europe, it is a tall order, but coach SSgt Neil McCallum is confident his star fighter will pull through.



Climate training: Cpl Chris Bessey



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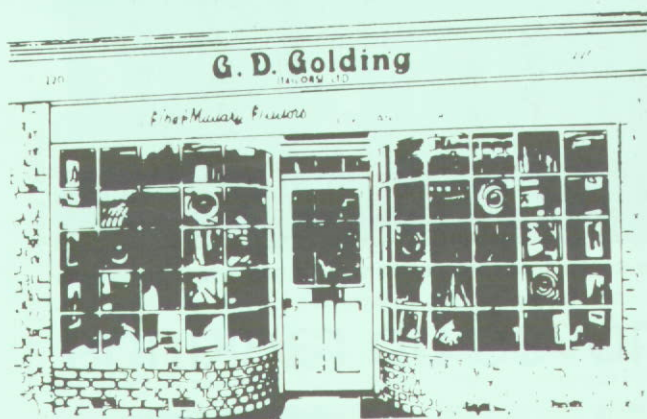
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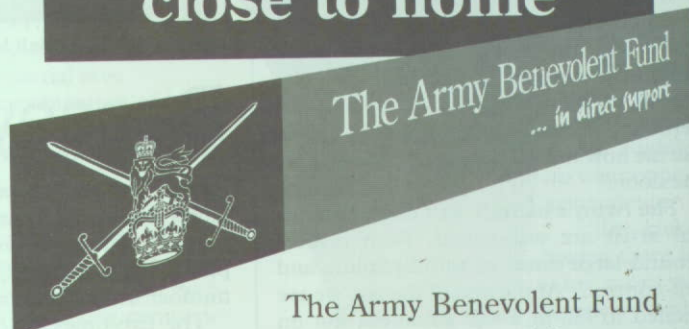
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## HOCKEY

### Warrior Cup up for grabs

Army hockey has greeted with delight a £4,000 sponsorship deal with Warrior, specialists in providing financial services to the military. The money will boost the Hockey Cup, the Army's premier domestic knockout competition, which will bare the name of the new benefactors. Col Peter Cook of the AHA described it as "great news".

**Action highlights:** The Army retained the Inter-Services hockey title in Aldershot earlier this year by beating the Royal Navy 4-0 and the Royal Air Force 5-4, and also took the honours in the Under-23 and veteran's tournaments. Army hockey is in a robust state going into the new millennium



# Players keep eyes on the ball for new millennium

ARMY hockey is in great shape going into the next century. Plans for seven more Astroturf pitches in the United Kingdom and a new pavilion at Aldershot have been matched by success on the field.

The Army will go into 2000 as the reigning Inter-Services outdoor champions and with three players involved on the international scene. They will also be defending their Services' indoor title at Larkhill this month.

Key players have made their mark for club and country. Lt John Evernett, LI, played for Canterbury and England while Lt Richard Forsyth, KOSB, was selected for Scotland. Lt Guy Fordham, RAMC, appeared in both the England and the Great Britain squads and looks a good bet to win a place in the 2000 Olympics team. If he makes it to Sydney he will be following in the Olympic footsteps of Capt Simon Hazlitt, LI, a member of Britain's successful Atlanta squad.

WO2 Ian Jennings, APTC, continues to inspire National League side Guildford as player and coach. Even officials are

making an impact at the highest level, with Bdr Martin Hunt, RA, close to selection as a National League umpire.

But perhaps the most significant progress is being made in the infrastructure of Army hockey. More than 12 Astroturf pitches have been laid in the UK, three in Cyprus and one in each major garrison in Germany. Seven more are planned throughout the UK and the Army's hockey centre of excellence at Aldershot is to get a £700,000 pavilion.

The major Aldershot facelift includes a water-base surface to replace the sand-base number one pitch. It should be ready for the Army to host the Inter-Services tournament in two year's time.

Despite the upbeat prognosis there is no reason for complacency, warns Army Hockey Association chairman Lt Col

David Proctor. "The aim of the Army Sport Control Board and the Army

Hockey Association executive committee is to continue to develop hockey from grass roots, provide the facilities and structure through divisions and corps to play regularly and, importantly, qualify coaches and umpires."

In the 1998-99 domestic season, the Royal Artillery won the indoor competition for the fourth successive year while REME triumphed outdoors for the seventh time in eight years (their only blemish in that time was in

1997 when they lost to the gunners).

The Army major and minor units and women's cup finals are pencilled in for Aldershot on March 29 and 30, and the inter-corps tournament takes place at the same venue on May 3-5.



Sydney bet: Lt Guy Fordham



## SHORTS

### Sonia's personal best

FRESH from achieving a personal best and third place in her age group at the world triathlon championship in Montreal, Canada, Army champion Sgt Sonia Hurst is now starting a training programme which she hopes will take her to success at the 2000 competition in Australia.

Hurst, who competed in her first triathlon nine years ago, has been Army women's champion for the last six years, and recently achieved second place in the Inter-Services championships.

The Montreal event was, she says, thrilling, if rather crowded. The 1,500m swim involved being "kicked, thumped or swum over – a real fight for water". By comparison, the cycling was peaceful: "flat and fast but demanding special bike skills". The triathlon ended with a 10km run.

### Whistle for referees

THE Army Basketball Association is compiling and updating a database of referees and coaches. Capt (Retd) Dave Maw would like to hear from grade one, two and three referees and national assistant table officials, grades one, two and three. He would also like to hear from all grades of basketball coaches. Capt Maw can be contacted at the Training Standards Branch, HQ Combat Engineer School, Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey GU17 9LP.

### Snow shortage on slope

A DISTINCT lack of snow at Monetier in France meant the Exercise Spartan Hike race programme had to be improvised. Despite the difficulties, a full schedule of races was completed in alpine and Nordic disciplines. A downhill race was out of the question so an extra Super G was skied instead.

The meeting started with 124 racers comprising 21 unit teams, which included nine members of the Army women's team.

Events were dominated by 4 AAC, who won all four team races and went on to win the Army championships. Second place in all four races went to 19 Regt RA, with 3 AAC finishing third in all but the slalom, where 1 BW took third place.

The 4 Division prize went to 4 AAC, with 19 Regt RA runners-up. Winners of the London District prize were 1 Coldm Gds and Scotland District winners were 1 BW.

Fortunes varied in the Ville Neuve competition, but the overall winners were HCR with 9/12 L runners-up and 1 SG third.

## FOOTBALL

# From killing fields to playing fields



Thumbs up for new strips: Capt Rick Kalewski (right) and Sgt Farrell, of the Kings Royal Hussars, with new supporters

SOLDIERS of The King's Royal Hussars used their Challenger tanks to bring peace to the town of Podujevo and its surrounding villages in the northern region of Kosovo. Now they are using football to bring the town's youngsters some fun.

It was clear the local children needed something to help them recover from the trauma of refugee life and persecution by the Serb army and police, so the soldiers laid out a pitch, put up goalposts and used the sympathetic British press and local radio to appeal for kit.

Team strips, boots, balls and other equipment poured in, including, rather incongruously, a shipment of skipping ropes, which were eagerly grabbed by the girls.

"The kids had lost everything," said KRH Quartermaster Capt Rick Kalewski, who has organised similar "football therapy" for children in Bosnia. "All their kit had been burned or looted. We're trying to make life as normal as possible for the children and football is something they are all interested in."

Now the youngsters are wearing the football strips of such famous teams as Arsenal and Liverpool and playing regularly on a pitch next door to the KRH base. There is a steady stream of lads knocking on the gate of the ammunition depot asking for their ball back.

Football is a national obsession in Kosovo, and the soldiers regularly play the semi-professional Podujevo teams... with, to put it politely, limited success.

# Late goals see off Middlesex

### Army 3, Middlesex 1

MIDDLESEX met the Army in a tough game of football at the Military Stadium in Aldershot, writes Derrick Bly.

The Army won 3 – 1, but it was well into the second half before they managed to pull ahead.

Spectators enjoyed a fast and entertaining game, with the first goal being scored in the sixth minute by Cpl Craig Wall. But Middlesex equalised in the 24th minute.

By half-time there had been a number of anxious moments in the Army defence.

It was not until ten minutes before the final whistle that Cfn Chris Ashurst took the Army into the lead again. A few minutes later Sgt Lee Dyson scored the final goal of the match.

It was a good-humoured and clean contest, and referee Maj Tony Rock enjoyed one of his least stressful games of the season.

Would contributors please remember to write the full first name, surname, rank and unit of anyone mentioned in reports. It would also be useful to include a contact telephone number.



## EQUESTRIANISM

# Riders get the jump on opposition

TOP military riders from five countries competed at the equestrian International Military Event at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, with the British team winning two gold medals.

None of the riders had seen their mounts before, let alone ridden them. But the horses from the Household Cavalry and The King's Troop proved their versatility, taking a break from ceremonial duties for a day out at Sandhurst.

For the first time since the competition was introduced in 1976, the British team included a rider from the Royal Navy. The other members were WO2 Richard Waygood, Life Guards, LCpl Sue Roberts, RAVC, and Capt Chris Haywood, Blues and Royals, who won the individual gold.

Waygood was presented with a pair of spurs for the best dressage score.



Jump to it: LCpl Sue Roberts tackles the cross-country course on her way to securing gold

## GOLF

# Sultans of swing raise their game



Four out of four: SSgt Dave Sanby, AGC(SPS)

ARMY golfers kept their nerve to see off a strong challenge from the RAF to become Inter-Services champions at Little Aston Golf Club near Sutton Coldfield.

The tournament produced some outstanding play, with Maj Steve Kaye, AGC (SPS), steering his team to victory.

Format of the event is similar to the Ryder Cup. Each team can select from a squad of ten nominated players; four pairs play foursomes in the morning and eight singles matches follow in the afternoon.

On the first day the RAF beat the Royal Navy 7½ points to 4½. The Army played the Royal Navy the next day and were well placed at 2½ to 1½ after the morning foursomes. In the afternoon singles, the Navy played well, winning by five points to three, which gave the Navy victory by a single point.

To win the event overall, the Army had to beat a strong RAF side, Inter-Services champions for the past two years, and win with at least 7½ points from the 12 available. The final scores were Army 13, RAF 12 and Royal Navy 11.

SSgt Dave Sanby, AGC (SPS), was one of only two players from the three teams to win all four of his matches.

## CANOEING

# Racers end season with great splash

ARMY canoeists have retained the Inter-Services marathon championships at Nottingham to cap a triumphant national and international season. They also successfully defended the sprint championships trophy.

The men's 12-mile K2 marathon event, held at the National Water Sports Centre, was dominated by Army paddlers, who took the first two places and six of the first eight spots. Overall they beat a strong RAF team into second place.

Leading the way were Maj Duncan Capps, RLC, and LCpl Richard Astridge, 30 Signal Regt.

In the women's K1 competition, former junior international Capt Sue Fowler (TPMH Akrotiri) took top spot while Capt Clare Hanlin and OCdt Sarah Clifford (32 Engr Regt/RMCS) were first home in the women's K2 event.

In the sprint events Army canoeists took first place in nine of the 11 races to win the championships, again beating the RAF into second place. Fowler completed a clean sweep in the women's events with victories in K1 and K2 together with Hanlin in the 200m and Webster in the 500m.





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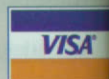
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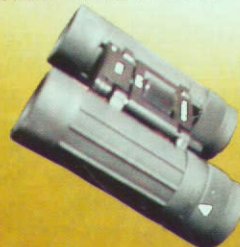
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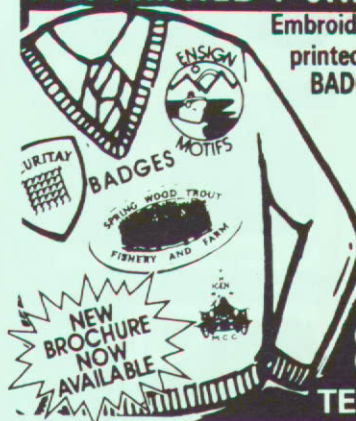
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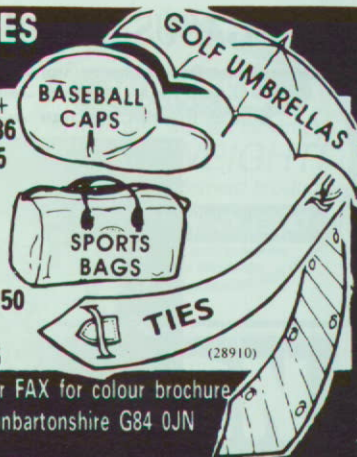
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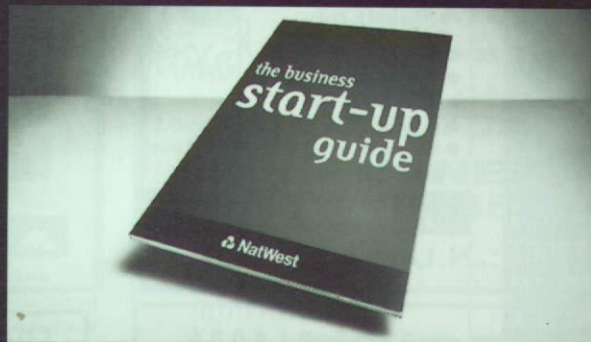


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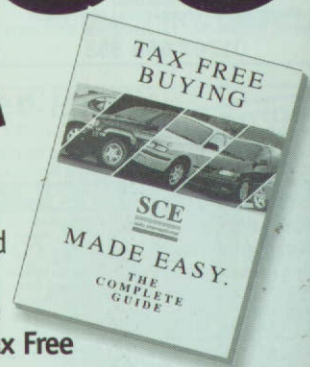
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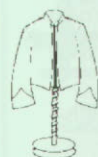
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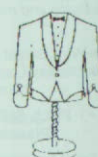
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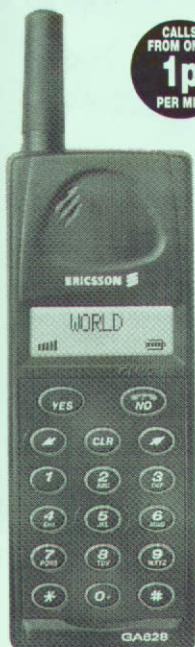


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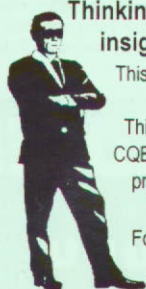
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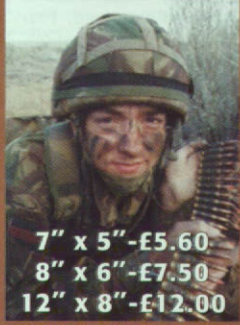
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**Kathy, 5'7"**, 37-year-old blonde with medium build. Enjoys eating in/out, going to the cinema, car boot and antique sales and gardening. Would like to hear from pen pals, 30-40. **P580**

**Alan, 5'11"**, 18-year-old soldier with medium build and green eyes. Likes keeping fit, pubs and clubs, reading and generally having a good time. Seeking female pen pals, 18-25. **P581**

**Janie, 32**, voluptuous blonde with piercing blue eyes and VGSOH. Enjoys wine-making, holidays abroad, pubbing, clubbing and living life to the full. Seeking male soldiers, 25-40, to correspond with. Will reply to all letters. **P582**

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**Melissa, 5'2"**, 25-year-old, petite blonde with a friendly and caring personality. Main interests are dancing and aerobics classes. Would like to hear from pen pals, 25-40. **P585**

**Julie, 32, 5'4"**, blue eyes, brown hair and bubbly personality. Interests include music, reading, the cinema, travelling within the UK, relaxing and cooking. Seeking pen pals, any age and will reply to all letters. **P586**

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The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at The Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum, Serle's House, Southgate Street, Winchester or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

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## WANTED

**Wanted - Falklands conflict 1982**, collector wants original items including letters, maps, reports, photographs. Anything Argentinian considered. No bayonets/uniforms. Send details to: *Soldier Magazine*, P O Box 002, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 11/99

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# ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

**September 18, 1999**

**First prize (28 goals, £4,000):** Sgt AM Holmes, 29 Regt RLC, South Cerney.

**Six-way tie for second prize: (27 goals, £983.33 each):** Cpl L Gritton, 9 Fd Wksp REME, Bordon; Capt TH Halse, RMA Sandhurst; Pte SS Kenyon, Gibraltar Regt; WO1 VH Moon, Cyprus JPU, Episkopi; SSgt VA Page, BOD Bicester; Sgt RJG Speirs, RAC Centre, Bovington.

**14-way tie for eighth prize (26 goals, £42.86 each):** WO2 S Air, Tyne Tees, Ashington; Maj SSMA Allardice, AFCC Brighton; Lt Col RT Carman, BVD Ashchurch; Maj M Comben, RAGTT (UK), Larkhill; Cpl JA Evans, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; Lcpl BM Franklin, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford; Cpl RBJ Martin, ITC Catterick; Capt TGM Murphy, 1 RRF, North Luffenham; SSgt SR Quarmby, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh; WO2 CA Riddle, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabrück; Lcpl AS Robinson, 2 RRF, Celle; Cpl PA Rogers, HQ UKSC (G), Rheindahlen; Cpl MI Silvester, MES (Wks), RAF High Wycombe; Cpl WM Wardrope, 225 Signal Sqn.

**10-way tie for first prize**

**(22 goals, £1,050 each):** WO1 P Appleby, ASPT, Aldershot; CSgt P Baker, RMA Sandhurst; WO2 NP Bevan, 32 Engr Regt, Hohn; Capt WHL Davies, Scots DG, Fallingb.; Lcpl SR Dey, 2 RTR, Fallingb.; Pte M Glen, 1 GH, Osnabrück; Bdr MF Jarvis, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Capt D Jones, Dental Centre, Osnabrück; Cpl PE Maguire, 4 Armd Bde Signal Sqn, Osnabrück; Lcpl RJ Powell, Warminster Sp Unit.

**OCTOBER 2, 1999**

**First prize (26 goals, £4,000):** SSgt A Masters, 5 Regt RA, Catterick.

**Five-way tie for second prize (25 goals, £1,100 each):** Maj R Bhabutta, MOD AMD, Ash Vale; Cpl D Rainey, 9 R Irish; Lcpl SA Sanders, 2 RGJ, Paderborn; Sgt MA Seagrave, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford; Maj P Thompson, SASC TAG (N), Strensal.

**21-way tie for seventh prize (24 goals, £47.62 each):** WO2 IK Barltrop, Army Foundation College, Harrogate; SSgt PK Bunday, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; SSgt AJ Button, MASU Repair, Gosport; WO2

TR Cheetham, UKDSU Heidelberg; Pte N Dobson, ATR Winchester; Sgt EC Evans, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh; Maj CR Ferguson, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham; WO2 GMD Fost, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Cpl RA Gibson, 2 Regt RMP; Lcpl GJ Holmes, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn; Lcpl GA James, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon; SSgt CR Jarrett, Londons; SSgt JDM Macnab, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gütersloh; Lcpl GO McLean, 2 Armd Fd Amb, Münster; Spr BL Mullany, 42 Svy Engr Gp, Hermitage; Lcpl SA Pearce, 2 RGJ, Paderborn; Lt BJ Rayment, 2 R Anglian, Dhekelia; Sgt W Roberts, HQ 16 Air Asslt Bde, Colchester; CSgt C Rowe, 1 RRF, Paderborn; Lcpl JP Taylor, 2 Armd Fd Amb, Münster; WO2 CM Ward, 821 EOD Sqn RLC, Didcot.

**OCTOBER 9, 1999**

**Five-way tie for first prize (22 goals, £1,800 each):** WO2 JT Brechin, Scottish Tp Regt, Dunfermline; Lcpl JK Davidson, 36 Engr Regt, Maidstone; Lt Col RR Holmes, HQ Nato, Brussels; Capt AS Macgill, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE, Chivenor; Lcpl MA Raasch-Sotinwa, 1 RSME, Chatham.

**15-way tie for sixth prize**

**(21 goals, £100 each):** Maj AG Aitken, BMM Kuwait; CSgt BM Bradbury, School of Infantry, Warminster; Sgt MC Canham, 69 MC Sqn RLC, Münster; Capt PAJ Casson-Crook, RRV, Oxford; Cpl PA Derry, 1 Stafford, Tern Hill; WO1 C Hamilton, AGC Trg Gp, Worthy Down; CSgt A Hay, 1 RRF, North Luffenham; Cpl AN Hutchison, BOD Bicester; Sgt SC McKean, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth; Cpl LD Morgan, 2 Bn REME, Fallingb.; Sgt IM Mortimore, 847 Naval Air Sqn, Yeovilton; Lcpl AP Simpson, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gütersloh; WO2 PL Stretton, MOD DM (A), Upavon; SSgt SD Warren, HQ NI; Capt DTH Wilson, 7 Armd Bde Signal Sqn, Hohn.

Owing to the non-participation of Premiership clubs on October 9, the following second and third division clubs replaced Premiership teams on the lines shown: 14 Barnet, 15 Brentford; 20 Brighton; 24 Cardiff; 25 Carlisle; 26 Cheltenham; 27 Chester; 31 Darlington; 32 Exeter; 33 Hartlepool; 34 Hull; 35 Leyton O; 36 Mansfield; 4 Peterborough; 5 Plymouth; 6 Rochdale; 8 Shrewsbury; 9 Southend; 11 Swansea; 12 Torquay.

**SEPTEMBER 25, 1999**

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# Diary

## Cyprus lays on tour treat for Roger's return

CYPRUS "old boy" Roger Price was given a guided tour of Episkopi Garrison after his wife, Pauline, set up a surprise visit.

Roger, who lives in Bristol and retired recently, had spent his National Service days with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps on the then very troubled island.



Back on the island: Roger Price, right, with GSM Jeff Ashton

Picture: SSgt Geordie Hay

He was whisked off by WO1 Jeff Ashton, the Garrison Sergeant Major, and WO2 Ewan Bowie, RLC, formerly of the RAOC, for a trip around the garrison followed by lunch in the Sergeants' Mess. It was a far cry from his posting there between 1956 and 1958, when Roger was billeted under canvas and found himself in the middle of the Eoka campaign.

Roger experienced terrorist attacks at first hand and when he wasn't transporting supplies to units at Troodos Camp was called to active service on patrol in Nicosia. He recalled one attack which destroyed the cookhouse, power-house and water pumping station, leaving the troops with no amenities for three weeks.

Holding the garrison plaque presented to him by the GSM, Roger said: "Ever since my service days 41 years ago I have loved Cyprus. The hospitality from the garrison was outstanding. We never expected this and they have made an 'old boy' very happy."

## Howards star on screen

THE Green Howards Museum features on a new screen-saver which can be downloaded free from the Internet for a 14-day trial period. It features 41 photographs portraying the history of The Green Howards and can be obtained at [www.natureimage.com/greenhowards.htm](http://www.natureimage.com/greenhowards.htm)

## DATES

### OCTOBER

22: Royal British Legion's Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance, Winter Gardens, Margate. Contact D Stokes 01843 292882.

### NOVEMBER

6: Concert by Band of the Light Division in aid of Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Bicester Garrison Theatre. Tickets on 01865 553151.

13-14: Salisbury Militaria Society annual exhibition, Red Lion, Milford St, Salisbury, 1030.

27: British Model Soldier Society annual show, The Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath, 1000-1630.

● To include public events, contact the Editor.

## Running reverends head for wilderness

TWENTY Army chaplains are to take part in one of the more esoteric millennium projects planned by the Army. They are in training to run a combined 2,000 miles (one for every year since the birth of Christ) across the Sinai Desert.

Exercise Millennium Pilgrim's aims include raising £50,000 for children's hospitals in Jerusalem and Bethlehem and another £50,000 for SSAFA. The runners, who will each log up 100 miles, will also have time to reflect on their faith as they visit St Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai, Nazareth, Capernaum, Cana and Jerusalem. A third goal is to highlight the unique work of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

The running reverends, whose mission has the personal backing of Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, plan to fly to Tel Aviv on November 18 and begin their epic journey on the Taba border the following day. God willing, they will achieve their 2,000th mile on December 4.

To become involved by direct sponsorship, donation of equipment, gift aid or deed of covenant, contact the Rev Clinton Langston, Exercise Millennium Pilgrim, BFPO 804.



Marching: 50 Inf Div veterans at Ver sur Mer

## Town honours 50 Inf Div

A STREET in the Normandy coastal town of Ver sur Mer has been dedicated to the memory of soldiers of the 50th Infantry Division, who went ashore there at H-Hour on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Survivors of the Gold Beach landing watched the mayor unveil a commemorative pillar. Driving force behind the project was the comrades' association of 86 (Hertfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment RA, whose veterans were helped on the day by serving soldiers from 201 (Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Battery RA(V).

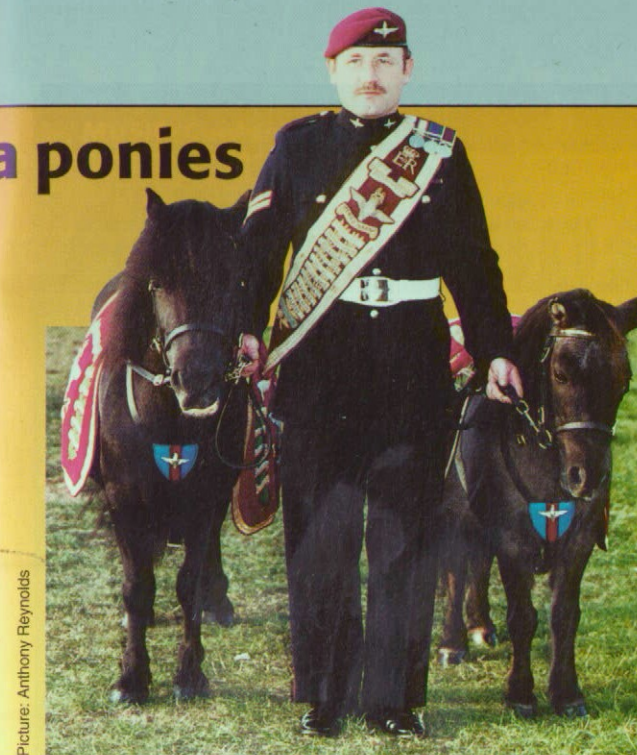
Other units represented included 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and the 5th Battalion, The East Yorkshire Regiment.

## Pride of the Para ponies

On parade: The Parachute Regiment's Shetland mascots, LCpl Pegasus and LCpl Falklands (or Dodger, as he is known to his friends), pictured with Pony Major Cpl Stephen Osborne, Para, had a starring role in what was said to be the largest pony show in the world. The trio made guest appearances at the two gala performances of the British Show Pony Society's 50th anniversary championship show at Peterborough.

They took part in the opening sequence and reappeared for the closing ceremony, during which Sgt Peter MacFarlane of F Coy, Scots Guards, played a lament and Cpl Darren Tucker and Musn Peter Bayley of the Minden Band of the Queen's Division played the *Sunset* call.

More than 5,000 spectators, not to mention 2,000 ponies and their assorted handlers, were treated to a display of impeccable discipline by the Parachute Regiment's Shetlands.



Picture: Anthony Reynolds

## Pilot scholarship

CLOSING date for a Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators' airline transport pilot's licence scholarship is Nov 15. For an application form, send an sae to GAPAN, Cobham House, 291 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8QE, marking your letter "Scholarship".

## Bored in Berwick? Never!

A rather splendid new 36-page full-colour guidebook to Berwick Barracks and the Northumberland town's fortifications suggests that drink and boredom were the garrison's main enemies. It adds, somewhat euphemistically, that "many men were drawn into a culture of excess".

Given its strategic position at the eastern extremity of the long-disputed border between England and Scotland, it is not surprisingly that Berwick became one of the outstanding fortified towns in Europe. The guide, *Berwick Barracks and Fortifications*, is worth a read in itself. It is available on site or by post from English Heritage Postal Sales, PO Box 229, Northampton NN6 9RY, price £2.25.

## Sign up to a cover story

NO 10 Squadron RAF is marketing flown and signed "Soldiers' Tale" postal covers for charity. Each will bear a full set of stamps, have a special handstamp, flight cachet and squadron crest. Signatories include Prime Minister Tony Blair (£25), former Defence Secretary Lord Robertson (£20), Nato spokesman Jamie Shea (£15), CDS Gen Sir Charles Guthrie and C-in-C KFOR Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson (£10). You would also pay £4 for the pilot's signature and £50 the lot. Orders, with cheques made out to "SIF RAF Brize Norton" to Philatelic Officer, No 10 Sqn, RAF Brize Norton, Oxford OX18 3LX.

## Two become one...

TWO regiments within the Army Cadet Force were merged at Cameron Barracks, Inverness when the Queen's Own Highlanders and the Gordon Highlanders were renamed as the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Highlanders.

## C-in-C puts blind faith in Kuston Kid

THE car slewed round the corner, narrowly missing a Range Rover approaching on the Surrey country lane. Rain hammered down. The car shuddered to a sudden stop, causing the navigator's finger to score across his braille notes, obliterating valuable instructions.

A slight exaggeration, but this was the first time blinded ex-Servicemen had been in the annual braille rally run for the visually impaired by Kingston-upon-Thames Lions Club in association with Malden and District Motor Club and in co-operation with St Dunstan's, the charity which cares for blinded Servicemen and women.

Braille notes giving mileages, speeds and instructions – for example: TL (turn left) at traffic lights – for the 76-mile course were given to the blind navigators just before take-off.

Of the 24 competitors, four were St Dunstaners, teamed up with drivers from their former regiments or corps. Ray Hazan, who served with 2 R Anglian and lost a hand and was blinded by an IRA parcel bomb in London-derry in 1973, was driven by Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C Land Command and Colonel of The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The Grenadier Guards Association donated a trophy – a statuette of a Grenadier Guardsman in 1925 uniform with Lee Enfield rifle – for the winning St Dunstan's navigator and a bonus came in the form of WO2 (RQMS) Neville Bould, Gren Gds, who added presence to the occasion in ceremonial uniform.

St Dunstaner Sid Doy, 82, an ex-Grenadier who was blinded at Dunkirk in 1940, had spent several weeks brushing up on his braille. He was driven – and kept in order – by former



Rallying to the cause: From left, back, are the C-in-C Land Command, Gen Sir Michael Walker, John Gilbert, Sid Doy and WO2 Neville Bould; and in the front, Terry Walker and Ray Hazan

Capt Don Ashworth, Gren Gds; ex-sapper John Gilbert was driven by Maj Tom Wye, RE; and Terry Walker, ex-REME, joined forces with Kevin Hayat, a civilian attached to a REME workshop in Aldershot.

For four hours the teams battled it out, often passing other competitors going in the opposite direction.

Ray, who earned the nickname "Kuston Kid", explained: "You try reading the difference between the 'u' sign in braille and the 'ing' sign in a car flying over sleeping policemen."

Gen Walker gave each of the 25 navigators a certificate. Of the St Dunstaners, Ray Hazan beat John Gilbert to the Grenadier Guards trophy, while Sid Doy received an award from the Institute of Advanced Motorists for the most game first-timer.

Next year's Braille Rally will take place on September 17. Anyone interested in taking part as a driver should contact Ray Hazan, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London, W1A 4XB.

## Legends of the regiments and corps

5

Fusiliers' Museum, Lancashire  
Wellington Barracks, Bury



Scorched: Detail from a print of "The Capture of the City of Washington"

## House of fire

EVER wondered how the White House, one of the most famous facades on the planet, got its name? Look no further than the Fusiliers' Museum, Lancashire, at Wellington Barracks in Bury.

One Col Robert Ross, whose uniform resides in the museum, led the 20th Regiment of Foot throughout the Peninsular War and was promoted to brigadier general just before being wounded at Orthes in February 1814.

Six months later the Duke of Wellington selected Ross to lead an Army expedition to Chesapeake in America to avenge the sacking of York, now known as Toronto.

## PRESIDENT'S MEAL

On August 24 he defeated the American army at Bladensburg and entered Washington the same day. He and his officers ate a meal laid by President Madison, who had fled across the Potomac.

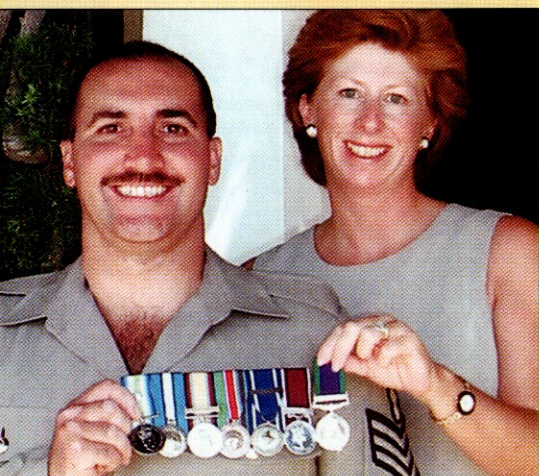
Ross ordered the destruction of public buildings, including Madison's residence, then marched on Baltimore, where he was killed by a sniper on September 12, 1814.

The Americans painted the exterior of the President's Residence white to cover the scorch marks. Although it was completely rebuilt in 1817, it has been known as the White House ever since.

● The museum is open at Wellington Barracks from 0930-1630 daily except Wednesdays and Sundays. Tel 0161 764 2208.



# Bulletin board



Seventh heaven: **SSgt Mario Reid**, pictured with proud wife **Sarah**, has just received his seventh medal, the General Service with Northern Ireland clasp. He is one of only three serving Royal Engineers to have achieved that number. Mario, from 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE based at Dhekelia, has just learned he is to be promoted WO2 and posted to 32 Engineer Regiment at Paderborn, Germany. His other medals were awarded for service in the Falklands (1982), with the UN in Cyprus (1987-89), in the Gulf (1990-91), with the UN and Nato in Bosnia (1995-96), and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (1996).

## Now you can grow your own poppies

Once the Royal British Legion's sole fund-raising operation was to sell paper poppies on street corners. Now, thanks to modern marketing techniques, you can buy the seeds to grow the real thing.

Packets of 2,000 are being sold by the Legion's energetic merchandising arm RBL Industries through a 32-page Millennium catalogue.

Goods on offer range from militaria such as regimental ties and medal-holders to CDs, videos, bone china, jewellery, kitchen and garden ware and golf balls, many of the items bearing the famous poppy motif.

There's even a poppy credit card, which you may wish to use to book a 15-day, £1,299 tour of Australia through the Legion's own holiday brochure.

Readers can obtain the catalogue from RBLI, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7NL (tel 01622 717202, fax 882195, e-mail: [supplylines@rbli.co.uk](mailto:supplylines@rbli.co.uk)).

## APPOINTMENTS

**Senior appointments:** Maj Gen C F Drewry, late WG, to be Commander ARRC in the rank of lieutenant general, Jan; Maj Gen A D Pigott, late RE, to be DCDS (Commitments) in rank of lieutenant general, March; Maj Gen T J Granville-Chapman, late RA, to be Adjutant General in the rank of lieutenant general, May; Maj Gen P V R Besgrove, late REME, to be ACOS (Resources), HQ Regional Command South (Naples), Dec; Maj Gen R G Reith, late Para, to be ACDS (Policy), Jan; Maj Gen J D Moore-Bick, late RE, to be Mil Assist to High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Jan; Maj Gen B P Plummer, later RWF, appointed DGTS, HQ Land Command, Aug 31; Brig I T Houghton, late RAMC, to be

## PRIZE-WINNERS

● Three winners of copies of *The Korean War*, Michael Hickey's account of the 1950-53 war against communism (July issue), were: H Tomlinson, Halifax; Ms A Tilley, Windlesham; I Chapman, BFPO 26.

● The ten **Delph** sunscreen and after-sun combinations (July issue) were won by D Klein, Cheshire; Mrs M K Newport, Oxford; Cpl D Gracey, High Wycombe; SSgt A J Moutray, BFPO 19; Mrs E J Lett, London; L Mathews, Essex; Ms Louise Spalding, Solihull; M Wingate, Malvern; Mrs J Foley, Abingdon; K Russell, Swindon.

## SEARCHLINE

Anyone wishing to join a new **King's Own Scottish Borderers Association** branch in Lanarkshire is asked to contact Robert Cruickshank, 5 Hillview, Kirkfieldbank, Lanark ML11 9JX (tel 01555 665180).

Families of soldiers who won meritorious service awards during the **Boer War** are sought by historian Mike Hardisty, a member of South Africa's central steering committee for the Boer War centenary commemoration. In particular he wishes to trace relatives of three VC winners, **Lt H E M Douglas** RAMC, **Capt E B Towse**, Gordons, and **Lt F N Parsons**, Essex Regt, and to correspond with families of any of the 78 soldiers of the Boer War who received VCs. Replies to Mike Hardisty at PO Box 3241, 2121 Parklands, Johannesburg, South Africa.

George Gregory of Belper, Derbyshire, who served with the RAOC and was a prisoner of war at Moji, Japan from 1941 to VJ Day, wishes to trace relatives of **Sgt Joseph Maloney** of 85 Anti-Tank Regt, also held at Moji. Sgt Maloney, who died in captivity, may have been an Irishman living in Blackpool. Any information to David Stringer on 01332 291111 ext 6456.

Former members of **A Troop, 1st Commonwealth Division Signals, Korea 1951-52** sought by ex-Cpl **Tex Atkins**. He also wishes to contact **Eric Bestwick**, his best man while serving with **16 Para Bde Signals** at Farnborough in 1950. Replies to 4 Scotch Court, Sunbury, Victoria, Australia 3429 or e-mail [satkins@corplink.com.au](mailto:satkins@corplink.com.au)

Son of the late **Sydney Coombs**, who served as a signaller in **5 Command Signals (1940-42)** and in the **RAOC (1942-46)** at 17 and 15 Ordnance Depots, and took part in the D-Day

appointed Honourary Surgeon to the Queen from Sept 1 in succession to Col R S P Tamlyn, late RAMC.

**Colonels:** C A Atkins – to be Dental Officer, Dental Centre Lichfield, Sept 13; H M Fletcher – to be Deputy UKMILDEL WEU Brussels, Sept 13; J J Little – to be PM LLV Abbey Wood, Sept 13; I R Liles – to be Dep Comd 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, Sept 13.

**Lieutenant Colonel:** M A Armstrong, REME – to DEME(A), Apr 4; T W Canham, R Signals – to SHAPE, Oct 4; J W Clark, R Signals – to CJPS, Sept 27; A C Cuthbert, QRH – to JSCSC, Aug 31; J G Davies, REME – to DESS, Aug 31; L I M Dawson, RLC – to

Winners of the eight **Thorpe Park** family tickets (July issue) were: J de Hoop, Brighton; Sgt G Knighten, Bulford; D J Boltwood, Waterlooville; D McDonald, Bulford Camp; R Winter, Hythe, Kent; Mrs J Foley, Abingdon; G Chandler, South Cerney; B R Marshall, Sunderland.

● The four family day tickets to **Butlins** family entertainment resort, Bognor Regis (July issue) were won by Mrs D Stoyles, Bordon; Mrs J Clement, c/o 7 Signal Regt, BFPO 35; Cpl D Wilson, 5 Bn REME, Bordon; Mr and Mrs M Astin, Mansfield.

landings on June 6, 1944, seeks photographs of him in uniform. Replies to Mr M P Coombs, 7 Wood Stanway Drive, Bishop's Cleeve, Cheltenham, Glos GL52 4TL (tel 01242 673484).

Undergraduate researching the **Malayan Emergency 1948-60** seeks information on all aspects of civil and military campaigns. Contact Mark Tunnah, 9 Edward Street, Dudley, W Midlands DY1 2AE.

George Henderson wishes to obtain a copy of the film *Tunes of Glory*, starring Alec Guinness and John Mills and set in a Scottish garrison after the Second World War. It is no longer available from commercial sources. Replies to 8 Elford Crescent, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 4BT (tel 01752 339944).

Anyone who knows the locations of or has pictures of surviving **Chieftain** tanks in any form in the UK is asked to contact R Griffin, 63 Redwell Road, Matson, Glos GL4 6JJ (tel 01452 381736, fax 01452 416995) or e-mail [Rob6@compuserve.com](mailto:Rob6@compuserve.com)

Information on militia, territorial and service battalions' **regimental colours**, 1900-1999, sought for book. Details of when and where presented and final laying-up required. Contact D O'Brien, 45 Winchester Avenue, Kingsbury, London NW9 9TA.

J Winterbottom seeks news of National Service colleague **Roy Freeman**, who came from Birmingham and served with him in the RAOC from 1954 to 1956. They did basic training at Hilsea Barracks, Portsmouth and were stationed at No 1 Returned Stores Coy, No 4 GS RSG, 20 Bn RAOC, Vinnhorst, Hannover, Germany. Replies to 55 Newhey Road, Benchill, Manchester M22 9NB.

Unicom, July 19; R W Dennis, PWRR – to DGD&D, Sept 21; M F Dixon, REME – to DGES(A), July 19; G A Douglas, A and SH – to DPS(A), Nov 8; C J Drapper, REME – to DESS, July 26; J M Edwards, REME – to SES(A), Aug 23; R N M Eggar, RA – to DGD&D, Sept 23; R J L Fellowes, KRH – to RAC Centre, May 1; R J Good, R Signals – to DRUMM, Aug 1.

B W Hamilton, REME – to RMCS, Sept 27; M A Hughes, REME – to HQ Land, Sept 13; A D K Inkster, RA – to HQ Land, June 18; C H Jackman, RLC – to BOD Bicester, Oct 27; A R Law, RLC – to DSDA, April 2; A J E Malcolm, WG – to JSCSC, Oct 4; F G Moss, Staffords – to HQ NI, Sept 27; J R M Palmer, KRH – to

## MUSIC/Gordon Turner



# A flowering of Gurkha music

LARI Gurans (the Red Rhododendron) is the national flower of Nepal, home of those wonderful fighting soldiers, the Gurkhas. It is also the name of the folk group of the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas, who recently recorded a programme of traditional music.

In addition to the folk group, a few tracks are performed by the military band. While the tunes are Eastern in sound, the various arrangers must be complimented on the skilful way they have harmonised them.

Simply titled **Lali Gurans**, this CD is available from Droit Music Ltd, PO Box 2638, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 7HJ, price £12 incl p&p.

Possibly the finest British military band recording I have heard for many, many years is **An Edwardian Bandstand**, played by the Band of the Coldstream Guards. There are 12 tracks, including such classics as *Die Felsenmühle Von Etahiers*, *Der Geist Der Wowoiden*, *The Bamboula* and *La Tarentella De Belphegor*.

More familiar tracks are *Softly Awakes My Heart*, *The Bond of Friendship*, *Steadfast and True* and the delightful overture to *The Arcadians*.

Playing and recording are superb

throughout. Available from the Band of the Coldstream Guards, Wellington Barracks, London SW1E 6HQ, price £12 plus £2 p&p (overseas customers add 20 per cent).

A newcomer to the recording market is Midland CD Recordings. Their first issue features the Band of The Parachute Regiment in a programme that features the military band, fanfare trumpets, big band, German band and the various other combinations that bands of today are required to produce.

Titled **Portfolio**, it has something for everyone and I am sure it will be a great success, especially selling at concerts. For traditionalists like myself, who prefer a good helping of military bands or big bands, the styles and types of music change too frequently, but it does live up to its title and is indeed a portfolio of music. Available from Midland CD Recordings, 201 Callowbrook Lane, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9TG.

Finally, for those who still prefer the vinyl to CD, the International Military Music Society issued four LPs with recordings from old 78s. They still have a few for sale. Anyone interested should send a sae to IMMS, c/o PO Box 2638, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN20 7HJ.

## REUNIONS

**The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt (London Branch):** Christmas social, Dec 3, Victory Services Club, London W2. Details from Veronica Joel Newton on 0181 888 9739.

**Royal Artillery Association, Exeter Branch:** Dinner-dance at St Luke's College, Heavitree Road, Exeter, on Dec 17. Details from John Seatherton, 8 Seabrook Avenue, Countess

Wear, Exeter EX2 7DW (tel 01392 874072).

**723 (CS) Squad RM (1959-60):** All ranks reunion at RMA Club, Eastney, on March 18. Contact Dave Prichard on 01222 790233.

**4 Coy, 3 Bn, Coldm Gds (1950-55):** Eighth reunion dinner in Birmingham on April 15. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull, HU4 7QE. (tel 01482 503649).

**Parachute Regiment Band:** With a reunion planned in June, former members of the 1, 2 and 3 Para battalion bands, the Falklands and Pegasus Bands and the Para Band are asked to contact Sgt Andy Ellis, Para Band, New Normandy Barracks, Aldershot or e-mail [reunion@paraband.freemove.co.uk](mailto:reunion@paraband.freemove.co.uk) (web page at [www.paraband.freemove.co.uk](http://www.paraband.freemove.co.uk)).

**St George's School, Hong Kong:** Next reunion takes place at Falcon Hotel, Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon on Aug 18-20.

**Arborfield Army Apprentices Intakes 50A and 50B:** Reunion planned for Oct next year. Contact Clem Clements on 01604 712128 or Tom Lennox on 01423 865225.

## Videos

# 100 reasons why Army is the best

TOWARDS the end of the second half of the *Century of Army* video boxed set an Army Training Regiment major passes on to his spruce young recruits a rarely challenged claim.

"The British Army is the best army in the world," he declares, "because it has the best trained soldiers in the world."

There is no reason why his statement *should* be challenged. As we are reminded in this "newsreel history", since the Boer War the Army has had 100 years of hard experience to learn some difficult lessons well and with great courage and sacrifice, as on the Western Front, at Dunkirk, Dieppe, Normandy, Anzio, Arnhem, Suez and, crucially, in Northern Ireland.

It has also had the kind of wide-ranging experience – the Western Desert, Burma, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus, the Falklands, the Gulf and the Balkans – to enable it to fight the battles and keep the peace anywhere in the world, in any conditions.

## SEAMLESS

Bryan Wolfe's lucid script and Robert Powell's smoothly modulated and seamless narration turn film and video footage of inevitably inconsistent quality and sometimes disproportionate length – less than a minute to cover 30 years in Northern Ireland – into a concise overview of events which also serves to capture the spirit of the Army's century.

It would be dishonest to argue perfection and there are other *faux pas*, but only in detail. See if you can spot them.

The set, commissioned by W H Smith as part of a series of nine including the Royal Navy, RAF and Sport, was produced by Leading Edge for Green Umbrella and retails at £19.99 (*Soldier* reader offer, Page 26).

## Other releases:

**Forgotten Men.** A real scoop for military history buffs – rediscovered 1934 film on the First World War, introduced by Gallipoli commander Gen Sir Ian Hamilton and featuring interviews with many Western Front veterans as well as uncensored combat footage. (DD Video, £12.99.)

**World in Flames.** Comprehensive film history of the Second World War. (WH Smith, DD Video, £19.99.)

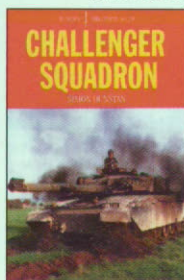
**The World War Two Collection.** Series of 16 bargain-priced titles covering the war, including *D-Day Eyewitness*, *Desert Victory* and *Burma Victory*. (DD Video, £10.99 each.)

**The True Glory.** Footage shot by 700 Allied combat cameramen (32 of whom died in action) from D-Day onwards. (DD Video, £10.99.)



## Challenger tanks, inside and out

INTRODUCED in the early 1980s, the Challenger main battle tank had its finest hour – or 100

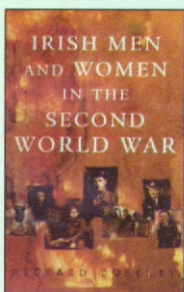


hours, to be precise – during the 1991 Gulf War, destroying a considerable quantity of Iraqi armour, and has also played a significant role with Nato in the former Yugoslavia. With Challenger 2 now establishing itself in service, military

photographer and historian Simon Dunstan has woven an authoritative text around almost 100 internal and external, static and operational colour pictures of both versions in **Challenger Squadron** (The Crowood Press, paperback, £10.95).

## Irish who supported Britain's war effort

HOW many Irish men and women served in the British forces, 1939-45? Contemporary newspaper

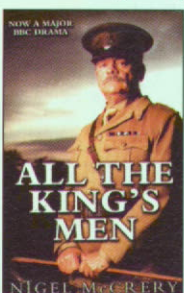


figures ranged from 150,000 to 300,000. Searching for the answer, Richard Doherty found that more than 98,000 served in the Army alone. The 320 pages of **Irish Men and Women in the Second World War** (Four Courts Press, Dublin, £19.95) were

not enough to describe such a rich pageant of groups and individuals, so a companion volume will include the experiences of the Irish serving with Commonwealth and US forces.

## Over the top and into oblivion

ESTATE workers from Sandringham sent to Gallipoli in 1915, King George V's Own Volunteer



Company of the 5th Norfolk advanced from their trenches one day and simply vanished. Now Nigel McCrery's readable story of their fate, **All the King's Men** (Pocket Books, £6.99), is reissued as a 125-page paperback to coincide with the TV

production starring David Jason. The narrative is packed with personal detail but lacks the warmth to bring the soldiers to life, so that when they disappear you find yourself saying: "So did millions of others."

# 'Sporting war' myth exposed

AS IF the people of Ladysmith during the famous siege were not having enough of the sound of artillery, a century ago, on November 9, 1899, a 21-gun salute was fired to celebrate the Prince of Wales's birthday.

On the same day, Lewis Childs tells us in *Ladysmith: The Siege*, the Boers asked the British for chlorodyne to treat dysentery – and were given it.

Days later the Gordon Highlanders were playing football against the Border Mounted Rifles when a shell passed overhead. The game went on, the shelling ceased and the Boers were seen on their parapet watching the match.

As with the Christmas truce of 1914, when British and German soldiers on the Western Front played football in no man's land, chivalrous incidents were apparently rare and the impression of a "gentleman's" war an illusion.

Ladysmith's siege population, described in the discriminatory statistics of the time as consisting of "12,500 officers and men . . . locked up along with 5,400 civilians and 2,400 Blacks and Indians" (the last

**Ladysmith: The Siege** by Lewis Childs (Leo Cooper, paperback, £9.95). **The Boer War** by Tabitha Jackson (Channel 4 Books, £16.99).

grouping, writes Childs, presumably not counting as Servicemen or civilians) was destined to endure nearly four months of bombardment.

As the author puts it, "it seems strange that even in this war when there were so many uses and abuses of the conventions of chivalry, the Boers found the shelling of civilians to be acceptable."

"But then, later in the war, the British hierarchy did not believe that conditions in concentration camps were as terrible as they had allowed them to be."

The siege began on November 2, 1899. When Buller's relief force entered the town the following February he found just four days' food rations left and 800 sick and wounded.

The myth of the "gentleman's war" is blown away by Tabitha Jackson in *The Boer War*, published to accompany the recent Channel 4 TV

series. She unearthed many unpublished photographs, letters, diaries and eye-witness accounts, including those of black South Africans, and exposed acts of barbarism on both sides which today would be termed war crimes.

She describes not only the manner in which the British failed their black soldiers and communities who were active against the Boers, but also the burning of more than 30,000 Boer farms, the looting, the rapes, and the destruction of crops and livestock.

In the concentration camps (invented not by the British but by the Spanish during the Cuban insurrection of 1897-98, when the system resulted in 200,000 deaths), almost 28,000 Boers are said to have perished, 22,000 under the age of 16, while 14,000 black South Africans died in the 60 British camps allotted to them.

Jackson describes atrocities committed by the Boers. But for the sake of perspective it has to be said that, in the jingoistic mood of 100 years ago, attitudes to actions which would now be judged horrific were very different. – BJ

## IN BRIEF

**The Territorial Army 1999, Vol 1** compiled and edited by M A Heyman. A comprehensive and heavily illustrated snapshot of the TA before the changes under the Strategic Defence Review. This first volume covers the Yeomanry, Infantry, RA and AAC. Available to *Soldier* readers at £22.50, p&p free from R & F Defence Publications, Barkers Chambers, 1-2 Barker Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1SB.

**Why the Germans Lose at War** by Kenneth Macksey. Analysis of flawed brilliance, originally published in 1996. (Greenhill Military Paperback, £11.95.)

**Gunner Green's War (1938-1946)** by L J Green. A story rich with squaddie humour, which follows Les "Dodger" Green's war from Tobruk to the occupation of Germany. (Pentland Press, hardback, £19.50.)

**Pegasus Bridge: Merville Battery** by Carl Shilleto. The story of the attack told with the help of many personal accounts and many illustrations. Latest in the Battleground Europe series. (Pen & Sword Books, £9.95.)

**Dictionary of Napoleonic Wars** by Stephen Pope. Blockbusting 569-page guide to two decades of Napoleonic warfare. (Cassell Military, hardback, £35.)

**The Heat of Battle: 16th Durham Light Infantry** by Peter Hart. Latest in the Pen & Sword Regimental Action series based on the Imperial War Museum's unparalleled sound archive. (Hardback, £19.95.)

## 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 professional military booksearch. Helion & Company, 26 Willow

Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315).

E-mail address: [books@helion.co.uk](mailto:books@helion.co.uk)  
Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>





More, please: Detail from the cover of *The Irish Regiments 1683-1999*, one of many excellent pictures

# Humour in uniform

WHAT a pleasure it is to review the second edition of this standard work on the Irish regiments.

Brig Henry Wilson's revision of R G Harris's book retains the style of the original while updating it to take account of amalgamations and developments since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The enthusiasm, humour and resilience of Irish troops shines through in the light touch of the text and the marvellous range and variety of illustrations.

The illustrations are one of the book's greatest strengths. Photographs, paintings and drawings, they are so numerous and well chosen that they bring life to the history of every regiment, though only a

**The Irish Regiments 1683-1999** by R G Harris, revised by Brig H R G Wilson (Spellmount, £29.95).

few pages of text is devoted to each.

Indeed, one is left wishing that there were even more illustrations, and in a bigger and clearer format – but that would be prohibitively expensive.

It would also be good to include in a future edition a brief record of the early Irish regiments which transferred to the French Service in 1690 (and in at least one case briefly re-entered the British Service

after the French Revolution). Currently there is just a tantalising footnote.

The great thing is that one is left wanting more – and to this end a fuller bibliography would be welcome.

In his original introduction, R G Harris wrote: "It is my hope that by the inclusion of anecdotal material, uniform notes and with some emphasis on bands and pipers, that a little more than just the abridged story of a regiment may emerge."

"It would also be nice to think that here and there the Irish character appears, with possibly a gleam of Irish humour showing through."

R G Harris and Henry Wilson have certainly achieved their aim.

**Review by Brig Sebastian Roberts, Director of Corporate Communications (Army)**

## More anecdotal in aid of the ABF

ANYONE looking for an inexpensive Christmas stocking-filler would do well to consider

**The Orderly Sergeant**, retired brigadier Charles Millman's latest set of light-hearted career reminiscences. The 96-page paperback, which will strike a chord with many who served from 1948 onwards, costs £4.99

(postage 42p UK, £1.60 overseas) and a donation from the proceeds will go to the Army Benevolent Fund. The last book raised £2,400 for charity. Money with orders to The Press on the Lake (to which cheques are payable), Stonar, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9ND.

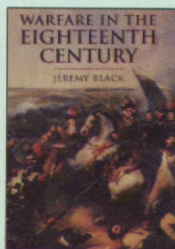


## Impressive start to new warfare series

CHARLES Messenger's **The Second World War in the West**, one of the first of Cassell's

attractive new 24-volume History of Warfare series edited by John Keegan, is well laid out, with excellent illustrations and a lucid text. It is particularly good on the political strategic ebb and flow and land warfare

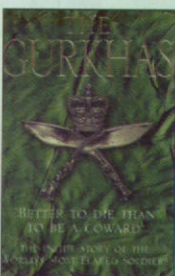
development at the tactical level. There is little discussion of other aspects, such as naval, air and special operations. Jeremy Black's **Warfare in the Eighteenth Century** and Gunther Rothenberg's **The Napoleonic Wars** maintain the impressive quality. £20 each.



## Will we ever say goodbye Gurkhas?

IN THE words of the admirable Gurkha Welfare Trust, if there was a minute's silence for every Gurkha casualty from the Second World War alone, we would have to keep quiet for two weeks. In **The Gurkhas** (Headline, £17.99), John Parker reviews the proud history of these fighting men,

addresses their ever-topical social issues and poses the prospect of a British Army without them. He claims that a *Soldier* feature in 1982 about their lethal battlefield skills helped shorten the Falklands War by striking fear into the Argentine Army.





# Mailbag

## Too free with the red beret

I AM serving a six-month tour in Kosovo and learned that the new 16 Air Assault Brigade will be wearing the red beret, which I think is wrong. Paras have to do the gruelling P Company course to qualify for it. The beret is recognised all over the world as belonging to an élite, but now it is being handed out to anyone. How would Royal Marines feel if the Admiralty handed out green berets, also respected throughout the world, to the ships that supported them during armed conflict? – Spr J D Hart, 32 HQ Sqn (Sigs), 38 Engr Regt, 19 Mech Bde, Op Agricola.

## Loggies sustained the lot of them . . .

I AGREE with the D Squadron KRH soldier (Sept) who said the Paras were not the only troops in Kosovo. The fact is that 23 Brigade Support Squadron RLC, which deployed in February after only four months back from Bosnia, sustained the 4 Armoured Brigade battle group as well as 101 Brigade and 4 Airborne Brigade and units from other KFOR nations requiring water, fuel and rations.

All this as well as supplying water and fuel to local communities in Macedonia and Kosovo. The young men and women in the squadron kept their enthusiasm and positive attitude to ensure the KRH and Irish Guards were able to get into Pristina on time, and they continued to provide until they departed on September 5. Without them no one would have got anywhere. – SSgt (name and address supplied).

## Recruiter's role is to assess, advise

IT is commendable that J Ashman (Aug) is promoting his former regiment by introducing potential recruits. However, he mentions that he has fallen foul of some recruiting offices.

All potential recruits must, at some stage, go to an AFCO or ACIO where they will be assessed for suitability by a trained recruiter. Only a trained recruiter with years of military experience and an intense five-week course at the Army School of Recruiting may assess for suitability.

It is not the job of a recruiting sergeant to allocate a potential recruit to a specific unit, but rather to advise the individual on what career options are open to him or her. For example, an applicant with good GCSE results may be suited to a technical trade. Applicants with A-levels would be advised to consider officer entry, and so on.

Keep up the good work, Mr Ashman, but be aware that many factors are taken into consideration as we assess a potential recruit for a suitable job. – S Cameron, Sergeant Recruiter, AFCO Leeds.

## What's for breakfast when PAYD goes on the table?

AS a mother of four young children, I relish the arrival of Pay-As-You-Dine (PAYD).

My married life has been spent scanning supermarkets for bargains so I can put decent meals on the table. At the same time I have had to listen to countless "whingeing singlies" moaning about the standard of their three daily meals, all for £2.18 a day, of which £1.54 goes towards the food.

For my family of six this would equate to a monthly food bill of less than £290, something I could achieve only with the help of Jesus and a few loaves and fishes.

Although they don't know it yet, the

### Prize letter

FURTHER to my letter about PAYD ("We rejected hash for cash", Aug), I have remembered a third reason for the Army [following a 1970 feasibility study] coming down very firmly against getting soldiers to pay for their meals.

Logic dictated that once you established the principle, the next step would

single soldier will curse the day PAYD is introduced and they see the reality of their monthly beer money disappearing in spiralling meal costs.

I may be too late, but I have a suggestion that may be of benefit to the Army and the single soldier – get rid of the cooked breakfast. After all, the vast majority of the country goes to work on a slice of toast or a bowl of cereal.

It's good to see the Army is responding to the voice of single soldiers and providing what they want – PAYD – although personally I don't think it is the right solution. – Cpl P J McFarlane, 1 WFR LAD REME, Tidworth.

lead to the soldier paying for food actually eaten. You could not, in fairness, make a soldier who ate only cornflakes pay the same as his mate who consumed a full English breakfast. The caterer would have to price every dish, leading to an unacceptable administrative burden. – Lt Col (Retd) P A Winter, Alcester, Warks.

## Joint Para-RM force could adopt the winged dagger

IN Vox pop (Sept), *Soldier* raised the issue of Paras losing the famous Pegasus emblem. Of the people questioned, only one was of officer status and the views of the Army's middle management at WO-SNCO level were not represented.

It is felt that the Paras need to be modernised and if this means the loss of the famous emblem, so be it. After all, their peacetime role is the same as many other regiments, including my own.

I am not ignorant to the fact that the Para selection course is exceptionally hard and personnel who have completed it wear their wings with pride. However, all the furore about the loss of the Pegasus is over the top.

I feel that now is the correct time to streamline the Army and guide it towards the challenging roles it will face in the future.

Having discussed this subject at length with my peer group, I feel the amalgamation of the Royal Marines and The Parachute Regiment would create a force with dual employability . . . a force to be reckoned with in the new millennium. And for the insignia of the joint Para-Marines, how about a winged dagger badge. – WO1 (RSM) J A M Hood, 22nd Regiment RA, Gainsborough.

WITH reference to the controversy over the Paras losing their Pegasus badge, I agree it is a shame to see heritage disappear. However, I disagree with many changes that have taken place in our Armed Forces . . . perhaps because I'm of the old breed and coming to the end of a full career.

I think I know a way to save the Pegasus without affecting the identity of the new air assault brigade. Has anyone thought about replacing the new brigade's collar dogs (badges) on No 2 or No 1 dress uniform with the Pegasus badge, thereby saving the famous emblem and allowing the changes in the brigade's identity to go ahead? – Cpl A R George, 1 RRW.

## Great service for veterans

I would like to express, through your magazine, my thanks to the Veterans' Advice Unit. I've availed myself of the service on two occasions and both times they've sorted out my queries quickly and courteously. A most excellent service. – Charles Caldwell, Guildford.

● We are happy to give Mr Caldwell's appreciation a wider audience. The VAU can be contacted on 08456 020302. – Editor



## THEN AND THEN



### 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*,  
Nov 1949

High up in Stirling Castle, left, gateway to the Highlands, a few men of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders sleep in the parliamentary building erected by James III of Scotland over 400 years ago. Once a garrison of several hundred held the keys to the Forth crossing, now a depot party keeps the old stones warm.

### 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*,  
Nov 1974

Flashpoint eye-witness: "I saw two squadrons of Turkish tanks with APCs drawn up in battle formation in a shallow valley. Lt Col Ian Cartwright, CO 3 RRF... met the unit commander. After pointing out how close the tanks were to the British base, the formation left. Smoke from Famagusta formed a backdrop."

# Time for another bar to the GSM

FURTHER to the letters and enquiries you have received on the subject of a medal for service in former Yugoslavia, I would like to make a suggestion. If a medal is not in the pipeline, would it not make more sense to add another bar to the Campaign Service Medal 1962 to cover deployments to the Balkans theatre?

As an avid historian and collector of British campaign medals (to the King's Own Scottish Borderers), I would rather see a soldier wear a medal which is named to the recipient than unnamed versions

such as the UN and Nato medals. I've got absolutely nothing against soldiers who have served in a theatre which entitles them to such medals, but the fact that most medal dealers quite openly advertise them in their lists for between £10 and £12 slightly undermines the true nature of such issues.

Is it not about time another bar was issued for the GSM, last given in 1991 for service in Northern Iraq and Southern Turkey? – **Sgt G O'Neill, KOSB, ACIO Hamilton, Southclyde.**

## Long service unrewarded by medal

AS a warrant officer I am disgusted with what appears to be double standards. Back in 1980 as a young lance corporal I was convicted in a military court of drink-driving. Recently I put in a plea of mitigation and asked to be honoured with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, but my reporting officer was advised not to submit my plea due to the nature of my offence.

The LS and GC is awarded after 15

years' unblemished service and to date I have completed 19 years' unblemished since the offence. Yet Tony Adams, the England and Arsenal footballer, was awarded an MBE not that long after serving a custodial sentence for an offence of the same nature as mine. Double standards or what? I now feel the LS and GC is worthless. – **WO2 R Murhy, 26 Cadet Training Team, Manchester.**

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...

## Uncomplaining TA

HOWARD Robson ("TA has more to offer than pay rewards", July) has misunderstood me... I was not complaining about pay. I did state it would be nice to receive something at the end of 22 years, but my main point was that people should stop knocking the TA soldier. Most Regular battalions would be grateful to have them.

– Capt Michael Blake, 4 RGJ, London.

PS – I did invest my bounty over the last 21 years – my wife had it.

AS a permanent staff instructor with the TA I agree with Capt Timer ("It all adds up", Aug). No one has picked up on the TA bounty. Capt Blake ("Terrier gives up a lot to serve", June), has presumably been a captain for the last three or four years of his 22, so using Capt Timer's calculations, Capt Blake has earned: Daily rate of pay £68.17 x 12 (days) x 3 (years) = £2,454.12. Add 14 (days at camp) x 3 (years) = £2,863.14. Total pay over three years = £8,467.26. Add three years' bounty of £3,150 = £8,467.26 in total, not bad for what most people class a hobby. Over 22 years, Capt Blake could have earned £23,800 tax free. If he had wanted a nice hand-out or pension he should have joined the Regulars. – **WO2 (PSI) G Bates.**

I WAS disgusted at how Capt Timer (Aug) tried to belittle the TA soldier's dedication. I never thought of a big hand-out, but I would like to see something from a grateful nation. In 30 years I've only known one MBE in the battalion in which I served, and of five Jubilee Medals allocated to my unit in 1977, four went to Regulars serving with us. A friend once worked out a Regular's annual attendance in this way: 365 days minus 6 weeks' leave, 26 sport afternoons, seven day's Easter break, five bank holidays, five long weekends, 26 weekends, ten days at Christmas and 14 days of adventurous training, leaving a grand total of 189. Over 22 years, that adds up to 11.39 working years, which should quell ideas that they are overworked. I think anyone who gives up 22 years with the wife and kids should get something, and I suggest one day's pay at his highest rank per month for life. – **WO2 J P Bright, Sittingbourne, Kent.**

## Framed, by 10 Para

WHO is responsible for choosing the photo (Pages 8-9, Aug) of the disbandment of 10 Para (V)? I was privileged to command the old comrades' detachment and I cannot understand why a publication known for the quality of its photographs has published such a ridiculous effort, in my view an insult to the battalion. We are angry at what many of us feel was the unnecessary disbanding of this fine parachute infantry unit. Media Ops (V) had better look to their laurels or their days could be numbered. – **Maj N J McKay, Westerham, Kent.**

● The photograph, which we considered unusual and worthy of publication, was supplied by the battalion. – **Editor**



# Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

## Setting standards

A recent letter to *The Times* noted that Britain's Armed Forces, which enjoy a high reputation, continually have to change their standards to match those of the civilian sector. Was it not time, the correspondent asked, to try it the other way round? We spoke to soldiers at the British Army Training Unit, Suffield (BATUS) in Canada for their views.

### Tpr Alastair Davis, 2 RTR

Some of our rules, particularly on discipline, would be good for the public, but there would not be the manpower to support or police them. Because of the lack of discipline in society, many of our new recruits find it hard to accept our standards when they join up.



### Padre Mark Christian, 2 RTR

The British Army runs on a tried and tested method that has evolved over the years to form the best army in the world. What drives the Army is community and

comradeship. Soldiers don't die for Queen and country, they die for their mates. That sense of community is lacking in the outside world.

### Cpl Alan Walker, (RAMC attached 2 RTR)

Civilians don't have the camaraderie that we have in the Army – it's why I joined. That part of the Army system would undoubtedly do civilians a lot of good.



Up to standard: British soldiers have earned worldwide respect

### Gdsm Lee Davis, 3 Coy, 1 WG

Discipline seems to be breaking down in society and some of the rules and enforcement we have in the Army would do it good. Some of the old standards should return.



### Tpr Trevor Hopkins, 2 RTR

The code of discipline is something we have to accept; it is part of the job and it would be difficult to impose it on civilians. But society would be better for it.



### Capt Kath Hurley, 42 AEC

Because of the job it does, the Army should not relax its disciplinary rules but should be open-minded about policy. Some changes here have been positive. I think the

Army's zero tolerance policy on adultery would do the public some good.

### Cpl Gary Palmer, 2 RTR

When I joined the Army, we already had an element of respect for rules and authority within us from school. When new boys come in



now, discipline is something new to them. Society should be harder on offenders and criminals. They should be tougher in schools.

### CSM Terry Harman, 3 Coy, 1 WG

Civilians feel that equal opportunities are a problem for the Army. I feel it has never been an issue. Everyone in my regiment is a Welsh Guardsman no matter what their background. I think society should use the Army as an example of how equal opportunities works.



### Cpl Craig Arnold, 2 RTR

Civilians have the perception that we are a bunch of bullies in the Army and so they have forced unnecessary rules on us. Our discipline has become softer because of that and it's not good for the Army. Society should take our rules and enforcement, not

make us do what they do – pander to the weakest all the time.



### Gdsm Mark Kristiansen, 3 Coy, 1 WG

The Army does not tolerate illegal drug use yet it seems to me society panders to users, giving them needles and so on. I feel they should be less tolerant.



Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Steve Dock

## COMING SOON

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