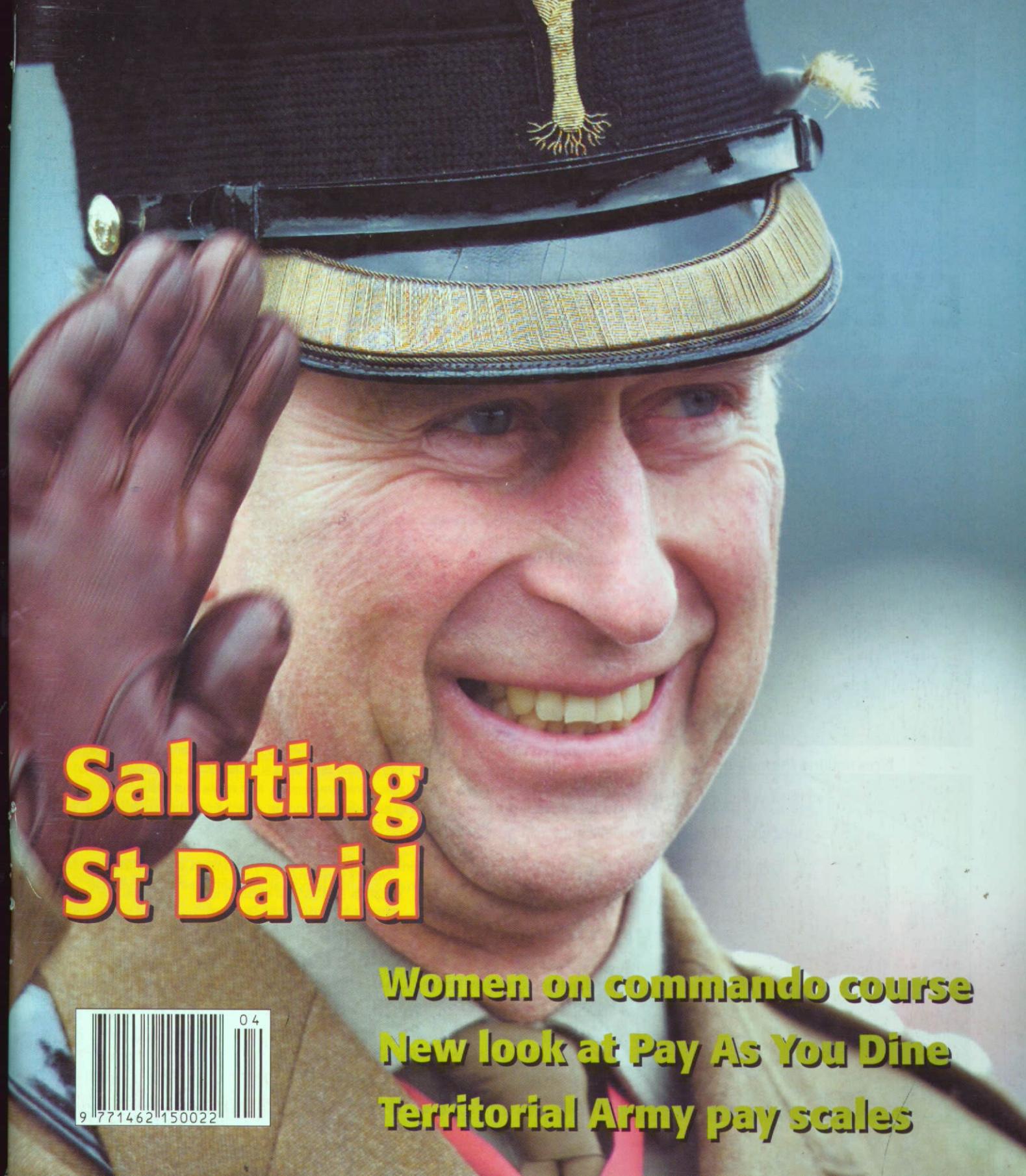


MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

April 2001 £2

SOLDIER

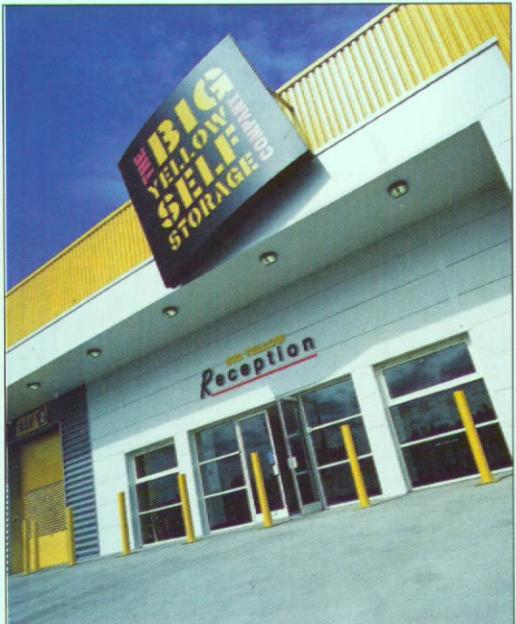


Saluting St David

Women on commando course
New look at Pay As You Dine
Territorial Army pay scales



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Discover the advantages of Big Yellow Self Storage, a new DIY storage concept that has revolutionised the storage industry.

If you are posted abroad or are moving between UK bases you will appreciate the problems of co-ordinating your move. Finding suitable storage space for your belongings may have been a problem for you in the past but now self-storage offers a convenient, secure solution for your needs. So how do you choose which company will suit your requirements? Big Yellow stands out over many of its competitors with the most flexible and consumer-friendly storage service on offer.

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Why do we need self-storage? The most common situation for people to use self-storage is when they are moving house or travelling abroad. So if you are moving to new accommodation, being posted to a different location, on a short-term assignment or simply want to give yourself extra space in your current situation then Big Yellow Self Storage has the perfect solution.

Other users include those who want to make better use of the space in their home. We are all sentimental about our belongings, yet often do not have the space to accommodate them and an expanding household. By storing belongings at Big Yellow you will be relaxed knowing that all your possessions are safe and accessible as well as giving a terrific sense of control – you can dig out your 70s LPs, snowboard or bicycles at any time! There is no better place to store your cherished possessions or to help tackle that essential clear-out you keep putting off, so that you can enjoy clutter-free space.

If you are unsure of how much space you need and just how easy storing can be, you will find plenty of advice and tips on the Big Yellow web site at www.thebigyellow.co.uk. The "Storage Adviser" provides a comprehensive guide as to how much space you will need, how large a vehicle is practical and how best to pack and store your belongings. Big Yellow also sells a wide range of storage items such as boxes of various sizes, tape, furniture covers, and miles and miles of bubble-wrap. Customers can buy packing supplies in-store or direct from the website and have them delivered to their door.

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Contact list: Page 78



● Army Legal Services in the front line – Page 18

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine



Cover story

Salute: The Prince of Wales visited the Welsh Guards at Aldershot on St David's Day to present the 1st Battalion with leeks. He attended a service in the Garrison Church of St Michael and St George before calling at 1 WG's home in Montgomery Lines. Prince Charles, who is Colonel of the regiment, received his own leek from Maj Kevin Stacey, the battalion quartermaster. Picture: Graeme Main

'Although Pay 2000 is fair overall, it is far from equitable in the transitional period. This will disadvantage many Service people for many years.' – Sgt A – Pages 74-75

Fight fans: Win tickets to three world championship bouts. – Pages 44-45

After some years on the back burner, Pay As You Dine is again on the menu ... and the project team tasked with taking a fresh look at the concept wants to hear from YOU. – Page 7

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Home service battalions amalgamate



Atomic Kitten
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A behind-the-scenes look at The King's Troop, RHA

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What you think about Compulsory Drug Testing

Commando performance

Some guys have all the luck ...

Report by Andy Simms
Pictures by Graeme Main

THEY can't sing or dance but the pop world's latest trio still managed to send a 1,000-strong crowd at the London Astoria into a frenzy of excitement – albeit with a little help from chart-toppers Atomic Kitten.

The Army Physical Training Corps' SSgt Daisy May, SSgt Joe Cocker and SSgt Mick Thompson made their stage debuts and became the envy of the Armed Forces when they appeared alongside the pin-up girl band.

The three-piece pop outfit, whose platinum-selling single *Whole Again* spent four weeks at number one, recruited the three soldiers to help them kick off their high-profile gig in style.

"The girls had the idea to abseil down from the rafters on to the stage," explained SSgt May. "The three of us volunteered for the job and as soon as we had assessed the venue we agreed to do it."

"We came up and met the girls for a

practice run on the afternoon of the gig and showed them exactly what was going to happen.

"But we did our real homework the night before when we watched Top of the Pops."

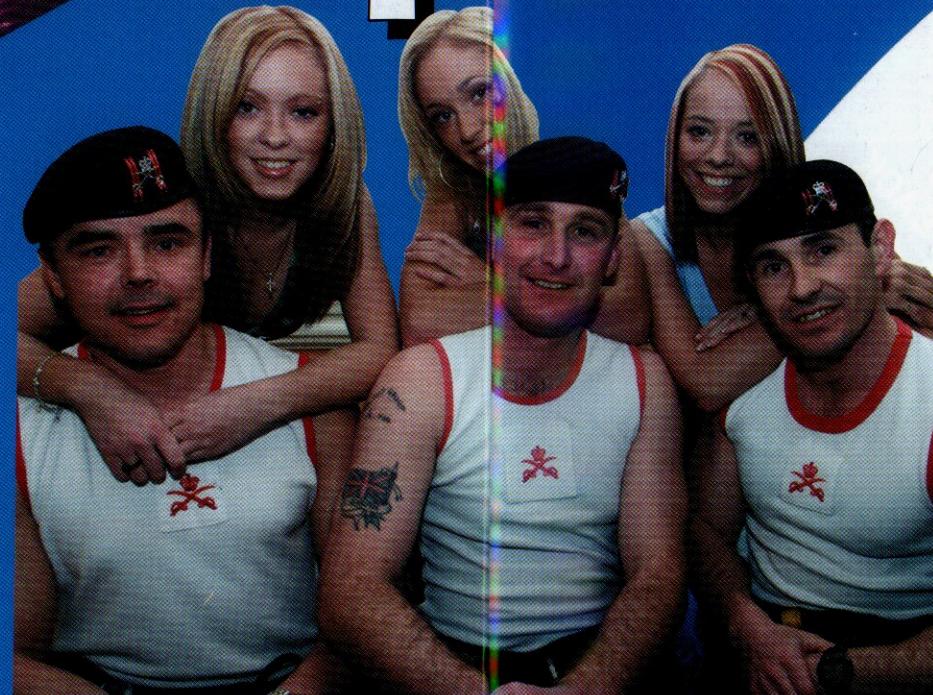
SSgt Thompson added: "My kids freaked out when they heard what I would be doing. They couldn't believe their dad would be working with pop stars."

Although the five-second drop was straightforward for the PTIs the prospect proved slightly more daunting for Kittens' Natasha Hamilton, Jenny Frost and Liz MacLarnon.

Speaking before the show, Jenny, who joined the band when former member Kerry Katona fell pregnant, told *Soldier*: "I'm scared of heights and my eyes will be shut until my feet are back on the ground."

Natasha added: "I'm absolutely terrified and my legs will probably buckle when I get on stage."

"I'd love to see Westlife do something like this – I bet you they wouldn't."



Star line-up: From left to right are SSgt Mick Thompson, Natasha Hamilton, Jenny Frost, SSgt Daisy May, Liz MacLarnon and SSgt Joe Cocker



Green beret brigade: From left to right are Capt Clare Phillips, LCpl Joanna Perry and Capt Pip Tattersall, who were due to report to Lympstone to begin the tough commando course

Army trio ready for Marines' challenge

THREE female soldiers have been given the go-ahead to attempt the all-arms commando course at the Royal Marines' Commando Training Centre at Lympstone in Devon.

Capt Clare Phillips, who is serving at SEME Bordon, and LCpl Joanna Perry, with 1 (GS) Regiment RLC at Guttersloch, are both cap-badged to REME. They will be joined by Capt Pip Tattersall, AGC, an education officer based at Warminster.

Foot-and-mouth restrictions allowing, their course was due to begin at the West Country base on March 26.

If they are successful, they will become the first women eligible to wear the coveted green beret and work in either combat support or combat service support areas of 3 Commando Brigade. They would not, however, join the Marines, but continue to wear their own corps cap badges.

Capt Tattersall's duties as an education officer bring her into contact with units of 3 Cdo Bde.

Capt Phillips said: "We were all interested in doing the commando course, but

it hasn't always been possible for women. When Lympstone let it be known that the opportunity was there, we applied to join the course. If I'm successful it will open up other career opportunities."

Capt Tattersall said: "I am going to give it my best effort but I know there is a high failure rate."

The three face an identical challenge to that which will confront their male counterparts at Lympstone.

Candidates spend the first five weeks on military skills, including weapons, tactics and physical training. The sixth week concentrates on commando skills such as climbing, abseiling, amphibious drills and survival techniques. The eight-week course culminates in a week-long exercise followed by a final week of commando tests. These include an endurance test, a nine-mile speed march, the "Tarzan" and assault course, and a gruelling 30-mile march.

The women's involvement has nothing to do with the MoD's on-going study into combat effectiveness and gender.

What's new pussy cat?

Pop sensation Atomic Kitten give *Soldier* the low-down on ...

... the recent change in their line-up

Natasha: When Kerry first left Liz was a bit panicky and thought that it would be the end of the band but I was adamant we would continue. Atomic Kitten is about three different personalities and we always said that if one of us left we would get someone else in.

Jenny: It has all been a bit of a whirlwind for me. I was well and truly pushed in at the deep end.

I was friends with the other two before I joined and I don't think things would have worked out if I hadn't been. Coming into such a tight unit as a stranger would have been a nightmare.

Liz: You have to get on with each other in this industry otherwise things can become very difficult – just look at All Saints.

... their smash-hit single *Whole Again*

Natasha: When we first recorded the album

we never imagined that *Whole Again* would be our first number one and such a success.

I knew it was a good tune and I was hoping for a top five, or top three single if we were really lucky, but not in a million years did I think it would make number one.

It's been mad but it has been so much fun. I was really disappointed when we were knocked off number one. I don't mean to sound greedy but it was like our little home.

... life as a pop star

Natasha: It's hard work. We are the hardest-working band in pop and anyone who wants to disagree with that can put their schedule up against ours. We work hard because we want to be huge. It has taken time for us to prove ourselves and to get to number one – but we've done it in style.

The hardest part of what we do is getting people to accept that you can't tar everyone with the same brush.

We are not just another girl band that get told what to say by our record company – what you see is what you get. We will never

be as big as the likes of Oasis and Toploader because pop is seen as a different level by music critics.

... ITV's popstars Hear'Say

Natasha: There's a lot of hype about Hear'Say [the chart-topping TV Popstars band]. It's like Big Brother all over again. Everyone loved it and then a few weeks later nobody knew who they were.

They've got to be careful that they don't just become another hyped-up band.

It's going to be hard for them because they've got the eyes of the whole country on them waiting for them to slip up.

They got boozed at the Brits and they don't deserve that.

... on soldiers

Jenny: I love men in uniform, especially when they've had their heads shaved.



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Sniffer dogs join battle to beat ivory poachers

Story: Dennis Barnes

Pictures: Kevin Capon

TWO dogs trained by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps to sniff out ivory have been flown to East Africa to bolster Kenya's campaign against poachers decimating the region's endangered rhino.

Blair, a golden retriever, and Charlie, a mongrel found in Battersea Dogs' Home, are believed to be the first sniffer dogs taught to seek out ivory.

They were prepared for their groundbreaking role by RAVC soldiers at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire.

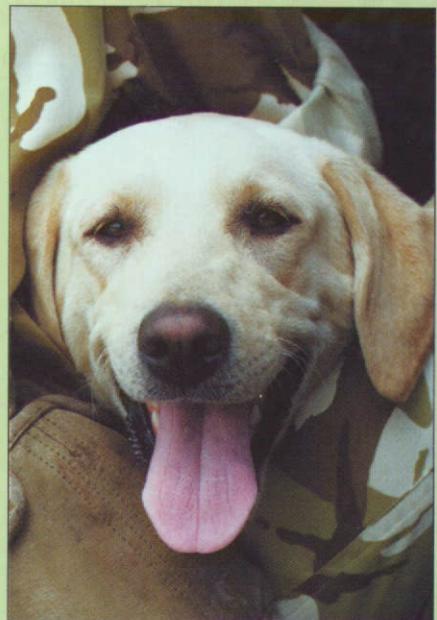
Kenyan Wildlife Service assistant



Josiah Achoki, above, and Blair

director of operations Josiah Achoki believes the dogs will greatly assist his country's struggle against poachers.

• Full story, more pictures in Page 37



PAYD is back on the menu

IT'S back to the drawing-board for the Pay As You Dine (PAYD) scheme.

Although a change to Service catering was recommended nearly seven years ago nothing has yet been delivered. Now a new project team under Brig Peter Maggs has been formed to take a fresh look at the concept.

It is looking at how a fairer, more flexible and modern catering service might be provided in the UK, Germany, Gibraltar and Cyprus. A survey of 20,000 Service personnel in 1999 revealed an overwhelming desire for improvements, especially for junior ranks.

Brig Maggs's team is working closely with expert advisers on the type of meals, how they would be paid for, and what additional items should be available in junior ranks' messes. But nothing will be decided until all the options are properly tested at a small number of units next year.

Unless there is complete confidence that PAYD can deliver a better, fairer system that meets junior ranks' needs, it will not be implemented.

Brig Maggs said it was not a cost-cutting exercise. "PAYD is about delivering real improvements to the quality of life of soldiers, sailors and airmen," he said. "We are actively seeking the extent

to which we can offer more choice, available over more flexible mealtimes, in improved dining facilities where there are other services provided as well.

"We are not looking simply at putting a till at the end of the counter. That would provide very little improvement to anyone."

His team is required to ensure any proposed solutions include the employment of all Army chefs, whose numbers are already protected by operational requirements.

The project team will also be addressing concerns felt among officers and senior NCOs for the welfare and nutrition of junior ranks. One proposal is that any change should incorporate a core menu to provide the basic level of nutrition. Under PAYD it would be up to individuals to decide what they wanted to eat in addition to the core menu.

The PAYD team would like to receive your ideas and comments, and will attempt to answer any questions. A website is being set up to provide more information and allow feedback. You can also write to the PAYD Project Team, DLO Andover, Room 9, Building 209, Monxton Road, Andover SP11 8HT or call 01264 348051.



Brig Peter Maggs

Cadet blinded by torch bomb 'reads' Soldier

ARMY cadet Stephen Menary made a special request from his hospital bed after being blinded by a bomb in West London.

He wanted the latest copy of *Soldier* so that his parents could read to him from his favourite magazine.

Already blind in one eye through cancer as a baby, Stephen, 14, was left completely sightless when a torch exploded after he found it outside the TA centre in Shepherd's Bush where his unit meets. He also lost a hand.

After learning of his request, *Soldier* set up a regular delivery of the magazine to Stephen in the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital – and arranged for an audio-tape version to be sent to him.

St Dunstan's, the organisation which cares for blind ex-Service men and women and which produces a limited number of *Soldier* tapes, was delighted to put Stephen on the circulation list as well as offering to help rehabilitate him in the future.

Stephen's mother, Carol, said: "We were happy to read the magazine to him, but to have a taped version as well is wonderful."

More than £30,000 has so far been donated to a special fund set up for Stephen.

• Cheques and postal orders for Stephen can be sent to: ACFA Cadet Stephen Menary Appeal, E Block, Duke of York's HQ, Turk's Row, London SW3 4RR. Payments can also be made into the Cadet Stephen Menary Appeal Account (No 1360872, Sort Code 30-98-97) at Lloyd's TSB.



Blinded: Stephen

Red (Nose) Army



Funny-looking angel: TA medic Gemma Bruce gives the Angel of the North an appropriate make-over on Red Nose Day. Gemma, serving with 101 Regiment RA at Gateshead, was one of thousands of soldiers who took part in an assortment of weird and wonderful projects to raise funds for Comic Relief's "Pants to Poverty" day on March 16.

Picture: Chris Barker



A wing and a prayer: Members of 55 MC Sqn, 29 Regiment RLC, South Cerney, did tandem jumps with the Silver Stars RLC parachute display team to raise more than £300 for Comic Relief. From left are LCpl Joy Brown, Pte Lindsey Giddy, Pte Claire Eldridge, Sgt Jayne Goldsmith and LCpl Jan Elesmore.

Picture: Steve Dock



Red-faced: The Dakota aircraft – a famous Aldershot landmark – outside the Airborne Forces Museum, joined in the fun.

Picture: Mike Weston

Soldiers to rescue in jungle death crash

TWO soldiers on exercise in Belize have been commended for trying to save the life of an American archaeologist fatally injured in a car crash.

Sgt Moe Holmes and Cpl Lee Hitchmough were on Exercise Native Trail when they spotted a damaged jeep by the side of a jungle track.

The soldiers, both members of 7 (Para) RHA's REME light aid detachment, found an injured female passenger inside the vehicle. Sgt Holmes said: "I could see the woman trying to raise her arm from between the seats. She was lying face down and having difficulty breathing, and the man was slumped over the steering wheel, unconscious."

It would have taken several hours for an ambulance to reach the remote jungle site of the accident, so the soldiers called in a Lynx helicopter from 25 Flight AAC to evacuate the couple.

"We did what we could to reassure them, but they were getting weaker and weaker," said Sgt Holmes.

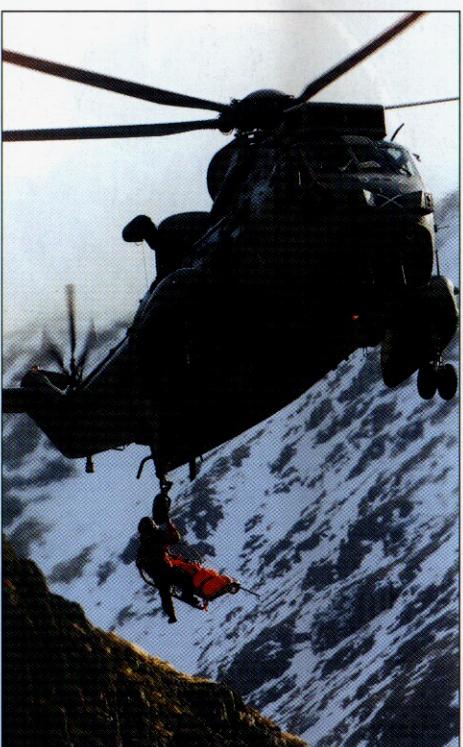
The couple were flown to Belize City, where the driver, Dr Richard MacNeish, from Massachusetts, died from injuries. Battery commander Maj Chris Roper said: "As soon as they saw the crash,

they reacted with the highest standards of professionalism and moral courage."

It was the first time soldiers serving with Aldershot-based 7 (Para) RHA had been involved in the six-week jungle warfare exercise in Belize.



Russian Highlanders



Picture: Mark Owens

Up you go: A Russian "casualty" is winched from a mountain in Glencoe by a search-and-rescue helicopter during Exercise Chersky Tiger. A Moscow-based Russian airmobile disaster relief team trained with British soldiers in the Highlands to prepare for a reciprocal exercise in Siberia in July and August. Twenty-five Royal Logistic Corps personnel will join the same number of Russian soldiers to climb in the Chersky mountain range in the Sahar Republic in northern Siberia, 100km from the Arctic Circle.

The joint team spent a week working on basic skills in the Cairngorms and a week under the wing of the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team.

Egging them on?



Raising the profile: The REME Museum at Arborfield opened its doors to promote engineering in the Army among schools and colleges. Pictured encouraging Guildford College students competing in a motorised "egg-and-spoon" race are (back, left to right) Cfn Michael Richards, Andy Nicol and James Hodgson.

Picture: Graeme Main

A BLANKET ban on routine military training over the entire UK defence estate, local areas, ranges and private land was imposed last month as foot-and-mouth spread across the country.

With no early signs of the disease letting up, it is thought unlikely that normal training will resume before the end of May.

Following an approach from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), the Army made three RAVC officers available to the task force desperately attempting to contain the disease and sent teams of troops to help supervise the disposal of animal carcasses in Cumbria and the West Country.

As this edition went to press, about 50 RMPs from 158 Provost Company, 3 RMP based at Bulford were moving to Wyvern Barracks in Exeter to assist hard-pressed MAFF personnel in Devon. Working in uniform and unarmed they were being split into two-man teams to co-ordinate and manage the disposal operation.

In Cumbria, an identical role was being carried out by up to 80 soldiers from the Chester-based 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of



Keep out: Military land at Tweesledown, near Aldershot, becomes a no-go area

Picture: Steve Dock

Yorkshire. Also working in two-man teams, they were supported by staff officers from HQ 42 Brigade at Preston.

Meanwhile, as the military sought to comply with MAFF control measures, adventurous training which involved the movement of people and vehicles over open ground was axed. The military ban on the use of open ground extended to individual athletes.

Under a joint response to the outbreak – codenamed Op Pennywort – all

three Services banned movement away from public roads. Routine journeys on metalled public roads were continuing.

Pre-tour training for units deploying to the Balkans and Sierra Leone was being considered on a case-by-case basis. Before embarking on overseas flights, troops were having to ensure their equipment, clothing and footwear was clean and free of mud or soil, and on arrival were walking through footbaths containing disinfectant. Equipment which had been used on open land within an infected area was also being cleansed.

Search-and-rescue missions have not been affected and training inside barracks which have a secure perimeter fence and no grazing will also continue.

In Northern Ireland, the Army modified its patrols as suspected cases of the disease cropped up in South Armagh. Helicopter operations were adjusted over the area and troops and military vehicles arriving in the Province from the mainland were decontaminated.

All non-essential training on the mainland by troops from Northern Ireland was stopped.

Public access to all military land in the UK was also curtailed in an effort to stop the spread of the disease.

Army Air Corps pilots were given strict guidelines on where they could

land their helicopters and required to fly above specified heights.

Early casualties of the restrictions included 16 Air Assault Brigade's direct-fire simulation exercise, Druid's Dance, on Salisbury Plain and the Territorial Army's annual Courage Trophy military skills event, due to take place on the Longmoor training area, Hants.

Distribution of shamrock to the Irish Guards Association in Wellington Barracks and a St Patrick's day wreath-laying in London were cancelled. The Dartmoor Ten Tors expedition run by 43 (Wessex) Brigade for cadets was also called off. It will not be rescheduled.

As European nations went on the alert, restrictions were placed on UK-based soldiers exercising in Germany.

Soldiers who arrived in Norway for Exercise Joint Winter after the disease had been confirmed in the UK were allowed to remain, but confined to barracks as measures were put in place to prevent the infection of reindeer herds.

Troops flying to Canadian airfields were told to make sure their equipment was wrapped in polythene and to be prepared to be sprayed with a disinfectant bleach when they disembarked.

Before stepping on to Canadian soil they had to stand for 15 seconds in a mixture of water and vinegar.

IN BRIEF

• Thanks to Sgt Simon Askew, 1 WFR, right, nine-year-old Kosovar girl Liridona Halilaj has been treated in the UK for a heart condition. Simon, who was attached to 1 PWRR in Kosovo, spent six months organising the trip after finding her in a mountain shack above Podujevo.



vo. He accompanied her on an Army helicopter and then an RAF aircraft to Teesside, where she was treated free of charge in a private hospital.

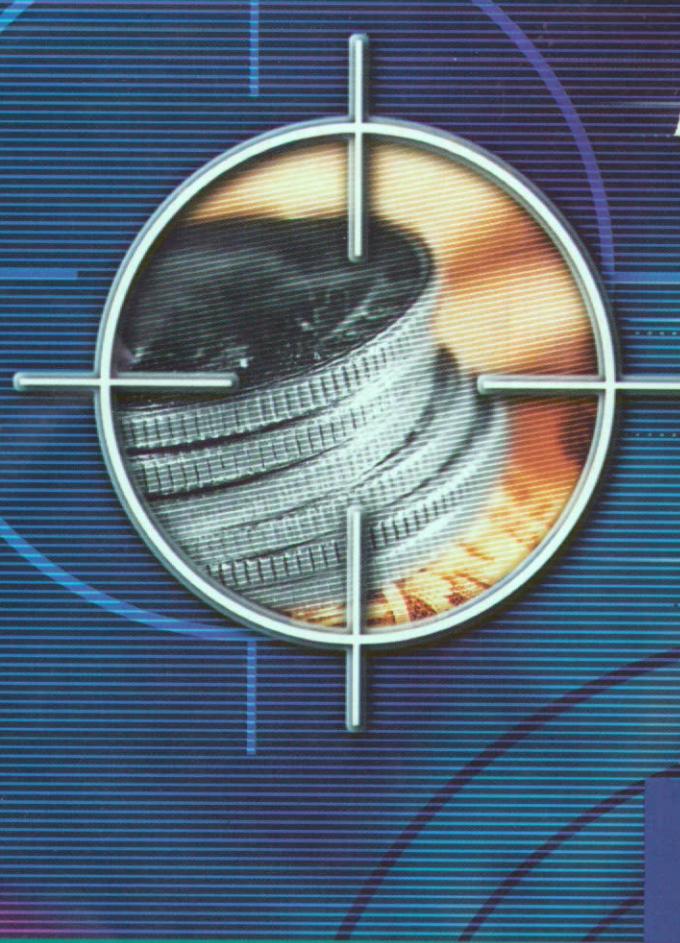
• A private soldier cur-

rently serving in Cyprus is believed to be the first Fijian to be promoted in the British Army for 25 years. LCpl Ronnie Gaunaca, right, joined 1 KOSB in 1999 after playing at the Edinburgh Tattoo with the Fijian Military Forces Band.



• The Armed Forces Art Society's annual exhibition will be held at The Mall Galleries, Pall Mall, London from May 24 to 26.

• Cyprus-based QRL finished fifth and seventh in an international military skills competition.



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Back again: Chef Cpl Chris Vassie, above, is a walking advertisement for Full-Time Reserve Service... he's in his fourth FTRS post. On attachment from Catering Support Regiment, Grantham, to 84 Medical Support Squadron RAMC at Hullavington Barracks near Swindon, Chris is currently on loan to neighbouring 9 Supply Regiment RLC.

He joined the Territorial Army in 1981 and since 1998, when he was with a mechanised battalion at Banja Luka and Split,

he has been full-time with the Regular Army. His other jobs have included cooking for the permanent staff at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Canada and for the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards in Northern Ireland.

Chris, whose home is in Plymouth, will be considering an extension to his FTRS in September. "I'm really comfortable with the life," he said. "It's what you make of it." Perhaps he will add to his Bosnia and Northern Ireland medals. Picture: Steve Dock

Wanted: Reserves, TA to fill 600 Army posts

AN urgent appeal has been made for Territorial Army and Regular reservists to sign up for Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS). At least 600 jobs in Land Command are waiting to be filled.

Since the FTRS scheme was introduced in August 1998, more than 880 have taken part and 640 are currently in uniform.

Efforts are being made to improve the FTRS package to encourage even more reservists to volunteer.

Those opting for a full-time commit-

ment will find themselves doing the same job as Regular soldiers, while those who chose the limited commitment option are guaranteed to serve in one location (which could be overseas) but not take part in operational deployments.

Rates of pay, allowances and leave are similar to the Regular Army and time served on FTRS counts towards a pension. Anyone interested should call free-phone 0800 028 5533 or visit the website www.army.mod.uk/ftrs for details.

● See advertisement, Page 50

Duke of York in oils

THE Duke of York unveiled a portrait of himself by Richard Stone when he visited the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment at Tidworth. It was the first time Prince Andrew, who is Colonel-in-Chief, had called on the Staffords since their move from Tern Hill.

Trojans on the way

A £250 million contract for a fleet of heavy armoured engineer vehicles has been awarded by the MoD to Vickers Defence Systems. Delivery of the Trojan obstacle-clearing vehicle and the Titan bridge-layer will begin in 2005, replacing the Army's 30-year-old Chieftain tank-based vehicles.

Black Rod named

Lt Gen Sir Michael Willcocks, the British military representative at Nato HQ, is to take over from Gen Sir Edward Jones as Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod and Serjeant at Arms to the House of Lords after the general election.

Special unit will speed discipline procedures

IN an effort to speed up the way it conducts its disciplinary business, the Army has set up a unit specifically to focus on the problem.

Under the Human Rights Act, delay is regarded as not only unfair and inconsistent with the Army's values and standards, but as a source of legitimate complaint in itself.

There is now a legal obligation for the Service to conduct its disciplinary and administrative casework – currently "hallmarked by delay" in the words of Maj Gen Peter Currie, Deputy Adjutant General – within a reasonable time.

The six-man Office for Standards of Casework (Army), based at Upavon under Brig Brendan Lambe, will monitor the situation and recommend ways to speed things up if it finds delay and inefficiency.

CLEAR AND URGENT

"This office has a clear and urgent imperative to drive out delay," said Maj Gen Currie, "but it remains the continuing duty of all commanders to play their part. Where it is in their power to resolve or conclude a case, they must do so fairly and quickly."

OSC(A), which will be independent of the chain of command, will not become involved with commanders' decisions in determining the outcome of cases, nor will it act as an ombudsman for dissatisfied complainants. Neither will it be an alternative source of legal advice.

Its remit is to support and assist the chain of command in resolving casework quickly and at the lowest level.

Argylls move to Belfast

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders have left Redford Barracks, Edinburgh to begin a two-year Northern Ireland tour. They will be based in Belfast.

Scott's a million-oar

FOR the past four months RSM Scott Carr RE has been spending two hours a day, five days a week on an indoor rowing machine at Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell. He was aiming to clock up a million metres to raise money for Comic Relief, finishing his marathon in a Nottingham shopping centre on Red Nose Day, March 16.



Under Big Ben

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

Millions set aside for single quarters

MILLIONS of pounds are to be spent on improving the quality of single living accommodation for Service personnel.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said that investment would climb to about £200 million a year, including £110 million of new money. Up to 30,000 low-quality bed-spaces, much of it built in the 1960s and 1970s, needs urgent attention. The worst will be tackled first.

Balkans casualties: During the period January 12, 1999 to December 31, 2000, eight UK Service personnel died in Bosnia as a result of injuries sustained, and four in Kosovo, according to a Commons written answer. There were 203 casualty evacuations from Bosnia and 308 from Kosovo.

In the two years up to the end of 2000, four Service personnel with SFOR and one with KFOR died as a result of road accidents.

Gulf veterans: The Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) begun in 1993 had seen 3,105 people by the end of February. A paper on the second 1,000 is to be published in the journal of the RAMC shortly.

And I quote ...

‘I am delighted to be given the opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of our veterans,’

– Dr Lewis Moonie, on being appointed the UK’s first minister with responsibility for Armed Forces’ veterans.

Dr Moonie’s new title will be Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans.

● The anthrax immunisation programme for those deployed to the Gulf is to resume this month after new supplies of the vaccine became available. The vaccine is offered on a basis of ‘voluntary informed consent’. Vaccination was suspended in 1998 because of manufacturing difficulties.

Depleted uranium: The first step in identifying a screening programme for people concerned about exposure to DU has been taken with the publication of a consultative document inviting advice and comment.

See Mail, Page 76

Suez medal: An undertaking to look at fresh evidence surrounding the non-award of a Suez Canal service medal was given by Mr Spellar. He said any new evidence relating to whether the case had been properly considered after the canal episode of 1951 to 1954 ‘could persuade me to alter my position’.

Warrior on track again

Following the discovery of a serious fault, the Infantry's first refitted fighting vehicles are getting back to full speed

WARRIOR, the British Army's primary armoured infantry fighting vehicle, is rapidly being restored to full health.

As the first modified vehicles rolled off a repair facility at Sennelager, soldiers of the Münster-based 1st Battalion, Irish Guards breathed a sigh of relief. The repairs have come just in time for a major exercise in Poland.

A drive-line fault had caused, in a few cases, loss of power and braking to the left-hand track. Warrior movements on public roads were immediately stopped and 5kph speed limits imposed when the vehicle was operating near dismounted troops.

Capt Mike Lawrence, o/c 1 IG Light Aid Detachment REME, said:

‘It takes about five man-hours per vehicle to make the exchange from old drive-lines to new.’ His LAD had just four days to get a company of 16 Warriors ready to deploy to Poland. In all, the battalion has 61 Warriors (out of an Army fleet of nearly 800).

Maj Harvey Paris, REME, SO2 of the Warrior Light Armoured Support Sys-

tems Integrated Project Team (IPT) at Andover, was on hand to make sure the modifications went smoothly.

Each new part can be monitored via an indicator and an inspection hatch.

First hint of a problem came in 1988, but it was not until February last year that suspicion was raised by a failure, the first in ten million kilometres of collective use. When a second failure followed, measures were introduced to inspect all drive-lines. A third failure resulted in the speed restrictions and a blanket ban on public road movements.

Alvis, who make Warrior, GKN Drivelines, who made the modified parts,



Fitted: Cfn Kiam Conroy, 1 IG LAD, prepares a Warrior for installation of the new drive-line

and the IPT co-operated closely to rectify the fault.

Capt Lawrence said: ‘The boys are



Good as new: Warriors belonging to the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards are fitted with their new drive-lines in the Dutch Barn REME vehicle shed at Sennelager

Pictures: Graeme Main

keen to get back to normal. The speed restrictions have been particularly frustrating but we have worked through it.’

All the replacement kits will be out by June 18 and fitting should be completed throughout the Army fleet by August.



Focus groups and questionnaires will be used in the exercise. A report, due in November, is being prepared by the Director General Army Training and Recruiting, Maj Gen Anthony Palmer.

It is expected that command, leadership and management training will be standardised, creating a clear career development route for all cap badges.

WOs and NCOs to have a say in career training

UP to 3,000 NCOs and warrant officers in the UK, Germany, Cyprus and the Balkans are to be asked their views on command, management and leadership training.

Put British Army NCOs and WOs in an operational situation and their management skills are the envy of the world. In peacetime, different skills are needed

and the Army wants to make sure it is delivering on its training commitments.

Maj Keith Bartlett, pictured right, AGC(ETS), said the consultation process was a vital part of the exercise. It will be held between May and August.

‘If you are an NCO or WO, this is your opportunity to make your voice heard. No cap badge will be missed,’ he said.

IN BRIEF

● SSgt Gaz Court REME and Sgt Godders Godfrey APTC had their heads shaved at Catterick Garrison's WOs' and Sergeants' Mess to raise cash for the NSPCC's Almond Tree drop-in centre in the North Yorkshire town.

● War pensioners are to have the right

to appeal against War Pensions Agency decisions on their entitlement to allowances that supplement war pensions. The Royal British Legion (tel 0207 973 7236), which has campaigned for the change, is offering to help pensioners with their appeals.

● 1 Cheshire, currently based in Cyprus,

played host to 171 regimental veterans and their families on a week-long visit.

● Sgt Kevin Moran, 1 RHA Wksp REME, and Cpl Gary King QARANC (formerly of 1 GS Regt RLC Wksp REME) are the first soldiers to achieve NVQ 3 qualifications in engineering maintenance or production under a scheme

launched by REME and Highbury College, Portsmouth.

● Recruits with 18 (Rolleston-West) Troop at ATR Winchester marched 10km in full battle order to raise £750 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. In all, 18 Troop has collected more than £2,000 for the charity.

Troops on ops to get £60m welfare boost

A £60-million welfare injection for all overseas operational deployments lasting for two months or more is to be introduced this month.

It will mean, in effect, that virtually all troops sent on operations abroad will be guaranteed a basic package of welfare support.

Key elements include communications (20 minutes of free telephone calls a week, free bluesys, free e-bluesys and e-mail access) and personal hygiene and leisure and fitness facilities.

For troops serving in the Balkans there will be an extra BFBS television channel, a mobile cinema and mobile EFI canteen facilities.

A mobile cinema, dubbed the Screen Machine, was voted an outstanding success by soldiers who visited it at Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Mrkonjic Grad, Sipovo and Sanski Most during an SSVIC trial in the Balkans last year.

Improved Naafi and EFI retail facilities and greater access to leisure and fitness equipment for off-duty relaxation have also been identified by soldiers as key elements in improving their quality of life while deployed overseas on longer-term operations.

A most modern forum

THE world's most modern military staff college has been opened at Shrivenham by the Duke of Edinburgh. It brings together on one site expertise formerly held at Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force staff colleges at Greenwich, Camberley and Bracknell.

Guests at the opening included the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce.

Harare team pulls out

BRITAIN's military training team in Zimbabwe left Harare on March 31 in response to the deteriorating situation in the southern African state. The withdrawal was timed to coincide with the end of a number of courses being run by BMATT staff.

Although based in Harare, the team focused on regional peacekeeping training. While options for its relocation elsewhere in the region are looked at the team will operate from the UK.

How to go on a Swiss raid

UNITS which want to take part in the Swiss Raid Commando military skills competition for four-man patrols from September 27 to 30 should send completed application forms to the Defence Attaché, British Embassy, Thunstrasse, Bern, CH-3000, Bern, Switzerland (forms from 2nd Field Division, Registration SRC 01, PO Box 93, CH-2013 Colombier, Switzerland, fax 0041 32 841 1413). For more information visit the website www.military.ch/src/src2001/1st-info.htm

● Hounslow Army Cadets collected a citizenship award from Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple at the Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea. The award, which recognises cadet units' involvement with their local community, was given to the Hounslow cadets for tending the grave of a former Middlesex Regiment soldier in Powder Mill Lane Cemetery.

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Palace honour: The Colours of The Royal Gibraltar Regiment appear outside Buckingham Palace as the regiment takes over the Queen's Guard for the first time from F Company, Scots Guards.

Patrolling with their respective Colours are Ensigns Lt Matthew Dobson, left, and Lt Juri Dobson. The Gibraltar soldiers provid-

ed four 48-hour Queen's Guards last month, providing a ceremonial presence outside Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and the Tower of London. Three former Governors of the British colony joined the current Governor, the Hon David Durie, to watch the regiment taking part in the Changing of the Guard ceremony.

Picture: Sgt Ian Liptrot

Medal will go to serving soldiers

THE Regular Army is to receive 65,000 commemorative medals to celebrate the 50th year of the Queen's reign.

Another 20,000 Golden Jubilee Medals will be available for eligible Non-Regular Permanent Staff, troops on Full-Time Reserve Service, and volunteer and sponsored reserves.

The Queen has requested that the medal be issued to members of the Armed Forces and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel actually serving on the day of her jubilee, February 6, 2002.

Basic qualifying period is five years' service, so anyone who enlisted after February 7, 1997 will not get it, and neither will those who leave before February 6, 2002.

While Military Provost Guard Service staff will be in line for the medal, members

of the MoD Police and Army Fire Service will not. Personnel on loan service will be eligible, as will mothers on maternity leave.

Others not eligible include anyone in detention or absent without leave.

In all, 156,000 unnamed medals will be issued to the Armed Forces through Service medal offices. Struck in gilt, they will bear a new effigy of the Queen. The design of a blue, white and red ribbon has still to be confirmed.

First official day for them to be worn will be June 4 next year – the national day of thanksgiving – although medals may be worn once issued after February 7.

Cadet organisations and The Royal Irish Regiment's home service battalions are drawing up their own eligibility criteria for the medal.

A reward for DM30,000 (about £10,000) has been put up by Sixth Sense, the British Forces newspaper in Germany, and the German Police for information leading to the whereabouts of missing Army toddler Katrice Lee. As reported in Soldier (Jan), the investigation into her disappearance from the Naafi at Schloss Neuhaus on November 28, 1981 has been reopened.

Ipswich brewery Tolly Cobbold has presented a cheque for £5,000 to the Royal British Legion. The money was raised through sales of its Poppy Pride Ale.

A £70 million order for a thermal sighting system which will give the Army a night-time capability as good as daylight has been awarded to Thales Air Defence Ltd (formerly Shorts Missile Systems) of Belfast. The new system will be fitted to the self-propelled variant of the high velocity missile air defence weapon.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● Washington used a visit to Nato headquarters by the US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, to send its clearest signal yet that it has no real problem with European Union plans to create a rapid reaction force. – *Guardian*

● The Pentagon is trying to develop robotic "muscle-suits" to give more power to a soldier's natural movements. Anyone wearing such a suit would be, like the bionic man in the 1970s TV series *The Six Million Dollar Man*, better, stronger and faster. – *The Times*

● The first woman officer to attempt The Parachute Regiment's gruelling entry test – P Company – failed at the first attempt. She was dropped after trials including an eight-mile march in 90 minutes, traversing a 60ft climbing frame to test for fear of heights and a basic fitness test. – *Sun*

● Former military instructors are to train disruptive teenagers who are at risk of expulsion from school, under a Government-funded scheme. Trials of the Skill Force programme have been carried out in Newcastle and Norfolk. – *The Times*

● Servicemen stationed in Orkney and Shetland during the Second World War unwittingly triggered a cluster of leukaemia among local children, a new study claims. – *Daily Telegraph*

Army enters port for Festival of Sea

PLANS for the summer's major tri-Service event, the International Festival of the Sea at Portsmouth from August 24 to 27, are steaming ahead.

The festival, which replaces the old Royal Tournament, will be led by the Royal Air Force next year and the Army in 2003.

Joint-Service competitions and spectacular set-piece battles staged in the central basin of Portsmouth Dockyard will showcase Army equipment and skills.

Among the attractions will be an armada of Tall Ships, hundreds of classic boats, a multi-national naval fleet, thousands of musicians and performers.

Visit the Festival of the Sea website at www.festivalofthesea.co.uk

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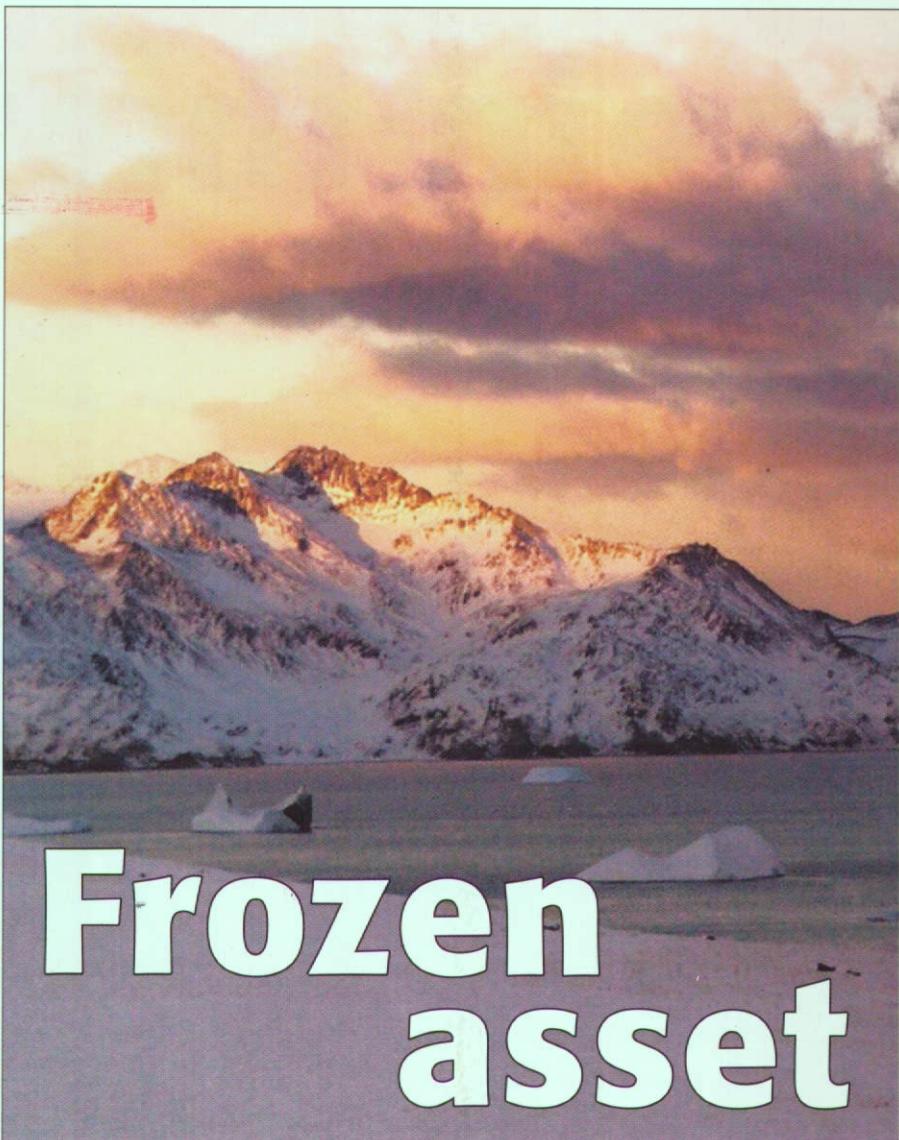


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Frozen asset

Soldiers depart South Georgia but air and sea patrols continue to provide security

FOR the lucky few, South Georgia has been the coolest posting in the British Army. It is a place of unsullied beauty, splendid isolation and a chance to catch nature with her clothes off. For those who have experienced it, the memory, like the landscape, freezes in the mind, writes **Anthony Stone**.

Last month the island's small military detachment, mostly Royal Engineers, sailed away to the Falklands for the last time. They had spent the last months preparing the way for a team of British Antarctic Survey scientists who have now taken over.

New accommodation and science facilities have been built on the remote island, 8,000 miles from the UK, 1,000 miles from Antarctica and 900 miles from the Falklands.

Under the arrangement the Falklands Islands' garrison will retain responsibility for South Georgia's security and air and sea patrols will continue.

There has been constant British admin-

istration of the island since 1908, apart from the brief period of illegal Argentine occupation in 1982. A small military presence, based at King Edward Point, has been there since 1982. The officer commanding the detachment also held the post of magistrate and postmaster.

Scattered around the island are remote huts which provide emergency shelter and survival stores for troops caught in bad weather.

Polar explorer Sir Edward Shackleton would no doubt have welcomed stumbling across one of these outposts in 1916 after he had sailed 800 miles to South Georgia in a lifeboat, crossed mountains and glaciers without food or shelter, before finally reaching a whaling station.

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands have no indigenous population. The vast white space is filled with penguins, albatross and seals. Scientists and support staff will be the only ones left to enjoy the view.

Harrogate gave us a head start, say college old boys (and girl)

JUNIOR soldiers from the Army Foundation College at Harrogate attending a recent Arms Selection Day – designed to help them choose a regiment when they leave the college – found many Harrogate "old boys" (and girls) ready to share their experiences of the "real" Army.

Here's what four of them have been getting up to since leaving the college:

Gdsm Chris Draper, Irish Guards, Munster (left AFC Aug 2000)



"The training at Harrogate really set me up for the course at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick. My fitness was of a higher standard than other people's."

He is due to go on exercises to Poland, Canada and Oman this year.

Pte Tom Keys, 1 Para, Dover (left AFC Aug 1999)



Since leaving he has been on a jungle exercise in Jamaica and took part in the rescue of hostages in Sierra Leone.

"I'd recommend the college to any 16-year-olds. The training made me a more confident soldier as we spent a lot of time on the range, doing fieldcraft, NBC, first aid and fitness."

Gnr Sara Whyman, 4 Regiment RA, Osnabrück (left AFC Aug 1999)



"Doing the year-long course slowly introduces you into the Army. I'm glad I've got my NVQs because my exam results from school weren't that good. Comms skills were also good because you've got to be able to communicate well in the Army."

She is due to go to Poland and the Balkans.

Gnr Richard McAuley, 40 Regiment RA, Topcliffe, North Yorkshire (left AFC Aug 1999)



Recently went on Exercise Iron Hawk in Canada.

"AFC puts you in good stead for promotion and there is a definite benefit in completing a one-year course. The IT training has been particularly useful as the guns have computers and I'm more confident using them than I would have been."

Lawyers in the front line

Soldiers deployed on operations can get legal advice . . . it's all part of the service

Story: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

TROOPS deployed in the Balkans can get legal advice from Army lawyers – and the service is free.

Army Legal Services (ALS), with headquarters at Upavon, have two officers permanently based in Kosovo and another in Banja Luka. And they are reinforced every other month by ALS officers who hold legal clinics for soldiers who can't get away to see their own solicitors.

But the in-theatre work of the ALS doesn't end there. Col James Stythe, who heads up the Army Legal Aid team in Bielefeld, Germany, explained: "When they deploy, commanders often need lawyers to advise them on operational legal matters. It is now a core part of ALS work."

That work includes giving advice on the laws of armed conflict and on the status of forces' agreements in a particular country. For example, it might involve claims against Nato for damage, advice on criminal jurisdiction or rules of engagement, and what weapons and tactics are allowed under an agreement.

There's an ALS lawyer in Sierra Leone, others at PJHQ Northwood and with the ARRC in Germany, with SHAPE and serving with British troops in Cyprus.

The Bielefeld Army Legal Aid office, which provides a service for soldiers in Germany and the Balkans, is sometimes referred to as "Divorces for the Forces".

"If you are a soldier in Germany with a divorce problem, you can't walk down the high street looking for a solicitor to help you," said Col Stythe. "But Army Legal Aid in Bielefeld can assist. It is the one ALS branch whose advice is to individuals rather than to the chain of command."

The service is free to soldiers, although if they get involved in litigation they would be expected to pay for civilian lawyers to represent them in court.

Much ALS work involves prosecution business in the courts-martial system.

Courts-martial, the military equivalent of Crown Courts, were overhauled in 1997, just as the summary discipline system, which roughly equates to a magistrate's court, was changed last year. Both

'At a modern court-martial, the defence is conducted by civilians'

alterations were inspired by the increasing inroads of human rights legislation into domestic law.

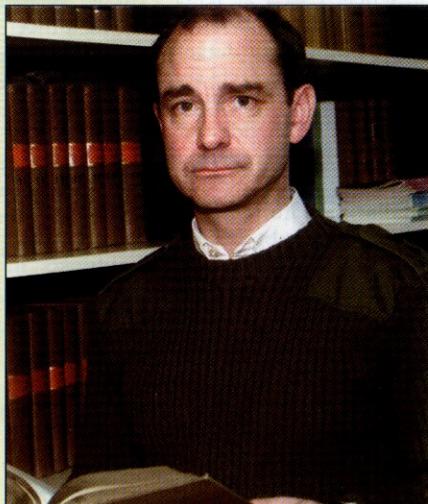
Unsurprisingly, the ALS input in preparing the way for the legislation was immense.

Just as enshrinement of human rights on the UK's statute books has created a demand for lawyers, change to the courts-martial procedure has put pressure on the system. The Armed Forces Act 1996, which established the Army Prosecution Authority, brought a new element to ALS work that required more people. Last year the branch recruited 19 new officers.

Following the establishment of the authority, the ALS can demonstrate that prosecutions conducted by the Army at courts-martial are independent of the military command, meeting European Convention requirements for fair, impartial hearings.

At a modern court-martial, the defence is conducted by civilians, with defendant soldiers instructing their own lawyers. They are entitled to apply for legal aid on similar principles to the civilian system.

The Army Prosecuting Authority also deals with appeals from summary cases where an appeal against sentence, or finding or both, can go to the Summary Appeal Court.



Helping hand: Col James Stythe heads the Army Legal Aid Team in Bielefeld, Germany



Act re-defines the way Army dispenses justice

ALTHOUGH it didn't become part of our domestic law until late last year, the UK ratified the Human Rights Convention in 1950.

Before last October, courts were not so closely bound by the Convention, so, while in theory everyone was entitled to its benefits, there was not a lot they could do about it unless they went to Strasbourg to get an international court ruling in their favour – and some people did just that.

As a result of one of those actions, by LSgt Alexander Findlay, the court martial system was dramatically changed in 1997. He had argued that because his court-martial was convened by an officer who was part of the same chain of com-

mand as the court members he had nominated, there was a perception that the court was not impartial.

Following the Strasbourg ruling, the post of convening officer was scrapped and courts-martial organisers and prosecuting officers are now independent of the chain of command.

How does the Human Rights Act affect the Army? As far as courts-martial are concerned, the issue was addressed in 1997 because of the Findlay case among other considerations.

Under the old summary disciplinary system a soldier alleged to have committed a minor offence could be summoned to a hearing convened by his or her CO and punished accordingly if found guilty.

No lawyers were present and the soldier had no right to cross-examine his accusers.

Not fair, said the Human Rights Convention, which demanded that tribunals be independent and impartial. The ALS helped to prepare the groundwork for the Armed Forces Discipline Act 2000 which came into effect on October 1, 2000, the same day as the Human Rights Act 1998, overhauling the summary disciplinary system.

Now a soldier is entitled to ask immediately for a court-martial no matter how minor the offence. If he or she is convicted, the punishment may not exceed what the CO would have given had the case been heard at a summary proceeding.

Did you know?

- New ALS officers usually join as captains. They are already qualified solicitors, barristers or the Scottish equivalent.

- Army Legal Services provide lawyers for soldiers in Northern Ireland under certain circumstances. For example, a soldier involved in a shooting may need immediate legal advice during police enquiries.

- Bodies liable under the Human Rights Act are what are called Public Authorities . . . and they include the Armed Forces.

- Unlike laws on race, religion and sex, there is no legislation covering age discrimination in the UK. A European directive dealing with discrimination on the grounds of age and disability may take effect in 2002. A European directive becomes binding on all member states as soon as it is issued, but in this case the British Government has negotiated an "opt out" for the Armed Forces for reasons of operational effectiveness.

Fighting by the rules: The Balkans, left, and Sierra Leone are two of the theatres in which Army Legal Services officers advise battlefield commanders on the rules of engagement

And if the soldier accepts a summary hearing before the CO, he or she has the right to appeal.

"The other major change was that in the past the CO could remand someone to the guardroom with limited rights of appeal," explained Col Stythe. "Now there are strict custody time limits.

"Unlike the civilian system, where magistrates do not sit on Sundays, leaving alleged offenders in the cells until Monday morning, the military court will meet on Sunday, thereby providing a better service to the soldier than a civilian court would."

Changes to human rights rules have given the ALS a lot of work, but everyone has benefited.

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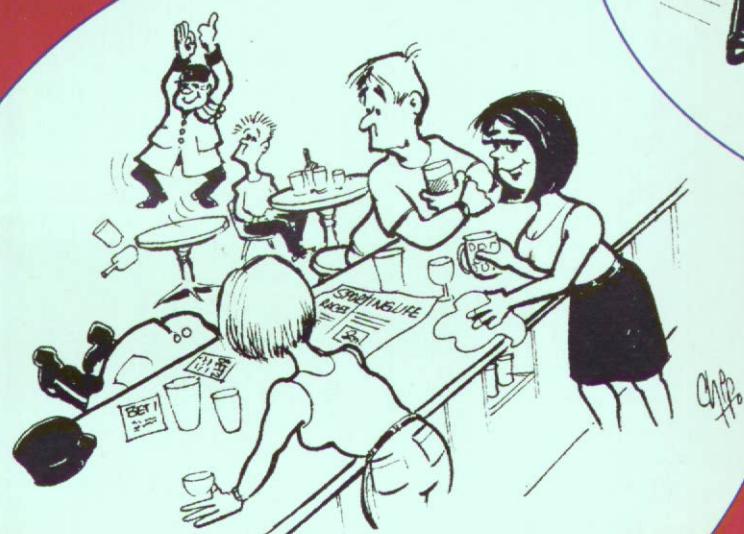
Chuckle with Chip



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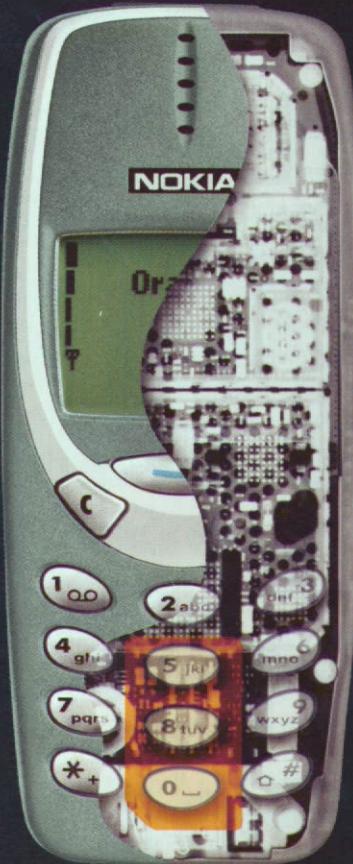
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Leaner, fitter Irish face up to climate of change

Undermanning has resulted in changes for The Royal Irish Regiment's Home Service battalions

Reports: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

BRITISH Army units may notice a change next time they begin a tour of Northern Ireland.

Instead of five Royal Irish Regiment home service (HS) battalions, they will be working with three.

The HS element of the regiment is in the process of putting the reduction into effect – a change which will make the surviving battalions the biggest in the British Army.

Inevitably the number of outstations will decrease, although there will be little change in the visibility of the locally-based soldiers.

The mergers are a result of undermanning in the Province, according to the Regimental Colonel, Col Stewart Douglas.

Unlike other British Army regiments, the Royal Irish is made up of three distinct elements – the general service (GS) battalion (1 R Irish), based in Canterbury as part of 16 Air Assault Brigade; the home service (HS) battalions, used pri-

marily for operations in Northern Ireland; and a TA battalion, part of the normal Territorial Army but with no involvement in security force operations.

The changes to the Royal Irish are happening during a time of political transformation in the Province and alongside a significant restructuring of its police service.

Although there were six HS battalions a year ago, in reality between them they were undermanned by a full battalion's worth of soldiers.

"We decided to reduce

● Turn to next page

Vigilant: Pte Cheryl McKee, R Irish, keeps a lookout during a phase 2 training rural patrol exercise at Magilligan Training Camp



Leaner, fitter Irish

From Page 33

from six to five battalions, which we now have, and initiated a study with HQ Northern Ireland," said Col Douglas.

That study concluded there was a continuing role for the home service element of the regiment in providing counter-terrorist support to the police as part of the garrison in Northern Ireland.

With that role in mind it was decided to restructure from five to three battalions to maximise the operational effectiveness of the available manpower.

The changes began last autumn with the disbandment of 5 R Irish. Plans are now in hand for the two battalions in the greater Belfast area - 7 and 9 - to merge by next autumn. In the spring of 2002 the 3rd Battalion at Portadown will merge with the 8th Battalion in Armagh.

Detailed planning of where the battalions will be based and where they will have outstations is going on.

One thing will not change: the enlarged battalions will remain geared up for immediate response to operations at all times. They will continue to have four full-time rifle companies, supported by a number of part-time companies.

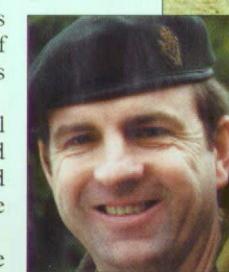
The HS units are different in other ways. Unlike roulement battalions, HS soldiers live in the community, not in barracks.

Royal Irish Regiment soldiers don't necessarily come from the Province. Many transfer in from other British Army regiments, often when soldiers marry local girls while on a tour of duty. There is also a steady trickle of recruits from the Irish Republic.

Recently their numbers have been swelled by several Fijian recruits, the latest in a long line from the Pacific island.



Col Stewart Douglas



Lt Col Leo Callow

Quality meets equality

Their infantry training drop-out rate is the envy of the mainland – and they prepare women for 'front-line'

IF infantry instructors on the UK mainland could guarantee a phase one drop-out rate of just eight per cent*, they would be delighted.

Yet that is the proud boast of their opposite numbers in Northern Ireland, who reckon the 600 soldiers joining the Army every year from across Ireland represent a seam of quality.

The young soldiers who pass through their hands don't automatically join The Royal Irish Regiment. They might be bound for the Household Cavalry, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars (the Irish Cavalry) or the Irish Guards.

As the debate on women in the front line gathers pace, it is significant that male and female recruits passing through the infantry training centre at Ballymena have to meet identical standards. They do the same drills and carry the same loads.

So how do they keep the wastage rate so low? Allenbrooke Platoon, which has 40 male and female recruits aged 16 to 17, is typical. Half will be going to regiments other than the Royal Irish.

"They come with a real breadth of education and good, solid family values," said Lt Col Leo Callow, CO of the R Irish Depot.

"We believe our wastage rates prove our methods are getting it right."

"It is because we are able to devote the time to each individual person and his or her problems and overcome them. It means we may have to take people out of training and re-educate them because they cannot read or write properly."

"If they are homesick we react to it, if they are not fit enough we build them up, or if there is a medical problem we try to help them overcome it."

School-leaver soldiers in Allenbrooke Platoon seem happy enough with their lot on a 42-week course encompassing both military and academic classes.

"They are doing OK," said Sgt Dave Dodds. "Some are going to be tankies, others infantry. They learn to do things



Foot patrol: Phase 2 trainees take to the fields, main picture, while school-leaver soldiers from Allenbrooke Platoon are netted in Ballymena

for themselves and the difference between the start and finish is remarkable."

Recruit Colin Shields is joining the general service (GS) 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment and reckons the course has been hard work "but worthwhile". It was a view shared by Rct Connor McKenna, soon to join The Royal Dragoon Guards. "I've wanted to join since I was a kid and I've made lots of mates here," he said.

Training is identical for men and women. Indeed, the R Irish battalions have had women on the "front-line" for some time. Rct Karen Peck, who will join a home service battalion said: "It's been enjoyable. I've done some range work at Magilligan and a march-and-shoot using SA80."

Lt Col Callow said: "Because of where they are, many of the soldiers do volunteer for home service battalions."

"It is a tight-knit population here and very different from the broad-based population of England. Here, youngsters see joining the R Irish as a local career."

"We are seen as part of the heart of the local community in Ballymena. We are their local regiment and very Irish. They see us on their doorstep in St Patrick's Barracks, and outside the gate is St Patrick's Church."

"We wear the shamrock flash on our uniforms and real shamrock on St

Patrick's Day. The value of the regiment as part of the community should not be underestimated."

"Added to that the majority of Irish men and women who join the British Army are committed individuals who stay for the full haul."

So while about half the youngsters go to other parts of the Army, many naturally stay with their local battalions.

Maj Ian Bailey, from the Regimental Training Company, trains the R Irish GS and HS recruits at phase-one level. While phase-two GS soldiers go to Catterick, the HS soldiers remain in Northern Ire-

6 The majority of Irish men and women who join the British Army are committed individuals who stay for the full haul'

Watch out for the CAT

BEFORE human rights activists start shouting that barbaric practices are being reintroduced into the British Army, we should point out that the CAT in the headline is not a whip with nine tails.

It stands for Community Awareness Training and from this month it will be introduced to soldiers deployed to the Province who will come into contact with the public.

Taking into account all resident and touring units, that amounts to about 13,000 soldiers a year who will have to undergo some form of CAT, whether as part of a pre-tour package, or in-Provence training.

Maj Mike Ruddock, R Irish, heads the CAT training team based at Ballymena. His job is to deliver attitude, perception and appropriate behaviour training.

The course, based on video-interactive judgmental training, can be taken to a unit base. Four mobile CAT trainers can each cope with up to 300 students.

Training is normally done within a small group, probably at platoon strength with students playing through story lines filmed by the CAT team.

The videos depict routine situations such as a soldier involved in a potential confrontation with a member of the public. When the video stops, soldiers have to make a multi-choice decision on a keypad similar in a similar fashion to TV's *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* programme.

Based on their decision and discussion

Turn to Page 37



Cat man: Maj Mike Ruddock with the CAT keypad

land for the Combat Infantry Course (NI), which lasts 12 weeks and takes place at Ballymena, Magilligan and Ballykinler. It teaches specialist skills required for operations in Northern Ireland.

Soldiers who want to transfer to the Royal Irish Regiment also pass through the depot. They have, typically, served with other regiments in Northern Ireland, married local women and wish to return to the Province for family reasons.

"If they transfer direct from an infantry regiment they usually go straight to their new unit, but some need a short course to bring them up to speed," said Maj Bailey.

*As reported in *Soldier* (February), a one-phase system of infantry soldier training is being trialled at Catterick in an effort to reduce wastage, running as high as 40 per cent.

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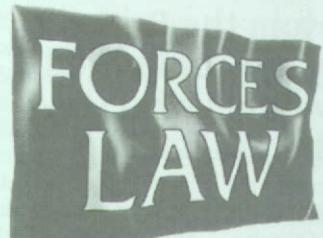


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Dune watch

Ballykinler is familiar to thousands of soldiers. But how many of them are aware of its secret history or wildlife?

BALLYKINLER training camp on the south-east coast of Northern Ireland, bordered by the Mountains of Mourne on one side and the Irish Sea on the other, might have been a military range for the past 800 years.

That, anyway, is the whimsical theory of former major Stuart Hudson, the range liaison officer. A self-confessed history, archaeology and conservation nut, he said: "The biology down here is particularly rewarding.

"Until I arrived everyone thought this was just a place where people fired bullets. Then I started digging into the local archives and libraries . . ."

The former National Serviceman, who went on to spend 34 years in the RAOC and The Parachute Regiment, explained: "Even the name has a history. 'Bally' means township and 'kinler' means candlesticks. So this is the township of the candlesticks."

Apparently John de Courcy, a Norman, arrived at Ballykinler from Dublin in 1178 and took it over, killing many Christians. As a penance he later gave it to Christ Church in Dublin. It was reckoned the cash equivalent of the land was the same in value as the candlesticks on the high altar.

The CAT

From Page 35

with the trainers, subsidiary questions and video clips are played out – should the soldier in the video scene shoot, arrest, strike out or engage in a conversation?

"For the first time we are challenging soldiers' attitudes and seeing how they affect their behaviour on an operational tour," said Maj Ruddock.

CAT was developed following a suggestion in 1999 by the independent assessor

for military complaints, Jim MacDonald, that there was a lack of structured training which focused on soldiers' interaction with the public . . . the source of the public's perception of the Army's role in Northern Ireland.

Maj Ruddock's mission is to help troops understand . . .

- The community of Northern Ireland, what it is and how it has been shaped;
- How behaviour is affected by their attitude;
- What is appropriate and professional behaviour in routine daily contact with the public.

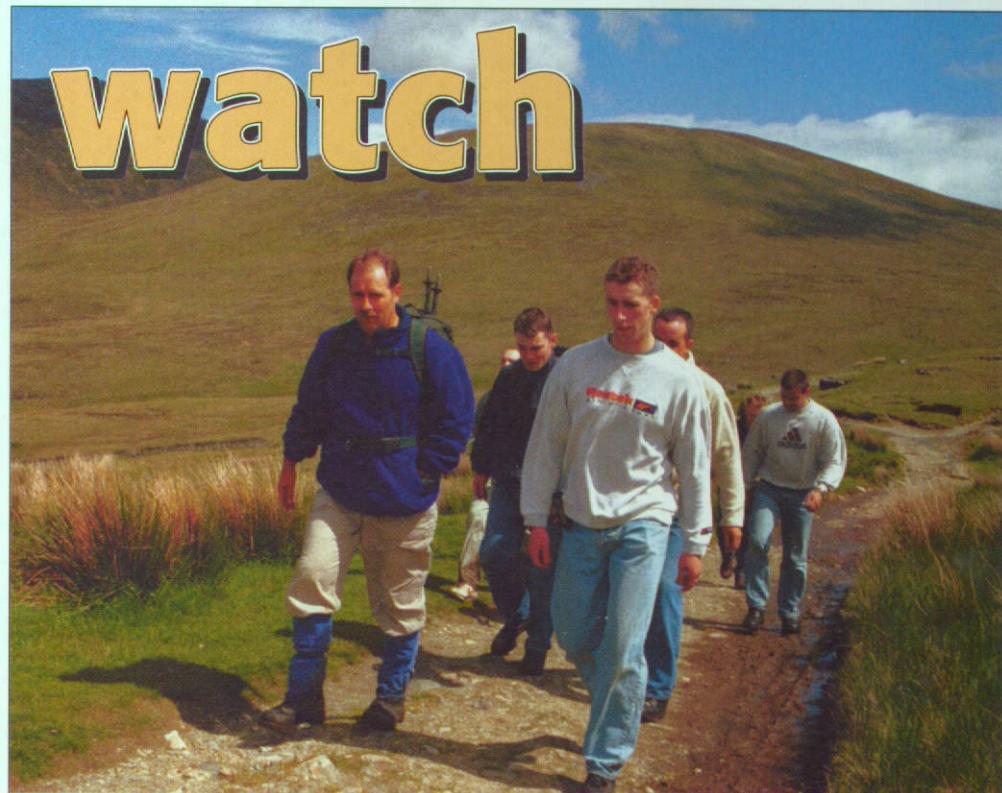
"There is an assumption that the Community Awareness Training team goes around telling people to be namby pamby," said Maj Ruddock. "That's not true.

"We don't say go out and be nice to everyone. We say be firm, be fair and treat everyone equally.

"It is the individual soldier who creates the public's perception of the Army."

Questioning attitudes can avoid potential flashpoints.

Should the system prove as successful as the team hopes, it could be developed for pre-tour use in Kosovo, Bosnia, and Sierra Leone.



Scenic tour: Soldiers from 1 RGBW walk in the Mourne Mountains overlooking Ballykinler

The Normans also introduced rabbits to the ancient sand dunes, an environment in which they quickly thrived. The dunes were soon providing fast food for troops based in local strongholds.

"If archers came here to kill rabbits, it could mean that Ballykinler was a range as long ago as 1178," Stuart reckons.

What is certain is that when the 100-year-old gorse was partly cleared a couple of years ago, a strange circle was discovered. Stuart examined the site with the head of archaeology from Queen's University, Belfast, who thought it was some kind of burial mound.

"There's a ditch which is not recent and not a fortification," he said. "It's

probably early Christian, possibly 600 to 800 AD."

The 10,000-year-old dunes, which hold many wildlife secrets, are an area of special scientific interest.

Access to the range has been restricted since it was opened, leaving flora and fauna virtually untouched since 1901.

Badgers and more than 150 species of bird have made the relatively undisturbed area their habitat.

Because the rifle range faces the sea, a colony of grey and common seals lives in a protected cocoon. Rounds that miss their targets pass safely over the heads of the seals.

The rare devil's scabious, a blue flower found in the dunes, was known to attract a butterfly called the marsh fritillary. It is now believed to be extinct in north-west Europe, but environmentalists are keeping an eye out . . . just in case.

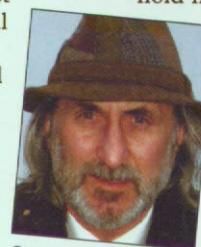
The 1901 range, used by recruits training on the Martini Henry rifle, was 900 yards long – the distance at which they were expected to hit an enemy soldier.

"They did six weeks of solid firing, which is why our guys were pretty good shots in the First World War," said Stuart.

Despite the sound of gunfire, this remains an idyllic corner of Northern Ireland. "I like to think St Patrick himself came here," he said.

He hopes that one day the Province's normalisation process might allow him to take students around the range to examine the natural history.

You never know what they might find.



Stuart Hudson



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Has the old ID card had its chips?



Picture: Graeme Main

Smart card may be about to give way to the 'smarter' soldier

IN a trial believed to be a world first, a cross-section of soldiers have allowed themselves to be micro-chipped as part of a study into how new technology may be harnessed to revolutionise the bureaucracy of personal administration.

All the troops involved in the project are volunteers.

Impetus for phase one of the Army Personnel Rationalisation Individual Listings project came from the acclaimed Passports for Pets scheme, from which much of the technology has been adapted.

The trial, which began at the start of this month, is to run for six months. Should it be the success which project managers anticipate, the whole of the Army could be micro-chipped by 2010.

Col M W Jones, late RRW, told *Soldier*: "The chip, which is implanted in the neck, would have many uses, one of which would be to replace the current ID card. This would protect the identity of those in the Armed Forces and prevent lost ID cards falling into the wrong hands."

Every military base would have a facility to "swipe" military personnel in and out

Gnr Phil Dix of 7 (Para) RHA is "checked out" by Des West of Great Mills, Aldershot

of bases, operational theatres and so on.

It would make the introduction of the Pay As You Dine Scheme much easier, allowing mess staff to swipe soldiers as they passed the hot plate. It is estimated that savings in time and administration of the PAYD scheme alone could in one year pay for up to three additional Challenger 2 main battle tanks or 27 single living accommodation upgrades.

"A continual database would show the whereabouts of every serving member of the Armed Forces, giving commanders much greater control on the battlefield," said Col Jones.

"We could 'swipe' casualties to get their medical records, blood group or next-of-kin. There would no longer be a need for an individual's documents to be carted around the world."

All relevant information would be held in the neck chip. "Guinea pigs" say this process is virtually painless. A red patch over the site of the implant fades within days and there are said to be no long-term side effects.

There is, however some concern that individual freedoms might be compromised by the Army Personnel Rationalisation Individual Listings (APRIL) scheme, which could also allow the monitoring of troops during off-duty periods.

Anyone fitted with a micro-chip who takes unofficial leave, for example could rapidly be traced at home or abroad.

A purpose-built "stealth" or "switch-

off" mechanism for the chip is being developed so personnel would become "invisible" when on leave, AWOL or posted to Special Forces units. This would effectively divorce them from the central electronic records management system (ERMS) located in Glasgow.

Certain trades, including some REME personnel who come into contact with powerful electro-magnetic fields which distort micro-chip memory, are likely to be exempted.

If phase one of the trial – inevitably dubbed APRIL 1 – is a success, a second phase will take the project into the high street, allowing a soldier to be swiped when visiting a theatre, cinema or restaurant. Major supermarket chains, which have already invested heavily in sophisticated bar-code readers, are understood to have asked the MoD to keep them in the picture.

Servicemen and women of the future may opt to be swiped as they leave a retail outlet, with their bill being automatically debited against a personal bank or building society account.

It is anticipated that an added bonus is likely to be the ease with which product loyalty and reward points could be accumulated.

Also creating a frisson in the scientific world, *Soldier* has been told, is the area of inter-personal communications linked to micro-chips. Boffins are trying to establish if cellphone technology can be made to interact with a chip implanted in the lobe, bringing the proverbial "word in your ear" closer to reality.

What do all those abbreviations mean?
See 'Learn the lingo' at foot of page



WO1 David Merrick, REME
Serving at SEAE Arborfield. He has completed 22 years plus two years as an apprentice.
He is eligible for seven weeks' GRT plus one month's terminal leave

- CTW at 20-year point
- Two-week project management course at Hull University
- Two-week civilian attachment with Honeywell, the IT company
- Final 2½ weeks on job attachment to a gym for possible future part-time work as personal fitness trainer.

NB. David Merrick now works for Motorola, which is keen to recruit more military personnel. Check it out at www.motorolacareers.com

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Cpl Alun Morgan, REME
Serving with 1 Para at Dover, has completed 12 years' service.

He is eligible for six weeks' GRT, including

- Three days' CTW
- Two weeks' air conditioning and refrigeration course
- Two weeks' civilian work attachment
- Seven days' IRP

Sgt Julie Davies, RLC
Serving in main kitchen, St David's Barracks, Bicester. Twelve years' service. Looking for a management job in catering. She is eligible for six weeks' GRT, including:

- Three days' CTW
- Two weeks' European Computer Driving Licence at Aldershot
- One-week Institute of Safety and Health course at Aldershot
- One-week course in managing people in a commercial environment at RBL College, Tidworth
- Final seven days' IRP job-search.

The Career Transition Partnership (CTP) is a partnership between the MoD's Directorate of Military Outplacement Services (DMOS) and Coutts Consulting plc. Its purpose is to help eligible Service leavers make a successful transition to civilian employment. Visit it at www.ctp.org.uk

The steps back to CIVVY STREET

Private or general . . . every soldier has to return to civvy street one day and every Service leaver is eligible to a package of resettlement help. What you can expect depends on how many years you have put in. Here is a *Soldier* guide to your resettlement eligibility

Funding

- If you have served five or more years, the Individual Resettlement Training Costs grant exists to help you meet the cost of training as part of your resettlement. The full grant is £534. In addition, travel and subsistence costs are payable under certain circumstances. Consult your resettlement staff to make sure you are eligible.
- If you are taking on a course of study as part of your resettlement plan, you may also be eligible for a partial refund of the cost through Standard Learning Credits.

Graduated resettlement time

- Graduated resettlement time (GRT) is designed to reward longer service, with an eligibility to an increased length of resettlement preparation time. GRT, which applies to all Regular Army personnel, irrespective of rank who have served more than five years, is fully flexible and enables you to use your resettlement time (within an overall limit) to combine:
- Workshops and specialist briefings run by the CTP.
- Specialist training for your new career run by CTP or another training provider.
- Civilian attachments to enable you to experience working for a civilian employer.
- Individual resettlement preparation to enable you to find a school for your children, apply for jobs, go for interviews and so on.

Your GRT eligibility in weeks: less than five years' reckonable service – none; five or more – four; eight or more – five; 12 or more – six; 16 or more – seven.

Three or more years' service

- Access to the Career Transition Partnership's (CTP) job-finding service (provided in conjunction with the Regular Forces' Employment Association and Officers' Association). RFEA and OA services, as appropriate, are available to you for the rest of your working life, not just your first job.

Five or more years' service

- Access to the full service of the Career Transition Partnership. This includes advice, career counselling, workshops, training and marketing services to eligible Service leavers from up to two years before discharge or retirement, and job-finding, career counselling and marketing services for up to two years after you've left. The time the Army allows you to undertake these activities depends on how long you have served.

Learn the lingo

CTP – Career Transition Partnership
CTW – Career Transition Workshop
GRT – Graduated resettlement time
IERO – Individual education and resettlement officer
IRP – Individual resettlement preparation
URC – Unit resettlement clerk
URO – Unit resettlement officer
SLST – Service leavers' support team

'Having my own consultant really helped me get the job I wanted' – Lance corporal, RE

'Whatever else you intend doing for your resettlement, make sure you do a CTW' – Staff sergeant, REME

'Somebody told me it was a load of rubbish, but it's the best thing I've ever done' – WO2, Coldrm Gds

'The business start-up course is a must for anyone wanting to start their own business' – WO2, WG

'I wish I'd done a CTW earlier' – Captain, RLC

Here's what they thought

'It's made me realise I've got to start thinking for myself' – WO2, REME

'I'm glad I did it early, as there is more to job-finding than sending out lots of CVs' – Corporal, 2 Para

Pte Martin Brownless, RLC

Serving with 27 Transport Regiment RLC. He has completed three years and three months. He is eligible for:

- CTP's job-finding service
- Resettlement briefing by IERO
- Job-finder's workshop run by SLST and employment fairs.
- Housing and financial briefings

Any questions?

Contact your unit resettlement officer or the IERO at your local Army Education Centre.

Spr Greg Husbands, RE
Telecoms operator, bomb disposal-trained, 5½ years' service.

He is eligible for six weeks' GRT as a medical dischargee (normally four weeks).

He used one week for interview techniques and IRP

and the rest in full-time work placement with a recruitment consultancy, which led to a job with the same firm.

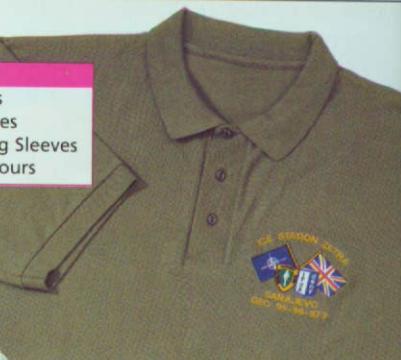
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Territorial Army

Officers	
RANK	£ DAILY
2nd Lieutenant	47.85
Lieutenant	
On appointment	57.53
After 1 year in rank	59.04
After 2 years in rank	60.56
After 3 years in rank	62.06
After 4 years in rank	63.58
Captain	
On appointment	73.35
After 1 year in rank	75.33
After 2 years in rank	77.32
After 3 years in rank	79.31
After 4 years in rank	81.29
After 5 years in rank	83.28
After 6 years in rank	85.25
Major	
On appointment	93.40
After 1 year in rank	94.69
After 2 years in rank	96.96
After 3 years in rank	99.25
After 4 years in rank	101.53
After 5 years in rank	103.82
After 6 years in rank	106.10
After 7 years in rank	108.38
After 8 years in rank	110.67
Lieutenant Colonel	
On appointment with less than 19 years' service [†]	130.33
After 2 years in rank or 19 years' service [†]	133.77
After 4 years in rank or 21 years' service [†]	137.20
After 6 years in rank or 23 years' service [†]	143.91
After 8 years in rank or 25 years' service [†]	147.42
Colonel	
On appointment	154.46
After 2 years in rank	158.52
After 4 years in rank	162.58
After 6 years in rank	166.64
After 8 years in rank	170.71
Brigadier	193.32

[†] "Years' service" refers to commissioned service.

Officers of the Quartermaster Category	
RANK	£ DAILY
Lieutenant/Captain/Major	
On appointment	88.62
After 1 year's service	90.10
After 2 years' service	91.43
After 3 years' service	92.76
After 4 years' service	94.08
After 5 years' service	95.40
After 6 years' service	96.73
After 8 years' service	98.06
After 10 years' service	99.53
After 12 years' service	101.01
After 14 years' service	102.53
After 16 years' service	104.08
Lieutenant Colonel	
On appointment	117.28
After 3 years' service	118.94

Increased rates of pay are only permissible under TA Regulations 1978 para 7.026b and 7.027c.

TA Veterinary Officers	
RANK	£ DAILY
Captain and Major	
On appointment	73.35
After 1 year's service	78.55
After 3 years' service	83.74
After 5 years' service	88.92
After 7 years' service	94.12
After 9 years' service	99.31
After 11 years' service	104.50
After 13 years' service	109.15
After 15 years' service	114.56
After 17 years' service	119.97
After 19 years' service	125.37
After 21 years' service	130.76
Lieutenant Colonel	
On appointment	135.36
After 2 years' service [†]	139.71
After 4 years' service [†]	144.05
Colonel	
On appointment	154.46
After 2 years' service	158.52

[†] Captains & Majors who on 31/3/94, were paid at the former "after 23, 25 and 27 years' service" points will remain at these points on reserved rights.

All the above rates of pay are not incremental, but are shown in order to provide a point of entry, determined by previous commissioned service: otherwise the "on appointment" rate is appropriate. There is no progression. If individuals have completed a year's called-out service or full-time reserve service they will move to the next incremental point on the anniversary of that call-out service.

Officer Cadet	
RANK	£ DAILY
Cadet on entry	30.27
Young soldier	20.65

Army sections of the Combined Cadet Force and Army Cadet Force

Officers	
RANK	£ DAILY
2nd Lieutenant	45.58
Lieutenant	54.79
On appointment	56.23
*With 1 year's full-time service in rank	56.23
*With 2 years' full-time service in rank	57.67
*With 3 years' full-time service in rank	59.11
*With 4 years' full-time service in rank	60.55
Captain	69.86
On appointment	71.74
*With 1 year's full-time service in rank	73.64
*With 2 years' full-time service in rank	75.53
*With 3 years' full-time service in rank	77.42
*With 4 years' full-time service in rank	79.31
*With 5 years' full-time service in rank	81.19
Major	88.00
On appointment	90.18
*With 1 year's full-time service in rank	92.35
*With 2 years' full-time service in rank	94.52
*With 3 years' full-time service in rank	96.70
*With 4 years' full-time service in rank	98.88
*With 5 years' full-time service in rank	101.04
*With 6 years' full-time service in rank	103.22
*With 7 years' full-time service in rank	105.40
Lieutenant Colonel	124.12
On appointment with less than 19 years' service [†]	127.40
*After 2 years' in rank or 19 years' service [†]	130.66
*After 4 years' in rank or 21 years' service [†]	139.27
*After 6 years' in rank or 23 years' service [†]	142.67

* Full-time service in accordance with CCF Manual JSP 313, chap 3, para 0320.

[†] 'Years' service' refers to commissioned service.

Chaplains	
RANK	£ DAILY
Chaplain	69.86
On appointment	74.92
After 2 years' service	79.98
After 4 years' service	85.05
After 6 years' service	90.12
After 8 years' service	95.19
After 10 years' service	100.25
After 12 years' service	105.32
After 14 years' service	110.38
After 16 years' service	115.44
After 18 years' service	120.51
After 20 years' service	125.58
After 22 years' service	130.66
After 24 years' service	135.73

Increased rates of pay are only permissible under ACF Regulations chap 7, part 3

All the above rates of pay are not incremental, but are shown in order to provide a point of entry, determined by previous commissioned service: otherwise the "on appointment" rate is appropriate. There is no progression. If individuals have completed a year's called-out service or full-time reserve service they will move to the next incremental point on the anniversary of that call-out service.

Officers		
	Full Commitment 13% X-factor	Limited Commitment 5% X-factor
RANK	£ DAILY	£ DAILY
2nd Lieutenant	51.50	47.85
Lieutenant	61.91	57.53
On appointment	63.54	59.04
After 1 year in rank	65.17	60.56
After 2 years in rank	66.79	62.06
After 3 years in rank	68.42	63.58
Captain	78.94	73.35
On appointment	81.07	75.33
After 1 year in rank	83.21	77.32
After 2 years in rank	85.35	79.31
After 3 years in rank	87.48	81.29
After 4 years in rank	89.62	83.28
After 5 years in rank	91.75	85.25
Major	99.44	92.40
On appointment	101.90	94.69
After 1 year in rank	104.35	96.96
After 2 years in rank	106.81	99.25
After 3 years in rank	109.27	101.53
After 4 years in rank	111.73	103.82
After 5 years in rank	114.18	106.10
After 6 years in rank	116.64	108.38
After 7 years in rank	119.10	110.67
Lieutenant Colonel	140.26	130.33
On appointment with less than 19 years' service [†]	143.96	133.77
After 2 years in rank or 19 years' service [†]	147.65	137.20
After 4 years in rank or 21 years' service [†]	151.34	143.91
After 6 years in rank or 23 years' service [†]	155.03	147.42
Colonel	162.43	154.46
On appointment	166.70	158.52
After 2 years in rank	170.97	162.58
After 4 years in rank	175.24	166.64
After 6 years in rank	179.52	170.71
After 8 years in rank	198.39	193.32

[†] 'Years' service' refers to commissioned service.

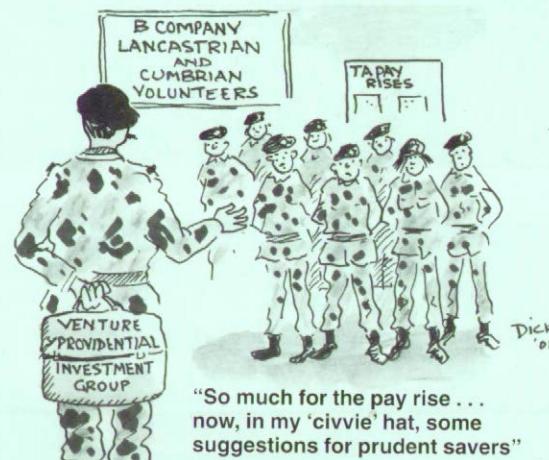
Royal Army Chaplains' Department		
	Full Commitment 13% X-factor	Limited Commitment 5% X-factor
RANK	£ DAILY	£ DAILY
Chaplains Classes 4 (Captain), 3 (Major)	78.94	73.35
On appointment	84.66	78.67
After 2 years' service	90.38	83.98
After 4 years' service	96.11	89.31
After 6 years' service	101.83	94.62
After 8 years' service	107.56	99.95
After 10 years' service	113.28	105.26
After 12 years' service	119.01	110.58
After 14 years' service	124.73	115.90
After 16 years' service	130.45	121.21
After 18 years' service	136.18	126.54
After 20 years' service	141.90	131.85
After 22 years' service	147.65	137.20
After 24 years' service	153.37	142.51

Full-Time Reserve Service

Officers of the Quartermaster Category

RANK	Full Commitment 13% X-factor	Limited Commitment 5% X-factor
Lieutenant/Captain/Major	95.37	88.62
On appointment	96.97	90.10
After 1 year's service	98.40	91.43
After 2 years' service	99.83	92.76
After 3 years' service	101.25	94.08
After 4 years' service	102.67	95.40
After 5 years' service	104.10	96.73
After 6 years' service	105.53	98.06
After 8 years' service	107.11	99.53
After 10 years' service	108.71	101.01
After 12 years' service	110.34	102.53
After 14 years' service	112.01	104.08
Lieutenant Colonel	126.22	117.28
On appointment	128.00	118.94

[†] 'Years' service' refers to commissioned service.



"So much for the pay rise... now, in my 'civvie' hat, some suggestions for prudent savers"

Veterinary Officers

RANK	Full Commitment 13% X-factor	Limited Commitment 5% X-factor
Captain & Major	78.94	73.35
On appointment	84.53	78.55
After 1 year's service	90.12	83.74
After 2 years' service	95.70	88.92
After 3 years' service	101.29	94.12
After 4 years' service	106.88	99.31
After 5 years' service	112.46	104.50
After 6 years' service	117.47	109.15
After 7 years' service	123.29	114.56
After 8 years' service	129.11	119.97
After 9 years' service	134.92	125.37
After 10 years' service	140.72	130.76
Lieutenant Colonel	145.67	135.36
On appointment*	150.35	139.71
After 2 years' service [†]	155.03	144.05
Colonel	162.43	154.46
On appointment	166.70	158.52

* Captains & Majors who on 31/3/94, were paid at the former "after 23, 25 and 27 years' service" points will remain at these points under reserved rights.

[†] 'Years' service' refers to commissioned service.

Late Entry, Full Commitment – 13% X-factor

Years of Commissioned Service	- 12	12 but -15	15+
RANK	£ DAILY	£ DAILY	£ DAILY
Lieutenant & Captains only			
On commissioning	86.96	91.14	95.32
After 1 year's service	89.06	93.24	97.44
After 2 years' service	91.14	95.32	98.78
After 3 years' service	93.24	97.44	100.13
After 4 years' service	95.32	98.78	101.48
After 5 years' service	97.44	100.13	102.83
After 6 years' service	98.78	101.48	104.18
After 8 years' service	100.13	102.83	105.53

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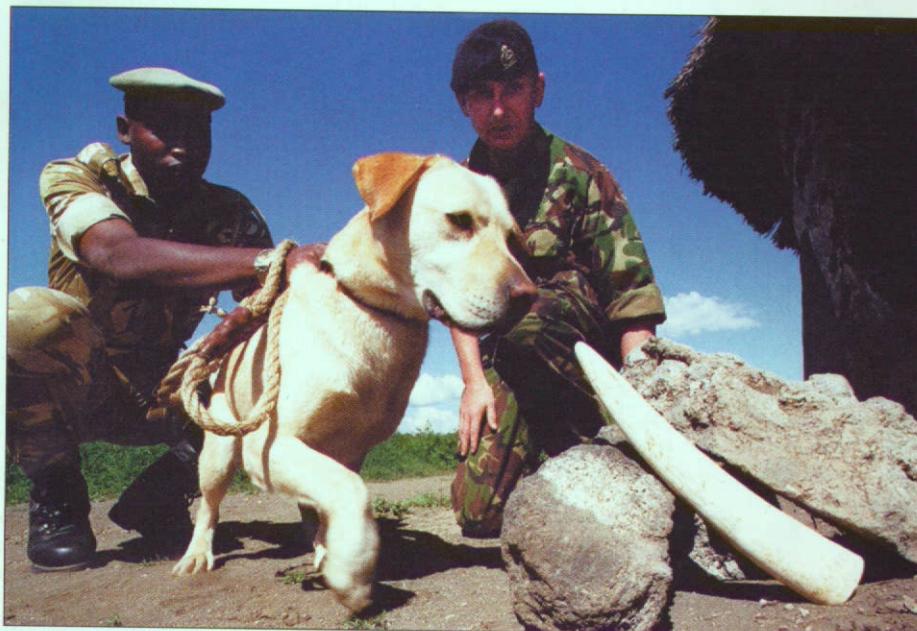
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On the scent: Blair sniffs out a tusk hidden by his Kenyan handler, Ranger Robert Kipunde, left, as Sgt Tam Nichol, who began the process at Melton Mowbray, watches over the training

Horn free

Report: Dennis Barnes
Pictures: Kevin Capon

TWO sniffer dogs trained by the Army at Melton Mowbray have been deployed in the battle to save Kenya's rhino from poachers.

Blair, a golden retriever and former family pet, and Charlie, a mongrel plucked from Battersea Dogs' Home, are living in kennels built by British sappers at the Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS) base overlooking Lake Naivasha.

Believed to be the first sniffer dogs to specialise in finding ivory, Blair and Charlie are now learning to work with Frank Keshe and Robert Kipunde, two Masai warrior game rangers.

Their journey to East Africa began at the Defence Animal Centre in Melton Mowbray, where Sgt Tam Nichol and LCpl Paul Duke of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps' canine unit spent months training the dogs. Special arrangements were made for tusks to be flown from Kenya to the Leicestershire establishment so Blair and Charlie could learn their new trade.

For the next phase of their apprenticeships, they were moved into spacious quarters constructed close to Lake Naivasha with all doggie mod cons by sappers from 37 Armoured Engineering Troop.

Sgt Stuart Allen, who worked on the project, said: "Their accommodation is better than ours."

Meanwhile, Frank and Robert, mem-



A long way from Battersea: Charlie, left, and Blair, get used to the sights, sounds and smells of Africa at the KWS base on Lake Naivasha. Making sure they enjoy the experience with a cooling swim is LCpl Paul Duke

bers of a newly-formed KWS dog unit, were being shown how to look after their charges and use them in their sniffer role.

Frank said: "I'm proud to work against the poachers. With these dogs we can take the war forward and into the bush."

Although Blair and Charlie got used to cows at Melton Mowbray, Sgt Nichol said their eyes nearly popped out of their heads when they walked through a herd of giraffe for the first time.

The dogs will patrol Kenya's airports, search ships, and be used deep in the bush to look for poached ivory.

Josiah Achoki, the KWS's assistant director of operations, said: "This is a wonderful example of us and the British Army working together."

Driving ambition

Another in an occasional series on what TA soldiers do when not in uniform

FEW soldiers in the Territorial Army (or the Regulars for that matter) find themselves on almost first-name terms with generals and government ministers, writes Ray Routledge.

Step forward SSgt Ian Lapidge, a 15-year TA soldier currently serving as quartermaster with HQ Squadron, 71 (Y) Signal Regiment (V) at Bexleyheath.

For the past five years Ian's day job as one of 22 civilian drivers working for A Troop, 20 Transport Squadron RLC at Regent's Park Barracks in London has put him in close contact with the movers and shakers.

The lowest rank he drives for is brigadier and a field marshal the highest. "We also drive for all the MoD ministers as well as civil servants from Grade 7 upwards," he said.

Recent VIP passengers have included Baroness Symons, Dr Lewis Mooney, John Spellar, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler and Gen Sir Mike Jackson.

"They are always polite and, regardless of the fact that I am a TA soldier, ask after the family. They take an interest."

He clocks up 70,000 miles a year in vehicles ranging from Ford Mondeos to limousines. Security and safety are paramount.

While Ian gets the full support of his TA unit, he acknowledges the tolerance shown by his wife, Linda, over both his day job and his TA commitment.

"She supports me despite the many times I've cancelled domestic plans so I can take on TA or driving work."

Ian was never a Regular, although he reckons he would have enjoyed it, following in the footsteps of Bob, his father, who ended his 27-year military career as a sergeant major in the Band of the Royal Artillery.

When Ian left school he visited an Army careers office but then thought he only wanted to join up for his father's sake, so walked away.

"My commitment to the Territorial Army is total," he said. "I'm a TA soldier and proud of it."

TA soldiers: If you have an unusual civvy job we'd like to hear from you.



On the road: SSgt Ian Lapidge

Fighting in the ranks

Army life was a walk in the ring for this boxer turned stuntman

By Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

FROM West End doorman to professional boxer, Nosher Powell has made a career out of using his fists. His time in the Army was no exception.

When the flame-haired cockney was called up for National Service at the age of 18 he had already inherited his father's love of the fight game and was beginning to make a name for himself on the London circuit.

But before he packed his bags for life in the Army his father offered him some final words of advice... "Don't go boxing in the Army, boy. They'll ruin you."

Nosher soon found the rewards of donning his boxing gloves far outweighed the promise he made to his father.

After completing training, he was assigned to 9th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps - a posting that was slightly against the grain for someone more accustomed to inflicting injuries than treating them.

"I was given a very hurried week's embarkation leave before being ordered to board the SS *Orduna* for Port Said in Egypt," he remembered.

"Life was easy aboard the ship until we reached Gibraltar, where a corporal from the East African Rifles embarked. He had been demoted from sergeant major for brutality and he came down on me like a ton of bricks.

"I skipped kitchen duties one day

because I was more concerned with haggling for weevil-infested smokes than working and was sentenced to seven days in the ship's brig," he said.

After spending two days in the cells Nosher was summoned to the CO's office.

"He had heard that I was pretty handy with my fists and told me that they had the heavyweight champion of the Palestine police force coming aboard. The deal was simple - take the fight and win your freedom. I didn't need any more encouragement than that. This guy outweighed me by three-and-a-half stone but I knocked him out in two rounds and walked ashore at Port Said a free man."

Shortly after his arrival at 516 Transit Camp just outside Haifa in Palestine, Nosher was asked to fight again.

"Life on camp was fairly relaxed with guard duty the only real hardship," he recalled.

"So when I was asked to take on the heavyweight champion of Palestine I knew exactly what I wanted in exchange."

The champion hit the canvas in the first round and Nosher never endured guard duty again.

Following the mass evacuation of troops from Palestine, 9th Field Ambulance moved to El-Ballah - the RAMC's Canal Zone base in Egypt. The campaign of fights for favours continued.

"I used to get on with all my commanding officers - but I think that was because I won them so much money."

Imperial Services boxing championships saw Nosher promoted from Private to acting sergeant in double-quick time.

With his unbeaten record still intact, Nosher was selected to represent the United Services in a match against the Egyptian Olympic team - a showdown watched by King Farouk and Queen Farida of Egypt.

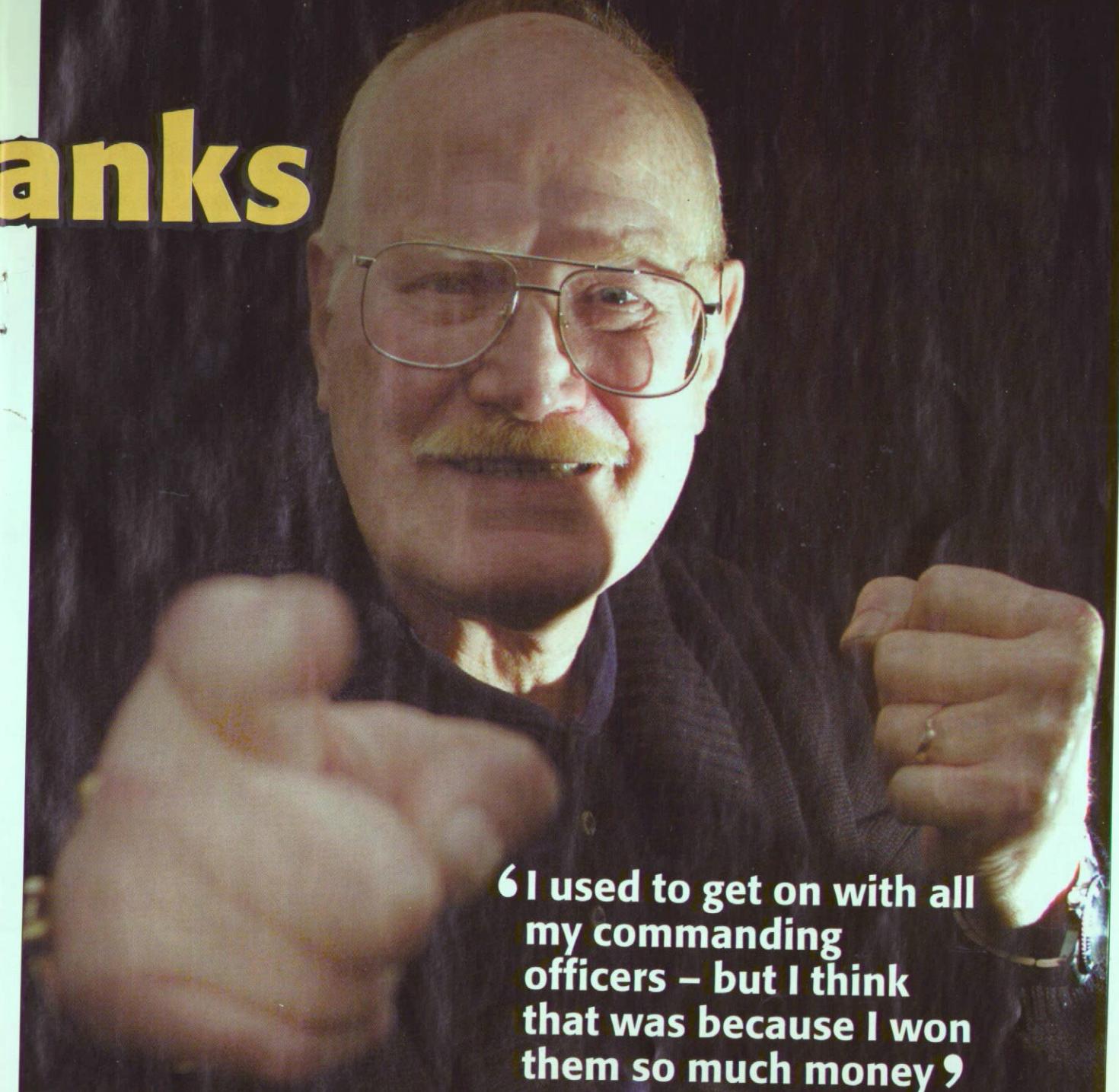
"It was the most terrifying moment of my Army career. We had a great team. Fighting at featherweight was Tommy O'Sullivan, whose brothers Mickey and Danny went on to become professional champions.

"The team were winning 7-0 with just me left to fight. I was warming up in my tent when the rest of the team came in and stood around me.

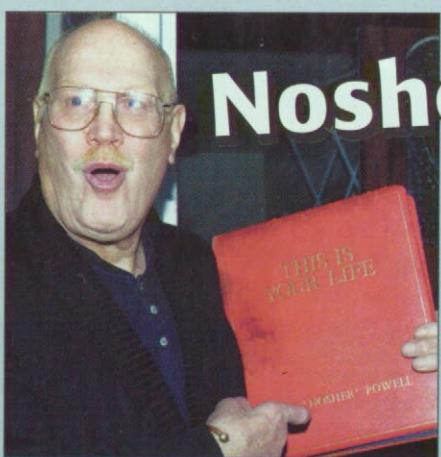
"O'Sullivan, who was a right chirpy little cockney, said to me 'Nosher, we're beating them 7-0. Now it's your turn. If you get beat we'll kick seven shades out of you.' I was more frightened of them than I've ever been in the ring.

"Looking back now they were great times," he said. "I never really had a proper job in the Army and was told to float around camp. They don't call me Nosher for nothing and I usually ended up in the kitchens."

"I used to get on with all my commanding officers - but I think that was because I won them so much money."



'I used to get on with all my commanding officers - but I think that was because I won them so much money'



Nosher... this is your life

ON completion of his National Service, Nosher - born Fred Powell - joined Lynn Boxing Club in September 1949 and after just six amateur contests turned professional.

During his ten-year boxing career he fought in 68 bouts, losing just eight.

In 1957 he was rated the world's highest-paid sparring partner. "When they wanted someone who would not collapse under the strain they sent for Nosher," he said. "I have been in the ring with people like Sugar Ray Robin-

son, Archie Moore and Randolph Turpin.

"My proudest achievement is that I am the only man in the world who can say I've exchanged punches with both Muhammad Ali and Joe Louis.

"From each and every one of those greats I learned a little bit more about boxing - so much so that there were times when I climbed through the ropes with a world champion and found them easy."

These lessons were put to good use

when he was appointed head bouncer of a top West End nightclub. As fearless guarding the door of the club as he was in the ring, Nosher once turned away Ronnie and Reggie Kray for not being dressed correctly.

Unsurprisingly very few people argued with the big man and those who did never made the same mistake twice. "The one rule of street fighting is to hit first, and keep hitting. It's nasty, it's messy, but it's essential - while the other guy can still get up he's dangerous."

His fearsome reputation led to work as a personal bodyguard for, among others, millionaire Paul Getty and singers Sammy Davis Junior and Dean

Martin. Nosher's boxing prowess also paved his way into the film industry, first as an extra and later as a stuntman, stunt co-ordinator and actor. His credits include *Henry V*, *Ben Hur*, *The Italian Job* and just about every Bond film.

To date he has helped in the production of more than 60 films and worked alongside the likes of John Wayne, Sean Connery, Richard Gere and more recently with Jean-Claude Van Damme on *Legionnaire* and Michael Caine on *Shiner*.

"I was originally called in to help on *Legionnaire* as a technical adviser but ended up playing a fight referee in one of Van Damme's scenes," he said.

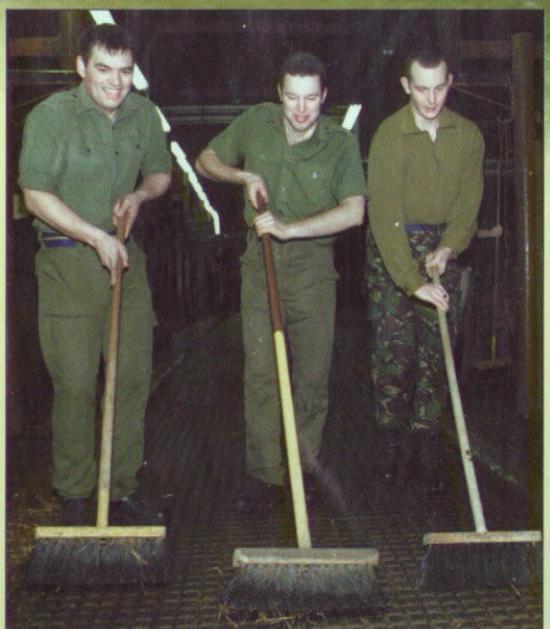
"Before we started filming the sequence I gave Jean a few tips about how to box. He's a black belt in karate but you're not allowed to knee, kick or gouge inside a boxing ring."

"In his films he always throws half-a-dozen left hooks, half-a-dozen right hands, kicks the guy between the legs twice but still leaves him standing. Boxing's not like that - when I hit someone they stay hit."

"When we'd finished filming the fight scene Jean asked me to 'go' a round with him. He came out of his corner like a pro and tried to land one of his kicks on me but I caught it and nailed him with my own trusty left jab. He respected me after that."

World-class troupers

Pictures: Steve Dock



Stable occupation: Mucking out, at 0600, are from left, Gnr Steve Flint, Gnr Ben Moore and Gnr Guy Ridley

When it comes to musical rides and gun salutes, the Troop has no rivals

ON many of the nation's most significant royal occasions The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery is the instantly recognised face of the British Army.

Its 172 soldiers (and 120 horses) fire salutes on royal anniversaries and state occasions. The Troop, as it is known, uses six 13-pounders, all of which were fired in anger during the First World War. The 1½-ton guns, as in all artillery units, are its Colours.

The unit is also famous for its musical drive, a thrilling blend of fearless, precision horsemanship, colourful pageantry and glamorous uniforms, during which six gun teams weave in and out at the canter and the gallop.

Based in barracks at St John's Wood,

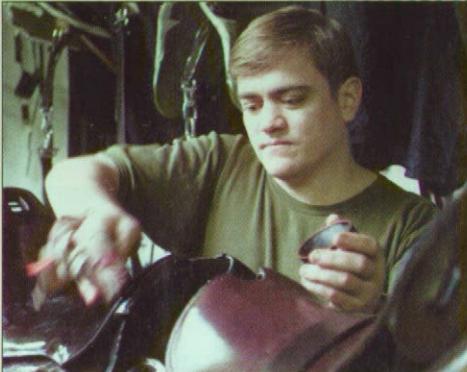
London, soldiers of the Troop are very much a part of the operational Army, serving in the Balkans and Northern Ireland.

But it is for their ceremonial role that they enjoy a worldwide reputation. From the State Opening of Parliament to Remembrance Sunday (when it fires the gun marking the start of the two-minute silence), to royal birthdays, the Troop has become a symbol of the nation's proud past and a dramatic confirmation of the efficiency with which the modern Army goes about its business.

On these pages we look behind the scenes as the Troop prepares for its public performances.



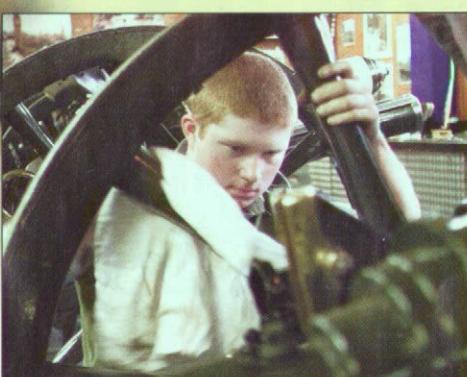
In all their splendour: Soldiers of The King's Troop canter towards the gun line in Hyde Park, above, before firing a salute to mark the Queen's Accession to the Throne, below



Shining example: King's Troop soldier Gnr Ian Barnes "bliffs" a ceremonial saddle to perfection



Polish (but no spit): Gnr Georgena Meyers buffs up the bit chain on a military head cover



Finishing touch: Gnr Justin Kemp works on the wheels of his 13-pdr

Rugby giants go to war



Army ready to blow Royal Navy out of the water in Twickenham showdown

THE Army-Navy match for the Willis Trophy at Twickenham on May 5 has been described by neutrals as the nearest thing to warfare outside the battle zone, writes Roger Thompson.

Certainly the rich vein of Royal Marines in the naval side ensures that contact throughout remains red hot. With the Army refusing to move on to the back foot, territory is always traded with pride, courage and firepower as though the Empire still depended on it.

At such a high level the Army-Navy game is unique in the fact that it follows the traditional Corinthian approach. Unlike the Oxbridge match, players of international repute cannot be imported at short notice to plug perceived gaps. Each player is a trained sailor or soldier who could expect the bugle to call him to arms, world-wide at any moment.

The Royal Navy have lost the services on retirement of veterans CSgt Bob Armstrong (RM) and Cpl Paul Livingstone (RM), both of whom played with such distinction and suc-

cess during the 1990s. Former caps returning include the formidable lock pairing of Cpl Del Cross (RM) and Mne Andy Perry (RM), and together with veteran props PO(R) Nick Bartlett (HMS *Excellent*) and AEM Dan Parkes (HMS *Heron*) they will test the Army in the set pieces.

Primed in the slips behind a gargantuan pack is Royal Marine Msn Spencer Brown, whose roaming brief will always spell danger for the Army defence. Spencer, without the shackles imposed by the Zurich league and rooted on by 15,000 naval zealots, will electrify the wide-open spaces of Twickenham.

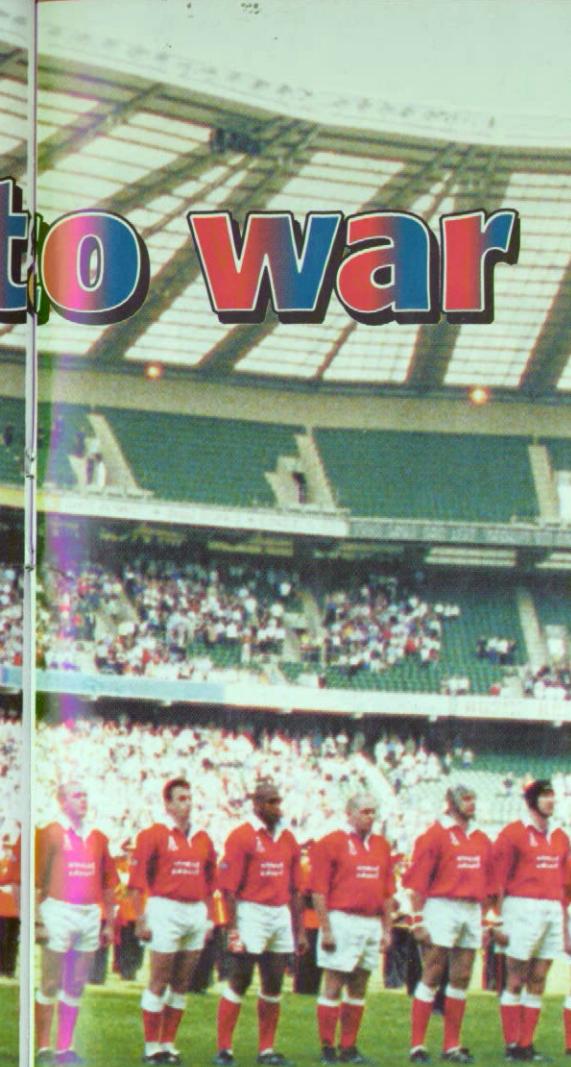
The Army, under coach Maj Andy Hickling, are seeking a fifth consecutive victory from a stable and experienced squad, with Capt Tim Rodber (GH), Cpl Mattie Stewart (PWRR) and recent "signing" OCdt Josh Lewsey (RMAS) leading the interna-

tional contingent. The team backbone is largely National Division One. Team captain SSgt Peter Curtis (R Signals) and LCpl Chris Budgen (RWF) will grind out the yards with back-rowers Gnr Andy Dawling (7 Para) RHA and Capt Liam McCormick (DWR), while Gnr Rory Greenslade-Jones (7 Para) RHA alongside Capt Howard Graham (AGC) will control the centre attack.

Additionally Hickling has the exciting option to call in a number of experienced players from Fiji, particularly Rfn Abo Sittala (RS) and Rfn Kitti Bavadra (RS), who both enjoyed success at the Hong Kong Sevens.

Lesser-known Fijians are also making their mark in the Army squad. Gdsm Alfred Vakacakavanua (1 SG) - about 15ft tall in his bearskin - and Pte Ken Kainoco (1 RS) lead the list of players who will fire up the Twickenham crowd. Hickling is con-

Within moments of the final whistle the score will be flashed across the world



fident that the integration of the two cultures is "well under control", and the impact of introducing seven Fijians after a limb-sapping first half battle, plays exciting games with the imagination.

There are no favourites for this match. On paper the Army might have an all-round edge but first they have to overcome the Hearts of Oak poised abreast to guard the naval try-line.

Under the eyes of the Defence Chiefs, performances in attack and defence strategy will be scrutinised and individuals will be accountable, no quarter being expected or accepted.

The 2001 result will stand for posterity. Within moments of the final whistle the score will be flashed by signal across the world to the bridges of ships at sea and the trenches in Kosovo. It is that important to the million or so Servicemen and veterans who will one day comb through their military history and reflect on the result with pride. This particular match is certainly not over at the final whistle.

■ Don't miss out. Tickets are priced at £12.50 (adults) and £5 (children) and can be ordered by calling the ticket hotline on 01252 334415.

Discounts for families and schools are available.

ONES TO WATCH: ARMY

Name: LBdr Lee Soper (7 Para) RHA
Age: 23
Height: 6ft 6in
Weight: 18st
Position: Lock
Club: Harlequins

Comments: A product of the Army development squad, Lee has been an ever-present in the Army side since his debut against the RAF last year. The Cornishman will be a dominant force in the game's line-outs.



Name: SSgt Peter Curtis (R Signals)
Age: 35
Height: 6ft 5in
Weight: 17st
Position: Lock
Club: Otley

Comments: Army Rugby Union's very own Captain Marvel. Now playing his 13th season in Services' rugby, Peter's strengths as a player and motivator make him a worthy opponent for any team.

ONES TO WATCH: NAVY

Name: Cpl Del Cross (RM, Luton Careers)
Age: 29
Height: 6ft 6in
Weight: 17st
Position: Lock
Club: Harlequins

Comments: One of the Navy's seasoned campaigners. A very athletic player who will look to make big hits in open play and is capable of hard, driving runs.



RESULTS SERVICE

FOOTBALL: Hopes of the Army raising the Constantinople Cup as the Inter-Services champions were all but extinguished by the Royal Air Force after a one-sided game at the Military Stadium in Aldershot.

Attacking from the first whistle, the RAF were in rampant form and took the lead in the third minute. SSgt Daisy May was kept busy between the Army posts and by the final whistle he had had to pick the ball from the back of his net on five occasions.

Attention then turned to HMS Drake and a showdown with the Royal Navy. Determined not to be on the end of another 5-0 thrashing, the Army fought for every ball in a game that was decided by a single goal. Wearing the captain's armband, Cpl Joe Collins netted the decisive strike on eight minutes.

The Inter-Services' title will rest on the outcome of the RAF-RN match.

◆ Five second-half goals steered Ryman division one side Bognor Regis to a comfortable 5-1 victory over the Army. Cfn Craig Wall scored the Army's consolation goal with a well-directed header.

◆ A resolute defensive performance and a superb individual goal from LCpl James Locke earned the Army U21 team a 1-1 draw with the Hampshire intermediate squad.

HOCKEY: The Army major unit champions, 42 Engineer Regt (GEO), beat the Wales U18 squad 4-3.

The sappers, unbeaten at Army level this season, grabbed the winner in the dying seconds of the friendly fixture. The Welsh team, who are in training for the upcoming European championships, were also beaten 3-1 by the Army U23 team.

However, the international side restored pride to the ranks with 7-1 and 4-0 wins over the Combined Services U23 squad.

RUGBY LEAGUE: An unprecedented third successive cup victory confirmed 38 Engineer Regiment's dominance of Army Rugby League. Playing 1 RSME in the final of the Army Rugby League Cup, 38 Engr Regt clinched their unique treble with a 18-16 scoreline.

SHOOTING: The Army established an early lead in the Inter-Services small-bore range championship and held on to it for the full two days of competition to claim the silverware.

TENNIS: The usual suspects battled it out for the title of men's Army indoor champion at the Aldershot Tennis Centre. Maj Daryl Amison (RLC) booked his place in the final by beating Maj Bill Herlihy (AAC) in a gruelling three-set match.

Capt Ralph Holah (RA) enjoyed a less strenuous passage to the final when his semi-final opponent and last year's champion, WO2 Eric Simpson (APTC), withdrew with a back injury. Despite losing the first set, Holah took full advantage of the respite, winning the final 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

In the women's event newcomer Lt Nell Mead (RAMC) beat last year's Army champion SSgt Heather McNair (R Signals) to reach the women's final. But the debutante's dreams of silverware were thwarted by Maj Lorna Wood (AGC (ETS)), who won the final in two straight sets.

BOXING

Title contenders

Bessey bows out but Army boxing team still head for top honours

INJURY has denied Cpl Chris Bessey (RLC) the chance to win the seventh English Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) title of his career, writes Andy Simms.

The Commonwealth gold medallist was forced to retire from the high-profile competition three days before the quarter-finals in Liverpool after damaging a hand in training.

Victory would have seen the 29-year-old take one step closer to becoming the most successful boxer in the history of the national championships. That accolade currently belongs to John Lyon who dominated the flyweight division during the 1980s.

In all Lyon boxed his way to eight championship medals, beginning his haul in 1980 as a light-flyweight – a victory which was to become the first of four consecutive titles. A break from the winners' podium followed in 1985 but Lyon re-emerged as a flyweight in 1986 and set about a second run of four successive titles.

And with Bessey now contemplating his future in the ring it looks as though Lyon's remarkable accomplishment will stand for some time.

But despite Bessey's untimely exit from the competition, the Army boxing team remain in contention for four national titles – with two boxers in both the Welsh and English finals.

Flying the Army flag in the Welsh ABAs are Pte Spence Evans (1 RRW) and Pte Daz Bushby (1 Para). Light-welterweight Bushby booked his place in the final after a hard-fought semi-final clash with the former youth captain of the Welsh international squad, Leon Owens.

Bushby will meet experienced international and reigning ABA champion Ceri Hall in the Port Talbot final.

Fighting at featherweight, Evans was given a bye through both the quarter and semi-final stages of the competition but his clash with Welsh international Dale Rees will be far from a walkover.

LCpl Dean Frost (RLC) and Gnr Stefan Symes (7 (Para) RHA) face equally challenging ties in the finals of the English championships at Barnsley's Metrodome Leisure Centre. Light-fly-



Close call: Pte Steven Briggs (1 PWO) overpowers Carl Hudson but fails to reach the ABA final

weight Symes was blessed with the same good fortune as team-mate Evans and received a walkover to the final. Standing in Symes's way of a first championship medal is Craig Lyon – the son of the legendary John Lyon – who has already amassed several England vests.

Frost will face the toughest fight of his career when he goes toe-to-toe with Eng-

land international Carl Froch in the final of the middleweight championship. A member of Great Britain's Olympic team in Sydney, Froch is firm favourite to collect the title.

Spr Duncan Bariball (RE), Pte Pete Murray (RLC), Pte Steven Briggs (1 PWO) and LCpl Mark McMahon (1 PWO) all fell at the final hurdle.

World title extravaganza

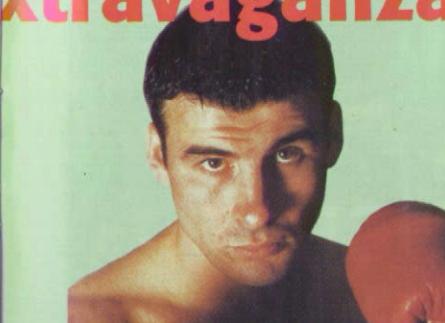
SOLDIER has teamed up with Sports Network to offer fight fans the chance to see three world championship bouts.

On Saturday, April 28 WBO super-middleweight champion, Joe Calzaghe will fight world-ranked German Mario Veit at the Cardiff International Arena. Sharing the top of the bill with Calzaghe will be Acelino Freitas and Richie Woodhall.

For your chance to see the action, simply answer the following question:

Who was Joe Calzaghe's last opponent?

You need to act fast, so send us your answers by e-mail to asimms@soldiermagazine.co.uk or by contacting the sports desk on 01252 347362 (Mil 94222 2362) by midday on April 18.



The winner will be drawn at random from the correct answers received.

■ **Tickets for the world title show-down are available from the box office on 01992 550888. Army personnel quoting Solmag0428 will be given a ten per cent discount when booking.**

BASKETBALL

Double dribble

Army's élite net two out of three trophies

RE-ASSERTING themselves as champions of the court, the Army returned home from the Inter-Services basketball tournament at HMS Nelson with two of the three titles on offer.

Taking advantage of the Royal Navy's failure to field a women's team, the Eddie Stobart-sponsored squad received their first piece of silverware after playing just one game.

Defending their title, the Army women successfully fought off the challenge of a spirited Royal Air Force side to record a comprehensive 50-29 victory.

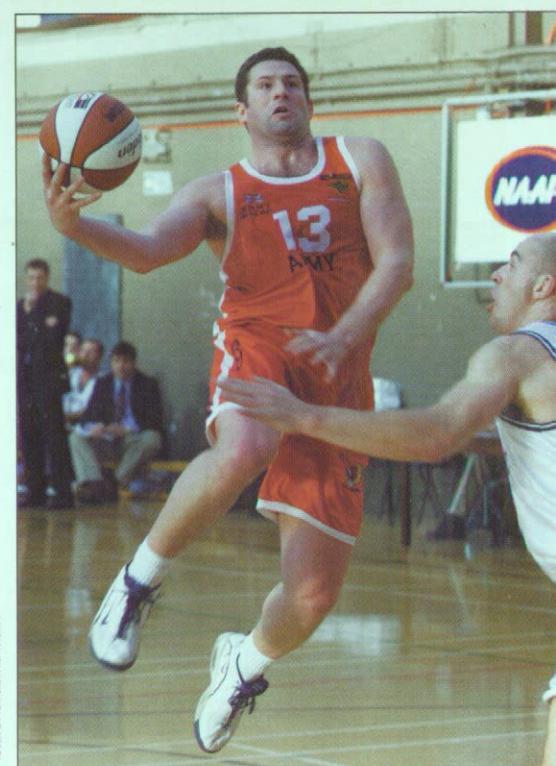
SSgt Sue Blake (APTC), Cpl Beverley Bates (AGC), LCpl Ros Beattie (R Signals) and debutante 2nd Lt Emma Johnsson (RMP) were all in scintillating form.

The road to victory for the Army's senior side – nicknamed the Warriors – was not quite so easy, with the RAF providing worthy adversaries.

After a see-saw battle, the Warriors sealed victory in the final quarter with baskets and free throws from team captain SSgt Neil Tolson (REME) and Cpl Tony Baxter (RMP).

The Army then put the result of the championship beyond doubt, leading convincingly against the Navy from the outset and streaking ahead in the fourth quarter to win the match 87-46.

Hopes of a hat-trick were quashed when the Army U23 side lost their opening game against the RAF 65-49.



Jump to it: SSgt Neil Tolson (REME) in action

And although the juniors bounced back well by beating the Navy 80-61, the RAF's triumph over their naval counterparts meant that the title was already out of reach.

◆ Eight Army players have been selected to represent the Combined Services in an international competition at SHAPE in December.

ATHLETICS

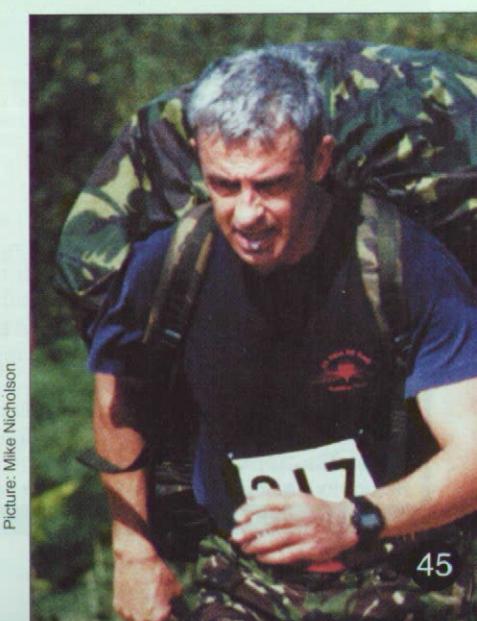
Record breaker

MARATHON runner Maj Stuart Paterson (RAMC) is awaiting official verification that he has broken the world record for running a half-marathon carrying a 40lb backpack.

Based at the Garrison Rehabilitation Centre in Aldershot, the Army physiotherapist completed the Fleet half-marathon in 1hr 53min 9sec – shaving 5min 15sec off the previous record set by Paddy Doyle in the Wimbledon half-marathon.

Paterson was joined on the course by two physiotherapists from the centre, Sue Tait and Sarah White.

The record-breaker is hoping that his run has raised more than £1,000 for the Breakthrough cancer charity.



Picture: Mike Nicholson

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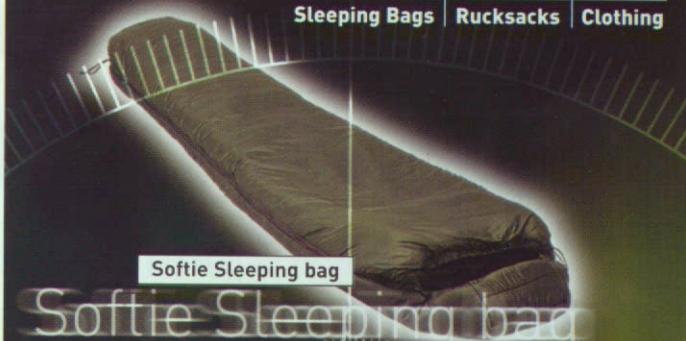
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Ice man cometh

British champion sets his sights on Salt Lake City

AFTER a season of highs, *Soldier* talks with Wilsons Hogg Robinson Army Winter Sports Association team member SSgt Steve Anson (35 Engr Regt, REME) – winner of the British skeleton bobsleigh championships – on his plans to take on the world's best at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, USA.

Soldier: What was your introduction to the skeleton bob; did you imagine it was something the Army could offer you?

Steve: I first tried skeleton after reading about it in *Soldier* and my corps magazine, *The Craftsman*, back in 1995.

I went along to an Army skeleton and luge training week in Austria and was selected for the British team at the start of the 1996/97 season, and except for the season I took off to complete my artificer course, I have been a member ever since.

The Army has a history of encouraging soldiers to try different sports that may not be easily available to everybody and this was the case in skeleton.

We are now expanding the links with civilians attending our ice sports training camps, where we introduce people to the three sports of skeleton, luge and bobsleigh.

Soldier: What have been the highlights this season?

Steve: Every season representing your country is great and each season has its highs and lows. It was fantastic to become the British champion – it is something that can never be taken away from me and I can retire with the knowledge that one day in my career I was the best on the day.

Soldier: How do you plan to build-up to the 2002 Winter Olympics?

Steve: This summer the rest of the team and myself are hoping to be training as part of "Team Bath" at Bath University.

We will have individual training programmes and access to some of the best facilities available, including the new "push-start" track which has been purpose-built for skeleton and bobsleigh.



The start is becoming more and more important and this will enable us to compete at the highest level. The training involved will include weights, sprinting techniques and general conditioning.

Soldier: How you do manage your sporting activities alongside your Army career?

Steve: It has been difficult to manage because I had embarked on my career before trying skeleton, which was why I took a season out to complete my artificer course.

I have always tried to ensure my career does not suffer but I have got to thank the units where I was serving at the time of competition for this.

If it wasn't for the people who assisted

me in keeping things running it would have been very much harder. It has also been hard on my wife Michaela who has always stood by me.

Soldier: What are your long-term goals?

Steve: I am coming to the point in my skeleton career where I will stand aside and let the younger talent come through to enable them to train and gain experience in time for the 2006 Olympic Games in Turin – experience counts a lot in our sport.

My goal is to represent Great Britain at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. That would be the pinnacle of my short career in the sport of skeleton bobsleigh, and one that would be the icing on the cake.

SHORTS

Fixtures in jeopardy

WITH no sign of an immediate end to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, a number of Army sporting events are facing postponement or cancellation.

The Army Scottish Alpine championships in Cairngorm were cancelled and an embargo has been placed on adventurous training skiing trips to Scotland.

Inter-unit fixtures are unlikely to be affected.

Looking for a rise?

CLIMBERS of all standards are invited to take part in the Army climbing championships at the Welsh International Climbing Centre in Trelewis on May 4. For more information call WO2 Mike Smith on 94355 8303.

Pete's pedal power

DESPITE competing against some of cycling's top professional stars, LCpl Peter Rice (Irish Guards), pictured left, took first place in the Grand Prix Maastricht cyclo-cross race in Holland.

Earlier in the season Rice finished 13th at the International Cycle Federation world cyclo-cross championships in Moll, Belgium.

Cyclo-cross combines cross-country cycling and running and is regarded as one of sports' toughest disciplines.



Ensuring future fitness

A STATE-of-the-art gymnasium complex at ATR Pirbright has been opened by the Colonel Commandant of the APTC, Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie.

The gym is fitted with cardiovascular weight-training equipment which is centrally linked, via touch key pads, to a main-frame computer system. It is hoped the new technology will allow for detailed fitness programming and will eventually be used throughout the Army.

Hockey teams wanted

ALDERSHOT Garrison's all-weather hockey pitch will play host to an infantry hockey tournament on April 18-20.

A hockey umpires' course is being held to coincide with the competition and anyone interested in either event should call Maj Jo Edmonds on 94211 8498.

INTERVIEW: CLIFF JONES

FOOTBALL

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to April . . .

ANGLING: 11 – Army game fishing spring championships (Rutland).

ATHLETICS: 7 – TA cross-country championships (Deepcut).

BASKETBALL: 6-8 – Caister national tournament (HMS Nelson).

EQUITATION: 4 – DAC one-day event (Melton Mowbray); 7-8 – Larkhill BHTA trials (Larkhill); 9-10 – Army horse trials (Tidworth).

FOOTBALL: 5 – Youth v AAC Arborfield (Aldershot); 13-16 – Women's tour (Channel Islands); 13-21 – Easter tour of British Army (Germany); 22 – Youth v Haverhill Academy (Aldershot); 25 – Army cup final (Aldershot); 26 – Minor Units Cup final (Aldershot); 30 – Army v Guernsey (Aldershot).

HOCKEY: 3 – Army Cup semi-finals (Aldershot); 4 – Army Cup final (Aldershot); 18-20 – Infantry hockey tournament (Aldershot); 25-27 – Inter-Corps outdoor competition (Aldershot).

LAWN TENNIS: 7 – Army v 445 Club (Aldershot); 21 – Army v Somerset A (Aldershot).

NETBALL: 28-29 – Inter-counties tournament (TBC).

ROWING: 1 – Veterans sculler's head (London); 16-27 – Easter training camp (Seville, Spain).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 6-23 – Southern hemisphere tour (New Zealand).

RUGBY UNION: 8 – Army v Royal Air Force (Aldershot); 18 – Gloucester v Army (Gloucester); 25 – Bath v Army (Bath), Divisional sevens.

SQUASH: 4 – Army v HAC (London); 5 – Axis 1 v Army (Away); 5-6 – Major and Minor Unit finals (Aldershot); 9 – Vets v St Crispins 1 (Aldershot).

TARGET SHOOTING: 13 – Inter-Services championships (Bisley); 16 – Army championships (Bisley); 27 – Inter-Corps match (Bisley); 28-29 – ESSU championships (Bisley); 30 – Short range championships (Non central).

TENNIS & RACKETS: 8 – Hatfield House v Army (Away); 22 – Hyde v Army (Away).

■ Got a date for the diary? E-mail the details to fixtures@soldiermagazine.co.uk

CONTACT US

WITH operational demands a constant threat to team selection and sporting performance, should the Army's leading sports stars be exempt from military duties?

Soldier's sports desk welcomes your sports stories, results and opinions.

Write to: Andy Simms, Sports Editor, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Acceptance or rejection of copy is the decision of the Sports Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style.



When the year ends in one . . .

Welsh wizard is proof of Spurs' lucky omen

ANY Tottenham Hotspur fan will tell you that the FA Cup is destined for the White Hart Lane trophy cabinet this season, writes Andy Simms.

Arsene Wenger, Gerard Houllier and Lawrie Sanchez may beg to differ but Spurs caretaker-boss David Pleat and half of North London will feel that they have a slight edge over their remaining cup rivals . . .

Because in the words of cockney music legends Chas and Dave: "It's lucky for Spurs when the year ends in one".

Since 1901, when they became the last non-league side to lift the FA Cup, Spurs have led a charmed existence in the years ending in their lucky digit.

Someone who has more reason than others to put his faith in the superstition is a former gunner of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery.

When Cliff Jones was called for National Service in 1956 the young Welshman was already making a name for himself with Swansea City and Wales.

After completing his basic training at

Oswestry, Jones was posted to St John's Wood, London where he took a job in the stores – a post that allowed him plenty of time for football.

"During my two years of service the Army had a great team," he remembered. "Because of National Service you had players like Dave Mackay, Duncan Edwards, Bobby Charlton and Eddie Coleman all in the same team."

"We won the Kentish Cup two years on the trot but with Mackay, Edwards and Charlton in the side you couldn't help but play well."

"I gained a lot of experience from playing Army football and it certainly didn't hinder my footballing career. It was towards the end of my National Service that I got transferred to Tottenham."

After joining the club in 1958 Jones became the jewel in the crown of Spurs' most famous side. Capped 59 times for Wales, Jones spent ten years at the Lane – the highlight of which was the double-winning season of 1960-61.

"1961 was without a doubt the most memorable part of my career," he said. "It is something special for a club to win both the cup and league in the same season."

"It was made all the more special by the fact that we were the first club that centu-

ry to do it – I keep on reminding Arsenal supporters of that."

"We had a very special manager in Bill Nicholson, who knew more and worked harder at the game than anyone I know. Players respected him and responded to his leadership and style of management."

"We also had players like Danny Blanchflower, John White, Dave Mackay, Bobby Smith and myself. There was a blend of players and personalities that came together perfectly. While as a team we were very effective, we were also very entertaining."

If the uncompromising Mackay was the team's driving force, Jones, who at his peak was regarded as the best left winger in the world, was the entertainer.

"I had great confidence in myself. When I went on to the pitch I was aware that I was an exciting player and that the crowd lifted whenever I picked up the ball – in the same way they did for David Ginola."

"I tell those who have never seen me play that I was a bit like Ginola but with two main differences: I scored goals and I'm better-looking," he joked.

"Forty years on from their finest hour, and with the club one step away from another final on May 12, it is hard to dismiss the expectations roused by the

The lucky ones

1901 – Spurs become the last non-league team to win the FA Cup.

1921 – The Lilywhites regain possession of the FA Cup with a 1-0 win over Wolves at Stamford Bridge.

1951 – Tottenham win their first league championship.

1961 – Tottenham's golden era. Danny Blanchflower skipper the first double-winning side of the century.

1971 – Arsenal win the double but Spurs grab a 2-0 League Cup win over Aston Villa.

1981 – Ricky Villa's wonder goal seals FA Cup victory over Manchester City in Wembley replay.

1991 – Nottingham Forest's Des Walker slides the ball into his own net to give Spurs a 2-1 advantage and their last taste of FA Cup glory.

2001 – A showdown with Arsenal at Old Trafford is all that stands in the way of a visit to Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.



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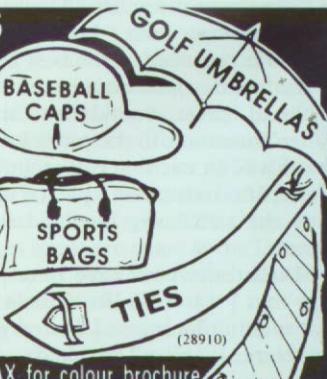
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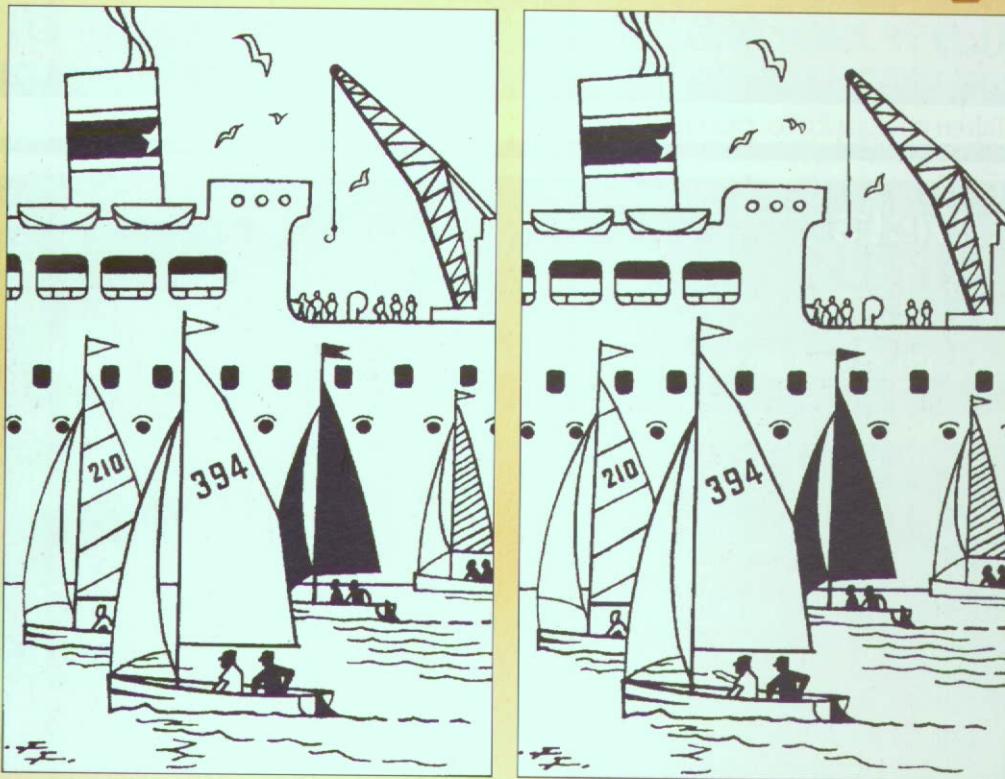
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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 713, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by April 30.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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

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

February issue (No 711): First correct entry drawn was from Cpl J B Clement, of N Colerne, Wilts, who wins £100. Runners-up Miss J Fradley, of Bruton, Somerset and Mr J Jack, of Airdrie, Lanarkshire, receive a £10 gift voucher each. The ten differences were: width of stripes and right-hand end of scarf; arm of left-hand chair; rosette ribbon; coffee table; woman's shoe; magazine pages; cat's tail; controls and casing on TV.



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Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in September 1950. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by March 30.

Our February winner is SSgt R Mackinnon of C Coy, 51 Highland Regiment in Kirkwall, Orkney, with "Sarge, parking on Mayfair will cost you another £50".

Other suggestions with a Monopoly theme, of which there were several, included "Right, Sergeant, you've landed in Piccadilly and I have two houses and a hotel there" from Julie Bond of Old Windsor, Berks.

We also liked "Excuse me, Sarge, that's my car. Play with your own" from Pte Andy Saupé RLC attached 3 Para; "The Officers' Mess working lunches just flew by" from WO2



R Darkin at 33 Fd Hosp in Gosport; "Just imagine, George, our very own first married quarter together" from WO2 I M Watson, serving



with 33 Engr Regt (EOD) at Wimbish; and "Would you rather play with my train set, sweetheart?" submitted by LCpl Sarah Gartell of 35 HQ Sqn, 3 CS Regt RLC at Abingdon.

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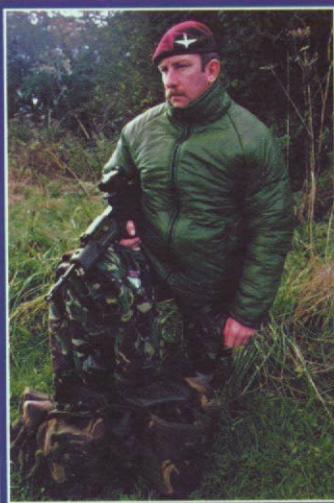
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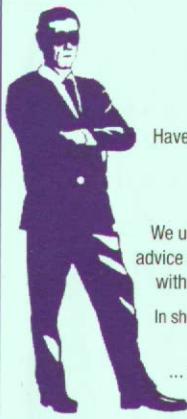
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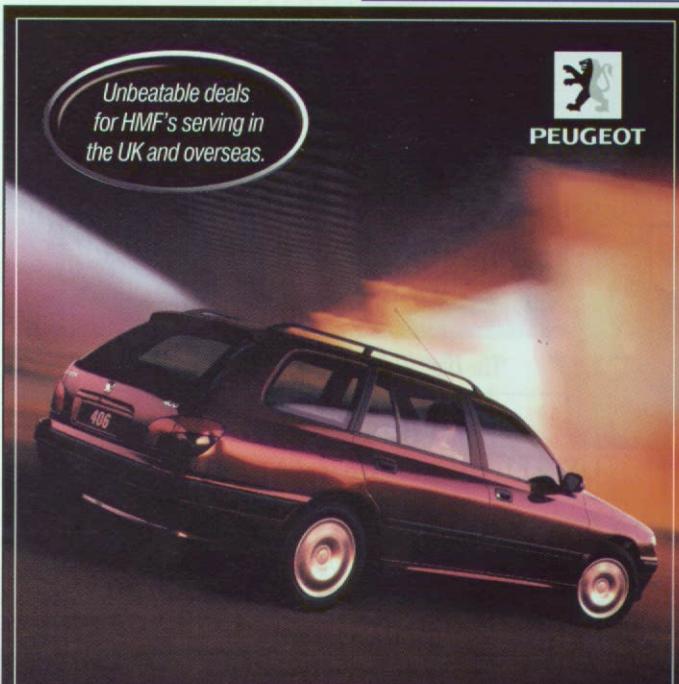


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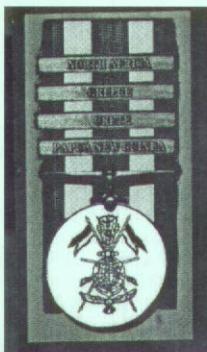
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PEN PALS

REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. When replying to more than one pen pal please place all the letters in one envelope and send it to Soldier Magazine. The box number must be clearly written in the top left corner of all your replies. Replies should consist only of a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and large, heavy or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

Prince Charming, 28-year-old, non-smoker, 6ft tall, attractive with green eyes. Lovely castle, own coach. Seeks Cinderella to fill glass slipper abandoned at ball. Long letter and photo appreciated. All letters will be answered. Seeking pen pals, 22-40. P846

Elsa, 45-year-old, nursing auxiliary, 5'7", slim, brown hair and eyes. Enjoys eating out, cinema, dancing, driving, reading, drinking socially and meeting people. Seeking honest and reliable pen pals with a good sense of humour, 45-40. P847

TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL.

Please send for details enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU or visit Soldier Magazine online at: www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

BOOKS

Blonde secretary, attractive, 5'7" - GSOH, loves travelling, going to the gym, generally lives life to the full. Would like to hear from honest male pen pals with GSOH 39+. P852

Douglas, 44-year-old, 5'11" with brown eyes and brown hair. Enjoys corresponding, meeting new people, walking, traditional Scottish music, composing and swimming. Would like to meet and correspond with Senior NCOs and Army officers (ladies only). Seeks like-minded ladies who like to have avid correspondence, 34-46. P853

Sharon, 31-year-old, single 5'11" with blue-grey eyes and brown hair. Enjoys pubs, clubs, reading, some sports and keeping fit. Seeking pen pals of any age. P854

Shelly, 26-year-old, 5'7" long brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys swimming, aerobics, going out with friends to clubs and pubs. Please send a photo when replying. Seeking pen pals, 24-29. P855

Sharon, 25-year-old, 5'7", long blonde hair with blue/green eyes. Enjoys listening to music, going to pubs, clubs, cinema and watching TV. Mother of two young boys, enjoys having fun, has GSOH Seeking pen pals, 23-33. P856

Andi, 27-year-old, 5'5", blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys music, clubbing, TV, cinema, eating out and socialising. Mother of two boys who enjoys writing letters. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P857

Juliette, 35-year-old, tall, almost slim blonde. Enjoys hill walking, mountain biking, drinking and travelling. Would like to hear from fit, fun, strong-minded men who want to live life to the full, 30-40. P858

Jenny, 49-year-old, 5'7" attractive special needs teacher. Enjoys the country side, entertaining, dancing, walking, cooking and socialising. Would like to hear from male officers, a photo would be appreciated, 40-55. P859

Geraldine, 33-year-old, 5ft blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys clubbing, getting fit, travelling and socialising. Would like a full picture when replying. Seeking pen pals, 28-38. P860

Rhian, 28-year-old, 5'8", brown hair with green eyes. Enjoys going to the cinema, visiting friends, nights in/out and visiting new places. Seeks genuine male friendships for letter writing, please supply photo. Will reply to all letters. Seeking pen pals, 25+. P861

Tracy, 35-year-old, but looks and feels 24. Petite with long blonde hair and blue eyes. Single working mum with one daughter. Enjoys working out in the gym, foreign travel, music, pubs, clubs and generally having fun. Would love to hear from honest, genuine male soldiers, 28-38. P862

Jacklyn, 5'7", blue eyes and brown hair. Enjoys motor cycles, motor sport, pubs, good food and wine, especially good company, conversation and lives life to the full. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P863

Craig, 24-year-old, 5'3", brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys sport, reading, films, music, pubbing and clubbing. Seeking pen pals, 20-30. P864

Katie, 43-year-old, 5'2" blue eyes and fair hair. Enjoys sport, walking, music and swimming. Non-smoker and divorced. Seeking pen pals, 35-45. P865

Melanie, 25-year-old, 5'6", white, brown hair naturally curly. Enjoys going to the cinema, socialising with friends and having fun. Studying part-time computer course. Brassy northern lass seeks male for fun and friendship, 25-35. P866

Sam, 5'6", blonde, medium build with blue eyes. Interests include pubbing, clubbing, socialising with friends, listening to music and generally having fun. Seeking pen pals of any age. P867

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Geraldine, 33-year-old, 5ft blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys clubbing, getting fit, travelling and socialising. Would like a full picture when replying. Seeking pen pals, 28-38. P860

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Angela, 5'4" with good sense of humour. Enjoys keeping reasonable fit and the odd Guinness or two. Seeking pen pals of any age. P864

Sam, 5'6", blonde, medium build with blue eyes. Interests include pubbing, clubbing, socialising with friends, listening to music and generally having fun. Seeking pen pals of any age. P865

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17 FEBRUARY 2001

5-way tie for first prize (22 goals, £2,640 each): WO2 JJ Dainty, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich; SSgt CL Davies, 92 MI Sect, Abingdon; Pte B Lloyd, 1 RRR, Paderborn; Capt QM Wilkins, 2 Bn REME, Fallingsbostel; Sgt NV Young, Falkland Islands Admin Unit.

Note: Only 5 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

24 FEBRUARY 2001

5-way tie for first prize (25 goals, £2,280 each): SSgt DJ Caddick, 1 RTR LAD REME, Bury St Edmunds; Cpl TM Carson, LD, Swanton Morley; SSgt SJ Humphrey, Depot R IRISH, Antrim; Pte R Marshall, Red Devils, Netheravon; Pte SW Thomas, 19 Regt RA, Colchester.

12-way tie for sixth prize (24 goals, £150 each): Cpl JJ Beckett, 22 Fd

15 MARCH 2001

12-way tie for first prize (21 goals, £1,133.33 each): Brig WO Cook, RMCS, Shruivenham; Lt Col PGB Ellis, 3 RSME Regt, Minley; Cpl GJ Goodall, 35 Eng Regt, Paderborn; Sgt PJ Graham, 30 Signal Regt, Bramcote; Sgt TA Humber, ACIO Worcester; Lt TC Legge, RMCS, Shruivenham; Pte DR Lennon, Army Foundation College, Harrogate; Sgt D Price, 22 Regt RA, Kirton in Lindsey; Cpl JA Robertson, HQ Lisburn Stn; LCpl D Ross, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham; Sgt RA Sanders, Petroleum Centre RLC, West Moors; Cpl (Name withheld), HQ Hereford Garrison.

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WO2 Steve Freeman, married to Nicky, son Steven. Contact Paul Clarke (formerly LCpl RLC) with details of UK posting so he can visit. E-mail paulclarke2261@btinternet.com

Iain Howie, who joined the Royal Artillery in 1990, is asked to contact **Bdr Chris Price** to catch up on old times. Contact him by e-mail to chrisprice66@hotmail.com

Enrico Delli assisted British Servicemen to escape from or evade capture in Florence, Italy, during Second World War. His nephew would like to hear from (or relatives of) 4980115 Cpl G H Goddard, Ptes 6013763 Frank W Hyam, 5254623 Harold Blakesley, 5255954 Dennis Barlow, 5255929 George O C Adams, 5255932 Frank Bowen and Ernest Pye. Write to Signor Volpini Renzo, Via Gonnelli, n. 23, 50050 Gambassi, Terme (Firenze), Italy (fax 0039 0571 638633).

Sig Mark Brannan (16 Sig Regt JHQ, 1994-96) is asked to contact John Howe, who is getting married soon and would like him to be there. Reply to fastnet007@aol.co.uk

2 Lancashire Fusiliers (1952-55) Trieste: Jack (Diamond) Yates is keen to contact old mates, particularly **Bob Darrough**. Contact Jack, who lives in Canada, via his daughter at gdsryckman@sympatico.ca

Calling **Reginald Downing**, who joined 35 Fd Regt RE, circa 1948-50. Ronald Miller, comrade from Middle East and Malaya, is approaching his 70th birthday. Contact his family at 61 Baldwin Webb Avenue, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 8EP.

2 LI (1992 onwards, Bosnia, Paderborn, BATUS). **Andy Winship** would like to contact mates. Write to andywinship@hotmail.com

11 (Sphinx) Bty RA ex-members association: Past members invited to join new association. Contact G W Knowles on 01270 587251 or 18 Broad St, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3DF.

Jean Ames (24 Colton Close, Leicester LE4 7SW) seeks news of **James R St P Hurley**, KORBR, commissioned April 1991, promoted captain 1995.

Sgt Ray Parsons ACC (1 D and D, 1960-69) is asked to contact **LCpl B J Cowling**, Pine Heath, Rockbeare Hill, nr Exeter, Devon EX5 2HB.

Standard bearers invited to **London Tattoo**, Wembley Arena, May 26-27. SAE to Tony Clarkson, 33 Feiashill Road, Trysull, Wolverhampton WV5 7HN.

Kiel Journal (1948-49): Anyone connected with or who has a copy of the journal is asked to contact R Hall, 67 Foxley Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7DX.

Ex-RMP NI: Reunion planned by Ray Spence. Date, venue subject to replies to raymond.spence@btinternet.com

Central Norway evacuation May 1940: War memorial to be unveiled at Namsos on May 17. York and Lancs, Royal Lincolnshire and KOYLI included on memorial stone. Veterans, families should contact John Gritten, 77 Warwick Gardens, London W14 8PP (tel/fax 0207 603 1369).

Information about the Dutch troops stationed at **RAF Marham, Norfolk (1943-45)** sought by Mrs D Clarke, 21 Romney Walk, Dereham, Norfolk NR19 1BL.

Whereabouts or news of **Franciszek Mrozek** or **A Hunt (Manchester Regt 1951-53)**, both recipients of the Military Medal, to Capt R A Bonner, Museum of Manchester Regiment, Town Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 7SY (tel 0161 342 3078).

Reunion party planned for **Martin John Owen, 31 Sqn RE (1979-88)** in 2002. Friends from '32 Engr Regt asked to ring Julie on 0151 482 6314 or jerome1447@inwind.it

Prandi "Brandy" Eugenio was a driver in Egypt while an Italian prisoner. His son-in-law seeks news of **Capt H W Blick, MEF Kasasian Pioneer Corps Depot (Transport) 1944-46**, Pte E Whitbread and Eric Constable, of whom Brandy has fond memories. E-mail jerome1447@inwind.it

Anyone with news of **Desmond Pendergast**, a British Serviceman in 1940s from Ardwick, Manchester, or Liverpool area, or his family, is asked to contact W R Mitchell. E-mail wrmitchell@home.com

Gloucester School, Hohne. Find friends at clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/exgloucesterscho olhohne

17 RSME Tpt Regt (RCT) 1974-77: Pete and Sue Mayall hope to organise reunion in Kent, possibly in September, and would also like to hear from old friends. Replies to 15, Willow Tree Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5PT, 01892 681604 or pskl@bushinternet.co

TV researcher seeks information, particularly from people who met him, of **Donald "The Tartan Pimpernel" Caskie** before, during or

Anyone for civil war?

AN American Civil War re-enactment group is appealing to the Afro-Caribbean community for volunteers to join its 54th (Black) Massachusetts Infantry Regiment – the unit featured in the film *Glory*.

The 54th, one of the first black regiments to be formed (under 22-year-old Col Robert Gould Shaw), lost 350 men while charging Fort Wagner, near Charleston in South Carolina.

The re-enactment group promises plenty of fun and outdoor exercise at the weekend. For further information, write to the Armies of the Potomac and Northern Virginia (APNV), PO Box 1863, Northampton NN4 8ZQ or e-mail alan@battleflag.org.uk

after the war. Strictest confidence. Contact Sarah MacKinnon, Researcher, Saltire Films, 5 Queens Crescent, Glasgow G4 9BW or 0141 332 3326 or sarah@saltirefilms.co.uk

Anyone who served with or remembers **Maj Gary Ludlow RAOC** (served CAD Longtown 1947-56 and possibly Rhodesia) is asked to contact June Wilson, Fernview, 63 Pool Hey Lane, Scarisbrick, Southport, Lancs PR8 5HS (01704 548645).

Michael "Tex" Collins (3 RTR 1958-77) wants to hear from old mates, especially members of the shooting team. Replies to jc@janetcollins29.fsnet.co.uk

Information about the Army life of late **Robert (Bob) Jackson, RAOC**, then tanks Second World War – N Africa, Tunisia, Italy (Cassino), died 1980, sought by his brother, P Jackson, 95 Constantine Avenue, York YO10 3SZ.

Lorna Wilson seeks news, whereabouts of her half-brother, **Stewart Wilson**, from Northern Ireland and believed to be a sergeant in the RAMC. She has moved since losing touch. He is married to an Englishwoman, also in the medical corps, and was last heard from while serving in Bosnia in October. Replies to 07762 324491 or voddie2001@hotmail.com

Was a 'camoufleur' a hole with gas in it?

LEN Davies, a member of the Royal Engineers bomb disposal team stationed at Bomb Disposal HQ at Horsham, and on detachment at Fort Widley, Portsmouth, around 1953, wants to know if anyone remembers the term "camoufleur".

He's not sure of the spelling but believes it was used to describe a gas-filled chamber created by a bomb which had penetrated to some depth before exploding.

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National Gulf Veterans and Families Association (0900-1700) 01482 833812; 24-hour helpline 01482 808730

Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011
RBL's Legionline 0845 7725 725

St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen

and women 020 7723 5021
Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

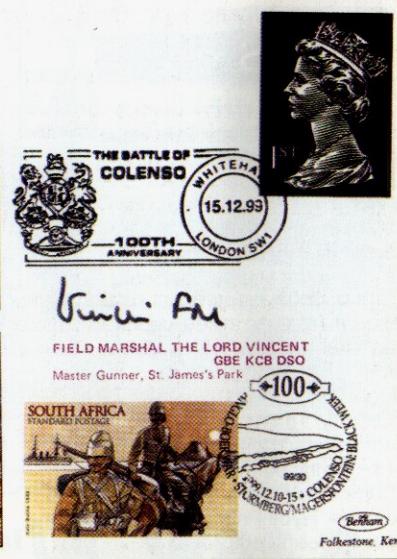
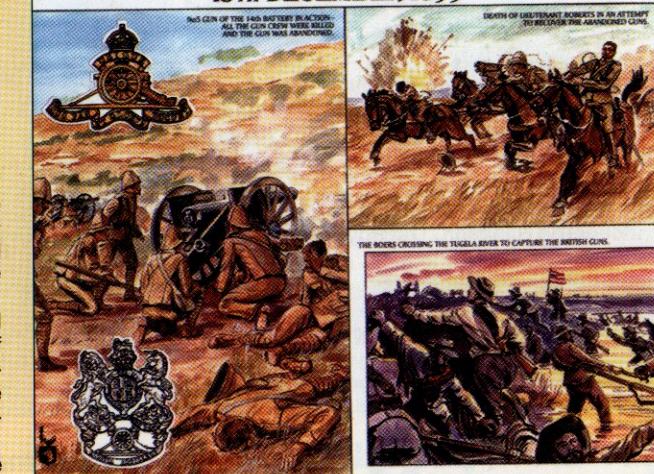
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Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302
Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272; from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272.

War Pensions Agency 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 00441253 866043 (from overseas)

WRVS 01235 442940

Cover series marks Boer War 100th

BOER WAR 100
THE ANGLO-BOER WAR
THE BATTLE OF COLENSO
15TH DECEMBER 1899

ment; and Lt Col Eric Wilson VC, late East Surrey Regiment.

For more information about the British Army in the Boer War series, contact Gp Capt W S O Randle, 60 Shelves Way, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 8QF (01737 361491).

REUNIONS

Regt Assn Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt (PWRR): London Branch meet every quarter. AGM Mar 30, 1915, Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London. Information from Veronica Joel Newton 020 8889739.

Korean veterans: RGBW celebrating battles of Alexandria and Imjin with service, parade and lunch in Gloucester on April 7. Korean veterans and families interested contact local RGBW association or RHQ on 01452 522682.

Hunleys Platoon, Kent ACF: Reunion on April 20, at Bull Inn, Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells, 1900. Former members or anyone associated with the platoon welcome. Details from F Bailey 01782 280912.

Middlesex Regiment (DCO) annual Service of Remembrance: May 12 at Regimental Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral, 1500, and evening function at Victory Services Club.

Contact Ron Morris, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA or 020 8949 7605.

Queen's Royal Regiment: Annual reunion dinner May 26, Farnham Drill Hall, to include associated regiments, National Service, TA and Regular. Details from Stuart Browning, 8 Littleford Lane, Shamley Green, Guildford GU5 0RH (01483 892474).

Herts and Beds Yeomanry: Annual reunion of 86,105, 135, 148 and 191 Fd Regts, 52 Heavy Regt, 70 HAA Regt and post-war successors on June 16 at TA Centre, Marsh Road, Luton, 1800. Details from Ron Currell, 28 St Margarets Rd, Peterborough PE2 9EA.

Royal Leicestershire Regiment: Annual reunion of Royal Tigers' Association and Leicestershire Branch of Royal Anglian Regiment Association in Leicester, June 23-24. Dinner-reception by ticket only from TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester LE4 6BY.

7 (Para) Royal Horse Artillery 40th birthday weekend: Reunion, June 29. Past and serving members invited. Contact WO2 (WOCIS) Bates, 7 (Para) RHA, Lille Bks, Folkestone, Kent.

Combined Services Assn, (Crewe Branch): Reunion on May 11 at the Crosville Social Club, Chester Street, Crewe. Entry by programme from Jim Davies on 01270 257092.

201 RCZ Wkshop (V): 30th Joint mess reunion May 11-12. Former officers, SNCOs and families welcome, usually held in the Coventry area. Information from R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP.

Black Watch Association (Stoke-on-Trent): Annual dinner-dance May 12, Stoke-on-Trent. Details from F Bailey 01782 280912.

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660 Signal Troop (EOD) ECM Operators: Reunion July 7, Didcot Stn, Sgts' Mess. Details: Capt Phil Ashworth on 01235 513386 or Cpl Steve Bruce on 01235 513437.

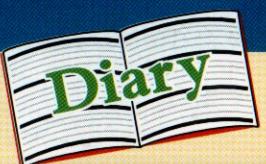
Northamptonshire Regiment: Annual reunion of the Northamptonshire Regiment Association and the Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Northamptonshire Branch), Northampton, July 7-8. AGM, dinner and reception by ticket only from TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ.

264 Signal Sqn: Real Millennium reunion for serving and ex-members, Aug 10-12. Ring 01432 357311 ext 2253, 2459 or 2302.

Manchester Regt (Malaya 1951-54): 50th anniversary reunion, Oct 6-7, Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne. SAE to RHQ(I), The King's Regiment, Ardwick Green, Manchester M12 6HD or rhq@rhqkings.force9.co.uk

5 Kings/2 T Force OCA NWE 1944-48: AGM and dinner, Oct 23, Hotel Adelphi, Liverpool. Details: K V G Moore, The Granary, Church Road, Bacton, NR12 0JP (01692 651086).

Para WOs' & Sgts' (Past and Present) Dinner Club: Nov 17, Brecon. Contact WO2 Nobby Clarke



DATES

APRIL
29: Victorian Military Fair, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, 1000-1630.

5: Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas in concert with Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir, Dudley, W Midlands for Gurkha Welfare Trust (01384 812812).

10: With 1st Para Bde in North Africa, 1942-43, personal memoir by Lewis Golden, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (01252 349619).

13: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service, Hyde Park.

20: Modelling and painting military figures, British Model Soldier Society special event, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire.

26-27: London Tattoo, Wembley Arena (020 8902 0902).

26-28: Overlord 2001 historic military vehicle show, Denmead, near Portsmouth.

30: Summer concert, Kneller Hall, starts 2000.

JUNE
2: Major General's Review.

6-7: Household Division Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade.

9: Colonel's Review.

13: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.

16: Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards.

27: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.

JULY
7-8: Flying Legends Air Show, Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Booking line: 01223 499353.

11: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.

17-21: Music of the Night. Massed bands of Royal Artillery. Front Parade, Woolwich (tickets on 0208 317 8687; credit card hotline 0870 608 2000).

18-22: Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society five-day War and Peace Show, Beltring Hop Farm Country Park, Kent. Enquiries: 01304 813128.

25: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.

AUGUST
3-25: Edinburgh Tattoo.

8: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.

24-27: International Festival of the Sea, Portsmouth.

SEPTEMBER
8-9: Duxford 2001 Air Show.

OCTOBER
14: Duxford Autumn Air Show.

26: Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance, Margate (tickets from D Stokes, 01843 292882).

NOVEMBER
2: Suez, an evening lecture by Maj M W Walsh, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (01252 349619).

10: Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.

11: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

The 5th remembers

A LONE soldier strolls in contemplation on a wet afternoon at Bal-lykelly amid reminders of 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland.

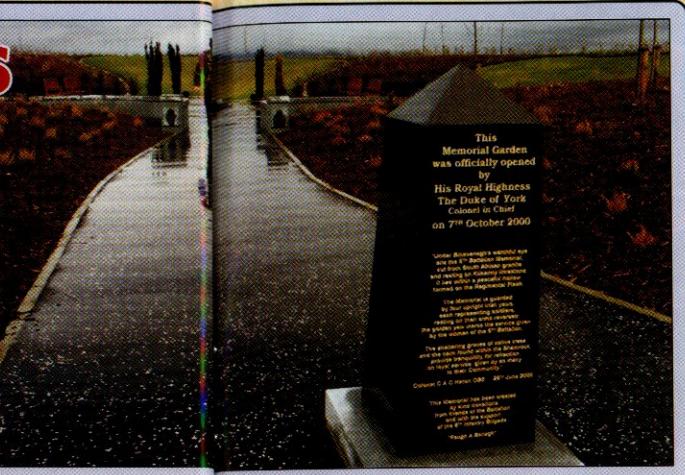
The memorial garden at Bal-lykelly is a tribute to fallen comrades of the 5th (County Londonderry) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment during three decades of continuous operations.

Although from above the garden appears to take the form of a shamrock, it is actually based on

the shape of a raith, an ancient Irish burial mound.

Made from South African black granite, the memorial itself sits on a plinth of Kilkenny limestone. It is guarded by four Irish yews, one of which is golden, symbolising the service of the women of the battalion.

To the rear is more Kilkenny limestone, crafted in the shape of a book in which are engraved the names of 27 battalion members killed by terrorist action.



John Prebble, chronicler of Scotland... and Soldier writer

ALTHOUGH he was never a long-term member of Soldier's editorial team, John Prebble, who has died at the age of 85, spent the winter of 1945 reporting for the magazine in the rubble-strewn streets of Hamburg.

The distinguished historian, who had been conscripted into the Royal Artillery in 1940, joined No 1 British Army Newspaper Unit and Soldier in the autumn of '45. He was in Hamburg "throughout a hard, bitter and relentless winter", as he recalled, and into the spring, when demobilisation allowed him to resume his career in journalism.

Prebble was acclaimed as a novelist, historian, film writer (he wrote the script for Zulu, starring Michael Caine) and author of dramatised documentaries for TV and radio.

His trilogy The Highland Clearances, Glencoe and Culloden are classic works of Scottish history.

As a soldier based near Duisburg, Germany, in the summer of 1945 he began his second novel, The Edge of Darkness, but admitted later that he "gave more care and placed more hope in the pieces he also wrote for Soldier, the BANU magazine I wished to join in Hamburg".

He was to achieve his wish, becoming a sergeant-reporter in the devastated city centre.

Former Scotland Office Minister Brian Wilson said of John Prebble, that he "was the first writer in modern times to expose the wickedness of the Highland Clearances. He certainly deserves a place of great honour in Scotland – as a man who managed to popularise history and still tell the truth".

Fancy seeing you again...

NINETY-seven year-old Harry Morton, top right, and Horace Boxall, 95, who last saw each other during the retreat to Dunkirk in 1940, were reunited in Grantham, courtesy of the Royal Military Police. Harry escaped, but Horace spent five years as a PoW of the Germans.

Before the war the two were Automobile Association patrolmen, and both joined the RMP in 1938.



Poignant moment for brother Fred at Cyprus Saladin memorial

FORMER Queen's Own Hussar Simon "Fred" Stokes visited Episkopi Garrison to see for the first time the desert-coloured Saladin at the main gates. The

vehicle is a memorial to his brother, LCpl Nick Stokes, who was killed on October 6, 1992 while on exercise in Paramali training village. He was serving

War animals appeal takes off

FALKLANDS veteran Simon Weston and Gulf commander Gen Sir Peter de la Billière were among the guests of honour at the launch of the Animals in War Memorial Fund in the London Hilton.

Author Jilly Cooper is behind the plan to erect a memorial – based on two larger-than-life mules, a horse and a dog – on the central traffic island at Brook Gate, Park Lane, London. Planning permission has already been given.

Simon Weston marked the start of the fund-raising campaign when he handed over a cheque for £10,000 on behalf of the sport of pigeon racing.

For information on the memorial and the appeal, write to Animals in War, 72 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1DE or call 0207 233 6599.

Sharpshooters in focus

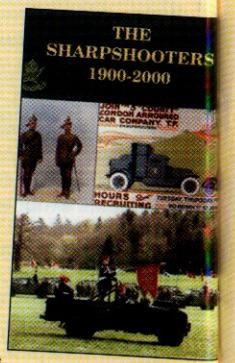
A NEW edition of the regimental history of The Sharpshooters brings up to date the story first told by Boris Mollo in 1970.

It covers the three battalions of Sharpshooters as part of the Imperial Yeomanry in 1900-01, the establishment on a permanent basis of the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) in 1901 and their subsequent history through two world wars.

In 1961 the regiment amalgamated with the Kent Yeomanry and six years later reduced to a squadron as part of the Royal Yeomanry.

The new edition adds to the story the past 30 years of C (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry and HQ and 265 (KCLY) Signal Squadrons of 71 Yeomanry Signal Regiment.

With 212 illustrations, the A4-size book runs to 64 pages and is published by the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum Trust. It is available, price £7.50 incl p&p, from Tony Bentley, KSY Museum Trust, Sharpshooter House, Mitcham Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 3RU (cheques payable to "KSY Museum Trust").



with the QOH's B Squadron and commanding a Ferret recce vehicle. Nick was the youngest of four brothers, three of whom have served in the Army.

Academy of Serjeant Majors



Reunited: From left are former Academy Serjeant Majors Ray Huggins (Gren Gds, 1970-80); Mick Nesbitt (Gren Gds, 1987-93); Capt Dick McCormack (Coldm Gds, 1994-97); Capt Alan Crawford (SG, 1997-2000); and the current incumbent, Ronnie Convery, SG. They were joined by Maj Gen Philip Trousdale, the Commandant, below



A UNIQUE gathering of Academy Serjeant Majors took place at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst when four of the surviving six holders of the prestigious post joined the current incumbent, AcSM Ronnie Convery, at a past-and-present lunch attended by the Commandant, Maj Gen Philip Trousdale, and other senior members of the Academy staff.

Missing from the line-up were Dennis

Cleary, IG, the Academy Serjeant Major between 1980 and 1987 and David Cox, Gren Gds, who occupied the post from 1993 to 1994.

WO1 Convery, who succeeded fellow Scots Guardsman Alan Crawford, now a captain, is hopeful that the occasion will set a precedent for an annual gathering. Now, what is the collective noun for a gathering of Academy Serjeant Majors?

A UNIQUE photographic record of Welsh Guardsmen has gone on display at Park Hall, Oswestry in Shropshire.

The collection of more than 1,000 images, which dates back to the regiment's formation on February 26, 1915, has been pieced together by one man.

Stan Evans, who retired as a sergeant in 1968, was inundated with old photos after he advertised throughout Wales. He set himself a mission to find anything and everything

relating to the regiment's history, begging, borrowing and buying out of his own pocket a mountain of memorabilia. "We've got photographs of the first officers' mess and the very first squads of soldiers... pictures of the first sergeants' mess, dating from February 1915," says Stan, pictured.

Oswestry is central to the 16 regional associations of retired Welsh Guards and has historical links with the regiment. Gen Sir Francis Lloyd, who raised the Welsh Guards, lived in the town, as did Lord Harlech, effectively the first colonel of the regiment. Four of Stan's vintage motor cycles are housed at Park Hall.

If anyone has artefacts relating to the Guards, Stan would like to hear from you. Contact him at Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 4AS (01691 671123).

Legends of the regiments and corps

22 Museum of The Royal Irish Regiment



Hero: Capt Eric Bell's Victoria Cross. The case, right, contains the butt of what was probably his final cigarette

VC was a Kiwi gift

A VICTORIA Cross won by a young Royal Inniskilling Fusilier on the first day of the Battle of the Somme has been given to the regimental museum at Enniskillen.

Twenty-year-old Capt Eric Bell of the 9th Battalion commanded a mortar platoon on July 1, 1916. Before he was killed in action, he displayed unbelievable courage in taking the fight to the Germans.

The fighting was too close for him to bring his trench mortars into action so, edging forward, he killed a machine-gunner pinning his unit down, then pulled the pins from his mortar bombs and lobbed them at the enemy.

Fired his rifle

When he ran out of ammunition, he climbed to the parapet of the German trenches and opened fire with his rifle. He was killed soon afterwards.

Bell's VC was the fourth won by antecedent regiments of the Royal Irish on that blood-soaked day. The other three are held at military museums in Northern Ireland.

Now, thanks to the generosity of Air Marshal Sir Richard Bolt, a relative by marriage to Bell and formerly Chief of the Defence Staff in New Zealand, the VC is displayed alongside a cigarette case presented to Bell by his platoon, original copies of the telegrams informing his mother of his death, and a signed letter from King George V.

Eric Bell has no known grave. Four R Irish museums reflect units that have gone into making up the regiment: 5 Waring Street, Belfast (Mon-Fri 1000-1230 and 1400-1600); Sovereign's House, The Mall, Armagh, (times as above); The Castle, Enniskillen, (times vary, check regimental office for details); and RHQ R Irish, St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena, (Wed-Sat 1400-1700 or by appointment).



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Aston thriller

Our man gets a rush of adrenalin as he re-lives a magic moment of his youth from a modern-day Vantage-point

THE Jesuits believe that they can retain the man if they have his mind as a boy. This is, perhaps, echoed by the adage that "we love best that which most impressed us when we were young", writes **Syd Taylor**.

When I was 15, my father's friend, who had years of racing experience behind him, took me on a long journey in his DB4 Vantage to Newcastle via a route that wriggled and squiggled its twisty way across the Pennines.

On the road from Alston to Hexham, finding ourselves baulked by an old MG TF, we pulled out to escape the clouds of oily blue smoke from its worn-out engine. The road ahead was clear, almost to the horizon: in second gear he floored the throttle. Never has acceleration felt so thrilling, or so powerfully sensual – almost tactile. We flew past that old MG and continued to accelerate, cresting a rise at over 125 mph. In that timeless, never-to-be-forgotten moment, I savoured life with the gods.

The journey continued uneventfully – except that, by the time we crossed the Tyne Bridge into Newcastle I was a hero. Indelibly stamped into my mind was the sheer vitality and pure magic of the Aston Martin marque: I was smitten. The memory of that DB4 Vantage lives with me to this day. Now with the new DB7 Vantage the magic of the marque is reawakened.

Ian Callum's shining paragon of design takes your breath away, making the DB7 arguably one of the most arresting automotive shapes – pretty to the core with subtle curved surfaces which plunge deep into the emotional bullseye.

The new V12 Vantage Volante is even better looking, especially when the fully-lined powered hood is lowered and all is sweeping elegance – but you have to step inside for the full fix.

There are new heated Connolly leather upholstered front bucket-seats together with new design instruments, but, of course, every Aston Martin is produced individually to meet the precise requirements of its owner. The infinite choice of upholstery schemes and alternative materials in place of wood veneers always gives a refined ambience in this the most soigné of interiors with its top levels of refine-



Aston Martin DB7 Vantage Volante

Tech spec

ENGINE All-alloy quad cam 48 valve 5935cc V12.

TRANSMISSION Six-speed manual or five-speed auto.

BRAKES Brembo ventilated discs front and rear.

SUSPENSION Front: Independent double wishbone.

Rear: Independent double wishbone.

BODY Steel under-frame and body panels. Composite front wings, sills, boot lid and front and rear bumpers/aprons.

WHEELS 8J x 18 front, 9J x 18 rear.

MAXIMUM POWER 420 bhp at 6000 rpm.

MAXIMUM TORQUE 400 lb.ft. at 5000 rpm.

MAXIMUM SPEED Coupé 185 mph, Volante 165 mph.

PRICE £99,950.

ment – yet it is the very antonym of ostentation. It would be a cold heart that failed to respond to its myriad, visual and tactile triggers.

There's a roomy cockpit for driver and front passenger, but as you would expect with a 2+2, rear accommodation is restricted and suitable for small children only. Once seated, a minute's dabbling with various switches tailors a fine driving position to give a commanding view down the long bonnet. You sit in splendour and the sense of omnipotence is palpable. Specification includes power operated front seats, climate control of course, and a Kenwood audio package offering the ultimate listening experience.

You push a large red button mounted prominently in the centre console to fire up that magnificent 420 hp, six-litre V12 which is totally new and incorporates all the latest in Formula 1 technology.

Press the throttle and the car forges for-

ward with hungry enthusiasm all the way to the top speed of 165 mph – it is by any reckoning a fabulously rapid car.

You have a choice of either a six-speed close ratio manual transmission in the Coupé (when the car is unrestricted and will reach more than 185 mph) or the five-speed ZF automatic of the test car which lets you select ratios with a floor-mounted shift lever or with the "Touchtronic" buttons recessed into the spokes of the steering wheel.

Redolent of Old England, open roads and country house weekends, the purity and propriety of this latest Aston Martin contrasts vividly with the tawdriness of some Italian marques – and this is reflected in the type of buyer.

Thank goodness that even in our conformist and legislation-ridden times, gentlemen of taste are still free to indulge in the kind of motoring experience which offers express luxury across whole countries while at the same time indulging you in the adrenalin rush that only the very best modern technology can give.



Dream on . . .

Nintendo unveil next generation console

IT was only a matter of time before Nintendo struck back. With Nintendo's N64 fighting a losing battle against Sony's PlayStation and PlayStation 2, the Japanese gaming giants have been busy applying the finishing touches to their latest offering in the war of the consoles.

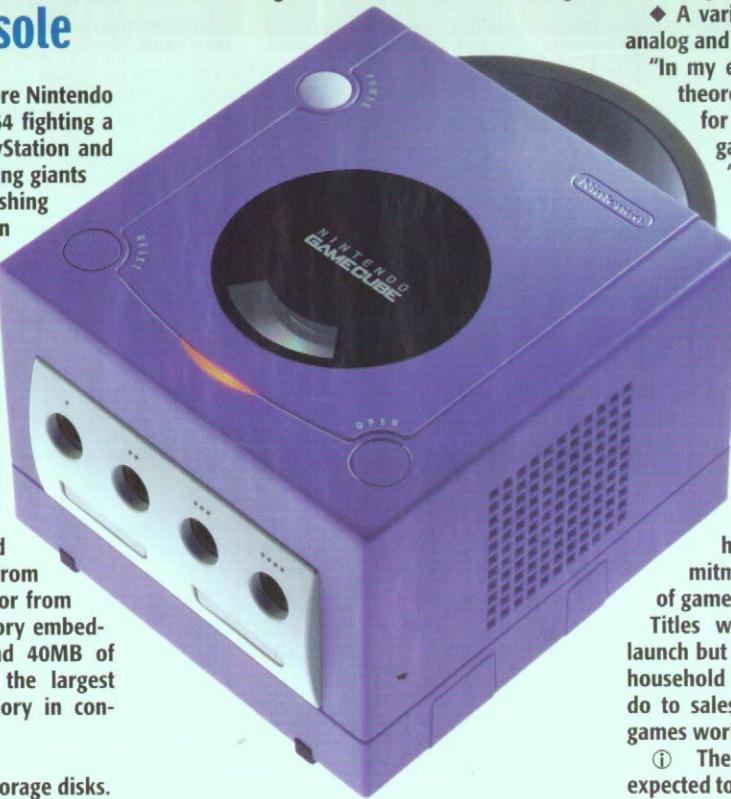
And if the hype is to be believed, the Gamecube looks set to beat all-comers when it is launched later this year.

True to the proverb that good things come in small packages, the Gamecube measures just 150mm by 110mm and is billed as the fastest and most efficient video game system.

It features a highly customised copper wire central processor from IBM; a revolutionary co-processor from ATI with Mosys 1-T SRAM memory embedded directly onto the chip; and 40MB of memory which offers one of the largest implementations of static memory in consumer product history.

Other main features include:

- ◆ 1.5GB proprietary optical storage disks.
- ◆ A 56k modem and broadband modem.



card flash memory cards or a 64MB SD-Digicard adaptor.

◆ A variety of high-speed ports and both analog and digital AV outputs.

"In my experience there have often been theoretical claims of high performance for game hardware," said Nintendo game designer Shigeru Miyamoto. "And although people were very impressed by the figures, the actual products have not delivered even one-tenth of the claims.

"It is guaranteed that the Nintendo Gamecube will offer better graphics and higher quality sound, but more importantly it will allow developers the freedom to concentrate on creativity without worrying about technical limitations."

A large number of developers have already announced their commitment to the Gamecube and dozens of games are already near completion.

Titles will be announced closer to the launch but are certain to include some of the household names that have propelled Nintendo to sales of more than one billion video games worldwide over the past 15 years.

① The Gamecube's European launch is expected to follow its arrival in North America in October.

Switched on . . .



Super TU Boy – Simply plug the Super TV Boy into your television to access a library of 127 classic computer games.

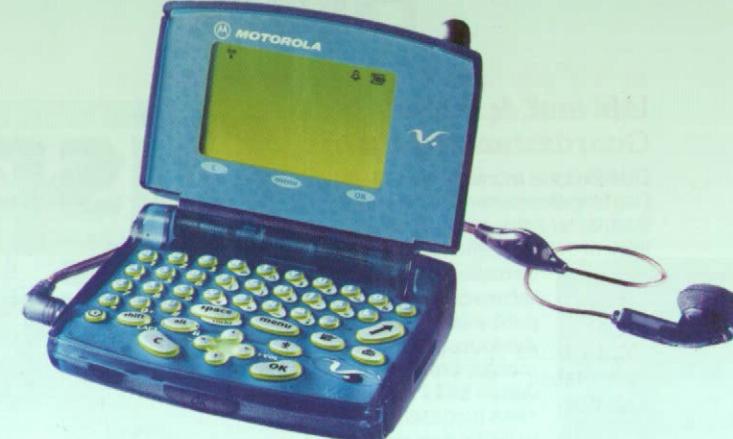
① £29.95, from firebox.com (tel 0870 2414289).



Casio wrist camera – Equipped with a tiny 1/4-inch sensor, this digital watch and camera takes black-and-white pictures and displays them on a 120 x 120 dot screen.

The camera can store up to 100 standard images in its 1MB memory or download your favourites to computer via infra-red transfer.

① £169.95, from firebox.com (tel 0870 2414289).



Motorola U100 – Known as the v-box, this fully functional hands-free phone provides the ultimate text messaging experience. Featuring a full QWERTY keyboard, the v-box can send and receive e-mail via the WAP browser.

① £49.95, from firebox.com (tel 0870 2414289).



Self-powered torch – The light source in this torch can be supplied by a rechargeable battery or wind-up handle.

A clockwork mechanism converts human energy into light in emergencies or when no electricity is available.

① £44, from presentsdirect.com (tel 0870 7274366).

Game on . . .



UNREAL TOURNAMENT, PS2

THE 1999 PC game of the year, *Unreal Tournament*, has now made the transition to the PlayStation 2.

Sporting a new arcade-look, this first person shoot-'em-up pits players wits against computer-controlled or human enemies equipped with weapons of mass destruction.

Fast and frantic, *Unreal Tour-*

nament

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Sporting a new arcade-look, this first person shoot-'em-up pits players wits against computer-controlled or human enemies equipped with weapons of mass destruction.

Fast and frantic, *Unreal Tour-*

OUT NOW



DEMOLITION RACER, PSX

INFOGRAPHES'S classic racing title is about more than just being first past the finish post.

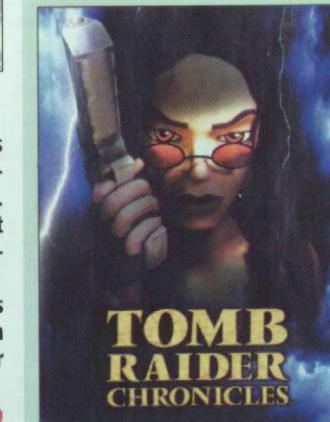
Endorsed by the US Demolition Derby Association, *Demolition Racer* brings the thrills and spills of stock-car racing into your living room.

Race and demolish with 15 cars on the track or battle it out in intense "last man standing" demolition derby bowl matches.

VERDICT: Re-released as part of Infogrames's budget range, *Demolition Racer* is real value for money. 7/10

TOMB RAIDER: CHRONICLES, PC

OUT NOW



UNCOVER the secret history of Lara Croft in *Chronicles* – the latest adventure in Eidos Interactive's epic *Tomb Raider* series.

Chronicles comprises four separate adventures, each with its own objective and unique game-play style. New moves feature throughout the game enabling Lara to walk tightropes, swing from bars and reach new areas by firing ropes from the grappling-hook gun. Hand-to-hand combat also debuts.

VERDICT: Everything you would expect from a *Tomb Raider* title. 8/10



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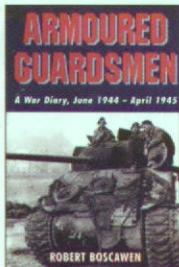
The massage system is operated by a handset and runs for 15 minutes before cutting off automatically and re-starting after a further 20-minute pause. A heated lumbar control allows users to warm up the chair before taking their place in the "hotseat".

The Lay-Z-Boy even has its own telephone tucked away in the arm. The phone is a standard BT issue and comes with a 99-number memory.

① £998, from boysstuff.co.uk (tel 01902 861818).

Life and death in Guards' tank troop

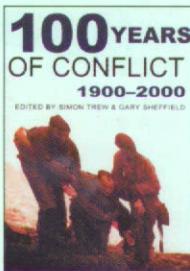
DURING the months following D-Day Bob Boscowen's Coldstream Guards tank troop was in the thick of the fighting. Throughout it all he kept a vivid record of events, now published as



Armoured Guardsmen, A War Diary, June 1944 - April 1945 (Leo Cooper, £19.95). The diary ends abruptly, as the author, who already had three tanks shot from under him, suffered severe burns along with the only other survivor of his crew. This is a highly readable account of exceptional times, capturing the joy of success, bitterness of loss and thrill of action.

Charting a century of world conflict

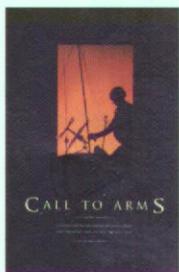
LAST century was the bloodiest in the history of mankind. In **100 Years of Conflict 1900-2000**, edited by Simon Trew and Gary



Sheffield (Sutton, £25), the authors tackle this huge subject and render it comprehensible by painting a picture in broad brush-strokes. Considering the enormous worldwide scope of this book, it is highly readable, illustrated with photographs, maps and drawings and captioned with apposite vignettes. The wealth of material is tackled in a compelling way with original research and up-to-date scholarship. It will appeal to general and specialist readers alike.

How the post office stayed on message

THE story of how military communications progressed from torches and semaphore through to the complexities of modern radio is



told in **Call to Arms**, a history of the subject from the Crimean War to the present day (Focus Publishing, £19.99). The book begins shortly after the Battle of Trafalgar with the introduction of the shuttle telegraph and follows the development of fixed military communications to the current situation. Woven into this time-frame is the important role played by the Post Office – and latterly BT – in supporting Britain's armed forces.

Dispelling the Enigma myths

IT SEEKS extraordinary that Enigma, which diverted so much collective brainpower in the Second World War, should originally have been available on the open market.

Maurice Freedman tells us in one of the latest of the many books on the German encoding device that its commercial forerunner was promoted at the International Postal Union Congresses in 1923 and 1924, but banks and business firms showed little interest. But the German Navy did – and, as they say, the rest is history.

Unravelling Enigma will be welcomed by all who have been confused by the myths surrounding Station X at Bletchley Park.

Modern British codebreaking began with the Royal Navy in the First World War but peace did not mean an end to codebreaking activity. A Government Code and Cipher School was set up primarily for diplomatic uses but the Services eventually had their own sections, the Army's being created in 1930.

It was thanks to the Poles that Britain acquired her secret German military "Enigma" machine. In an act of "enormous generosity" in

Unravelling Enigma: Winning the Code War at Station X by Maurice Freedman (Leo Cooper, Pen and Sword Books, £19.95).

Review: Brian Jewell

Is it all a big hype?

ARE today's historians in danger of exaggerating the importance of Enigma?

In *Without Enigma* prominent military writer Kenneth Macksey argues that they are, following a detailed study of official records. However, he supports the view that if the "Enigma effect" did not necessarily win the war, it certainly shortened it.

The book, published by Ian Allan at £19.99, also pays overdue tribute to Gen Frich Fellgiebel for his creation of the German communications and intelligence system and his courageous role as a key leader of the anti-Hitler movement.

July 1939, the Polish Cipher Bureau, which never actually acquired a German machine but built its own, presented duplicate machines and other decoding equipment to both Britain and France.

What the French did with their machine is not clear but as we know, the British made good use of their gift from the Poles.

The world's first operational electrical computer, called Colossus, was spawned by the needs of Bletchley Park but it was not, as is often supposed, built there. It was constructed at Dollis Hill by a team of Post Office engineers led by Tommy Flowers.

Freedman also dispels the popular myth that Colossus was altogether the work of the eccentric genius Alan Turing.

"Colossus could be summed up in the word teamwork," he writes, "and it was not Turing's scene. Late in 1943 he left Bletchley Park in order to develop a speech encipherment system."

Colossus was working at Bletchley in December, 1943 and Colossus Mark II, with 2,500 valves, was delivered in time for D-Day - June 6, 1944.

Although it could have done with a concise glossary, *Unravelling Enigma* is welcome reading for anyone who might be fazed by the extensive and highly technical literature on code and cipher breaking.

IN BRIEF

VCs of the First World War: The Final Days 1918 by Gerald Gliddon. Latest volume in this excellent series covers the 56 VCs won from the Battle of Canal du Nord until Armistice Day, a period of just under six weeks. (Sutton, £19.99.)

Tales by Japanese Soldiers. The other side of the story: how the ordinary soldier of the Imperial Japanese Army lived and died in Burma. Written by Dr Kazuo Tamayama, secretary of the Japan-British Society, who was awarded an honorary MBE

in 1998, and John Nunneley, who fought with the King's African Rifles in Burma and is now chairman of the Burma Fellowship Group, which promotes British-Japanese friendship. (Cassell, £16.99.)

Recollections of the Eventful Life of a Soldier by Joseph Donaldson. The ponderous if understated title gives it away: it's the "graphic, gripping and poignant" story of a Peninsular War soldier who fought with the 94th Scots Brigade. Reproduced, for the first time since

1852, in the collectable Spellmount Library of Military History series (£24.95).

The Road to Rivoli: Napoleon's First Campaign by Martin Boycott-Brown. Drawing on eye-witness records, this weighty, 560-page work tells from all points of view the absorbing story of how the young Bonaparte first revealed his tactical genius. (Cassell, £20.)

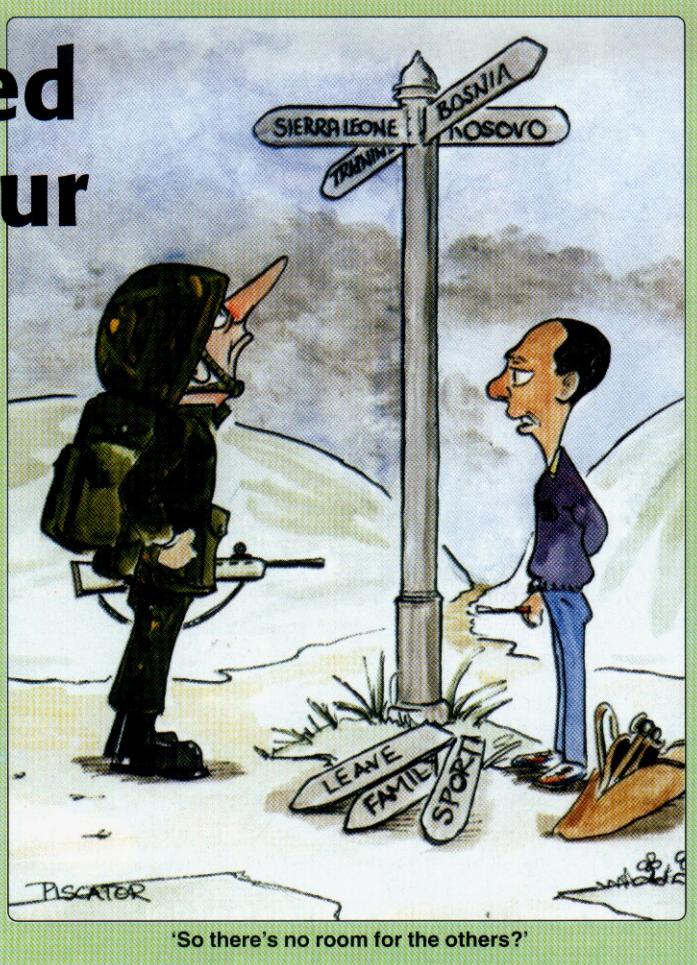
British Battalions on the Western Front: January to June 1915 by Ray Westlake. This

Pointed humour

This light-hearted cartoon with a satirical bite is one of 24 by Piscator, published as a set of postcards detachable from a book titled *Military Manoeuvres*, to raise much-needed cash for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Copies can be ordered at £5.99, plus £1.50 postal charge for a single book and an extra 25p for each additional one, from Army Benevolent Fund, Dept ABA 010, PO Box 1940, Bader House, Fairford, Gloucestershire, GL7 4DL (cheques payable to ABF Trading Company Ltd).

• Piscator's regular cartoon is on Page 75



Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

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meticulously researched reference work will be of enormous value to historians and families tracing relatives' war service. It is the fourth in a series by this respected author. (Leo Cooper, £19.95.)

The Spanish Civil War by Antony Beevor. Available for the first time in paperback, this work bears all the early hallmarks of the lucid and page-turning writing style which was to send Stalingrad to the top of the bestsellers. (Cassell, £6.99.)

Snapshot of colonial past

FOR those fascinated by old sepia-tinted photographs, *On Service in India* (Tempus, landscape paperback, £12.99) will be pored over again and again.

The well-presented pictures – some panoramic views, others posed groups and many pin-sharp – have been selected by Peter Duckers from the albums of the Mein family, generations of whom served with distinction in the Army.

As such, the book amounts to a photographic history of the British colonisation of India between 1870 and 1901. Among the most significant are those taken during the Afghan War of 1879-80.

Peter Duckers, who is the curator of the Shropshire Regimental Museum in Shrews-

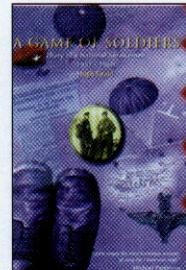


Snapped: Frederick Coore Mein as adjutant of the Oswestry Rifle Volunteers in the late 1880s

bury Castle and who owns the collection, has also written the text. He has performed a service in bringing a "snapshot" of a vanished age to a wider audience.

My National Service with the Paras

IN 1958 19-year-old Hugh Grant arrived in Aldershot to begin his National Service with the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. **A Game of Soldiers** (Beaupre Books, £9.99) is his earthy account of life in the regiment and will jog a lot of memories. Chat show host Michael Parkinson, who also served around the same time, said the book was "quite simply the most humorous account of Army life I have ever read." But his National Service had a darker side: he witnessed the death of a comrade during action against Eoka terrorists in Cyprus.



Hero with flaws as great as his virtues

JOHN Pollock's first volume of his biography of Kitchener was previously published as the Road to Omdurman. The second is now published, making the complete biography available in one book, **Kitchener** (Constable, £20). It opens with Kitchener arriving in the Indian Empire as commander-in-chief and his posting to Egypt as pro-consul. When the Great War broke out he said it would last three years and that he must raise an army of three million. Pollock argues that despite his untimely death, he was the architect of allied victory and that his planning was masterly.



Horseman Hervey saddles up again

A Regimental Affair (Bantam, £16.99) is the third novel featuring the adventures of Matthew Hervey of the 6th Light Dragoons by Brig Allan Mallinson, our military attaché in Rome. It is 1817 and Hervey is newly returned from India to rejoin his regiment. England is in a state of political turmoil with the clamour for reform bringing the country close to revolution. Hervey faces a year of trials – in his marriage, his loyalty to his men, and his professional skill. The mistakes begin to tell and when his regiment is sent urgently to Canada, the price he pays is heavy indeed.



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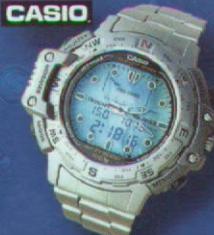


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SOLDIER to soldier

Statistically, you are the strong link

PUBLIC support for the military is vital for all sorts of reasons, so it is good to learn from the latest National Opinion Poll figures that more people think the work of the MoD and the Armed Forces is important.

Support has gone up in seven out of 18 statements on defence, down in six and stayed the same in five.

The NOP's February survey of attitudes reveals that 94 per cent of those questioned reckoned the Services' work was important (up one per cent on the previous survey), while a record 87 per cent believe the UK needs strong armed forces (up four).

♦ ♦ ♦

While an encouraging 81 per cent had confidence in our ability to defend the UK, that was one per cent fewer than before. Sadly, only 39 per cent thought the Forces made a positive contribution to communities, down five per cent.

Although fewer than a third thought the MoD spends its money wisely, that was a small increase on previous surveys.

Incidentally, among the unchanged stats is agreement by 89 per cent of those polled that the Armed Forces are good at what they do and by 72 per cent that they have the highest professional standards.

♦ ♦ ♦

Those are figures for which most organisations would happily sell their corporate souls.

Yes, we know there are lies, damned lies and statistics, but the fact that the vast majority of your countrymen think you are important and set high standards, believe that they need you and are confident you make the world a safer place must mean you are doing something right.

To paraphrase the BBC's redoubtable Anne Robinson, you would appear to be, statistically, the strongest link ...

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Change . . . it is all in the timing

THE more you learn about life, the more you realise that nothing is ever simple. Having listened to my presentation on the Army Families Federation to a unit welfare officers' course, one UWO asked me to list some of the things the AFF had achieved over the past 19 or so years.

What had we changed? Do we really make a difference? A fair but frustrating question, as it is almost impossible to answer.

There is so much more to getting things changed than just AFF raising the issues and claiming a result. We're pretty sure the new move-out cleaning schemes were precipitated by our march-out survey – but there were other factors involved, such as timing, culture change, and the Army's recognition that supporting accompanied service meant making moving easier.

You could say our work had a lot to do with the creation of the Service Families' Task Force – the Government's response to the issues we were raising, many of which were to do with the policies of other departments.

But it was also the "joined-up Government" climate, the need to retain families as well as Servicemen, and the acceptance of the role of the Service families'

IT is almost a year since our Conference 2000 in London, and AFF is about to publish an update on the questions and issues you raised.

It is interesting to see how far some things have progressed – and how some have not, often despite a great deal of work by the Army. One of the hottest topics was the provision of compassionate travel for foreign spouses.

As with many things, common sense and moral duty would seem to dictate an obvious solution: make compassionate travel available for foreign spouses so that the system gets them back to their



Sue Bonney is
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal

associations. What AFF does is raise the issues that families raise with us – we communicate their concerns. We gather statistics and evidence and take the case to the Army and SFTF. To persuade the powers-that-be to change or adapt policies and, more importantly, to get them financed, we need the listening ear and willing assistance of the Army.

Most things get changed these days because a lot of people in the Army work hard to change

them. There is a genuine desire to make family life in the Army as reasonable as possible, given that soldiering is not exactly family-friendly.

Of course, you could make a case for saying that this in itself is down to the existence of the Federation. If we had not

been there, dripping away on the limestone of policy and slowly becoming an accepted part of the welfare policy process, would things have changed for families as much as they have?

I have come to believe that most of it is in the timing – doors that were once shut start to open for a variety of reasons. And two of the most powerful reasons these days are the expectations of society (and women in particular) and retention.

**There is a real
desire to make
family life in
the Army as
reasonable as
possible ,**

family in times of need.

But it isn't that simple. Allowances are based on the principle that we are a UK-based Army, and tri-Service policy currently provides for all soldiers and their families to be brought back to the UK in compassionate cases.

The situation of foreign spouses was not considered when they made the rules. To make a case for change which remains within the UK-base principle, the Army could argue that it has a responsibility to get a foreign spouse back to their country of origin, from which they were moved at public expense to accompany their soldier on posting.

However, as is currently the case, British-born soldiers and spouses would only be moved back to the UK, even if their parents or closest family lived abroad. Extending compassionate travel to foreign spouses would mean that more people would receive travel at public expense for compassionate reasons, but not everyone with family overseas.

Should the Army argue for change? What do you think? The Army is interested in your views. And conveying your views to the Army is what we do.

● Conference 2000 Update – Your Questions and their Answers should be available this month. Contact AFF Central Office on 01980 615525.



PAY 2000 PAY 2000 PAY 2000 PAY 2000 PAY 2000 PAY 2000 PAY 2000

What's the justification for my trade dropping a band?

BEING a REME staff sergeant technician and not an artificer I, like all non-artificer REME SSgts, find my trade drops from the higher band to the lower band at SSgt level.

I can't see the justification as we are expected to carry out a similar role to sergeant technicians, only with more responsi-

bility. This seems to go against the stated Pay 2000 policies of rewarding experience and years of service.

I have also noticed that the same change applies to Royal Signals trades where there is a career course that results in promotion to that level.

Is this a separate policy to

ensure that the personnel attending these career courses are paid more than those who do not?

Is there any information available (or are there plans to make it available) on the grading of the trades and ranks within the Army, under Job Evaluation?

This would at least allow per-

sonnel to see how their trade and ranks have been graded and give a comparison with other ranks or trades.

I would be interested to see how my work has become easier since my promotion to SSgt. – SSgt C J Newman, Defence Logistics Organisation, Andover.

Unfair start to fair system

HAVING read the Pay 2000 booklet several times I was confident the new system was better than the old.

When the scales were released, I looked to find out where I would start and found a serious flaw in the system – or more precisely the transitional arrangements to the new system.

The booklet says Pay 2000 is designed to be flexible and fair. It also says "individual skills and experience will be recognised and there will be the incentive of incremental pay". It is what has been needed for a long time. After all, officers have had it for many years and many civilian organisations operate the system.

So why are we starting this new fair pay system in an unfair way? The transition

Services' morale. In the light of that huge round tent in London, surely money can be found to start a fair pay system fairly.

To give you an example, a sergeant in the Infantry is promoted on March 1, 2001. On April 1 he joins Pay 2000 on level 1 of the scale for colour sergeant. All Infantry sergeants will join at level 1 of the sergeant scale.

A sergeant who has his Anniversary of Promotion (AoP) on May 1, 2001 will

receive his first incremental level and move to level 2.

He will then be earning more than the colour sergeant until March, when the CSgt will have his AoP. When the sergeant is subsequently promoted he will, depending on when he is promoted, either be level with or even overtake the more senior CSgt.

These situations will be encountered for another seven years, as this is the time it will take to fully integrate all those currently serving to the new system.

Although Pay 2000 is fair overall, it is far from equitable in the transitional period. This will disadvantage many Service people for many years. – Sgt M J Amor (Signals CSgt), 1 D and D.

▲ We asked the Directorate of Personal Services (Army) to respond to your letters on Pay 2000. This is what they said:

Pay 2000 was introduced following demands for changes from the Independent Review conducted by Sir Michael Bett, from the AFPRB and, most importantly, from Service personnel themselves. All have pressed for a pay system for other ranks that recognises experience and provides incentives within the pay structure.

Pay 2000 is not a cost-cutting exercise. In the steady state following transition, costs will be about £29 million a year more for the Army than the current system. Over the transition period tri-Service Pay 2000 costs will be considerably higher.

JOB EVALUATION

Job Evaluation (JE) is a key aspect of Pay 2000. It is intended to run an article in a future issue of Soldier to provide greater details about the process. Until then readers may wish to be aware of the following.

The JE process is a well-established, very detailed system used in both private and public sectors, which we are confident produces a fair and robust outcome. The trade

sponsor on the Arm or Service Director's Staff is involved in the JE process from start to final judging.

Trades are evaluated on six factors: knowledge, skills and experience; complexity and mental challenge; judgement and decision-making; use of resources; communications both internal and external; and working conditions. It is not possible therefore to compare just one aspect of a job (ie training courses) to try and justify why a particular trade should be in a specific range be it lower or higher.

JE is an on-going process. Over the next two years the programme will be expanded to ensure that as many trades are evaluated as possible. We will start with those where concerns have been raised or where there has recently been significant trade restructuring.

JE is a useful management tool, currently under-used. It is a systematic approach, combining rigour and objectivity in comparing job values. It concentrates on what a job amounts to and not on the performance of an individual jobholder.

It has the potential to inform manpower planning, including the review of both organisation structures and

rank structures. Consequently, JE data will be made available to the Arm and Service Directors and the Directorate of Manning (Army), to help inform their work in these areas.

TRANSITION

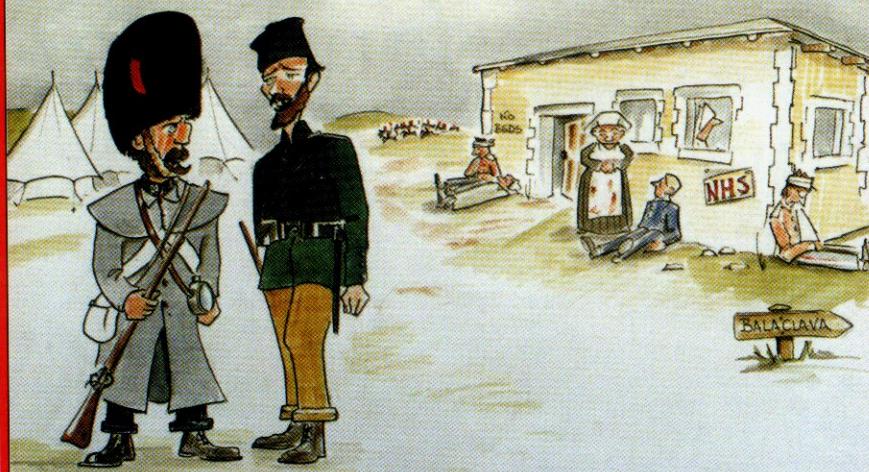
The process of moving Pay 2000 from the current structure, which was developed in 1970 and has more than 350 rates of pay, has been complex. However it was necessary, as the current system is outdated and no longer offers the flexibility to cope with Service needs.

The transition to Pay 2000 has been carefully designed to minimise as many problem areas as possible, but we know that in some areas people's expectations are not being met. This cannot be avoided – there has to be a start date for any new rules and although we could try to delay the start date to protect one group of people, we would inevitably end up upsetting a different group.

No individual will take a pay reduction as a result of transition to Pay 2000. People will move to Pay 2000 at the level above or equal to their current rate of pay. Pay 2000 will recognise and reward experience in rank.

Those personnel who move to an

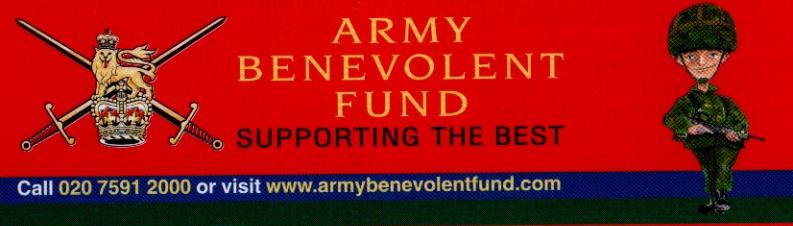
PISCATOR



"It's not the getting wounded that worries me . . . it's the aftercare."

Question time: What great event happened on June 6, 1944?
A) Field Marshal Montgomery's birthday; B) Official end of the First World War; C) D-Day landings.

Answers on a postcard please to ABF Soldier Competition, 41 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 5HR. First ten correct entries picked out of the hat will win a Piscator Bugler Boy keyring and a Tommy Atkins fridge magnet (no name and address, no prize). All entries will be placed in the ABF Grand Prize Draw.



I'd be better off as infantryman

I ALWAYS knew I would be a soldier first and foremost when I joined the Army, but didn't realise just how true that would be until I saw the Pay 2000 scales and realised I was being penalised for having a trade.

The future looks dim for the Royal Signals if it is financially more viable for the soldiers among us to retrade to the Infantry and for the tradesmen to use their costly training to set up impressive CVs to present to civilian employers.

Have we been forgotten or are we being gently phased out? – LCpl O'Connell, 259 Signal Squadron, Cyprus.

PS . . .

Post-nominal VRSM

AFTER ten years in the Territorial Army I have been told I qualify for the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal (VRSM) and was interested to find out what it looked like. I was surprised to read in the Medal Yearbook 2001 that recipients were entitled to the post-nominal letters VRSM.

I could understand post-nominals for the Queen's Volunteer Reserve Medal (QVRM), but can't believe the hundreds in the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, reserve and volunteer services who qualify would be allowed post-nominal letters VRSM. – A Salter, Glos.

▲ You were right to be surprised. The yearbook got it wrong. QVRM post-nominals, yes; VRSM, no. – Editor

We were first, Kate

REFERENCE your interview with Kate Adie (Feb), during the Gulf War I was attached to 1 Coldm Gds. As an Arabic speaker, I was in a team dealing with PoWs. We had Kuwait interpreters, students and businessmen who had been outside Kuwait when the war began.

When it ended we took them home. I and Sgt Crook (1 Coldm Gds) took a party back down the Basra Road into Kuwait City. As we approached the gap in the hills, who should we see but Kate Adie remonstrating with an RMP to be allowed forward. This was going on as we negotiated the tangled mess. So, our claim to fame is that I, Sgt Crook, Abu Ahmed and the other Kuwaiti interpreters beat Kate into Kuwait City. – Maj (Retd) Len Webb RA, Bulford, Wiltshire.

Egypt was conflict

THE national memorial for post-1945 dead (Page 13, Dec) is a worthy idea.

Could the powers-that-be note that of all the conflicts mentioned, Egypt is the only one for which no medal was issued? If they recognise the Canal Zone as a conflict it isn't too late to recognise that those who served there were on active service, nor is it too late to issue an appropriate medal.

It takes several weeks for Soldier to arrive in Perth, but when it does, it is passed around members of the Guards Association of Western Australia and the Pegasus Association. – Peter Mulrennan, ex-IG, Perth, W Australia.

OFFICER or other rank; serving or civvy . . . Soldier welcomes your letters. Please keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the our 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!



WOMEN IN THE FRONT LINE WOMEN IN THE FRONT LINE WOMEN

Asexual combat-dependable? That's not how lads see them

THERE is no question some women are capable of meeting the physical demands of front-line action. I have met women who can run faster and shoot better than many men. But the question is not just could they do the job, but should they?

It is a far step from the training fields to the killing fields and one where an experiment in political correctness should not take place.

It is no longer acceptable to exclude women from any sector of society, even the front line. If we do, we leave ourselves open to charges of sex discrimina-

tion (a lesson learned from the fiasco of homosexuality and the military).

It effectively doubles the shrinking pool from which we could recruit. This allows the authorities to put another tick in the box against the number of front-line troops at their disposal.

I have no experience of war or military conflict, but many soldiers from all ranks who have, have spoken out about the folly of women in the front line. Does anyone listen to them?

But I do have some experience of the mentality of the lads on the front line. It

is not always PC. They would not look at fit, healthy young women as "asexual combat-dependable" oppos.

When you put young men and women in a restricted area, biology kicks in. This leads to, among other things, tensions. Add the stresses of combat and you have a reduced combat capability.

It doesn't take a combat veteran to work out that an attack on an enemy will lose momentum if 2nd Lt Rachael falls wounded rather than 2nd Lt Rupert. It is natural for men to show more compassion to women than men.

Separation has a damaging effect on marriage and long-term relationships. How much more stress will be added for the partner at home, lonely and isolated. Jealousy is not logical.

There is also a moral dimension. Have we moved so far that we can encourage women to take part in war? Will this folly only be realised when our first female combat soldiers come home in body bags? Time will tell. — **Maj J McAuley RAMC(V), Whitby, North Yorks.**

It wouldn't hurt to give girls a chance

AS an avid reader I thought it was time I stood up and got myself counted. In the last couple of issues the "female" war has been going on with no end in sight.

If standing next to me in a trench or having a pop at the enemy is what girls want to do, who am I, or anyone else, to say no. It would be a shame if the only thing holding them back were us blokes

massaging our egos. There are problems, but we are the British Army and if we can't overcome them we are in more trouble than we think.

Would it hurt to give them a chance? If you were in a trench and in trouble, would you really care who was stood next to you? I wouldn't. — **Pte Alan Wilson, 2 PWRR, BLMF, Banja Luka.**

DU risks assessed as low

AS a former Gulf War veteran, I find it hard to believe what the Armed Forces Minister said in the House of Commons (Soldier, Feb) on the subject of depleted uranium.

I would like to put the record straight: only two Gulf War veterans have been tested for DU by the MoD. And those tests were not for DU, but for uranium. The MoD has

admitted that tests for DU on the two veterans were not carried out. As for the testing of Gulf and Balkans veterans for uranium in the US, Canada and Belgium, how can the MoD say this when the MoD has not seen the results? And if it has, why not publish them? — **Terry Walker (ex-LCpl, 11 Armd Wksp REME, Stores Section RAOC), Hull.**

▲ The MoD responds to both letters: Our Gulf Veterans' Medical Assessment Programme (GVMAP) will arrange tests for uranium, but not specifically for depleted uranium, when clinically appropriate for anyone referred to them. It is the total body load of uranium which is important in health terms, not the proportion of it which is depleted. The results from tests arranged so far have shown that uranium, in any form, is not a contributory factor to the patients' ill health.

We have seen reports of government work undertaken in the US, Canada and Belgium, which has been made public by those involved. The US results, for example, were reported at a recent conference

I WAS impressed by the news (Feb) that even as far back as the Gulf, guidelines were issued to soldiers coming into contact with tank hulls to take appropriate precautions.

This is rubbish. If there were any guidelines in the Gulf they weren't disseminated very well. I, like many thousands of other Gulf veterans, was encouraged to go on battlefield tours without any warnings about DU.

The Surgeon General also states that "cancer related to radiation normally takes rather a long time to

develop". In 1978, seven years after my exposure to tank hulls, I developed cancer in my thyroid gland.

The number of umbrellas popping up now saying warnings were issued concerns me greatly. Is the "no significant danger" a bit like the insignificant danger to Service personnel on duty for the Easter Island nuclear tests?

I accept that as part of my job I could be shot or blown up in a conflict; what I don't accept is dying years later because a warning that could have been issued wasn't. I heard on the

on Gulf health in the USA. The Canadian results have been disseminated widely in their media, and on the Internet, and the Belgians have made a statement about their results in the Nato ad hoc group which is sharing information on DU in the Balkans. The Germans and the French have also announced the results of testing on Balkans veterans, again all negative.

We accept that the advice produced for troops in the run-up to and during the Gulf conflict on the risks of DU did not reach everyone. We publicly acknowledged this in 1993. Following concerns from Gulf veterans, in March 1999 we published a paper on potential DU exposures in the Gulf.

The paper is available on the Internet at <http://www.gulfwar.mod.uk>

With regard to the Balkans, it is regrettably true that some of those who went to Kosovo and Bosnia were not briefed on the DU risk. However, as from earlier this year, advice on DU risks should have been covered during pre-deployment briefing for all troops.

Although we are open-minded about the causes of Gulf veterans' illnesses, it remains our view that the risks to the health of UK veterans and personnel deployed to the Balkans posed by possible levels of exposure to DU are low. This view is based on our own assessments and those of several non-MoD investigators.

news that the MoD admitted not issuing warnings of DU for six months to Servicemen in the Balkans. How many more people will be put at risk before our safety is taken seriously? — **Sgt Pete Bate- son, 204 (NI) Fd Hosp (V), BFPO 801.**

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1976: "Be in fashion but retain your Military Requirements by purchasing one of our Trendy Male Wigs, which are manufactured in Human Hair or Man-made Fibre. Cost: Human Hair £10.25 incl VAT; Man-made Fibre £8 incl VAT. Discount on two or more wigs, 5%. Post UK free, overseas add 30p per wig. — Text from advertisement.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1951: A copy of *Soldier* is scanned in Korea by soldiers from the USA, Turkey and Britain (above). Believing the achievements of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade to be insufficiently realised, *Soldier* prints a tribute. In little more than six months the brigade, now reinforced by Australians, Canadians and New Zealanders, has made itself a legend.

Case highlights need to register every child

LCPL Jowett ("Single soldier's sick daughter didn't count", March), raises several points about the compassionate leave system. This reply seeks to set the record straight so that others will not feel similarly failed by a system which provides an excellent service to the vast majority who use it.

Firstly, it is important to appreciate that before public funds are authorised for compassionate travel, all details are carefully verified, either by HQNI or the PS4(A) Compassionate Cell.

In particular, the entitlement of the individual is checked against his documentation, and the degree of illness or injury is confirmed through hospitals, doctors or, if necessary, the police.

Secondly, the rules (Para 0403 of the Army Leave Manual 1976) stipulate that compassionate leave may be granted on the death, imminent death or very serious illness (VSI) of a spouse, child etc.

Unfortunately LCpl Jowett's daughter

was not registered on his documents, nor is there any record of his request for compassionate leave being passed to either of the organisations, which could have checked or queried the details. This begs the question as to at what level it was rejected, especially since LCpl Jowett's CO could have awarded him 28 days' compassionate leave if his daughter was not on the VSI list.

For the record, therefore, it should be noted that for compassionate leave and travel purposes the system will recognise whoever is nominated as next of kin and any registered children. If you are not married you can nominate anybody as your next of kin.

It is in the interest of all Army personnel, irrespective of their marital status, to ensure they register any children they have. And don't forget to update your next-of-kin records as soon as changes occur. — Col (Retd) H E Welby-Everard, RO1 PS4(A), Upavon.

TV: we're not like university residences

IN response to the Q and A (Jan) item on TV licences, why would the TVLA wish to liken single/unaccompanied soldiers' accommodation to the halls of residence of a university?

There are significant differences which don't seem to be taken into consideration: Accommodation is charged at a daily rate. Does this constitute rent? If accommodation is rented, do we single soldiers have joint tenancy? If it can be said that each living-in soldier is in a joint tenancy then only one licence is required for each block.

Occupation of Service accommodation is of a non-resident nature. Due to the requirements of the Service, living-in soldiers don't spend the majority of their time there. Time out of accommodation (leave, duties, exercises, operational tours) averages 19 weeks a year. While for some of the longer absences a refund may be obtainable, in most cases absences are for one day for two to three weeks, for which refunds are not available.

Is it feasible for every accommodation block in normal use to have a TV licence either paid from unit funds or the MoD (even if recouped from individual living-in personnel)? This could possibly assuage the TVLA in recovering a proportion of the estimated £3 million missing revenue on a regular basis and avoid, possibly, a great deal of acrimony and prosecutions for all involved. — Sgt M J Chinn, 7 Air Assault Bn REME.

The following response has been received from PS4(Army) at Upavon:

IN his letter on TV licensing ("For the sake of a TV set my bunk becomes a home", March), LCpl Cook linked holding a TV licence to the status of his accommodation. These are two quite separate matters.

The key point is that the regulations require that it is the individual who intends to operate TV equipment who needs to be licensed. There are concessions, notably for the immediate family living with an individual who is properly licensed, multi-occupancy rooms and communal TVs serving communal areas.

However, unrelated individuals living in married quarters officially re-appropriated as single living accommodation must have separate licences if equipment is owned separately and operated in different rooms.

This interpretation has been confirmed with the TV Licensing Authority and with the Regiment concerned.

● IN collaboration with the MoD, the TVLA has appointed an Armed Forces Liaison Officer in the UK. Units which feel they have special circumstances or are unclear how to apply the licensing rules are encouraged to contact the AFLO to arrange a local liaison visit. All G1 Staff at brigade level hold the address, which is also available from PS4(A) at Upavon.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Cpl Adrian Rose, RMP

It depends what kind of drugs they are taking. Perhaps if the Army took them to one side and tried to rehabilitate them, it might be better for retention.

**LCpl Mark Danton, RMP**

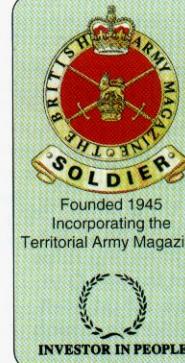
There should always be a policy of no drugs at all. But if, after being caught by CDT, it appears they regret it and stop drugs there should be a facility to rehabilitate them. Perhaps if they had been pressed into it by friends or were just experimenting, then they should be given another chance.

Gdsm Phillip Masters, Coldm Gds

I have never taken drugs and, having seen the drugs awareness presentation, I never would. There should not be any drugs whatsoever in the Army.

**Tpr Karl Woolfenden, HCMR**

If you can explain to a new recruit why they should not take drugs they will take it on board. The Army has got the policy right. There should be no tolerance of drugs.



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Look out for a feature on drugs awareness in the next issue

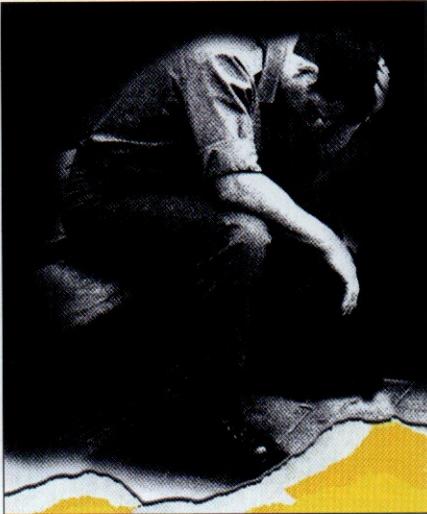
Careers up in smoke

The Army takes a robust attitude to drug misuse. Soldiers caught through compulsory drug testing (CDT) are usually dismissed. Is this tough stance the right one to take?

would be a good idea to give drugs awareness presentations to Army Training Regiments.

Tpr Christopher Douglass, HCMR

People should not get a second chance. There are no excuses for taking drugs. Soldiers who do should be straight out.

**Gdsm Tony Trainer, SG**

When you join as a soldier you surrender certain rights. Drugs are incompatible with Army life.

**Gdsm Craig Morgan, SG**

Army policy is right. You can't rely on people who are armed and on drugs.

**Gdsm Anthony Gibson, SG**

It is definitely the right policy. Soldiers who use drugs shouldn't get a second chance. They are putting themselves and others in danger.

**Tpr Jason Dexter, HCMR**

I think they have got the policy right. Drugs should not be tolerated at all. It

**Gdsm Simon Brewer, SG**

The policy is the right one. It's not worth taking chances, especially when people can have flashbacks years afterwards.



Interviews: Anthony Stone Pictures: Graeme Main

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