

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

September 1999

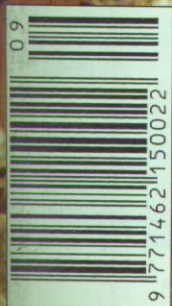
# SOLDIER

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See Page 3 and centre

## PEACE TRAIN SUPPLIES KOSOVO

Also inside:  
**Digital  
revolution  
is here**

**How Army  
brought the  
eclipse to  
the world**





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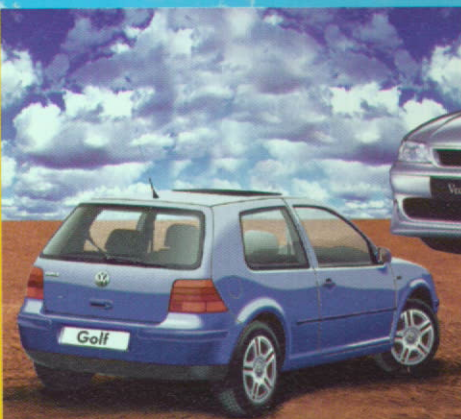


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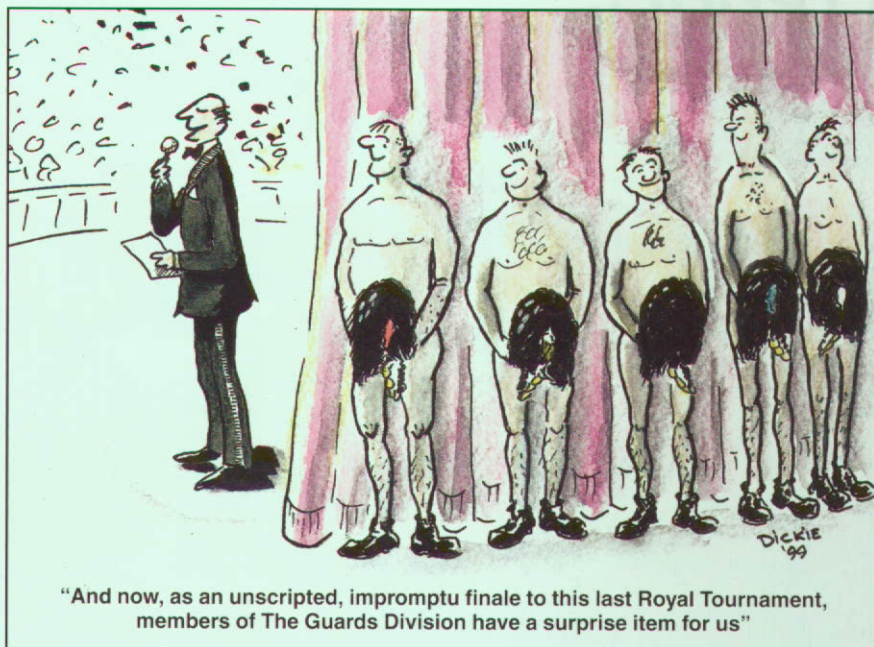
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## In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine

### Win the secrets of Station X!

We are giving away three video and book sets, each worth £35, telling the amazing story of Britain's wartime code-breakers. Turn to page 61 to see how you can be a winner.



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Picture: Mike Weston

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**SOLDIER**  
to soldier

# Have your say

**SOLDIER** Magazine has gone through big changes in the past two years and during 1999 our circulation has increased dramatically.

With the help of our growing readership we want to continue to develop and improve. Your views and suggestions are highly valued, which is why we are asking you to fill in and return one of the questionnaires printed with this issue.

Most copies of *Soldier* are read by more than one person. To multiply the chances of getting as wide a range of views as possible, each copy of this magazine left the printers with three questionnaires stapled into the centre.

May we ask the first three readers of each magazine carefully to detach one of the forms, answer the questions and return the questionnaire to us by October 29.

Bearing in mind that we can accept only one form per person, it would help the survey if readers would ensure that others have the chance to air their views.

Sender of the first one out of the hat after the closing date will win £100; the next two will receive an Army tankard.

Your replies will be professionally evaluated and the results, plus the prize draw winners, will be published in a subsequent issue of the magazine.



# The digital revolution

Report: Graham Bound

UNLESS your name is Private Rip Van Winkle, you will have noticed that the advance of information and digital technology over the past few years has been all-pervading and breathtakingly rapid. We are living through a revolution every bit as significant as that which brought machinery to industry in the late 18th century.

We write e-mails instead of sending "snail mail"; we use digital phones to call home; listen to perfect recordings on digital compact discs; and many of us end the day watching the superb picture quality of digital TV.

In the Army, we "swipe" ID cards containing our personal details through computers when entering or exiting operational theatres, and we control inventories of kit with bar codes and computers.

The potential to further exploit digital technology in the Armed Forces is almost limitless and the advantages are assessed as so great that the Ministry of Defence has identified it as nothing short of war-winning technology.

A high-powered team, led by Brig David Innes, Director Land Digitization (DLD), has been set up to bring this technology to every level of the Army and to every area of its activity; from training, through deployment, to logistical support and recovery.

According to DLD's Maj Paddy Redding, the scale of the revolution is being likened to the mass mechanisation of the Army in the 1930s. It will affect up to 22,000 "platforms" (from tanks to motorbikes), approximately 103,000 Regular soldiers, around 41,000 Territorial Army soldiers and some 7,000 Royal Marines.

Meanwhile, sitting above the Army, another MoD body is working to ensure that digitization programmes within the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force are

Soon the language of computers will course through every artery of the Army, changing utterly and forever the way soldiers do their jobs

stantly predicting demand and accurately directing the supplies, in much the same way that supermarket chains now manage their stock.

When applied to the battlefield, the impact of digitization promises to be truly remarkable. Corps plans, for example, should be developed in 24 hours rather than the current 72. Regimental fire missions, currently distributed in 3.5 minutes, could be sent out in around 36 seconds. And air defence planning will be reduced from six hours to about four minutes.

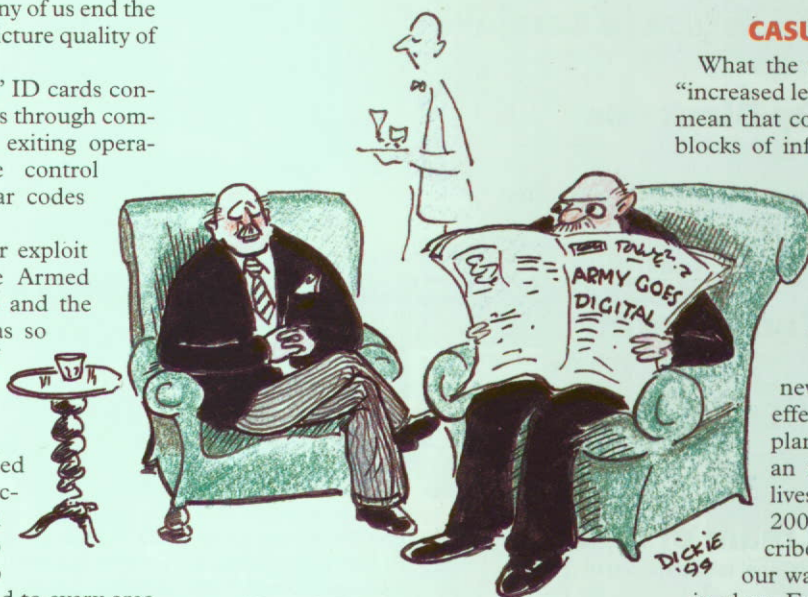
### CASUALTIES REDUCED

What the experts euphemistically call "increased lethality and survivability" will mean that company attacks, the building blocks of infantry combat, could be increased in speed by up to 50 per cent. Casualties may be reduced by 60 per cent and success – victories – could well be increased by around 80 per cent.

So when will this brave new technology come into full effect? According to the DLD plan, many soldiers will notice an impact on their day-to-day lives within 18 months. By 2004, what the planners describe as "significant changes to our way of doing business" will be in place. From there on digitization will be unstoppable.

Paddy Redding candidly admits such predictions are difficult because the Army is pushing into virgin territory. But he stresses that most major countries are working towards root-and-branch military digitization, and Britain cannot afford to lag behind. If it does, its value as a military partner may be fatally undermined. Should a potential enemy steal a march, the outlook will be even bleaker.

Key to this quantum leap in capability is computer software and hardware. Teams are working on both and a first trial of the software was held in July. As expected, Exercise First Server (see

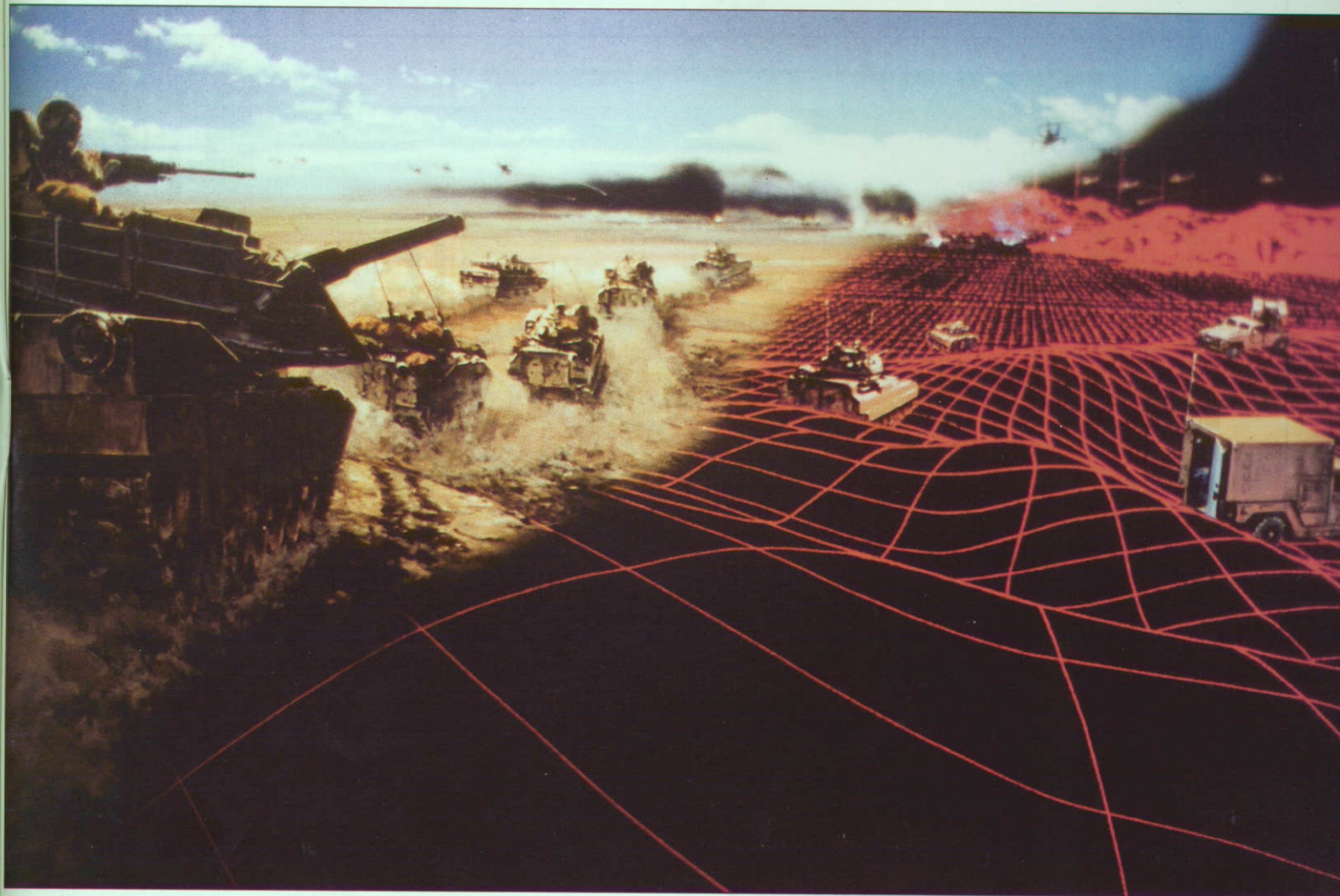


"Damn it Belshaw, what is there left to extract!"

compatible with the Army's. "One thing is for sure," said Maj Redding. "The ways in which we manage and communicate information across the Army are going to be transformed. The rate at which we make decisions will speed-up radically and this will multiply our power."

The estimates are impressive. Ammunition, kit and food logisticians will no longer need to err on the side of caution by holding large stocks in many different locations "just in case". Instead they will save time, money and labour by con-





**All-pervading:** The digitization network of the future will embrace every aspect of the Army's operations

Illustration: TRW Inc, USA

panel) highlighted both weaknesses and strengths.

The computers will work with voice and data transceivers operating on platoon or company networks. Virtually all soldiers will carry radios and global positioning equipment will be issued at fire-team level. GPS will automatically report the positions of units to commanders further up the line, and by cutting out the need for radio location reports, conventional radio traffic will be reduced by about 80 per cent.

That, some will say, is all very well in theory, but in the hellish confusion of war all systems are liable to break down. Indeed, enemies make it their business to destroy them. True, but Brig Innes's team stresses that systems will be designed with a large degree of built-in redundancy to keep channels open and troops moving.

Essentially the new secure battlefield communications systems will be mini-internets (it is worth remembering that the Internet is a network originally de-

vised by the United States Government to survive nuclear attack). The Army's system will, of course, be very much smaller, but if a key point is knocked out, information will be automatically re-directed through alternative routes. One

the men who sang *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* and marched into the trenches. "There's no doubt that soldiers will still be tired, hungry and frightened," said Maj Redding.

"But we can dramatically increase their efficiency, effectiveness, survivability, and their impact on the enemy. And when the battle is done, we will get them home, re-train them and re-kit them more efficiently than we have ever been able to do before."

As remarkable in its way is the suggestion that digitization may mean that truth will no longer be the first casualty of war. Digital traffic from the battlefield should be recorded unambiguously by computers, providing the chain of command, investigators, historians and even journalists with clear pic-

tures of what really happened beneath the fog of war.

That may not be to everyone's liking, but for each person who fears digitization, many more will welcome it. Those who do not might be well advised to step out of the way, because the revolution is upon us.

## First impressions

Soldiers from 24 Airmobile Brigade based in Colchester have been involved in trials of the computer software and hardware being developed for the Army's first-generation digital communications system.



**Capt Rachel Harvey:** "Insight into the future"

First impressions seem to be good. "Nobody said it was going to be easy," said Maj David Russell-Parsons at the conclusion of Exercise First Server. But, he added: "Brigade staff are enthusiastic about the utility of the software operations and the procedures we began to develop."

Capt Rachel Harvey, R Signals, described it as "an insight into how a brigade of the future may operate".



**Maj David Russell-Parsons:** "Brigade staff enthusiastic"

way or another, information will continue to flow.

The planners do not appear to have been dazzled by the promise of the brave new battlefield. They know that at heart the soldiers operating the keyboards and microphones will be little changed from





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## Robertson leads new style Nato

DEFENCE Secretary George Robertson is to be the next Secretary General of Nato. He is expected to take up the Brussels post from Javier Solana next month.

Speaking shortly after his appointment, Mr Robertson said: "My job is to take the 20th century's most successful alliance and fit it for the troubles of the century ahead of us."

Kosovo had taught him that "we must be more cooperative in the way we do things."

Developing relations with Russia will be a major preoccupation. "Taking that work on will be a priority," said Mr Robertson.

## Re-shuffle: new faces at MoD

DEFENCE Under-Secretary John Spellar was promoted to Armed Forces Minister in Prime Minister Tony Blair's summer Government reshuffle. He succeeds Doug Henderson.

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean became the first woman Defence minister when she took over the procurement portfolio from Lord Gilbert.

The new Under-Secretary at the MoD is Peter Kilfoyle.

● Westminster - Page 25

## Soldiers endure hostage drama

FIVE British soldiers held hostage by rebels in Sierra Leone were freed unharmed after five days.

Lt Col Ian Howard-Williams, Maj Justin McKeown, Maj Gary Bradley, Maj Toby Lyle and Maj Mark Rawlings were held in the village of Gbla.

The five soldiers, and two other Britons, Sqd Ldr Richard Carr and Maj Hugo Elliott who were released on the first day, were part of a UN observer force. They were kidnapped at gunpoint while trying to negotiate the release of a group of women and children.



Passing out at Sandhurst: Gen Sir Alex Harley, the Adjutant General, reviews the Sovereign's Parade at RMA Sandhurst. Among 603 officer cadets who paraded were 239 who were receiving commissions. Also passing out were 17 cadets from overseas

## KFOR Brits in fire-fight

SOLDIERS from 4 Company 1st Battalion, Irish Guards came under fire while on patrol near a Serb village north of Pristina. The KFOR troops returned fire, hitting several of the attackers. None of the soldiers was injured.

KFOR security had been stepped up following increased tension.

Troops in two patrols, one with a Warrior armoured fighting vehicle, heard gunfire coming from the village of Gornja Brinjica. They saw two cars driving out of the village and gave chase in the Warrior. They stayed with the suspects on hazardous tracks as the pursuit reached speeds of up to 70kph.

Occupants of one car opened fire and the Warrior commander returned fire.

The chase ended in a farmyard where four suspects were arrested. Two had been wounded. Another wounded man escaped but was later detained.

● Kosovo rescue - Page 11

● Features - Pages 16-21



Changing roles? SSgt Titch Knight of 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC is interviewed by the BBC's Janine Janssen during the eclipse (see also Page 15)

## Wanted: Army TV presenters

EVER watched a TV show and decided, "I could do better than that"? Well, your chance could be here.

Producers of the Army Video Diary are looking for volunteer presenters from all branches of the Regular Army.

Privates and NCOs who fancy themselves as video stars should first tell their adjutant of their interest.

Those cleared to go ahead should then write to producer Duncan Page at Creation Communications, 6 Percy Street, London W1P 9FB, enclosing a photo of themselves.

Who knows... you could become a star of the small screen.

### IN BRIEF

● 653 Sqn, 4 Rgt Army Air Corps, takes over VIP transport duties in Kosovo and Macedonia from 659 Sqn who end a six-month tour.

● 350 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The

Queen's Dragoon Guards have begun a six-month tour in Kosovo. They will take over from the Kings Royal Hussars in Podujevo, north of Pristina.

● The tiny village of Ackworth in West York-

shire is to get a war memorial - 80 years after the First World War ended.

● A tri-service recruiting team disposed of a 120 year-old mortar bomb found on the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic.



# People, places, events

## Excellent reception for forces radio

A FORCES radio service in Catterick is claiming to be Britain's most popular station.

Seventy-four per cent of the local population listened to 107 Forces Radio, a temporary station designed to assess the demand for radio tailored to the needs of Britain's garrison communities. This made it the country's most popular station in terms of the percentage of local people reached. The listening figures are based on broadcasting during June.

Although the main target audience was military, the research showed that many of those who regularly tuned in were civilians.

Station manager Mark Page said: "This really is a fantastic result for such a small station competing against 20 other local, regional and national stations. Our brand of military broadcasting combined with a local flavour shows that there is a need for Forces broadcasting in the garrison towns of the UK as well as overseas."

The station supplemented its local output with daily links to the Balkans, Gibraltar, Belgium, Turkey and the Gulf.

Broadcasting in Catterick has now ceased for the time being. Trials will continue in Aldershot where a Forces station begins a month of broadcasting on September 6.

## RRW soldier killed

LCPL Andrew Smith, 21, of the 1st Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Wales, was killed in a vehicle accident at the Sennelager Training Area in Germany. The circumstances of his death are under investigation.

## Final inspection



On parade: Gen Sir Brian Kenny, outgoing Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, inspects his "troops" after six years service



Shedding light on Cornwall: RMP motor-cyclists working with civilian police prepare for the eclipse darkness and the tourists. Top, left to right: SSgt Andy Allen, Cpl Mark Bailey, Cpl Simon Smith. Below, left to right: Cpl Phil Francis and LCpl Sean Dailey.

## Army bikes move eclipse traffic on

TWENTY-ONE motor-cyclists from Royal Military Police Provost companies across the country sped to Cornwall to help their civilian counterparts keep traffic moving during the eclipse.

The RMPs, equipped with Honda 1100cc machines, each worked with a civilian colleague, and were tasked to keep main routes into Devon and Cornwall open.

A last-minute rush for front-row seats kept the civilian-military teams busy. One accident they attended caused a massive jam and disrupted the M5 for almost ten hours. At the other end of the scale was an incident involving a horse and carriage. The horse bolted through a village with its cargo of American tourists, wrecking the carriage but leaving the eclipse-spotters uninjured.

The RMPs were on their bikes for up to 14 hours a day. "It took it out of us,"

said SSgt Carl Smith, of 158 Pro Coy at Bulford. "But we did get to see the eclipse from the best vantage point. It was very spooky, and we all noticed the incredible silence. Even the birds stopped chirping. Then the sun came back, everyone rushed to their cars and work began again."

While the motor-cyclists were busy on the roads, two Gazelle helicopters from 659 Sqn, a Territorial Army unit based at Netheravon, provided top cover. Working in close cooperation with the air unit of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, the Gazelle crews, supported by a team on the ground, was aloft for more than 50 hours.

"We came away much the wiser and with happy memories," said Maj David Skinner, of the Gazelle flight.

● Op Black Sun - Page 15

### IN BRIEF

● The Deputy Director of Norway's resistance museum will give a lecture about clandestine operations with British personnel during the Second World War at the Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot on October 7. More information from 01252 349619.

● The children's charity Barnardo's is seeking runners for its London Marathon squad. Daley Thompson will captain the team and lead special training sessions. Participants will need to raise at least £1,500 in sponsorship. Details from Barnardo's on 020 84987528.

### NEW QUARANTINE LAWS MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR PETS

## Pet passport plan to be tested next year

THE NEW Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) could have a major impact on Service personnel bringing animals back to the UK from foreign postings.

The "pet passports" scheme is set to replace the 100-year-old system which requires owners to pay for long and expensive quarantine.

Modern technology will be used to record pets' health details, and animals coming from many countries will not have to endure quarantine at all.

Officials at the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF) say that a pilot scheme will be in place by April 2000, with the final system operational by April 2001.

MAFF appears confident that the new system will work, but the pilot plan will test its ability to keep Britain free of rabies and other animal-borne diseases while letting pet owners take their dogs or cats across the country's borders.

To avoid quarantine, owners must have microchips of digital information

implanted beneath their pets' skin. The next stage is vaccination against rabies and blood testing to confirm that the vaccine has taken. The blood tests should be conducted by vets about 30 days after vaccination and tested at a recognised laboratory. MAFF has so far recognised 11 laboratories in the UK and more will be announced later.

Pets in the UK and Ireland that give a blood sample before the pilot scheme starts can go abroad and come back into this country once the blood test is satisfactory. Pets resident outside the UK or Ireland will have to wait six months after a successful test before they can return.

To show that pets meet the requirements, an owner must obtain a certificate from a vet authorised by the Government in the country concerned.

Initially PETS will apply mainly in Europe and Scandinavia. For more details contact the Pet Travel Scheme Helpline on 0181 330 6835.

### TOP PARA JOINS DEBATE OVER AIRBORNE SYMBOL

## Pegasus in perspective

BRITAIN'S most famous serving airborne soldier, Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson, has spoken out in defence of plans to abandon the Pegasus badge which has been worn by generations of airborne soldiers.

The plan has aroused an outraged response from those who see the move as a slight to the Parachute Regiment.

Commander KFOR said that the badge had been worn by members of the 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions in the Second World War, but the convention fell into disuse after 1945. Such badges were only re-introduced in 1993, when 5 Airborne Brigade, including 1 and 2 Para as well as parachute-trained gunner and engineer units, chose to adopt the distinctive flash again.

But, said the general, it is a mistake to

assume that all Paras wear it. Troops in the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment do not because they are not serving in 5 Airborne Brigade.

"The Pegasus badge is not exclusive to the Parachute Regiment. Our regimental identity comes from our own cap badge and maroon beret," he said.

He pointed out that 5 Airborne Brigade will soon merge with 24 Airmobile Brigade to form a unit which will include the Army Air Corps' new Apache helicopters.

"While I understand that some retired and serving members of the regiment regret the change, a new brigade needs a new symbol, with which all members of that brigade will identify."

● See Mailbag, Page 65 and Vox pop, Page 66

## Pats on backs for posties



Stamp duty: Charities stand to benefit to the tune of £20,000 thanks to one TA unit. Soldiers from 88 Postal and Courier Regiment, one of the specialist units of the RLC, sold fund-raising commemorative first day covers at this year's final Royal Tournament.

Pictured above at Earls Court are (from left) Pte Jerry Stone, Pte Mark Brandwood, LCpl Gary Talbot and LCpl Anthony Wade.

● See Pages 36 - 37

## Battle blusher



War paint: Getting a battlefield makeover from a beauty expert is LCpl Jason Rawlings. Wielding the Max Factor is Sig Gail Soar from 87 (Nottingham) Signal Squadron TA, who usually works behind the make-up counter at Debenhams.

The fashion-conscious soldier said she took a make-up bag on her first exercise, but next time she will ration herself to cam cream.



## EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD) TECHNICAL ADVISORS (TA)

Handicap International (HI) has been providing technical assistance to the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance (UXO LAO) Programme in Savannakhet province of the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic since early 1997.

The project continues to expand thanks to funding obtained from the European Commission. Due to this expansion, Handicap International requires EOD TAs in order to develop the ability of Lao nationals to plan, manage and co-ordinate UXO clearance and community awareness operations.

# HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL

### The technical advisors will be responsible for:

- ★ Conducting on-the-job training for UXO technical surveyors and disposal technicians.
- ★ Supervision of UXO technical surveyors and disposal technicians.
- ★ Assisting in the preparation, maintenance, and evaluation of UXO clearance operations.
- ★ Assisting in the development, monitoring and evaluation of safety and standard operating procedures.

### Requirements

Candidates must:

- ★ be experienced in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Battlefield Area Clearance (BAC) operations.
- ★ have knowledge of Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance (EOR)/technical survey, operational planning, supervision, evaluation, and reporting skills.
- ★ have good interpersonal skills and the ability to work as a member of a team.
- ★ be prepared to live in very isolated and adverse working conditions.
- ★ be able to speak English.

It is preferable to have had experience working with other nationalities in an indigenous organisation.

### Recruitment

HI is seeking to recruit people available to start working in Laos from the end of October 1999.

Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview and a written test on the UXOs to be found in Laos.

**Conditions of employment:** HI offers a non-negotiable consultancy contract of 1 year, including 24 days' leave. The gross salary will be approximately USD 3,000 per month (also payable in Euros). In addition HI provides for the consultant comprehensive insurance cover, one return air fare and accommodation in Laos.

Interested parties should send their resumé to either:

Handicap International  
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P.O. Box 2496  
Vientiane  
LAO P.D.R.

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# People, places, events



Picture: Mark Owens

A nose for a good show: Maj Gen Mark Strudwick, GOC Scotland, took a break from the Edinburgh Military Tattoo to welcome traditional Maori musicians – in the traditional Maori way. The New Zealanders were in the Scottish capital to publicise the Wellington 2000 Tattoo, which is modelled on Edinburgh's famous event and will involve Scottish bands

## Gen Walker to be new CGS

GEN Sir Michael Walker, pictured right, is to be the new Chief of the General Staff. He will take over from Gen Sir Roger Wheeler in April, 2000.

Succeeding Gen Walker as Commander-in-Chief Land in March 2000, following promotion to general, will be Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson, currently KFOR commander.

Other senior appointments: Maj Gen R C Menzies will become Surgeon General in February, 2000; Maj Gen C L Elliott will take the post of Director General Development and Doctrine in February, 2000; Brig D L Judd will become Director General Equipment Support (Land) in November, 1999.



## R Irish in Kosovo rescue

TWO soldiers from the Royal Irish Regiment in Kosovo rescued a terrified family being held at gunpoint in their own home.

Cpl Davy Stewart and Rgr Colin Dunlop, both from the 1st Battalion, rushed to the apartment after a tip-off from a neighbour who said two men had forced their way in.

When the soldiers arrived at the flat, the door was opened by the gunman holding an AK47 assault rifle. The man quickly dropped his weapon and surrendered. Another escaped through an upstairs window.

Rgr Dunlop said: "When we searched

him we found currency and jewellery. We immediately handed him over to the Royal Military police who have launched an investigation."

### 'Quake mercy mission

WITHIN 24 hours of the powerful earthquake which killed thousands in Turkey, WO2 Simon Gillam and his trained search dog Kelly were on their way to the stricken country. The Aldershot-based soldier, who serves with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, is working with a team of professional rescuers from the charity Rapid UK.

### IN BRIEF

- Soldiers with 4 Armoured Brigade in Kosovo are helping to get public transport working again. Working with local authorities, they have launched the Kosovo Bus Appeal to raise money and search Europe for suitable vehicles.

- Catterick-based gunners raised more than £6,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund and presented it to Gen Sir Brian Kénny, Chair-

man of the ABE, during the last Royal Tournament. The team of seven from K (Hondeghem) Bty, 5 Regiment RA, reached their target in just two weeks.

- TA troops of the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment spent two weeks exercising in the Czech Republic. The Paras jumped into the country and then conducted a tactical exercise with Czech airborne troops.

## Back in the air



Flight of fancy: As a pilot with the Air Transport Auxiliary during the Second World War, Daphne Robinson clocked up more than 1,000 hours ferrying Spitfire and Hurricane fighters from factories and workshops to RAF bases. But she had never flown in a helicopter. Her grand-daughter, Capt Tanya Dennison, a pilot with 1 Regt AAC, based in Germany, was only too pleased to put that right by taking Daphne up in a Gazelle.

## Kiwi honour



Good, sport: Biathlon winner Cpl Maurice Pay of 249 Signal Squadron receives the 1999 Kiwi Trophy from Brig Rick Ottoway of the New Zealand High Commission in London. The squadron, based at Bulford, Wiltshire, organises an annual competition in honour of the thousands of New Zealand troops who were based in the area during the First World War. The trophy itself was presented by the New Zealand Army in 1981.



## Balkans briefing

# All secure in Sarajevo

*Soldier* joined a British battalion taking part in the SFOR multi-national security operation as world political leaders descended on the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, for a conference

Report: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Mike Weston

THEY say that Sarajevo is a symbol of the will to emerge from the depths of conflict and destruction. But it is also the city where the fuse that started the first great war of this century was lit.

It was no surprise therefore that SFOR troops were taking no chances on another assassination taking place in the city during the high-profile Balkans summit attended by almost 40 world leaders.

The city, famously surrounded by cemeteries, was now encircled by troops. In a massive operation code-named Bolero, more than 4,000 soldiers, military police and Carabinieri joined together effectively to seal the Bosnian capital for three days in order to protect the leaders.

All city-centre roads were closed and civilian vehicles banned. Overhead, Apache attack helicopters constantly circled the city.

Despite Sarajevo being "out of their patch" there was a British military presence in the form of the 1st Battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers, UKBG (S), under the command of Col Neil Campbell.

### MULTI-NATIONAL

The battalion was part of a multi-national division based in Sarajevo for the summit in the Zetra Conference Centre, where the leaders, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, discussed the political, economic and security future of the Balkans.

Someone must have had a sense of humour, or at least irony. The deployment name, Bolero, could have been in recognition of the music Torvill and Dean danced to when they won Olympic gold in the same stadium 15 years ago.

Essentially the plan was for two brigades to act as an outer cordon and another as an inner core, with 1 RHF having a quarter of the outer circle. The others came under the command of the French and Italians.

With such a high-profile presence, potential trouble-makers could see immediately that SFOR would stand for no nonsense.

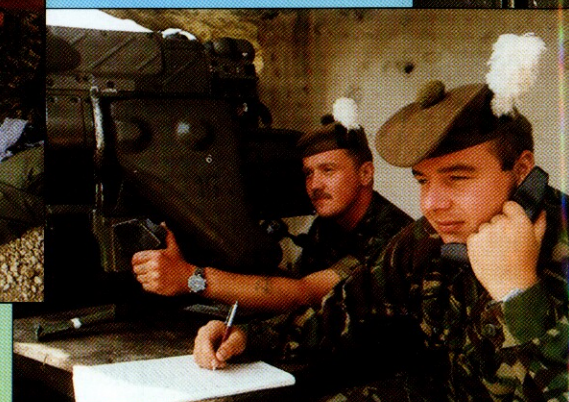
Capt Sandy Fitzpatrick explained 1



On patrol: Ready for trouble on the streets of Sarajevo, above, (from left) Fus Robert Gillon, LCpl Jamie Campbell, Pte Gary Bellew (QLR attached) and Fus Steven Ramsey



Mountain high: Fus Woody Woodhouse and Fus Jimmy McAleese, above, clear up after a night in a workman's hut on Mount Grdonj



RHF's role. "We are here to provide security, anti-terrorism expertise and a presence for anti-disruption to the summit," he said. "To that end, 1 RHF has been deployed as Task Force Scorpio to cover the northern area of Sarajevo."

With C Coy deployed in the west of the quadrant, and B Coy in the east, the key areas were six observation positions in and around the area of the conference

centre, supported by foot and vehicle patrols.

"The significant factor is the access in and out of the conference centre," said Capt Fitzpatrick. "So the OPs had to be set up to cover all the likely access routes."

With the Americans assigned to dealing with the escorting of the conference delegates, 1 RHF went about their own duties.



Warriors: Cpl Jim Byrne and Fus "Alphabet" Andreuce maintain surveillance in Sarajevo

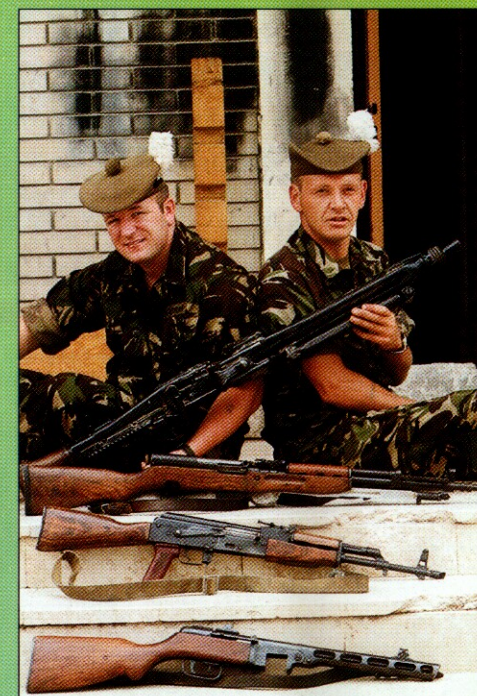
Sightings: LCpl Robert McLachlan and Fus James Auld use a Milan sight, left, as a viewing aid on Hum Hill in direct line with the Zetra Conference Centre

At a height of 900 metres on Mount Grdonj, B Coy, under Lt Tristram Channer, had found a perfect spot to observe their quadrant of the city.

Equipped with the two Warriors and a Land Rover, the watchers covered an area encompassing a large part of the Muslim section of Sarajevo and giving them a clear view across to the former "Sniper Alley". It also took in the Zetra Centre.

But the area did not stay clear for long. Dense low black cloud moved in, restricting visibility even for the night-vision equipment housed inside the Warrior – and then down came the rain.

Early the following day – the day of the conference – the cloud that had descended the night before was still with B Coy on the hill. They constantly scanned the radio frequencies to keep in touch with



Op Harvester: Fus Darin McFadyean and Cpl Paul Kennedy, above, show some of the weapons handed in by the local people

other observers encircling the city in an iron grip, making sure they were doing their part of the job.

Meanwhile C Coy, fresh from a deployment in Gorazde under Maj Philip Whitehead, were moved into three platoons in a mixture of foot patrols and observation posts.

On one of the patrols, Fus Steven Carr was pleased with the way things were going. He had seen the US President's helicopter arrive, and, as a bonus, the local people were pleasant.

"I've been here three days and they have been friendly during my patrols," he said.

Reservist Fus Michael Cochrane added: "The patrol has been pretty routine. It has been interesting, but we've had no incidents."

### SHOW OF STRENGTH

They even took time to chat with US troops in their Humvee vehicles, which, with a Warrior, made a show of strength on the city's roads.

With their overall brief to make sure there was no indirect fire, no mortars and no guns, the officers and men of 1 RHF were aware that there were all sorts of organisations that would have liked the summit to fail, perhaps by an attack on one of the delegates or an indiscriminate bomb in the city.

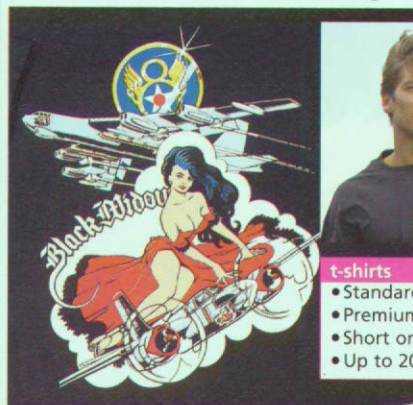
The fact that there was no such incident and everything went so smoothly speaks volumes for the professionalism of the soldiers and the successful and smooth co-operation of the multi-national forces.

● Trains take the strain – Pages 16-17



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# Operation Black Sun

## How the Army helped bring you the eclipse

So what did the Army have to do with it? A *Soldier* team joined the men from the RLC travelling to Alderney to find out

Report: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Mike Weston

WHILE ITN may have brought the eclipse to the world, it was men from the Army who brought the eclipse to ITN. For without the assistance of the Royal Logistic Corps, television's job would have been that much harder.

Under skipper SSgt Titch Knight, the coxswain of the RCL vessel *Arromanches*, thousands of pounds worth of trucks and satellite broadcasting equipment were transported to the Channel Island of Alderney for a look at the totality phenomenon.

And as it turned out, despite cloudy conditions, the view of the eclipse from the small holiday island was perhaps the best in Britain.

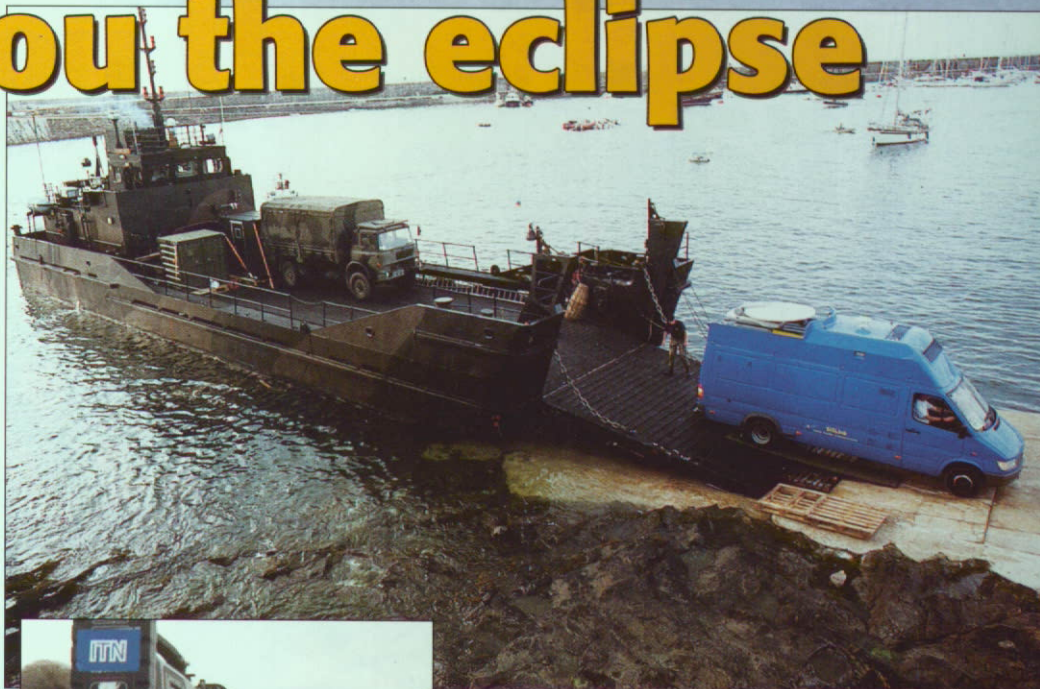
As soon as the vessel from 79 Railway Squadron, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC arrived at 0615, the crew were treated as celebrities, with Knight being interviewed by Jenine Janssen from Channel Islands Radio.

He explained the RLC role in the exercise both to the reporter and to *Soldier*.

"The *Arromanches* is a regular visitor to the Channel Islands," he said. "We have brought trucks, generators and even railway carriages across before, and we do a lot of work with divers who survey the sea walls. But I believe that this is the first time we have helped with television equipment."

Code-named Operation Black Sun, the overnight crossing from Marchwood took eight-and-a-half hours, with the television production crew flying out from Southampton to meet their equipment.

With the voyage across the channel complete, the six-man crew joined thousands of others in witnessing the spectacular event from the high vantage point of the Victorian site at Fort Albert.



Ferry: The *Arromanches* collects the broadcast cargo as the Alderney visit ends



Broadcaster: Tim Grundy, left, presents the eclipse to Europe and North America

the sun vanished. "It has gone pitch-black and everyone is jumping up and down," he said. "You can't describe it." He added, laughing: "There are hundreds of flashguns going off, I don't know why. People are photographing the dark!"

As the sun emerged from behind the moon Tim said it was one of the most remarkable things he'd ever seen. "It's like the light being turned on gradually by a giant dimmer switch."

### MOVING EVENT

Later Tim interviewed broadcaster and TV astronomer Heather Couper, who described the event as "moving" and quoted from a journalist who had covered the 1927 eclipse. "It actually behoves us from time to time to see a fundamental spectacle like this and to realise our place in the universe of which we are the greatest, but also the least."

As they started to pack their precious and sensitive broadcast equipment away ready for the *Arromanches* to make the return crossing, ITN satellite engineer Russell Atkinson was delighted with the successful transmission and was equally full of praise for the RLC involvement. "The soldiers have been incredibly helpful. They have done a fantastic job," he said.

"They have made this broadcast work for ITN and the Discovery Channel."



Skipper: SSgt Titch Knight

While the ITN team with Discovery Channel reporter Tim Grundy were filming a programme going out on Discovery Europe and Discovery America, the camera trained on the eclipse itself captured material for ITN, Channel 4 News, Channel 5 News and Sky.

Lucy Manning, the ITN producer working for the Discovery Channel and responsible for the broadcast, gazed apprehensively at the initially overcast sky, but took time out to explain how vital the role of the Army had been in the event.

"We would have had immense problems in bringing the equipment across had it not been for the Army. We would have needed to take the equipment to Guernsey and some how transported over to Alderney. It would have been very difficult for us. The Army has saved the day."

Miraculously as the period of totality approached the cloud seemed to thin. Presenter Tim Grundy was broadcasting to Europe and North America.

Then came the 100 odd seconds when



## Balkans briefing

# Railway loggies let trains take strain

Report: Anthony Stone  
Pictures: Mike Weston

THEY might have been waiting more than 50 years for the chance to show what they could do. But when they got the signal, 79 Railway Squadron, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, RLC eased into action like a well-oiled locomotive.

The decision to run Army trains into Kosovo was inspired. Traffic jams on both sides of the Macedonian border mean it can take hours to travel just a few hundred metres. The road north to Pristina is constantly busy with heavy trucks, cars, military vehicles and horse-drawn carts.

The locomotive solution to the traffic chaos has provided a logistical lifeline for the Army. A train service now runs between Lipljan and the border crossing point at Vulkovo and then on to Skopje and Thessaloniki. Trains have cut the travel time from Lipljan to Skopje from about six hours to 1hr 45min.

### CAPACITY

Speed is not the only advantage. "The capacity that a train can supply outweighs any other transport," said WO2 Chris Palmer (SSM), of 79 Rly Sqn.

"Plus it saves fuel and doesn't get stuck in traffic jams. It allows us to re-supply with massive amounts to difficult-to-reach stations."

The Kosovo conflict has seen Britain's armed forces utilised in strength and depth. Nowhere has the versatility of the Army in general, and the Royal Logistic Corps in particular, been better demonstrated than in the opening of the railway.

"Initially when we arrived the place was like a ghost town," said Capt Anna Stephens, troop commander of 79 Rly Sqn, referring to the eerie silence that greeted them when they arrived at Lipljan station.

"When we walked into Kosovo we effectively commandeered their line," she said. "We were running things the following day."

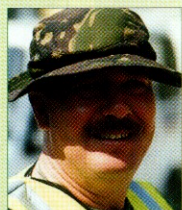
First thing the squadron had to do was make sure the track was clear of mines. EOD teams went in and did two complete sweeps of the track. "The next thing we

Tommy turns tank engine driver to get rail traffic moving



All aboard: Capt Anna Stephens at work

did was reassure the civilian railway workers that the line was now a Nato asset," Capt Stephens said. "The railway is unique, as it has Serbs and Albanians working for it."



No jams: WO2 Chris Palmer

There were many incidents of solidarity between Serb and Albanian railway workers during the war. When the KLA came calling and told the Serbs to get out, Albanians protected their colleagues.

The squadron has used a mixture of improvisation, professionalism and sheer hard work to keep the project on track.

Capt Stephens said: "To run the service in manpower terms you are talking about two railwaymen. That is all I require to run a train. The command and control and security implications are different. We provide an escort, but that's only eight guys.

"Once the train gets to the border the Army hands over to the Macedonian railway workers who in turn hand it over to the Greeks. In its simplest terms we bring the train in and our locomotive heads off and we hand the paperwork over to the Macedonians. Their locomotive comes in and takes the train down to Greece."

The only military railway squadron in the British Army, 79 Rly Sqn moved to Marchwood from Germany last year under the command of Maj Marco Ciotti.

The railway trade is one of the smallest in the RLC. "Clearly with a trade that small the squadron is vulnerable," said Maj Nigel Morgan, 2iC, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment. "But the present operation has strengthened its case for being maintained. Its soldiers can drive trains, maintain them and lay track. They have all the various requirements within that small body of people to maintain a railway."

Usually the squadron is busy moving armour onto Salisbury Plain. The shipping of the four MoD shunting locomotives from Marchwood is the first time British locomotives have been used abroad for operations since the Second World War. In Kosovo the effects have been dramatic.

### FORCE MULTIPLIER

Capt Stephens said: "We are a force multiplier because we can move so much kit. We have calculated that we can run six trains a day if necessary. For regular tasks we can run four comfortably."

"This is achieved with two crews. There are only 20 railwaymen in the Army; 11 are here and the rest in Marchwood."

A gradient on the track means locomotives can pull 900 tonnes going up and 1,300 going down at a speed of between 60 to 80 kph.

"The line is interesting in a spotterish kind of way," Capt Stephens said. "The first bit is flat and then it goes into a defile area, with seven tunnels and 12 bridges, where the speed is reduced to 20kph."

That is probably the best speed at which to view the beautiful Kosovar countryside. A land which has been ripped apart by war offers a stunning scenic payback to the railwaymen.



Green light: Driver Pte Pete Condliffe with one of the four shunting engines sent by the RLC from Marchwood to the Balkans

## Marchwood specialists get the goods delivered

Report: Ray Routledge

WHILE the attention of the world was on British troops and armour spearheading Nato forces into Kosovo, the Royal Logistic Corps continued its behind-the-scenes role to ensure all our forces in the Balkans could work to maximum efficiency.

For example 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, based at Marchwood, Southampton – the only such regiment in the Army and parent unit to 79 Railway Squadron – met unique challenges in carrying out its part of the support operation.

Maj Nigel Morgan, the 2iC, explained: "We are extremely busy, particularly now. We often have to be the first in because we have to receive materials and men, and are on very short notice to move. The KFOR deployment was very speedy."

The regiment's usual task is to run Marchwood Military Port on behalf of the Ministry of Defence for routine sail-

ings such as replenishing the Falklands and Northern Ireland.

"If it can't fly or go through the tunnel, it goes through Marchwood," he said.

Following a number of studies, the regiment was reduced in size and lost its two largest ocean-going landing craft. Even so, with its independent workshops, it now employs 535 military personnel.

When Kosovo became an issue, Marchwood's workload increased dramatically.

"We are the experts in loading and unloading ships. We load them at Marchwood and then go to Thessaloniki, Split or Durres in Albania to off-load at the other-end as well," said Maj Morgan.

The regiment comprises an HQ and three task squadrons. The first two, 51 and 52 Port Squadrons, carry out much of the same work.

Their experts include port operators, maritime personnel and marine engineers. They oversee change-overs and see soldiers in and out of theatre.

It means that unlike other regiments, they do not spend months at a time in theatre unless there is a constant stream of materials coming through a port. They operate a "surge", seeing in troops and equipment, then moving out and returning only for a change-over of personnel. One exception was in Bosnia, where they kept a small team of half a dozen at Split.

"The concept is that either 51 or 52 squadron unload the ship and 79 Squadron then clear it from the port and up the line of communication," said Maj Morgan.

It takes ten days on average for a ship to travel to from Marchwood to Thessaloniki, depending on the size of the vessel, and a small party normally accompanies it. The main body of the squadron is flown out to meet the ship as it arrives.

Freight includes ammunition, food, refrigerated containers, spare boots, spare socks and building materials. Everything,

● Turn to Page 19



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## Balkans briefing

# Port teams on alert for rats and riots

Report: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE BBC hinted at it. Sky News almost mentioned it. In the lead-up to the signing of the Kosovo agreement there were problems in Thessaloniki . . . problems that caused delays in operations for 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, RLC.

The strong communist party centred in Thessaloniki created a lot of headaches for the regiment, which was trying to run port operations there. A series of major protests at the port were peaceful at first but became progressively more violent, threatening to jeopardise material and troop movements.

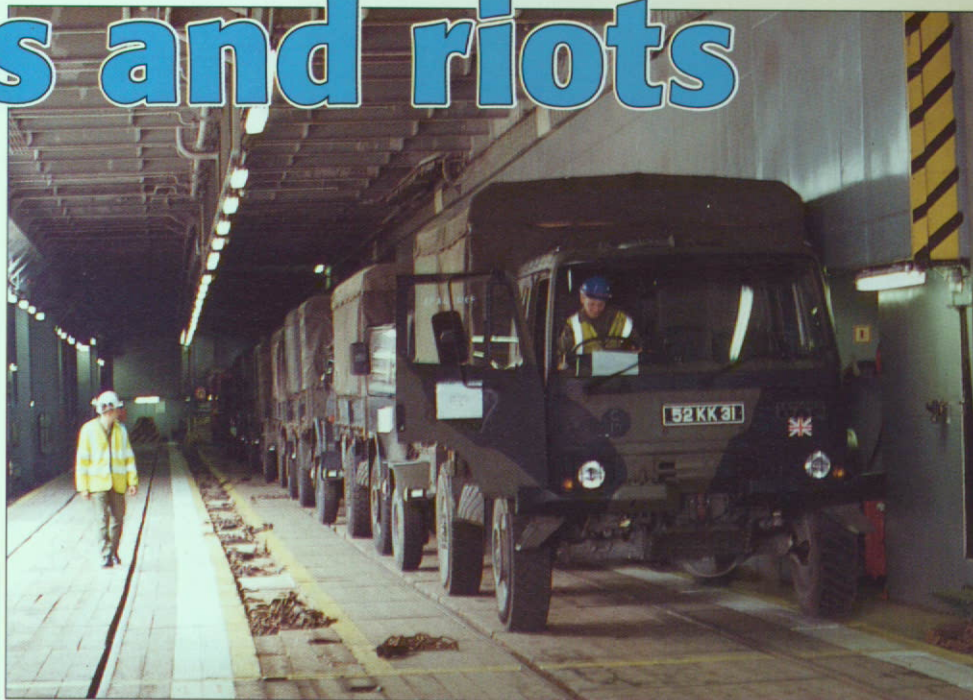
There were difficulties from the outset when the squadron was allocated rubbish- and rat-infested storage sheds by the authorities. The Pioneers were called in to sort it out and clean the place up. The soldiers made the best of a bad thing, even building a bar dubbed the Rat Pit.

Buses to move troops to and from the airport were inexplicably cancelled and baggage trucks failed turn up. Most serious was when an arriving ship was allocated an inadequate berth, resulting in a Ro-Ro ferry dropping its ramp on the quay wall.

Then there were the riots. They started at the dock gate from which trains would leave the port, and became progressively more violent.

"When the squadron main body returned for phase two, the whole level of protest had escalated to the extent that the Greek Government instructed us not to go outside the port area," said Maj Roger McNair, OC 52 Port Squadron. "Military movement was stopped and we wore uniforms only when on duty.

"A ship arrived on a Friday and could not be off-loaded over the following weekend. Every time an armoured column moved it attracted attention and convoys



Rolling on: Drivers load up at Marchwood on route to Thessaloniki, where they had problems

failed to get out. At one stage we had the Irish Guards, Household Cavalry Regiment and various other units stuck in the port area for up to six days. It became a logistical nightmare. We were unloading at night so we were constantly operating until three in the morning."

Despite the poor living conditions, Maj McNair was proud of his squadron and of its sister unit, 51 Squadron.

"Security of the site and self-defence became a major briefing point every day. But co-operation with our allies was very good," he said. "The Germans put a lot of a equipment through Thessaloniki and we worked closely with them, the French and the Italians."

He was pleased with some elements of Greek co-operation. "The non state-owned agencies we dealt with were first class, particularly the shipping agents and the contract caterers."

● Household Cavalry in Kosovo – Pages 20-21

## Marchwood specialists

● From Page 17

in fact, that a conventional port would handle. Fuel is usually obtained locally because health and safety regulations make the transportation of fully-laden and potentially-dangerous fuel bowsers difficult.

"For the Kosovo action we have been using Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships, but

most of the vessels have been chartered," Maj Morgan said. "We have moved quantities of equipment both from Marchwood and Emden in Germany to Thessaloniki, using *Sea Centurion* and *Sea Crusader*. But when you want to move material in really large quantities, you have to start looking out for ships like *Tokyo Express*, a huge car-transporting ship."

## No refuge for refuse

HE is known as the CRAPman. Capt Frank Swales rejoices in the most appropriate acronym in the British Army – Chief Refuse Administrator Pristina.

During the conflict, organised rubbish collections stopped and the city's streets quickly filled with piles of rotting refuse, causing health hazards.

The man charged with cleaning up the city, Capt Swales of 26 Armd Eng Sqn, 32 Engr Regt, had his work cut out.

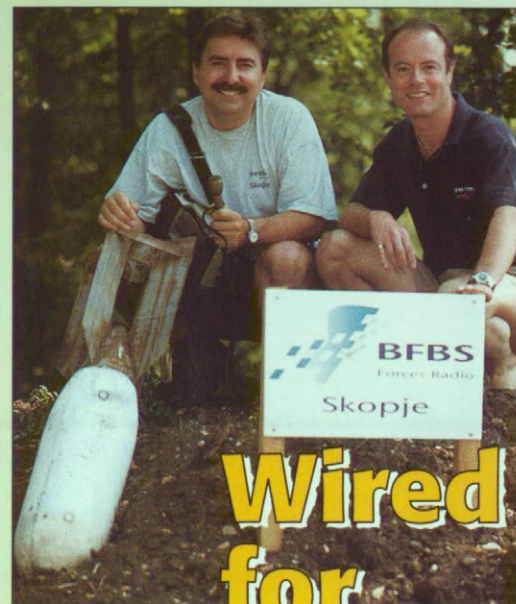
"I never had any waste-management experience before," he said. "The most pressing problem was to instil confidence in the local workforce and organise a management team to oversee the collections."

The strategy worked and the situation has vastly improved, with regular collections and disposal.



Clean-out: Capt Frank Swales





Explosive combination: Chris Pratt and Patrick Eade

## Wired for sound

WHAT'S the most popular song requested on BFBS radio by the guys in Kosovo? According to presenter Patrick Eade, it's a close-run thing between *We've gotta get outta this place* and *I'm leaving on a jet plane*.

Patrick has been spinning the platters that matter for the troops in Kosovo from a temporary studio in Skopje, Macedonia. "Those two songs are OK the first three times you hear them," he said. "But if you play them every time you get the request, it is a bit like having steak for breakfast every morning. Nice for the first couple of days, but you get sick of it after a while."

Patrick is usually to be found managing the BFBS station in Cyprus, where he is well used to sweltering conditions. He helped set up the Skopje operation and has now handed over to Chris Pratt and Jason King.

BFBS has had quite a bass-busting impact on morale. It can be heard blasting out from Army cookhouses and tents around the province.

### OUTPUT

The presenters broadcast two shows a day and varied weekend programmes in addition to linking up with selected BBC output. In addition they send back material for the rest of the BFBS network.

Their "live and local" shows are an important bridge between soldiers and their families back in the United Kingdom and Germany. It makes the distance seem much shorter.

The popularity of the output can be gauged by the number of blueys received every day. "There is a great deal of job satisfaction," Patrick said. "This is real Forces radio, going back to basics."

"The first time we went live it was very heartening. We started at 12 noon and after the first record we said 'Hello, here we are, live and local', and within minutes a unit had sent a message that if we did not play their request they would cut off our power."

# Household Cavalry kicks on into Kosovo

## Bricks and bouquets greet D Squadron

Reports: Anthony Stone  
Pictures: Mike Weston

ONE way or another the lads from D Squadron, Household Cavalry Regiment, generated strong passions wherever they went.

In Greece they were pelted with bricks and had their vehicles vandalised, and in Pristina they were greeted as liberating heroes.

From the beginning D Squadron were in the thick of it. They moved up behind the Paras as they secured the route in, and broke out into Kosovo.

Maj Charlie Clee RHG/D recalled the dramatic dash to the Kosovo capital. He said: "We spent a nervous first night picketing the southern edge of the city. It was very dark with most of the street lights



off. The night was punctuated by firing; a mixture of 'Balkan unloads' and fire-fights in the city.

"In the morning, we moved through with the Irish Guards. In among the crowds of ecstatic Albanians, we discov-

ered the victims of the previous night, as well as an apparent hostage crisis."

By nightfall 1 Para had arrived and D Squadron pushed north to monitor the movements of the Yugoslav police and army. Vast amounts of equipment were moved out of the province in the first 72 hours.

D Squadron was on a roll and had gathered considerable momentum. Maj Clee said: "We pushed into the Podujevo valley some five days ahead of schedule, and entered into a game of cat-and-mouse with the VJ as we bluffed and bullied our way into the area. We secured the plants providing the water supply to Pristina and Podujevo, and picketed the villages south of Podujevo in which more than 11,000 Albanians were hiding."

"We were determined to prevent any last-minute reprisals by the VJ, and recovered the bodies of those for whom we were too late. As the VJ moved north, we manoeuvred to maintain pressure and unsettle them. It was, however, with a degree of relief that an exhausted squadron watched the KRH move into the valley."

### ESCORT TASKS

The squadron then moved back to Pristina and became heavily involved in escort tasks. "We took on the rural area to the east, and swiftly identified the need for primary health care among the 10,000 plus people living in the hills," Maj Clee said.

Working with Médecin du Monde, D Squadron recruited local medical staff and established a mobile clinic. In its first three weeks they treated more 1,200 people, both Albanian and Serb.

For the squadron of 120 soldiers the effort goes on. They continue to work the border, patrolling into the United States area as the Americans do not have the resources to get into the hills.

It is not a problem for D Squadron, which is equipped with Scimitar, Striker, Spartan, Sultan, Land Rovers, four tonners and an ambulance. By working with US Apaches and Canadian Griffon helicopters, the squadron dominates an area of more than 400 square kilometres.

Maj Clee said: "Looking back, the adrenalin surges at the memory of early days in Kosovo. Looking forward, there are still many challenges ahead before the squadron returns in October."



First-class: Pte Les Fretter and Pte Mac McGregor start work on another mail delivery

# Loggies keep on top of a mail mountain

THE stats are staggering. The RLC-run post office in Skopje has received more than 10,000 bags of mail since February – that's 79,000kg of airmail. In one day alone they handled 450 bags of letters and packages.

"So if anyone says they are not getting any mail, I can tell them that we are certainly receiving it," said Capt Andy Murray, 80 Postal and Courier Squadron, 29 Regt RLC.

"We have despatched 1.5 million hand-stamped blueys and you could treble that figure for letters coming in."

However efficient the Royal Mail may be, it could learn a thing or two from the RLC.

The post squadron deployed on Op Agricola in the largest numbers since the Gulf War – 30 soldiers.

The squadron is proud of producing a first-class effort in difficult circumstances.

"We regard the Balkans operation as a

fine, reliable and robust mail service," said Capt Murray. "It runs seven days a week in and out of London, six days a week to Dusseldorf."

"A letter posted in London will get to units on average in four days, although we have examples of two days."

It is not possible to use RAF Hercules because of the air-crews' operational commitments, so the Army has entered into contracts with civilian airlines. They fly the mail to Thessaloniki in Greece and from there it is driven north by van.

The smooth running of the service is the envy of other Nato armies. The loggies have helped out the Norwegians and Canadians with moving mail around theatre.

In the age of the mobile phones and e-mails, there is still something reassuring about a handwritten message.

"You can't beat the personal touch," said Capt Murray.



Fast delivery: Capt Andy Murray



Open all hours: Cpl Helen Bates, Sgt Chris Blyth and Maj Tom Lafferty

## Cold cola is so cool

SOLDIERS from the Expeditionary Forces Institute have served on every operational tour since the Second World War. They were at the sharp end again in Kosovo, making sure our troops had a few creature comforts.

"Without doubt the biggest-selling item is cola," said Maj Tom Lafferty, OC EFI, RLC in the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia. The summers in the Balkans are steaming, so ice-cold fizzy drinks are a thirst-quenching favourite.

The other most requested items are T-shirts, sunscreen and boot-polish.

"We don't have Gucci-type equipment; the emphasis is on the essentials," he said.

EFI is basically a branch of the Naafi in uniform, explained Maj Lafferty. "We sign on for a six-month tour and put up with everything the Regulars do. When they push forward, so do we. At the moment there are 16 of us in theatre, with seven running three shops in Kosovo. There is also a mobile shop looking after the Gurkhas and Household Cavalry."

"In Macedonia we have two shops and we are running two mobiles. With all those outlets we are spread a bit thin. Guys are working an 18-hour day."



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Calls within country	10p	7p	15p	13p	38p	28p	79p	39p	29p	29p
Calls to UK	80p	56p	29p	23p	£1.05	£1.05	79p	39p	£1.17	£1.17

### Cost comparison of making a 5 minute weekday daytime international call†

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Milan	<b>£1.40</b>	£4.70	£4.11	£4.70	£1.78

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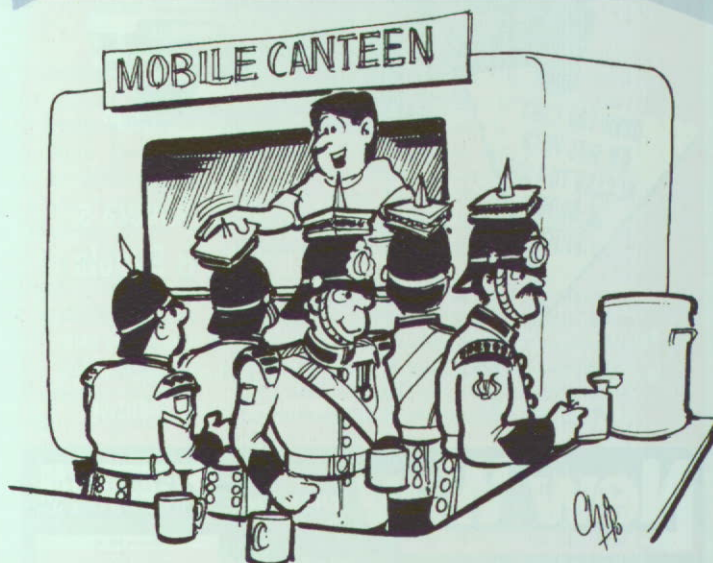




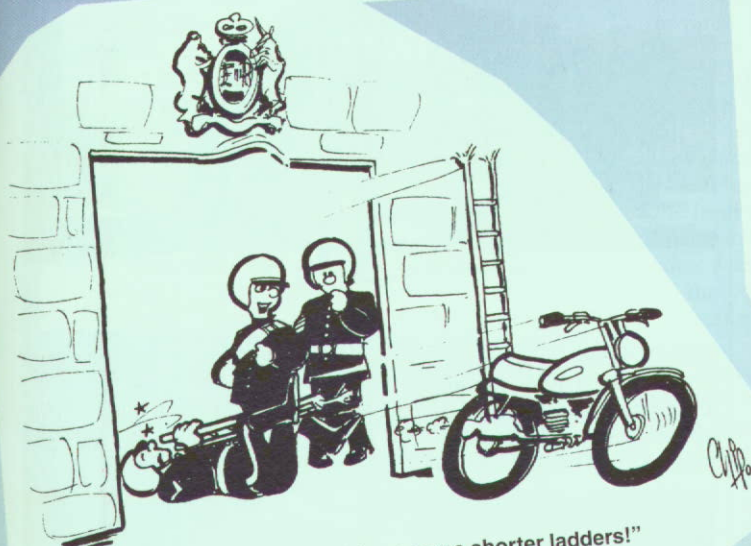
# Chuckle with Chip



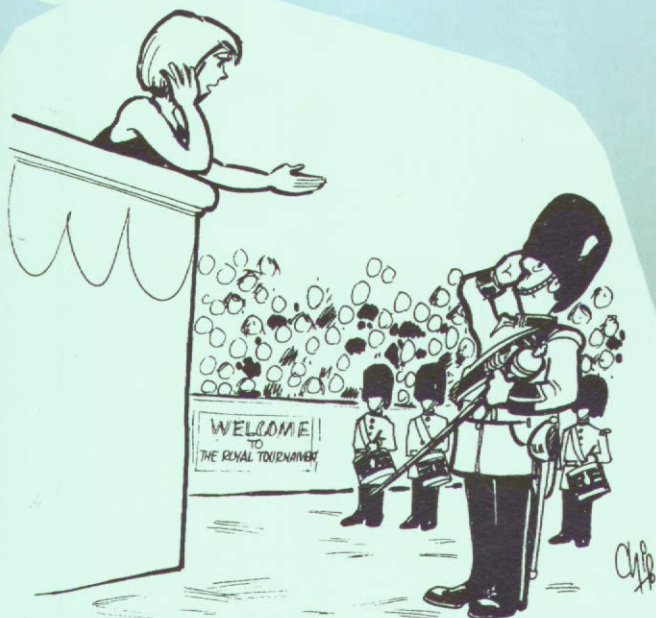
"Since it is the last performance ...  
I don't suppose there's a closing-down sale?"



"One sausage ... two bacon ... one cheese and pickle!"



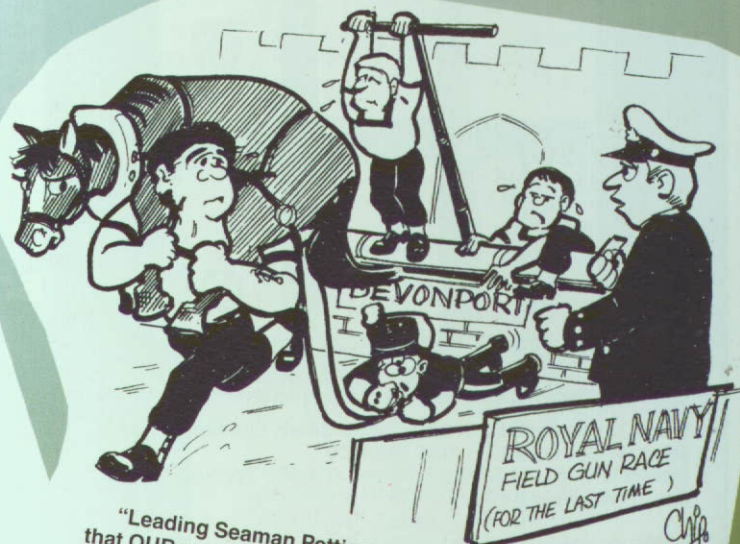
"Make a note ... We could use some shorter ladders!"



"As far as I'm concerned you can knock off now ...  
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## At the Tournament

● See Pages 36-37



"Leading Seaman Pettigrew ... Try to remember  
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# From Westminster to Wapping

A monthly digest of what's being said in Parliament and the Press

## Action to ease tour intervals

AVERAGE intervals between operational tours as short as eleven months – in the case of the Royal Logistic Corps – are likely for the current year if present Army commitments continue.

However, measures are being taken to ease the problem, including reducing troop levels in Bosnia and Kosovo and creating a fifth engineer logistic squadron earlier than planned.

MPs were given figures before Parliament went into summer recess in a written answer by the then Armed Forces Minister, Doug Henderson. He quoted the following tour intervals in months for the past three years: Infantry, 21 (1996-97), 22 (97-98), 27 (98-99); Royal Armoured Corps, 25, 19, 30; Royal Logistic Corps, 18, 18, 12; Field Ambulance, 24, 37, 30; Field Hospital, 12, 12, 12.

"For the current year (1999-2000), the interval would depend on the circumstances of the individual unit and the overall level of commitment.

"However, if there is a continuation of existing levels of commitment and undermanning this would be likely to result in the following tour intervals (in months) for 1999-2000:

"Infantry, 15; Royal Armoured Corps, 12; Royal Logistic Corps, 11; Field Ambulance, 20; Field Hospital, 12.

"These statistics reflect an unprecedented level of commitment. We are actively seeking to reduce the Army's level of commitment, specifically in Bosnia, and particularly for those arms and services that are most heavily committed, with a view to reducing overstretch."



Answering a separate question, Mr Henderson said that plans under the Strategic Defence Review to create a fifth engineer logistic squadron were being brought forward from 2002 to 2000 by establishing a second Queen's Gurkha Engineer Squadron at Invicta Barracks, Maidstone. It would be available for operational tasking towards the end of next year.

Secretary of State George Robertson told MPs during Defence questions that overstretch would be eased by cutting the level of troops serving in Kosovo by 3,000 by next month. Further withdrawals, including that of HQ the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, would follow.

Reducing troop levels in both Bosnia and Kosovo, he added, was a high priority and would help ease the tour level problem.

**Kosovo quarters:** Hard-walled, all-weather temporary field accommodation is to be provided for British forces in Kosovo by Hunting Engineering Ltd under a £110 million contract. It is expected to be in place by December.

**Apache report:** The MoD is studying the US Army's report into the deployment of American Apache helicopters to the Balkans, Secretary of State George Robertson said. He added: "We will take full account of any lessons for the aircraft's role." The 67 WAH-64 Apache attack helicopters ordered by Britain will be operated by the Army.

### PM praises Kosovo 'professionalism'

PRIME MINISTER Tony Blair spoke of pride and professionalism in a message of gratitude to those who involved in the Kosovo crisis, including the Armed Forces.

Acknowledging the hard work carried out, sometimes in difficult and dangerous circumstances, he said: "I know that this has placed great strain on both you and your families. I really am very grateful.

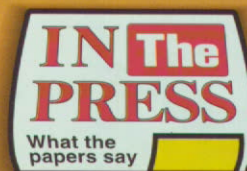
"The job is not yet complete. Kosovo has to be rebuilt, and the whole of the Balkans will need continuing support. We also have to ensure Milosevic is ousted.

"So there are many difficult issues still be-

fore us. But I know that all involved will continue to work with the same spirit and commitment that has brought us success so far.

"This has been a team effort throughout with military, diplomatic and aid operations all pulling together to achieve our shared objectives. The United Kingdom has played a key role in ensuring that the Nato Alliance prevailed.

"This would not have been possible without the professionalism shown by British personnel at all levels throughout the crisis. You can be justly proud of the part that you have played."



● A German general, Gen Klaus Reinhardt, 58, is tipped to take over command of KFOR from Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson this autumn. The last time a German led British troops on active service was in 1813, at the Battle of Leipzig, when the Royal Artillery Rocket Troop joined Blücher's Prussian army in an attempt to defeat Napoleon. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● Members of the Armed Forces are among more than 100,000 people who may have been mis-sold top-up pensions by life insurers. Announcing an investigation, the Financial Services Authority said the redress bill could be as much as £241 million. – *The Times*

● SAS troops at Stirling Lines, Hereford have been ordered to neuter 20 "adopted" cats to stop them breeding. The soldiers want to take the cats with them to new barracks at RAF Credenhill. – *The Sun*

● Soldiers who have sex-change operations will be allowed to stay in the Army under confidential new guidelines by the MoD. The policy rethink has added to speculation that the Government will be forced to relax the ban on practising homosexuals serving in the Forces. Senior officers said the Forces had no such plans. – *Daily Telegraph*

● The Japanese Ambassador in Britain gave an unprecedented apology to those who suffered at its country's hands in the Second World War. At a service of reconciliation in Coventry Cathedral on August 15 he said the Japanese felt "deeply remorseful" and apologised. But ex-prisoners of war renewed their demand for a full apology and compensation. – *The Times*

● Keith "Tex" Banwell, who fought with 10 Para at Arnhem, was awarded the Dutch Silver Star, survived Auschwitz and two firing squads and was used as a double for Montgomery, died on July 25 and was buried with military honours in North London. – *Mirror*

● Seventeen former soldiers have won a legal battle to protect their anonymity when they give evidence to next year's Bloody Sunday inquiry – *The Express*

● The Czech government is to compensate Servicemen who fought alongside British forces in the Second World War and the British brides they took home to decades of Communist persecution. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● Readers are reminded that views expressed or reported in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.



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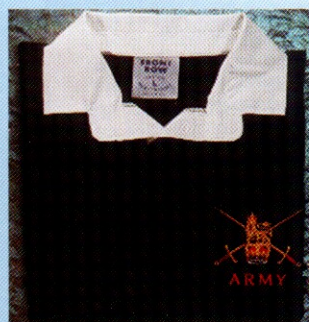
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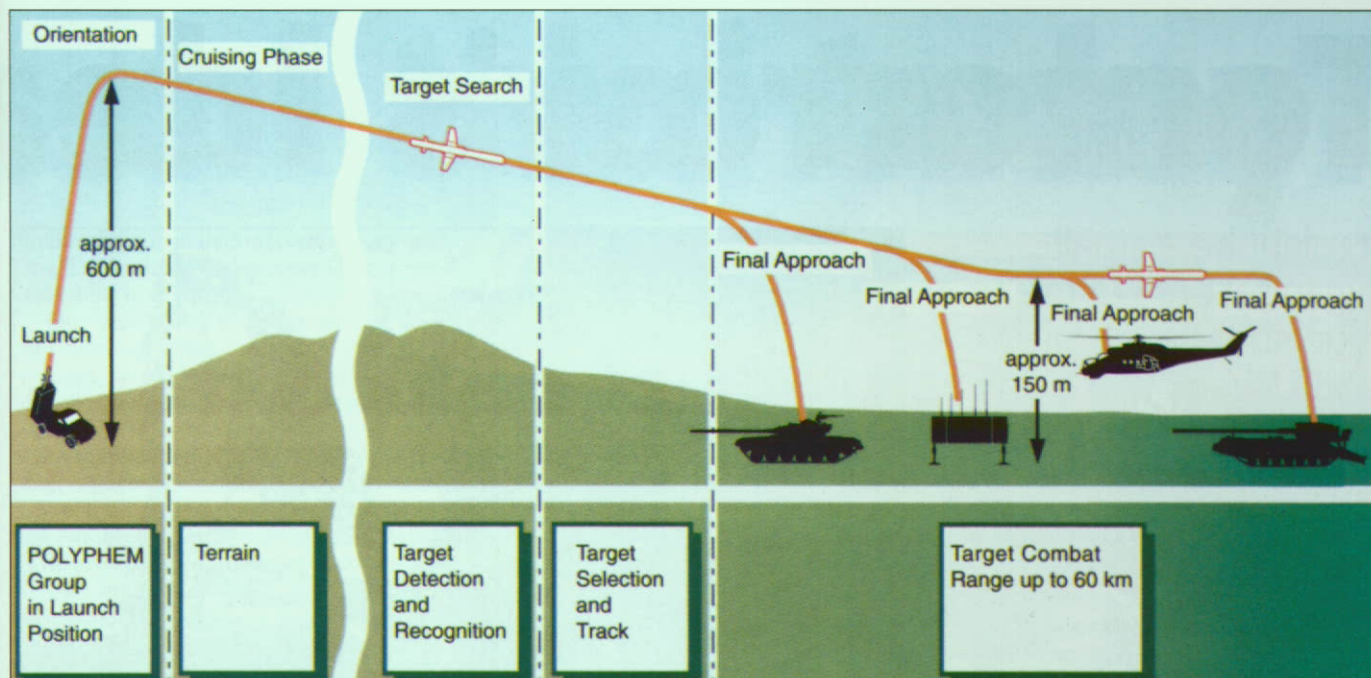
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Deadly accuracy: The Polyphem fibre optic guided missile will be highly suitable for light intervention, artillery and coastal defence forces

## Deadlier by far

THE Army's next generation of long-range missiles is being developed for phased introduction over the next 15 years, **writes Ray Routledge.**

Heading the missile project team at the Abbey Wood-based Defence Procurement Agency near Bristol are Col Peter Marwood, late of the Royal Artillery, and Maj Elaine Roberts, REME.

They told *Soldier* about the armaments under development in a programme known as Indirect Fire Precision Attack (IFPA).

"It all came about because the Strategic Defence Review wanted precision guided weapons fired from the ground which at the same time had to minimise collateral damage," said Col Marwood. "Helicopters, while very effective, can be incapacitated by weather conditions and that can cause operational difficulties."

The problem in the past for artillery is that while it can deliver munition over great distances, it could not guarantee pinpoint accuracy. The new systems aim to provide long-range precision and a deadly payload.

The systems will provide commanders with a long-range attack capability at a minimum of 60km and up to 100km. IFPA will be able to attack groups of hard targets and discrete high-value targets.

### New systems aim to deliver payloads at ever longer ranges



"In the past, much of the development and expenditure has been on delivery systems," explained Maj Roberts. "Now we are concentrating our investment on smart munitions in what the Americans call 'munitions centrality'. The Multiple-Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and the AS90 are efficient, so we are looking at ways of improving the weapons delivered by those platforms."

#### QUIVER OF ARROWS

"We have lots of systems and we look at them like a quiver full of arrows. We know what the quiver is and we are now looking at ways of improving the arrows."

Creating better arrows does not come cheap. Col Marwood estimates the total programme will cost between £700 million and £1 billion. But the accuracy of

the new shells will be vastly improved. One of the applications will be based on Polyphem fibre optics under development by Aerospatiale Missiles of France, Daimler-Benz of Germany and Consorzio Italmissile of Italy. The system has a high transmission rate for the communication of complex data, including images, and is immune to jamming. The target can be seen by the missile in flight ... and therefore by

its operator on the ground.

The operator can make an accurate kill assessment and an immediate target selection decision, regardless of distance.

Other systems include shells with internal guidance systems using GPS technology and warheads that can send out an electronic pulse which would incapacitate enemy communications and computers.

Col Marwood said a large number of systems were being looked at including off-the-shelf technology. He added that it was hoped to have all the systems in place by 2012 although the missiles are expected to come into service as they develop, with the first going live by 2003.

"These will have the capacity to attack armoured targets at a range of 30km," he said. "That will rise to 60km by 2007 and by 2012 it will be 100km."

Col Marwood stressed that the bottom line was for precision artillery work.



# Tomorrow's ideas on trial today

It might be a small organisation, but the Aldershot-based Trials and Development Unit of the Royal Logistic Corps is capable of making a big impact on the rest of the Army

Report: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Mike Weston

IT looks like a run-down film lot on which old black-and-white potboilers of the 1950s may have been shot.

But the base of the Royal Logistic Corps' Trials and Development Unit has more going for it than meets the eye. From its tiny HQ in Princes Avenue, Aldershot, the TDU makes assessments and decisions that can affect the whole Army, and sometimes the other Services as well.

Maj Mark French and the handful of people he commands know the importance of their work. "What we do is to provide trials capability," he said. "On a small trial we use our own people, but anything larger we have to get expertise in."

"We highlight a technical problem and perhaps suggest the way it may be solved."

Much of the unit's work is undertaken because of changes to legislation.

## DEVELOPED

"Traditionally we were a vehicle-testing organisation. Because vehicles still form a major part of equipment procurement, the testing is still a considerable part of our workload. But we have developed in other areas."

An example of this diversification is the evaluation of a Mobile Field Bakery System, a project nearing completion. "Four systems are being built and the last is just going out for final modification as a result of what was done during the trial," explained 2iC Capt Mark Le Mesurier.

"If the four bakeries were all together, they could provide sufficient bread to feed the whole Army. Each one has the same capacity as the average bakery in Sainsbury's."

Maj French pointed out other catering projects. "We have catering staff who come in to cope with that workload and to lend their expertise," he said. "We



Now you see it: The "cambrella" umbrella camouflage system which the Trials and Development team claims can be erected much more rapidly than conventional camouflage netting

have to meet legal requirements in everything we do, particularly when dealing with foodstuffs. For instance, to comply with legislation we are having to develop new ways of moving chilled and frozen foods."

But it is with vehicles that the unit has scored some successes. Recent work includes adaptation of the DROPS anti-lock brake system (ABS) to conform to legislation. Unit personnel also examined the new all-terrain mobile platform.

"It was given a full vehicle trial and we got representatives from the end-users, 5 Airborne Brigade in this instance, to lend their expertise to our team," explained Maj French.

The team also attempts to predict future requirements. "We go through the various trade magazines and look for things that we think we might be able to use, like the quick-release battery clamps, for example."

Changes to European legislation could

make their installation compulsory and the Trials and Development Unit is prepared for it.

One innovation to be introduced soon has been dubbed "cambrella".

Capt Le Mesurier explained: "One of the problems we have in the Army is that we are getting bigger trucks with fewer men to man them. The DROPS vehicle is big, especially when it has a trailer on it, so we have been evaluating cambrella... an umbrella-type camouflage system. The project is coming to an end."

"We hope it will be in use by the field army soon. It will have a huge impact as it takes 20 to 30 minutes to erect camouflage using cambrella on a DROPS-size vehicle against up to 90 minutes using traditional cover. And there is no struggling with big nets, and that has health-and-safety implications."

"We know there is going to be a confidence factor with the end-users. However, it has been proven that it is as good as a camouflage net, if not better, both thermally and visually. It is a good system. It is quick and easy to use and has been a long time coming."

## SOFTWARE

MTSYS, a commercially-available transport fleet control software system, is to go on trial soon and eventually every motor transport office across the Army may have it.

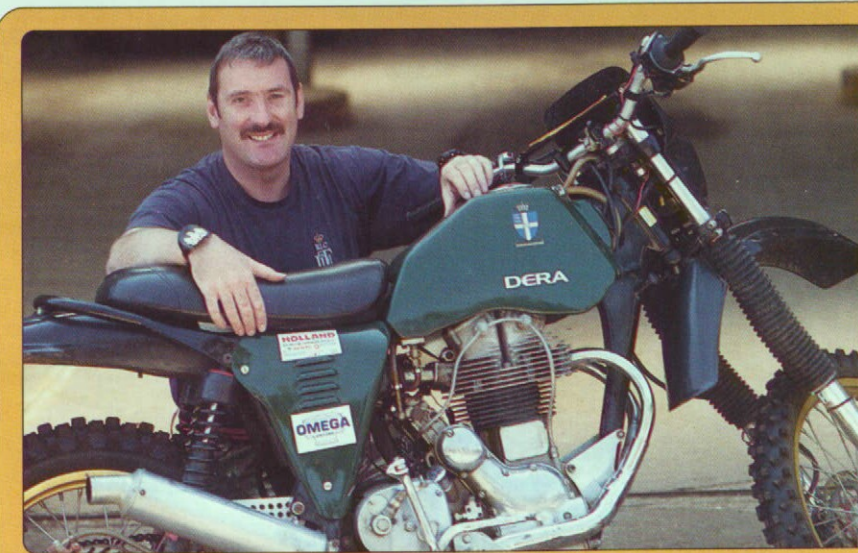
Tasking will be done through the computer. Hit the print button and the driver will have a chit with his name printed on it, the co-driver's name and the load specification so he can ensure he has the correct licences and valid certification. The system will also look after accident information, order parts such as batteries and tyres and analyse how much fuel is used.

Another major project in the pipeline is the waterproofing of a Land Rover for the Royal Marines.

"The unique thing is that it has a much higher level of water-proofing, particularly useful when driving on to a beach from a landing craft," explained Maj French.

"A conventional vehicle drags water into the induction system and the electrics go haywire. All the instruments here are waterproofed. The air intake is above the vehicle, as is the exhaust, and the rear end has additional heating elements."

Maj French summed up the work of his unit. "We are a small organisation with the potential to make a big impact. We provide trials expertise. It is an interesting and worthwhile job."



Test drive: Master driver WO1 Ian Grinton RLC with the diesel-powered motor cycle

## Diesel bike is not for posers

THINK of a motor cycle and an image of a powerful Norton, Honda or Kawasaki machine will probably come to mind. But the Army is considering something less glamorous... a diesel-powered bike.

A prototype has been developed by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) and undergone testing by the Aldershot-based Trials and Development Unit of the Royal Logistic Corps.

Maj Mark French, OC of the unit, explained that there is a single-fuel concept within the Army and Nato, mostly because of the logistical problems of getting fuel to the battlefield.

"All of our fighting vehicles are now diesel, so the only thing out there on its own is the motor bike," he told *Soldier*.

Until now there has been no demand for a diesel bike, mostly because top-end speed comes from petrol-driven machines and the people who ride motor bikes tend to want speed. Lack of commercial viability has meant the Army has been forced to buy petrol-fuelled machines.

"Because of the single-fuel aspiration, the Defence Procurement Agency investigated the diesel bike and DERA was tasked to produce a concept machine to see if it was possible," Maj French explained.

The Royal Military College of Science

also became involved in the project.

The concept machine had to be built at minimum cost, so its crankcase, primary transmission and gearbox were based on an existing power unit, the Enfield Bullet, a British design of the 1950s now made in India. It was chosen because it offered a more suitable basis for a diesel engine than more recent designs.

It had to have a realistic power output and performance suitable on the battlefield as well as convoy and courier duties.

Trials revealed that the diesel could not match the speed of a petrol-driven machine on the road, although on cross-country terrain it was the petrol machine that struggled to maintain pace. This was due to the torque characteristics of the diesel engine.

Supply of the bike is now going through the tender process and the US Marines have shown an interest.

"Whichever company wins the bid may wish to explore the commercial market," said Maj French. "We've held a bidders' conference at which they were shown the current in-service bike and all the kit that is required to carry. They now have a clear idea of our requirements. We are hopeful of sourcing a supplier. One thing is for sure, it is not a posers' bike."



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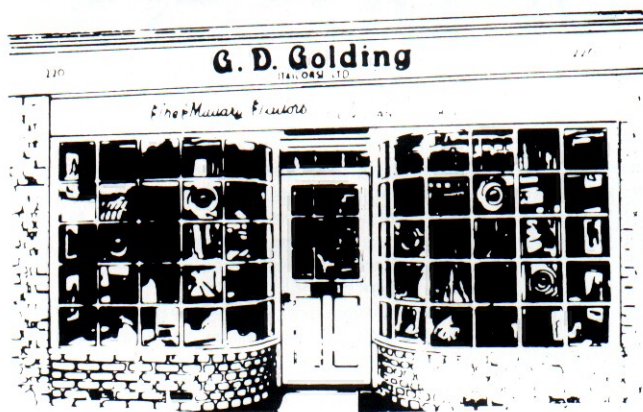


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# Military heritage

## Cream of Jersey

Think of Jersey and you probably think of cream and Bergerac. But the military history of the island is unique: it has repelled the French and was invaded by the Germans. We look at a relatively new TA unit with a proud past



THE Territorial Army unit on the beautiful Channel island of Jersey may be relatively new – it was only formed ten or so years ago – but it follows a long history of military service by the islanders.

Formed in 1987, the Jersey Field Squadron RE has been under the command of Nottingham-based 73 Engineer Regiment (V) since 1994. Its role is to provide air support to the Royal Air Force, a task it carries out with an establishment for 144 officers and men.

Although relatively new, the unit can trace its origins back to 1336 and the Hundred Years War, when Edward III ordered the formation of the Militia of Jersey. During that war, the island was invaded several times, although on each occasion the invaders failed to take the fortress of Mont Orgueil, the key defensive fortification.

Invaders were learning that the men of Jersey were no push-overs. By 1661 the militia had been remodelled by Cromwell and now boasted more than 4,000 foot soldiers. They were nervous about the possibility of another attempted French invasion.

The militia grew and by 1730 was a substantial force of six battalions split into five regiments, supported by 25 field artillery pieces. Each battalion comprised a colonel, lieutenant colonel, a major, seven captains, four ensigns, one quartermaster, 48 Grenadiers and 494 NCOs and battalion men. There were also 50 artillery NCOs and men.

In 1781 the long-awaited French invasion finally took place, heralding arguably the militia's finest hour in the defeat of a French force of 600 men at the Battle of Jersey. In 1793 the French were again repelled and in 1831, the Royal title



Past and present, the Jersey Militia circa 1940 contrasts with the Jersey soldier of today

was granted to the militia by William IV.

On the outbreak of the First World War, the Jersey militia was mobilised following the withdrawal of the British garrison and 300 islanders joined the Royal Irish Rifles. Men from the island won two VCs. By the mid 1920s, with the British financial contribution withdrawn, the militia was reduced to a single infantry battalion of 260 volunteers.

In June 1940, with the German invasion impending, the island was swiftly demilitarised and the battalion disbanded. All 11 officers and 193 other ranks left Jersey to form the nucleus of the 11th Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

After the war, it was decided not to require Jersey men to do National Service

in England. The militia's colours were laid up in 1954, ending the history of a force which had been in existence, in one form or another, for 600 years.

After the Falklands War, during which the States of Jersey volunteered £5 million towards the Task Force, the British Government decided the island should continue to have a stake in the maintenance of British status. The island's government decided in 1987 on a defence contribution and it was agreed to form a squadron of part-time Royal Engineers, funded entirely by the States.

Today that unit is proud to uphold the traditions of the Royal Jersey Militia and to be part of the Royal Engineers. Like all TA units, its soldiers take their work seriously and are happy to be involved in their role as part of the Harrier Support Force, for which they construct hides to conceal aircraft from the air.

Jersey's soldiers are still ready for a challenge.





# Making a difference



Different strokes: "It is hard not to reach the conclusion that we are being helped by a power that is greater than us," said Col Cook. "There must be some sort of force at work."

In 1992 Col Mark Cook was appointed commander of the British contingent serving with the United Nations in Croatia. It was a tour that changed his life

Interview: Anthony Stone  
Pictures: Mike Weston

WE live in a cynical world where TV blunts our senses to suffering. Compassion fatigue gives way to acute mercy exhaustion. At any one time there are 30 or more armed conflicts going on; a child is orphaned by war or disaster every 30 seconds. The misery created by man's inhumanity to man seems never-ending.

You might expect a professional soldier with more than 30 years' experience at the sharp end to be immune to the suffering of others, to wear protective emotional body armour as thick as Chobham steel. Not Col Mark Cook.

"The scale of suffering around the world is so enormous that it is easier to say 'I cannot do anything'," he said. "But we have shown that every one of us can make a difference."

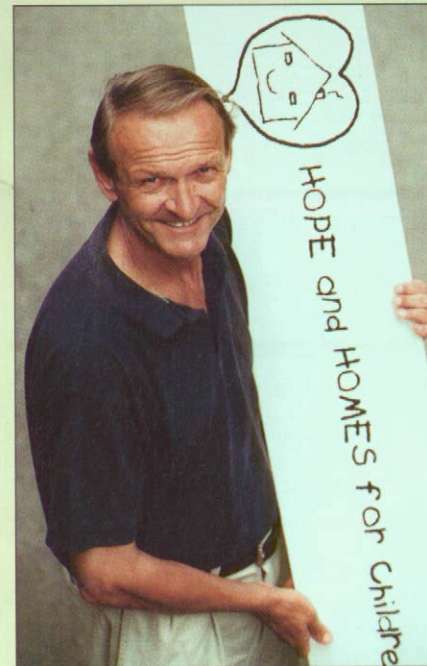
This is the story of how one man chose to do something good in the face of evil and misery, of how he brought a light into dark corners of the world.

The moment that changed Col Cook's life was the day he visited a wretched orphanage in Lipik, Croatia. Huddled inside were pitiful children, living in the ruins of their home caught in the middle of a vicious sectarian war. He promised he would return and rebuild their dreams.

The following year, 1993, Mark Cook resigned from the Army to fulfil his pledge. At first he was told by aid agencies that his particular skills, namely those involving jungle warfare, were not in great demand. So he decided to go it alone and set up Hope and Homes for Children.

With his wife Caroline, a former nursery nurse, he raised more than £1 million and the shattered orphanage in Lipik was transformed into a multi-ethnic home.

With the help of a small, dedicated staff



and many generous benefactors, the charity is expanding. At present it is involved in eight countries. Its mission has the clarity of a military objective: to give hope to children worldwide who have nowhere to live, due to war or disaster, by providing them with family homes.

The charity achieves this aim through a three-pronged approach: by funding programmes to find the child's original family and re-uniting them; by funding fostering schemes to encourage families to take children; and by creating homes run by local staff and supported by volunteers.

## AMAZING PEOPLE

"The idea of having a very clear mission is something I learned in the Army," Col Cook said. "We are providing homes for these children and that means people who give us money can see where it goes."

During his Army career Col Cook commanded the 10th Gurkha Rifles and his military background is apparent in the way he views the challenges he now faces. "I have this very simplistic view that there is this battle of good and evil," he said. "I have met some amazing people, people who have got nothing in life and yet give so much. I have also met some evil people who would sell their grandmothers and do the most terrible things."

"I believe the world is made up of the good, the bad and the indifferent, and most of us are indifferent. Maybe because

MILITARY artist Alix Baker has produced a millennium calendar in aid of Hope and Homes for Children. It is A3 size and limited to 2,000 copies. It has 12 full-colour plates with two subjects to each page covering the British Army from the 18th century to the present day.

The price is £14.50 including p&p, with all plates signed by the artist. The calendar is also available unsigned for £11.50, including p&p.

For overseas postage, Europe airmail is £2.10 and outside Europe £4. The calendar is available direct from Alix Baker, The Orchards, Forton, Andover, Hampshire SP11 6NN (tel/fax 01264 720715).



we see so much on television it breeds indifference. But everyone can make a difference to the lives of someone somewhere."

There may be many reasons why Col Cook has been so successful in his new field of endeavour, but he believes he knows one of the secrets.

"I don't think I would be here today without the Army training. The Army gave me certain skills that have been invaluable – communication, leadership, getting people to work together. Without my experience in the Army it would have been very difficult."

"I had a great time for 33 years, I loved being with Gurkhas... a great privilege. But frankly I have not had time to miss the Army. I have never worked so hard."

"When I was a second lieutenant aged 19 I had a Gurkha orderly. He did everything for me. I remember going on the jungle warfare course in Malaya and my orderly came with me to prepare my kit. He wasn't actually allowed to carry my kit on exercise, but it was a very privileged life."

That experience contrasts sharply with the early days of Hope and Homes when Mark and Caroline found themselves doing everything from painting the office to putting up signs. "The buck starts and ends with me," he said.

Everyone connected with the charity is consumed with the desire to make a difference. Their enthusiasm and sense of purpose is infectious and effective.

Col Cook summed up the ethos. "All of us feel very passionately about what we do and this comes over when we speak to

people. We are talking about some of the most underprivileged children in the world and people relate to what we are doing. It is not a quick fix, it is giving them a home today and a future for tomorrow."

"If we did not come along the children would spend their lives in the streets and sewers without any hope. We really are giving them hope by giving them a home."

"When Mother Teresa won the Nobel Prize she said she would build homes for the poor because it was at home that love begins. What is life without love?"

Hope and Homes for Children is sustained by donations. Since they started Mark and Caroline have written thousands of handwritten thank-you letters. "Very often those who send in the least amount are those who can least afford it."

Sadly, the charity's future looks bright. There will always be children needing homes.

Col Cook was on a recent visit to Sudan where he met a young boy living on the streets. The boy was fending for himself, utterly alone in a brutal world of poverty and disease.

"I asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up," Col Cook said. "He told me he wanted to be a doctor."

It might be an impossible aspiration, but thanks to Hope and Homes for Children, hundreds of orphans are regaining their childhood and dreaming of a better tomorrow.

● Donations to: Hope and Homes for Children, Mark and Caroline Cook, East Clyffe, Salisbury SP3 4LZ.



# Island of adventure – and fun

The recently-opened Joint Services Mountain Training Centre in Anglesey is also a Services holiday centre that echoes to the sound of happy families

Report: Graham Bound  
Pictures: Steve Dock

IT WOULD not be most people's choice of name for a holiday centre. Certainly Billy Butlin would have steered clear of it.

But it seems that Services holidaymakers are made of sterner stuff, and there is a happy family feeling about Indefatigable, the new Joint Services Mountain Training Wing and holiday centre in Plas Llanfair, Anglesey.

Acquired by the Ministry of Defence in 1996 and opened in April this year after a £4.2 million face-lift, the centre, with its classically beautiful headquarters building, cottages, camp site and dormitory blocks, is offering both serious outdoor training to uniformed visitors and relaxing, affordable holidays to off-duty Service personnel.

Set in grounds leading down to the shore, and offering stunning views across the Menai Straits to Snowdonia, the main building was once a Merchant Navy school, the original Indefatigable. Now, however, a staff of soldiers, sailors and airmen is making this into the Forces' flagship outdoor centre, offering fun and serious training in equal quantities.

The dual role was made possible by a remarkable cooperation between the MoD and a leading Services charity, the Nuffield Trust. To mark the charity's 60th anniversary, the trustees wanted to make a single major grant to a worthwhile cause, and the Anglesey project fitted the bill perfectly.

The trust donated £1.3 million to build six family accommodation blocks, dormitory accommodation for 52, a sailing club and a state-of-the-art indoor climbing wall, and refurbish the swimming pool.

The result of months of work is not exactly *Hi-De-Hi*, but for those using the holiday facilities, enjoyment and relaxation are certainly at the top of the agenda. Accommodation is booked on a strictly first-come-first-served basis, regardless of



Ready for adventure: With the Menai bridge in the background, instructor Jim Stokes ferries cadets to the mainland for a day in the mountains

rank, and is affordable too: family rooms cost £70 a week, and dormitory beds are just £2 a night.

Military discipline is refreshingly absent for visitors, and there is no expectation that they put themselves through the hard graft of adventurous training. A far more likely scenario is that when the kids get tired of splashing in the heated indoor swimming pool, families set off to enjoy the tourist attractions of Anglesey and Snowdonia.

Life is rather different for the Service men and women – an anticipated 3,000 a year – who go to Anglesey for training. Achieving the basic mountain leadership qualification, Indefatigable's stock-in-trade, involves the physically hard routines

of walking, climbing, canoeing and rafting.

NCOs, junior officers and a smattering of cadets, up to 120 at a time, each spend five days learning the skills of leadership and survival in nearby Snowdonia.

Although the Army administers the centre, the instructors come from all three Services. In charge of training is Flt Lt Mark Lovatt. The courses are, he said, "all about making people aware that they always have choice of actions, and teaching them how to lead others through situations that they may not be happy with."

Acquiring Indefatigable and transforming it into a modern facility sometimes demanded of the staff those same skills of leadership. Mark Lovatt still shudders at

the memory of one particularly challenging situation.

"The day before our first students arrived, one of the sewers backed up, flooding the kitchens," he said. "We were faced with the prospect of 120 hungry and unhappy students. There was only one thing to do. We gave them £10 each and sent them down to the chippie."

It must be said that things have been operating very smoothly at Indefatigable in the months since. But it is reassuring to know that if push comes to shove, the staff at the Services' first combined adventurous training school and holiday centre can practise the same skills of planning and management that they preach.

## Hanging around in Snowdonia

Where the secret of happiness is when the stickies stick

VERTIGO? How I wish that my pathetic fear of heights could be explained with that medically-recognised condition. The truth is that I am just downright frightened of falling: a simple scaredy-cat.

I was surprised, therefore, when the professional climbers who staff Indefatigable heard my confession and promptly invited me to have a lesson in basic rock-climbing in nearby Snowdonia.

With a spot of expert guidance, senior trainer Flt Lt Mark Lovatt said, I might come to manage my fear and gain confidence. That, after all, is what Indefatigable is all about.

Even more than sheer cliff faces, I fear ridicule. "OK", I heard myself say, and I gulped at the thought of confronting my demons on a steep rock face.

But there was no unsaying it, so we jumped in a minibus and drove across the Menai Bridge into Snowdonia.

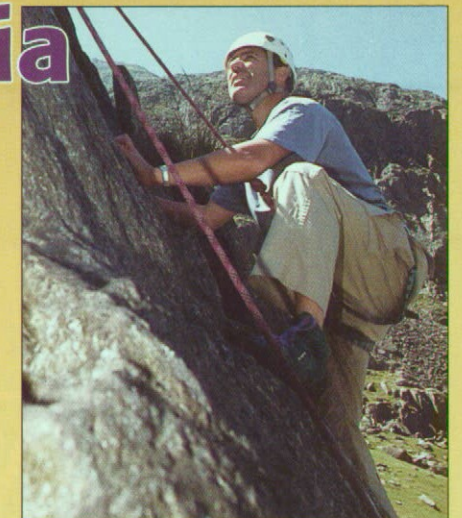
Bernie Evans, the centre's senior climber and a most unlikely civil servant, was waiting a few hundred yards up an imposing hill in the shadow of Snowdon itself.

"Climb into this," said burly Bernie, passing me a nylon harness. "It's a bit frayed, but it should be OK. Put your legs through here, and tighten it up. That way if you turn upside-down you won't fall out."

To find out more about holiday facilities and training opportunities at the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre, Indefatigable, call the headquarters on (military) 95581 7900 or (civilian) 01248 715635.

## Who dares . . .

Next came helmet and "stickies". Distinctly trendy-looking, these light nylon booties are soled with smooth black rubber and operate on the same principle as a Formula One tyre, putting every millimetre of the foot in contact with the rock face. Traction improves as the rockface heats up and today, I noted, the temperature was



Don't look down: Trusting the rope was one of the hardest fears to handle

climbing into the 20s. Good news.

My initiation, as it is for all beginners, was to be through top-roping. Bernie and Mark hammered a single belay point about 60ft up the face, and threaded a rope through it. Back on the ground, Bernie would arrest my fall if my stickies came unstuck.

"Let your legs do the bulk of the work," he

advised. "And use your arms mainly for balance. Starters tend to over-grip."

Really good climbers are wiry, he explained. "They'd be up that face like a racing-dog's bollock."

The rock was about 30 degrees from the vertical, and it didn't seem to have many handholds. To my surprise, the stickies stuck. I was gaining purchase on the merest pimple, and as long as I could get a reassuring grip with my hands, I didn't feel too bad.

I could see the belay point and a few sticky steps later I had reached it. I slapped the metal with pleasure.

Strangely, the descent was more worrying. Bernie ordered me to lean back on the rope, and place myself perpendicular to the rock, while walking backwards down the face. Willing my body to lean out and trusting the rope was an example of the confidence-building that is the essence of adventurous training.

What did I get out of the experience? I'm still not happy with heights, but at least I know that I can handle them if I need to. Oh, and next time Bernie is down south he's coming around to change my light-bulbs.



# Speak up - You could

**Complete this questionnaire and post it free as soon as possible to qualify for our prize draw**

**WIN  
£100**

YOUR views and comments are vital to us. So may we request a few minutes of your time to take part in our survey?

Carefully detach this four-page questionnaire from the magazine, complete it, fold it as instructed and post it to reach us by October 29, 1999. It will cost you nothing if you live in the UK or at a BFPO address.

Every completed form returned to us by the closing date will be entered into a prize draw, assuming of course that it includes your name and address. Sender of the first out of the hat after the closing date will win £100; the next two will each receive an Army tankard.

Your replies will be professionally evaluated and the main findings, plus the prizewinners, will be published in the magazine as soon as possible.

Please place a tick in the relevant boxes:

## About yourself:

1. Which category do you belong to?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving in Regular Army                                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving in TA  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving in other services                                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cadet  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Army Cadet Forces  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired Armed Forces                                     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civilian worker with Armed Forces                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired civilian worker with Armed Forces                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family of above  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of above  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, including non-British Armed Forces (please state) |  |

2. What rank are you?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private soldier      | <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Lt - Capt  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior NCO           | <input type="checkbox"/> Major - Col    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior NCO           | <input type="checkbox"/> Brig - Gen     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant Officer      | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) |   |

3. Where are you based/living?

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Britain        | <input type="checkbox"/> Germany |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Ireland     | <input type="checkbox"/> Balkans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Falklands            | <input type="checkbox"/> Cyprus  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gibraltar            | <input type="checkbox"/> Belize  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) |                                  |

4. Which sex are you?

- ☐ Male ☐ Female

5. Which age group do you belong to?

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15-18    | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19-24    | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34    | <input type="checkbox"/> 65+   |

6. How often do you use the Internet?  
*Please tick one box only*

- ☐ Never used it
- ☐ Used it once or twice - won't use it again
- ☐ Used it a few times - may use it again
- ☐ Once a month or less
- ☐ Two or three times a month
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Daily

## Distribution of Soldier

7. How did you receive this copy of *Soldier*?

- ☐ By subscription
- ☐ Purchased from a newsagent
- ☐ Free - distributed by my unit
- ☐ Passed to me by a colleague/family member
- ☐ Other (please state)

8. When, in relation to the cover date, did you receive this issue of *Soldier*?

- ☐ Before cover date
- ☐ During month of cover date
- ☐ One month after cover date

9. Do you have access to a *Soldier* dispenser?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. If you do have access to a dispenser, is it adequately stocked?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No



# SOLDIER READERSHIP SURVEY

11. About how long have you been reading *Soldier*?

- ☐ More than 30 years
- ☐ Between 20 and 30 years
- ☐ Between 10 and 20 years
- ☐ Between 5 and 10 years
- ☐ Between 2 and 5 years
- ☐ For the last year or so
- ☐ Less than a year

12. How often do you read *Soldier*?

- ☐ Every issue (monthly)
- ☐ Most issues
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ It depends if the cover looks interesting
- ☐ Rarely

13. How much of *Soldier* do you normally read?  
*Please tick one box only.*

- ☐ From cover to cover
- ☐ Most of the magazine
- ☐ Just the articles which interest me
- ☐ Just flip through it
- ☐ Other (please state)

14. When you have read *Soldier* what do you normally do with it?  
*Please tick one box only.*

- ☐ Keep it for reference/file it
- ☐ Circulate it to my colleagues
- ☐ Pass it to someone else
- ☐ Put it in the bin
- ☐ Other (please state)

5. About how many other people will read this copy of *Soldier*?

- ☐ None ☐ 6-10
- ☐ One ☐ 11+
- ☐ 2-5

## Please note...

All replies will be treated in strict confidence. Those who do not wish to give their name and/or address will not qualify for the prize draw, but their responses will be considered in the evaluation. This may also apply to those who miss the prize draw closing date. Only one form per person can be accepted. We would be grateful if you would help the survey by ensuring that others have the opportunity to enter the prize draw.

The Managing Editor's decision is final in all matters concerning the prize draw.

## About *Soldier*

16. Which one of these would best describe *Soldier*?  
*Please tick one box only.*

- ☐ Contains current news
- ☐ Fairly up-to-date
- ☐ Contains nothing of current interest
- ☐ Behind the times

17. Please state how interested you are in the following regular and occasional features which appear in *Soldier*:

Box: a: very interested / b: quite interested  
c: no feelings either way / d: not very interested  
e: not at all interested

	a	b	c	d	e
Soldier to Soldier (comment column)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extended reports from Balkans, other operational areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People, places, events (news update)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training, exercise features	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From Westminster to Wapping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issues (welfare, family information etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cari Roberts's advice column	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kitstop (new kit/equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adventurous training round-up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Force for good (charity fund-raising)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who dares (white-knuckle sport etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My Army interviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (pictorial features)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport pages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historical features	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chuckle with Chip	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dickie/Bird's Eye View	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Joker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How Observant Are You? (competition)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other competitions (book prizes etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pen Pal ads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Video reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Museums column	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
50 years ago/25 years ago nostalgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertisement features (museums, resettlement, education etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulletin Board (inc Searchline/Reunions)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mailbag	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prize letter feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual pay scales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vox Pop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. How would you describe the length of articles in *Soldier*?

- ☐ Too short
- ☐ Too long
- ☐ About right



## Other points of interest

19. Apart from any regimental or corps journals that you may receive, please state which other "military" magazines/newspapers you read regularly:

.....

.....

.....

20. Please state how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Box: a: strongly agree / b: slightly agree  
c: neither agree nor disagree / d: slightly disagree  
e: strongly disagree

	a	b	c	d	e
<i>Soldier</i> is the magazine for the professional soldier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are too many pages of ads in <i>Soldier</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Soldier</i> helps me feel more in touch with what's going on in the Army	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I find the advertising in <i>Soldier</i> useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Soldier</i> is essential reading for me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Soldier</i> is good at getting across useful information about the Army	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. Have you ever visited the Army website?  
Please tick one box only.

- ☐ Never used it
- ☐ Used it once or twice - won't use it again
- ☐ Used it a few times - may use it again
- ☐ Use it regularly - daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Two or three times a month
- ☐ Once a month or less

22. To those who have visited the Army website, should *Soldier* continue to feature as part of the Army website or have its own site?

- ☐ Continue to be part of the Army website
- ☐ Have its own website
- ☐ No opinion

23. Please say if you have seen the Army Video Diary:

- ☐ Regularly ☐ Once or twice
- ☐ Never

24. Please state whether you think *Soldier* is the right place for the Army to publicize its own information:

- ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree

25. If you disagree, where else do you think the Army could publicize information?

.....

.....

.....

.....

26. Are there any further comments you would like to make about how to improve *Soldier*?



Name:

Address:

## And finally...

Please tick this box if you are not prepared to take part in further research ☐

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. Please now follow the folding instructions on the back page to make a secure envelope and pop it in the post. (May we remind you that there is no need to add postage unless you are living overseas at a non-BFPO address).

Please do not enclose anything.



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2



**Soldier Magazine**  
FREEPOST (SCE7068)  
ALDERSHOT  
GU11 2BR

SECOND FOLD



# Speak up - You could

**Complete this questionnaire and post it free as soon as possible to qualify for our prize draw**

**WIN  
£100**

YOUR views and comments are vital to us. So may we request a few minutes of your time to take part in our survey?

Carefully detach this four-page questionnaire from the magazine, complete it, fold it as instructed and post it to reach us by October 29, 1999. It will cost you nothing if you live in the UK or at a BFPO address.

Every completed form returned to us by the closing date will be entered into a prize draw, assuming of course that it includes your name and address. Sender of the first out of the hat after the closing date will win £100; the next two will each receive an Army tankard.

Your replies will be professionally evaluated and the main findings, plus the prizewinners, will be published in the magazine as soon as possible.

Please place a tick in the relevant boxes:

## About yourself:

1. Which category do you belong to?

- ☐ Serving in Regular Army
- ☐ Serving in TA
- ☐ Serving in other services
- ☐ Cadet
- ☐ Army Cadet Forces
- ☐ Retired Armed Forces
- ☐ Civilian worker with Armed Forces
- ☐ Retired civilian worker with Armed Forces
- ☐ Family of above
- ☐ Friend of above
- ☐ Other, including non-British Armed Forces (please state)

2. What rank are you?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private soldier      | <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Lt - Capt  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior NCO           | <input type="checkbox"/> Major - Col    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior NCO           | <input type="checkbox"/> Brig - Gen     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant Officer      | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) |   |

3. Where are you based/living?

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Falklands            | <input type="checkbox"/> Cyprus  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gibraltar            | <input type="checkbox"/> Belize  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) |                                  |

4. Which sex are you?

- ☐ Male ☐ Female

5. Which age group do you belong to?

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 |
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6. How often do you use the Internet?  
Please tick one box only

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## Distribution of Soldier

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- ☐ One month after cover date

9. Do you have access to a *Soldier* dispenser?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. If you do have access to a dispenser, is it adequately stocked?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No



# SOLDIER READERSHIP SURVEY

11. About how long have you been reading *Soldier*?

- ☐ More than 30 years
- ☐ Between 20 and 30 years
- ☐ Between 10 and 20 years
- ☐ Between 5 and 10 years
- ☐ Between 2 and 5 years
- ☐ For the last year or so
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- ☐ Every issue (monthly)
- ☐ Most issues
- ☐ Occasionally
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- ☐ Pass it to someone else
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5. About how many other people will read this copy of *Soldier*?

- ☐ None ☐ 6-10
- ☐ One ☐ 11+
- ☐ 2-5

## Please note...

All replies will be treated in strict confidence. Those who do not wish to give their name and/or address will not qualify for the prize draw, but their responses will be considered in the evaluation. This may also apply to those who miss the prize draw closing date. Only one form per person can be accepted. We would be grateful if you would help the survey by ensuring that others have the opportunity to enter the prize draw.

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## About *Soldier*

16. Which one of these would best describe *Soldier*?  
*Please tick one box only.*

- ☐ Contains current news
- ☐ Fairly up-to-date
- ☐ Contains nothing of current interest
- ☐ Behind the times

17. Please state how interested you are in the following regular and occasional features which appear in *Soldier*:

Box: a: very interested / b: quite interested  
c: no feelings either way / d: not very interested  
e: not at all interested

	a	b	c	d	e
Soldier to Soldier (comment column)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extended reports from Balkans, other operational areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People, places, events (news update)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training, exercise features	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From Westminster to Wapping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issues (welfare, family information etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cari Roberts's advice column	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kitstop (new kit/equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adventurous training round-up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Force for good (charity fund-raising)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who dares (white-knuckle sport etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My Army interviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (pictorial features)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport pages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Dickie/Bird's Eye View	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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How Observant Are You? (competition)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other competitions (book prizes etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pen Pal ads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Video reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Mailbag	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prize letter feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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18. How would you describe the length of articles in *Soldier*?

- ☐ Too short
- ☐ Too long
- ☐ About right



## Other points of interest

19. Apart from any regimental or corps journals that you may receive, please state which other "military" magazines/newspapers you read regularly:

.....

.....

.....

20. Please state how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Box: a: strongly agree / b: slightly agree  
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e: strongly disagree

	a	b	c	d	e
<i>Soldier</i> is the magazine for the professional soldier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<i>Soldier</i> helps me feel more in touch with what's going on in the Army	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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21. Have you ever visited the Army website?  
Please tick one box only.

- ☐ Never used it
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- ☐ Use it regularly - daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Two or three times a month
- ☐ Once a month or less

22. To those who have visited the Army website, should *Soldier* continue to feature as part of the Army website or have its own site?

- ☐ Continue to be part of the Army website
- ☐ Have its own website
- ☐ No opinion

23. Please say if you have seen the Army Video Diary:

- ☐ Regularly ☐ Once or twice
- ☐ Never

24. Please state whether you think *Soldier* is the right place for the Army to publicize its own information:

- ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree

25. If you disagree, where else do you think the Army could publicize information?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

26. Are there any further comments you would like to make about how to improve *Soldier*?

Name:

Address:

## And finally...

Please tick this box if you are not prepared to take part in further research ☐

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Video reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Mailbag	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prize letter feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual pay scales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vox Pop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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- ☐ Too short
- ☐ Too long
- ☐ About right



## Other points of interest

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- ☐ Have its own website
- ☐ No opinion

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- ☐ Regularly ☐ Once or twice
- ☐ Never

24. Please state whether you think *Soldier* is the right place for the Army to publicize its own information:

- ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree

25. If you disagree, where else do you think the Army could publicize information?
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

26. Are there any further comments you would like to make about how to improve *Soldier*?

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## And finally...

Please tick this box if you are not prepared to take part in further research ☐

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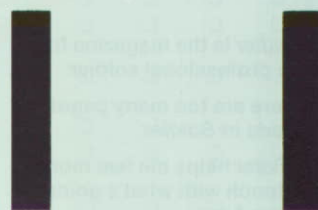


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# Farewell to the Royal Tournament

Main picture: Royal Tournament

"STANDBY for the band... let's have some nice heavy drum rolls at the beginning.

"Standby to kill the house lights. Somebody's coming through on the network - GET OUT OF IT! ... and GO!"

His tense countdown to the evening show completed, a process which producer Michael Parker describes as "about as masochistic as you can get."

He relaxed just a little as the plummy tones of commentator Basil Reitz boomed across Earls Court: "In the Afghan War the 66th Regiment of Foot were completely annihilated..."

As he had almost every day of the 26 Royal Tournament seasons during which he had been in charge, this retired Queen's Royal Hussars officer felt a glow of extreme satisfaction.

He had never made it easy for himself and his team. "I have two rules," he explained. "If there are several options, select the most difficult. And if you are 100 per cent sure that it will work, something is wrong."

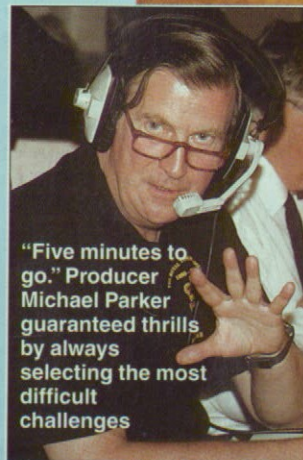
Many things changed during his time at the helm. Lighting, for example. "When I first came here, the lights were either on or off," he remembered. "Now we have the biggest lighting rig in Europe."

## Taking the tradition out in style

But everything depended on the performers. "We rehearse everything that is likely to go wrong, but at the end of the day success is down entirely to their intelligence in the arena."

He looked over to his assistant, a young man he had nicknamed Cecil B DeMille for his skill in stew-arding very large groups of marching soldiers. "Is everything OK? Good... bring up camera three." A huge image of a drummer appeared on the immense video screen at one end of the auditorium.

Did he feel sad? Of course he did. "But on the other hand we've made it to the end of the century, and if you are going to go, you've got to go with style. We are doing that."



"Five minutes to go." Producer Michael Parker guaranteed thrills by always selecting the most difficult challenges



No need to nag: As a veteran of at least 14 Tournaments, 20 year-old Wanderer knew the routine. For Capt Edward Botterill it was his first and last show

CAPT Edward Botterill, of the King's Troop RHA, almost missed the chance to become involved in world's greatest military tattoo. Happily for him, though, he was given the opportunity to lead the soldiers who perform the oldest

Many countries copied us, but no one did it better. For thousands of enthusiasts, the Royal Tournament was the biggest and best military show in the world

Report : Graham Bound  
Pictures: Steve Dock

QUEEN Victoria witnessed the first "Grand Military Tournament and Assault at Arms" - later to become just the Royal Tournament - 120 years ago when the Second Afghan War was at its height, and the map of the globe was dominated by the red ink of the British Empire.

Times changed, and the Empire shrank inexorably, but the Tournament remained grand and proud, evoking memories of great military victories and heroic defeats.

Of course history was never portrayed in its gruesome reality - after all the Tournament was meant to inspire new

recruits as well as entertain. But even at that last-ever performance on August 2, a member of the audience with minimal powers of imagination could close his or her eyes and visualise the glory of the Empire.

It was unashamedly old-fashioned, but there were plenty who saw nothing wrong with that: people such as this year's naval field gun race coordinator, Lt Cdr Ken Mathers. "The skills we see in the Tournament are still important today," he said. "Can stamina, mutual support and determination really be out of fashion?"

Soldier spoke to other performers and organisers as the curtain fell on one of Britain's grandest military traditions.

## 'Phantom' who made the arena run like clockwork

"I'm like the Phantom of the Opera," said Maj (Retd) George Douglas, the Tournament's Arena master. "I'm lurking in the wings making sure that everything goes smoothly and, above all, that the acts appear in the arena bang on time."

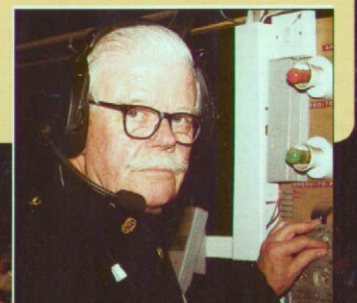
"It's been my *raison d'être* for 19 years," said the 74 year-old who joined the Army in 1943 and finally

signed off in 1977. "A civilian would have had very hard time doing this job," said George Douglas, apparently ignoring the fact that he is himself no longer a serving soldier. "I have three phases of management: 'We'll do it this way', 'I don't think you heard what I said', and 'Bloody well do it!'"

Beneath the hard exterior,

though, is a soft-hearted man who is respected by the Tournament's regular staff and performers. A few nights before the end, the gun crews of the Kings Troop RHA presented him with a plaque to commemorate their long association with the man who always made sure they appeared in the arena at exactly the right moment.

He views the end of the Royal Tournament as a great loss, but he intends to continue in the business of military displays.



Cue the marching band: Maj George Douglas prepares to give another act the green light

## First and last honours for the crowd thrillers of King's Troop

regular feature: the musical ride.

Back in 1899 men of the Royal Horse Artillery thrilled the audience with daring precision riding, as they did this year.

"I'm so pleased that I made it," said the Parade Commander, who,

twice daily, galloped dramatically into the dark arena, paused in the spotlight and then signalled the charge. Six gun carriages, each driven by six horses and guided by three soldiers, would then thunder into the arena to perform full-gallop

manoeuvres to the music.

Other members of the King's Troop were more experienced. WO1 Dougy McKay, administering gun crews, grooms and animals back-stage, first kicked up the arena dust astride a horse in 1976

and has been involved in seven Earls Court seasons since.

Boasting even more experience was the 20 year-old horse Wanderer. He had 14 tournaments under his saddle, and the old timer was still getting a kick out of showbiz.



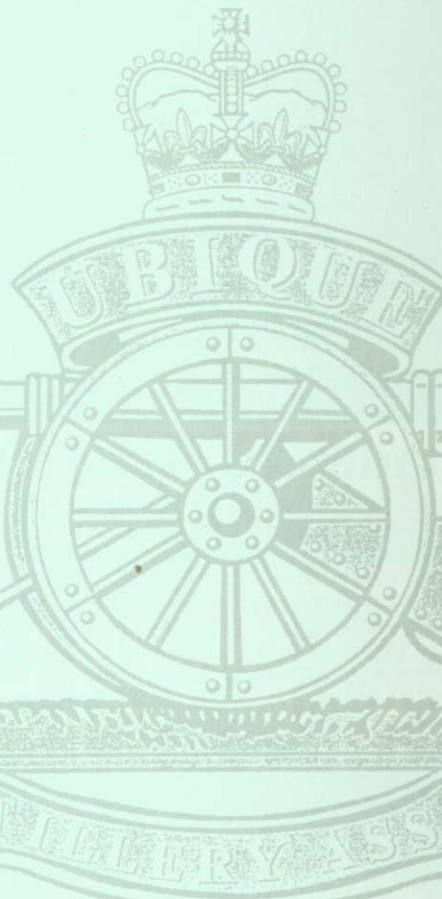
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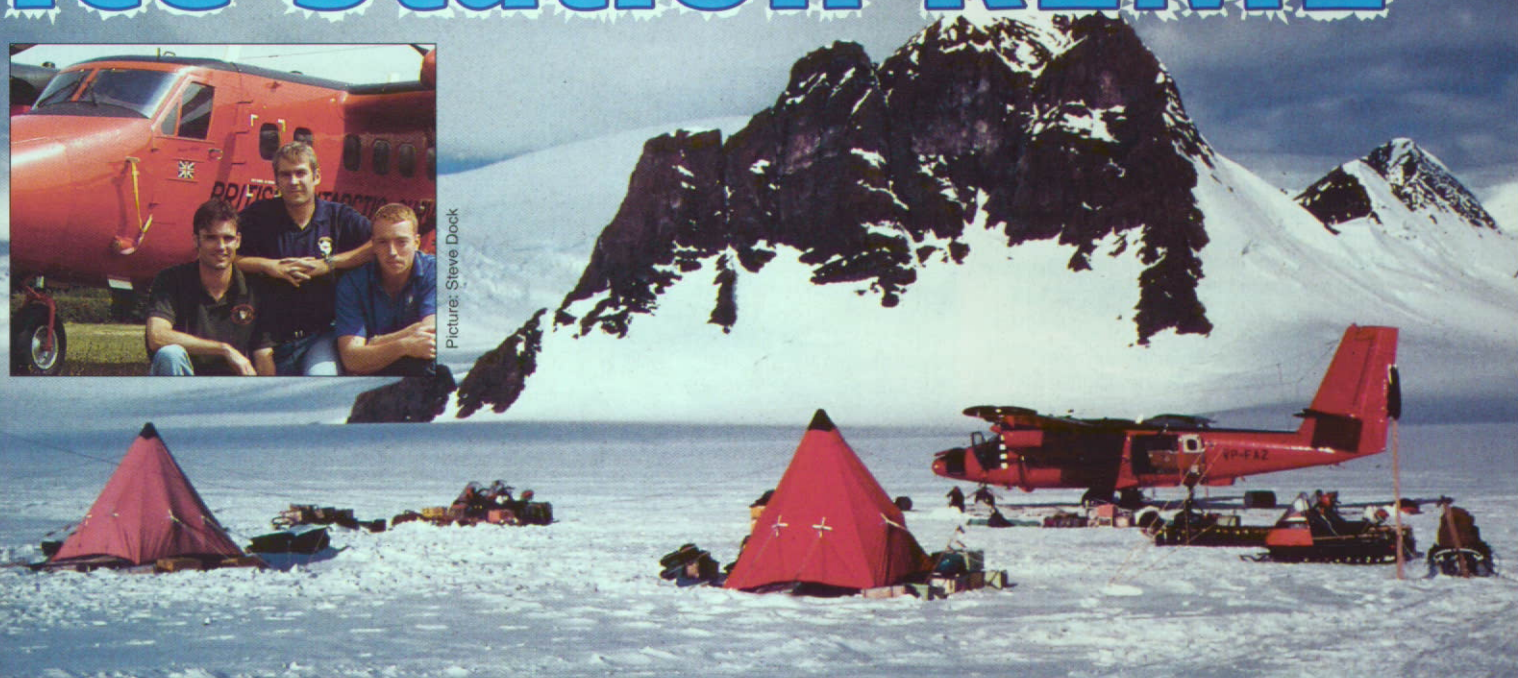
QUOTED PRICES REFER TO EXISTING STOCK AND CHANGES MAY BE NECESSARY WHEN FRESH STOCKS ARE PURCHASED.



# Ice Station REME



Picture: Steve Dock



Beautiful but deadly: A BAS Twin Otter delivers supplies to a remote Antarctic scientific camp. Inset, Back home: The BAS mechanics in England with one of their Twin Otter aircraft. From left, Sgts Wayne "Buzz" Busby, Steve Tucker and Tom O'Connor

Main Picture: BAS

Report: Graham Bound

SOME time in mid-October, four bright-red Twin Otter aircraft will lift off from Punta Arenas in the far south of Chile and claw their way laboriously into the sky.

Packed with heavy auxiliary fuel tanks and survival kit, they will be pushed to the limit of their operating capability. The cockpit stall-warning buzzers will probably screech incessantly until hands reach out to disconnect the circuit-breakers.

The risks are known and manageable, but the two-man crews of civilian pilots and Army mechanics do not want to be constantly reminded of them.

Once at cruising height, the aircraft will turn due south and fly over Cape Horn into the gloom of the most hostile environment on earth.

This seven-hour flight is the final leg of a two-week journey which every year takes the aircraft and men of the British Antarctic Survey Air Unit from their winter maintenance home in Oxfordshire to their summer base at Rothera Research Station on the Grahamland Peninsula.

Once there, the crews, three REME mechanics among them, operate around the clock, exploiting the 24-hour polar sun to support research scientists in camps scattered across thousands of miles of the frozen continent.

For the mechanics, REME Sergeants Tom O'Connor, Wayne "Buzz" Busby and Steve Tucker, who fly with the civilian pilots and care for the Twin Otters on the

**Flying to the South Pole and landing on ice-floes is all part of the job for REME mechanics working with the British Antarctic Survey's Air Unit**

ground, it is a far cry from their old jobs, maintaining Lynx and Gazelle helicopters.

All three are veterans of the ice. Steve, the senior mechanic, has spent five southern summers in the Antarctic, working with the aircraft he affectionately describes as "transit vans with wings and skis". Tom and Buzz have four and two seasons respectively under their belts.

"The variety of the work and the adventures are incredible," said Tom. He is not kidding. Last season he was tasked to join a pilot flying to the South Pole, where a British scientist was to be picked up from the American base. Even by the standards of Antarctic aviation, it was a far from routine flight.

The plane touched down on skiways at remote unmanned depots where the crew dug drums of fuel out from the snow and

hand-pumped the vital liquid into the aircraft's tanks. It was 12 hours before the pilot and his mechanic reached the very bottom of the world.

The REME men must be prepared to turn their hands to anything, especially when Antarctica's beautiful but deadly environment turns nasty.

During the 1998-99 season, the Air Unit was given the emergency task of rescuing 300 drums of aviation fuel from a sea-ice depot which had broken away from the huge Filchner Ice Shelf.

"Fuel is worth its weight in gold," explained Steve, "so we spent days flying to and from the ice floe, loading drums and moving them to the mainland."

The stress on the aircraft began to tell, and one broke down, leaving the pilot, Steve and Buzz under canvas for three days until they and the aircraft were rescued.

All three agree that the work can be nerve-racking. "Sometimes we can be in white-out conditions in a low glide path and we feel the landing before we see the ice," said Tom O'Connor. "You think, 'Do I really need to be here?'. But you put your faith in God and the pilot."

"Nevertheless," insisted Steve, "it's the job in Army aviation. You're independent and you have to think for yourself. You wouldn't get a sergeant air mechanic anywhere else facing the kind of decisions that we make quite routinely."

"And then," added Buzz, a slightly wistful tone in his voice, "there is the incredible sense of adventure. . ."



# Issues

## We are trying to improve the lot of the single soldier

THE divorce rate in the Army is no higher than civvy street, according to a spokesman for the Directorate of Personal Services (Army), commenting on a letter "What about the single soldier?" (Mailbag, July), which stated that soldiers rushed into marriage to escape the barrack block.

Because divorce in the Army is predominantly in the 22-to-40 age group, it compares unfavourably with the overall national average. Compared to the same 22-40 band in civvy street the Army figure is actually slightly lower, said the spokesman.

On the letter-writer's charge that house entitlement, removals and travel reimbursement on posting discriminated against singles, the DPS(A) said single Servicemen and women moving from a home they own to a new house on posting within mainland UK, or out of and into privately-rented accommodation, were entitled to use the Service Contract Scheme (SCS) removals in the same way as married contemporaries.

### NO DIFFERENCE

"We do not differentiate between married and singles in this instance, but between the type of property occupied," said the spokesman.

This difference makes itself felt when the single person moves from a home they have owned to single public accommodation overseas (a barrack or mess room), in which case they are not entitled to use the SCS removals contract.

But single homeowners posted overseas or to Northern Ireland can use the SCS storage contract and the unaccompanied baggage entitlement is the same as that for married unaccompanied personnel and half of the allowance for a married couple.

Singles, said the spokesman, have the option of making private arrangements, such as a hire van, to move baggage and then claiming an allowance under the Self-Help Scheme.

### BIG IMPROVEMENT

A significant improvement in financial conditions of service for singles had been achieved when the old separation allowance for married personnel was replaced by Longer Separated Service Allowance, payable to both married and single personnel at the same rate.

"We are conscious of concerns about the lot of single people within the Army when compared to their married contemporaries," said the spokesman. "It is for this reason that DPS(A) has commissioned a study currently examining just this issue. It is due to report in September."

## Don't go public

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

**Dear Cari** I've had a real problem with a catalogue company. My friend says I should write to one of the consumer programmes on TV. I think they should investigate how companies like this treat their customers overseas. Have you a helpful address? - BFG wife.

**Cari replies:** Yes... the Army Families Advice Bureau (see Useful numbers). On no account should you write to external TV and radio or newspapers and magazines. Apart from the pitfalls (outlined in Comment below), you should not go outside the military community while you or your husband are still part of it. The AFAB is an excellent service with links to the Citizen's Advice Bureau. It acts with the sanction of the MoD and can draw on a wide experience. Its staff can offer advice on the best way of dealing with consumer matters without breaking rules or compromising your position. Another good source of help and advice is your local Army Families Federation office. If you have a case against a particular service provider, they can help you to pursue it.

I am sometimes criticised for advising Service people against using the external media, by which I mean anything that isn't BFBS or *Soldier* (plus *Navy News* and *RAF News*, of course) to attempt to redress an issue. It is not that I'm against the externals... after all, I make my living working in the media. What I can tell you is that going down that route can be a minefield for the inexperienced.

You cannot control the message once it has been sent out, and reporters and editors have their own agendas. You may find that your idea is ultimately used in a way of

**Dear Cari** The company that handled our move to the United Kingdom broke several of our possessions and is now refusing us compensation. I've since heard that others have had problems with the firm. Can you publish the company's name so I can collect a list of people similarly affected? - UK wife.

**Cari replies:** No. There are many very good legal reasons why this is a bad idea. Your best course of action is to use the channels provided, including the Army Families Advice Bureau and the Army Families Federation. If yours is one of many complaints they hear about they will advise on the next move.

**Dear Cari** I heard your discussion about gossip on your BFBS *Counterpoint* programme [also the subject of this column last month] and think you are wrong to advise the wife to have a chaperone on family outings while her husband is away. We are not living in Victorian times. My husband would not take any notice if someone spread gossip about me. I think it says more about the woman's marriage if her husband believed his stupid, interfering friends. - BFG wife.



Cari Roberts

**Cari replies:** Congratulations on having a rock-steady marriage. Other people aren't so lucky and work very hard to keep things together. I still believe that, for those people, a chaperone is one more small weapon against jealous people who want to cause trouble.

### Cari comments

which you disapprove. Used carefully, the media can be turned to your advantage, but it takes skill. Your Unit Press Officer may have experience in this field which you can trust.

If you really have exhausted your patience dealing with a complaint, either about the Armed Forces or a civilian service provider, there are many proper channels through which you can get advice and help.

Don't go it alone. You don't need to and will almost certainly get out of your depth. And the consequences could turn out to be severe.

## IN BRIEF

● People who do not turn up for their outpatients' appointments are costing the **British Forces Germany Health Service** (BFGHS) more than £1 million a year, according to BFGHS director Rob Leader.

● This year's **Local Overseas Allowance** (LOA) review has resulted in a reduction in the rates paid in all locations in Germany. Cuts amount to about ten per cent for married personnel and 20 per cent for single and

married unaccompanied personnel. The price of food, mostly supermarket items, and socialising in Germany have remained static for the past 12 months, while comparable costs in the UK have risen steadily. The cost of motoring in BFG remains about half that in the UK.

● The newly-opened £1.6 million Junior Ranks restaurant complex in the Carver Barracks, Wimbish, home of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), has the most advanced



First home: SSgt Pete Griffiths, of 232 Signal Squadron, 7 Signal Regiment, is greeted by wife Debora and children Emily and Joseph on his return to Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld from Kosovo. His was the first signal squadron from ARRC to deploy on Op Agricola... and the first to return to Germany.

## Stand by to be PDR-ed

FROM next April, every member of the Regular and Territorial Army will be issued with a Personal Development Record (PDR), allowing them to match personal aspirations to achievement.

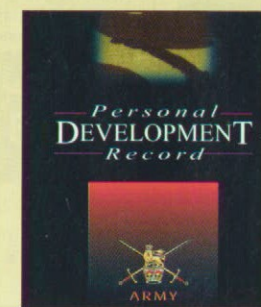
The PDR will be the soldier's personal property and is designed to allow him or her to record Service history, civvy employment, courses, education, experience and interests. It may also be used to plan and record career progress and outside interests, forming a complete picture of the individual.

There is no obligation for soldiers to allow anyone else access to the information contained in it. As immediate superior officers have a responsibility to advise subordinates on how to complete and maintain the document, soldiers wanting advice will have to show and discuss the PDR at some stage. But if they don't want the chain of command to see it, they don't have to.

The PDR is part of a wider initiative called Personal Development - PD for short - set up to ensure all Service personnel are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential and cope with the challenge of rapid economic growth and social change. PD is in line with the Government's recent Green Paper, The Learning Age, which outlined national

catering facility in the UK. Computerised printouts of all apparatus are used to ensure a clean, hygienic and safe environment for customer and client alike. Five years of planning had gone into the refurbishment of the 63-year-old building.

● A neighbourhood watch scheme aimed at protecting about 2,000 children has been launched on **Colchester Garrison** estates. Volunteers living in the garrison have teamed



requirements for continuous learning throughout an individual's working life.

The PDR will arrive in a four-ring A4 binder, with loose-leaf sheets for recording and planning, and a CD ROM to allow those with computers to plan and record electronically. Issue of the documents will start in April 2000 and be completed within two years.

The Army will benefit from the system by having a clear indication of each soldier's aspirations. It is the same for everyone... from the youngest recruit to the Chief of the General Staff.

A soldier's immediate superior officer will provide help and advice and PD advisers will be on hand in Army Education Centres to give advice on resources, in and outside the Army, to satisfy individual development requirements.

The initiative builds on current Army best practice and is a means of identifying an individual's aspirations and providing a starting point to meet them with the Army's requirements and resources.

The system allows a soldier to build up and produce a CV, plan and prepare.

● A PDR trial involving 1,400 soldiers is to be conducted by 4 Division units and headquarters and the TA, starting in September.

up with the MoD police to set up the Child Guard scheme, the idea of local HIVE organiser Ann Wildman.

● Maj Paul McRory RA is collating names of Service personnel excluded from **Halifax windfall shares** in 1997 because they were based at the time in a "non-permitted" territory. He can be contacted at Normandy Barracks, Sennelager, BFPO 16 (tel 05254 982945) or [pmc Rory@hotmail.com](mailto:pmc Rory@hotmail.com)

## Brew up and give SSAFA a big boost

LAST year SSAFA Forces Help persuaded 151,617 people to drink a cup of tea on the same day in the world's biggest brew-up. This year's Big Brew Up, organised to raise funds and awareness for SSAFA's campaigns, is to be held on T-Day, September 22.

But any individuals or units around the world who cannot join in on that day are being encouraged to arrange their own event during the week September 20-26.

So far brew-ups have been planned at Goose Bay in Canada, Cyprus, on board HMS *Illustrious*, at British Embassies in Washington, Budapest, Chile and Jamaica, and in Ghana and Australia.

To order a Big Brew Up pack, contact SSAFA Forces Help on 0171 463 9300 or visit [www.ssafa-forces-help.org.uk](http://www.ssafa-forces-help.org.uk) on the Internet.

## Or, if coffee is to your taste...

THE world's biggest coffee morning is planned for October 1 to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Relief. Last year a similar event raised £1.9 million for the charity. To register, call 0845 602 1246 for a host pack.

## Useful numbers

**Army Benevolent Fund** 0171 591 2000

**Army Families Advice Bureau** 01722 436569

**Army Welfare Service** 01722 436565

**Army Families Federation** 01980 615525

**Confidential support lines:**

**UK** 0800 731 4880

**Germany** 0800 1827 395

**Cyprus** 080 91065

**Bosnia** 0800 731 4880

**Others** UK 1980 630854

**Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society**

**(Combat Stress)** 0181 543 6333

**Family Escort Service** UK 0171 463 9249;

Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272

**Gulf Veterans Association** 0191 230

1065

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office**

01722 436575

**National Gulf Veterans and Families**

**Association** 01482 833812

**RBL's Legionline** 0345 725 725

**Samaritans** 0345 90 90 90

**Service Children's Education** 01980

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**Services Cotswold Centre** 01225 810358

**SSAFA Forces Help** 0171 403 8783

**SSAFA Forces Help housing advisory**

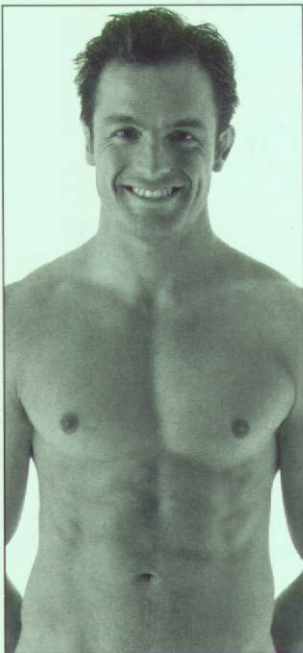
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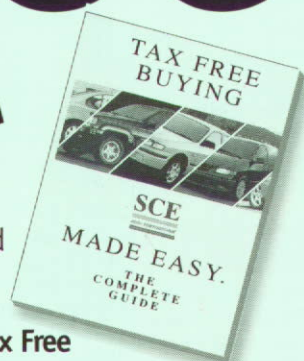
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Edited by Anthony Stone

## DIVING

### Springboard to greater success

A COMBINATION of injury and unit commitments conspired to dilute the field in this year's Army diving championships at Sheffield.

Although the field may have been smaller than in previous years, the standard was high, even for novice divers.

In the men's senior springboard event third place was taken by Sgt (SI) Darren Wilcock APTC, attached 40 Fd Regt RA, scoring 138.60pts, second was LCpl Andy Layton, 22 Engr Regt RE, with 166.15 and SSgt (SSI) Amos Greenfield APTC, HQ PAT GP & ASPT first, scoring 222.10 pts.

The senior platform saw Sgt Wilcock in second place on 186.90pts, with first place going to SSgt Greenfield with 216.60pts.

In the junior one-metre springboard, newcomer Gnr Regan Pierce of 40 Fd Regt RA dived well to come third behind LCpl James Bond 1 Gren Gds with the winner, also new to diving, Cpl Steve Bristow from ATR Pirbright scoring 120.35pts.

## INJURY

The senior women's springboard was missing two top divers. Sgt Amanda Davies was unavailable due to heavy unit commitments and Cpl Paula Skeels, who could not compete due to injury.

This left the competition open to Pte Amanda Prentice, 29 Tpt & Mov Regt RLC, who beat Sig Lizzy Brown, 1 (UK) ADSR, by 188.50 to 156.40pts. This was repeated in the platform event as Brown was narrowly defeated by Prentice by only three points.

Cpl Elizabeth Dunne of ATR Pirbright took first place in the junior women's one metre event with 81.65pts. Dunne, a former gymnast, dived creditably and will be one to watch.

The men's intermediate platform was almost a repeat of the junior springboard but for the experienced Bond who narrowly beat Bristow by three points with Pierce closely behind in third.

## POLO



Ride on time: The Prince of Wales is ridden off by Gdsm Richard Skipper, Coldm Gds

### Army turns tide of Navy victories

THE Army galloped home to victory in the Rundle Cup polo match against the Royal Navy at Tidworth for the first time in six years.

The Royal Navy, led by the Prince of Wales, had been on a winning streak since 1993 and as a result the Army was given a half-point handicap advantage at the beginning of the match.

But it was soon clear the Army captain, Maj Gen Arthur Denaro, commandant of RMA Sandhurst, was determined to stop the run of defeats and some spirited play finally resulted in a five-and-a-half points to three win for the Army.

The Rundle Cup is the highlight of Tidworth Polo Club's season and this year attracted record crowds. For the first time the audience was also treated to displays of tent-pegging and falconry.

Brig (Retd) John Wright, manager of the club, said: "We were blessed with wonderful weather and I am delighted we were able to keep the special family atmosphere while at the same time producing such a successful event and exhilarating polo."

"While the Army will be delighted to have won at last, I know the Royal Navy are planning swift revenge next year."

## ATHLETICS

### Ultra man runs off disappointments to bag Monschau marathon

FOR most athletes, the marathon is the ultimate test of endurance. But for a select few it is but the hors d'oeuvre before the main course.

Such an athlete is Sgt Shane Downes, 14 Indep Topo Sqn RE, who specialises in 100km ultra events. He keeps on his toes by running marathons and won the notoriously undulating Monschau event

in West Eifel, Germany, in a time of 2hr 39min 18sec, nearly six minutes ahead of his nearest rival.

The 1,600-field race was a welcome return to form for the international athlete, who has suffered a series of recent disappointments. He had to pull out of the British 100km championships at Edinburgh due to dehydration. It was a

blow because he was 13 minutes in front with only 19km to go.

In March an injury forced him out of a world record attempt on 40 miles. But six weeks later he was back pounding the streets for the London marathon.

"Although running very cautiously and comfortably within myself, I was happy with 63rd in 2:26:12," he said.



PROFILE: GUY WHITTINGHAM

# Old soldier's aim is still true

Ten years ago Guy Whittingham left the REME for a lucrative football career. But he will never forget what the Army taught him

Interview: Chris Horrocks  
Pictures: Mike Weston

SOCCER legend Alan Ball had no hesitation when *Soldier* approached him for an instant opinion of his ex-Army protégé Guy Whittingham. "He's a great lad," flashed back the response. "A role model for others."

Ball had just re-signed the goal-getter for First Division Portsmouth, so some will be thinking, "Well, he would say that, wouldn't he?" But as one of England's World Cup-winning heroes of 1966, who had successful careers with Everton, Arsenal and Southampton and went on to manage several clubs, Ball should know a role model when he sees one.

Whittingham has returned to Pompey on a two-year contract after several years with Premiership clubs. Within days of our interview the 34-year-old striker would be scoring his fifth goal in seven pre-season outings in a 1-0 win at Brentford, prompting Ball to add the footnote: "The old soldier got the winner. You just can't praise Guy Whittingham highly enough for his finishing."

## BORN WINNER

Old soldier, maybe, but Ball knows that the ex-PTI, who maintains a standard of fitness and mental attitude to put many of today's soccer millionaires to shame, is nowhere near fading away. He can still teach the youngsters a thing or two, and not just about scoring goals.

Whittingham is one of life's born winners and his conversation at Pompey's Eastleigh training ground is punctuated by a broad grin and boyish laughter as he talks about some of his favourite topics – a healthy diet, the value of team spirit and camaraderie, the benefits of good management, an ingrained respect for authority.

He talks as straight as he shoots, particularly of the positive influence his six years in the Army had on his lifestyle and



On the ball: Guy Whittingham has built his football career on solid Army foundations

subsequent career. And running through his philosophy like a steel thread is the need for self-discipline – an unfashionable concept among some of today's youth, but one which continually crops up as he warms to his subject.

"When I came out of the Army I was ahead of the way footballers were think-

ing. My last two years in the Army, as a PTI, gave me an insight into how to take care of your body.

"If you go out and eat steak-and-chips two or three nights before a game it is not exactly building up your energy, so I was used to the pasta, the rice, the carbohydrates, the fruit and the vegetables for two

years before I came out." His words did not fall silently on the ears of a (marginally) unfit interviewer, so there was a polite, amused pause as the diet was copied for a memo to attach to the fridge door.

The mentor resumed. "You can have your meat – chicken and fish are the best – but there's so much written about it these days that everybody knows all about it anyway. Twelve years ago I knew about it already, because I was in the Army.

"As far as fitness regimes are concerned I have always regarded myself as a fit person – at school and when I was starting in the Army as an armourer with the REME.

"I was 24 when I came out of the Army to turn professional footballer and I decided that if I wanted to have ten years in the game I would have to look after myself and do the right things. That is what I have done and it looks as if I will have two extra years because I have looked after myself properly."

Whittingham, affectionately nicknamed Corporal Punishment at Pompey for his prowess in front of goal, acknowledges the influence of Army training on his personal credo.

"It's not just knowing what to do, it is being taught the discipline to do it as well. A lot of people can't motivate themselves – but you have got to be able to do that in the Army, without a doubt."

He is duly pleased when told of Alan Ball's "role model" tribute, which leads to a question about whether other professional footballers and coaches envy his Service background.

"I think so, yes. I was brought up to respect the people you're working for. The Army instils this into you. You're taught to do things and whether you think they make sense or not, you get on and do them and asks questions later.

"I think it's similar in football, although there are probably a few rebels about who

will just say, "I'm not doing that", but if that's the way the manager wants you to play, you've got to go with it."

In life, as on the pitch, Whittingham knows what to aim for – and goes for it. And more often than not he makes sure he is ahead of the game.

To give him the option of progressing further in football after retiring from playing – admittedly an event still some way off – he took his full coaching badge when

he was with Aston Villa and when we spoke was in the process of updating his qualification to conform with European football regulations.

"I have an advantage from that point of view. Two or three years down the line this qualification is going to be part of the job specifications for every club. The new system is good

because whereas the old full coaching badge was mainly just about football techniques, now they're teaching coaches about fitness, food, dealing with the media and dealing with players – you know, the man-management side."

But Whittingham is realistic enough to know that, even with his credentials, an extended career in football is by no means assured.

As he spoke, a home move from Lichfield, Staffordshire, was being planned and he was looking at the possibility of going into the leisure business with a view to the future.

After several years of moving about with the Army and football, this would mean a more settled life in the Portsmouth area with his wife Martha and sons Joss (7), Max (3) and Alfie (1).

The inevitable question about his sons forming a lethal strike force in years to come was fielded with his trademark grin.

"I don't know. I'd like them to become sportsmen, that's all – because I think you have a much happier outlook on life, you are a lot healthier and the camaraderie helps tremendously.

"Not just in the getting out and playing, but in the determination it gives you to win, the fairness you get when you lose... the outstanding discipline of life, really."

# Sure-footed career of two halves

1982: Guy left school at 17 with O-levels in English, maths, geography, woodwork and technical drawing. Didn't think he was good enough to play football professionally so joined the Army because of its sport opportunities.

1984: Posted to Munster, played football for BAOR.

1987-89: Posted to SEME Bordon as PTI. Army first-team regular. In 1988-89 scored 87 goals in 99 games for Army, Combined Services, Southern Counties, Yeovil, Waterlooville, SEME Bordon and D Coy SEME. Voted Army Footballer of Year.

Recommended to Portsmouth FC manager Alan Ball by SEME coach, SSgt Chris Eade and signed by Ball's successor, John Gregory (now at Aston Villa).

1992-93: Scored 47 goals, including club league record.

1993: Signed by Ron Atkinson for Aston



Past glories: Army footballer of the year

Villa for £1million-plus.

1994: Signed by Trevor Francis for Sheffield Wednesday. Scored nine goals in 16 games. Moved to midfield by new manager, David Pleat. Two loan spells with Wolves.

1999: Signed on loan by Alan Ball for Portsmouth as striker. Scored seven goals in nine games towards end of 98-99 season to help rescue club from relegation. Returned to Sheff Weds; loaned to Watford. Re-signed by Ball in July on two-year contract for Portsmouth. Scored five goals in seven pre-season friendlies. Opened his 1999-2000 league tally with a goal at home to Sheffield United.





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## BRIEFS

### Football side sees double

RHEINDAHLEN Area Support Unit FC has completed the double, winning both the North Rhine Inter Services' football league division two championship and the division two cup, playing a total of 22 games and losing just one.

### Put your rugby skills on trial

IF you think you have what it takes to represent the Army at rugby turn up at the military stadium Aldershot at 1000 on Wednesday, November 17. Following the trials a squad of players will be selected for the Army A XV, giving rugby coach Maj Andy Hickling of ATR Basingstoke the chance to see potential players performing at a level above normal club rugby.

For more information contact Gavin Williams, Army youth development officer on Winchester Mil (9)4275 4330.

### Whistle-blower wins award

THE men in black may not always be the most popular people on the football pitch but Cpl Danny Steele, R Sigs has had his reward in another way – by being named Army referee of the year.

Cpl Steele, who works as a storeman in the SQMS store at HQ Northern Ireland, Lisburn, has been refereeing for two years, so he was doubly delighted to be chosen as the best referee in the Army worldwide.

About to be promoted to Sgt, Cpl Steele was awarded the Dobsons' trophy in recognition of his achievement.

The class two referee has ambitions to go to the top in refereeing and has his eyes set on FIFA in future.

Maj Max Hanlon, chairman of the NI Army football association referees committee, said: "Cpl Steele is enthusiastic and committed and has been a busy referee, instrumental in recruiting and retaining other referees."

### RASU rounders victory

OPERATIONAL commitments meant only five units sent teams to the British Army (Germany) inter-unit rounders championships at JHQ. Women from RASU, led by Cpl Chrissy Helm, retained the BA(G) rounders trophy when they beat 1 REME, 1 UKDSR, 3 REME and 2 CS Regt. The top two teams, RASU and 1 REME, will move on to play in the Army championships at Worthy Down in September.



Cpl Danny Steele

## BOXING



Good combination: Light middle Pte Jim Hickman in action against Cpl Jimmy McGloin

# Paras clinch boxing crown in final bout

IN one of the closest-fought boxing matches of the year, 1 Para battled through to beat 1 Kings 5-4 to win the grade three novice inter-unit finals.

"It was nose-to-tail stuff all night," said Capt Mick Hunt, boxing officer of 1 Kings. "The matches were absolutely terrific and so close it was not decided until the final bout. All credit to Maj Baldwin and his team."

Maj Ben Baldwin, boxing officer of 1 Para, was also full of praise for his men who put up a spirited display and had just enough to take the honours. "It was a great achievement," he said.

## PRESSURE

At bantam, Pte Aaron Bonnamy won a unanimous decision over Kgn Corky Corkhill with some good left-hand work.

At feather, LCpl Paul Layland was a majority winner over LCpl Liam Smith. Layland repeated an earlier points decision over the capable Smith.

Pte Nigel Brett won unanimously over LCpl Stevie Pye in the lightweight contest. Brett applied controlled pressure from the first bell, working effectively to head and body for a clear verdict. Pye never stopped trying, but had to take several good shots.

At light-welter, LCpl Stu Mann was a unanimous points victor over LCpl Iain Bloomfield. The more experienced Mann controlled from ring centre, scoring well from his southpaw stance and forcing two standing counts on the paratrooper.

At welter, Kgn Stevie Hayes won unanimously over Pte Ray Raymond. Hayes scored a knockdown in the first and his aggression proved decisive over the three rounds. Raymond tried to get his jab working in the last, but could not find the range for his big right which had accounted for his previous opponents.

At light-middle, Pte James Hickman took a unanimous decision over Cpl Jimmy McGloin with some eye-catching combinations.

At middle, Cpl Roy Purkins won unanimously over LCpl Paul McMullen. Effective left-hand work from Purkins allowed him to control the action from a distance before following up with good combinations towards the end.

At light-heavy, LCpl Tony Longworth won a majority decision over Pte James Brown.

At heavyweight, Pte Bubbles Rutherford was a first-round stoppage winner over Kgn Mark Place. Rutherford's first punch, a straight right, dropped Place for the eight count and when his follow-up attack proved too much for the brave Kingsman, the contest was halted.

It has been a successful season for 1 Para boxing team, with 25 wins from 35 contests. Four of the squad went on to become Army individual champions with two runners-up.

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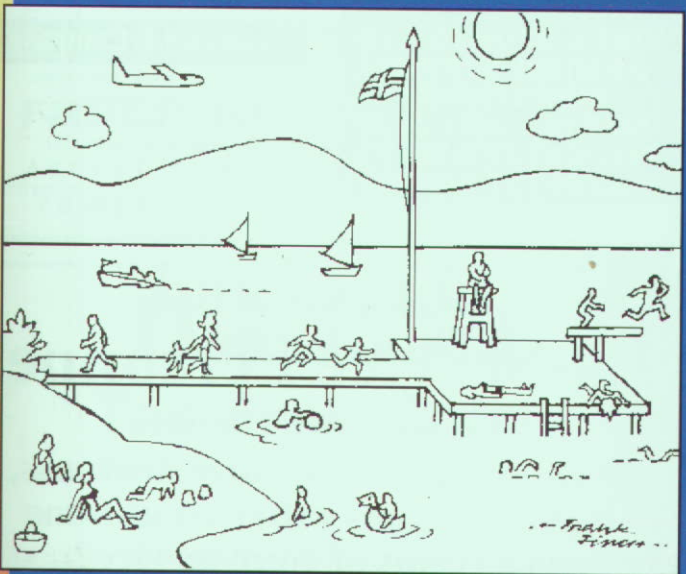
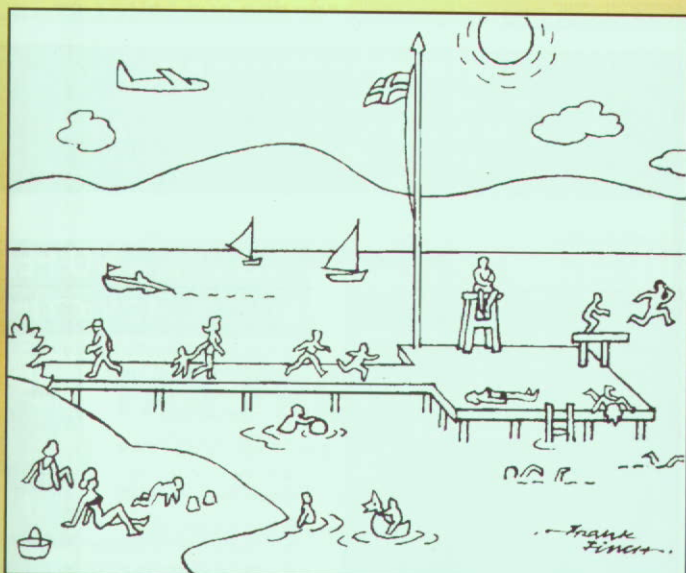
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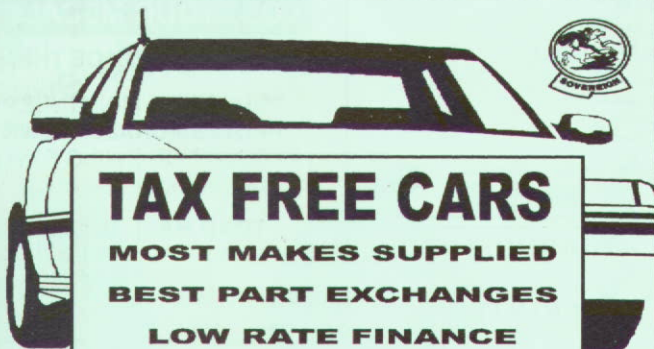
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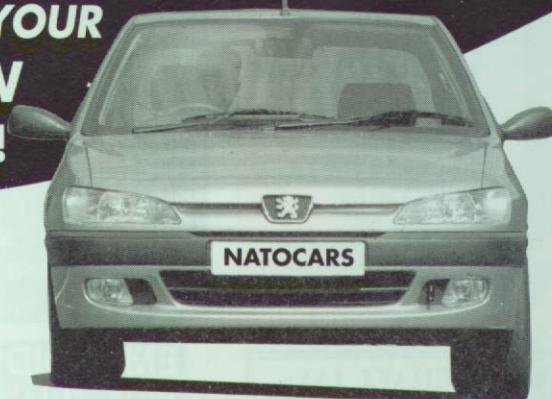
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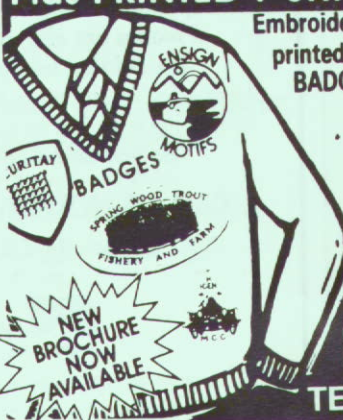
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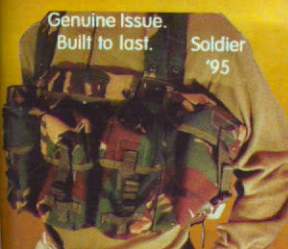
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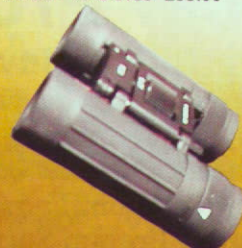
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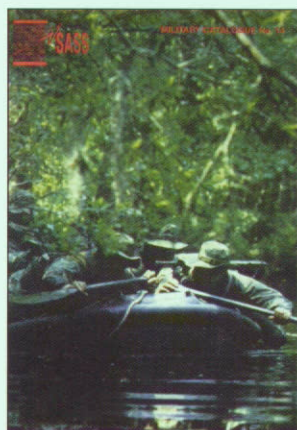
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### CHARITY COMMISSION

### CHARITY: YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS REGIMENTAL TRUST

REFERENCE: 141274 - CD(T)

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at the offices of Messrs Benson Flint, Solicitors, 32 Wilkinson Street, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S10 2GB during normal working hours, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference.

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

### Charity Commission

CHARITY: THE CHARLES BENJAMIN WILSON BEQUEST - 200524

REFERENCE: EN/128472/AFC

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Home Headquarters (North) or Home Headquarters (South). The King's Royal Hussars or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Armed Forces Charities, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference.

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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

JULY 24, 1999

**First (316 runs, £3,800):** Cpl SC Turley, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen.

**Second (309 runs, £1,900):** Cfn ME Black, 12 Regt RA, Sennelager.

**Third (308 runs, £1,300):** Lt Col NF Mulliner, MOD, London.

**Fourth (307 runs, £900):** Sgt LS Dyson, 1 Cheshire, Chesham.

**Fifth (306 runs, £600):** Cpl JM Greenall, 1 QLR.

**Sixth (300 runs, £500):** Cpl JDJ Long, HQ Landcent, Heidelberg.

**Seventh (299 runs, £350):** CSgt DP Elsey, 1 PWRR, Canterbury; Pte DJ Martin, 2 R Anglian, Dhekelia.

**Ninth (297 runs, £150):** Cpl B Looe, 39 Engr Regt, Cambridge; Sgt PR Spaul, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham.

JULY 31, 1999

**First (348 runs, £4,000):** Cpl SRM Kermath, UKDSU Heidelberg.

**Second (343 runs, £2,000):** SSgt DJ Aldred, 1 GH, Osnabrück.

**Third (335 runs, £1,100):** Sgt TJ Donovan, ATR Pirbright; Pte LM Pearce, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen.

**Fifth (333 runs, £600):** Maj MS Cor-

thine, School of Logistics, Deepcut.  
**Sixth (332 runs, £214.29):** LCpl MW Davies, QDG, Catterick; Sgt DK Fielding, 38 Signal Regt (V), Sheffield; Cpl FA McCulloch, RAF High Wycombe; Cpl ML Missen, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; Sig IR Slight, 238 Signal Sqn, London; Sgt ML Thompson, BOD Donnington; Sgt DR Williams, HQ & Central Gp RADC, Aldershot.

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AUGUST 7, 1999

**First (289 runs, £4,000):** WO2 W Burnside, 8 R Irish.

**Second (265 runs, £2,000):** LCpl J Smith, 9/12 L, Swanton Morley.

**Third (261 runs, £1,200):** WO1 RW Jones, Royal Brunei Armed Forces; Cpl BP Morris, 6 Sup Regt

RLC, Gütersloh.

**Fifth (260 runs, £600):** WO2 MJ Dickson, SSO Bielefeld.

**Sixth (258 runs, £500):** Cpl MB Cotton, 1 LI, Edinburgh.

**Seventh (256 runs, £350):** WO2 N Gaskell, ATR Winchester; Capt F Reid, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh.

**Ninth (253 runs, £150):** CSgt JF Porter, Warminster Sp Unit; SSgt NJ Sparrow, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gütersloh.

AUGUST 14, 1999

**First (206 runs, £3,000.00 each):** WO2 JC Conway, DMS Trg Centre, Ash Vale; Cpl SD Trigger, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham.

**Third (203 runs, £1,400.00):** Maj JH Horne, JSPC, Netheravon.

**Forth (202 runs, £800.00 each):** OCdt SJE Cartwright, RMA Sandhurst; Sgt MJ Curran, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh.

**Sixth (200 runs, £450.00 each):** Cfn AP Etler, 7Tpt Regt RLC, Bielefeld; WO2 A O'Neill, 3 R Irish.

**Eighth (199 runs, £200.00 each):** Bdr GL Miller, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh; Cpl GJ Thompson, 7 R Irish; WO2 PR Wyatt, 14 Indep Topo Sqn RE, Monchengladbach.

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# Diary

## Late lunch on Somme wins top story prize

"Will you join me for some lunch, Tommy? I insist. Perhaps we will have a little talk, eh?" He muttered quietly as he pulled the skeletal remains behind the tractor, out of sight of the road. He arranged the corpse into a sitting position and leant it against the tractor wheel. Marcel carefully placed the food and drink before the soldier. . . .

MARCEL's plough kept unearthing unwanted guests in his fields, and each time it meant several days of farming lost as the authorities verified and collected the skeletal remains.

The bones of dead soldiers were far more of a problem than the unexploded shells which turned up whenever he tilled the soil. Those he simply sprayed with yellow paint and left beside the field for collection.

The bizarre solution of the Somme farmer, over whose land tens of thousands of soldiers had fought and died 80 years before, was to honour them in his own way, then plough their remains back under the soil.

"Sleep on, mes braves," he said quietly.

This French farmer's dilemma is the twist in John Shawcross's "Marcel's Guest", the winning short story in the 1999 Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society competition, which attracted more than 1,000 entries.

The best 100 short stories have been published in *Peace and War 1999*, a 304-page soft-back volume available at £9.99 from Clive Booth on 0113 244 1252.

Entries for the next competition close on November 11 and are being widened to include poetry. Short stories (no more than 1,000 words) and poems (750 words) are being invited on the themes "A century of war", "The city of war" and "Humour in uniform". Send a minimum of £5 plus £1 admin fee for each entry to Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RL.

## DATES

### SEPTEMBER

4-5: Minley Show, Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey.

4-5: Berwick Military Tattoo, Berwick upon Tweed. Tickets on 01289 307113.

12: Winchester and District Militaria Society annual exhibition and fair, Guildhall, 1000.

26: Aldershot Militaria Society annual exhibition, The Maltings, Farnham, 1015.

### OCTOBER

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

### NOVEMBER

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

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

27-28: Birmingham International Millennium Tattoo, NEC. Tickets on 0121 200 2222.

● To include public events, contact the Editor.

## Tankies plan £500,000 Whitehall memorial

PAST and present members of the Royal Tank Regiment have launched a £500,000 international appeal to pay for a statue to the regiment. It will be placed in Whitehall adjacent to the Old War Office, where in 1916 the decision was made to procure the first tanks.

Vivien Mallock, a renowned sculptor, has been commissioned to produce the monument, which depicts a Second World War five-man Comet tank crew. It will be an enlargement – 9ft high – of a bronze miniature made in 1953 by the famous Scottish sculptor, George Henry Paulin.

Patron of the memorial trust is Fd Marshal Lord Carver, the most senior officer to have served in the regiment. Vice-patrons include the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, and Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, son of Monty, whose brilliant, tank-led strategies defeated Rommel in the Western Desert.

Among those present for the launch of the appeal were Chelsea Pensioners who had served in the regiment and Maj Bill

Close, MC and bar, who enlisted as a trooper, fought throughout the Second World War, was commissioned during the desert campaign and retired as one of the RTR's most respected officers. He survived the destruction of 11 tanks during the war.

The statue will be on a very shallow plinth, so that even children can touch it, said Gen Sir Antony Walker, who is leading the fund-raising effort. "It is a monument to the men of the regiment, rather than the machines."

Members of the public are being invited to buy a small piece of history: by joining the Friends of the Royal Tank Regiment they will earn the right to have their name entered in the special commemorative book at the Tank Museum in Bovington.

The Royal Tank Regiment Memorial Trust can be reached at Regimental HQ, RTR, Stanley Barracks, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6JA (tel 01929 403448, fax 01929 403488) or via a special web site [www.tank.org.uk](http://www.tank.org.uk)



On the spot: Fd Marshal Lord Carver, right, and Maj Bill Close, launch the RTR memorial appeal in front of a cardboard replica on the proposed Whitehall site. Picture: Steve Dock

## Meanwhile, old Churchill returns to Caen's Hill 112

A RESTORED Churchill Mark VII tank, recovered from a range in the UK, has been transported to Normandy and placed on the site of a costly Second World War action near Caen involving the 43rd (Wessex) Division.

The battle for Hill 112, 10km southwest of the city, raged for nearly two weeks in July 1944 and resulted in grievous casualties for the 7th and 9th Royal Tank Regiments as their out-gunned and out-ranged Churchills took on German Tiger tanks dug-in on the hill.

The restored Churchill, located with the help of the Military Vehicle Trust, was placed near the D8 road close to a memorial erected some time ago by the 43rd (Wessex) Division Association. Its 75mm gun points directly towards Hill 112, 300m to the west.

Cost of the project so far has been £8,500, towards which the Military Vehicle Trust has made a substantial donation. If anyone would like to help, cheques would be gratefully received by 78-year-old veteran Albert Figg, the driving force behind the memorial. Cheques made out to "The Hill 112 Memorial Tank Fund" should be sent to Albert at Reachfar House, Station Road, Teynham, Kent ME9 9SN.

### Written in Purbeck stone

Soldiers from all over the UK, Bosnia, Germany and Cyprus made a pilgrimage to the *Swanage Railway* to see their former Master of Signals, Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle, unveil a large commemorative stone marking the 15-year association between the Royal Corps of



Unveiled: Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle, left, with Swanage Railway secretary Mark Woolley, centre, and Frank Roberts, co-ordinator of the Topham Hatt series of exercises

Signals and the relaid Purbeck Line. The inscribed Purbeck stone has been paid for by members of the Mercury Group, soldiers who have taken part in more than 20 Royal Signals' exercises on the railway since 1984.

Signallers have put in lineside and underground telecommunications between Swanage, Corfe Castle and Norden's park-and-ride station and also helped to install telephone exchanges and refurbish telephones.

### Winston on track for MBE

Jungle tracking expert Winston Harris – or plain Winston as he is widely known in Belize – whose knowledge of foraging and the use of jungle plants for medicinal purposes has been of immense value to soldiers of the Special Air Service, has been congratulated by Lt Col Kevin Hodgson, CO of the British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB), on the MBE he was awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Lt Col Hodgson paid tribute to Winston's 20 years of "outstanding and selfless" support.

## Guernsey stamps celebrate Military Academy's 200 years

GUERNSEY Post Office has issued a set of six stamps to mark 200 years of Sandhurst. A first-day cover was launched at the National Army Museum by Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, son of Monty, who was at Sandhurst in 1907-08 and whose likeness appears on the 44p stamp.

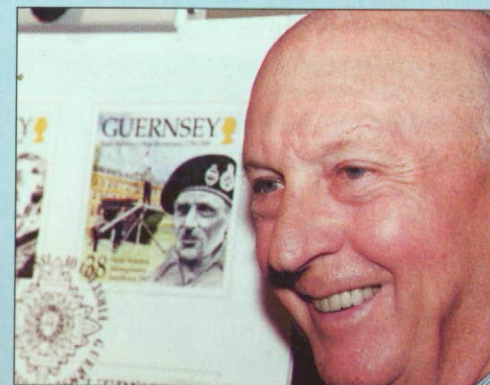
Others honoured are Maj Gen John Le Marchant, who founded a Royal Military College at High Wycombe in 1799, the Duke of York, sponsor in 1802, and "old boys" Fd Marshal Earl Haig (1884-85), actor David Niven (1928-30) and Winston Churchill (1893-95).

More details from Guernsey Post Office, Postal Headquarters, Guelles Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1AA.

### Eddie's everywhere . . .

Capt Wayne Hennessy-Barratt of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, a keen Eddie Stobart-truck spotter, was amazed to see one of the distinctive Carlisle-based vehicles trundling down a dusty road in Macedonia. The enormous vehicle, towing an equally large trailer, arrived in the Balkans to deliver relief aid to Kosovo refugees. After being given local protection by soldiers of 1 KORBR, the truck returned to Italy with a cargo of melons and then picked up ceramic tiles for delivery to the UK.

"I have seen many surprising sights in Macedonia," said Wayne, "but seeing a Stobart truck took my breath away."



Like father: Viscount Montgomery and stamp

### Peter bows out at SENTA

Maj Peter Scott, RA, adjutant at Sennybridge Training Area, was given a champagne farewell breakfast and a three-gun salute after nearly 47 years in the Army. Peter enlisted as a National Serviceman in 1953 and took up the SENTA post as a retired officer in June 1989.

### MP praises reservists

Former war correspondent Martin Bell MP praised the courage of British soldiers when he addressed a lunch in Cardiff to raise awareness about the role of Reserve Forces. "Soldiers sign on to serve in a dangerous environment . . . serving in the Army has a dimension of sacrifice," he said.

## Legends of the regiments and corps

### 3 The Gurkha Museum, Winchester



Legend: A Gurkha symbolically scrapes away desert sand to mark the Gulf ceasefire in February 1991

## At close quarters

THE Gurkha kukri, endless source of legend and myth, has been the traditional Nepalese hand weapon since 1627. Nearly every country boy starts using one in childhood.

The notch in the blade just below the handle is shaped in a traditional Hindu religious symbol denoting "yin and yang" and also serves to deflect blood from running on to the handle and making it slippery.

Kukris range from the basic to ornamented weapons wrought in the finest steel. The best general purpose kukris in recent years have been made from jeep or Land Rover springs. Two smaller knives inserted in the scabbard, known as *chakmak*, are used for skinning, tinder lighting or sharpening.

### DEADLY EXTENSION

The kukri's deadliness lies in the arm of the wielder. Those brought up to handle one since childhood use it as an extension of their arm, placing each stroke with precision and using the blade's weight to maximum effect. Westerners are usually no more lethal with it than a billhook.

In Nepal it is used for chopping wood, butchering animals, cutting crops and only occasionally for settling scores. Myths about drawing blood whenever it is unsheathed, and of throwing it using the notch as a sight, are just that . . . myths.

● A number of kukris are displayed in the Gurkha Museum, Winchester, which is open Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sundays and Bank Holiday, 12pm-4pm.



# Bulletin board

## Forgotten tributes to long-lost heroes

CAPT Francis Dodgson, 8 Yorks (Green Howards), died in action on July 10, 1916 as his company attacked Contalmaison on the Somme. He was hit in the head about 100 yards from the objective while leading his men over open ground.

Soon afterwards his grieving mother commissioned a granite post from a stonemason in Amiens and had it put on the spot where her son's grave had been. The original wooden cross which marked the grave is now in Salisbury Cathedral.

### NARROW TRACK

When the land was sold in 1962, Francis Dodgson's little stone post was moved a short distance. It is still there today, a small tribute to a long-dead hero. You will find the post beside a narrow track not far from Bailiff Wood, where he died.

Dodgson's post (and a map of its precise location) is one of about 40 which appear in *Private Memorials of the Great War on the Western Front*, by Barrie Thorpe, a former memorials officer for the Western Front Association. Privately funded, they do not fall under the auspices of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or regimental associations, and many have been neglected.

The 118-page soft-back is available, price £5 including p&p, from The Western Front Association, P O Box 1914, Reading, Berks RG4 7YP.

## Top female engineers' chance to win £1,000

AMBITIOUS under-30-year-olds are being invited to apply for the prestigious Young Woman Engineer of the Year award run by the Institute of Incorporated Engineers (IIE). Contenders must have appropriate engineering qualifications alongside relevant training and responsibility in the Incorporated Engineer sector.

The winner will receive £1,000 and a silver rose bowl.

Closing date is October 11 and entry forms can be obtained by contacting the Secretary's Office, IIE, on 0171 836 3357.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Senior appointments:** Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, late QOH – To be Governor Royal Hospital Chelsea, Aug 9.

**Colonels:** N A Clissitt – To be Director of Studies, Kuwait Command and Staff College, July 21; R M Crombie – To Regt Colonel, RHQ R Signals, July 19; C Blount – To be Comdt SAAVN, July 5; P C Maynard – To be Colonel Special Projects DI(ST), July 5; M P Manson – To be Project Manager Army Dept Man of Info Systems, July 12.

**Lieutenant Colonels:** W E Brewin, R Signals – To HQ 5 Div, Oct 11; T J P Bryning, R Signals – To RSS, Oct 11; A D H Chapman, RTR – To ATRD CATC, Sept 16; J P Crawford, REME – To DHS(AE), June 1; P J Davies, R

## Officer takes up post at Baltic Defence College

LT COL Andrew Parrott RLC has taken up his post as the British member of the Directing Staff at the Baltic Defence College at Tartu in South-Eastern Estonia.

Opened in February, the college has been established under the auspices of Nato's Partnership for Peace programme to provide staff training to officers from all three services of the Armed Forces of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

An international staff from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, France, Germany, Switzerland, the United States and the UK work side-by-side with instructors from the three Baltic nations.

Lt Col Parrott, who until July commanded the Scottish Transport Regiment RLC based in Dunfermline, is the only British Army officer serving in Estonia. He and his wife, Mary, will live in a suburb of

Tartu, Estonia's second city, three miles from the college. The appointment is due to last until August 2001.



Only Brit in Tartu: Lt Col Andrew Parrott

During the Soviet occupation of Estonia, Tartu boasted a very large airbase, now closed. A small part of the base is occupied by a unit of the reformed Estonian Army. In the near future Tartu is to become even more of a military learning centre when the Estonian Army Officers' School opens in a building adjacent to the Baltic Defence College.

## SEARCHLINE

**Royal Marines 747 Squad:** 40th anniversary reunion in July 2000. All members who formed up in Deal in July 1960 are asked to contact Harry Briggs, 7 Eltham Green, Eltham, London SE9 5JZ (tel 0181 859 0846).

**The Crown Imperial Society,** formed in 1973 to study history, traditions, uniforms and insignia of Forces of the Crown and her allies, holds monthly meetings in London and Strensall, Yorkshire, and has a quarterly journal. Membership details from Publicity Officer, Crown Imperial, 37 Wolsey Close, Southall, Mddx UB2 4NQ. Membership details of the **Indian Military History Society** can be obtained from the same address.

The **Gordon Highlanders Museum** now has a site on the Internet. It can be visited at [www.gordonhighlanders.com](http://www.gordonhighlanders.com)

The BBC is researching television and radio programmes which will help viewers find special people or objects that have gone missing from their lives. **The Search** will be broadcast in the autumn. Researcher Anna Sheldermine on 0181 752 5970 wishes to hear from anyone with a story of, for example, people being helped in a dramatic way by a stranger who did not wait around to be thanked.

Garry Marsh, formerly of the Royal Engineers (1965-70), would like to hear from **Jon White**. The two sappers served together in Germany before Jon was posted to Cyprus. Anyone with information about Mr White, please contact Mr Marsh, 15 Wedgewood Close Fortfield Green, Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 9YE, (tel 01275 830897).

**Ken Pepper**, a sapper (service number 1448125) attached to the West Yorks in the Falklands 1939 to 1940, is sought by a friend from the islands who now lives in England. Anyone with information is asked to contact Graham Bound, Soldier Magazine (01252 347362).

## RETURN OF ITEMS

On Sept 1, **24 Airmobile Brigade Combat Service Support Battalion** will re-title to **13 (Air Assault) Regiment RLC** as part of 16 Air Assault Brigade. Members of the CSS Bn Officers' Mess who have presented articles to the mess since April 1993 are asked to contact Capt Hing on Colchester Mil (94651) 3086 or civil 01206 783086 if they wish the item returned. Pieces not claimed will be retained by 13 (Air Assault) Regt RLC Officers' Mess.

R Signals, Oct 18; P D Raby, RLC – To CASCOM USA, Nov 22; L A Relph, R Signals – To HQ 4 Div, Oct 25.

C C Richards, R Signals – To HQ DCSA, Aug 30; D I Richardson, DWR – To DI Trg Pol (A), Dec 6; A W Russ, R Signals, AD Info, June 21; D S Short, AAC – To JSCSC, Aug 3; A S Tuggey, RE – To DA Riga, Sept 5; D D S A Vandeleur, Coldm Gds – To DGD&D, Oct 4; H O Walters, Int Corps – To HQ NI, Aug 6; J F Wheeler, RE – To HQ ARRC, Aug 16.

### Retirements

**Brigadier:** C F P Horsfall, late RAEC, to retire July 23.

**Colonels:** H E Welby-Everard, late RA, to retire July 22; J A Hodges, late RMP, July 15.

Signals – To RMCS, Sept 27; C A Dixon, RLC – To DGES(A), Aug 9; S G Donaldson, RA – To BMATT Harare, Jan 13; T R Duggleby, RE – To HQ BFFI, Aug 23; T H Eveleigh, REME – DASS HQ QMG, June 14; T J Greathead, RE – To HQ EinC(A), Aug 31.

M C Heelis, REME – To DGES(A), July 5; B Hewitt, R Signals – To HQ Nato, June 14; C N Holman, RE – To DOMD, June 6; J P Hudson, R Signals – To SHAPE, Oct 18; J P Inman, RLC – To D MAT SP(A), Aug 23; I S James, RE – To HQ SFOR, Aug 1; J M Martin, 9/12 L – To PJHQ(UK), Sept 28; T M McMullen, Int Corps – To JSIO, July 19; J G McMullen, RE – To HQ EinC(A), Oct 4; D Newell, RLC – To DLSA, July 6; N C Pedley, Int Corps – To HQ AG, Dec 6; N G T Polley, KRH – To ACDS(OR) Land, Sept 27; D G Proctor, R Signals – To HQ



# Win the Station X set – plus the book

STATION X, the Channel 4 documentary series about the Second World War codebreakers of Bletchley Park, held a large TV audience spell-bound earlier this year.

And such was the popular fascination with the story of those who worked secretly in the Victorian mansion in Buckinghamshire that Michael Smith's accompanying book of the same name became a number one best-seller.

The complete four-part TV series has now been released by VCI in a 205-minute double-video box – which you could win, together with a copy of the book.

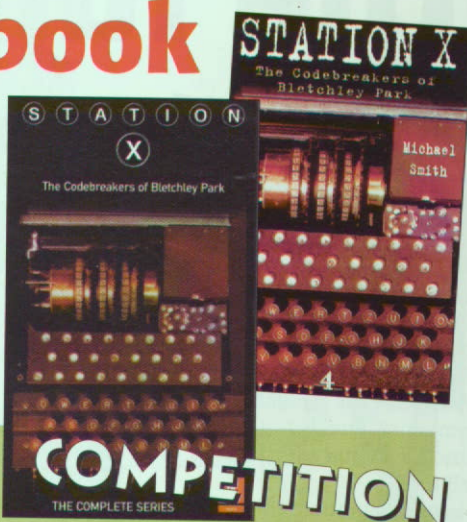
*Soldier* has three bumper packages – each including a video box normally priced at £19.99 and a copy of the hardback book, published by Channel 4 books at £14.99 – to give away in a competition (details on the right).

The videos and book are full of disclosures, some in their own words, about the lives of the Service men and women, schoolboys, students, academics, crossword fanatics and chess players who helped crack secrets such as that of the ingenious German Enigma machine, with its astonishing 150 million million million configurations.

Most famous of all the codebreakers was Alan Turing, "father" of the modern computer.

*Station X* is part of VCI's Second World War 60th anniversary commemorative package of videos, including the complete series of *The World at War*, *Wish You Were Here* and *The Land Girls*.

Deciphering is also the subject of a recent DD Video release, *Breaking the Codes* (145 min,



**To win one of our three Station X video-and-book packages, answer the following question on a postcard and send it to Station X Competition, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, by October 1. Don't forget to include your name and address. One entry per person, first three out of the hat win a prize. The Editor's decision is final.**

**Question: Which Bletchley Park code-breaker became known as the father of the modern computer?**

£19.99), dealing not only with Bletchley Park but also with Room 40 in the First World War and Japanese codes cracked by the Americans in the Second.

## Videos

### Footage of the Forgotten Army

Other recent DD Video releases:

**Jungle Battle Burma:** British veterans tell what it was like to fight at close quarters in the Forgotten Army in some of the worst conditions on earth. Extensive footage of Kohima, plus rare film of the final Allied assault on Rangoon and the liberation of Japanese PoW camps. (102min, £12.99; DD Video hotline 01829 741490)

**War in the Trenches:** Shocking account of the day-to-day lives of ordinary soldiers on the Western front in the First World War, with archive footage and photographs. (Cromwell Productions, 55min, £12.99.)

**The History of Bombing:** From the first Zeppelin and Gotha raids on London during the First World War to the smart weapons of the Gulf. (50min, £12.99.)

**The Battle of Stirling Bridge:** Story of the great Scots triumph over the English on September 11, 1297, illustrated by re-enactments, includes a reassessment of William Wallace. (Cromwell, 55 min, £12.99.)

## REUNIONS

**Staffordshire Regiment:** Annual reunion on Sept 11 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (sae please).

**Royal Green Jackets Association (West Midlands Branch):** Next social evening takes place on Sept 17 in Birmingham. For further information, contact Peter Knight on 0121 427 7758 or Paul Daley on 0121 329 3756.

**132 Battery (The Bengal Rocket Troop), 39 Regiment RA:** All-ranks reunion on Sept 18 in Newcastle. Ex-members invited. Contact WO2 (BSM) Highfield, 132 Bty, 39 Regt RA, Albermarle Barracks, Harlow Hill, Newcastle NE15 0RF.

**6 Boys Training Regiment, Beverley:** Reunion in Victory Service Club, London on Sept 25. Ring Tony Hull on 01202 770261 or Ray Toyne on 01904 765137.

**18 Tpt and Mov Sqn RLC and 43 Tpt and Mov Sqn RCT:** Reunion to be held at Napier Barracks, Shorncliffe, on Sept 25. Contact A Brint on 01303 225054 or P Epps on 01303 225055.

**12 Bn, Devonshire Regiment (6 Airborne**

**Landing Bde):** 53rd annual reunion dinner at the Devon Hotel by-pass (Mattford roundabout), Exeter on Oct 9. Families welcome. Contact Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (tel 01392 874596).

**1 Bn, Somerset Light Infantry (Jan 1955 to Dec 1959):** Fifth annual Germany, UK, Malta and Cyprus reunion at Ladymead School, Cheddon Road, Taunton, Somerset on Oct 9. Tickets from Dave Williams, 20 Knowle End, Woolavington, Bridgwater TA7 8JH (tel 01278 683022).

**Hebrides WO's and Sgts' Mess:** Silver anniversary supper on Oct 23. Ex-members of RARH WO's and Sgts' Mess welcome. Accommodation available. Details from PMC, WO2 (SMIG) Paul Codd, DERA Hebrides Ranges, Isle of Benbecula, Scotland HS7 5LA (tel 01870 604418).

**4 Coy, 3rd Battalion, The Coldstream Guards (1950 – 55):** The eighth reunion dinner will be held in Birmingham on April 15, 2000. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull, HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

**Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and**

**Cameron's):** Regimental gathering, Gareloch training camp, Apr 15-16, 2000. Members should contact branch officers as soon as possible. Further details from chairman Strathclyde Branch, 28 Howgate Avenue, Glasgow G15 8QN (tel/fax 0141 944 5223).

**International Association of Airborne Veterans:** Reunion planned in Marseilles, France, April 26-May 2, 2000. Details from IAAV, Suite 340, 2506 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614 (tel (773) 327 3120).

**Slim School, Cameron Highlands, Malaya:** Former pupils and teachers who attended this Army boarding school sought for reunion planned in Oct next year. E-mail [Gloriogomm@aol.com](mailto:Gloriogomm@aol.com) or tel 01453 545771.

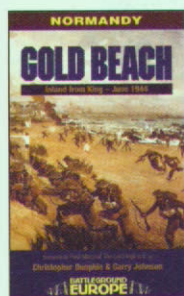
## PRIZEWINNERS

The five lucky winners of copies of Sir Chris Bonington's book *Tibet's Secret Mountain* (June competition) were 24841315 Cpl Robertson, Saxon Det RLC, Palace Barracks, BFPO 806; P Francis, Church Hill, Bromham, Chippenham Wilts; Cpl P Timms RMP, 160 Pro Coy RMP, Aldershot; C B Coull, City and NE London ACF, Chelsea; and A Howlett, Knightcott Gardens, Banwell, Weston-Super-Mare.



## New series launched with Pegasus Bridge

AS the 20th century battlefield tour phenomenon grows, and the film *Saving Private Ryan* stimulates interest in Normandy locations, Leo Cooper and Pen &

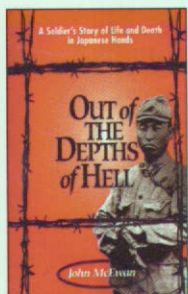


Sword Books have launched the first two titles in a "Battleground Europe WW2" series, detailing the sites actions, museums, memorials, cemeteries and tours and associated organisations. Carl Shilleto's **Pegasus Bridge, Merville Battery and**

Christopher Dunphie's and Gary Johnson's **Gold Beach, Inland from King - June 1944** are published in well-illustrated paperbacks at £9.99 each.

## Face that haunts a Changi victim

FOR almost 58 years the face of a Chinese girl has haunted 78-

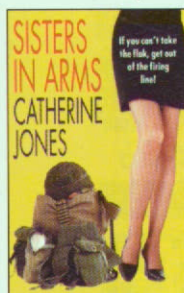


year-old John McEwan. The gunner of 155th (Lanarkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment RA, one of a burial party from Changi Gao, Singapore, tried to comfort her as she lay dying among mutilated bodies after an appalling massacre of civilians by the

Japanese occupation forces in 1942. This and similar barbarism suffered later by him and others in the Kinkasaki copper mine in Formosa are described in the movingly and compellingly written **Out of the Depths of Hell** (Leo Cooper, £14.95).

## Romance, Army-style makes the shortlist

CATHERINE Jones is in the Jillie Cooper class of writers, which is meant as a compliment.



*Gumboots and Pearls*, her co-authored stories of life as an Army wife, was, like *The Backstabber's Guide*, which she edited, witty and highly entertaining. She has followed her debut novel *Army Wives* with **Sisters in Arms**

(Piatkus, paperback, £5.99), set in Army locations and shortlisted for the 1999 Romantic Novelists' Award. After eight years in the Army (and her husband's 25) they are now settling in civvie street with their three children.

# The full Monty, warts and all

FORMED in September 1941 from the Western Desert Force and disbanded at the end of July, 1945 when transformed into British Troops Austria, the Eighth Army remains one of the best-known military formations of all time.

Its substantial achievements under Gens Montgomery, Leese and McCreery are related in *A Noble Crusade*, claimed by the publishers to be the first single-volume complete story of the army.

The events in North Africa are well documented here, as they have been elsewhere. As if they were not enough to justify the army's place in history, Montgomery's victorious soldiers went on to fight in Sicily and Italy, all of which is given the full treatment (or should it be the "full Monty"?), including high-command clashes with the American allies.

## DESERTION

The author tells the story, warts and all. Perhaps surprisingly, we learn that desertion was a major problem, peaking in 1944, probably due to the strain of service at Anzio and during the advance on Rome.

An appendix lists all 34 Victoria Crosses awarded to the Eighth Army, 20 in North Africa and the remainder in Italy. Half were posthumous and sadly not all bravery was recognised.

Take, for example, the case of Cpl Jimmy Barnes, of 2nd London Irish, who at the Italian hamlet of Sinagoga led his section against an 88mm gun until he was the sole survivor before he himself was also killed. Although recommended for a posthumous VC by his CO, it was never awarded.

Just recently Jemadar Ali Hadar died aged 85 at his home in the Kohat district of Pakistan. His VC was won while fighting near Fusignano,

**A Noble Crusade** by Richard Doherty (Spellmount, £24.95).

**Eighth Army's Greatest Victories** by Adrian Stewart (Leo Cooper, £19.95).

## Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free professional military booksearch. Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315).

E-mail address: [books@helion.co.uk](mailto:books@helion.co.uk)  
Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

Italy, as a member of the 13th Frontier Forces Rifles in January, 1945. His death has reduced the total of all surviving Second World War VCs to 25.

The Eighth Army celebrated the end of the war on May 2, 1945, but the joy was muted. Doherty writes: "Men were still dying of wounds and bodies of those killed earlier were still being discovered... Wars can never end cleanly; while succeeding generations may look back and say that a war ended on a specific date this ignores the many issues

which have to be resolved at the end of any war."

It was the now well-documented problems with Cosacks and Croats that were the most traumatic to befall British soldiers in the early days of peace in Austria, an experience that most of those involved would prefer to forget.

Much has already been written about the Eighth Army – the bibliography lists 106 titles as well as articles and unpublished sources – but *A Noble Crusade* is to be recommended for bringing together the complete story. – BJ

ADRIAN Stewart's well-informed work is a substantial addition to the Eighth Army bibliography, turning the spotlight on what the author calls the "forgotten victories" from Alam Halfa to Tunis, 1942-43.

*Eighth Army's Greatest Victories* adds fresh detail to our knowledge of the former battle as well as the reason for the escape of most of Rommel's defeated forces after El Alamein, the contribution of Ultra, and the close co-operation of the army and the Desert Air Force. – CH

## IN BRIEF

**Wiltshire and the Great War** by T S Crawford. There were 30 Army camps in the county during the First World War and it was the major training area in the UK. (DPF Publishing, 1 Mapledurham View, Reading RG31 6LF, softback, £12.95.)

**Put That Light Out!** by Mike Brown. Illustrated history of Britain's Civil Defence Services in the Second World War. (Sutton, softback, £10.99.)

**Towers of Strength: Martello Towers Worldwide** by W H Clements. Photographs, text and locations of the 41 towers still standing along the Kent,

Sussex, Essex and Suffolk coasts almost 200 years after they were built to thwart Napoleon. (Pen & Sword, £19.95.)

**Soldier Against the Odds** by Lofty Large. Wounded and captured at the Battle of the Imjin River in Korea while serving with the Glorious Glosters, the author was subsequently declared unfit for further military service. That did not stop him passing the SAS selection course and serving all over the world. (Mainstream Publishing, £15.99.)

**Liaison 1914** by Edward Spears. New edition of a classic,





# Soldiering on, pigless

THE illustration, above, from the cover of the intriguingly-titled *Sell the Pig and Buy Me Out*, is by the author, Lt Col (Retd) Bill Watson, who also provided the many black-and-white cartoons which illustrate his amusing text.

The 88-year-old, who served in the Royal Army Educational Corps, sub-titles the 180-page hardback book "Humorous Aspects of Military Life, History and Tradition".

His aim is to portray and pay tribute to "the wry, dry humour" with which British soldiers confront the inconve-

niences of military life – and to do his bit to preserve some of the comic sayings of the military, which he feels are dying out.

Hence the title – a disillusioned soldier's imaginary letter home to his mother, followed by Mum's reply: "Dear Son, Sorry, pig's dead. Soldier on." The saying stuck.

This entertaining volume is available from PO Box 33, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 7PP at £15 (inc p&p) in UK and £17.50 (inc) overseas (sterling cheques only, payable to "Manuscript Research").



(One of Lt Col Bill Watson's cartoons from *Sell the Pig and Buy Me Out*)

compelling account of the Great Retreat, first published in 1930. (Cassell, £25.)

**The First World War** by John Keegan. *Tour de force* by one of our foremost military historians, winning him the Westminister Medal this year. Out this month in paperback. (Pimlico, £12.50.)

**Tank Alert** by Ivor D Astley. Personal account of experiences in the Normandy campaign as a member of 236 Battery, 59th Regiment, RA, part of the 43rd Wessex Division. (Stockwell, paperback, £5.99.)

**Kitchener: The Road to**

**Omdurman** by John Pollock. Readable first half of a two-volume biography, taking the story to 1902, now in paperback. (Constable, £12.99.)

**VCs of the First World War: Gallipoli** by Stephen Snelling. Illustrated stories of the 39 men from Commonwealth and Empire armies who won the highest military honour in this campaign. (Sutton, paperback, £10.99.)

**My Trinity** by Eric Howard. Autobiographical, 432-page journey through the Scots Guards, Palestine and UK police, and the Intelligence Corps, where he was described as "probably the

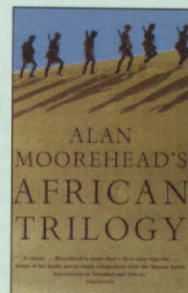
finest field operator" since the Second World War. The author and his wife are now SSAFA voluntary casework officers. (Pentland Press, £17.50.)

**The Sherman Tank** by Roger Ford. Cutaways, artworks, action photography add to this large-format study of this famous piece of US hardware. (Spellmount Weapons of War series, £14.99.)

**The Forgotten Soldier** by Guy Sajer. First-hand story of a Second World War German soldier on the Eastern Front. First published in 1971. (Cassell Military paperbacks, £6.99.)

## One to put down only occasionally

WHEN in 1944 Alan Moorehead published his acclaimed three books about the North African campaign, which he had covered extensively for the *Daily Express*, he modestly called them a "rambling and personal story" because he did not have enough official information to hand to write a definitive history. The fact is that he was probably the greatest correspondent of the war. Find out why in the brilliant **African Trilogy**, re-published by Cassell at £25. The only reason for wanting to put it down (occasionally) will be its weight.



## Ulster history lacks the Army dimension

THE publisher's blurb describes Jack Holland's **Hope Against History: The Ulster Conflict** (Hodder & Stoughton, £17.99) as "what will probably be seen as the definitive history" of the Troubles. Most who have experienced the events of the past 30 years from a British Army standpoint would probably disagree, for although the book is an insider's balanced, reasoned and well-written view from a political perspective (spiced by some titillating "disclosures") how can it make this claim while making only fleeting references to the British Army?



## War writing, from Sassoon to Harris

EXTRACTS from 40 powerful works of 20th-century fiction can be found in **The Vintage Book of War Stories**. Ernest Hemingway, Siegfried Sassoon, Pat Barker, Laurie Lee, Alistair MacLean, Robert Harris, Louis de Bernières, Norman Mailer, Joseph Heller and Kurt Vonnegut are just a few of those represented. Editor Sebastian Faulks is well supported by Jorg Hensgen but disappointingly excluded a taste of his own best-seller *Birdsong* from this otherwise excellent page-turning international anthology. The Vintage Original paperback is published this month at £7.99.





# Mailbag

## Paras must keep badge

REGARDING the recent furore over plans to abolish the Pegasus badge, I served in the Parachute Regt from 1966 to 1979, and there is one thing that unites us: the Pegasus emblem. Paras are fiercely proud of the "flying donkey". Leave well alone. The red beret and Pegasus have served in conflicts all over the world, including Aden, Borneo, Suez and the Falklands.

The Government just has to look to the US, which retained the 101st (Screaming Eagles) as legends. — I Reid, Fife.

● See Vox pop, Page 66, for more views on this controversial issue — Editor.

## Kosovo: Paras not only troops

I HAVE been reading your report on the race for Pristina. Although we have the greatest respect for the Paras and the Gurkhas, they were not the only people there. And, not only were they the last to arrive, but they were also the first to leave.

The fact is that the first unit to enter the city was D Sqn KRH. Because we arrived so early and the Serb army had not withdrawn, we had to withdraw and spend the night under a flyover. — A soldier of D Sqn, Kings Royal Hussars (name supplied).

● We received several letters like this. Another writer suggested that some readers might gain the impression that the Paras were the only unit in Kosovo. We understand these feelings, but it is simply not possible to cover the story of every unit immediately.

However soldiers with the KRH Battle Group will have been pleased to read the story of their liberation of Podujevo in our August issue. — Editor.

## Korean War dead

FORTY-SIX years ago controversy surrounded the total of our colleagues left in Korea. There still appears to be some confusion. July's *Soldier*, page 21, mentions 687 killed, while on page 33 the number increases to 1,078. Our veterans' association agrees with the latter figure.

However I have a photograph of the British memorial at Pusan which displays "United Kingdom dead 1,103," which I believe is the correct figure. It probably includes 25 who died after the ceasefire and those whose remains were never recovered and therefore have no known grave. — Jim Jacobs, Fareham.

● Apologies for the discrepancy. Korean War statistics are difficult to pin down but invariably shocking. For example, nearly 93,000 Allied soldiers became prisoners, and many died. Communist forces suffered more than a million dead. — Editor.

# They all merit remembrance

MY son, a bandsman in 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, was one of the seven lads killed on the bandstand at Regents Park in July, 1982. It took me 16 years to get his name added to my local memorial. Last year on the November 1 the local branch of the Royal British Legion had a service and dedicated a new garden of remembrance. Names from both world wars were added, as well as a young Royal Marine killed in Korea in 1952 and my son, Rfn L K Smith.

What I would like to see now is for all of our Servicemen and women who have been killed in any theatre of war, anywhere in the world, from the First World

War right up to the present day, to be added to their local memorials. It really does not matter whether the fight was for

### Prize letter

Britain or for some other country. They all deserve to be remembered in their home

town and by us all with grateful thanks.

If anyone reading this has lost a loved one and thinks the same as me, perhaps this letter will encourage them to fight for the right to get names added to their local memorial, or a new one erected.

I want everyone to know that you can win if you are willing to keep on fighting. Just don't give up. — Mrs S P Mitchell, 65 Layton Crescent, Brentford, Middx.

## Astounded by 'pilot' study

IN THE article "Why do you want to leave the Army?", (July) it was stated that the Adjutant General has commissioned an in-depth study of retention issues. I was astounded to learn that the Army is employing a former pilot to do this job (no disrespect intended to person or badge).

People who are in the know are on the ground, such as the Jocks, the Toms and the gunners.

The review is to be completed by 2005, but by that time the Army will have more problems than it can handle. So I have a few suggestions.

- Employ a large civilian guard force to relieve pressure on soldiers.

- Release more funds for exercises at home and abroad.

- Ensure brigades take on fewer PR and KAPE events, which stretch manpower already at a low level.

- Look towards an investment scheme into which younger soldiers pay a regular sum. The longer they stay in, the more the policy will be worth. — Sgt A McPherson, Stirling.

YOU can have as many study teams as you like. The results will be the same: for the majority of ranks, a career in the Army offers very little stability and regular separation from families with minimal benefits. — Cpl Long, BFPO 563

I RETIRED as a WO1 (ASM) in the REME. During my 22 years I was posted to all points, including Hong Kong, Singapore, Borneo, Malaya, Cyprus, Germany and UK.

When in Germany, I served in various non-garrison towns, and as I was always being occupied in different locations, I never had the chance to be bored.

It is not so now. There are hardly any postings abroad for married men. As for garrison towns, it is possible for a man to

serve seven years in the same married quarter and be posted to four units.

Young men and women join

the Forces to travel and remove boredom from their civilian lives. Money is not always the first priority for a young person.

Also, units are under-staffed. I noticed in your July issue, for example, that 1 Para was brought up to strength with a company from its 3rd Battalion. This shortage of manpower increases the workload.

To improve the accompanied postings problem, could an exchange programme be developed with other countries?

Until people are able to travel the world again, they will continue to leave after short periods, my guess being about nine years, especially if they have not risen through the ranks. — B R Clements, Northampton.



## THEN AND THEN



### 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, Sept 1949 Final instructions, left, for the diver who goes out with the beach armoured recovery vehicle during weekend exercises in the waters of Gareloch. Territorial Army soldiers of 264 Scottish Beach Brigade learn to drive their green Buffalo and DUKW craft on land and water.

### 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, Sept 1974 "The greatest miracle since Dunkirk," it was said... and that description in no way overestimates the efforts of Britain's three Services in evacuating thousands of Service families, residents and the tourists of many nationalities from the war zones of Cyprus after the Turkish invasion.

# No one wants my tax-free motor!

BEING a soldier, travelling and living abroad, I am entitled to tax-free goods. But this is not always a good thing.

In April 1998 I purchased my new car, a tax-free Volkswagen Passat 20v sport, in Milton Keynes. As I am now back in the UK and hoping to sell the car, I approached my local VW garage for a straight buy-back deal. This was to avoid the risk of duff cheques and time-wasters. I was prepared to take the dealer price of £11,000, although the book price at the time approached £16,000. I was not in this for a profit.

Imagine my shock when I was told by the sales manager that he could not buy the car because the following words appeared on the V5 form: *Imported vehicle or used overseas*.

He explained that they had carried out a survey and learned that customers do not tend to trust imported vehicles. He said he would buy my car at a substantially reduced price.

Another VW dealer expressed the same views about buying tax-free cars from sol-

diers, and claimed that the the car is not covered by the VW three-year warranty.

I should stress that my vehicle has been serviced and used abroad for only three months.

Are other soldiers going to face the same problem as me? – **SSgt I S Moore, Cardiff.**

● We contacted David Greenwood of Volkswagen's tax-free sales section, who was concerned to hear about SSgt Moore's problems.

He pointed out that dealers are free to offer any price for used cars, and they may be reluctant to buy a vehicle not being offered as part exchange for another car.

Simple laws of supply and demand, rather than the words on the V5, are likely to be the real reason behind Mr Moore's unfortunate experience.

Tax-free cars being returned to Britain should not attract lower prices than equivalent models sold conventionally. But some dealers may be confused by private imports which customers often consider less desirable.

Furthermore, Mr Greenwood stressed that tax-free models being returned to this country do qualify for the standard warranty. – **Editor.**

## Mail us!

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

PS...

## TV language barrier

I WATCHED the TV programme *Soldier To Be* and found it very interesting. But I felt the bad language used was not conducive to good discipline and order.

I was a special constable and had a lot of swearing directed at me. It did not increase my respect for the person handing it out. – **Alex Curtis, London.**

## Honours missed

WHEN that splendid award, the British Empire Medal, was abolished, it was decreed that all ranks would be eligible for the award of the MBE.

In the Birthday Honours list which you published only six out of 60 were awarded to NCOs of staff sergeant and below.

This is outrageous. Bring back the BEM. – **Brig Frank Coutts, Edinburgh.**

## Tournament salute

IN 1930 my battalion, 2nd Glosters, performed at the Royal Tournament at Olympia. One matinee performance was attended Princess Elizabeth, who was with her grandmother, Queen Mary. The Princess would have been four years old, and she took the salute as we marched off.

Last night, I watched 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards trooping its colours, and the Queen took the salute. I wonder if we were the first unit to salute Elizabeth. – **F E Wright, Paignton, Devon.**

## Television warning

A WORD of warning about TV licences: I spend the week living-in, and wrote to the TV licensing authorities from home asking for a direct-debit mandate form to pay for my mess TV.

As I found, the danger of this is that if you already pay for your home TV licence in this way, the authorities will assume that you are moving, and cancel the mandate for your home address. This will leave you without a valid licence for your home and liable to prosecution.

– **Sgt Ian Heptinstall, London.**

## Jokes harmless

I AM responding to SSgt F Flood's letter (July) claiming that cartoons about Scots are racist. There are jokes that poke fun at us all. Some people feel hurt, but for most of us they raise a laugh and a smile.

So come on: we're the British Army, world-renowned for our sense of humour. – **P Frodsham, BFPO 812.**

## Not kilts but trews

IN THE 'in brief' column of your last issue you mentioned that 100 soldiers of 1 KOSB based at Episkopi Garrison marched in kilts to donate blood. I may be wrong, but I think that the KOSB wear trews, not kilts. Maybe someone in the KOSB has already told you. – **M S Robjohn, Pennington.**



# Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

## Farewell Pegasus?

Great controversy surrounded the announcement that the Paras would be losing the famous Pegasus badge. We asked soldiers in Bosnia what they thought of the decision.

### LCpl Dave Brock, 4 Fd Ambulance

It is wrong, they should keep it. It is part of their heritage and they should keep it forever regardless of what they get changed to. I believe the Paras have a lot more pride than some other Army units. They have been through a lot.



### Cpl Dan Burton, 15 Fd Workshop, 5 Bn REME



It think it is disgraceful. I would be upset if the REME got amalgamated, which is one of the worst things, but to have something your parents and grandparents earned taken away must be heart-

breaking. I've seen the films of the old soldiers on parade standing there as proud as punch, and for someone upstairs to say, "We are taking that away from you" must be disappointing. People died for that badge.

### Capt Steve Doyle, 4 Fd Ambulance

I think if the Paras were kept as an individual unit then they should keep the flash because it is traditional and breeds esprit de corps. However,



since they are amalgamating with other troops to form a new unit, then I think they should give way and it should be consigned to history.

### Pte Kevin Haley, 4 Fd Ambulance

I think it is stupid, they should be allowed to keep it. Scrapping it is unnecessary. Why do they want to take it away? They have worn the badge with pride and it shouldn't be taken away.



### Sgt Bob Hodson, 15 Fd Wkshop, 5 Bn REME

I don't think they should scrap the Pegasus; perhaps the whole air mobile force could keep it as their emblem. I don't know if the Paras would like

that, but it is one way to keep it. It would keep everyone happy, I think.

### LCpl Stephen Farling, KRH

I think they should look to the future but also be allowed to keep the badge. They have had it for so long and it has its history. There are cutbacks in the Army and regiments are being amalgamated and as a result we have already lost a lot of regimental history. With them being the only airborne regiment, they should keep their history.



### Spr Steve Reed, 5 Fd Sqd, 22 Engr Regt

They are taking away the Paras' identity by removing their emblem. If they were to take the Engineers' badge away I am sure we would be most disappointed. It is the same with most corps within the Army. Take away their badge - take away their identity. It is a symbol of those who were lost in battle.



### Tpr Chris Deacon, KRH

If I was to lose it I think I would be upset. It is like us losing our brown beret. It is symbolic and represents who we are.



### LCpl Gemma Henderson, RMP

I have lived with Pegasus for a long time; my father was a Para, so it has been part of my family and my life for a long

time. The last thing I want to see is something that has been part of the British Army for so many years disappear, just like that.

### Cpl Eddie Stead, 5 Fd Sqd, 22 Engr Regt

They should be allowed to keep it, it is part of their tradition. Why change it - it's only a badge. At the end of the day a lot of Paras have worn it with pride. Why change now?



### Spr Paddy Carty, 5 Fd Sqd, 22 Engr Regt



Each unit needs an identity so I feel they should keep it. It gives them a sense of the past and the endeavours of those who went before them. There are too many changes going on around the Army.

Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Mike Weston

## COMING SOON

The Strategic Defence Review decided to make the Territorial Army trimmer and fitter, a modern force to face new challenges in a new century. The process is now nearing completion. We consider the amalgamations, redundancies and the new units that are forming the new-style TA.



## Also:

From public duties in Windsor to peace-keeping in the Balkans. We join the Household Cavalry Regiment patrolling the backwoods and byways of Bosnia.



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