

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

February 1998 £1.60

# SOLDIER

**Quad  
squad**

**ALSO:  
Facing up  
to change**

**Adjutant General  
points the way**



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Gen Sir Alex  
Harley, Adjutant  
General



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Picture: Mike Weston

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**SOLDIER**  
to soldier

Great  
minds  
thinking  
alike

NEW research by the  
Army Families Federation  
(see Page 30) confirms  
rather neatly some of the  
findings of the second  
series of Continuous Atti-  
tude Surveys commis-  
sioned by the Adjutant  
General (see Page 7).

High on the list of  
issues which upset Army  
wives is the disruption to  
their children's education  
caused by frequent post-  
ings. That's according to  
the AFF survey. The CAS  
identified the same griev-  
ance and threw in a little  
extra detail: that majors  
and above were the most  
dissatisfied, citing the  
impact of Army life which  
drives them to having to  
send children to boarding  
school to avoid the dis-  
ruption of frequent  
moves.

### MEDICAL

The Federation found  
that families were irritat-  
ed by the effect moves  
had on their access to  
doctors and dentists –  
and the resulting muddle  
in medical records. The  
Continuous Attitude  
Survey also looked at the  
area of health for the first  
time . . . and identified  
concerns over the avail-  
ability of National Health  
Service facilities.

Asked what they would  
do about it, the AFF  
spouses opted for longer  
tours of duty – from three  
to five years.

Better housing and an  
end to the universally dis-  
liked march-out system  
would also help, they  
said.

All of which suggests  
the Adjutant General's  
message conveyed on the  
following pages will be  
well received around  
Army family tables all  
over the world.

# The challenges of change

Adjutant General and his team plan their strategy for a successful Army

IT WAS with some trepidation that Col Pat Lawless reported for duty at Headquarters Adjutant General at Upavon just before Christmas to take up his new appointment as Colonel Adjutant General 1.

"I had expected a steep learning curve," he said, "but even with my relatively broad military upbringing I was somewhat taken aback by the extent of my own ignorance of some of the important activities taking place in the Adjutant General's area of responsibility."

"I felt that if I wasn't particularly well informed about some of the issues, then many of those who read *Soldier* might be even less well informed. There is a significant change afoot in the area of personnel and initial training, all of it beneficial."

His first challenge was to clarify in his own mind precisely what the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Alex Harley, was actually responsible for. The AG's job is to recruit and train men and women to be first-class officers and soldiers for the Field Army.

"He sets their terms and conditions of service," said Col Lawless, "and their standards of discipline. He has a particular interest in their motivation and morale which extends, of course, to their families. The matter of duty of care is also a strong factor in the work."

But all of this has to be achieved in an environment which is increasingly characterised by change. Not only has the Army had to contend with myriad operational commitments, but it has also had to face up to external change in the form of emerging legislation, social and cultural change.

"When I arrived at Upavon," said Col Lawless, "I was aware that we had achieved much for our Servicemen and women and their families, and that many improvements had been implemented

already – a new Defence Housing Executive to improve our military housing and a better package of allowances with a better deal for those serving unaccompanied."

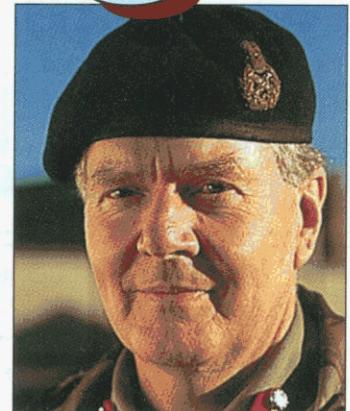
He explained that establishing a single Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow and bringing together all the AG's staff branches into a single headquarters at Upavon had done much to modernise working practices.

"But I, like many of my contemporaries, remained concerned at just how we would achieve a properly manned, motivated and trained Army for the future," said Col Lawless.

Key to that success lies in the Army's Human Resources Strategy ...



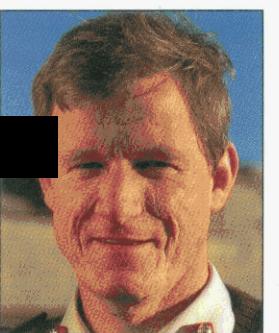
Pictures: Terry Champion



Gen Sir Alex Harley, AG

**Left – The Adjutant General and members of his staff in a round-table video conference at Upavon: from left are Col Pat Lawless, Mrs Anne Piggott, Brig Sam Weller, Gen Sir Alex Harley, Brig Freddie Viggers, Brig Peter Currie and Mr John Fraser. On screen are Maj Jim Bond (left), in his office in London, and Maj Gen David Burden, Military Secretary, who is based in Glasgow**

## OBTAI N • RETAI N • SUSTAI N



Col Pat Lawless

THE ARMY has an endorsed doctrine for the conduct of military operations. The doctrine is in place and is well understood in the Field Army.

"What I have discovered is that we have taken a similar approach for manning the Army in the future," said Col Lawless. "The military doctrine will come from a document called *Army Doctrine – Soldiering*, which describes the characteristics required of officers and soldiers in the future Army."

"The plan which will achieve this is called the Army's Human Resources Strategy (HRS), and it has been under development by the AG, for the Army, since the beginning of 1997."

The stated aim of the HRS is "... to provide the strategic framework within which coherent and effective human resources policies can be actioned in order better to deliver the human element of fighting power ...

"The Army already has a plan in place to achieve a fully-manned Army by the year 2002. The HR strategy addresses the needs of Servicemen and women in the Regular Army, the TA and Regular Reserves in the longer term so that the current work will not be undermined. The

strategy recognises that retaining high-quality people in a career of first choice is the key to success."

Col Lawless described the three core objectives:

- "First task is to **Obtain** – to attract, acquire and prepare the trained soldier. The Army is already committed to the re-introduction of junior soldiers. The Army Foundation College opens at Harrogate this year and there are schemes in place to make it easier for school leavers to join the Army as junior soldiers. Achieving full manning by 2002 is on track."

- "Next task is to **Retain** our high-quality trained soldiers by providing them with rewarding careers which meet the Army's needs as well as those of the soldier. This is our main effort at present because there is little point in obtaining soldiers if we can't keep them."

- "Finally, we must **Sustain** an environment in which the individual is willing to continue to serve, but on the basis that he is prepared and helped by the Army to get a job outside when and if he wants a change."

There are 18 supporting policies which flow from the core objectives, said Col

Three key words in the Army's master plan for effective human resources

Lawless. Some of the areas being addressed include:

- **Career 2000.** A study aimed at designing officer and soldier career structures to meet the future needs of the Army as well as those of the individual. Themes to be examined include: the balance of commitments; taking better account of officers' and soldiers' changing career aspirations in developing future career structures; making greater and better use of warrant officers and SNCOs; increasing the emphasis on Late Entry officer careers to retain experience; and examining the scope for quality soldiers to have easier access to commissions through Sandhurst.

- **Army ethos.** The Army requires a statement about its ethos which tells the

Army and the nation what we stand for. Key themes are: defining a code of conduct which takes account of societal and legislative trends, where appropriate; and promoting and increasing the understanding of the military ethos within the Army and by the public with much better methods of communication.

- **Employment policy.** The Army is seeking to define the formal undertakings that it has with the soldier. The policy will address employment matters in society

- that have the potential to affect the Army in the future. Themes include: equality of opportunity throughout an individual's career, and legally defensible terms of service.

All this work is underpinned by the Army's equal opportunity action plan under which it is set to root out harassment, bullying and discrimination of all kinds, open up more posts to women, and encourage more of the ethnic minority groups in Britain to join. The Confidential Support Line and the new independent harassment investigation team are just two examples of the Army's commitment to dealing with the problems.

The policies have had good results. Col

Lawless said: "A year ago the Army was 6.4 per cent under strength; it is now 5.2 per cent under strength. Last year only 0.7 per cent of our recruits came from the ethnic minorities, and this rose to 2.4 per cent in 1997."

"From April we open up the number of posts available to women to 70 per cent, with a new gender-free selection test which will match recruits to employment groups and reduce wastage in basic training."

"Our work must also take account of legal issues," explained Col Lawless. "We are already some way ahead here. The Armed Forces Act 1996 has changed the courts martial system significantly."

Appointing an independent civilian member of the judiciary to the board of a court martial whose decisions on points of law are binding, and setting up a military equivalent of the Crown Prosecution Service are just two examples of changes which have had a major impact on the system of military justice. For the future there may be scope to broaden membership of courts martial boards.

● Your views count; where next? – Page 7



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# Special report: 2

# Your views lead to action at top

Independent survey reveals concern over family life and education – but sports facilities get the thumbs-up

SECOND of a new series of Continuous Attitude Surveys has just been published.

The studies are carried out independent of the Army and respondents, whose anonymity is guaranteed, are drawn from a broad spectrum of serving officers and soldiers, those who have left or are about to leave the Army, and spouses.

In the latest survey, 380 officers, 750 soldiers and 1,050 spouses were asked for their attitudes and views about aspects of Army life. There were a number of important findings.

**Effect on personal and family life:** While the trend reflects some improvement in this area, there remains broad dissatisfaction with the effect of Army life on the spouse/partner's career.

A new area examined in this survey was health care, which revealed the concern felt by spouses over the availability of National Health Service facilities and support for families in the UK with special needs.

Mindful of continued unease, the Adjutant General has initiated a review to examine the policies which support accompanied service.

**Personal development and education:** Some improvement. Least satisfied were junior ranks, with dissatisfaction centred on the need for a regular review of their individual training needs. The area of career development and employment has improved since the last survey, though junior ranks remain concerned that promotion is not related to abilities.

These worries are now being addressed as a key part of the work on the Human Resources Strategy and in current work on National Vocational Qualifications and transferable skills.

**Effect on children's education:** This area was considered highly important by respondents. Majors and above were the most dissatisfied, citing the impact of the Army on family life rather than the quality of Service education provided, which drives them to having to send children to boarding school rather than disrupting their children's education through frequent moves.

A key area of dissatisfaction expressed



"Attitude you have not, Eccles . . . and it's continuous!"

by soldiers' spouses is the widening gap between Boarding School Allowance and fees.

Spouses in the UK expressed concern over the limited amount of information available about UK schools on posting. The Chief Executive of Service Children's Education has now opened a helpdesk at Upavon (tel Upavon Mil 8244 or 01980 618244).

**Key equipment:** Concerns centred on the availability of spares and equipment rather than their quality. This is a key area of the Strategic Defence Review and is being addressed separately by the Quartermaster General and his staff at Andover.

**Sport:** The level of satisfaction has increased significantly. The situation will improve further because the Army Central Fund is to provide £6 million to improve garrison sports facilities within the wider context of the Army's Millennium initiative.

Once all the current and funded plans are completed by the Millennium, the Army Centre for Sporting Excellence at Aldershot will provide the best concentration of first-class sporting facilities in the country.

● The results of these surveys are closely monitored at Headquarters Adjutant General. They are used by the Army as part of the wider drive to improve the quality of life for Servicemen and women and their families and are forming a key element in the Human Resources Strategy.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

ALL the human resources policies have to be costed and incorporated into an action plan which will be presented to the Army Board in July.

Despite the challenges and the need to co-ordinate the work with the Strategic Defence Review, the Army is committed to delivering the HRS by 2002.

"The sheer volume of work is huge," said Col Lawless, "but I have been impressed by the people at Upavon who are energetic, hard-working and in touch. What has most impressed

me has been the modern thinking."

This is a major new initiative which will bring a much clearer focus to the way the Army looks after its people.

Col Lawless said: "As I settle into my new job, I am convinced that the strategy is the best way forward if we are to harness the potential of that most vital component of our fighting power – our personnel and their families – and use it to ensure the British Army remains the highly-regarded and operationally effective modern army that it is."

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# People, places, events



SSgt Andy Hamilton with members of his Wimbish team after their rescue mission into a Bosnian minefield

## Sappers pluck Americans from Bosnian minefield

A BOMB disposal team from 21 Field Squadron (EOD), Royal Engineers, rescued two American civilians who had driven into a minefield in Bosnia.

The four-man team from Wimbish, led by SSgt Andy Hamilton, were checking equipment at their base in the central Bosnian town of Sipovo when the call came through. The two American men, who worked for a government agency, had inadvertently driven into a minefield, and the first they knew of their mistake was a huge explosion as their vehicle struck a mine.

The vehicle took most of the force of the blast, but one of the men received a serious foot injury and was unable to walk.

Within ten minutes of the call the EOD team and four medics were in a helicopter and on their way. The weather worsened steadily as they flew over the vast plain of Glamoc and by the time they reached the vehicle, howling winds and driving rains had reduced visibility and the late afternoon light was fading fast.

SSgt Hamilton said: "According to our map, the whole area where they were was mined. Once we were sure we had the right site I was winched down to establish a safe spot. I picked a path to within 100 metres, from where I could see the occupants, but the wind was so strong I could not communicate with them. Then the lads were winched down and the real work began."

Lying side by side, in wet matted grass growing over a metre tall, LCpls Adam

Barlow and Ross Gardiner began the painstaking process of prodding a safe route to the stranded vehicle. LCpl Steve Duplock followed close behind with a detector checking for buried anti-tank mines. The medics were winched down when it was realised that the helicopter was running low on fuel.

It was dark by the time the crew reached the Americans, and the helicopter had already returned to its base at Sipovo twice for refuelling. The two men, shocked but relieved, were carried back along the cleared path and winched to safety.

When rescuers and rescuers arrived in Sipovo there were just three minutes of fuel left in the tank. The injured man was treated at the British field hospital in Sipovo before being flown back to America.

The two Americans, Carl Wentz and Richard Kanda, worked for an organisation called Military Professional Resources Incorporated, and had been carrying out a search for possible training areas.

"We had potential difficulties in every direction, but I'm pleased with the way it went. The guys were on the ball and did a good job," said SSgt Hamilton afterwards.

### IN BRIEF

THE United Kingdom Mine Information and Training Centre (MITC) based at RSME Minley Manor in Surrey has become fully operational. It provides and co-ordinates training and exchange of mine-related information both in the UK and abroad. Plans are under way for a joint UK-Russian workshop on demining at the MITC later this year.

Dr John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, has approved proposals to continue to provide the Armed Forces' ammunition supply from in-house. He scrapped plans to market-test the Ammunition Division of the Army Base Storage and Distribution Agency. The Army's Base Ammunition Depots are at Kineton, Warwickshire and Longton, Cumbria.

## Herford Redcaps receive their Sword of Peace

SOLDIERS of Herford-based 1 Regiment, Royal Military Police have received the Wilkinson Sword of Peace they were awarded for outstanding achievements in community relations – both in Germany and during a tour of duty in Bosnia.

Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, the Chief of the General Staff, presented the sword to the commanding officer of 1 RMP, Lt Col Desmond Bergin, at a ceremony at the headquarters of 1 (UK) Armoured Division in Herford.

CGS told members of the regiment that they typified "the way in which the British Armed Forces help those communities in which they serve."

He said: "You were able to win the confidence of the locals and to establish some resemblance of normality in a very abnormal situation. The reward is richly deserved."

Earlier, Gen Wheeler had inspected Nos 1, 2 and 3 Guards, which represented the three Provost companies in 1 RMP – 111 Pro Coy based at Bergen-Hohne, 110 Pro Coy at Sennelager and 115 Pro Coy at Osnabrück.

Music was provided for the ceremony by the Cambrai Band of the Royal Tank Regiment.

As a military unit, the regiment depends for its success on good and friendly relations with the civilian community wherever it is operating. In 1996 its men and women excelled themselves in this in both Germany and Bosnia.

In Germany, the military police men and women helped refugees and asylum-seekers as well as other less fortunate members of the community in Herford, Sennelager and Fallingbostel. They made such an impact that local German organisations took their lead from the regiment.

While serving in Bosnia, 1 RMP was responsible for security in the city of Banja Luka, and despite a gruelling operational schedule dedicated itself to projects such as the main orphanage and the largest school.

The effort was widely recognised and resulted in greatly improved relationships between the Bosnian-Serb community and Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) units.

## New paperwork needed for import of cars from Germany

GERMANY-based owners of all vehicles under three years old which are being taken back to the United Kingdom as a personal import must now produce at the local vehicle licensing office a certificate of conformity (COC) or a type approval (TA) number before the vehicle can be registered in the UK.

A personal import is a vehicle bought and first registered outside the UK for the personal use of the

- The House of Commons Defence Committee was hosted by 256 (City of London) Field Hospital RAMC (V) based at The Duke of York's Headquarters.

- The MoD and St Thomas's Hospital have signed up to a partnership to provide primary health care for members of the Armed Forces working in London.

- Soldiers from The Gibraltar Regiment marked the 216th anniversary of the Great Sortie, which relieved a two-year Spanish bombardment in 1781, with a parade and a four-gun salute. Teams from the regiment competed in a rock race to Europa Point and a stand in Main Street gave information on the unit and on the history of Sortie Day.

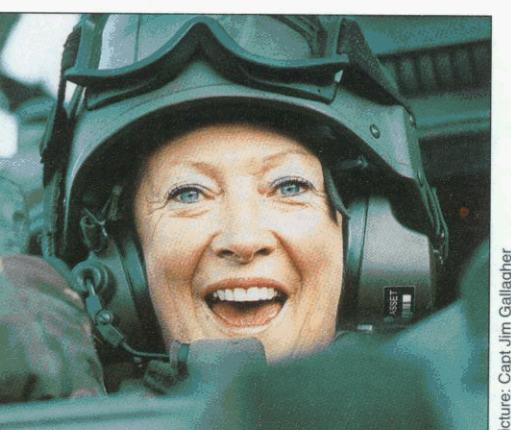
## Their numbers came up



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Three new officer recruits to 350 Field Squadron RE based at Chilwell have been given consecutive six-digit identity numbers in what military administrators say is a chance-in-a-million. From top to bottom are 2nd Lt Graham Black, 2nd Lt Nigel Pitts and 2nd Lt Jerry Ratcliffe. Graham said: "With thousands of soldiers being processed every year, you're more likely to win the National Lottery." The squadron is part of the Territorial Army's 73 Engineer Regiment.

## Ton-up granny



Picture: Capt Jim Gallagher

When Carol Herbert of Solihull wrote to her local newspaper and asked if they could make her dream come true they thought she was asking the impossible. The 51-year-old grandmother wanted to drive a tank. The dream came true thanks to the Army Base Repair Organisation at Donnington, which has its own test track. After some instruction, she drove a refurbed 25-ton Warrior armoured fighting vehicle.

# People, places, events

Paras jump at aid work



Picture: Garath Griffiths

When the men of 144 Parachute Squadron, part of 23 Para Field Ambulance based at Bulborough near Nottingham, were given the opportunity to carry out humanitarian work in Kenya, the response was overwhelming. But as only six were needed for the month-long mission in May, most of the part-time paras were disappointed.

Led by Capt **John McMasters** (above), an orthopaedic research fellow at Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre, the six soldiers will be involved in immunisation and health education programmes.

The squadron is familiar with overseas training missions. Its soldiers have recently visited Australia, Italy and America.

## Dragoon lady



The reigning Miss Wales, **Melanie Jones**, spent three action-packed days with soldiers of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards in Sennelager, Germany. When not posing for pictures with the admiring troops, Melanie tried her hand at driving a Challenger tank, rifle shooting... and shopping.

## Plain sailing for the quad squad

HIGH-speed quad bikes are the latest idea for improving mobility on the battlefield to be trialled by soldiers.

Men from the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment have been testing different types of the versatile quad bikes over the past 12 months to evaluate how they would perform as "mechanical mules" for carrying the weapons – such as the Milan anti-tank system and heavy machine-guns – and ammunition which equip a modern battalion.

Trials have included the machines being dropped by parachute and airlanded inside military aircraft.

The small, high-speed quads – extensively used by farmers – have proved extremely manoeuvrable and hard for opposition forces to detect during exercises.

If the trials with 2 Para result in the quads being taken into general service with the regiment, they will join a fleet of vehicles used by Airborne Forces which includes the new Wolf Land Rover, the six-wheeled All-Ter-



Quad trials on Salisbury Plain

rain Mobile Platform, and the rugged, air-portable Pinz Gauer, a fast medium-utility truck.

The battalion, part of 5 Airborne Brigade which, with 3 Commando Brigade, forms the core component of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force, was able to test its quads in deep mud during an exercise on Salisbury Plain (see also picture on front cover). It has also evaluated the vehicles on a major exercise in the United States.

## Army defuses huge town-centre bomb

AN ARMY bomb disposal team successfully defused a car bomb which was set to wreck the centre of Banbridge in County Down. Peace talks were to resume in Belfast just a few days later.

The 500lb bomb was disabled in a seven-hour operation involving several controlled explosions.

Banbridge had been relatively free of terrorism in the past and local residents were said to be shocked. The bomb threat coincided with a spate of terrorist killings following the murder of Loyalist pris-

oner Billy Wright in the Maze Prison.

In the atmosphere of increased tension which threatened the peace talks, the Royal Ulster Constabulary announced that the Army would resume street patrolling with the RUC during daylight hours where necessary.

In an event apparently unrelated to other violence, a woman soldier in civilian clothes was involved in a shooting incident following a car chase on January 14. An RUC officer was seriously injured.

### FULL HOUSE FOR MUNSTER'S ANNUAL MUSIC SHOW

THE annual British Military Music Show, the 25th to be staged, played to full houses and standing ovations in the Halle Münsterland, Germany.

The three-day event also marked the 40th anniversary of the twinning of York and Münster and the 15th anniversary of the Freedom of the

city to British Forces stationed there.

The Band and Pipes and Drums of the Coldstream Guards, the bands of the Hussars and Light Dragoons, the Dragoons, the Royal Irish Regiment, the Brigade of Gurkhas, the Highland Band of the Scottish Division and the Pipes and Drums of the



WO2 Phil Graville with children from Zerinici during a mines-awareness lesson

## Colouring books carry message of deadly mines

CRAYONS, books and toys are helping to get home the message to children in Bosnia that mines are lethal.

The mines-awareness programme, led by WO2 Phil Graville of 38 Engineer Regiment, started last September and has reached more than 10,000 children. The village school at Zerinici was one of the first to benefit from the new initiative.

Zerinici lies just outside the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf. It is still surrounded by marked and unmarked minefields and is a typical destination for the mines-awareness team.

When WO2 Graville and his colleagues arrived to give their lesson they were surrounded by excited, noisy children.

"We're taking two classes today," he explained. "We have two teams working from Gornji Vakuf itself – each with an instructor, interpreter and

Royal Highland Fusiliers played a full part under the joint musical direction of Maj David Marshall, Musical Director of the Band of the Coldstream Guards, and Capt David Creswell, Director of Music of the Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons.



What the papers have been saying

## Special forces have 'merged'

THE Special Air Service and its naval counterpart, the Special Boat Service, have effectively merged much of their work in a far-reaching reorganisation of Britain's Special Forces. Recruits are chosen at the same joint selection course in the Brecon Beacons, South Wales, and train jointly at the SAS base in Hereford. – *Sunday Telegraph*

❑ Ex-Gurkhas demanding retirement benefits at par with their British counterparts announced they had completed their preparations for a court battle in Britain. – *Kathmandu Post*

❑ Plans to merge the Army, the Navy and the Royal Air Force into a single fighting organisation have been floated by a private sector member of the Government's strategic defence review committee. – *Independent on Sunday*

❑ Britain lies fifth, behind the USA, China, Russia and France, in a league table of the world's military might compiled by the Royal United Services Institute, a Whitehall think tank. – *Sunday Times*

❑ Army nurses stand to gain pay rises of up to £4,000 a year once they qualify under a proposal now before the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, bringing their basic salary into line with qualified nurses in the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. – *Times*

❑ Bendy Wendy, the gay pianist who tickled the ivories on board a trooper ship bound for the Falklands in 1982, has been tracked down for a Parachute Regiment reunion. Roy Gibson said he would be delighted to go: "I'll shed a tear when I meet them again." – *The Sun*

❑ Japan's latest attempt to apologise for the atrocities inflicted on British prisoners during the Second World War was dismissed as too little too late. – *Daily Mail*

❑ The MoD has called in McKinsey, the management consultancy, to advise on a radical shake-up of the way weapons systems are developed, purchased and maintained. – *Financial Times*

❑ Up to 10,000 more British troops than previously thought may have been exposed to Iraqi chemical weapons at the end of the Gulf War, according to new research conducted by the CIA. – *Independent on Sunday*

❑ Canadian soldiers were given powers to arrest looters in areas hit by ice storms. – *Daily Telegraph*

# People, places, events

## Multi-national menu for ARRC exercise

MORE than 2,500 soldiers, representing 12 nations of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), moved into Ayrshire Barracks South, Monchengladbach for the force's major annual training exercise.

Exercise Arrcade Fusion involved a computer-simulated high-tech war, but it placed some very down-to-earth demands on the ARRC Support Battalion.

As was all too obvious to the battalion, none of their duties were simulated.

The Regular and Territorial Army troops supplied up to 7,000 hot meals a day while catering for the widely-varying national diets. They erected more than 100 large tents, deployed 38 generators to power the hundreds of computers, and maintained a 24-hour stream of hot coffee and tea.

Battalion medics also treated 240 multi-national personnel, most of whom had been laid low by a virus.

Capt Bruce Down, the battalion operations officer, said: "The primary focus was on ARRC staff training. However, we as a battalion reaped our own training dividend by providing the high-level of life support to which the staff has now become accustomed. But to achieve it requires detailed planning and solid hard work by all our officers and soldiers."



Herr Wilhelm Lueke, Mayor of Paderborn, inspects soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, during their farewell parade. Herr Lueke is accompanied by Maj Peter Messervy, commander of the guard of honour.

Picture: WO2 Ian Dunning RLC

## Paderborn tribute to Devon and Dorsets

MEN of the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment said farewell to Paderborn, their base since August 1991, before returning

to the United Kingdom last month. The battalion will be stationed at Battlesbury Barracks in Warminster, where it will have an opportunity to renew links with its home counties.

The Devon and Dorsets will be assuming the high-profile role of the Combined Arms Training Centre Battle Group. They will be replaced in Paderborn by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

"As a memento of your time in Paderborn may I present you with a print of our historic Town Hall. I hope you will look at it occasionally and remember the days when you were fellow Paderborn citizens and our good friends," Mayor Wilhelm Lueke told Lt Col Jonathan Watson, CO 1 D and D, at the end of a parade to mark the battalion's departure.

Herr Lueke, who inspected two guards drawn up in front of the Town Hall and paid his respects to the Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour carried by Lts James Murray and Simon Woodiwiss, paid tribute to NATO and the important role played by British forces based in Paderborn.

He praised the efforts of the Devon and Dorsets in former Yugoslavia and congratulated the regiment on its environmental work on the Goldgrund training area.

Lt Col Watson said 1 D and D's time in Germany had been very successful but his men were looking forward to returning home.



Picture: Terry Champion

Cadets march during the 125th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. The Queen was represented by Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff. Sword of Honour was awarded to Junior Under Officer Ivor Gardiner, who is joining The Royal Irish Regiment. The Queen's Medal went to Officer Cadet Glen Baldwin, who joins the Royal Engineers.

# German bomber causes a stir in Middlesbrough

A QUEST to improve water quality in Middlesbrough led to the unearthing of a Second World War mystery.

As earth-movers broke the soil to make way for a new sewer pipe in the South Bank area of the town, the remains of a war-time bomber were revealed for the first time since it crashed in 1942.

Faced with machine-gun and cannon ammunition from the German Dornier 217, Cleveland Police called for help from 521 (EOD) Squadron, part of 11 (EOD) Regiment RLC based at Catterick.

The Dornier crashed near a major rail line, now used extensively by British Steel and Regional Railways. Records revealed that the bomber was making its second run on the local steel works after dropping part of its load of 500lb and 1,000lb bombs on the town's Eastern Jetty.

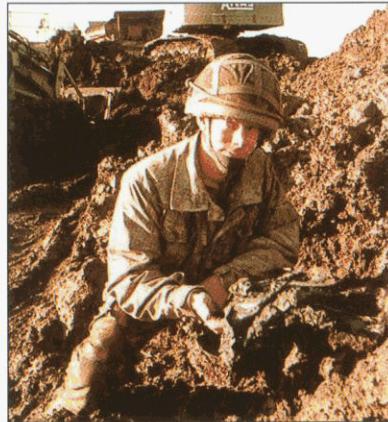
It was brought down after striking a barrage balloon cable on the evening of January 15, 1942.

The squadron's initial search of the site revealed previously undetected parachutes, a machine-gun and cannon from the main armament, and some charged oxygen bottles. Because it was not known whether the entire payload had been found, the task was handed over to the RAF's 5131 Bomb Disposal Squadron based at Wittering.

With so much ammunition scattered about on the site, it was decided to dig out the entire crash area.

The RAF assumed control and called for support from the Plant Troop, 22 HQ Squadron (EOD) of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) from Wimbish for the task of excavating the site and removing soil and remains.

Three of the four crew from the Dornier were recovered in 1942 and



A sapper from 33 (EOD) Regiment at work on the site of the crashed Dornier

buried at nearby Thornaby, but the whereabouts of the fourth crewman were unknown. Because the aircraft had met little or no aerial resistance on its inward flight, it was decided the site should be regarded as containing a full payload of ammunition.

Spoil, excavated by 33 Engr Regt, was painstakingly sifted by the RAF team until a substantial percentage of the known ammunition load had been accounted for.

Cpl Dusty Miller, in command of the Plant Troop, said: "We're accustomed to dealing with Second World War bombs, but an aircraft is out of the ordinary, especially as this one is a war grave."

Early in the ten-day operation, human remains were recovered with an identification tag and a ring. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the German Embassy were alerted and a coroner's hearing is likely to be held.

A decision will be taken then on where and how the remains should be laid to rest.

## Belize trainers bid farewell

AFTER almost 20 years spent training and advising the Belize Defence Force, the British Loan Service Team in that country has been disbanded.

Since its establishment in 1974, at least 60 military personnel from all three Services have been posted to the team, helping the local force to develop its army, naval and air wings. The last three advisers, Lt Col Ian Marshall, Flt Lt Jeff Edwards and WO1 Mike Arnott were present for a farewell ceremony put on by the Belize Defence Force.

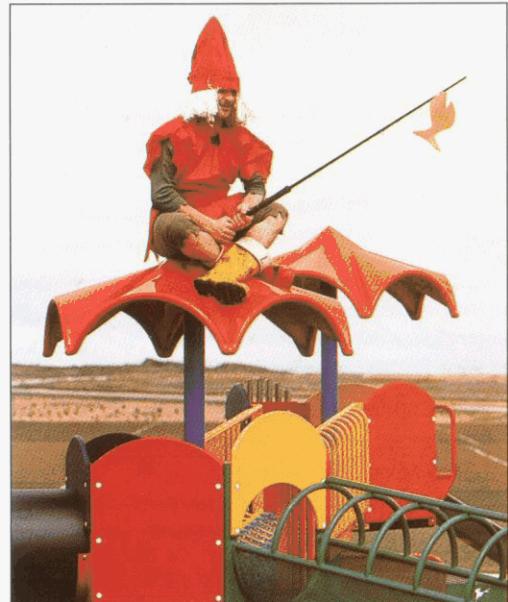
## Snow-birds to Norway



Picture credit: Gareth Griffiths

TA soldiers Sgt Amanda Jones, Cpl Heather Blair and Cpl Helen Mountney prepare their skis for a temporary cold weather posting. The three, members of 87 (Nottingham) Signal Squadron, were joining Royal Marines for an exercise in northern Norway. Their job was to maintain a vital communications link between the Commando units and their base.

## Gnomal service resumed



Picture: James Anderson

Servicemen and women in the Falklands have come up with a novel way of raising money for good causes. For £5 anyone can hire a living gnome to harass a nominated person. The gnome then pesters the victim until he or she pays £5 to lift the curse. The gnomes from hell – in normal life PTIs at the Mount Pleasant base – have ranged far and wide, and this one, LCpl Paul Watson RE, was spotted taking a break from raising money for Wireless for the Blind.

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# People, places, events

## Religious diet, dress issues under scrutiny

ARMY recruiters are being reminded of the Service's commitment to religious freedoms covering worship, dress codes and diet.

And other moves to protect individuals being considered by the Ministry of Defence include policy on the wearing of turbans by Sikh personnel, the provision of kosher and other special foods in ration packs, and the current ban on headwear by Muslim women.

Recruiters, often the first point of contact for members of ethnic minorities wanting to join the Armed Forces, are seen to be in a position to give reassurance on religious freedoms.

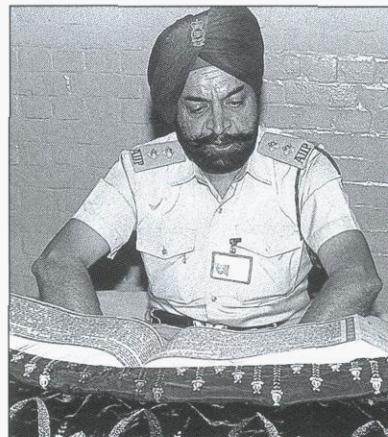
The Army has long been committed to equal opportunities and makes considerable efforts to accommodate religious and cultural needs, although operational and health and safety constraints mean it is not always practicable.

Religious leaders act as advisers to the Armed Forces on non-Christian religious requirements and every reasonable effort is made for serving personnel to have contact with religious leaders and to visit church, synagogue, mosque or temple.

The Army also makes every effort to allow the celebration of festivals such as Yom Kippur, Vai Sakhi, Eid Al-Fitr and Diwali. In most circumstances arrangements can be made for daily prayer. Muslims are normally allowed to fast during Ramadan, although it might be discouraged on operations or when physical demands on the individual are high enough to make fasting hazardous.

In such circumstances, efforts are made to secure for the soldier dispensation from his or her religious authority.

Sikhs in the Armed Forces may wear turbans and the five Ks (*kara* or steel bangle; *kesh* or uncut hair; *kanga* or small comb; *kaccha* or knee-length underpants; and *kirpan* or small sword) except under some circumstances during training for operations and in some specialisations which require operational or protective headgear such as flying helmets, commanders' helmets in tanks, combat



**Hong Kong 1992:** Inspector Tirath Singh Kanwal of the Army Department Police reads from the Adi Granth, the holy book of the Sikh faith, at sunrise in the Sikh temple on Stonecutters Island. The unit was disbanded two years later

helmets and breathing apparatus for fire-fighters.

This is achieved by wearing a patka under operational headgear.

Beards have to be shaved to allow an effective seal in high-risk NBC situations demanding the use of respirators, but there is no compulsion on Sikhs in the Army to shave the *kesh* for NBC training.

Jewish men may wear a dark, plain-patterned yarmulke whenever they remove other headdress.

Religious dietary requirements and vegetarian options or halal and kosher meat can be provided – although preparation of the latter in strict observance of the Jewish faith would present problems. When a fresh food supply is not possible in the field, special diets cannot always be met.

English is used in the working environment at all times.

Current regulations do not permit the wearing of shalwar, qameez, saris or head scarves by Muslim women and this is one area being considered by the Ministry of Defence. Advice on dress codes and whether they deter women of different faiths from joining up is being sought from the Equal Opportunities Commission and religious advisers.

### New Year Honours

## Funeral party members made MBE

TWO soldiers involved in the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, received MBEs in the New Year Honours.

Sgt Damien Gascoyne of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, was in charge of the soldiers who escorted the coffin to Westminster Abbey and WO2 Paul Cunliffe, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, was responsible for the bearer party in the Abbey.

#### Order of the Bath

**CB** – Maj Gen J M F C Hall OBE, late Scots DG; Maj Gen W J P Robins OBE, late RCS; Maj Gen C G C Vyvyan CBE, late RGJ.

#### Order of the British Empire

**KBE** – Lt Gen R A Cordy-Simpson CB, OBE, late 13/18 RH.

**CBE** – Col P A Davis OBE, late PWRR; Col T E Hall late RTR; Brig E R Holmes OBE, TD GS TA; Brig R J Shields late REME; Brig M G Taylor MBE, late RCS.

**OBE** – Lt Col J G Askew RLC; Col P S W F Falkner late LG; Lt Col T P M Forster RLC; actg Col I R Keers ACF; Lt Col K G Lawson AGC; Col J J Little RLC; Lt Col N P Lloyd RLC; Lt Col G J J McFall Para; Lt Col D C Parkinson Para; Lt Col J J Rogers KRH; Lt Col J N Wolsey AGC.

**MBE** – Actg Lt Col J S Anderson QM GS CCF; WO2 G M Bennett RA; actg Capt R W Bevan ACF; Cpl S A Bishop RCS; SSgt S F Brealey RCS; WO2 N J Buxton REME; WO2 D N Cameron AGC; Capt P Caplin, Kings TA; Maj A D C Clacher RLC; Maj R C D Clark RA; Maj S P Coulthard AGC TA; WO2 P W Cunliffe WG; Maj M J Davis REME; Sgt E Doherty AGC; WO1 G W Edwards RGJ; WO1 C A Firth AGC; Maj P G Fisher QRL; WO2 M L Fowers APTC.

Capt N M Fox RA; Sgt D C Gascoyne RA; SSgt B D Gates RE; Lt Col R D Gibson RE; Maj H Goshai RAMC; Lt Col J G Graham AGC; Maj D Green RLC; Rev R J Hall, Chaplain to the Forces, RACD; Maj P Harris Gren Gds; WO2 T I Hayes, R Irish TA; Maj M C Heelis REME; Capt P A Heyes RE; Maj R J T Hill RA; WO1 P C Holden APTC; Maj A Hollingsworth, Kings; Maj A G Hughes QRL; Maj B Hughes, Int Corps; WO2 A Jones QDG; Maj D J Morgan-Jones RAMC; Sgt T Kitchin, Int Corps; WO2 M Knight RA; CSgt J A Knox, R Irish TA.

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Actg Maj J S Nguyen-Van-Tam ACF; SSgt G A Nimmo AAC; Maj G P R Norton, Gren Gds; Maj P D Nunn QRH; WO2 P Parnell PWO; WO2 S Payne Hldrs; Maj J E Richardson RCS; WO2 L Robey RLC; Capt M Ross RA TA; Sig C Scales RCS; Maj D Seed RRF; SSgt K R Smith REME; Maj T L Smith RGJ; Maj P Tucker RA; Maj P A Watkins APTC; Maj R Watson, Coldm Gds; Actg Lt Col A G Williams CCF; Lt Col C S Winter RHF; WO1 G O Yeomans RCS.

#### Royal Red Cross

**RRC** – Maj W J Spencer QARANC.

# Bringing out the potential

Report: Graham Bound  
Pictures: Terry Champion

"LET'S get this completely clear," said the Commandant of the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick, Col Adrian Freer. "We are not being soft on our new infantrymen. Our methods have worked, and at the end of 28 weeks with us, our trainees are sent on to their regiments as soldiers fit to deploy on operational service".

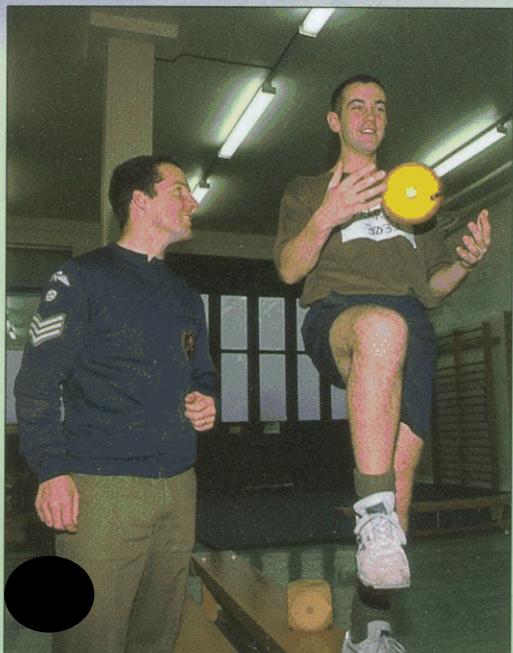
Col Freer, late of The Parachute Regiment (and who in January returned in the rank of brigadier to Aldershot to command 5 Airborne Brigade), was proud of what he and his staff had achieved from a revolutionary new approach to infantry training; an approach that the more cynical traditionalists suggested would never work.

But it had to work. In 1995, with unrelenting pressure for savings, and enrolment slipping badly, the Army decreed that, although phase one basic training could continue at several centres in England and Scotland, the three phase two infantry centres at Catterick, Strensall and Ouston were to be closed and their resources and staff centralised in a new organisation.

At the same time, the trainers were to introduce new systems which would take account of the fact that society's needs and expectations, especially those of young potential recruits, had changed. ITC would demonstrate the flexibility needed to mould today's recruits, who are very different from those of yesteryear, into good soldiers. And, in the days of under-manning, the old system's high rate of wastage was simply not tolerable.

Although Col Freer readily admitted that the ITC is still developing, the 700 or so military and civilian trainers and administrators under his command have satisfied their terms of reference. Less than three years after its inception, the ITC is constantly training up to nine companies, each in excess of 100 trainees, and supplying the infantry regiments with up to 4,000 troops a year.

"But, even more important than the numbers," said the colonel, "we are getting a better quality of



Co-ordination is a skill which may have to be re-learned by some of the men in Williams Company



After three years as commandant of the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick, Col Adrian Freer has moved to Aldershot to take command of 5 Airborne Brigade in the rank of brigadier

But ITC's new training ethic has proved that there are few young men who cannot be given the training – highly personalised if necessary – to qualify them as infantrymen. Some may need to work harder, but they *can* do it.

"What is different about our approach," said Col Freer, "is that we recognise all potential and bring it out in them. In the old days, a man with potential but finding phase two difficult might be written off almost immediately.

## ENCOURAGEMENT

"We know that 35 per cent of the men are under 18, and the typical young recruit is lacking confidence. So we give him the encouragement that he needs; much more of the carrot than the stick".

That goal is not something which can be achieved overnight, and therefore the new-style phase two course has been increased by almost a month, most of which is spent (and this has not changed since the old days) in the great outdoors.

Just a few minutes' walk from the modern office block that is the ITC HQ, recruits of C Company were approaching the end of the fourth week of their course, and, amid icy drizzle, were preparing for the inter-company assault course (such competition between the training companies is considered important).

## CHASM LEAP

While some stood, faces muddy but eyes bright, beside a pool of frigid mud, one young recruit hesitated repeatedly on a high timber platform. His NCO ordered him to leap towards a rope that, with the right degree of effort, would carry him to the other side of a wide chasm.

Company commander Maj Gavin Jones looked on, willing the lad across. "He'll get a bit of ribbing from the others, but they'll pull him through," he said.

As the young soldier conquered his vertigo and finally leapt, the NCO instructor marshalled the squad for the next challenge.

● Turn to Page 18



Some things never change. A phase two recruit learns about the finer points of the bayonet

# Potential

## ● From Page 16

"These are different people from those who arrived," said Maj Jones with evident satisfaction. "They're getting confidence. They are determined and they are learning to support one another".

ITC's support and minimum-wastage ethic really comes to the fore in Williams Company. Here, trainees who are injured or in need of remedial support are posted for a period that might vary between one month and four months, depending on the degree of attention needed.

Most of the Williams men suffer from sprains, stress fractures or occasionally more serious injuries, which keep them away from the bayonet practice area, the ranges and the PT ground.

In the old days they would be sent home for six weeks or more of enforced idleness, and then thrown back into training, facing the demoralising challenge of catching up . . . and probably deciding to quit permanently.

## BACK TO WORK

"It's not cool to be on crutches," explains Williams Company CO Capt Richard Hungerford, "so we send them home only briefly and then get them back here to keep them busy with physiotherapy and classroom work."

Pte Justin Cook was typical of those in Williams Coy. He had completed basic training in April 1997 and was in the tenth week of phase two before a damaged knee stopped him in his tracks. Wired to a pulsating machine, he relaxed as electrical impulses stimulated the damaged muscle and tendon. He looked happy, but had a clear goal. "I can't wait to get onto the fast track, and then go on



Phase two trainees exercises in Catterick's surrounding countryside

## MORE THAN JUST PHASE TWO . . .

The bulk of the ITC's efforts are directed at phase two infantry training, but other courses are also held at the Catterick base. Among them:

- Drums and sustained fire machine

gunnery. Soldiers, often fresh from basic training, are trained to play drums for peace-time parades while developing a more offensive role for wartime.

- Territorial Army potential NCO training.

Around 200 TA soldiers attend ITC each year for a two-week NCO cadre.

- Basic parachute training. Pre-parachute selection for all arms, the famous P Company, is based at the ITC.

to my battalion. I should be with the Staffords."

For some, a spell in Williams is a chance to review whether the Army is for them, but to date the company has returned more than 600 valuable young men to full training.

By no means everything about the ITC is physical. Reflecting society's general preoccupation with the ethical dimension of defence, staff and students also address the complex issue of morality in warfare.

Col Freer believes that high moral standards are expected of soldiers, but, in an age when troops become peace-makers in areas of bitter civil strife, the rights and wrongs of warfare can become foggy. "Moral decisions now have to be made at a very low level," said the commandant, "and frequently we will be exposed to complete moral turpitude. Today's sol-

diers have to handle this and still behave correctly."

It is a complex area of education, still being developed, but the young would-be infantrymen attend discussion classes during which they are encouraged to think about the issue and decide for themselves what is right and wrong.

## CHANGING TIMES

ITC Catterick has responded to the demands of rapidly changing times, but the trainers must constantly look ahead. Col Freer can see a time soon when battlefields will be "digitalised", with each infantryman carrying his own radio and many more operating keyboards than do so today.

"It is the complexity of modern systems which will place demands on us," he said.

"But that is the beauty of ITC. We have already proved that we can easily adapt to changing needs and realities to produce the infantry soldiers that the country needs."

- See High-wire act at Bramley – Page 32



Pte Justin Cook is treated for an injured knee in the Williams Coy physio room

# Kings rule the desert

DESERT fighting skills were sharpened for 600 men and women of the 1 Kings battle group during a military exercise which took place just 50km from the Iraqi border.

Intrinsic Action coincided with a period of rising tension in the region over Iraq's treatment of UN Arms Inspection Teams, which added a certain realism to training.

The battle group comprised the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, a field troop from 62 Engineer (Support) Squadron, and a Gazelle helicopter from 16 Flight, Army Air Corps, all currently stationed in Cyprus. They were joined by 40 individual reinforcements from across the Army to assist in the running of live-firing ranges.

The troops established a tented camp in the desert and from there carried out live firing up to battle group level and took part in a combined arms live-firing exer-

cise. This involved a firepower demonstration for the Emir of Kuwait and was carried out with the assistance of Americans, Italians and Kuwaitis.

A dry-training exercise in one of the most realistic urban fighting environments in the world was carried out on Falaika Island. This lies 20km off the coast of Kuwait and, although once a thriving holiday resort, has been deserted since the Gulf War.

As well as tough and professional soldiering in the desert, 1 Kings found time for some public relations events in Kuwait city. The Corps of Drums played along the 10km route of a fun run which raised \$10,000 for the Terry Fox Appeal - a charity set up to raise money for cancer research.

Tension eased in the area as the six-week exercise finished and the battle-group moved back to Cyprus. The battalion is due to move to Weeton Camp, Blackpool, during February.



British and American soldiers take a break from the desert sun during Intrinsic Action

# Advertising feature

# There's a lot more to medals than . . . medals

TO the general public, the loose term "medal" embraces every award made to Service-men and women which is seen worn on formal occasions such as parades and commemorations, **writes Gerard Sutton**.

Strictly, this is incorrect. Official awards fall into three broad categories:

- Orders – formal orders of knighthood, such as the Bath.

- Decorations – technically any award which is neither an order nor a medal. They are usually bestowed for specific acts of bravery or for distinguished service. Examples include the Military Cross

(MC) and the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

- Medals – in four categories – medals awarded for bravery (such as the George Medal), campaign service, commemorative medals and long-service medals.

Parliament issued the Dunbar Medal in 1650 to commemorate the Roundhead victory in the Civil War, although it is not certain if this was issued to all officers and men.

The Victoria Cross and George Cross are in a category of their own and take precedence over all other awards.

**Medals for active service**

The concept of medals has been around for a long time. As far back as 1589, Queen Elizabeth I issued a medal to

celebrate the defeat of the Armada and Charles I ordered medals to be struck for the Royalist Army in 1643 (although none was issued).

Throughout the 18th century, various medals were authorised by the Crown or Parliament to celebrate individual victories. However, with few exceptions, these were limited issues and awarded only to senior offi-

cers and some were, in fact, paid for by private donation, the rank-and-file soldier being completely overlooked.

## First modern medal

It required the experience and upheaval of the Napoleonic Wars to usher in the modern idea of medals for all, irrespective of rank and, at first, traditional practice was followed. Gold medals were awarded to selected Royal Navy and Army officers together with the Army Gold Cross for very senior officers.

Then, in 1815, at the

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General Service Medal 1962 with clasp 'Northern Ireland'



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United Nations Medal for Service with UN Protection Force



UNPROFOR (former Republic of Yugoslavia). Awarded for 90 days service from December 15, 1991.

European Community Monitoring Mission Medal



Awarded to those who served for 21 days as European Community Monitors in the former Yugoslavia from July 27, 1991 to June 30, 1993.

NATO Medal with clasp 'Former Yugoslavia'

Awarded for 30 days' continuous or accumulated service in the theatre of NATO operations defined as:

- a. The territory of the former Yugoslavia and the Adriatic (ie Italy) from 1992 to date.
- b. 90 days' continuous or accumulated service in the area of operations outside the above from July 1, 1992 to date

## The South Atlantic Medal

Awarded to mark the service of the Task Force in the Falkland Islands and their dependencies and the South Atlantic area. The qualifying periods for the medal were:

a. Service of one day in the Falkland Islands or their dependencies or in the specified area of the South Atlantic between April 2, 1982 and June 14, 1982, both dates inclusive.

b. Services of 30 days' or more in the South Atlantic, not necessarily continuous but commencing between April 2, 1982 and June 14, 1982, both dates inclusive, and completing not later than July 12, 1982. Those who qualify under certain conditions are permitted to wear a distinguishing rosette on the ribbon of the medal.

## Rhodesia Medal

The Rhodesia Medal was awarded to members of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force who were deployed in theatre between December 1, 1979 and March 20, 1980 to oversee the transfer of sovereignty to the newly-elected Government of Zimbabwe.

## The Gulf Medal 1990 - 91

Awarded for:

- a. Seven days continuous service in the theatre of operations defined as: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar.
- b. Thirty days' continuous service in the theatre of operations defined as: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Republic of Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Cyprus, the United Arab Emirates and adjacent waters; the Sovereign Base Areas, between August 2, 1990 and March 7, 1991, both dates inclusive.
- c. Those members of the Kuwait Liaison Team who were in Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

urging of the Duke of Wellington, Parliament authorised the Waterloo Medals, the first issued by a British government to all ranks serving in a campaign. This precedent set the pattern for future campaign medal issues.

## Military General Service Medal

Eventually, in 1847, public opinion obliged Parliament belatedly to authorise the Military General Service Medal, 1793-1814, for all ranks of Napoleonic veterans (the RN and East India Company Armies had their own similar GS medals).

Even then, only survivors were eligible – there was no question of posthumous issue – and some waited a long time to receive their medal: veterans of the Battle of Maida (1806) were finally awarded their medals and clasps after 42 years!

Despite this official parsimony, operational service medals became an established institution and the pattern has continued, more or less, to this day with individual medals for wars and set-piece campaigns, and clasps on a GSM ribbon

for what used to be referred to as "small wars".

Examples of the former include the War Medal 1914-1920 and the various Second World War stars, the Korea Medal and, more recently, the South Atlantic, 1982, and Gulf, 1990-91 medals.

The Military General Service Medal idea carried on in the various Indian and African General Service medals down to the current Campaign Service Medal 1962-.

## Medals for bravery

Before the Crimean War, the only official recognition for gallantry in action were the Companion of the Bath (CB) and the Mention in Despatches. However, these were rarely awarded and largely confined to senior ranks.

To redress this unfairness, with Britain's involvement in the Crimean War in 1854, Queen Victoria authorised the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for NCOs and men.

In January 1856, deeply moved by first-hand accounts of the desperate fighting in the Crimea, Victoria (at the suggestion of the Duke of Wellington) authorised the Victoria Cross (VC) for gallantry in action. The first VC was awarded to a member of the Royal Engineers for his actions at the Battle of the Alma.

● Turn to next page

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# Advertising feature

# Outstanding heroism

## From Page 21

gestion, it was said, of Prince Albert) instituted the Victoria Cross (VC) expressly to reward outstanding heroism, irrespective of rank or influence.

In later years, as a direct response to the intensity of fighting in the First World War, it was felt that a third-level gallantry decoration was required.

Thus, in December 1914, King George V ordered the introduction of the Military Cross (MC) for officers, followed in March 1916 by the Military Medal (MM) for NCOs and soldiers.

The MM was originally intended to be a fast-track award that could be authorised at Divisional level, so eliminating the need for lengthy paperwork.

In the past few years, the developments in the international situation following the

end of the Cold War have led to the British Army deploying overseas in peace-keeping or peace-enforcing roles, usually as part of a multi-national or UN force.

## Recent trends

Consequently, soldiers are more likely than ever before to be awarded medals issued for United Nations or multi-national operations, with former Yugoslavia being a case in point – soldiers are eligible for both the UNPROFOR Medal and the NATO Medal for IFOR or SFOR deployments.

In addition, since 1987, British soldiers have served in UN operations in Cyprus, Namibia, Cambodia, Western Sahara, Kuwait, Angola and Rwanda. For each of these deployments, the UN Service Medal has been issued with the appropriate ribbon.



Medals galore: Cpl Levi Ashley received his fifth medal in eight years of Army service during a parade in Aldershot in 1996. His medals are (left to right) for service with the UN in Cyprus, the Gulf, UNPROFOR in former Yugoslavia (twice), Angola and IFOR in Bosnia.



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Gulf and South Atlantic Medals, though less common than the GSM, are cupronickel and thus cheaper to produce at around £26.

• The Long Service and Good Conduct and TA Efficiency Medal are comparatively uncommon and almost solid silver, so unit costs are around £80.

• United Nations and NATO medals are produced and distributed direct to those

eligible by these organisations from their own headquarters in New York and Brussels respectively. Compared with British medals they are cheap to manufacture . . . and it shows.

• Replacing lost medals can be difficult. The Army Medal Office can replace British medals lost through theft or house fire, but requires supporting documentation for a claim.

• United Nations and NATO medal replacements are available only from those organisations. Applicants face a lengthy bureaucratic process.

• The Royal Mint no longer produces First World War medals. However, there is unlikely to be a shortage . . . some 6,500,000 British war medals and 5,700,000 Allied Victory Medals were issued.

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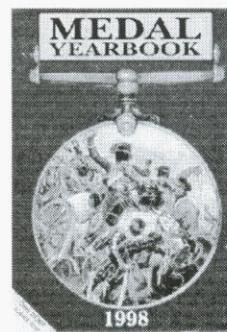
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# Time off

# Testimony to courage

Green Howards Museum is guardian to a rich legacy of valour

Report: Graham Bound  
Pictures: Terry Champion

LT COL Neil McIntosh is proud that both the Yorkshire Tourist Board and the British Museums and Galleries Commission recently gave his museum their much-coveted awards for excellence.

But keeping these honours in perspective is a simple matter. The curator of the Green Howards Museum at Richmond just has to walk the few steps from his office to the museum's medal collection to be reminded that awards have always been plentiful in his regiment.

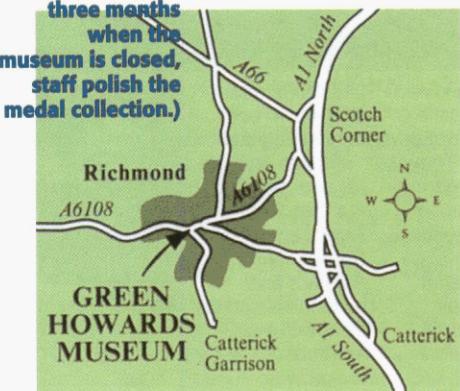
In the Medal Room, spotlights glint on 3,000 pieces of metal displayed in velvet-lined cases and trays. The number increases by around five each month as old soldiers die and families give their medals to the regiment for safe keeping. These relics of past greatness tell the curator in no uncertain terms that he and his staff have a duty to do justice to one of Britain's oldest regiments.

And they do. A visit to the Green Howards Museum, located in a picturesque converted church in Richmond's pretty market square, leaves the visitor with an appreciation of the importance of regimental tradition and simple good soldiery. Crucially, in an age when museum-goers look for entertainment as well as education, the museum is also lively, fascinating and fun.

Neil McIntosh explained with some pride that he and his staff have transformed the museum by using the latest developments in presentation and technology. "When we started our refurbishment in 1995, the

**Admission to the Green Howards Museum costs £2 for adults and £1 for children under 16. It is open from Feb 1 to Nov 30.**

**(During the three months when the museum is closed, staff polish the medal collection.)**



Top – The Medal Room, home to 15 VCs

Above – 17th century uniforms. A scrap of green fabric around the cuffs gave the regiment its name

only sense that visitors used was the Mark One eyeball, now they use most of them."

He pointed to a touch-screen video which displays black-and-white footage from the First World War, a CD ROM visual display bringing the story of the regiment up to date, and personal stereos which guide visitors around the three floors of the museum and reproduce battle sounds.

Less high-tech, but equally effective, are the mannequins in life-like tableaux which display original uniforms from the 17th century to the present day. They show not only the development of clothing – from the red coats which seemed to shout "I'm here, shoot me", to today's camouflage kit – but also the physical development of the soldiers themselves.

Today's fighting men would seem like giants alongside their 17th century ancestors, for whom staying alive on the battlefield must have been very much harder.

Children are encouraged to enjoy the

museum through play and their natural sense of exploration. They can follow a "treasure hunt", seeking answers to questions and sketching uniforms.

But it is the medal room to which most people return. These little pieces of ribbon and metal, imbued with courage and glory, come from the Napoleonic Wars, the Crimea, both world wars, Far East guerrilla campaigns, and today's Bosnia. They were awarded to all ranks and sometimes for deeds of epic heroism. Fifteen Victoria Crosses in the collection bear witness to that.

Of them all, the most significant arrived in the museum a few months ago. Medal collector Sir Ernest Harrison owned two of, arguably, the British Army's most famous VCs, awarded to Pte Henry Tandey, the most decorated private soldier of the First World War, and Sgt Maj Stanley Hollis, who won the only VC awarded on D-Day.

Sir Ernest had made clear his intention to bequeath the medals to the museum. But, following a dinner in Richmond at which he was the guest of honour, he surprised everyone by announcing that he wanted the museum to have the medals immediately.

Lt Col McIntosh could not have been more delighted. "To be given one VC is wonderful," he said. "But to be given two is awesome." He estimated that they would be worth about £100,000 each on the open market, but to the Green Howards they are priceless and will never be sold.

That is good news for visitors to the Green Howards Museum, who are promised a fascinating insight into the history of this unique regiment.

# Seeing double

Last year, *Soldier* published a story about identical twins, Sonia and Lena Steer, joining the Army. Their local paper had claimed they were the first identical twins to join up since National Service and we laid down the challenge to see if our readers knew better. You did, of course . . .

## Lauchlans and Crutchleys

The Army Apprentices College had a double dose of identical twins. Stephen and Antony Lauchlan (below left), both Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer apprentices, were not in the same company as their trades were different, but David and Peter Crutchley, (below right) were due to join the same corps in the Royal Signals and become tele-operators.



## WO2 Neil Hinchsliffe and WO2 John Hinchsliffe

The 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (V) has 37-year-old identical twins serving as WO2s. Neil (top picture), a stainless steel trading manager, is the CSM at B Company, Halifax, and John, an engineer, is the WO2 in the Battalion Recruit Training Team.

## Sgt Robert Caton and Cpl Richard Caton

Identical twins, Sgt Robert Caton and Cpl Richard Caton both decided to take to the air in their Army careers. They both served with 1 Army Air Corps before Robert went to 3 AAC and Richard moved to 9 AAC and then to 2 AAC in 1995.



Pictured during their first few weeks of training at the Army Training Regiment Glencorse in Penicuik are Ptes Shane and Timothy Corcoran. The two 16-year-olds, who grew up in Crossgates, Leeds, passed out in the middle of last year and were planning to join the same unit.



Identical twin brothers Cpl Alan and Ian Stoker joined the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards 11 years ago, following in their father's footsteps. They were the last soldiers to be married in 5 Innis DG uniforms before the regiment amalgamated to form The Royal Dragoon Guards.

## Cpl Alan Stoker and Cpl Ian Stoker

## Gnrs Paul and Andrew Ashton

The Royal Artillery is getting to know the name Ashton very well. Identical twins Gnrs Paul and Andrew Ashton went through Junior Leaders' Regiment Royal Artillery together in 1990. Paul then went to 26th Regiment and Andrew to 29 Commando Regiment. Since then their two younger brothers, Philip and Peter, have served with 26th Regiment.



## Sgt Martin Tudge and Cpl Marcus Tudge

Brothers Martin and Marcus Tudge joined the TA within five days of one another in January 1988. They initially enlisted into B Company, 8th Battalion The Light Infantry, but rebadged to The King's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry (Light Infantry) on its formation in August 1996.

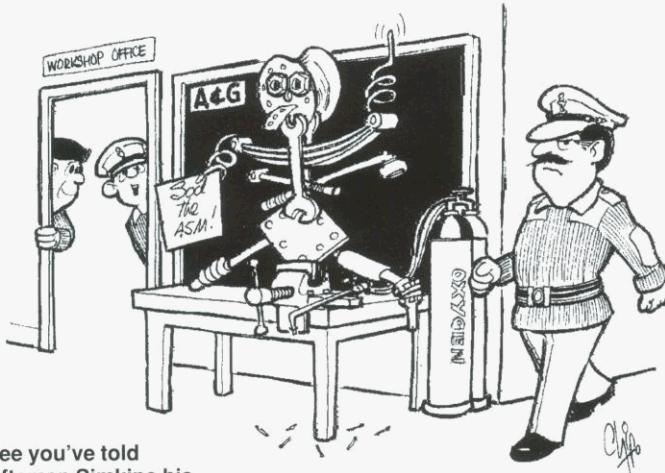
For four years they were both corporals so it was a great relief to everyone else in the unit when Martin was promoted.

## WO1 (SSM) (Retd) Steven Denman and WO2 (SQMS) (Retd) Ashley Denman

Steven and Ashley Denman joined the Army on July 10, 1972 at the Recruit Selection Centre at Sutton Coldfield. They chose careers in administration, joining the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as staff clerks. Their regimental numbers were sequential, 24294883 and 24294884; both served 22 years. Steven finished his service with the Directorate of Army Legal Services and Ashley's final posting was chief clerk with the Intelligence Corps. They both left the army on June 17, 1995.



Steven



"I see you've told  
Craftsman Simkins his  
discharge has been approved!"

## Chuckle with chip

### Spanner in the works!



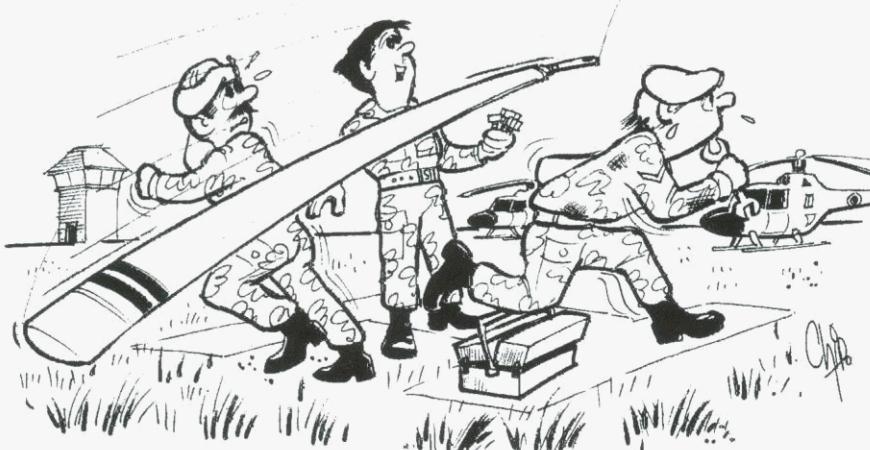
"When you've quite finished giggling . . ."



"And you tell the SQMS from me that getting the part  
number right to the nearest ten isn't good enough!"



"Fine adjuster!"



"It looks as though  
these bolts weren't  
buckshee after all!"

Who dares . . .

# Free as a bird

Report: Graham Bound  
Pictures: Mike Weston

WE WERE soaring at 1,700 feet, the Wiltshire countryside slipping away beneath us, when from the back seat of the ASK 21 training glider came a quiet but firm instruction. "Place your hand on the control column," said SSgt Allan Tribe.

I swallowed hard and did so.

"Now move it gently to the left. You have control."

Reclining in my seat, comfortably and reassuringly padded by a packed parachute, I felt the slender aircraft respond. It dipped a wing and began a graceful turn to the left.

"Watch the aircraft's attitude," said Allan, his voice reassuringly stress-free. I pushed the column forward gingerly, and the nose dipped until the horizon was a few inches above the edge of the cockpit. In a gentle dive, the plane maintained its required 50 knots or so.

"Excellent," said Allan. "You just need to be a little more firm on the controls. Don't be scared to move the column positively." With a growing feeling of confidence I resolved to send a no-nonsense message to the rudder and wings next time.

It seemed remarkable that I should be steering this deceptively flimsy-looking craft through the air, albeit with the reassuring presence of a highly-experienced instructor a few feet away. After all, just 15 minutes earlier we had been on the ground discussing the principles of unpowered flight and strapping on parachutes ("I've never needed one yet, but if I say jump, jump," said Allan).

## DOWN TO EARTH

"I've got the controls," came the voice from the back. I relaxed as Allan was "positive" with them, throwing the glider into a steep bank and wheeling around towards the grass runway. He pulled a lever and large vertical aluminium air brakes emerged from the wings. There was a mild bump and our single wheel undercarriage was rolling along the grass runway.

The flight had been brief, curiously serene, and yet, once I got my hands on the controls, intensely exciting. I was amazed to be learning so quickly.

But as club chairman Lt Col Jamie Sage explained, everyone is surprised by the speed of the learning process. "We always aim to get students into the air and handling the controls very quickly.

Flying without an engine is a better idea than it sounds, as our reporter discovered while soaring with members of the Army Gliding Association at their Wyvern club



Club chairman Lt Col Jamie Sage looks on while chief instructor Allan Tribe takes our man through the pre-flight checks

Depending on their aptitude they can even be flying solo in 50 flights."

This could lead to a student cavorting through the sky, as lonely as a cloud, within a week.

Enough of the chat, I thought. Let's get back in the air. This sport was beginning to get a grip on me. Minutes later we were attached by a long cable to a winch that another club member, Cpl Mark Lumb, would use to catapult us into the air. We worked briskly through instrument and safety checks before Allan signalled that we were ready. The cable went taught and we rocketed across the grass for 30 yards before the nose lifted and we began a climb that seemed impossibly steep.

I went off launches for a while but by the end of the afternoon they were no longer scaring me. I discovered how rudder pedals could stop my turns from skidding sideways across the sky. And, with a more positive hand, I was flying the aircraft until just seconds from landing, when Allan would take over. It was fun,



The noise of air rushing past the cockpit ceased as we gained level flight but we seemed to be too low.

Feeling a simultaneous tightening of the larynx and a loosening of the sphincter, I tried to remember the routine for a parachute escape: was it jettison canopy, undo straps and pull the rip-cord or jettison rip-cord, pull the straps and let someone else worry about the canopy?

I had decided to do all at the same time and sort it out later when Allan calmly explained that the cable had broken. We were OK, but we would need to land a little sooner than anticipated because we did not have sufficient height for a long flight. "Nothing to worry about," he said cheerfully. "These things happen, and it's something student pilots have to be confident enough to handle."

I went off launches for a while but by the end of the afternoon they were no longer scaring me. I discovered how rudder pedals could stop my turns from skidding sideways across the sky. And, with a more positive hand, I was flying the aircraft until just seconds from landing, when Allan would take over. It was fun,

great fun, and easier than I had dared hope.

I may even go back for more lessons. If I do, I am sure it will take more than the minimum 40 or 50 flights before I go solo, but that is not a problem because, for the Services, MoD staff and even *Soldier* writers, gliding is remarkably affordable. A trial lesson at the Wyvern club, near Upavon, costs just £15, and a five-day course £100. (An equivalent course at a civilian club might cost three times as much). The five-day package includes six months'

Soaring at 1,700 feet over Wiltshire  
Left – The view from the cockpit

## I want to go gliding. What should I do next?

If you live in the Wiltshire area and like the sound of the Wyvern club, contact chairman Lt Col Jamie Sage at Upavon during working hours on (mil) 734 5133 or (civ) 01980 615133. Chief Instructor Allan Tribe can be contacted on (mil) 732 4296 or (civ) 01980 674296.

If whole units are interested in the sport and have access to a basic runway, the Wyvern club may be able to go to them. The club has a motor-glider, and is always pleased to make flying visits.

There are also Army gliding clubs at Odiham in Hampshire (contact Chris Wick on 01372 458579 or Chris Scott 01483 415054) and at Osnabrück, Germany (contact Brian Trotter on 0541 21711).

Army and MoD staff can join any of the other 17 Service clubs run by the RAF and the Royal Navy.

For general advice about the sport, contact the British Gliding Association on 0116 2531051.

# Things you don't like about moving



BREAKS in children's education, disruption to spouses' employment and emotional and physical stress exacerbated by the march-out system are the biggest problems associated with accompanied service, according to a survey carried out by the Army Families Federation.

More than 240 replies were received from families in the UK, Northern Ireland and Germany, providing a clear picture of what aspects of "following the flag" caused the most distress.

Fourth in the list was the emotional effect of frequent moves, involving loss of friends, distance from family, lack of local involvement and no sense of belonging.

Other irritations were the complex logistics of moving every two years or less – sorting out schools, telephones, bank accounts, medical records, doctors, dentists and so on – damage to and loss of belongings during moves, difficulties in finding NHS dentists and doctors to accept Army dependants, and the hidden costs involved in moving.

Asked what they would do to improve the situation, those surveyed opted for longer tour lengths (of three to five years); a better, more consistent standard of housing, and larger houses in general; major surgery to the "archaic" march-out system; posting dates before the new academic year and avoiding school holidays, term times and examinations; a guaranteed house on posting; and increased

leave entitlement for serving soldiers to settle their families.

Other popular suggestions were the provision of better facilities, such as surgeries and shops, near MQs; longer advance notice of postings; an advance information pack on schools in the new posting area; rewards for years of accompanied service; creation of more employment opportunities, especially overseas, and a reduction in soldiers' time away.

## MQ patch fund grows and grows

IN the January issue we announced the creation of a new fund to help activities and projects of benefit to Service families living on married quarters patches.

First the bad news: the donation given by Annington Homes, purchasers of the MoD's MQ estate, to underwrite the fund was not £50,000.

Now the good news: it was a whopping £50,000!

Applicants should write, describing the background to their request and the purpose and size of the grant, to Cherry Milne, Army Families Federation, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 6BE, or to the Annington Trust, Annington Homes Ltd, Colechurch House, London Bridge Walk, London SE1 2SX.

## Car draw raises a nifty £100,000

CHANNEL 5's showbiz correspondent, Julia Bradbury, gets stuck in, right, at the draw for the 20th SSAFA Forces Help's three-car raffle, ably assisted by cadets from 135 Detachment Army Cadet Force (Royal Regiment of Fusiliers).

The draw, sponsored by Natcars of Bridgwater and Rover Group Motors, attracted about 400,000 entries and raised more than £100,000 for the charity's work.

Julia drew the winning tickets from a giant military-style drum.

The top three prizes, a Land Rover Discovery Tdi, Rover 214 8v and a Rover 1.11 Metro, were won respectively by Brian McPoland, from Merseyside, the father of a Serviceman; Michael Lambourne, an ex-Serviceman, from Oxfordshire; and Ray Dilley, from Bedfordshire.



# Subject that's no longer taboo

## Ask Cari...

Cari's column looks at mental health, how it affects others, and suggests where you can go for support. If you think Cari can help you, write to her in confidence, at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o Soldier

**Dear Cari,** WE think our daughter is becoming anorexic. She has always been a fussy eater but now she's obsessive about diets and hardly seems to eat. If I try to talk about it, it seems to make things worse. My husband says I'm making a fuss and she'll grow out of it. – **Mrs J (UK)**

**Cari replies:** Eating disorders have had a high profile on television and in the press so we are much more aware of the problem. When a person is diagnosed as having a specific disorder, such as anorexia, there are a number of groups which can help. But the important thing is not to put too much pressure on your daughter before you have all the information. Talk to your doctor, who will be able to tell you if her health is suffering. You also need to gather some information yourself which you might be able to give to your daughter if she continues to refuse food. One helpful

organisation is the Eating Disorders Association, Sackville Place, 44-48 Magdalen Street, Norwich NR3 1JU. It offers a network of contact addresses and runs a book mailing service.

**Dear Cari,** MY friend just seems to have given up on life. She's stopped going out and she doesn't answer the phone. Whenever I go round she's still in her dressing gown, even at lunchtime. I don't want to interfere but her husband keeps going away and I don't like to think of her on her own. It's very difficult talking to her because she isn't interested in anything any more. – **Mrs F (BFG)**

**Cari replies:** It certainly sounds as though your friend is going through something a bit more serious than a bout of the blues. One of the signs of depression is a complete loss of interest in the world and in yourself and the most difficult part of it is that you really can't

**IT IS NO BAD THING THAT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ARE NOW ROUTINELY INCLUDED IN DAY-TIME TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES AND SOAP OPERAS. HOW MUCH BETTER IT IS THAT WE CAN ALL TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH THAN THE TIME WHEN THE SUBJECT WAS TABOO.** However, it does mean that we have encouraged ourselves to believe that our lives should be free from stress and, if they aren't, we should be able to take a pill or talk to a therapist to make it go away.

**Human existence is stressful. When we cease to be able to deal with the stress our mental health suffers. We**



**Cari Roberts**

be bothered to seek help for yourself because it seems so pointless. You are being a true friend in not rushing in and telling her to pull herself together. You're also sticking by her even though she's not much company. You could get in touch with your local SSAFA Forces Help staff and ask for their advice. They will know exactly how to handle a difficult situation tactfully. It might be that your friend needs medical help or counselling or there may be some private cause of grief. In the meantime you should continue to visit her, even though it will be difficult. Don't be tempted to take over and tidy up. Sit with her and ask what you can do to help. At the moment she'll probably say "nothing" but later, when she's better, she'll be grateful for your help.

**Dear Cari,** I KEEP getting panic attacks. The doctor says it's stress and he's given me pills but I don't like taking them. Isn't there some

## Cari comments:

**KNOW THAT LIVING WITH THE ARMY CAN, AT TIMES, MEAN DEALING WITH EXTRA STRESSES. RELATIONSHIPS SUFFER BECAUSE OF FREQUENT SEPARATION. MOVING AROUND FROM HOME TO HOME CREATES TENSIONS. LIVING WITHIN A SYSTEM THAT REQUIRES YOU TO REACT AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE – EVEN IF YOU'RE ON LEAVE – AND ALWAYS BEHAVE IN A SUITABLE MANNER EVEN WHEN OFF-DUTY IMPOSES OTHER STRESSES. MANY PEOPLE RATHER ENJOY THE CHALLENGE. OTHERS COPE IN THEIR OWN WAYS, RECKONING THE WAY OF LIFE WORTH THE COMPROMISES. SOMETIMES, THOUGH, THE**

thing else? I am worried that the doctor might be wrong and I might have something really wrong with me. – **Mrs L (BFG)**

**Cari replies:** More people get panic attacks than you might imagine and they can be caused by a lot of things.

One of the features of a panic attack is that you think there's something very serious happening to you. If your doctor has checked you over and reassured you that there is no physical cause for these attacks you should try to follow his advice.

Pills aren't always a bad option. A course of medication might be enough to break a cycle of panic attacks. On the other hand, there are other strategies you might try that don't involve pills... but you must talk to your doctor about them first.

Here's another source of advice: the British Register of Complementary Practitioners lists professionals working in the field and can be obtained from the Institute for Complementary Medicine, PO Box 194, London SE16 1QZ.

**STRAIN IS TOO MUCH AND THE MIND NEEDS TAKING CARE OF JUST AS THE BODY WOULD IF IT WERE OVERWHELMED WITH THE 'FLU. IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE ADDRESSES OF ORGANISATIONS THAT DEAL WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS DO DROP ME A LINE. I HAVE A FACTSHEET AVAILABLE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND I CAN ALWAYS FIND EXTRA INFORMATION IF YOU NEED IT.**

**NEXT MONTH WE'LL BE LOOKING AT LETTERS ON MARRIAGE AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE WAY IN WHICH SOME PEOPLE DEAL WITH FREQUENT SEPARATION. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A PROBLEM OR OFFER SOME ADVICE OF YOUR OWN PLEASE WRITE TO ME.**

● Cari presents *Counterpoint* on BFBS radio.

## Other issues

The Armed Forces Pay Review Body visited HQ Infantry at Warminster in one of its last visits of 1997. The team, led by chairman Sir Gordon Houston, met the Director of Infantry, Brig Mark Strudwick, and the Director of Personnel Services (Army), Brig Peter Currie, before joining B Company, 2 R Anglian for an exercise at Imber Clump on Salisbury Plain. AFRB members made it clear that they were strongly behind the Infantry's drive for higher pay for long-serving, multi-skilled, and well-qualified privates and lance corporals.

MoD police officers stationed at HQ Land Command, Wilton, have created an Internet web page covering aspects of crime prevention and community liaison. Their "beat" includes Tidworth, Larkhill, Warminster, Bulford and Salisbury. The web page address is <http://freespace.virgin.net/ian.burdon/mdpspta.html>. Constable Ian Burdon, on 01722 433132, is the man behind the project.

From April 1, buyers of new, tax-free cars in British Forces Germany will have to keep them for a full 12 months before selling, or face strict penalties.

For the first time, Servicemen and women and civilians in the Falkland Islands were able to watch the Queen's Speech on Christmas Day. The breakthrough came about

thanks to a new 24-hour Intelsat satellite service introduced by TLI and BFBS, part of the SSVC Group. Until now, the Falkland Islands BFBS TV service involved flying video tapes to Stanley via Ascension Island, up to two weeks after the programmes were broadcast in the UK and Europe.

**Naafi and Bass have signed a three-year deal worth £5 million to introduce a range of beers and lagers including Carling Black Label, Carling Premier and Worthington Draught Bitter to Naafi pubs and clubs.**

**BATSUB, the British Army Training Support Unit Belize, celebrated its first wedding when Sgt Steve Baldrey, REME attached to 25 Flight AAC, married Charlotte Quinton in the cathedral of St John the Baptist in Belize City. Best man was SSgt Jim Cammock and Maj Alf Palmer escorted the bride. A surprise reception was held at Airport Camp.**

# High-wire act at Bramley

Report: Karen Moseley  
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE YOUNG soldier's legs had turned to jelly and 25 feet up, all he could do was stand still on the small platform clinging to a nearby tree as if his life depended on it.

For the first time, Craftsman Kerri Roe, of 70 Aircraft Workshop, was experiencing the "high-low wire confidence course" on Bramley Military Training Area. Suspended among stout oak branches, the specially-designed course of wires, ropes and logs is demanding enough to test the steadiest nerve and head for heights.

The person responsible for the design, Maj Hugh Drummond, commandant of Bramley for the past 18 months, started talking the soldier through the course. He assured him that no matter what he did he would not fall and injure himself. The legs regained control and within minutes Cfn Roe was back on terra firma, admitting that he felt proud and relieved about what he had achieved.

#### SCARY

"I've done abseiling before," he said, "but it was nothing like this. It feels as if there is nothing but air all around you. The first bit was the hardest and the jump was scary. But it certainly builds up your confidence. I honestly didn't think I was going to be able to do it."

Maj Drummond, an APTC instructor for 15 years, never had any doubts – although he did recall a managing director of a multi-national company who gave up on the first part of the course. "That in itself requires a lot of courage... to know your limitations," he said.

"But it is wonderfully safe," he continued. "The two harnesses around the body were the particular safety feature which impressed me most. There are also two slings, so that even when you are moving from one part of the course to another you are always attached to the safety wires."

"It was a dream I had, to have something completely different from the ordinary NATO standard assault course, and have something special that you had to come to Bramley to do."

"Expect the unexpected" is probably the best way to describe Bramley Military Training Area.

The 900-plus acres of "brilliant Hampshire real estate", as Maj Drummond describes it, has come a long way from its days as a Central Ammunition Depot

'Expect the unexpected' is probably the best way to describe this unusual military training area



Recruits from 263 Signals Squadron on the survival stand during leadership training

during the two world wars. Soldiers exercising there now are much more likely to see herds of deer and llama – yes, llama – rare butterflies and a steam train puffing past, than unpleasant remains of the toxic bombs once stored there.

Two major clearance exercises, Operation Apple in 1987 and Operation Cornelius in 1995, disposed of chemical weapons such as phosgene and mustard gas shells, mortars, grenades and mines which had been buried in various dumps.

The training area is now regularly used by recruits and soldiers for phase I training and survival and leadership courses. The mix of open countryside and woodland, criss-crossed with the remains of old railway tracks and buildings, lends itself perfectly to exercise scenarios and company-level dry training.

Bramley's past, however, remains an inescapable fact and so precautions must still be taken. Troops may not dig trenches or light fires and must not drive vehicles heavier than one ton off the marked tracks.

Although Bramley is closed to the public there is a conservation group of which Maj Drummond is chairman. "I see my job here as a combination of preserving the countryside and running a military training area. Keeping the balance between the two is a lot of fun," he said.

"The personnel refined their skills in battle-damage repair, aircraft-marshal-

ling and working with underslung loads. The facilities at Bramley training area are ideal for this type of exercise," said a spokesman for the unit.

The instructors of 668 Training Squadron, Army Air Corps, regularly use Bramley to test students' radio skills. SSgt "Chann" Channel said: "We try to get here for most of our signals courses. Salisbury Plain tends to get very crowded and we need distance so that the students have to do the job properly or they don't get through."

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He has cleared out much of the old

blackthorn, planted oak trees and created a pond on some marshy ground – "a great area to patrol around." The pond was dug over one weekend by Royal Engineers from Central Volunteer HQ RE. A bird hide, made out of old telegraph poles which had been lying around the area, was built overlooking the pond with help from the Defence Estate Organisation. Maj Drummond plans to enter the area in the MoD Sanctuary Award Scheme.

There is plenty of wildlife, with a particularly good badger set (out of bounds to troops), birds, a deer herd and a group of 11 male (he hopes) llamas. Sir William McAlpine, who in a private venture has cleared one of the old railway lines and runs a steam train, the Bramley Ghost, along it, asked Maj Drummond if he would take the llamas as a favour. The steam train, the first in Bramley for 35 years, will be used by the Railway Squadron for exercises.

#### BUG REPORT

A great enthusiast for the flora and fauna of Bramley is Gen Peter Bush, who does a regular "bug report" for the conservation group made up mainly of retired Army people as well as a few civilians.

"Much of this land has not been farmed and there is tremendous bird life, wildlife, fungus and certainly lots of bugs," he said. "We have people occasionally beating a hasty retreat when they are being advanced on by soldiers with bayonets, but I suppose there can be nothing more disconcerting for a soldier in a middle of an exercise than seeing someone standing in front with a butterfly net."

Maj Drummond knows every inch of the training area. As a former international orienteer who represented Britain during the 1970s, he has laid out a course. Bramley is now the Army Orienteering Association Centre and Maj Drummond coaches and runs computer-mapping and skills courses.

Bramley provides accommodation for up to 60 people. The old officers' mess, under Maj Drummond's enthusiastic leadership, has been transformed from the crumbling, leaking building it once was. It now boasts washrooms, bedrooms, a dining room and conference rooms.

"Everybody tells me Bramley is brilliant for training," Maj Drummond said. "It has suffered from bad PR in the past, but with discipline and proper briefings it is a fantastic area."



High-wire tricks in the trees on Bramley training area

# Sharpe practice

Interview: Chris Kinsville-Heyne  
Picture: Terry Champion

THE ROAR of the jet engine is muffled by the thick double-glazed window. The white-bodied airliner appears from behind a building and climbs, almost silently, into the Sussex sky. The door to the room in a hotel overlooking Gatwick airport opens and the man who made a Greenjacket soldier a household name walks in.

Bernard Cornwell laughs easily and his face reflects the enjoyment he gets from life. His latest book, *Excalibur*, is the last in a trilogy set in the Dark Ages. But it was his Peninsular War hero, Richard Sharpe, who captured the imagination of millions. And, says the author, the world's most famous Greenjacket was inspired by a naval hero.

"Sharpe came about from reading Horatio Hornblower as a child. There was nothing to compete with the swash-buckling hero and at the age of 14 I began to read the non-fiction histories of that time. I found Wellington and thought that these stories were better than the Navy's. Much better.

"I kept on haunting W H Smith thinking that someone was going to write about the period, but no one did. Sharpe is a straight take-off of Hornblower. I always wanted to give him an interesting name, like Trumpetwhistler, but I couldn't think of one and it was holding up the first book.

## BRITISH LION

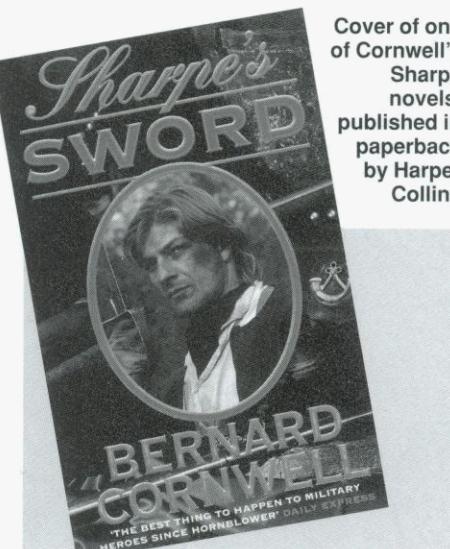
"I thought: 'I will call him Richard Sharpe after the England and British Lions rugby player and when I think of a real name I will put it in.' I never got round to it."

He asks if he may light a slim cigar and runs his hand through his hair. He recalls the sudden choice of Sean Bean to play the lead role in the television series.

"Paul McGann got the original part but tripped playing football against the extras, from the Ukrainian army. He couldn't walk for six months. It was the biggest insurance claim ever made in television history. Sean was the only other person available."

He reflects on the fact that the decision had other repercussions, one of which was to take Sean Bean to his present pin-up status.

Apparently the famous publicity shot of Sharpe with his green jacket open down to



Cover of one of Cornwell's Sharpe novels, published in paperback by Harper Collins

You would be very unlucky if you got one battle a year. To be in every battle, like Sharpe, would be very unlikely

The latest Sharpe on the bookshelves is *Tiger*, which takes the reader back to the character's early days in India.

"Really, I didn't do my research properly. When I came to write the book, years after I said that Sharpe came to read and write in jail in India, I realised that if in fact I put him in jail long enough to learn to read, then what's he going to do? Not much of a story there. So he's only in jail for three days, so that's a hell of a fudge. Let's say he's a quick learner. If you want to know more, get the book."

A wistful look prompts the question about his own military aspirations.

"Yes, I do wish I had been in the Army. I remember in the recruiting office they said the Pay Corps would love to have me. I didn't want that." He turns his eyes upwards, thinks for a moment and chuckles. "I wanted to be Andy McNab, I think. The Army was saved by my appalling eyesight."

So his military career was lived through a fictitious character?

"Of course. The great thing about writing Sharpe is that when the poor bugger gets into trouble you just hit the reverse button, go back three chapters and change a circumstance so that he can win. Real soldiers don't have that luxury. The number of times that Sharpe has been on the point of being killed and I've said: 'Whoops! Stop that one', I go back a few chapters and give him a way out."

## RESPECT FOR RGJ

"My respect for the Royal Green Jackets came about from the research for Sharpe. If I had written a realistic series about a British Army officer in the Peninsula it would have been quite dull. Most soldiering is about not doing very much. You would be very unlucky if you got one battle a year. To be in every battle, like Sharpe, would be very unlikely."

Sharpe books end with a battle; battles are great for tying up loose ends of plots, you can kill people off, lose them, anything. For thrillers, you have to invent a whole plot."

"I've always wanted to do Arthur, but it's the Dark Ages. No one knows anything



Cornwell: "I do wish I had been in the Army. I remember in the recruiting office they said the Pay Corps would love to have me. I didn't want that."

about it, so you make it up. There is no real historical fact about the Battle of Mount Badon. You can't research it as we are not even sure if the battle happened. What I did was read lots of the early Welsh poetry and that gave me details of how they lived.

So it is basically the Battle of Salamanca. I hadn't realised that until I had written it. *Excalibur* is the end of the trilogy which was all about restoring Arthur as a warlord. Everyone makes him into this sort of very gentle, perfect knight, a bit of a wimp. He obviously wasn't. He plainly was a soldier. So I tried to put Arthur back into a realistic context as a warrior."

While his love of the ocean and sailing is never far from the surface, the discipline in pursuing a writing career has been learned over the years.

"I always write two books a year. The dream is of only working during the winter and sailing during the summer. I tried to

cricket. Last summer the British Lions rugby tour was top of his viewing list.

"I really enjoy cricket and rugby. I come back each year for the Oxford and Cambridge game. Last time I played cricket was ten years ago. I went down to the old village in Devon where I used to live and they asked me to turn out for them."

His voice drops to a conspiratorial whisper. "I was out first ball." The revelation provokes another deep laugh.

On his way to the door he reflects on the way the British Army has responded to his creation. "Sharpe was made an honorary member of the Royal Green Jackets Mess at Peninsula Barracks in Winchester. I'm still waiting for my privileges . . . maybe Sharpe is getting them all."

go down to one book a year but then wondered what to do for the other six months, so thought I might as well work." He rises and stands by the window. Another jet appears quietly and climbs into the clouds.

"I'm in England for one week then on to Waterloo with the Sharpe Appreciation Society, 100 people walking the battlefield. I'm there for the weekend." He frowns. "I just hope I can remember what happened."

On his way to the door he reflects on the way the British Army has responded to his creation. "Sharpe was made an honorary member of the Royal Green Jackets Mess at Peninsula Barracks in Winchester. I'm still waiting for my privileges . . . maybe Sharpe is getting them all."

British sappers 155 years ago faced the challenge of building a new town in the South Atlantic. Today its streets reflect that military heritage

SEVERAL thousand Servicemen and women are posted to the Falklands each year, and at one time or another most will visit the islands' tiny capital, writes **Graham Bound**.

But if they make the mistake of calling it a village or even just a town, they are likely to be pulled up by one of the 2,000 or so residents. By virtue of its cathedral, its role as the seat of government, and the islands' commercial centre, Stanley is a city.

It is, certainly, one of the smallest cities, but its buildings, memorials, cemeteries and even the wrecks that litter its harbour speak of a military and pioneering history that would do justice to any metropolis. (Incidentally, to settle all arguments, the city/town is officially known as Stanley, not Port Stanley).

Prior to the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, Stanley's strategic location near Cape Horn made its harbour a vital haven for ships damaged by the world's most feared ocean crossroads. Many limped back into Stanley, condemned to remain there forever, victims of what one poet called the blind Horn's hate.

It was that strategic position that made the Falklands the location for one of Britain's greatest sea victories of the First World War. In December 1914, a strong German naval squadron approached Stanley intent on capturing the naval base and hoisting the Imperial flag over the town. But the Germans were caught unawares by a more powerful British fleet, which pursued and sank all but one of the raiders. To this day, the islanders' main public holiday is December 8, the day they were delivered from the Germans.

## HMS EXETER

The naval connection continued during the Second World War, when, following the Battle of the River Plate, the cruiser HMS *Exeter* limped back to Stanley after a bruising encounter with the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee*. British wounded were treated in Stanley's hospital, and some of her crew are buried in the cemetery, cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

For many visitors, it is the peaceful aspect of Stanley that fascinates. Islanders still have a pioneering, make-do spirit and enjoy their feeling of distance from the rest of the world.

Brightly-coloured wooden cottages, many constructed by the Royal Engineers and Army pensioners who were dispatched south to build Stanley in the 1840s, provide colourful and tangible links with the colonial past.

And there are, of course, poignant reminders of 1982, when the British Army besieged Stanley and eventually captured it from Argentine troops. An impressive memorial, funded and built by islanders, takes pride of place on Stanley's sea front.

Even today Servicemen and women are adding to Stanley's history. The nostalgic signpost to which visiting soldiers ritually attach the names of their home towns will also one day mark an important era in the life of Stanley – the little city with a lot of history.



Left – Stanley's oldest buildings are these prefabricated cottages on Barrack Street. Built by Royal Engineers, they were married quarters for the soldiers who garrisoned the Falklands more than 150 years ago



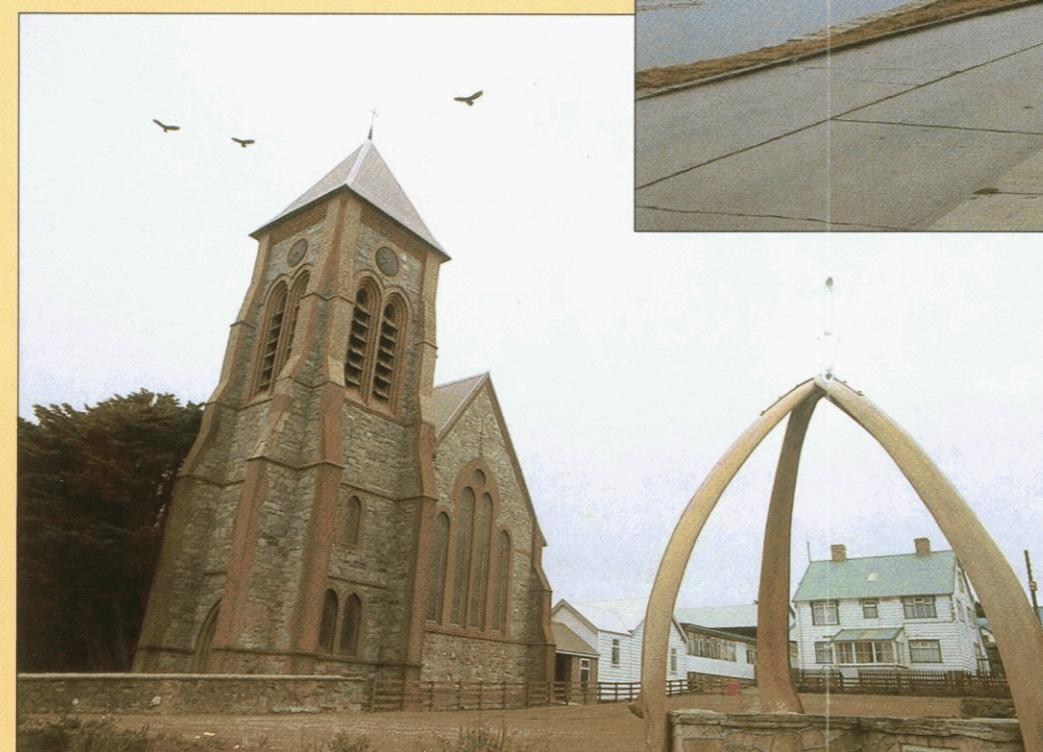
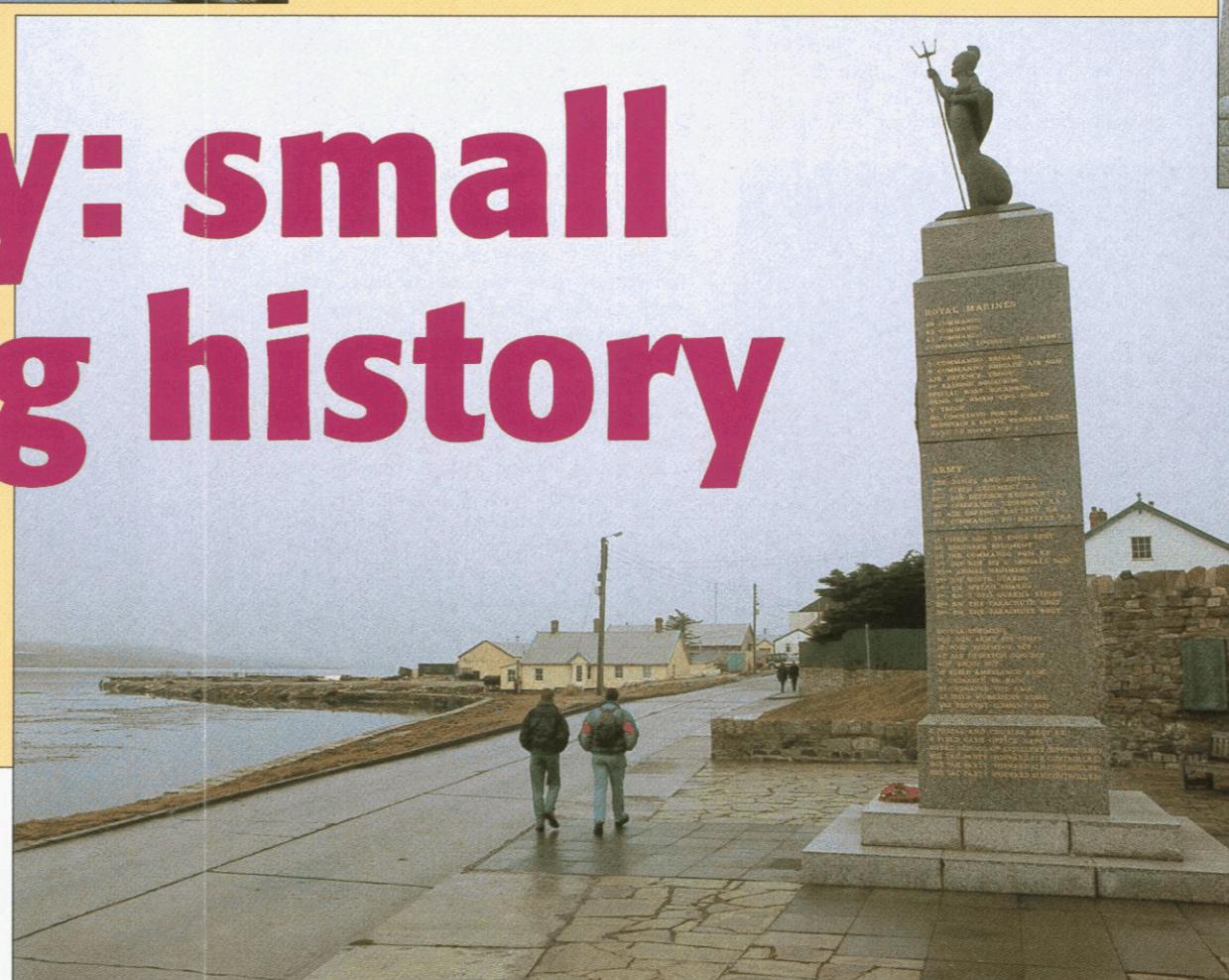
Right – Bitter South Atlantic winters take their toll on the old wooden houses

Pictures: Mike Weston

# Stanley: small city, big history

Right – The memorial to the British dead of the Falklands war dominates Stanley's seafront

Below – Christ Church Cathedral is the largest stone building in Stanley and at one time was the seat of the Anglican Bishop of South America. The arch in the foreground is made of the jaw bones of two blue whales; a reminder of the days when whaling was an important industry



Below – Once a fine square rigger, the *Jhelum* was one of many victims of Cape Horn to limp back to Stanley Harbour



The 1914 Battle Memorial commemorates Britain's naval victory over a German squadron



The "Gozome tree". Since the 1982 war, Servicemen and women have been attaching signs indicating the distances to their home towns (or even their local pub) to this telegraph pole just outside Stanley

# Bringing in the big guns

Report: Graham Bound

IF TOUGH field trials currently nearing completion are successful, a select number of soldiers will soon get their hands on a new and devastatingly powerful rifle.

Three manufacturers have put forward weapons which they hope will satisfy the Army's need for a long-range, large-calibre rifle (known as the LRLCR) to equip Britain's spearhead Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JPDF).



Above - Cool weapon: Accuracy International's .338 calibre rifle

Right (big picture) - Eye tech: The Accuracy International .5 calibre rifle under test in Alaska

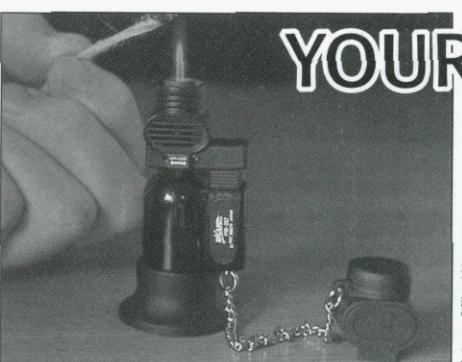
Right - The French contender: the Hecate .5 calibre

Below - Made in America: the Barrett .5 calibre



Pictures: Infantry Trials and Development Unit

A final round of trials will soon begin in Australia, before final reports are compiled and the Army selects its new heavy rifle.



Picture: Mike Weston

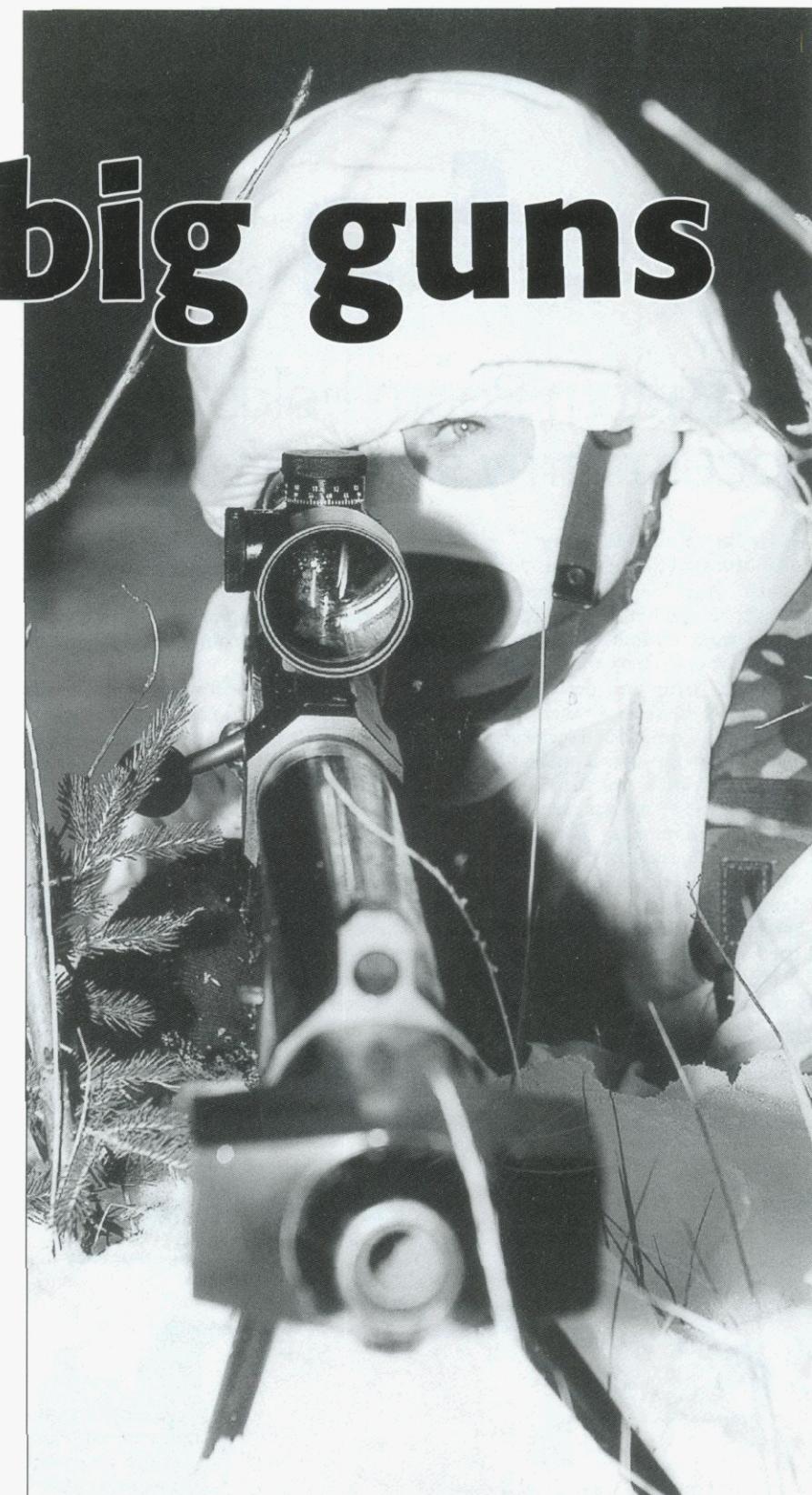
they offer fearsome stopping power and range.

The contending weapons, some of which are .5 in calibre (at least twice the size of an SA80 round) are manufactured by the British company Accuracy International, the French Hecate company and America's Barrett. Most use the single-shot bolt action technology so familiar to snipers from pre-First World War to today.

But the guns are definitely not for the traditional lone operators, whose need for concealment and mobility demands a light weapon. Instead, the LRLCR is likely to be brought into play as a defensive weapon in environments where indiscriminate fire would be unacceptable.

A team from the Infantry Trials and Development Unit, with marksmen from The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the Coldstream Guards, has just returned from Alaska, where the weapons' accuracy and reliability were tested in Arctic conditions as low as minus 30 centigrade. The marksmen received rather better treatment than the weapons: while the soldiers enjoyed the accommodation of the American Army's Cold Region Test Centre, the weapons were further tested by being left out in the bitter cold.

Reflecting the variety of possible JPDF deployments, tests have also been conducted in the sandy conditions of Kuwait, the jungles of Brunei and in the rather more typically British setting of Otterburn Range.



## YOUR OWN POCKET BLOW TORCH

THIS, one should be told immediately, may look like lighter but it is no Zippo. Certainly the Pocket Micro Torch will light a cigarette, but it will also solder, melt wax for skis, light fires and produce an impressive amount of light if the power fails.

We are not sure exactly what most people would use a pocket blow torch for, but our "laddishness" tells us that it

has to have lots of fun uses in the great outdoors.

Oh, and if you do use it to light a fag, be careful. Loosing nasal hair in a flash may sound like a good idea, but people look strange without eyebrows.

The Micro Torch is marketed by the Dutch company Blue Flame Products at Weerdsingel, WZ 23, NL-3513 BB, Utrecht.

## Questions of rank

### Suppressing wickedness

LAST month's column focused on the ranks of field marshal and general. In this issue we continue down the pecking order:

**Lieutenant-general** may command a corps. It first came into use with a wider meaning for one who exercised a delegated rule or command, such as a vice-regent of a kingdom.

Two members of the Army Board, the Quartermaster General and Master General of the Ordnance, are among those who hold this rank.

**Major-general** may be GOC of a division. Historically the rank was given to officers commanding the 12 administrative districts, into which England was divided, under Cromwell's system of military government in 1655-57. Their task was to "preserve the peace, to suppress wickedness etc".

**Brigadier** may command a brigade. The rank of brigadier first appeared in the French Army as an NCO equating to corporal (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote a series of tales about a swashbuckling Napoleonic soldier called Brigadier Gerard). It was a junior commissioned rank in the Horse Guards in 1678. The earliest record as a senior rank was in 1685, when James II appointed four "Brigadiers" or "Colonels of Brigade". For 200 years after 1746 there were no substantive brigadiers, although there were temporary and local brigadier-generals, especially in overseas stations. In 1928 the temporary rank of brigadier replaced colonel-commandant and colonel-on-the-staff. It was not until 1946 that the rank became substantive.

**Colonel** theoretically commands a regiment, although his is not a fighting formation or unit like a brigade or battalion. In fact a colonel may command a military establishment or be on the staff. There are two possible origins for the rank of colonel. One is from the French equivalent *coronel*, which is associated with *corona* or *couronne*, meaning crown. The other is from the Italian equivalent, *colonnello*, which comes from *colonna* - a column. A colonel led a column of men. The rank is often honorary, being conferred on members of the Royal Family and officers of star rank.

**Lieutenant-colonel** theoretically is in lieu or stands in for a colonel. In practice a lieutenant-colonel is the actual commanding officer of a battalion or equivalent unit. - Hugh Howton

● More ranks in the next issue

# Legacy of a king

... wee doe hereby appoint and command, that hereafter there shall be but one uniform fashion of armours of the said common and trayned bands throughout our said Kingdome of England and domynion of Wales ... (the patterns whereof are now and shall remayn in the office of our ordinance from tyme to tyme, which is our pleasure likewise concerning gunnes, pikes, and bandaliers whereof patterns are and shall remayn from tyme to tyme in our said office.)

## Old Pattern Room holds key to modern Army's look of quality

Report: Karen Moseley  
Pictures: Mike Weston

TWENTY years before his head was lopped off, King Charles I looked at the rag-tag mob of militia, halberdiers, musketeers, foot soldiers and cavalry that made up his Army and decided something should be done about them.

As a result, a Commission on Arms and Armour set up the first Pattern Room of Ordnance Stores in the Tower of London in 1631. Its purpose was to ensure that armour and "gunnes, pikes and bandaliers" used by British soldiers were up-to-date and made to the same standard.

Charles was executed by the Army he had tried to help, but the Pattern Room still exists. It is now housed in Didcot, Oxfordshire, as part of the Quality and Product Support Division (Q&PS) of the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency, and holds master and standard patterns for 30,000 different products used by the Armed Forces. Everything, from collar

stud and cooks' hats to buckets and brushes, has its own pattern and specification.

Patterns are described officially as "sealed standard examples of the product".

If, for example, a contractor was asked to make Household Cavalry breeches, it would receive a detailed written specification from Q&PS giving precise instructions on how they should be made: "Each leg to be cut in one piece, all pieces to be cut across the width."

The document would also give information such as what thread to use, the size of seams and what goes on the care label. The pattern of the breeches would be given to them so that they could actually see what they were making.

Master patterns never leave the Master Room. They are kept on shelves in enclosed metal racks which are opened by turning wheels on the outside. Masters are stored in the same way in temperature-controlled rooms. But the old wax

## Fashion parade



Above - 1898 Royal Horse Artillery officer's ceremonial jacket

Right - Chelsea Pensioner suit

Above - Scots Guards ceremonial officer's tunic

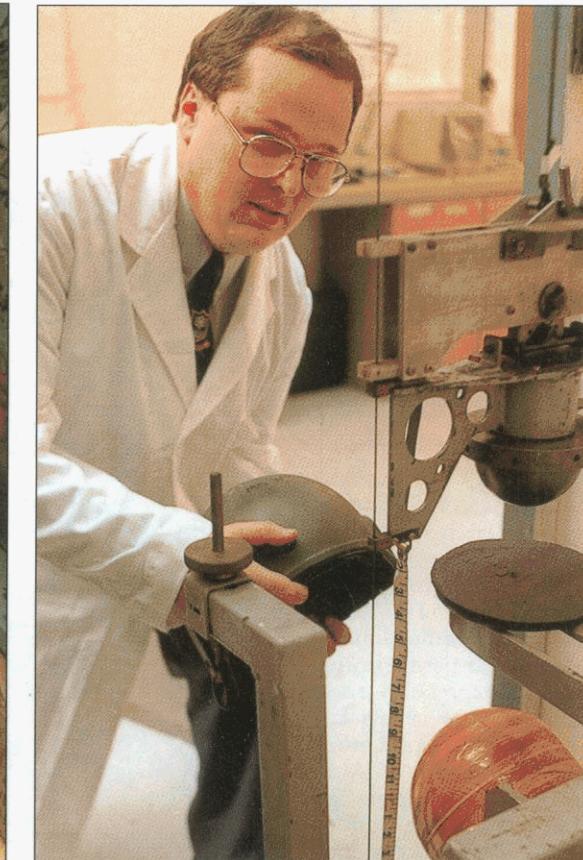
Left - State coat for Household Cavalry



Above left - The obsolete section in the Pattern Room. Left to right are Mary Spence with 1934 pyjama suit for ratings; Chris Yarnell with master pattern state coat for yeoman warders 1910; and Laura Andreotti, Pattern Room Keeper, with string vest pattern 1951

Above right - John Phillimore, laboratory facilities manager, tests helmet strength

Right - Eddie Plunkett casts his professional eye over a pure gold State coat



Not just anyone can be Keeper of the Pattern Room. Laura, who has been in the job for a year, is a qualified engineer and timber technologist - useful for checking for bugs and fungus in military wood, she pointed out.

### TREASURE TROVE

Once a pattern is definitely not going to be used again it is put into the obsolete section. This treasure trove is probably the most fascinating part of the Pattern Room. Here can be found horrendous string vests once used by hospital matrons, demob suitcases, medical kits from the Second World War complete with morphine phials, state coats, sten gun cases to fit on horses, old swords, breast plates and battle honours, and even the hat box belonging to the Queen Mother's brother - the Earl of Strathmore.

When Q&PS moves to its new home in Caversfield during the next few years all the obsolete patterns will be given to the National Army Museum, something Laura is pleased about.

"They are all so fantastic that they should be seen by members of the public," she said. But the modern also has

its place, and as well as Combat '95 there are patterns for flak jackets, dog attack suits and a prototype of the new Mark-4 EOD suit, so new it is still under development.

Traditional skills and standards of excellence are maintained. Q&PS uses a variety of the latest quality assurance techniques to check that all products reach the required standard and sends quality inspectors to factories.

Eddie Plunkett is the Higher Professional Technological Officer in charge of ceremonial clothes and Number One Dress. He is a bespoke tailor and cutter by trade, having started at the age of 13 in his uncle's shop in Liverpool.

Eddie, who moved to Didcot in 1982 to handle clothing for the Falklands war,

uses his expertise to check articles made by contractors. This is vital as some garments, such as State coats, are worth up to £2,500. Mistakes can be costly.

As with quality, safety is not forgotten. Helmets, body armour and footwear are put through exhaustive tests to check their strength in the Q&PS laboratories. Disruptive pattern material is checked for colour fastness, NBC material for permeability and repellency, and even boot laces are rocked on a "Lace Abrasion Machine" to see how long it takes before they break.

It was the Army which deposed the monarchy and killed a king 350 years ago. Ironically it is that king's legacy which ensures so much time and thought is spent making all Army equipment safe and of high quality today.

# Private lives

Words: Graham Bound

Pictures: Mike Weston

THE Daleks screeched promises of imminent extermination as they careered myopically around the BBC studio. Waving deadly sink plungers, they bounced off shaky sets in pursuit of a man with a ridiculously long scarf, a permanently puzzled expression and a pretty blonde sidekick.

For the umpteenth time we would ignore our mother's entreaties to "come to the tea table NOW!" We knew that the man in the floppy hat would win his latest encounter with the cut-price special effects, but we just had to see him do it. We believed in Tom Baker, the man with the expressive lower lip and a great 1970s perm. In our minds he was Dr Who.

Tom and the old blue police 'phone box could range up and down the time-space continuum at will, but, unbeknown to us fans, the Time Lord had discovered his calling in the very down-to-earth British Army of the 1950s.

With no plans to be an actor, the thoughtful, shy and neurotic young man had left school at 15 and, strongly influenced by his working-class Catholic upbringing in Liverpool, decided on the life of a monk. Shut away in a monastery, he succeeded in dedicating himself to prayer and introspection for a few years, but then, as he describes it, he began "having a little trouble with the ten commandments".

Tom left the cloisters and dutifully did what his country expected. He signed up for National Service. It did not seem to be an ideal course of action for a sensitive young man, but there was no choice. "I felt that the best thing to do was to face whatever was coming without any ducking or diving," he said.

Coming, quite literally, from a cloistered life, the Army was a shock, but his experiences as a recruit at Boyce Barracks, Aldershot, and then as a lowly hospital orderly at BMH Hostert in Ger-

## Tom Baker on the Army doctors who set him on the road to fame



The Time Lord Takes time off to tell *Soldier* about his Army career

many, opened doors that led directly to acting and fame.

"It turned out to be my salvation," said Tom. "The monastery had represented the death of happiness and the stunting of my personality, but here in the Army I was suddenly unlocked."

"It was a society unlike any which I had ever experienced before; where everyone was effing and blinding the whole time, and all they thought about was groping and shagging. I realised how priggish and cultivated I was. I loved it, and in one amazing year I came cracking out of this terrible shell of inhibition."

Tom began to have fun. But it almost went too far when he took revenge on a blimpish officer patient who was "a head case as well as a heart case". The major had been doing his best to make the young nursing assistant's life a misery. Tom's revenge was a red-hot bedpan

which lifted the major several feet amid a stream of abuse and accusations of attempted murder.

The young doctors had a soft spot for the wag-gish and cheeky soldier, but Tom wasn't aware of the strength of their affection until 1996, when he met one of them again. Donald Aitken, who had retired as a senior consultant gynaecologist in Sheffield, was delighted to see Tom and told him how in the BMH officers' mess back in 1956 his antics had provoked almost constant laughter.

Aitken and the other doctors, some just five years older than Tom, knew he had a rare talent to entertain and encouraged him to star in the unit's amateur theatrical productions. Then they said he should do it for a living; be an actor.

"They articulated what had been going around in my head since I was a boy," said Tom. "This was why I had sung hymns in the air-raid shelters, why I wanted to be in the Church, put on dresses and sniff incense."

Private Baker left the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1957 with a wink and a smile from his superiors. He headed straight for the drama schools.

To his surprise, several offered him places, but he settled for Rose Bruford College in Kent because when he went for his interview "the girls were sitting by the lake and I could see up their skirts".

The Army did a lot for Tom Baker, including setting him on the road to being a Time Lord. But evidently it did not completely solve his problem with the Ten Commandments.

Tom Baker's autobiography, *Who on Earth is Tom Baker?*, is published by HarperCollins in hardback at £17.99.

# Sport

## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY

# Who's a lucky boy?

SGT Trevor Boyd could hardly believe his eyes when he read the latest Army Sports Lottery results . . . and found his name was included for the third week in a row.

He thought it was a wind-up until the next day when he received his cheque for £700 to add to the £538 and £277 he had won in the previous fortnight.

Trevor is well used to the procedure. Since joining the lottery in its early days in 1993 he had already won three prizes: £150 in July 1994 and further sums of £88 and £250 in January and March of 1996.

The 32-year-old's early successes were achieved while he was serving with his regiment, The Queen's Royal Hussars, first at Fallingbostel and later at Catterick. He is currently at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington as a driving and maintenance instructor.

As reported in the December issue, weekly prize money has been increased from £7,000 to £8,000, reflecting the



Winning ways . . . Sgt Trevor Boyd

steady increase in ticket sales. Approximately 10,000 officers and soldiers – or a tenth of the Army – take part in the weekly

draws, so there is plenty of scope for recruitment, says lottery manager Maj Adrian Cassie.

He has been in the post for nearly five years and would welcome constructive suggestions on ways in which the lottery might be improved, bearing in mind that by law a maximum of 55 per cent of ticket receipts may be spent on prizes (the current figure is 48 per cent). His address is The Lottery Manager, ASCB, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BG. It is also printed at the top of every ticket.

Those who have been doing their sums will realise that after prizes have been paid out and monthly grants allocated, there is still quite a lot of money left over. This is being saved for really big projects.

First of these is a new Astroturf hockey pitch at Tidworth, with the lottery contributing £300,000 and the floodlights coming from the public purse. It is hoped the pitch will be ready by April.

## SKIING

# Sasha in run on trophies

ARMY downhiller Lt Sasha Zvengintozov (4 AAC) emerged as the top skier at the British Aerospace-sponsored RAC/AAC Alpine championships at Verbier in Switzerland.

He received the best individual combination trophy after winning the individual slalom, giant slalom and Super G, while Scottish junior slalom champion Capt William Fanshawe (2 AAC) was runner-up.

Team honours went to 2 AAC and the Household Cavalry Regiment won the B team trophy. Tpr Darren Smart (RDG) won the prize for most improved skier.

A highlight to the event was the presentation on the mountain of NATO Medals to the nine-strong King's Royal Hussars team who had recently arrived back from peacekeeping duties in Bosnia. They missed their regimental parade in Mün-



Picture: BFG

NATO Medal parade for the King's Royal Hussars at Verbier. Pictured are (back, left to right) Lt Rupert Jackson, Tpr Stephen Portwood, Lt Gen Sir Robert Hayman-Joyce, Tpr Simon Hudson, Lt Nicholas Perry and 2nd Lt Rupert Hope-Hawkins; (front) 2nd Lt Andrew Rogers, Tpr Richard Wilkinson, Lt Justin Kingsford and Tpr Martin Briscoe

ster, Germany and instead received their medals from Lt Gen Sir Robert Hayman-Joyce, Master General of the Ordnance, at Verbier.

Fallingbostel-based 2 RTR were runners up to Arctic specialists 45 Comman-

do RM at the RAC, RA and AAC Nordic ski championships at Hochfilzen in Austria. Third were 3 RHA from Topcliffe. In all, 23 teams took part, including the German 232 Geburg (Mountain) Battalion.

# Rise of men in red leaves others trailing

NINE Army boxers won Combined Services individual honours at HMS *Nelson*, Portsmouth, and in doing so earned their passages to the ABA England quarter-finals against North East Counties at RAF Cosford on February 5, writes John Elliott.

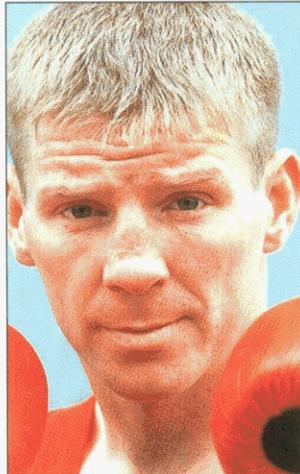
In the absence of an Inter-Services team competition – for so long the highlight of the Armed Forces' boxing calendar – the CS individual championships were used to determine the destiny of the team trophy.

The Army therefore became Service champions... for the 15th consecutive year. The last team title was decided in the same way – on that occasion with six walkovers. Army dominance of the sport at Inter-Service level is now so complete – and has been for more than a decade – that the stuffing has been knocked out of the team competition.

Such is the standard of boxing in the military that coach SSgt Andy Edwards can call on no fewer than nine internationals. At *Nelson* he was without two of them – Cpl Vinny Powell and Gdsm Kevin Short compete in the Welsh championships – and to rub the point home further, two of his men won their CS titles against fellow members of the Army squad.

The effect on Royal Navy and Royal Air Force participation at this level, coupled with drawdown and operational commitments, has been devastating. Boxing, unlike swimming, say, or athletics, cannot allow contests between mismatched opponents.

Anyone who recalls the great confrontations between the Army and the Navy in particular – 20 years ago future world champion Marine Terry Marsh was at the heart of a terrific naval line-up – will be



Pte Micky Barker, England newcomer and one of three international light-middleweights available to the Army selectors. He lost on points to Cpl Chris Bessey, the ABA champion, in the final of the Combined Services individual championships

saddened by the demise of the team championship and its wider effect on boxing in the other two Services.

A ray of hope on the horizon is the possibility, now under discussion, that a proper Inter-Services team championship could be reintroduced at novice level, a move which would allow the RAF and Navy to rebuild.

Veteran international Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC), whose services to boxing were recognised with an MBE last year, found himself contesting the light-middleweight final at Portsmouth against Pte Mickey Barker (2 Para), a newcomer to the England squad.

Bessey, who has won three ABA titles in his already illustrious career, won on points.

In fact, with Bessey, Barker and Short in the squad the Army is rather spoiled for choice. They are probably the three best light-middleweights in Britain.

There were walk-overs for LBdr Andy Jessiman (7 Para RHA), Pte Carl Johanson (1 DWR), Fus Darren Williams (1 RRF), Pte Kevin Bennett (7 Tpt Regt RLC) and Bdr Vinny Jones (32 Regt RA).

LCpl Jason Woodgate (5 AB Log Bn) and Pte Darren Nagington (17 Port and Maritime Regt) won on points, while super-heavyweight Gdsm Gordon Seal (1 SG) won on a knockout.

Pte Matt Hannon (1 DWR), Sgt Eric Tomlinson (1 Kings) and Pte Billy Bessey (2 CS Regt RLC) were beaten as the Navy picked up two titles and the airmen one.

● The Army beat the Royal Marines 5-3 in a match fought at novice level.

● The final of the Minor Units novice grade 3 inter-team championships will be staged in Aldershot on March 31 between 9 Para Squadron RE and 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE.

## Jude's the best



Army downhill skier SSgt Jude Shenton (pictured above) has been named Combined Services sports woman of the year for 1997.

The APTC adventurous training instructor went into the record books when she won the first Army women's downhill competition, staged at St Moritz during the Army Winter Sports Association's 50th anniversary meeting.

It also put her on course to win her fourth Army women's Alpine championship. She is now at the Joint Services Adventurous Training Instructors' School in Wales.

Man of the year was the Royal Air Force's 1997 world powerlifting champion, Cpl Mat Saunders, while the RAF also took the team title which went to their marathon team.

● Cpl John Steggles AGC, who runs the HQ Land rugby team and is involved with other sports, has been named sportsman of the year at the Wilton headquarters.

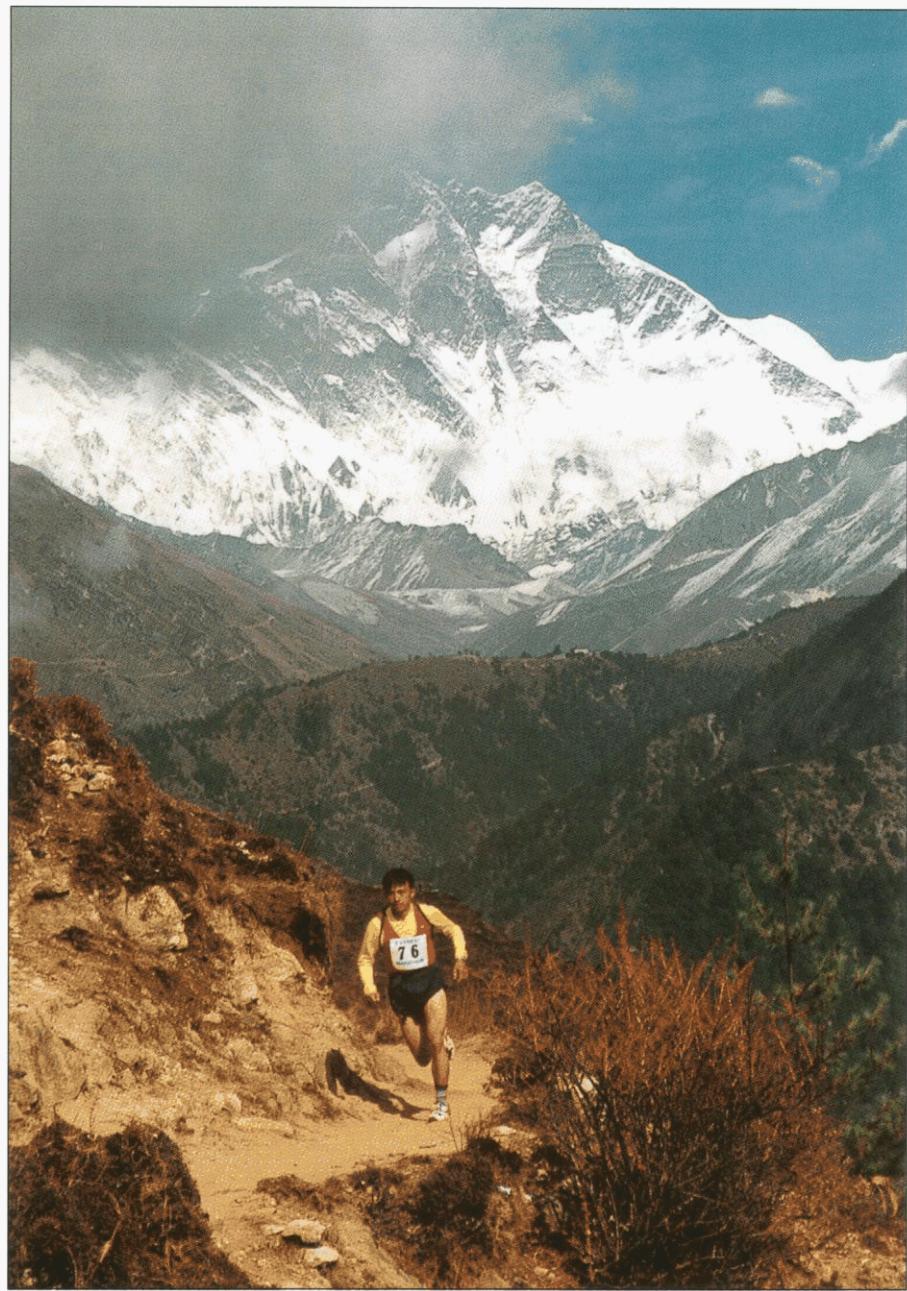
## TELEMARK SKIING

### Nevis invitation

ARMY skiers have been invited by the British Telemark Association to take part in their 1998 British championships, within which there will be a Service category if there are sufficient entries.

Proposed dates for the event are the Easter weekend in the Nevis range in Scotland, with the race taking place on April 11. Anyone who wants to take part should contact Capt Adrian Pery, Light Dragoons, BFPO 30 (tel Hohne Mil 2850).

Telemark is a form of skiing which uses no heel bindings, allowing the skier to kneel on the front ski. A demonstration race was held at last year's AWSA 50th anniversary meeting.



Spr Rajendra Kumar Rai (69 Fd Sqn) on his way down to 11th place. Everest is behind him

## It's all downhill

NO wonder they call it the world's toughest marathon: you've got to trek for 17 days just to reach the start...

The sixth Everest Marathon is held every two years and attracts runners from all over the world who enter to raise money to promote health and education in rural Nepal.

Starting at Gorak Shep at 16,925ft, the course plunges to Namche Bazaar at 11,283ft against the dramatic backdrop of the world's highest mountain.

Ninety-three runners took part including runners from the Brigade of Gurkhas at Kathmandu, 10 Transport Regiment RLC, 69 Fd Sqn RE and the Infantry Training Section in Wales.

Snow on the night before the race made surfaces higher up the mountain treacherous but brought the temperature up from minus 30 to minus 15 at the start.

Best-placed of the Army competitors was Spr Dilip Rai (69 Fd Sqn), with colleagues Spr Rajendra Kumar Rai 11th and Spr Ganga Ram Rai 14th. Rfn Chandhang Rai (Inf Trg Section) was 17th, with Spr Narendra Dhoi Gurung and Maj David Caulfield, also of 69 Sqn, 26th and 28th and SSgt Charles Charalambous (10 Tpt) 32nd. Maj Cathy Knell from Catterick was 33rd and the third woman to finish, Cpl Nick Guest (RE) was 36th, Cpl Ran Kumar Phagu (BGK) 46th and Maj Christopher Davies (Kathmandu) 65th.

## ROWING

# Atlantic bid scuppered by storms

CAPTS Martin Bellamy and Mark Mortimer finished the transatlantic rowing challenge on Christmas Eve after encountering appalling weather in the very early stages of the race.

Having chosen a more northerly route than other competitors setting out from Tenerife, the two Light Infantry officers had the misfortune to be trapped by storms for a week which put them hundreds of miles behind most of the rest of the field.

They had planned to cross to Barbados in about 50 days in their specially-built boat, *Salamanca*, after crossing the start line on October 12.

As they approached the finish they were running low on food, having rationed their water for most of the voyage. Forty-eight hours after leaving Tenerife their water desalination plant broke down, meaning their planned intake of six litres a day had to be cut to two litres.

On their return to the United Kingdom they will begin a six-week lecture tour with their boat around schools and colleges in the Light Infantry's catchment areas.

A New Zealand team won the race in an amazing 41 days and the first British team home was a husband-and-wife team who managed it in 56 days. Bellamy and Mortimer took 73 days and finished 19th.

Both are determined to put their experience to good use by entering again.

## RUGBY

# RAF match switched from Twickenham

FOR the first time, the Royal Air Force match against the Army is to be switched from Twickenham. It will now be played at Kingsholm, home of Gloucester RFC, on May 13.

The high cost of staging games at headquarters, coupled with the relatively small crowds attracted to this fixture, are behind the switch.

Tickets for the annual Army v Royal Navy game, to be played at Twickenham on Saturday, April 25, are available from the Army Rugby Union at Clayton Barracks in Aldershot. They can be obtained by ringing Aldershot Military (722) 3573 or 01252 348573. The fixture traditionally attracts huge support.

# Army stretched by Crusaders

### Army 3, Crusaders 2

A STRONG Army side beat the Crusaders, the Army officers' team, by three goals to two under lights at the Daly Ground at Bordon, Hants, **writes Derrick Bly.**

After having most of the early possession, the Army went ahead in the 12th minute through LCpl David Hope. Two minutes later Pte Steve Carter put them further ahead and he was on hand to score his second five minutes from the break.

But when the Army defence relaxed the Crusaders came back strongly with two goals from Capt Chris St George. After another period of pressure which failed to produce more goals, the Army were happy to hang on to their slender lead during an even second half.

### Reading 2, Combined Services 2

Combined Services opened their season with a draw against Nationwide First Division side Reading who put out a team containing one or two old hands and a mix of reserve and youth players.

Pte David Cameron and Spr Kevin Phillips made their debuts, with Cameron creating the opening goal of the game.

Other Army players involved were SSgt John Wills, SSgt John Scott and WO2 Alan Higgins.

Combined Services open their international Kentish Cup campaign against Belgium Armed Forces in Belgium on March 31. Netherlands play Belgium on April 22 and the British Services host the Dutch team at Aldershot Military Stadium on April 28.

The Army football team is to be sponsored by W S Atkins Facilities Management Ltd for the next three seasons. David Slater, chairman of the company, presented the first season's cheque for £6,000 to Brig Richard Rook, chairman of the Army FA Executive Committee, before the Army's game against the Metropolitan Police.

### Army Women 1, Hampshire 1

On a bitterly cold night the Army women's team performed resolutely to draw 1-1 in the Women's South West Counties Championship with a Hampshire team formed entirely on the successful Southampton side.

Sig Vicky Moran rounded the county keeper to equalise after Cpl Debbie

Below: Action from the Army women's match against the Prison Service at Aldershot. On the ball is Cpl Cheryl Campling (wearing headband). She scored the second of the unbeaten Army side's four goals



Picture: Terry Champion

Sutton had been beaten by a cross which floated into the Army net. Sutton later made several superb saves to keep the Army in contention.

The Servicewomen defended well and with a better final ball could well have scored more than one goal against what is a very strong county side. Unbeaten so far this season in three games, the women's team is looking good.

### Army Women 4, HM Prison Service 1

In their first competitive outing of the season, the Army women's team beat HM Prison Service with some ease. Pte Clare Leader (BAD Kineton) gave them a first-half lead before Cpl Cheryl Campling (MT Section PCD), Sgt Kaz Moore (MCTC), and Pte Tanya Smith (3 R Irish) from the penalty spot completed the scoring.



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Celebrating the LTA award to the Army tennis centre at Aldershot are (from left) manager Warren Jacques, Director of Army Tennis Facilities Maj Nigel Watts and Col Robin Garrett, Deputy Commander 5 Airborne Brigade and Aldershot Garrison, who presented the plaque

## Game, set, match to Aldershot centre

THE Army's tennis centre has received a special accolade from the English Lawn Tennis Association.

Winning the Tennis Facility of the Year award has put Aldershot on the map as one of the country's premier tennis training centres.

Established by the LTA to recognise and promote good practice in facility development, the awards take in design, quality of construction, professional approach and management of the project, and the scope of the development.

Lt Col David Jackson, the property manager, said: "We are delighted to receive this special award because Aldershot Military Town is striving to provide a centre of excellence for a number of

sports, including tennis. The ten outdoor courts, alongside the indoor courts, will greatly enhance the excellent facilities for all the soldiers, their families and civilians within the Aldershot area."

The centre, run by former Davis Cup manager Warren Jacques, was built to specifications that will allow it to host competitions at international, national, county and inter-Service level.

It is linked to the local community through a pay-and-play scheme.

• The Army tennis team won three out of five matches on a ten-day tour to Florida during which three of the team were mugged at knife-point in Orlando. They were unhurt but their wallets, watches and ID cards were stolen.

## ANGLING

THE Army broke ten years of RN and RM dominance of the Inter-Services shore fishing championships when they held on to a first-night lead at Walmer, Kent to win by 16 points.

Over the two nights, 346lb 90z of fish were weighed and released, with the top individual bag going to PO Mick Corran. Six of the top ten anglers were from the Army, for so long the poor relations of the competition, and WO1 Jimmy King, Paul Curtice, WO2 Mark Quilliam, Paul Bar-

rett and Sgt Ian Lambert were chosen for a Combined Services match at Weymouth.

The Army Angling Association offers meetings at leading venues, team competition and affiliations to the various national fishing organisations. More information about the AAA can be obtained from Lt Col Chris Dickinson on 721 804697; WO2 Jon Waters on 767 5221; SSgt Carl Weaver on 722 4535; Mr Lindsay Simpson on 722 5668; or WO2 (QMSI) Mark Quilliam (sea angling) on 727 3028.

## Top trio in squash

ARMY players won three major titles at the Combined Services individual squash championships at HMS Temeraire, Portsmouth. Top honours in the men's order of merit went to SSgt Gary Clarke (SEME Bordon), while Lt Karen Wallace (42 Log Sp Sqn RLC) won the women's title and Pte Chris McQuilken (27 Tpt Regt RLC) the Under-25 trophy. Brig David Leakey, president of the ASRA, was runner-up in the veterans' event, Lt Chris Wilson in the men's and Cfn Lenny Westover in the U-25s.

## Crest of a wave

AN Army surf team of waveski and kayak paddlers did well in civilian competitions last year and is looking for new members. Sgt Tim Rowe is in the England team and continues to improve, while Pte Mark Whittington (AGC) finished the British Canoe Union season with two novice wins. Finals of the Army surf championships will be in March, preceded by a training weekend. Contact Capt Fred Crowson, ACU Surf Secretary, on Minley Mil (726) 3207.

## Half-marathon

THE Army half-marathon will be held within the Fleet event on March 22. Entries to Fleet Half-Marathon Officer, PO Box 1, Fleet, Hants GU13 9JU by February 23. Entries must be copied to the Army secretary at Clayton Barracks, Thornhill Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BG.

## Unit hockey finals

SEMI-finals and finals of both the major units hockey competitions will be held at Aldershot on March 31, with the minor units following on April 1.

## World triathlon

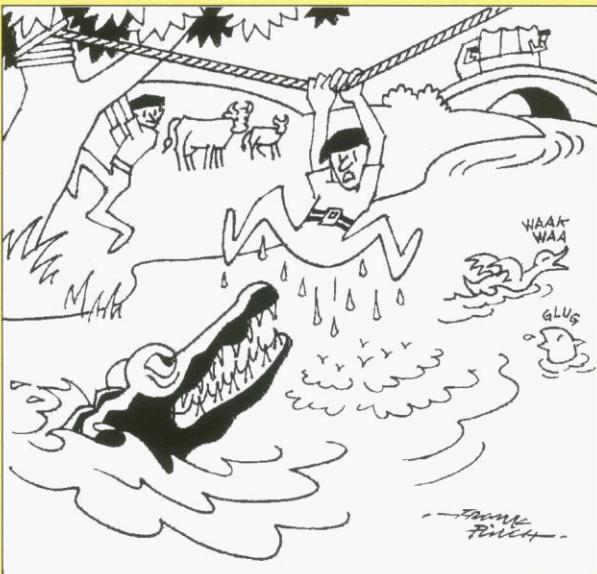
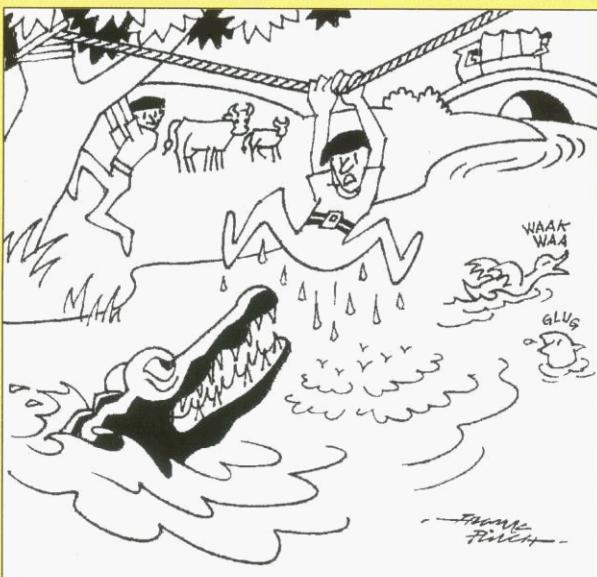
GERMANY-based husband and wife WO1 Gary and SSgt Jan Kilsby finished 53rd and 45th out of about 350 competitors in their different categories at the world triathlon championships in Perth, Australia. The results put Gary, serving with the Physical and Adventurous Training Branch of HQ British Forces Germany, and Jan, who is the unit PTI at 16 Signal Regiment, in the top 15 per cent in the world.

## Mountain bike series

DATES for Army mountain bike points series downhill races start with a meeting at Longmoor, Hants on April 4-5. Details of races, which go through to September, can be obtained from LCpl Jim Hatton on 727 8210 or mob 0966 298574.

Win £100!

# How observant are you?



Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings. Circle the ten differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 675, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by March 6.

For those who do not wish to cut their magazine, a photocopy is now acceptable, but only one entry

per person may be submitted.

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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

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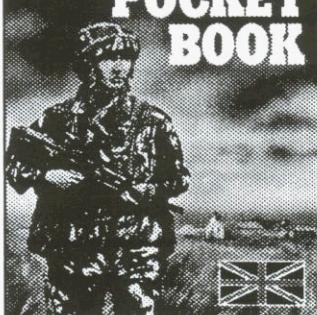
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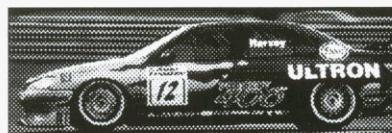
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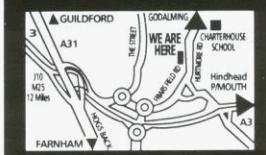
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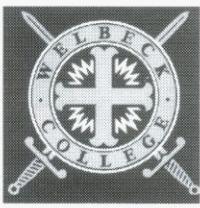
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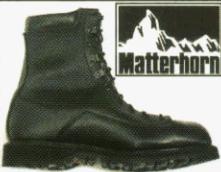
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lightweight combat boots.  
Ideal for tactical use.  
Available in half sizes.  
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Danner Acadia Leather & cordura severe weather boot. Gore-tex lined, selected by L.A. Swat Team.  
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Matterhorn Orion Severe weather, all leather combat boots.  
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**Gore-tex Boot liners**  
Genuine Army issue  
100% waterproof for  
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**£75**  
General service  
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**DPM Para Smock**  
4 press-stud bulgy pockets. Dressing pouch on sleeve. Knitted cuffs. Jump flap. Genuine issue  
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**SOLDIER 2000 ASSAULT PATROL PACK** 50ltr with side pouches. Only £75.00  
pouches make a 35ltr day pack.  
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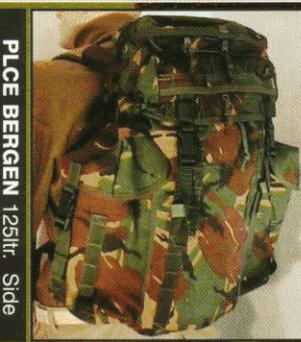


**Snugpak Sleeka jacket.** Lined with Snugpak sleeping bag filling. Warm and windproof, incl. stuff sac. L/weight. Black or Olive £65.00

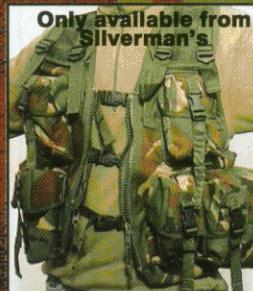


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All softie sleeping bags stocked

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pouches make a 35ltr day pack.  
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**Soldier '95 PLCE DPM**  
Tactical Ops. Assault vest. 8  
assorted pouches plus 2  
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Holster attached inside. One  
size fully adjustable mesh  
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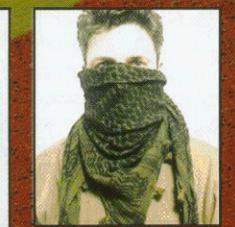
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Genuine Issue.  
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Consists of: Yoke, Belt,  
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Olive/black - Sand/  
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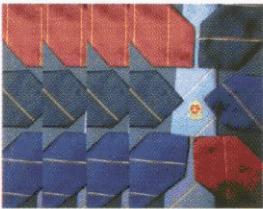
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# Classifieds

## PEN PALS

**REPLIES.** To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to *Soldier Magazine* at the address below. The box number **must be CLEARLY written in the TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8" x 4" and should contain only a letter plus a photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and **large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.**

**TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL.** Please send for details enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: *Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.*

**Mel, 29, 5'9",** with fair hair, blue eyes and a GSOH. Enjoys pubbing, clubbing, playing pool, cooking, travelling and writing letters. Seeking squaddies who live life to the full. **P167** 02/98

**Claire, 17, 5',** with slim build and dark hair and eyes. Enjoys the cinema, reading, going out with friends, music and pets. Seeking male pen pals aged 17-25 with GSOH to correspond with. **P168** 02/98

**Lorraine, 25, 5'2",** medium (cuddly) build, auburn hair. Divorced, no children. Enjoys nights in/out, music, aerobics and writing. Seeks single, honest and caring males, 24-32, for friendship. A VGSOH is a must. **P169** 02/98

**Katherine, 5'6",** with dark brown hair and eyes. Enjoys canoeing, chess, science fantasy books, swimming, painting and talking! Totally unorganised and with GSOH. Seeking male pen pals aged 25+. **P170** 02/98

**Fiona, 25, 5'6",** medium build with long, dark hair, GSOH and a great personality. Enjoys travelling, step aerobics, martial arts and socialising. Seeking male pen pals in their mid 20s/early 30s. **P171** 02/98

**Christine, 31, 5'2",** blonde with blue/grey eyes. Enjoys the cinema, reading, socializing and travelling. Seeking pen pals of any age. **P172** 02/98

**Christopher, 24, 6'2",** with dark hair. Enjoys cycle road-racing, reading and writing poetry. Training to be an electronic technician in the REME. Seeking female pen pals aged 16-35. **P173** 02/98

**Kate, 40, 5'2",** medium build with blonde hair and blue eyes. Divorced with a 10-year-old son. Interests include walking, going to pubs, playing darts and most sports. Seeking pen pals aged 30-40. **P174** 02/98

**30 year-old female, 5'7",** slim and single with fair hair and GSOH. Enjoys walking, cycling, socialising, travelling and writing letters. Seeking pen pals 28+ to correspond with. **P175** 02/98

**Julie, 33, 5'4",** with long, blonde, curly hair and blue eyes. Interests include travelling, family life and nights out. Seeking pen pals, 28-40, who have a GSOH and enjoy life. **P176** 02/98

**Debbie & friends** enjoy going to the pub and having fun and are seeking pen pals of any age. Please write to us - you won't be sorry. **P177** 02/98

**Sarah, 25, 5'8",** with dark brown hair and eyes. Enjoys reading, pubbing, clubbing, films, keep fit, generally enjoying life and having a laugh. Seeking pen pals, 22-32. All letters answered. **P178** 02/98

**Gillian, 29, 5'5",** slim with dark brown hair. Interests include keeping fit, socialising, most music, walking and animals. Seeking male Army pen pals, 26-33. **P179** 02/98

**Elize, 27, 5'7",** with long, brown, curly hair and dark brown eyes. Part-time professional tennis coach who enjoys running, keeping fit, karate, night clubs, dancing and aerobics. Seeking pen pals, 27+, with GSOH and interested in sports. **P180** 02/98

**Carol, 40, 5'4",** with brown hair. Enjoys going for walks, going to the pub and interested in astrology. Seeking pen pals, 35-55 to write to. **P181** 02/98

**Samantha, 25, 4'10",** with green eyes and long, brown hair. Enjoys pubs, dining out, music and having fun. Divorced with two children (3 and 5 years old). Seeking pen pals, 25+. **P182** 02/98

**Lucie, 24, 5'4",** with medium build, brown hair and green eyes. Likes reading, music, the cinema, eating out and going to pubs. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. **P183** 02/98

**Diane, 31, 5'5",** slim with blonde hair and brown eyes. Enjoys socialising, Friday nights out with the girls, shopping, holidays, eating out and the cinema. Would like to hear from single males, 26-36, serving in UK and overseas. **P184** 02/98

**Kellie, 20, 5'5",** slim with long hair and brown eyes. Enjoys socialising, girls' nights out, football, pubs, aerobics, holidays and shopping. Would like to write to single, male soldiers, 20-25, in UK or abroad. **P185** 02/98

**Dawn** - enjoys interior design, reading, meeting different people, going to country pubs. Loves animals and growing herbs. **P186** 02/98

**Gayle, 27, 5'2",** with brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys the theatre, watching rugby, going to the local pub and has a GSOH. Seeking pen pals, 28+. All genuine letters replied to. **P187** 02/98

### NOTICE TO READERS

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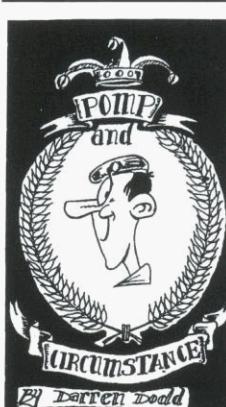
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**Largest manufacturers** and exporters of hand-embroidered bullion badges for Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, schools, colleges, clubs, etc. Flags, banners, sashes, coats-of-arms, family crests and all military accoutrements. Also leather gloves, footballs, track suits. Contact: J Arthur (PVT) Ltd, PO Box 301, Sialkot 51310, Pakistan. Fax: 92 432 588605. **NATO medal** full size £18.85 (UK) £16.25 (BFPO). All other medals available in F-size and miniature. SAE for catalogue - Miniature Medals, 30 Coventry Road, Burbage, Leics, LE10 2HP. 02/98

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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

DECEMBER 13, 1997

**Four-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £1,625 each):** Sgt JAS Castle, 249 Signal Sqn, Bulford; Sgt M Clarke, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham; Maj JC Williams, MOD London; Lt Col EJ Wymbs, HQ QMG, Andover.

**Twenty-way tie for fifth prize, (17 goals, £75 each):** Cpl T Darby, The Light Dragoons, Hohne; Maj MM Davidson, 1 SG, Windsor; Sgt TJR Ebo, SEME, Bordon; Maj L Faithfull, Rhine Area Sp Unit; LCpl NR Hames, 25 Engr Regt, Antrim; WO1 C Hamilton, AGC Trg Gp, Worthy Down; Sgt A Keenan, 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach; Cpl S Kirk, 280 (UK) Signal Sqn, Krefeld; LCpl DJ Lewis, 2 LI, Belfast; Capt RE Pilkington, 20 Armed Bde Signal Sqn; Lt Col RD Platt, HQ QMG, Andover; Maj RAJ Sippe, HQ, Rheindahlen; Cpl IC Smith, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle Upon

Tyne; Capt CHG St George, 1 JG, Pirbright; SSgt DJ Turner, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; Maj DV Watson, HQ AITO, Upavon; Sgt MG Wells-Burr, 55 Trg Sqn RE, Minley; Sgt TF Wightman, 7 R Anglian (V), Leicester; Cgt CD Wilkinson, 1 Coldm Gds, Munster; WO1 HR Williams, HQ 42(NW) Bde, Preston.

applies.

DECEMBER 27, 1997

**First prize (18 goals, £3,000):** WO2 AJ Warham, HQ AFCENT, Brunssum.

**Fourteen-way tie for second prize (17 goals, £357.14 each):** Maj H Bond, 100 Regt RA (V), London; Cpl PRS Carrington, COMM CEN, Hohne; WO1 DWS Chisholm, HQ Land, Wilton; Sgt PH Downward, QDG, Sennelager; SSgt MA Fazackerley, ATR Pirbright; WO1 ML Fowers, School of P&RT, Bulford; WO1 GL Hawker, RHQ RLC, Deepcut; Cpl AS Hildreth, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham; SSgt MA Holstead, BAD Longtown; Cpl G Murdoch, 1 RHF, Fallingbostel; Bdr S Russell, King's Troop RHA, London; LCpl RR Ryan, 2 Bn REME, Fallingbostel; WO2 AE Tipping, D MII Svy, Feltham; Bdr ML Williams, 40 Regt RA, Hohne.

DECEMBER 20, 1997

**First prize (18 goals, £3,100):** SSgt AN Shute, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon.

**Five-way tie for second prize (17 goals, £980 each):** Sgt P Bunker, Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray; Sgt A Killoran, 14 Signal Regt (EW), Brawdy; WO1 MW Robson, HQ 4 MI Coy, Aldershot; LBdr DJ Southern, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich; WO2 D Young, 153 Wksp Coy REME (V), Grangemouth.

**NB: Only six prizes this week. Rule 9**

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## NOTICES

### CHARITY COMMISSION

**Charity Commission:**

The Benevolent Fund of the Queen's Regiment Scheme varying the Charity

**Ref: RM/66019/SC**

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme varying the Charity. A copy of the draft scheme can be obtained from them at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference.

## HOUSES FOR SALE

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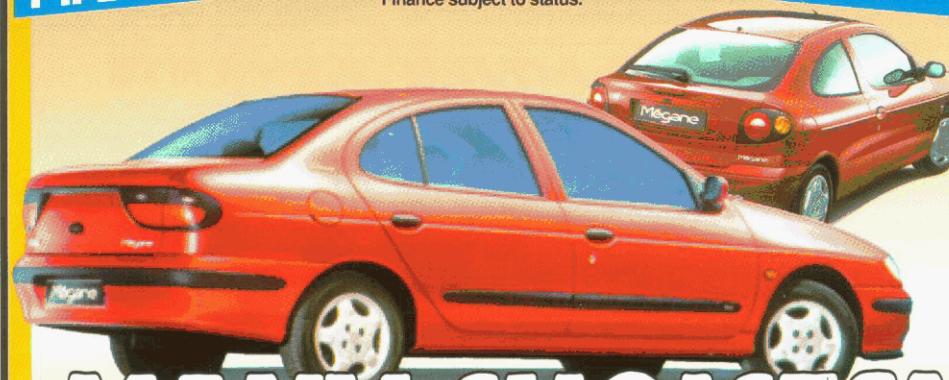
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# French revolutionary rewrites the rules

NEW STAR of the growing multi-purpose vehicle market is the spacious and stylish Renault Megane Scenic, **writes Syd Taylor.**

Fourth version to join the Megane range (after hatch, coupé and saloon), it is radical and revolutionary and brims with big ideas - all of them contained in a remarkably compact space. The Scenic takes up no more roadroom than the Megane hatchback, yet this cleverly-conceived mini-MPV is so effortlessly accommodating.

Offering versatile transport for up to five people, it rewrites the rules on family travel. Renault has always shown plenty of resourcefulness and imagination and this time has packaged into minimal volume a car for those who want something efficient and convenient.

As sensibilities become outraged by the grossness of many cars, they have built above a small area of road the ideal mini-MPV. It is how a space-efficient car should be proportioned.

Having made a confident entry into the UK market not so long ago, it hasn't taken long for the praise to start pouring in for this French newcomer. Winner of the prestigious Car of the Year Award, the Megane Scenic establishes a new benchmark in practical vehicles, carrying its distinctive and aerodynamically efficient lines with unquestionable style.

## HIGH-CALIBRE

The appeal is, however, far more than skin-deep, for underpinning it all is high-calibre engineering. Construction quality is first-rate with fine and consistent panel gaps and a flawless, deep and lustrous paint.

Four wide-opening doors blend perfectly into the body shape and provide easy access to a light and airy interior.

The passenger compartment is superbly appointed with seats covered in attractively-patterned Laurier cloth. It's fully optimised for space, and headroom in particular is generous throughout.

From a practical perspective there's plenty of room for luggage even with five people on board. Flexible seating arrangements mean that the Scenic can be anything from a two- to a full five-seater.

Seats are lightweight and lift out quickly and easily, so that you can effect any transformation with ease. There are even aircraft-style picnic tables on the backs of



Renault Megane Scenic 1.6 RT

## Tech Spec

**ENGINE** 4 cylinder, 1598 cc, 90 bhp at 5000 rpm.

**TRANSMISSION** 5 speed manual (auto optional), FWD.

**SUSPENSION** Front, MacPherson type, telescopic shock absorbers with coil springs; rear, trailing arms, 4 transverse torsion bars, telescopic shock absorbers.

**STEERING** Power-assisted.

**BRAKES** Front, ventilated discs; rear, drums; ABS optional.

**KERB WEIGHT** 1220 Kg.

**SIZE** (mm) Length, 4134; width, 1719; height, 1600.

**PERFORMANCE** Max speed 106 mph; acceleration 0-62 mph, 13.7 sec.

**MPG** Urban 31.7; constant 56 mph, 46.3.

**PRICE** £13,495.

you relax and enjoy the sights around you.

The cabin is an object lesson in practical convenience for the driver as well as the passengers. When you're driving it lets you relax like few other cars can. The RT version on test was well-equipped, too. Features like electrically-operated and heated door mirrors, "smart" windscreen wipers, two manual-tilt glass sunroofs with sun blinds, electric front windows, remote central locking, engine immobiliser, power steering, driver's airbag and, of course, a quality stereo with steering-mounted fingertip controls.

The 1600 cc engine develops 90 bhp, enough to give the Scenic a top speed of 106 mph. It's a smooth, responsive unit which is certainly powerful enough to give the car lively performance even when fully laden.

Considering its performance you would expect it to be quite thirsty, yet the reverse is true. With an impressive 42.8 mpg achieved in the Extra Urban Cycle, economy for its size is one of its strengths.

On the road, the Scenic feels as solid as its finish suggests. With poise, agility and balance its dynamics live up to the performance. Well-controlled cornering matched to a good compliant ride and light and direct steering give the Scenic thoroughly-composed road manners.

Reassuringly firm and powerful brakes add to the feeling of security - particularly when driving fully laden.

## Get lost – in revolving door!

WHEN I lent Rick Jolly's hilarious book *In Confidence* (Reviews, Nov) to an old Army friend he came up with some wonderful quotes from confidential reports remembered from his Sandhurst days:

- "After the war, he hopes to get back to real soldiering."
- "Senility will overtake him before he matures."
- "Recommended for pilot training in single-seater aircraft."
- "If his fiancée wishes to marry an officer and a gentleman she will have to commit bigamy."
- "Can express a sentence in two paragraphs."
- "Never makes the same mistake twice, but has made them all once."
- "This officer would get lost in a revolving door and starve to death."

There are many more but these appealed to my sense of humour. Perhaps other readers can top them. – **Chris Kaye, Milton Keynes, Bucks.**

### Prize letter

YOUR book review extracts from staff reports, taken from the book *In Confidence* and the letter from H D Pickles on the same topic (both Nov) were highly amusing.

I was reminded of the officer who was told to amend a report because the only positive thing he could say about someone under his command was that he believed he could dance.

"That's just stating a fact," he was told. "The whole point of the reporting system is to comment and make judgements."

When the report came back it read: "The only positive thing I can say about X is that I believe he dances well." – **Arthur Nye, Nelson, Lancs.**

WHILE serving with NATO in Naples in the late Sixties my branch chief, Col Petros P (Greek Army) reported on Capt Marco T (Italian Army): "He works hardly ever." After a little thought, I suggested to Col P that he might consider changing this to: "He works very hard all the time". He agreed.

## Strange story of the 'Normandy Chindits'

A FRENCH friend who has a private museum near Bayeux has among his immense collection of helmets, all found in Normandy, one with a decal on the front bearing the badge of the Chindits.

He also has a photograph of a wall at the German radar station at Douvres-la-Délivrande, daubed with the words "Sgt Strong and his Chindits".

I have studied the Normandy campaign for many years and have never heard of the Chindits taking part. Can anyone out there throw any light on this mystery?

I am a reader of many years' standing and the magazine just gets better. Many thanks. – **Brian Kilrain, Paddock Wood, Kent.**

## Red Paw tribute to special dog unit

CONGRATULATIONS to the Army Dog Unit in Northern Ireland, in its 25th year, on being presented with the new Red Paw shoulder flash (People, places,

events, Jan). I hope all members are as proud of the Red Paw as I was while serving in the unit, and that we all remember the handlers and dogs we have lost during the Troubles.

Here's wishing all serving in the unit a very successful and safe tour. Seek on! – **Barry J Edwards (Eddie 52, ex-39 Bde Specialist Dogs), Abertillery, Gwent.**

## Don't lose your head ... put it in a bucket

LIKE C L Golder (Mailbag, Oct, Jan) I was in the Home Guard (as a 16-year-old runner/scout) and recall the time when I recce'd a route which required wading across a stream. No one would follow because it meant getting their feet wet.

Our sergeant, ex-First World War with Pip, Squeak and Wilfred, was a fine soldier but not too good on written orders. I remember these pinned up in the guardroom:

- When incendiary bombs are drop-

**Soldiers air their views in Vox Pop – Page 70**

ping, don't lose your head. Put it in a bucket and cover with sand.

- You can use the bed provided between stags but after duty it should be made up as laid down.

But the classic was:

- After your stint, the . . . . mat should be shaken outside. (He couldn't spell "coir", so he attached a bit in the space he had left!).

I wonder how many ex-Home Guards survive – even the youngest must be in their 70s.

Is there a central record office and was a distinctive tie ever struck? – **H D Pickles, Blackburn, Lancs.**

## For the record

### Minden Day

YOUR picture of the Hampshire Tigers (Reviews, Dec) was, I believe, taken at a Minden Day Parade at Clifton Barracks on August 1, 1951, as the men are wearing their Minden Roses.

The parade was unique in that they celebrated the battle where they earned the Rose. When I served there with the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment in the late 1960s, we did our training on the battlefield at Mindenheider. – **Dixie Dean, Exeter, Devon.**

**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 and addresses in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection (see back cover) will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

● 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.

## Write us a prize letter

**NB:** We have a new E-mail address

**SOLDIER** has a new E-mail address. While you are still welcome to write or fax us, those of you "on-line" may wish to communicate via: [solmag@btinternet.com](mailto:solmag@btinternet.com)

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Bramley Training Area – See Pages 32-33

We welcome both questions and answers for publication

**RSM with the MC**

Q: WHILE visiting the Somme battlefields I went to pay my respects at the Thiepval Memorial. One name among the dead of the King's Liverpool Regiment that caught my eye was "RSM F Miller MC".

How is it that an RSM was the holder of the MC in 1916 when it was only recently that it ceased to be an award for officers only? – Maj P R Corden PWRR, Army Junior Division, Joint Services Command and Staff College, Camberley, Surrey.

**Operation Eagle**

Q: Does anyone have further details of Operation Eagle, in which Polish prisoners-of-war



and refugees were repatriated in 1945? As a soldier I was involved. Men, women and children were moved in convoys of 30 three-tonners from Luneberg to Waterhausen, in the Russian zone, where they spent the night in a German brewery. Next morning they went to a clearing camp at Stettin. – G A Noon (ex-LSgt, 484/139 HAA Regt), Saunton, Devon.

**Never failed to amuse**

Q: CAN anyone recall those brass plaques proudly displayed in India drawing attention to an effort which had come to nothing and were, perhaps ungraciously, a source of amusement for our troops? I refer to such signs as: "B P Chowdrah, BSc (Failed)". – Suezvet (name and address supplied).

PS . . .

## National Service was making of me

IN answer to Maj Peter Horsfall ("Sgt Nasty", Nov) as a National Serviceman with the Grenadier Guards from June 1955 to July 1957 I found entering Caterham Barracks on that hot, sticky day like entering a Victorian prison.

It was a big shock to my system but I enjoyed every minute and became a very good trained soldier, serving with the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, on Public Duties in London, and eventually becoming a LSgt PTI at Pirbright with 14th Coy.

National Service did me a great favour and made me appreciate life, just as it was the making of thousands of other men. My biggest mistake was not making the Grenadier Guards my career. – George G Starkey, (Welfare Officer, Gren Gds Assn Manchester Branch), Stockport, Cheshire.

## Unforgettable times

DURING my National Service with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment we saw active service in Korea, which entailed visits to Hong Kong and Japan and duty in Egypt's Canal Zone.

I saw parts of the world I would never have seen had I not been in the Army and made a lot of friends. Many people have described National Service as a waste of time, but I was proud to serve my country and enjoyed the hard times as well as the good. – Harry Lemon, Fleetwood, Lancs.

## Orders is orders

EXPLAINING the purpose behind orders is not new in the British Army. My grandad, an ex-sergeant major of the old school, told me that when National Servicemen flooded their ranks in the early 1950s a directive was received from no less a figure than Montgomery saying these were "thinking men" who worked better with explanations for orders.

So my grandad would start every period of drill with: "There are two reasons for doing this. One, I am telling you to do it . . . and I've forgotten the other."

There you are – he obeyed his orders, though with a slight adjustment to suit his personality, and things worked out, so he tells me. And who am I to argue? – John-Paul Walsh, Leyland, Lancs.

## Joint was jumping

WITH regard to the "Hi-de-hi" mystery (note the spelling), this was the call-sign of the American bandleader Cab Calloway. He would shout "Hi-de-hi-de-hi" and the audience would yell back "Ho-de-ho-de-ho".

When I was on my parachute course at Ringway in the Second World War the RAF instructors used this bit of fun to take our minds off our trepidation at jumping through the hole in the three balloon jumps. Our "ho-de-ho's" trailed away! – George B Crawford, Canton, Ohio.

# Reviews

## Putting the squeeze on RGBW's history

FACED with squeezing 300-plus years of the Royal Gloucester, Berkshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment into less than 70 pages, its Colonel, Maj Gen Robin Grist, has produced an admirably concise yet well-illustrated paperback history, setting an example others may be tempted to follow.

**Our Laurels Are Green** (taken from a Peninsular War marching song) is available at £3.75 from the regimental museums or battalion PRIs, or at £4.25 inclusive per copy by post from Regimental HQ, RGBW, Custom House, Gloucester GL1 2HE (cheques payable to RGBW Regimental Charities).

## Keep fit and watch out for flying shot

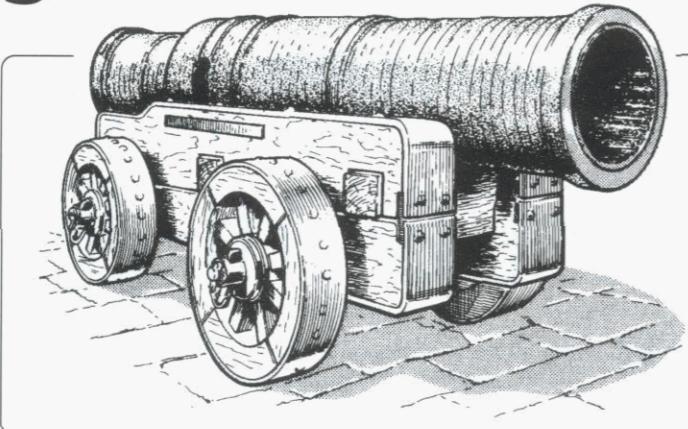
WILLIAM Thornton's letters from Walcheren and the Peninsula between 1808 and

1814, previously unpublished, are a treasure trove. Just as fascinating as the accounts of wretched conditions and flying shot are the insights into Army fitness training methods (swimming, running and lifting cannon balls). Ian Fletcher has edited it all expertly and the result is **In the Service of the King** (Spellmount, hardback, £18.95).

## Why Blondie was a man of the century

PRINCE Philip describes the late Lt Col "Blondie" Hasler, RM, founder of both the Special Boat Service and modern single-handed ocean racing, as "one of the great characters of this century".

He is perhaps best-known as leader of the Cockleshell Heroes but the rest of his war service was just as remarkable. The whole story is told in detail by Ewen Southby-Tailyour in the excellent and substantial **Blondie** (Pen & Sword, hardback, £25).



## Quick on the draw

One of many excellent author's illustrations from *Early British Quick Firing Artillery (Field and Horse)* by Len Trawin. This 406-page, landscape-format paperback, packed with detail, is published under the Nexus Special Interests imprint at £35.

# For Kingi and country

THEY are fast receding into Africa's too-quickly discredited colonial history, so this book by Brig Malcolm Page, once of the Somaliland Scouts, is to be welcomed for recording at least some of the deeds of the King's African Rifles, best-known of the East African Forces.

Their contribution to the stability of the continent – a vast tract of it stretching south from the Horn of Africa to the Zambezi – was incalculable, not least in the success of those independent countries which managed to avoid the disasters of so many post-colonial African nations.

Sixteen battle honours were won by *askari* (Arabic/Swahili for "soldier") of the KAR, not all of them on their own patch. To campaigns such as Ashanti 1900, Kilimanjaro, Narung-gombe and Abyssinia, add the Arakan Beaches and Burma 1943-45, where the energy

**KAR: A History of the King's African Rifles** by Malcolm Page. Leo Cooper, hardback, £25.

and endurance, the constancy and discipline, and no doubt the cheerfulness and the perpetual song of the black soldiers left their mark on those who fought beside them.

The KAR was formed on January 1, 1902, a direct consequence of Europe's Scramble for Africa in the late 19th century, with six battalions established in widely-scattered territories under British rule. More battalions followed as need arose, as did other distinctive – and distinguished – East Africa units.

On to Malcolm Page's text are bolted chapters and appendices by several collaborators. They include the story of the short-lived Kenya Regiment, which between 1937 and 1963 contributed to most East Africa units, particularly

the KAR, and performed with credit against the Mau Mau.

There is a touching assessment of the songs and singing of the *askari* by Professor George Shepperson, one time of 13 KAR.

"They went singing... and for three wartime years I sang with them whenever I could," he writes. "Even when I could not understand the language of their songs – often highly idiomatic and not always in the lingua franca – their melodies and harmonies helped to keep me going. Over half a century later, they still do."

Of campaign cut-and-thrust there is plenty to satisfy the historian, but the book's charm is in its anecdotal detail... trouble with over-familiar lions, the case of the dead civilian, the special flavour of these African soldiers who fought so whole-heartedly for "Kingi" and country. – JE

## In brief

**In Presence of My Foes** by Gris Davies-Scourfield. Remarkable autobiographical story of battle of Calais, five years' imprisonment (including Colditz) and several escapes. Now in its third edition. Published in paperback by Wilton 65 and available from the author at Old Rectory Cottage, Medstead, Alton, Hants GU34 5LX, at £10 per copy plus £2 p&p (cheques payable to E G Davies-Scourfield).

**The Mammoth Book of the Third Reich at War** edited by Michael Veranov. Full "rise and fall" story, with 600-plus page text by distinguished historians. Robinson, paperback, £9.99.

**Patton's Third Army** by Christopher J Anderson. Latest in the pictorial "GI" series of large-format glossy paperbacks. Greenhill Books, £7.50.

**Dictionary of the Third Reich** by James Taylor and Warren Shaw. Valuable and handy reference for serious students. Penguin paperback, £8.99.

**The Wartime Adventures of B Squadron "Corps"** by Maurice Wilson. The title is a self-deprecating joke; the memoirs of a tankie, particularly at Walcheren and the Rhine, colourful. Parapress (Tunbridge Wells), paperback, £12.95.

**Windrow & Greene's Militaria Directory and Sourcebook**. Updated and revised reference includes 3,000 names, addresses and contact numbers from book publishers to museums to wargaming. Hardback, £16.95.

**An Eighth Army Odyssey** by H J Griffin. Old comrades will delight in this gunner's memoir of wartime service in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Pentland Press, Bishop Auckland, hardback, £17.50.

**For Fuhrer and Fatherland** by Roderick de Normann. Story of a failed plan, led by SS troops, for a mass break-out of Germans

# Not quite brothers in arms

**Guardsmen of the Sky** by J N P Watson. Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd, £19.95.

WITHIN a month of Dunkirk Churchill was calling for the formation of a corps of "at least" 5,000 parachute troops. He saw them in a dual role – as trained paras and as shock troops for home defence had Hitler invaded.

*Guardsmen of the Sky* tells how men of the Household Cavalry and other units of the Guards made up sections of the airborne forces in those early days of the SAS and the SOE.

Johnnie Watson, a former officer in the Royal Horse Guards and the Guards Independent Parachute Company (disbanded in 1975) describes how the role of the Guards as paras began and ended.

As with any military account, regimental passions, pride and traditions come through loud and clear. When the 6th Airborne Division was sent to help police Palestine in 1946 it was quickly reduced in size with part of it formed into the 1st (Guards) Parachute Battalion.

But there were only two guardsmen in the battalion, commanding officer Lt Col John Nelson and adjutant

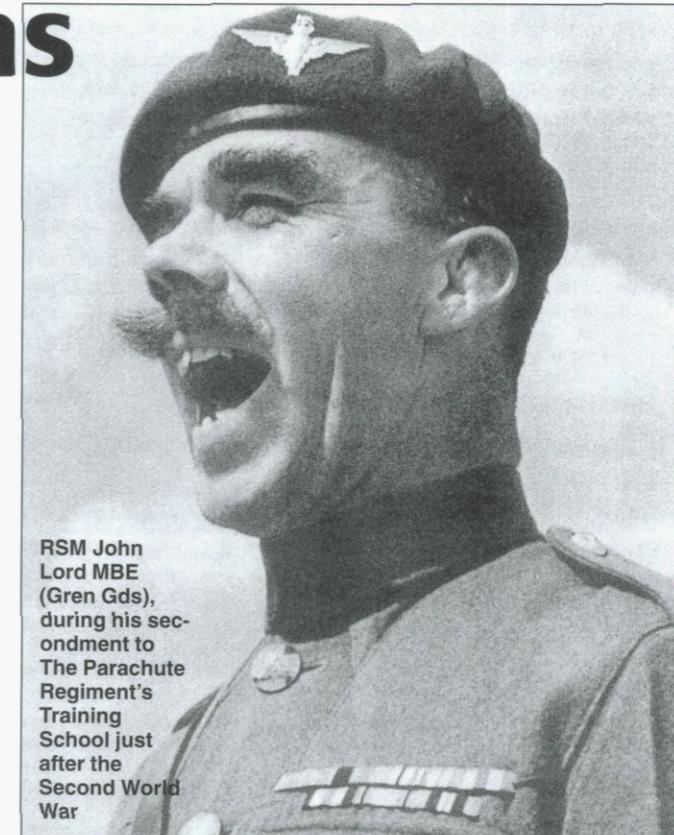
he and his sense of humour survived. "I could scarcely lift a glass of whisky and soda to my lips that evening," he said dryly.

Most of the recollections are similarly light-hearted but some have a touch of acerbity, such as that attributed to Lord Stanley of Alderly, a Coldstream commanding a platoon consisting entirely of paras, whom the Guardsmen nicknamed "little men".

He is quoted as saying: "The Parachute Regiment officers no doubt considered us aristocratic and brought up in a protected society. But we were determined not to give up any of our regimental customs and etiquette, which were often contrary, indeed anathema, to Parachute Regiment officers, who considered them patronising and indeed insulting..."

The Para instructors thought the Guardsmen "cocky" and every day had them running in circles until they were so exhausted they were in bed by 7 o'clock to prepare themselves for the next day's exertions. Their average age was 25.

Col Nelson came in for a share of P Company torment when he was given 45 press-ups on his first day for having his hands in his pockets. But



RSM John Lord MBE (Gren Gds), during his secondment to The Parachute Regiment's Training School just after the Second World War

Capt Michael Jenkins, both Grenadiers.

Within a year or so they changed that around by building up the battalion to 95 per cent guardsmen and with it a reputation for having more decorated soldiers than any other unit in the Army.

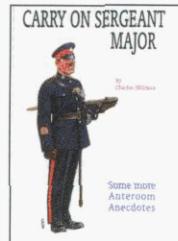
Among them was Sgt John Kenneally of the Irish Guards, who won the VC in North Africa in 1943. Although a war hero he, like many others, was fearful of parachuting and with Col Nelson shared a dread of the paras' famed P Company at Aldershot, describing the six-week course in his autobiography as "torture".

The Para instructors thought the Guardsmen "cocky" and every day had them running in circles until they were so exhausted they were in bed by 7 o'clock to prepare themselves for the next day's exertions. Their average age was 25.

Col Nelson came in for a share of P Company torment when he was given 45 press-ups on his first day for having his hands in his pockets. But

## Carry on laughing with the brigadier

CHARLES Millman believes that life must be fun and doesn't mind others laughing at his expense, which is why his Army anecdotes in **Carry On Sergeant Major** are such a joy. The former brigadier is donating all proceeds of this paperback to the Cancer CARE Appeal with a special donation to the Army Benevolent Fund. It is available at £4.99 (postage 40p in UK, £1.50 overseas, cheques payable to "The Press on the Lake") from COSM, The Press on the Lake, Stonar, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9ND.

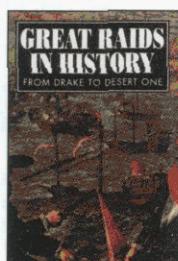


Some more Anecdotes

## Elite forces have a continuing role

BRITISH commandos at St Nazaire, the Canadians at Dieppe, the actions of the Chindits... these and more are featured in **Great Raids in History**, edited by Samuel A Southworth (Spellmount, hardback, £19.95).

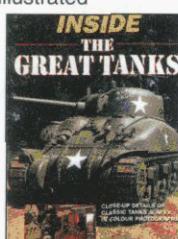
Seventeen distinguished military historians including Britain's Charles Whiting have contributed to this American compilation. It predicts that élite forces will continue to have a crucial role in an increasingly anarchic world.



## Great tanks, but not the whole story

SOME *Soldier* readers may be disappointed that Hans Halberstadt's gloriously-illustrated **Inside the Great Tanks** contains only one British example, the Matilda, and no Second World War Panzers. The explanation is that most of the vehicles photographed belong to California's Jacques Littlefield, whose collection includes no Panzers and whose examples of the Churchill, Comet, Valentine and Centurion are not yet fully restored.

Nevertheless this superbly-produced hardback, published by Windrow & Greene at £25, is impressive.



# Bulletin board

## REUNIONS

**17th Field Coy and 17th Field Sqn RE:** reunion planned early 1998. Send see for details to Denis Stephenson, 16 Whitby Avenue, Eston, Middlesbrough TS6 9NH or tel 01642 469264).

**26 Regiment RA Association:** Reunion on March 7 in Liverpool. Contact Brian Henderson, 3 Duke Street, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2HL (01933 381955).

**22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, Suez reunion:** Reunion for all who served with 1st Battalion in Suez, 1951-54, and wives at Dale Barracks, Liverpool Road, Chester on April 25. Tickets from G U Hunt, 6 Winstanley Road, New Ferry, Wirral L62 1AP (tel 0151 645 0434) or J G Ball, 18 Downing Close, Prenton, Birkenhead, Wirral L43 5XQ (0151 608 4524).

**Coldstream Guards:** 3rd Battalion, No 4 Company (1950-55) sixth reunion dinner in Birmingham, April 25. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

**138th (City of London) Fd Regt RA Association:** Reunion on April 27 at Victory Services Club, London.

Details: Frank Flack, 22 Camborne Way, Hounslow, Mddx TW5 0PW (tel 0181 570 5267).

**201 RCZ REME:** Joint mess reunion at Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwick, May 15-16. Enquiries to Maj Ron Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool (tel 0151 928 4493).

**5th King's No 2 T Force OCA:** is planning a visit to Germany from May 19-28, including civic receptions at Goslar im Harz (May 20) and Bad Nenndorf (May 22). For details contact K V G Moore, The Granary, Church Road, Bacton, Norwich NR12 0JP (tel/fax 01692 651086).

**1st/4th/7th Royal Tank Regiments:** annual reunion at St John's Swallow Hotel, Solihull, W Midlands, May 22-24. Details: G J Bourne, Lyneham House, Yealmpton, Plymouth PL8 2LG, or R T Rathmell, 19 Yeoland Lane, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 6YL.

**50 Missile Club RA:** reunion in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, May 30. Details from A J Todd, 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries DG1 1TN (tel 01387 262378).



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

A real family blow-out is in store for these musicians from the South Notts Hussars. Between them, the two sisters, two brothers, and father and son have clocked up nearly 90 years of bugling, blowing and oompahing around Britain and Europe.

In the back row are Sgt Graham Henshaw, Andrew Sharpe and Sgt Ray Henshaw, and in the front Amanda Wallis, David Sharpe and Rachel Wallis.

The Henshaw brothers have logged 72 years between them with the Hussars, while sisters Amanda and Rachel are the newest recruits to the band.

## SEARCHLINE

**Alan "Harry" Tickner**, ex-RAOC, formerly with 6 Ord Bn and 321 EOD, Edinburgh; **Steve and Marsha Sugden**, ex-BAD Kineton; and **Sgt Scouse**, late RLC, MT Section, BAD Kineton, are asked to contact Tony McColl, also ex-RAOC (now a fireman) on 01638 712945.

News or memories sought by Defence Attaché in Rome of **Geoffrey (Pop) Bullett, 5 RTR**, captured at Tobruk in 1942 and interned by Italian Army in Camp PG at Fontanellato. He escaped shortly before the Italian armistice of Sept 8, 1943. At a town called San Sepolcro, he and a companion were assisted at some risk by Contessa Bianca Cavazza before being put on the road to Rimini. Although the companion is known to have been shot, Geoffrey never returned to the UK and his body was never found. Replies to the Military Attaché, British Embassy (Rome), BFPO 8 (tel 0039 6 4825551).

**Calling Old Gordon Boys.** Ex-pupils of Gordon Boys School, West End, Woking, Surrey, are asked to contact Eddie Holland on 01246 206231.

**MOTHS** meet second Thursday evening of every month at Royal Marines HQ, 6 West Quay, Bridgwater, Somerset. New members welcome.

Paul Hancox, 10 Appledorne Gardens, Birmingham B34 6TN (tel 0121 749 4658) seeks information and photographs of **Rotinoff** vehicles which were tested for use as tank transporter tractors, ten-ton 6x6 cargo and armoured personnel carriers under the names

## USEFUL NUMBERS

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<b>Army Families Federation</b>	01980 615525
<b>Harassment confidential support line:</b>	
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Germany	0800 1827 393
Cyprus	080 91065
Samaritans	0345 90 90 90
<b>SSAFA Forces Help</b>	0171 403 8783
<b>WRVS</b>	01235 442954

Atlantic, Super Atlantic and Viscount, built 1953-53 in Rotinoff factory in Colnbrook, Buckinghamshire.

Collector seeks information on the background to a badge depicting a lion on top of the King's Crown in brass, with a white metal scroll and the words "**Military Foot Police**". Manufactured by J R Gaunt of London. Replies to P E Denmark, 44 Livingstone Road, Leasowe, Wirral L46 2QR.

Author seeks **6th Airborne Division** veterans willing to share their memories, photographs, memorabilia of the airborne landings in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Also news of relevant memorials in Normandy. Contact Carl Shilleto, 17 Wheatlands Grove, Acomb, York YO2 5NQ.

Details sought of Capt **J Selmes**, from Peckham, Surrey, who served in the Royal Artillery before moving to Sydney, Australia in the late 1870s. His son, **Jeremiah Charles Selmes**,

retired from the Australian Army as a brigadier in 1939 and died in 1968. Replies to Craig Ronan JP, 14 Alamein Walk, Bathurst 2795, New South Wales, Australia.

Swedish soldier who completed the 1997 Nijmegen Marches would like a copy of the **road marching song book** carried by British troops. Replies to Sgt Jesper Luckmann, Abygatan 5B, S-264 38 Klippan, Sweden.

John Gurney, PO Box 1555, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, would like to hear from personnel who, having served in the **Falklands**, have made a return visit. He seeks general impressions and information on availability of accommodation and hotel/boarding facilities.

Family seeks anyone who knew **Edgar (Eddie) Langford**, a Brummie and a boxer, who served with **No 2 MT Depot RE, 1 Parachute Squadron RE** and **No 2 Commando** in the Second World War. Especially anyone who served with him in West Africa before his death in 1942. Contact A Lewis, 16 Hawny Grove, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield B76 2BN.

Mrs M Jackson is trying to trace family member **Margaret Cabot** (formally **Blundell**), born 1919 and last heard of in Liverpool. Replies to 54 Osborne Place, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 8BW (tel 01568 610931).

Address, news sought of long-lost friend, ex-SSgt **Terry Derby**, B Coy, Somerset LI in Dec 1942. Replies to Mrs F J Stone, 95 Longstone Avenue, Bridgwater, Somerset.

# Military heritage

# The Royal Irish Regiment

Second in  
an occasional  
series

FORMED by an Options for Change amalgamation of the Royal Irish Rangers and the Ulster Defence Regiment in 1992, the Royal Irish Regiment is building on the fine traditions of its ancestors in its service both in Northern Ireland and around the world.

The Royal Irish Regiment is in fact the second regiment to bear this name, which was formerly the title of the 18th Foot, a regiment summoned from Ireland in 1688 by James II and granted the title Royal Regiment of Ireland in recognition of services during the Siege of Namur in 1695. It became the 18th Foot in 1751, the Royal Irish Regiment under the Cardwell Reforms of 1881, and was disbanded on the partition of Ireland in 1922.

The current Royal Irish Regiment, however, continues the traditions of its own ancestors, the regiments which formed the Royal Irish Rangers and the Ulster Defence Regiment, rather than those of the previous Royal Irish Regiment.



The badge of the Royal Irish Regiment is based on that traditional Irish symbol, the harp, crowned and surrounded by a wreath of shamrocks. In most orders of dress, the crowned harp is worn in white metal on the distinctive dark green caubeen, drawn from the uniform of the Royal Irish Rangers; in working dress it is worn in brass on a dark green beret as worn by the Ulster Defence Regiment. Pipers wear a large version in their caubeens, and buglers a very small one on a busby when in ceremonial dress. The busby is the traditional head dress of Rifle regiments, marking the Royal Ulster Rifles, one of the 'ancestors' of the Royal Irish Rangers who were of course in their time dressed according to the traditions of rifle regiments.

Formal orders of dress continue the Rangers' traditions, with dark green trousers being worn with No 2 Dress, black buttons worn whenever possible and badges of rank being dark green



on a black backing.

The Royal Irish Regiment maintains Pipe Bands, with the pipers dressed in traditional Irish saffron kilts. Drummers wear green trousers and all regimental musicians wear silver dress cords.

Uniquely, the Royal Irish Regiment maintains two very different types of battalion. 1 Royal Irish is a conventional infantry battalion, serving as directed throughout the world.

The regiment also has Home Service Battalions, based in Northern Ireland and fulfilling their duties there, serving in a counter-terrorist role either on a full-time or a part-time basis. Women soldiers serve in the Home Service Battalions, mostly providing clerical, catering and signals support, as well as playing an important role in search operations. Known as Greenfinches, they also wear the caubeen with appropriate orders of dress.

It is hoped that the peace talks in Belfast will reduce the need for the Home Service battalions. But, as they have done throughout Britain's military history, the Irish will no doubt continue to provide a staunch service wherever they are needed.

- Megan C Robertson



Picture: Gary Gibbs  
This picture shows regimental musicians in full dress. (The piper second from right is a member of the Queen's Royal Hussars. The head dress worn by all members of the Royal Irish Regiment depicted is a dark green caubeen with white metal crowned harp badge and a green feather plume. Both the piper and the drummer wear a special large version of the badge.

The piper wears a dark green tunic decorated with silver lace, and a piper's badge on the right sleeve. He wears a saffron kilt, with white metal regimental badges on green shamrock-shaped patches on the fly. Hose are dark green with scarlet flashes, worn with silver-buckled black brogues. A dark green cloak is worn, fastened by a silver chain. The pipes have

a dark green bag, and the drones are adorned with green ribbon and scarlet cords.

The other members of the regiment wear dark green tunics and trousers, with black belts and footwear. Silver dress cords are worn. The bandsmen wear a bandsman's lyre badge in silver on the right sleeve, above badges of rank which are also silver.

# Diary

## Brushing up on rock climbs

UNITS interested in climbing expeditions to sunny South Africa may be interested to know that Julian Fisher, a civilian dentist working for the MoD at the dental centre in Hohne, Germany, has written a guidebook to rock-climbing in Cape Town and the Western Cape region.

The 146-page softback is available from Nomad Mountain Publications, 27 Geneva Drive, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 2QQ (price £14). Service and MoD personnel can buy it for £12 including p & p.

Julian, who can be contacted on fax Germany + 5051 8998, also gives slide shows on climbing and walking in South Africa and Namibia, including a look at famous landmarks, wildlife and different cultures.

### Open society

FIFE Military History Society, which is open to anyone over 16 with an interest in military history, is looking for new members. The contact is chairman John Smith on 01592 753754, or write to him at 10 Dunvegan Court, Glenrothes, Fife KY6 2BL.

### DATES

#### FEBRUARY

21: War in Korea, lecture by Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot, £6.50 (details 01252 349619).

#### APRIL

25: British Model Soldier Society annual show, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Holborn, London (0181 590 7812).

27: Lecture by Mr J Wolton on working with the Dutch Resistance, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot.

#### MAY

10: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service, Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park (0171 414 5233).

#### JUNE

2: 41-gun royal salute by King's Troop RHA, Hyde Park, 1200 hours, and 62-gun royal salute by HAC, Tower of London, 1300, to mark anniversary of the Coronation.

3-4: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, 2130 hours. Tickets on 0171 414 2271 from March 1.

9-11: Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Royal Artillery, Horse Guards Parade. Details: 0181 781 3032.

13: Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour); Colonel's Review, **June 6**; Major General's Review, **May 30**. Ticket applications Jan 1-Feb 28 (0891 505 453).

#### JULY

21-Aug 2: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets (£5) 0171 244 0244.



Picture: Mike Weston

Two First World War veterans were among more than 70 distinguished guests who attended the opening of the Imperial War Museum's special exhibition: 1918 – Year of Decision. Pictured from left to right are Winston Churchill MP; Chelsea Pensioner Albert Alexandre, who served with the 1st Royal Guernsey Light Infantry in the battles of Cambrai and Passchendaele; Maj The Earl Haig, son of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig; Robert Burns, aged 103, who served with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at Loos and the Somme; and Lord Keyes.

The exhibition, which is open until the

## IWM marks end of the Great War

end of November, tells the story of the Western Front in 1918 and marks the anniversary of the end of the First World War. Among exhibits on display are realistic figures representing British, Canadian and French troops, Fd Marshal Haig's uniform, soldiers' letters and diaries, and the pen which was used to sign the armistice in November 1918.

## Llandovery old boys create memorial to school's fallen heroes

TWO old boys from Llandovery College created two Remembrance Books in time for the 150th anniversary of the college.

Harold Evans, who was helped by his wife Patricia, and Col John Evans took three years to complete the project.

Mr Evans researched the background of pupils and teachers who died in the First World War and even discovered two names not recorded on the memorial tablet in the college chapel.

As a result of his efforts, the names of former pupils Nicholas Griffiths and Ivor Jones-Parry, both killed on the Somme 80 years ago, were added to the roll of honour.

Harold, who was responsible for organising the 38th (Welsh) Division memorial at Mametz Wood on the Somme, said: "For both Patricia and myself, working on the book was a labour of love and we both felt quite close to some of the people

whose backgrounds we were researching."

Col Evans was responsible for the book covering the Second World War and Korean War and soon found that it became a record of his school friends.

He said: "Having served in the Second World War, I knew many of the people whose names appear in the book as they were at the school either with me or just before me."

His research was done using school and university records, Service journals, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and regimental and squadron histories. "The Historical Branch of the MoD was very helpful," he said.

Col Evans's research turned up some strange coincidences, including three pupils from the same rugby team of 1938 who had been killed, and two pupils taken prisoner in Java and transported to Japan on separate ships. Both were torpedoed.

# Stone me . . . a chunk of history!



Lost and found: Cpl Chris Watts and Pat Braceford, who discovered the artefact, inspect the stone in a tunnel beneath Nottingham Castle

Picture: Gareth Griffiths

ASTONISHED Territorials have been reunited with a 200-year-old piece of their history hidden under Nottingham Castle.

A quarter-ton inscribed stone, laid in 1798, marked the place where the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry trained their horses for war. The cavalry unit had been raised four years earlier by Capt Ichabod Wright to help counter Napoleon's threatened invasion.

When the stables fell into disuse the sandstone tablet was abandoned deep in the tunnels which riddle the castle rock. It lay there until workmen recently crashed through a brick wall built during the Second World War, revealing a cave beyond.

WO2 Andy Tomkins said: "We couldn't believe it when we were told the tablet had been discovered. It's a fabulous find."

"Once we've restored the stone we'll give it pride of place in our Territorial Army Centre in Carlton."

He said the tablet had been buried by rubble and dust in a catacomb once used to store the bodies of plague victims.

Six men struggled for an hour to heave it out of the cramped tunnels before it was carried back to the TA Centre on an armoured vehicle.

## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, February 1948

### PALESTINE PARTING

For more than a generation there have been British troops in Palestine. Now the world watches anxiously as our forces prepare to withdraw, striving to keep the peace even as they pack.

By May 15 Britain will have given up the League of Nations Mandate which she undertook to hold until the country was ready for independence. By August 1 the British Army will be out. Palestine will then be the world's concern.

## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, February 1973

### HOME ON THE RANGE

Fort Monagh and Silver City . . . it could almost be the Wild West. And the tough areas of Northern Ireland in which these stockades have sprung up are even nicknamed "Indian Country". These "forts" with their corrugated iron perimeter fences house one, two and sometimes three companies of soldiers on peace-keeping in the Province's hot spots.

# Finally . . .



THE Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment gave a colourful send-off to their Gurkha Major, Maj Krishnabahadur Gurung (above left), on his retirement after 30 years of Army service. Bedecked in multi-coloured garlands, he was towed by men from 28 Transport Squadron QOQTR to the guard room of Roman Barracks, Colchester Garrison.

The Driving Standards Agency has agreed to allow the driving theory test to be taken by British Forces Germany personnel and their dependants in Germany, so avoiding the need for them to return to the UK. Practical tests will still have to be booked with the DSA and taken in the UK. Theory tests will be conducted at Army education centres at Rheindahlen, Osnabrück, Hohne and Herford.

Military chefs past and present gathered at the Army School of Catering in Aldershot in December to mark 50 years of fabulous food brought about by the ground-breaking catering apprenticeship launched after the Second World War to boost the skills of Army chefs. Members of the original intake of 1947 were among guests who watched the latest batch of apprentices pass out at St Omer Barracks.

St Christopher's School at Europa Point, the southern-most tip of Gibraltar, has celebrated its 25th anniversary. The school teaches children from all Services as well as some Gibraltarians. The birthday was marked by visits from Commander British Forces, Commodore Sym Taylor, and the Governor and C-in-C, Sir Richard Luce, and Lady Luce.

Soldier photographs of Diana, Princess of Wales feature in a 40-page pictorial tribute compiled by Anne Pitcher. Copies at £6, including p and p, are available from the author at 50 Rectory Road, Hook, Hants RG27 9JQ, with all proceeds going to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. We have to admit that one or two of the pictures credited to *Soldier*, not least those taken by Lord Snowdon, had very little to do with us.

*Kangaroo 150* is the codename for a reunion weekend, September 5-6, to mark the formation 150 years ago of 20 Service Company, which lives on in 20 Field Squadron RE, part of Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment. Ex-members who want to be included should send an sae for details to WO2 (SSM) K Hatley RE, Kangaroo 150, 20 Fd Sqn, 36 Engr Regt, Invicta Park, Maidstone, Kent ME14 12NA (tel 01622 767227).

# Vox Pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue of the moment

## Sport: do you get enough?

TIME was when Wednesday afternoons were always spent kicking a ball around or pounding the running track. But these days, it isn't necessarily so. We asked nine Edinburgh-based soldiers for their views about sport in the Army.

### SSgt Mark Gorton, RMP

No, there's not enough time for sport. Bosnia commitments have cut into our unit quite badly. It's virtually stopped

everything: we can't even put a football team in a competition. We've just about put together a rugby

sevens team this year, but that's it. My sport is skiing, but commitments are such that I can't do it much.

### Cpl Paul Wood, RMP

I'm a keen rugby player, and I've found that whenever it is possible this unit tries to look after me and get me out on the rugby field. But it is difficult, simply because of the shortage of manpower in our unit.

### Sgt Martin Davy, AGC

It's obvious that not enough time is dedicated to playing sport. We have so many people on duty that it is almost impossible to organise a team sport. It used to be a lot better - although I was with a larger unit then. I would like to see more specialised

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sports being made available to soldiers. There are opportunities to do some out-of-the-ordinary things, but information about them comes around on signals, and not everyone gets a chance to see them.

### Pte Mark Fleming, BW

Yes there is enough time for sport. We do two runs a week, and most days, after work, we can go up to the fitness hall. We have battalion football and rugby teams. And our ski team is away in Switzerland at the moment. I get as much sport as I want.



### Cpl Elspeth Mann, RMP

It depends where you are. Different units give sport more time. Part of our problem is getting hold of a gym. If we were able to get into the gym more we would be able to play more basketball and



sports like that. I used to play rugby in Ireland, but that was a bigger unit. I would really like to do more team sports.

### LCpl James Lang, BW

We have a sports day every Wednesday and that gives us a chance to play team sports. I've been able to play rugby for the company and I've enjoyed that a lot. But there are a few other things that I would like to do. When I was a civilian, I played water polo for Scotland. But within the battalion I've never been able to play it. So I would like to see that sport introduced.



### Cpl Bill Lavery, RMP

We do the normal PT sessions twice a week, but on the whole we don't get enough time to do sport. I like kayaking, but obviously you have to go away for that and the only chance I normally get is during adventure training, perhaps once a year. I think opportunities are better in larger regiments.



### Cpl Kenneth Perry, RS

Serving here, I'm apart from the main body of the battalion, but when I was with them we played a lot of sport. That was one of the things that the CO put a lot of importance on.



### Capt Gary Pinchin, BW

The chain of command does try to make time for sport when it can, but we may not always get as much as we would like. The

Wednesday afternoon sports session is no longer set in stone, but we do try to get people outside doing some sport.

You can never say that you wouldn't like to see things improve, but, with a smaller Army and more commitments, it is difficult. My view on sport as a whole in the Army is that it should be more participative. No matter what a soldier's ability is, he or she should get the chance to get out and play. That's what it is all about, taking part and having a go.

Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Terry Champion

## COMING SOON

- Watch out for a special feature on the recruiting of the latest batch of young Nepalese men to join the Gurkhas . . . and how British Gurkhas Nepal cares for the old soldiers now living on their pensions.

- Remedial instructors play a crucial part in getting injured soldiers back on their feet. Read about these Army physical training instructors with a difference.

- Plus an interview with an MP who is also a major in the Territorial Army.

- And a look at the School of Physical and Recreational Training at Bulford.



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# SOLDIER gift ideas

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Anne Came

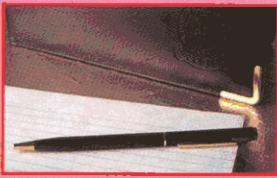


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