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Making life easier: Gdsm Steven Nixon of No 7 Company, Coldstream Guards, demonstrates the new "stand easy" position adopted by all three Services following trials conducted by the Household Division. It was used for the first time at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day

Picture: Steve Dock

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SOLDIER to soldier

A criminal distortion

"ARMY turns to crime" was one of the predictable media responses to a story that young offenders were to be tapped up under a new initiative to cut the infantry shortfall.

Inspired, it appeared, by the Hollywood book of recruiting, it was only a matter of time before the *Dirty Dozen* once more stumbled unwillingly towards the battlefield.

The truth is rather more prosaic. On the principle that an adolescent life should not be permanently blighted by an offence resulting in a custodial sentence, the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act was introduced in 1974. It is a principle that the Army actively supports.

Talks have been held with the Prison Service, just one of many national organisations involving young people targeted by Army recruiters. They are looking for the best new recruits, not excluding those who have made mistakes and paid their dues. The Army does not recruit adults who are ex-prisoners.

APPLICATIONS

Of 26 former young offenders who have applied to join the Army since April 1999, 14 have been accepted, of whom eight have been enlisted and started training, nine have been rejected and three have been deferred.

The Prison Service has launched an initiative using its own resources to run an Army preparation course, for which it has requested Army advice. Four will be held every year. The only Army contribution will be a careers presentation by a member of the Army recruiting staff. Those accepted will have to undergo the same recruit training as everyone else.

We might add that the British Army's historic prowess at moulding superb soldiers from the rawest material is admired the world over.

'Any time, any place, anywhere' is drug-busters' Martini motto

Approximately 302,000 soldiers have been analysed for drugs since compulsory testing began in 1994. The system has been perfected over five years, as our reporter learned when he joined a CDT 'raid'

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

IN THE pre-dawn darkness RAF Brize Norton was damp cold and uninviting. Sleepy passengers waiting to board their end-of-leave transport did not expect to see the CDT team... but they weren't supposed to.

Travelling from their base at Upavon the evening before, the two men and two women, a combined Regular and TA testing team, had spent the night quietly in the base's transit accommodation. They were, if anyone asked, just four more soldiers joining a Cyprus-bound VC10 the following morning.

"Surprise is essential," explained Tony Jerrard, the retired Army Air Corps major who co-ordinates the detecting teams and who had met *Soldier* at Brize Norton. "We work on what we call the Martini principle: any time, any place, anywhere."

"We've recently visited troops in Belize, and we've even CDT'd troops on mountain tops in the Falklands."

Teams are reaching many more troops now than they did when the initiative was launched, but keeping one step ahead

of drug abusers remains a challenge. Large-scale unit checks have been routine since CDT began, but airport visits are a new tactic. By testing soldiers heading back to their stations following leave the teams hope to find any who may have been seduced by the civilian drugs culture while at home.

During such pre-departure swoops there is rarely time to test all passengers, but a significant proportion can be checked, and those who are not will remember the experience next time they go on leave.

The routine followed at Brize Norton was well-practised. Taken to the relative privacy of the baggage processing area, soldiers – men and women, officers and other ranks – were told that military law required them to produce a urine sample and declare any medication that they may be using. With sleeves rolled up to ensure no pre-prepared specimens were concealed, each subject was escorted to a toilet and watched discreetly as a beaker was filled.

It is a procedure which invariably flows smoothly, although the same cannot always be said of the specimens. "You get people who genuinely can't pee," explained Sgt Maj Colin Goatham. "Perhaps they had just gone to the toilet a few minutes before we called them up. So we give them half a litre of water to drink every half-hour, and then we wait."

Those who have a reason not to provide a specimen should know that time is not on their side. "Sometimes we have waited until 11 o'clock at night for a specimen," said Sgt Maj Goatham. And if, during air-



Fluid procedure:
CDT staff Sgt Maj John Jaglarz and Sgt Niki Halkett watch carefully as a soldier decants his urine sample into three containers. Sgt Maj Colin Goatham, inset: "Can't go? Will go! A compulsory half-a-litre of water every half-hour usually does the trick"

port missions, an aircraft needs to take off while a subject is still waiting to "go", then a CDT team at the passenger's destination carries out the test as soon as possible. "We always fill the bottles."

Most soldiers are not worried about the procedure. "But," concedes Colin Goatham, "some may be unhappy about going to the toilet in front of others."

But no exceptions are made. "If we have to, we remind them that they can be

PEOPLE make up their own "facts" about the men and women who apparently come from nowhere, make some very unusual demands, and disappear just as quickly. Maj Tony Jerrard, of the CDT team, responds to the more common myths.

- **If you can't pee, eventually they will pack up and go.** Oh no they won't. The teams wait until everyone has provided a sample, even if it takes all day and all night
- **They don't test all specimens.** Yes they do. All specimens are screened, and those with an irregularity receive a more
- **They never test during overseas exercises.** Wrong again. CDT teams travel the world, from

SOME MYTHS EXPOSED

detailed analysis

Kenya to the Antarctic islands

- **If you drink a lot of water, you can flush drugs out of your system.** Not so. The screening technology is sensitive to diluted samples
- **If you get caught, just say you were at a party where people were smoking dope and you couldn't help inhaling some. You'll get away with it.** No chance. The positive level is well over that which could be caused by passive inhalation.

Wallace and Gromit: the scientists' vital partners

ALL urine specimens collected by the travelling CDT teams are delivered to the Laboratory of the Government Chemist in Teddington, West London, where a team of white-coated technicians subjects them to the latest analytical procedures.

The centre handled 110,000 military samples in 1998, 86,000 of which were from the Army, and the balance from the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

Scientists Rio Treble and Gavin Trotter, co-ordinating the analytical work, are aware that they must adhere strictly to the "chain of custody", rigid procedures which ensure that all samples are treated equally, cannot be tampered with and allow secondary confirmation of results.

Samples reach Teddington in three containers. They are registered on the lab management computer using bar codes but no names. Only the CDT office back at Upavon can link codes to donors and units.

A single container from each subject is loaded into one of the two robotic screening machines, nicknamed Wallace and Gromit, while the remaining two samples

are placed in a cold storage area for possible use later. A donor whose results are positive can demand a second test at another laboratory from these samples.

Wallace and Gromit consume a continuous shuttle of glass tubes, dipping probes into the liquid and searching for substances which should not be there.

Treble and Trotter call this their "broad screening" and it results in the vast majority of samples being cleared. But three to five per cent are identified as irregular. The experts do not consider this to be a large proportion: usually five to eight per cent of samples from civilian screening programmes need further analysis.

Suspect specimens are then handled by three specialised machines which use gas chromatography to separate the components of samples and observe how they



Cold storage: Back-up specimens are kept at the Laboratory of the Government Chemist for possible double checking

adhere to certain materials, and mass spectrometry to break down compounds and observe the fragmentation patterns. The procedures accurately identify any drugs present in a sample. Another recently-acquired machine searches for the smallest traces of LSD and other "designer" drugs, detection of which had proved difficult in the past.

Positive results do not necessarily confirm drug misuse. An expert in toxicology will check a suspect subject's declaration to see if compounds detected are linked to legitimate medicines.



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People, places, events

Changing the drill, but not at Buckingham Palace

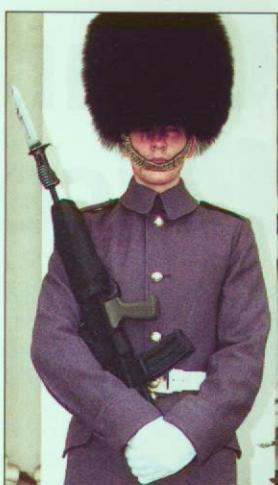
Picture: Steve Docks



New way more in tune with sombre parades

One-handed grip: How it was, far left and left

Two-handed approach: The new "stand easy" position, right



constant need to bring troops to attention in order to change arms, a movement seen as detracting from the "steadiness" of parades on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday and military funerals.

Introduction of the new position, adopted by all three Services, follows trials by the Household Division. But it will not be seen at Buckingham Palace, where guardsmen never "stand easy".

A new drill movement, right, demonstrated by Gdsm Steven Nixon of Number 7 Company, Coldstream Guards, has been devised for the SA80 rifle "stand easy" position. Soldiers will in future hold the weight of the rifle in both hands, with the rifle resting against the right shoulder.

Although the position is said to be more relaxing and to reduce fatigue, the reason for its introduction was to eliminate the

Balkans: Many units home by Christmas

ANOTHER 1,200 British troops are to be withdrawn from Kosovo, and hundreds from Bosnia, many of them in time to spend Christmas with their families.

Announcing the reductions, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said the move to rationalise UK troop levels in Kosovo had been endorsed by Gen Klaus Reinhardt, commander of KFOR, and would ease the pressure of Britain's military commitments abroad.

The only frontline unit affected is a Royal Artillery battery of 160 troops, which is to be replaced by a Swedish battle-group. No reduction in KFOR's frontline capability will result as the total number of UK forces in Kosovo falls below 4,000.

First to return, he announced, would be 69 Gurkha Field Squadron. Largest element of the returning 1,200 will be 680 Royal Engineers and Pioneers who

have been providing temporary field accommodation. The completion of this work, greater use of contractors and more predictable requirements for the movement of vehicles will allow 280 logistic personnel to leave the theatre.

Britain will retain its command of the MNB(C) zone in Kosovo and will continue to provide a brigade HQ and two battle-groups, plus supporting assets.

Meanwhile, the Household Cavalry Regiment battle-group, one of two in Bosnia, is returning home following Nato's decision to reduce the size of its international stabilisation force (SFOR) from 32,000 to 20,000 personnel. Up to 900 British Servicemen and women are expected to be home before Christmas.

Withdrawal of the HCR battle-group means that the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, earmarked for duty in Bosnia, have been stood down.

IN BRIEF

- The Duke of Edinburgh inspected a medical display by 207 (Manchester) Field Hospital (V) personnel when he visited the unit at Stretford, Manchester.
- Seven TA soldiers from the new East and West Riding Regiment travelled to Latvia to train members of the Latvian National Guard at Liepaja.

- LCpl Steven Perry, WG, sounded *Last Post* and *Rouse Reveille* from the roof of Horse Guards to mark Remembrance Day. He is currently the Major General's Silver Bugler, having been judged the best bugler in the Household Division for a second successive year.

Bone-marrow donor could save Paul's life

FORMER Royal Signals and Army rugby player SSgt Paul Collins needs a life-saving bone-marrow donor and has asked former colleagues for help.

Paul, who left the Army in 1995 after 23 years' service, discovered in June that he has the rare acute myeloid leukaemia. Pictured, left, in happier times, he is now in an isolation room at Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey after three courses of chemotherapy.

His wife, Capt Tina Collins QARANC, Matron at RMA Sandhurst, is appealing for potential donors to come forward after no tissue match could be found on the Anthony Nolan Trust bone-marrow register. Although Jamaica-born Paul could accept a bone-marrow transplant from any donor with the right tissue match, his chances would be greatly improved if more Afro-Caribbean donors were identified.

"Despite his situation he is very cheerful and optimistic," said Capt Collins. "The bone marrow register is being added to all the time and we need young and fit people, under 40, especially males, to volunteer to be on it.

"Even if volunteers can't help Paul, there may be someone whose life can be saved."

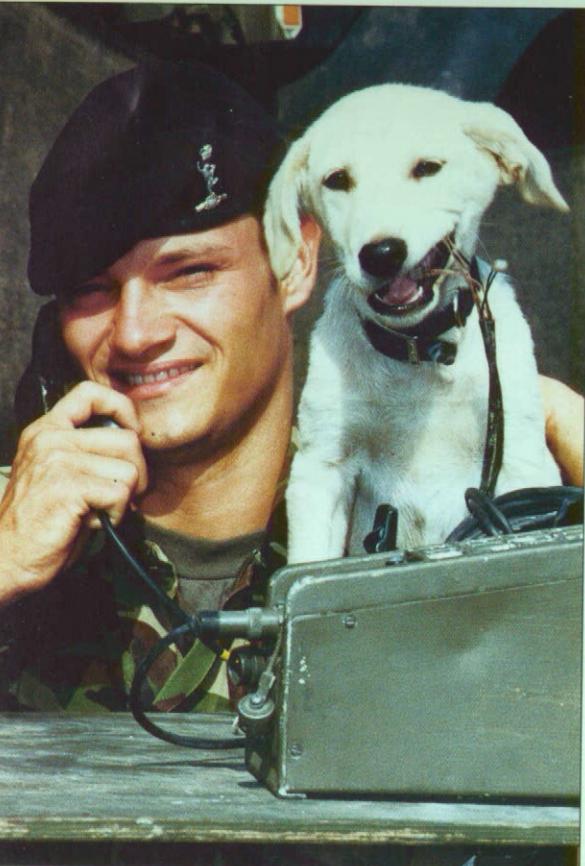
- To join the register or to make a donation, call WO2 Jenny Ingleton from the Army Welfare on 94631 3459 (or 0171 414 3459).



Searching: Welfare worker WO2 Jenny Ingleton, left, with Capt Tina Collins, Paul's wife



- Pte John Armstrong, left, an RAMC reservist attached to the Royal Engineers in Kosovo, has been named Britfor driver of the month. The safe-driving initiative, run by Force Master Driver WO2 Dave Sanders, is designed to encourage defensive driving on what are some of Europe's most hazardous roads.



Oscar-winner: LCpl Steven Smith, pictured, nearly ran over a stray puppy at Pristina airport during a tour of duty in Kosovo, so felt the least he could do was adopt it. Now, with the help of animal welfare organisations who will be paying for the quarantine period, he is bringing Oscar back to the United Kingdom. The little Labrador-cross pup's antics quickly won the hearts of Steven, serving with Bulford-based 3 Division and Signal Regiment, and his colleagues providing secure communications at Pristina airport.

"He was a morale dog," explained Steven. "We all played with him and took him for walks."

Summit hero is Person of Year

CPL Carl Bougourd, who remained with injured expedition members at 19,000ft on Mount McKinley in Alaska for three nights and four days, was among 12 winners of the Lunn Poly/Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation People of the Year Awards.

He has also received the Queen's Commendation for Bravery (see full list, Page 9).

Despite temperatures which fell as low as minus 45C, Cpl Bougourd volunteered to stay with injured colleagues from the team Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment expedition. He lost all his toes to frostbite as a result of the incident in June 1998.

When atrocious weather conditions lifted, a high-altitude Llama helicopter was flown in to lift the stricken party off the mountain.

Aim of the ambitious adventurous training expedition was to climb McKinley and then canoe to sea-level via 50 miles of rapids.

OPERATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

Courage of Kosovo forces recognised

SAPPER warrant officer Christopher Clark has been awarded the Military Cross for bravery under fire in Kosovo in the days before the Nato campaign was launched.

He was part of a Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) team which came under intense Kosovo Liberation Army small-arms fire. Two verifiers were wounded during 15 minutes of fire.

WO2 Clark used a KVM armoured vehicle to shield the injured men from the gunfire, then dismounted to rescue them.

Capt Ralph Wooddisse, R Anglian, also received an MC.

Sgt Maj Frank Gargan, Para, who intervened in a gun battle to save a Serbian family from an angry Albanian mob, has received a Queen's Commendation for Bravery.

As ethnic tension erupted in the city, he and three other Paras disarmed a crowd firing on a Serb-occupied flat and escorted the occupants through the angry mob to safety.

WO2 Gargan was one of four members of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment which led Nato's stabilisation force into Kosovo in June. His commanding officer, Lt Col Paul Gibson, received a Distinguished Service Order for his part in securing Pristina, while Capt Adam Jowett and Pte Colin Lamont were mentioned in dispatches.

ASSAULT TEAM

Capt Jowett led an assault team into a house in which two young Albanian women and their father were being held by armed Serbs. Pte Lamont received his MID for his actions to protect his

IN BRIEF

• The first Challenger 2 regiment, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, is ready for operations after training at BATUS, Canada. It will deploy to the Balkans in the spring.

• Soldiers from 101 Bn REME helped local authorities remove 150 stolen vehicles dumped in a mile-long ravine at Pontypool.

colleagues while under fire in the tense few days after the city had been taken.

Sgt Phillip Bridges, RAMC, part of a 16 Close Support Medical Regiment team carrying out primary care in villages surrounding his base at Lipiljan, gave first aid to a man with a gunshot wound while under fire. One round struck the ground inches away.

ARMoured VEHICLE

An ambulance was unable to get close because of the shooting and an armoured vehicle had to be called in to evacuate the wounded man. Sgt Bridges was Mentioned in Dispatches for his actions.

The courage of Pte Gordon Young of the Colchester-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment in trying to reach an injured Gurkha lying in a minefield in Kosovo was recognised by the award of a Queen's Commendation for Bravery.

• Capt Lorraine Greasley RAMC and WO2 Paul Furber AAC entered a high-risk mine area to reach a burning Army Air Corps helicopter which crashed near Gornji Vakuf in Bosnia. • Capt Greasley, a doctor, resuscitated one of the unconscious pilots while WO2 Furber found the other and attempted to bring him round. • They also located the third crew member and refused to leave the burning aircraft until his seat was ripped free by a vehicle tow-wire. • Despite their efforts, all three airmen died. Capt Greasley and WO2 Furber each received the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

in Macedonia during Operation Agricola. His convoy of communications vehicles was surrounded by a mob of 1,600 which smashed windscreens and began to drag the soldiers through the frames.

Cpl Windsor, the regimental motor transport NCO and PTI, was hit in the face with a brick but took charge, freed himself and his rifle and rallied his men

• Britain and Germany have placed an order for the development of an armoured "battlefield taxi" to be known as the Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle (MRAV). The UK procurement cost will top £1 billion and the first of 1,000 vehicles is expected by 2006.

• A new Territorial Army Pioneer unit, 100



Kosovo trio: Commanding officer Lt Col Paul Gibson, left, awarded the DSO, Capt Adam Jowett, centre, Mentioned in Dispatches, and Sgt Maj Frank Gargan, QCB, all of 1 Para

MBE: Maj A Alderson RS; Sgt J D Baycroft, Para; Capt S G Firth KORBR; Capt S R S Matthews, Gen List TA.

DSO: Lt Col P M Gibson MBE, Para; Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson KCB, CBE, late Para.

MC: WO2 C J Clark RE; Capt R W Wooddisse, R Anglian.

QGM: WO2 P A Furber AAC; Capt L A Greasley RAMC; Maj T Tervit RAMC.

Mid: SSgt T J Barnard RE; Sgt P N Bridges RAMC; Lt Col R Z A Ciaglinski AGC; LCpl L A J Gilliver, R Irish; Sgt J P Gibben IG; Pte S T Harper, Para; Capt A B Jowett, Gren Gds; Cpl R J Kadar RLC; WO2 M Kelly RA; Pte C J Lamont, Para; Sgt T A Meadows IG; Capt F J Rea RGR; Capt N T Sawyer RA; Sgt G D Seaton, Para; Cpl D J Windsor, R Signal.

QCB: LCpl R J Carson, R Irish; WO2 F J Gargan, Para; Sgt S P Glossop AAC; Maj A R Mack AGC; Gnr M C Onn RA; WO2 D Paterson RA; Cpl M J Williams RMP; Pte G B Young RGBW.

QCVS: Capt A J Aitken BW; Capt D J Bailey REME TA; WO2 J Bellingham SASC; LBdr M D Corfield RA; Sgt S M Coshall RE; Maj Gen A P N Currie, late RA; Sgt J G Fenwick WFR; Maj E O Forster-Knight RMP; Maj J J Herbert RA; Lt C Holt RE; Maj A N King AGC; WO2 A D Ralph, R Anglian; Capt K Roberts RMP; Gnr G H Sinclair RA; WO1 R J Taylor RTR; Maj Gen C R Watt CBE, late WG; Capt M G Whelan AAC.

MBE: WO1 N J Cole RA.

Former Yugoslavia

OBE: Lt Col M B Morwood, R Irish; Maj G P Moss KORBR.

Squadron: part of 168 Pioneer Regiment RLC (V), has formed in Cramlington Northumberland.

Maj Steven Chambers, right, serving with HQ 8 Infantry Brigade in Londonderry, beat off opposition from public and

private industry to be named one of the UK's Investors in People champions in recognition of his energy in achieving IIP status for the 3,500-strong brigade.

Headquarters Land Command at Wilton has been formally recognised as an Investor in People.

Support units receive new Kosovo Medal

SOLDIERS serving with units of 101 Logistic Brigade received the Nato Kosovo Medal during an open day at Aldershot at which they demonstrated the kind of work they have been doing in the Balkans for the past six months.

Clare Short MP, who saw the brigade in action at the height of the refugee crisis in Macedonia earlier this year, made a special visit to Hampshire to support the event.

The loggies provide a comprehensive support service to the Army on operations in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Macedonia and Kosovo.

Clare Short, who visited the soldiers carrying out vital humanitarian relief work in the Balkans in April, welcomed the chance to renew her links with the brigade.



Pte Ellen Ball, above, of 33 Field Hospital, shows off her Kosovo Medal. Below, the medal



New: QVRM

Recognition for officer reservists

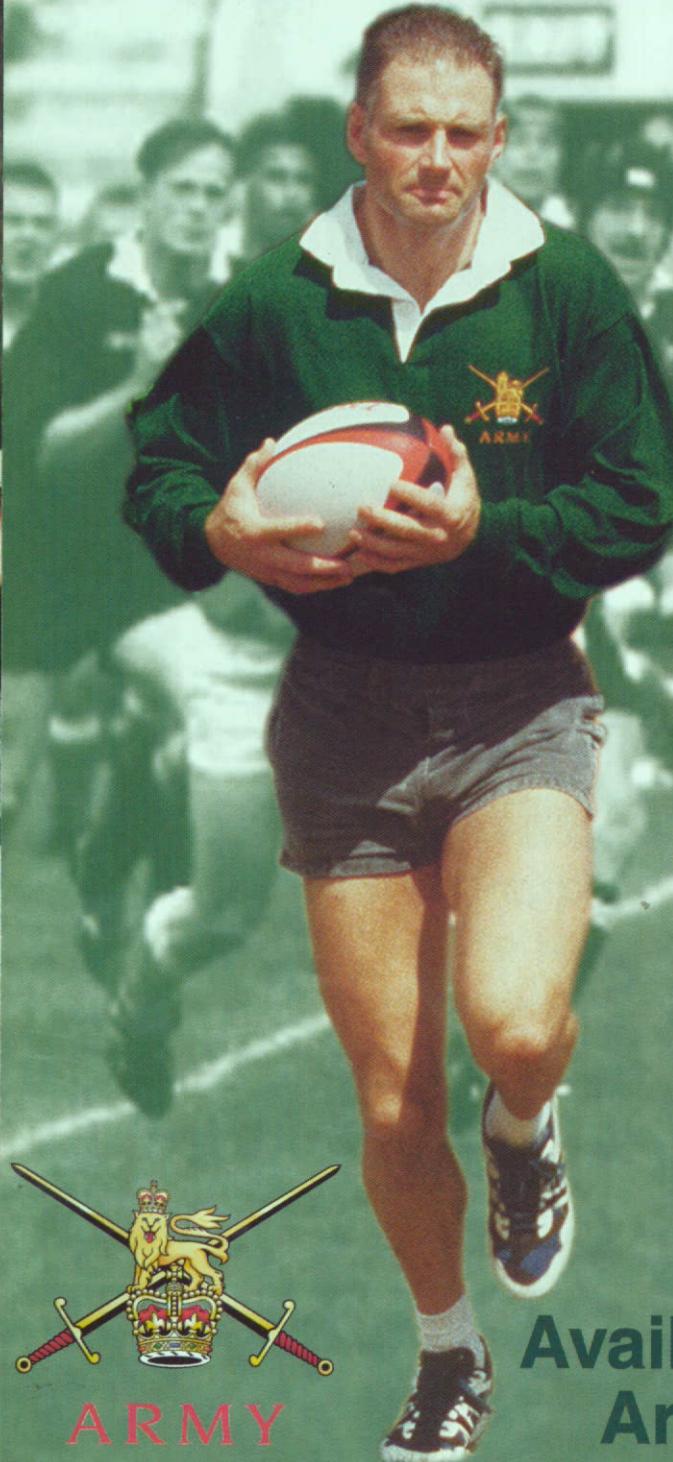
LT Col Nigel Beacom, a member of the Territorial Army for 20 years, was one of the first three recipients of the new Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal, presented by the Queen at Buckingham Palace last month.

He has served extensively with 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), which he now commands. He received his medal alongside an RNR commander and RAAF wing commander.

The QVRM, approved by the Queen earlier this year, is awarded for exemplary meritorious service in the conduct of duty.

Defence Under Secretary Peter Kilfoyle said the award was a testament to the esteem in which the volunteer forces were held. "Closer integration of our reserve forces with the Regulars is a cornerstone of the Strategic Defence Review. This medal is issued in recognition of the outstanding personal qualities of our reservist personnel."

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People, places, events

Kosovo bridge tribute to fallen sappers

A BRIDGE constructed in Kosovo by 69 Gurkha Field Squadron has been named the Evans-Balaran Rai Bridge in memory of two members of the squadron killed in June. Gurkha sappers, part of 38 Engineer Regiment, completed the 15-bay Mabey Compact 200 road-bridge on the site of a three-span concrete bridge over the River Lab destroyed during the Nato air cam-

paign. It provided an important link between Pristina and Mitrovica.

Commander KFOR, Gen Klaus Reinhardt, formally named the bridge after Lt Gareth Evans and Sgt Balaran Rai, who died while clearing munitions from a school at Negrovce, west of Pristina.

Two Kosovar civilians also perished in the explosion.

Eagle-eyed: Atp Giovanni Morini looks at a Polish artillery piece during a visit by 651 Squadron, 1 Regiment AAC to Poland's 5th Artillery Regiment during Exercise Ulan Eagle (see also centre pages). Four AAC helicopters were greeted with full honours.



Picture: Anita Newcourt

Germany troops to move to RAF base

MORE than 2,000 troops serving with British Forces Germany are to move into RAF Brüggen when the Royal Air Force quits the base in 2002.

Sites at JHQ Rheindahlen and Brüggen are to be retained following a study which recommended that all Army units west of the Rhine should be consolidated on two sites: at Rheindahlen (including the former RAF hospital location at Wegberg) and the RAF airfield at Brüggen-Elmpt.

Brüggen's new occupants will include 1 Signals Brigade, 7 and 16 Signal Regiments, Support Battalion ARRC and 14 Topo Squadron RE. It is planned to relocate 280 Signal Squadron there, but the final decision rests with Nato.

More than 2,000 Army personnel will be involved and minor units are expected

to move in as soon as accommodation becomes available. No significant redeployment of troops is expected before December 2001.

The moves will mean the Army vacating Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld; Francis Barracks, St Tonis; and Ayrshire South and Hampshire Barracks, Monchengladbach. Bradbury and Hampshire Barracks are to return to the Federal Authorities, probably by the summer of 2002.

The Army will use the airfield for helicopters but not fixed-wing flying, and no equipment such as tanks or heavy artillery will be transferred to Brüggen.

It is anticipated that there will be sufficient Federal married quarters, but this could change when the precise numbers of families become known.

IN BRIEF

• A consortium comprising Sir Robert McAlpine, Primary Management and W S Atkins has been selected as the preferred bidder for the £900 million project to rebuild Colchester Garrison.

• The Joint Doctrine and Concepts Centre (JDCC) was opened at Shrivenham by Viscount Alanbrooke. It is named after his

father, Fd Marshal the Viscount Alanbrooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff during the Second World War, who was responsible for turning Churchill's political strategic decisions into military strategy.

• The first student graduates of the Army Foundation College destined for the infantry have finished their Army training at Catterick.

TA's top shots

TOP Territorial Army marks-men returned from the United States in triumph after beating Regular and reservist teams from 13 nations to win two major trophies at a combat shooting event.

Having finished fourth in the Inter-Services rifle championships at the ninth annual Armed Forces Skill-at-Arms meeting at Camp Robinson, Little Rock, Arkansas, the TA Rifle Association team produced a stunning performance in the testing react-to-combat match.

Second a year ago in this event for the General Conaway Cup, much coveted by US National Guard teams, the Terriers, led by Capt Peter Cottrell, 3 PWRR, stormed to victory, taking in the process the new Lexington Green Trophy for the best aggregate score over the two matches. The five-day meeting was a struggle for supremacy between Britain's part- and full-time soldiers, who between them won six of the 11 team matches – three each – while the Canadian Forces won four.

That's my boy!



Hello, son. Rfn Kudzanai Madondo gets a kiss from his mother, Ruth, on passing out at ATR Winchester. Kudzanai joined up after seeing an advertisement while on holiday in the UK from his native Zimbabwe, and his future regiment, The Royal Green Jackets, decided to pay for Ruth to fly from Harare to watch her son on parade. Picture: Chris Fletcher

• The tri-Service Defence Freight Distribution Group HQ has been launched by Gen Sir Sam Cowan, Chief of Defence Logistics, at Portsmouth Naval Base.

• The Duke of Edinburgh has opened a new exhibition hall at the REME Museum of Technology in Arborfield. It will open its doors to the public in the New Year.

People, places, events

Gurkha widows' gratuities will be raised – PM

GRATUITIES paid to the widows of Gurkhas who die in service are to be brought into line with those which apply to their British counterparts, the Prime Minister has announced.

Mr Blair added that the new regulations will apply to the widow of Sgt Balaram Rai, killed in Kosovo. He described Gurkhas as "a unique fighting force with a real place in the hearts and affections of all people in this country".

Baroness Symons, the Procurement Minister, said in the Lords that the decision to enhance payments to widows is the first step in a review of Gurkha pensions and gratuities being conducted within the context of the agreement between the three countries which employ Gurkha soldiers: Nepal, India and Britain.

• Westminster report – Page 35

Gulf illness: 3,100 referrals recorded

MORE than 3,100 referrals have been made to the Gulf Veterans' Medical Assessment Programme. Although the programme does not involve research into veterans' illnesses, it does investigate patients' complaints and make diagnoses where possible. It also collates statistics to help researchers. A paper on the clinical findings of the first 1,000 patients has appeared in *British Medical Journal*.

• Service personnel occupying family quarters must move into single quarters if their marriages break down, unless the person involved has custody of a child. Armed Forces Minister John Spellar told the Commons that cohabitation of Services quarters outside of marriage was not permitted.

• The views of all ranks and their families are to be sought to establish why people leave the Army. Those who joined the Army recently and left soon afterwards will also be questioned. The study, to be run by consultants, will advise on ways in which soldiers can be retained.



Picture: Rob Pollard

Pumped up: Sig Gaz Heyward, of 16 Signal Regiment, shows Italian soldier Pte Paow Meloni how to raise a mast on Leuth Training Area in Germany during the two-week Exercise Ponte Vecchio. Fifty 16 Signal Regt soldiers spent two weeks in Gorizia, near Trieste, while a similar number of Italian troops visited JHQ Rheindahlen. The Gorizia party had a chance to complete a two-day trek into the Alps with the Italian Army's specialised Alpini Brigade.

Justice system to be modernised

MILITARY personnel charged with an offence are to be given fresh legal rights under proposed new legislation.

Reforms to the Armed Forces Discipline Bill will improve the rights of soldiers, sailors and airmen and women suspected of offences and awaiting trial within the Armed Forces' justice system.

Under the legislation, independent judicial officers will decide whether suspects and defendants are kept in custody

before trial. At present this is decided by commanding officers. There will also be a new court to hear appeals from members of the Services punished by their COs. It is hoped the bill, announced in the Queen's Speech, will become law next year.

Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said: "The reforms will preserve the essential structure of the current system, while bringing it into line with the 1998 Human Rights Act."

IN BRIEF

• British SFOR troops serving in Bosnia have been congratulated by Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook for their part in detaining Damir Dosen, indicted for war crimes against Muslims and Croats he is alleged to have committed while serving as a shift leader in the notorious Keraterm camp near Prijedor. Of 16 alleged war criminals detained by SFOR troops, ten have been taken in the British-led sector of Bosnia by British forces.

• Pte Dawn Hoggins, right, came top of her class while completing the Class 3 recovery mechanics course at Swynnerton Training Camp so that she could transfer to REME. Dawn, a care assistant in civvy street, has been working in the RLC stores section with 186 Workshop Company, REME (V) at Walker. Following an exchange by two warrant



officers from 186 Wksp Coy to the US National Guard at West Point in the summer, three National Guardsmen took part in the Swynnerton camp. They were hosted by the company's parent unit, 102 Bn REME (V).

• Eleven soldiers from 2 Squadron, 1 (UK) Log Sp Regt RLC, spent ten days guarding prisoners in Lipljan. The guard duty is rotated among Op Agricola nations.

Now it's Pay 2001

THE introduction of Pay 2000 – the new pay structure for the Services – has been put off for a year. Implementation of the technology to administer it proved more complex than anticipated so the MoD decided to delay its introduction until April 2001.

The Armed Forces Pay Review Body will be asked to undertake this year's pay round on the current system.

Officer killed in crash

A 26-year-old platoon commander was crushed to death when his armoured personnel carrier overturned during a training exercise on Salisbury Plain. Another soldier sustained back injuries in the accident which killed 2nd Lt Andrew Allcock, who was positioned in the turret and sustained fatal head injuries. He was serving with the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders.

East Timor Gurkhas so reassuring

BRITISH Gurkhas began pulling out of the sensitive Ambeno enclave of East Timor last month after restoring peace and security to the isolated region, writes Tim Zillessen.

Two weeks after spearheading the operation with other elements of the International Force East Timor (Interfet), the 200-strong A Company group of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles returned to other duties in the capital, Dili.



Picture: Ian Seraph

Maj Tim Warrington leads his men back to Dili from the west

more rapidly than expected. Responsibility for the area has now passed to the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Rifles.

Company commander Maj Tim Warrington said: "Since we arrived, more than 10,000 displaced persons have returned. There can be no better praise for the Gurkhas than this fact."

Kayak soldiers to rescue

BRITISH soldiers taking part in a kayak expedition in the Himalayas rescued a party of Danish tourists washed off their raft during a white-water trip and swept several miles downstream.

The soldiers found a distressed man in rafting gear who told them that his wife had been washed downstream and lost.

They began a search of the riverbank and eventually found the wife, Karin Peterson. She had been pulled from the water by

another rafting company and revived after being swept five kilometres downstream.

In a four-hour evacuation operation led by Maj Stuart Williams, Int Corps, Mrs Peterson was evacuated by car and helicopter and three other Danes were treated by Army medics for minor injuries, shock and exposure.

Maj Williams, a Media Operations officer at HQ Northern Ireland, arranged for the party to be reunited at Kathmandu.

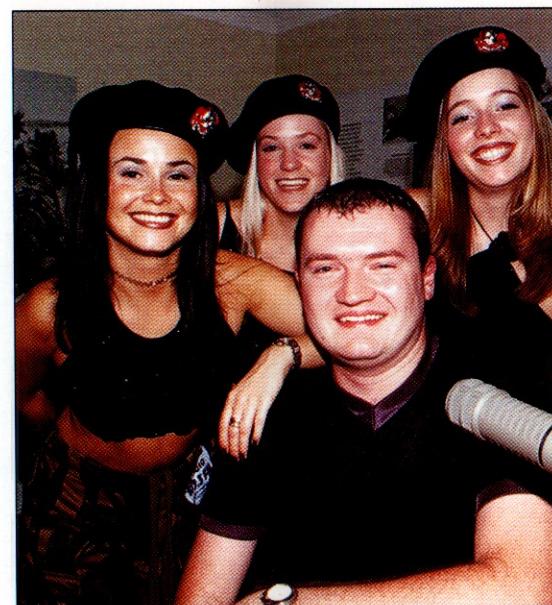


To mark the millennium, soldiers in combat dress are to take part in ecumenical services on January 18 in cathedrals throughout the UK (Salisbury, Guildford, Westminster, York, Edinburgh, Llandaff and Lichfield), Germany (Paderborn and Moenchengladbach), Cyprus and the Falklands.

• Sgt Steve Hartley, pictured, an SASC instructor at the Infantry Training Centre, Warminster, was presented with a GOC's

commendation by Lt Gen Sir Jack Deverell, Deputy C-in-C Land in recognition of his "calm and professional" action at the scene of a fatal road traffic accident near Warminster. Despite petrol spilling from a ruptured tank, he attempted to give first aid to the driver and directed traffic to minimise the danger from an explosion.

Guy and Girlz



It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it: DJ Neil Carter just had to grin and bear it when pop group 3 Girlz called in on Forces Radio BFN at Bulford. The tasty trio – from left, Nat, Lucy and Fran – "adopted" by the Army Cadet Force, were interviewed on air. The station goes out on 107FM to the Bulford-Tidworth and Netheravon areas. Picture: Steve Dock

Royston royal



Royal talk: The Princess Royal speaks to Spr Pete Robinson of 6 Troop while inspecting a pass-off parade at ATR Bassingbourn, Royston. It was the Army Training Regiment's first royal visit since 1979. Princess Anne is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals. Picture: Brian Pearson

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Cost comparison of making a 1 minute weekday daytime international call[†]

	Orange	Cellnet	One 2 One	Vodafone
	Peak Off Peak	Peak Off Peak	Peak Off Peak	Peak Off Peak
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Germany	18p 14p	37p 23p	20p 16p	94p 94p



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Ukraine deployment



Taking steppes towards peace

Royal Irish Rangers take the initiative on defence diplomacy

THE former Soviet Republic of Ukraine, home of the Cossacks, has played host to a Territorial Army battalion for the first time.

Two hundred soldiers from The Royal Irish Rangers took to the steppes on Exercise Cossack Express at Yavoriv, recently declared a Nato Partnership for Peace training area.

They were reinforced by soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and a R Irish (Home Service) composite platoon, making up a 375-strong battle-group of 26 cap badges. The British troops spent two weeks training alongside Ukraine's 311 Airmobile Battalion.

Rangers' CO Lt Col Johnny Rollins said the exercise, staged 60km from Lviv and not far from the Polish border, had been a resounding success. "We have had access to facilities and space that would be difficult to get elsewhere," he said. The battalion was granted the Freedom of Lviv.

The visitors had a chance to fire AK47

and AK74 rifles and the RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenade system, while Ukrainian troops were given an insight into British-style infantry tactics.

Lt Col Rollins said: "The boys have been tremendous ambassadors. We have proven that defence diplomacy can be a major role for the TA." Soldiers from the two nations had got along well, he said, despite cultural differences and differences in resources.

A Ranger commented: "Not long ago we were trained to point our weapons at one another. I'm glad we can now point them in the same direction."

The soldiers collected almost £5,000 for a children's charity in Lviv and 18 soldiers from the Assault Pioneer Platoon spent a week putting their building skills to work at the charity centre. The Rangers' Pipes and Drums were welcomed throughout the area. Other units involved were 204 Fd Hosp RAMC(V), the North Irish Horse, 69 Signal Sqn (V) and 253 Fd Amb.



Lt Col Johnny Rollins: "It has been good preparation for potential deployments elsewhere in the world"

Old enemies, new pals: Lt David Johnston (left) and Maj Davy Lyttle with a Ukrainian Army interpreter, main picture

For real: A Ranger takes part in a live-firing exercise, below, in Ukraine



Rising to the Challenger

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

CHALLENGER 2, the British Army's potent new main battle tank, went down a treat on the vast prairies of Canada during a major live-firing exercise.

It demonstrated its lethal potential during Medicine Man 5, the final battle-group exercise of the year run by the British Army Training Unit, Suffield (BATUS) in Alberta.

With the aim of getting the battle-group trained to a level at which it would be ready to deploy on operations, soldiers from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment were joined by units from the Welsh Guards,

BATUS summer season ends with 2 RTR enjoying wide open spaces

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment and the Army Air Corps. As well as live-firing the battle-group was thoroughly tested by true-to-life Tactical Engagement Simulations (TES) on the wide open spaces of the great plains.

The battle-group was supported by BATUS-based staff and a strong REME

contingent. Commanding officer Lt Col Simon Caraffi reckoned BATUS was the perfect training ground for Challenger 2, adding that the different phases of the exercise had been completed successfully despite his soldiers having little previous field training this year. It meant there was a lot to get through in a short time.

"This is the first proper run we've had since we took delivery of Challenger 2 and it's gone very well," he said. "We've had a shortage of training time and space in Germany and we were unable to get to the big training areas in Poland before coming here."

He praised his soldiers, who were clear-

● Turn to next page



The prairie dogs of war

From Page 17

ly enjoying the chance of getting to grips with their new tanks. They all welcomed live-firing elements that included shooting from tanks on the move. Night exercises also included live-firing.

Some night-time exercises involved two tank squadrons operating with reconnaissance troops and the battle-group HQ. At the same time, the Welsh Guards were on the ground with mortar and Milan platoons. In fact, the guardsmen were at Suffield to play the role of OPFOR – the enemy – during the TES phase of the exercise but changed “sides” to become part of the battle-group during the live-fire element.

Challenger 2 rose to the challenge of working in the hostile environment of the prairie and Lt Col Caraffi was enthusiastic about the improvements the Mk 2 version displayed over its predecessor.

“Most important is the ability of the tank to fire accurately while on the move,” he said. “It is also faster across country, has greater mobility and it is far more reliable than Challenger 1.

“These elements mean we have a much more powerful weapon and are able to use the BATUS area to its maximum effect.”

GREAT IMPROVEMENT

His comments were echoed by Capt Bart Cookson, 2 RTR. “It is far more reliable than the old vehicle,” he said. “Challenger 1 used to suffer five of six broken-down vehicles after each exercise. That figure has been reduced to an average of one with Challenger 2, a great improvement.

“Everything is much better than it used to be, including the new Combat 95 rig, which is more popular than the old kit.”

Another unit enjoying its role was 654 Squadron AAC from Wattisham, which was there with four Lynx and four Gazelle helicopters. SSgt



Making ready: LCpl Kristian McGuire, Sgt Mark Barr and Tpr Alex Truscott make a Challenger 2 tank ready for another gruelling day on the prairie

Adam Graeskaj said his team had enjoyed working with the reconnaissance element of the battle-group. “It was a really good workout for us.”

Away from live-firing, Medicine Man 5 involved a series of TES exercises, incorporating the Asset Tracking System located on each vehicle which allows the exercise control centre to track each vehicle on the prairie.

Using the system, BATUS staff could not only monitor individual and battle-group movements, but also record them and make the results available for analysis at the end of the exercise.

“Without that accurate picture it is very difficult to know why something went well or badly,” said Lt Col Caraffi. “It is a very good training tool.”

There's method in the madness

EXERCISE Snow Goose, part of the overall Medicine Man series of exercises, was typical of the battlefield simulations which confronted 2 RTR at BATUS.

Soldiers have no idea what obstacles to expect when they go into the field. They could find themselves contending with minefields and river crossings as well as enemy counter-attacks. It was all designed to test their reaction times as they put into practice what they have been taught in the classroom.

SSgt Dave Long explained a typical scenario. “Orders to advance are given, but reconnaissance identifies a minefield in their path,” he said. “This presents an opportunity for the squadron to practise minefield crossing drills. After completing the crossing, they assault a platoon objective so they can implement their attack procedures, but then receive orders to push on to engage other vehicles three or four kilometres to their front. “They then get orders to pull back, enabling them to practise their methods of withdrawal and to take up defensive postures.

“Finally, they return through the minefield where they replenish ammunition and fuel and prepare for another assault.”



Watchful eyes: Cpl Wayne Ginders and Cpl Steve Truscott keep vigilant during Medicine Man 5

It's big and it's dusty

THE British Army Training Unit, Suffield (BATUS), about 30 miles north of Medicine Hat in the Canadian province of Alberta, is at the heart of an enormous armoured battlefield.

Established in 1972 as a lodger unit of the Canadian Forces Base at Suffield, the site was once the home of Blackfoot and Cree Indians. Its role today is to provide training facilities for armour and armoured infantry battle-groups, the planning and execution of all operations of war, and the testing of the chain of command to ensure it is up to standard.

Each year from March to October five different battle-groups are introduced to the pressures of warlike situations in a series of realistic Medicine Man exercises. During Tactical Engagement Simulation phases, battle-groups and the opposing forces (OPFOR) are equipped with Direct Fire Weapons Effect Simulators (DFWES), which really concentrate the mind.

BATUS's battlefield stretches across some 1,200 square miles of prairie. During the summer

months it is hot and dusty; at other times it is cooler and dusty. In winter, when no exercises take place, there is no dust for the simple reason that the ground freezes.

The almost treeless prairie is surrounded by fencing, which encourages local wildlife to seek sanctuary from hunters who are not allowed on the site. As a result, and despite the tanks, pronghorn antelopes, an endangered species in North America, thrive there. Prairie dog, elk, coyote, and, during the summer, rattlesnakes are familiar inhabitants.

Despite its apparent flatness, the prairie actually boasts low, rolling hills, sufficient for a tank to find cover. The realistic training sharpens reactions and improves the efficiency of all the soldiers.

The plains are vast, dusty, uncomfortable and sometimes dangerous. They could have been created with tank-training in mind.

And they're big enough for the noise not to disturb the neighbours.



Comparing notes: Cpl Colin Copland and Cpl Pete Lydford take time out to prepare for the next advance

The padre's tale



JUST what is the role of the padre during a major exercise such as Medicine Man?

The aptly-named Padre Mark Christian explained that while the exercise battlefield was the best place for soldiers to practise their skills, it could also be very dangerous.

“One of my roles is to look after the sick and the wounded, hopefully not the dead and the dying,” he said.

He has a pastoral role and has to deal with soldiers experiencing personal problems, including marital difficulties. “Domestic pressure can come to a head because they are away from their wives and families,” he said.

But all is not gloom and doom. Two soldiers asked to be baptised in the field. “They want to get married, not to each other, and to be prepared for the big day,” he said with a smile.



Battle charge: Soldiers of the Welsh Guards attack during the Canadian exercise

Digitizing the Infantry

FIST packs a punch

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

NEW equipment tested by soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on Salisbury Plain has brought the latest battlefield technology for the infantry a step closer to reality.

This was the first chance for troops to use and give their verdict on the Future Integrated Soldier Technology (FIST) which will eventually give them individual communications links and helmet-borne visual displays of the battlefield ahead and around them.

The Argylls were under the watchful eyes of representatives from the FIST manufacturing consortium, Pilkington Optronics and British Aerospace, and the Defence Evaluation Research Agency (DERA).

Maj Simon Nias of The Royal Gurkha Rifles, SO2W Electronics and Special Equipment Section at the Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU) at Warminster, supervised as the soldiers used the new kit for a nine-week trial.

ENTHUSIASTIC

Although the schedule is for the FIST package to be in service by 2008, an enthusiastic Cpl David Pickering, 1A and SH, said he would take it now.

"If what we have seen is anything to go by, the final system will be an outstanding success," he said.



Cpl David Pickering

"From a commander's perspective it makes our job easier. Command and control are excellent."

"My lads adapted to the system very well, although the equipment is bulky and heavy."

Maj Nias explained that the equipment was in the prototype stage, with ITDU Warminster running the trials on behalf of DERA.

"The equipment was made especially for this trial. FIST 2000 is a complete re-engineering of FIST 98, which ran last year. They have not taken the old equipment and modified it, but have rebuilt from scratch," he said. Stressing that the kit was nowhere near the finished product, he added that the A and SH had fulfilled an extremely important role.

"It is the man using the kit while crawling around in the grass who has the valid opinion. We rely directly on the soldiers for their input," he said.

It was a view endorsed by Stephen

Argylls who tried out the latest infantry technology on Salisbury Plain soon learned to appreciate the advantages of the digitization revolution

Mitchell from DERA. "We believe we are constructing the best infantry soldier technology system in the world and the soldiers from the A and SH are here because we want their opinions," he said.

FEEDBACK

"We always look for feedback from troops and act upon it. We know the system is not right yet. While some aspects are superb, others need improvement.

"By understanding the problems the soldier faces and his requirements, we can deliver the product he needs. I think we



Pte Lloyd Jones

Cpl Pickering summed it up: "This is something to look forward to. It will make us far more effective in the field."

are 18 months ahead of anyone else in the world."

The Argylls were impressed, and realistic in their assessment. Pte Raymond Ruine said: "What it does is good, but it could do with being smaller, lighter and more robust. It is a bit bulky."

Pte Lloyd Jones commented: "A fantastic idea that needs refining. There are too many wires getting tangled up at present."

Other problems to be overcome include the helmet, at present large, heavy and cumbersome, and the commander's system, which is heavy because it carries a computer. On the plus side, the FIST 2000 radios are considerably lighter than present service equipment.

Cpl Pickering summed it up: "This is something to look forward to. It will make us far more effective in the field."



Pte Raymond Ruine



Vigilant: Pte Kirk Harrild, above, awaits an enemy approach armed with an SA80 fitted with thermal sight

New technology: FIST trialist LCpl John French, left, is armed with a light support weapon fitted with a dual waveband sight with seven times magnification

What next?

THE next sets of FIST trials are planned for May 2000 when the implications of digitization on the new kit will be examined. Digital radios are already under examination and investigations into the ability to track soldiers on the battlefield will take place.

Fighting tool

A DISPLAY cabinet at the ITDU centre at Warminster describes the fundamental functions of the fighting soldier on the battlefield. They are: see, hear, communicate, fire, survive and move.

FIST is aimed at maximising each of these functions, matching them to the soldier's human potential and integrating them into a lethal system for combat. The A and SH trials were an important step towards achieving that goal.

During the trials sections were split into two fire teams of four, all equipped with the state-of-the-art equipment supplied as part of the FIST 2000 package.

Dave Johnson, a development manager from Pilkington Optronics, the prime contractor, said: "The whole purpose of the trials was to find out what areas we as developers of the equipment should concentrate on."

He explained that there are three basic sub-systems to the FIST 2000 equip-

ment, the helmet, the torso and the weapon.

The helmet system includes a mounted display, a microphone, headphones and an image-intensified helmet-mounted camera. The torso carries software for video processing and batteries.

The weapon comprises a FIST 2000 enhanced SA80 with combined day-and-night

sights and radio and command controls. It enables the soldier to switch between his helmet camera and the weapon camera, both of which supply information to the helmet display.

It will give a soldier the ability to fire over his head and around corners with great accuracy.

The grenade launcher has the same day-and-night sights as the rifle and incorporates a laser range-finder and a

digital magnetic compass, which shows the soldier where to aim using his helmet-mounted display. A grenade may be launched with great accuracy up to 350 metres while the operator is under cover or around a corner.

Dave Johnson said the Argylls had

been sceptical when they first saw FIST 2000, but quickly began to appreciate its enormous potential.

"In addition to the day-night weapon

Trials with the A and SH went on for nine weeks, the first phase of which allowed the soldiers to become familiar with the equipment. "They laughed at the idea of remote firing," said Dave Johnson, "but when they found their shooting became increasingly accurate on the ranges they were converted."

Stephen Mitchell of DERA was grateful for the A and SH co-operation. "The soldiers were very enthusiastic, in fact they were superb. In the first week they were sceptical, in the second week we were expecting the kit to do the job for them, and by the time the third week came along, they realised that the equipment is nothing more than a means to an end."

"They still have to undertake their tasks, and to use the equipment to help them accomplish those tasks."

"Feedback has been very good. They understood from the beginning what we were trying to do. We were not trying to con anyone by saying this was going into service. These trials are a means of finding out what we could have in the future. And it is their comments that have been important."

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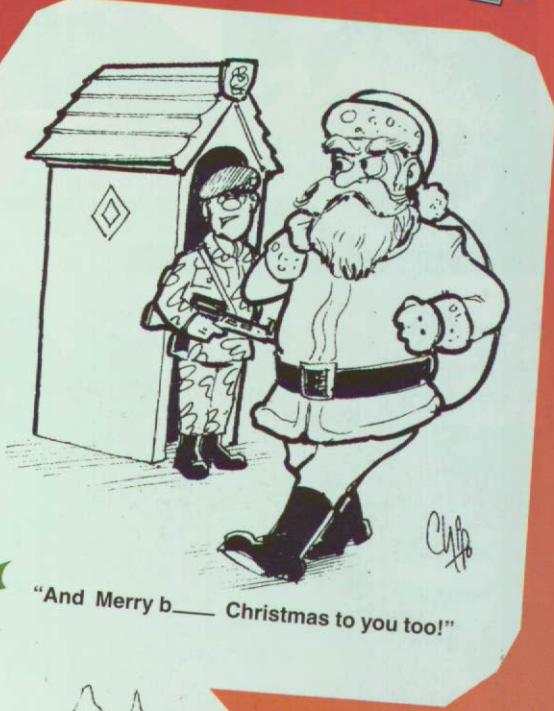
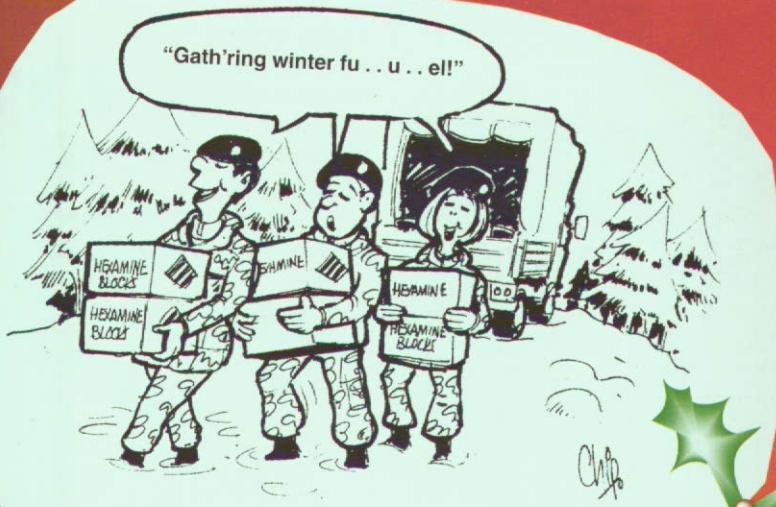
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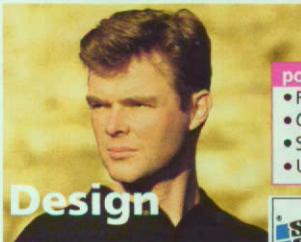
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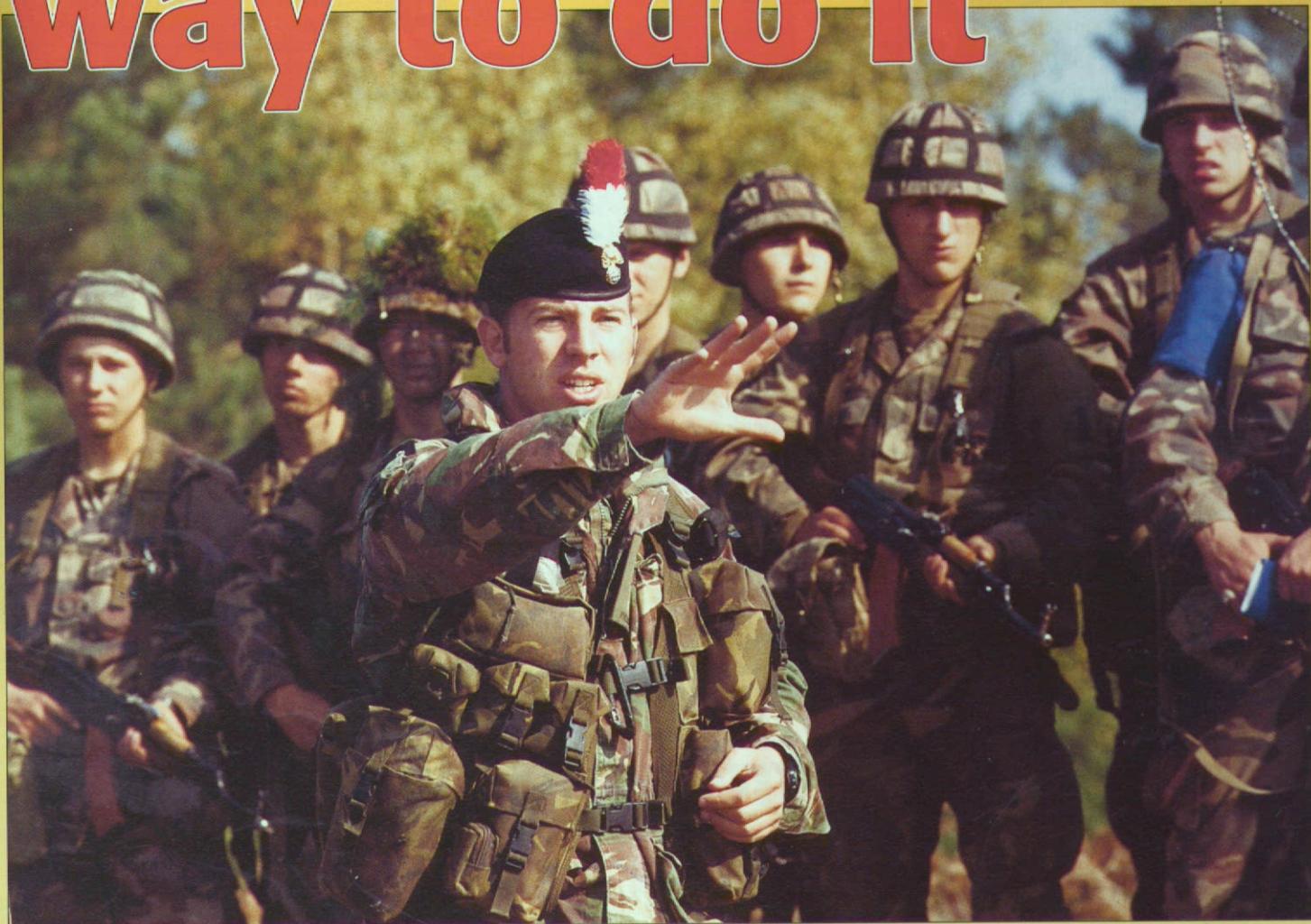
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That's the way to do it



See here: Capt Paul Morris, 2 RRF, talks a watchful platoon of Lithuanian Army soldiers through the most advantageous attack position

With the help of a British Army short-term training team, the Lithuanian Defence Academy is turning out a new generation of officers

Reports: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

IT could have been a scene straight out of a recruitment advertisement for British Army officers. Eight soldiers, one broken-down vehicle, and a trailer carrying six heavy boxes of ammo; troops urgently waiting for the supply wagon two kilometres away. You are the officer, what do you do?

The young Lithuanian lieutenant on the training exercise was in no doubt. Without thinking too deeply, he ordered his men to carry the loads while he ran alongside shouting encouragement.

Maj Andy Jackson of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, attached 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, was on hand to suggest a different way of doing things. Unhitch the trailer and everyone, including the officer, puts their

backs into it. Who says you can't teach imagination?

"Officers must be able to do whatever the men are expected to do," said Maj Jackson, the officer commanding the training team, when *Soldier* paid a visit. "They must lead by example."

Leading from the front is one of the lessons his team has been imparting to cadets at the Lithuanian Defence Academy in Vilnius. This is the Lithuanian equivalent of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, although, it has to be said, at the moment there are more differences than similarities.

There are many reasons for this, but foremost is the fact that the Lithuanian Army is young and lacks experience. Indeed, the last units of Russian troops left the country only in August 1993 and in February the following year Lithuania joined Nato's Partnership for

● Turn to next page



Trainers' verdict on the trainees

Capt Matt Grist, 1 RGBW: "It is about getting the commanders to command, to realise that if something goes wrong then they have to come up with a solution on the ground."



CSgt Bingo Cochrane, 1 A and SH: "Their forces are young but are moving in the right direction. The courses have gone well."



CSgt Tommy Rutherford, 1 GH: "This is my first time on a short-term training team. The soldiers are working towards a more Western way of thinking. Even though the course is condensed, I can certainly see a difference from where they were at the beginning."



Capt Paul Morris, 2 RRF: "The best thing is being able to work with a clean slate because it is a new army. It is starting from scratch."



WO2 Matty Mattinson, LD: "They may not have the best technology but they make the best of situations by keeping it simple. They are very positive and friendly and not afraid to speak up."



CSgt Jimmy Timmons, RWF, attached RWR(V): "What you expect and what you get are two different things. They are very keen but sometimes lack imagination."



That's the way

From Page 25

Peace programme, set up as a first step for countries seeking to join the alliance.

And that is where the British Army instructors came in.

During an 11-week course they helped to give 150 cadets a grounding in Western tactics and leadership, concepts quite alien to a fledgling Lithuanian army whose military doctrine was inherited from the Warsaw Pact. And old habits die hard.

Maj Jackson and his team guided the Lithuanians through the cadet platoon commander's course and tried to instil three qualities in the instructors that would better equip them to get the most out of their soldiers.

"The instructors should have a complete grasp of their subject," he said. "They should have confidence in their abilities and they must have enthusiasm."

IMPROVING

"At the moment they have elements of all three, but they don't quite have the full picture yet. Things, however, are improving."

Evidence of this can be gauged from the fact that last year the British short-term training team was 12-strong. This year the Army sent a team of six, plus a sergeant major to take care of administration and logistics.

The first four weeks of the course centred on classroom instruction before staff and pupils moved to a training area at Pabrade, where British officers and senior NCOs monitored progress and assisted where they could.

The training team was a unique blend of skills and experience. Maj Jackson, a soldier for 25 years, has completed two spells as an instructor at the Infantry Training Centre, Brecon.

"It was pure luck getting a team of such high calibre for this programme," he said. "They are all very proficient at infantry tactics and instruction. In my opinion they could all be good instructors at Brecon or

Academy trains officers of the future

IT is the Lithuanian equivalent of Sandhurst and aspires to the same high standards. The Military Academy of Lithuania is the country's centre of excellence for training officers and specialists.

Everyone connected with the institution takes immense pride in its achievements which, for such a new institution (it was founded in 1994), are not inconsiderable.

A strong academic teaching staff of 70 takes the cadets through a range of disciplines from military skills to foreign languages and computer studies.

Seven teaching departments specialise in tactics, combat supply, management, foreign languages, applied sciences, humanities and technical services.



Getting the point: A lesson in tactics at the Lithuanian Defence Academy in Vilnius
Art of the state: The Lithuanian mounted knight, Vytis, depicted on the flag, left, dates back to 1366 and is one of the oldest and proudest state emblems in the European continent

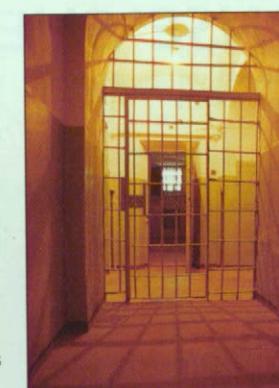
Testament to torment

STANDING in the heart of one of the most beautiful cities in Europe is a monument to evil. Although it is eight years since its doors closed for business, it has lost none of its power to shock.

From the outside, the former Vilnius headquarters of the feared Soviet secret police, the KGB, looks like any other of the city's grand 19th century buildings. Inside, its walls are reminders of a terrible past.

Between 1944 and 1991 this was the place where plans were laid for the persecution of the Lithuanian population; a place where patriots were tortured and sentenced. Between 1944 and 1947, about 1,000 people were executed in the basement.

Spirits darken with every step taken down three flights of stairs into the cells. The prisoners, the pain and the bodies might be long gone, but they left traces that have seeped



No escape: The KGB headquarters in Vilnius

into the walls. As long as the building stands, the terror it concealed will not be forgotten.

Interrogations took place day and night. If that did not get results, other methods were employed by the KGB torturers. A prisoner arrested in 1946 remembered: "During

the first days they beat me, mostly on the head. They put me on the floor and whipped me until I lost consciousness. Then they poured cold water over me, made me stand against the wall and threatened to shoot me.

"They told me to keep my hands up. If I lowered them they beat me with metal rulers. They took me to a room with equipment, made me stand under an apparatus and gave me electric shocks."

After interrogation prisoners were sent to labour camps. Between 1940 and 1958 the Soviets incarcerated more than 200,000 Lithuanians, many of them left disabled by hard labour, exhaustion and disease. Many died in prison.

After the Soviets left it was decided to turn the building into the Museum of Genocide Victims, a living memorial to a nation's suffering. It is a seriously disturbing experience.



Instructors zero-in on safety first

WHEN Lt Col Vasilijus Apisevas of the Lithuanian Army returned after two weeks' holiday, he couldn't believe what the British Army had done to his firing range. It looked as if a bomb hadn't hit it.

Members of the Small Arms School Corps had been busy at the Pabrade training area, making the range safer. A team of three had put into action plans drawn up by last year's short-term training team.

News of the improvements came as a big relief to a nearby village. For years, particularly during the Soviet era, local people feared a miscalculation could lead to tragedy. The changes mean that residents can at last sleep safely at night.

Now the Lithuanians have safe ranges, built to British Army standards, they need to be taught how to manage them to the same guidelines.

CLASSROOM

A vital part of the team's work takes place in the classroom, supervising the instruction of students. Successful completion of the rigorous course results in a qualification recognised by other Nato armies and which allows them to plan all types of field-firing.

Every aspect studied in the classroom is followed up on the ranges, including work with high-explosive grenades, explosives and anti-tank weapons.

The SASC team of WO2 Mark Houghton and WO2 Dave Logan, commanded by Capt Andy Atkinson, had a busy visit. Before arriving in Lithuania the weapons experts had put trainees through a similar course in Latvia. All 24 students passed.

Back home, the SASC instructors act as field-firing advisers for all three Services. With its headquarters in Warminster, the corps supervises every Army training regiment, maintaining the highest safety standards.

At the end of their visit Capt Atkinson and his team went home with the knowledge of a job well done.

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Herman is dead: Lt Damian Walker, left, and Cpl Andrew Stott display the disarmed bomb

Disarming old Herman

A NEW EOD "mitigation" system was used in Britain for the first time when a 1,000kg wartime bomb was unearthed near a major railway line at Reading.

The system, developed by Dell Explosives of Edinburgh, was put into action when the wartime German SC bomb, known as a "Herman", was discovered by workmen near the main line into Paddington. Work to disarm the device forced an interruption to services on the line a day after the track was reopened following a two-week closure caused by the Ladbroke Grove train crash.

An 11-man team from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) based at Wimbish near Cambridge was called in to deal with the device. Bomb disposal officer Lt Damian Walker and his squad made the bomb safe in a 5½-hour operation involving meticulous co-operation and planning between the EOD team, Thames Valley Police, British Transport Police, Wokingham District Council and Railtrack.

Lt Walker said that plans were drawn up for the evacuation of the surrounding area, and it was here that the mitigation system proved a winner.

"Ordinarily the evacuation would have to cover a radius of 2,600m, but the new system reduced that to 500m," he said.

Even so, nearly 3,000 residents were

advised to leave their homes and seven schools were closed.

Lt Walker explained that the defusing of a German Second World War bomb was straightforward but had its dangers. "It is not a case of cutting the blue wire, but it is a simple engineering task," he said. "As much as possible is done by remote control but the bomb case, fuze and explosives have to be physically separated.

"In this case, the Herman had one fuze and two different types of explosives."

Following the delicate operation, the fuze was destroyed on site and the explosives on Salisbury Plain.

FRONT PAGE

Because of its proximity to the railway line so soon after the Ladbroke Grove rail crash, the operation made front-page news.

"In the United Kingdom we keep a bomb disposal officer and crash crews at 30 minutes' notice to move," said Lt Walker. "The regiment undertakes EOD operations on a daily basis and incidents with large bombs such as the Herman occur about once a month."

He added: "The team worked hard to reduce the risk and inconvenience to the public. It was a very pleasing performance."

Finding the lost legions

WHEN the then Lt Tony Clunn, stationed in Osnabrück, contacted Professor Wolfgang Schluter, Resident County Archaeologist, little did the German academic realise how significant their coming-together would be, writes Ray Routledge.

For the Army officer was convinced that he had discovered the 2,000-year-old site of a significant battle, Teutoburger Wald, during which three legions of the Roman army – some 20,000 men – were destroyed in the greatest defeat ever suffered by the Empire.

The discovery was in 1987. Now Maj (Retd) Tony Clunn, pictured right, staff supply officer at Osnabrück, has written a book, *In Quest of the Lost Legions*, about his remarkable finds, charting his perseverance in persuading a cautious professional world that an amateur archaeologist could discover something of significance.

His story is based on his own diaries, woven into a reconstruction which brings the legionnaires to life. It is an entertaining blend which will appeal to the historian and the reader of popular fiction.

In the centuries following the battle, more than 750 sites were claimed as its location, but Tony Clunn's detailed research and familiarity with the terrain, on which he unearthed more than 100 Roman coins, evidence of slingshot, a breastplate and a battle mask, convinced him that he had found the real thing.

SUCCESSFUL EXCAVATIONS

It also convinced Prof Schluter, with the result that the Department for Preservation of Archaeological Monuments, acting on his leads, began its first, highly successful excavations of the battlefield. Its findings were exhibited in Osnabrück.

Maj Clunn, who spent 22 years with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment and ten with the Royal Army Medical Corps, has since received official recognition from the German authorities for his work in unearthing the battle-site.

"The officer's persistence and his tireless dedication finally bore fruit," said Prof Schluter in the foreword to the book. "He is directly responsible for increasing the size of the excavation area during the last ten years."

Excavations are expected to continue for at least ten years.

• *In Quest of the Lost Legions* by Maj Tony Clunn is published in hardback by Minerva Press, price £18.99.

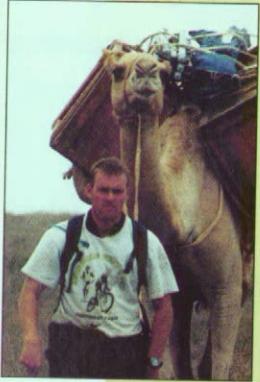
Book reviews – Page 72-74



Adventurous training

Walking on...

FOLLOWING a period of post-Bosnia leave, C and D Battery, 3 RHA held an intensive period of adventurous training in the French and Spanish Pyrenees. Events included paragliding, parachuting, sailing and a multi-activity exercise. The main training exercise was a two-week mountain trek involving ten soldiers led by Capt Alistair Wood. The soldiers walked unsupported for nine days over 80km and climbed major peaks including Pico Del Inferno (3,086m) and Le Taillon (3,144m).



Cpl Garry Taylor and friend during Exercise Ndoto Trail in Kenya

•••
Northern Kenya is an explorer's paradise, hardly touched by the 20th century, and an ideal place for the **Ace Mobile Force (Land), Combat Service Support Battalion, Workshop REME** to mount an expedition. Aim of the project around the remote Ndoto mountains was to provide trekking in desert conditions and mountainous terrain with the opportunity to learn survival and living techniques from the indigenous people.

•••
Otterburn's hills will never seem the same again to soldiers from 5 Regiment RA who took part in Exercise Lanna Ebor in Thailand. The group climbed the country's second highest peak, Doi Mae Raeng (2,458m), and covered 176km in temperatures reaching 40C.

•••
Capt Steve McGroarty, R Irish, led an eight-man expedition from **Northern Ireland** to the former Soviet Central Asian republics of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The region is rarely visited by tourists and offers some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. Highlight of the three-week trek was an expedition in the Central Tien Shan mountains of the Chinese Alps along the Kyrgyzstan-Chinese border, followed by sightseeing in the Silk Road cities of Tashkent and Samarkand.

•••
Eleven divers from 39 Regiment RA had been looking forward to a trip to Cyprus when their sub-aqua diving supervisor had to cancel due to an operational tour. The expedition went ahead, however, with the destination changed to Weymouth. After 14 days' diving all 11 achieved British Sub-Aqua Club and sports diver licences.

Sent to the bottom by atomic bomb

FIFTY-three years after the United States conducted the first atomic bomb test in the remote Marshall Islands in the Pacific, a British Army-led expedition representing all three Services set out to explore the site of what is considered the best wreck-diving area in the world.

Under Exercise Saratoga Crossroads, the divers set out to do many things during their 26-day expedition to Bikini Atoll, Kwajalein Atoll and Truk Lagoon, but the main aim for the 13-man team was to dive on the wreck of the aircraft carrier USS *Saratoga*.

At 880ft she is longer than the *Titanic* and sits upright, fully intact in a maximum depth of 57.7m. The reason the *Saratoga* is lying on the ocean floor is that in 1946, along with 241 other ships, she took part in an atomic bomb test.

US military personnel wanted to assess the bomb's effects on warships. The first test was an airdrop such as those on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but the second was an enormous underwater detonation which

threw up a column of water a mile high.

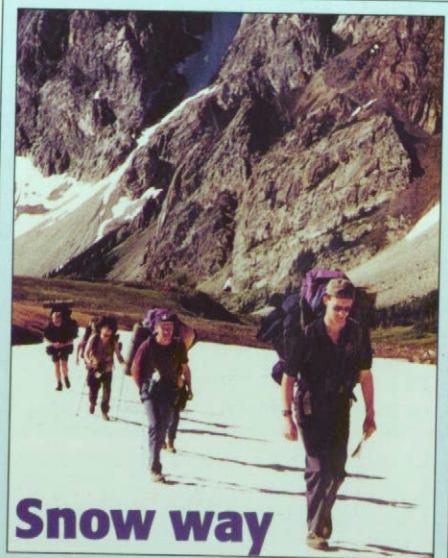
Team leader Maj Andy Reid AGC said: "The first dive on the USS *Saratoga* was an incredible experience, especially when we were accompanied by a couple of sharks. All the dives were deep and often required more than an hour of decompression using oxygen-enriched air.

"The level of diving was far in excess of that normally permitted under Joint Services regulations and there is no doubt that the safe completion of the programme represented a significant achievement."

From Bikini, the expedition moved to the US Army base on Kwajalein Atoll and then on to Truk Lagoon, where the shallower wrecks were dived and most of the project work completed.

The already highly-qualified team carried out instructor training and assessment, a first-class diver examination and four scientific projects on behalf of the Natural History Museum and Southampton University.

Most importantly, a team of Service divers completed the latest technical diving course and then used those skills on the world's ultimate dive site over the *Saratoga*, rated in diving circles as the sport's "Mount Everest".



Snow way

Members of Surrey-based 135 Independent Topographical Squadron RE (V) make their way across late summer snow on the long trek to Piper Pass. The party of 13 TA soldiers celebrated their unit's 50th anniversary by trekking in the Kananaskis National Park in Alberta, Canada, followed by white-water canoeing and rafting and a 45ft cliff jump into the Bow River



Out of the deep: Divers use decompression bars on the way to the surface at Bikini Atoll

Himalaya Dragon is roaring success

NEPAL was the venue for the Army's flagship millennium adventurous training project, Exercise Himalaya Dragon. More than 180 climbers from all ranks, regiments and corps attempted to place a military team on top of 18 trekking peaks.

Of the summits attempted, only four were not conquered as a result of dangerous snow and weather conditions in the wake of the monsoon.

The peaks were spread across the whole of Nepal and included some in Khumbu and Annapurna. Operating in teams of eight to ten members, the party attempted climbs graded from level one to the severe level five.

Capt Fergus Smith of 4 Para, exercise secretary, said: "Great care had to be taken with water supplies, camp locations and food intake. It was a surprise to many that the



LCpl Eddie Irons of 5 Field Ambulance helps an injured villager at Chomrong, Annapurna.

specialist high-altitude rations used on the mountains were boil-in-the-bag rations used by the British Army on operations and training the world over. One climber was

even known to prefer them to hotel food on coming down from his mountain."

All the climbers were members of the Army Mountaineering Association and came from units across the full spectrum of the Army. One team was entirely female and another comprised a Territorial Army battalion, The King's and Cheshire Regiment.

The Army is establishing a long-term medical project to supply doctors from universities in the United Kingdom to Nepal. It is hoped military personnel will be able to enlist from next year. The project, founded and organised by Capt Alison Everest from Sandhurst, will be sponsored by the British Army website on www.army.mod.uk/projectnepal

Detailed medical research was also carried out into the effects of high altitude on the body.

...the wild side

Hill-trekking in the remote jungles of north-west Thailand was the main challenge facing ten members of **617 Headquarters Squadron, 7 Transport Regiment RLC** during Exercise Bold Eagle Diamond. During the 200km, 14-day walkabout the expedition visited six hill tribes and experienced their ancient lifestyle.

On Remembrance Day they visited Kanchanaburi, the site of two Commonwealth war cemeteries, where they laid a wreath for the 16,000 Allied prisoners-of-war who died at the hands of the Japanese.

•••

Cadets from the **City of Edinburgh Universities Officers' Training Corps** spent two weeks on Exercise Tartan Vanoise in the French Alps. Ten cadets were led by 2nd Lt Katie Birmingham and 2nd Lt Sam Hart on alpine walking and climbing and the party also found time for swimming, ice skating and golf.

•••

Royal Engineers Lt Chris Brogan and Capt Stuart Seymour took part in Kota Mama II, an international expedition to determine if traditional reed boats could have been used to navigate the inland waterways of South America. Led by Col John Blashford-Snell, members of the Explorers' Club and the Scientific Exploration Society also carried out archaeological studies and construction projects.

•••

Jersey and Sark were the destinations for the **Defence Diving School's** annual adventurous training week organised by Sgt Mark Ridgway. Divers sailed to the Channel Islands on a landing craft from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC. The craft's crew took part in dives which included the exploration of the *SS* *Shoalbank*, a passenger liner sunk during the Second World War.

•••

A party of six from **Army Training Regiment Glencorse**, led by Capt Dougie Peters APTC, tackled the arduous Cuillin Ridge on the Isle of Skye, climbing to more than 3,000m and covering 10km. The team went on to bag nine munros on the first day and the final two on the last. Other units interested in attempting the ridge should contact Capt Peters on Edinburgh Mil 3265.



Clinging on: City of Edinburgh undergraduate Lou Beattie gets to grips with the rock face

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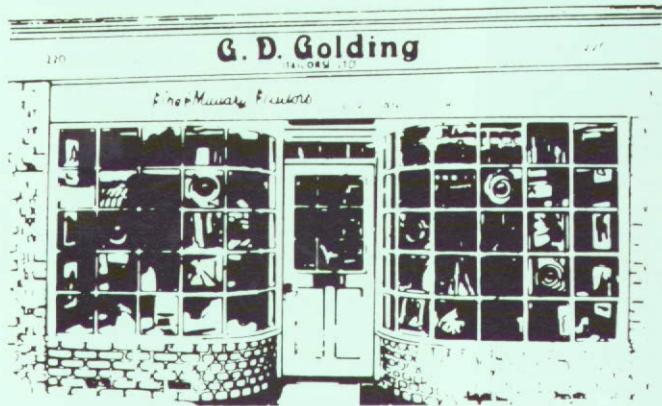
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It's a Swiss Army knife, but not as we know it

Reports: Graham Bound

IN THE beginning there was the simple penknife: a blade and maybe a spike to get boy scouts out of horses' hooves. Then along came Swiss Army knives, and, rather more recently, multi-tools.

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Twelve blades, plus the pliers, have 23 functions, including metal and wood saws, wire stripper, screwdrivers, and a hole punch.



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The Swiss Tool comes with a leather pouch and a lifetime guarantee, and is priced at £69.95.

For details of stockists, contact British distributors Burton McCall on 0116 2344646.

Taking treatment to disaster sites



Care under canvas: The new "instant" hospital can be operational within 20 minutes of arriving on site

A PORTABLE instant hospital should improve emergency casualty treatment at disaster sites and refugee camps.

British temporary building specialists Aireshelta Ltd and medical services company Ferno Ltd have joined forces to produce fully-equipped mobile medical facilities for military and civilian use which can be up and running within 20 minutes.

Aireshelta say that early treatment is vital if lives are to be saved and their instant hospitals can radically reduce the time between rescue and treatment.

Five inter-connected units provide areas for casualty processing and varying degrees of injuries. One module is even reserved for use as a temporary mortuary.

Tent innovation brings comforts to campers

MANY troops posted to Kosovo will enjoy a higher standard of accommodation than they were accustomed to during other Balkan postings.

The Army's first improved tented camp (ITC) has been opened in Pristina and offers the kind of comforts that are more typical of permanent barracks back in Germany and Britain.

Central to the ITCs are Rubb Shelters; heavily

insulated tents with rubberised external surfaces. The tents are connected to warm air heating systems and mains power supplied by dedicated and virtually silent generators.

The new system is said to be highly flexible. Accommodation and dedicated ablution and catering units can be added easily to an ITC or moved to other locations, according to need.

New combat computer panels

A NEW flat panel computer monitor developed for military use promises improved vision in difficult operational conditions.

Litton Data Systems claim that their new flat monitor is a low-cost upgrade for existing systems. It weighs less and takes up much less space. Most importantly, the screen is easily read in daylight and through a wider viewing angle than flat screens such as those used on lap-tops.

There are no plans to introduce the screen to the MoD. But Litton say it conforms to military specifications for shock and vibration, and operates in temperatures ranging from zero to 55 degrees centigrade.

Win a Swiss Christmas present



SOLDIER has one Swiss Tool and leather pouch to give away. To be in with a chance of winning this beautifully engineered piece of kit, just answer this question.

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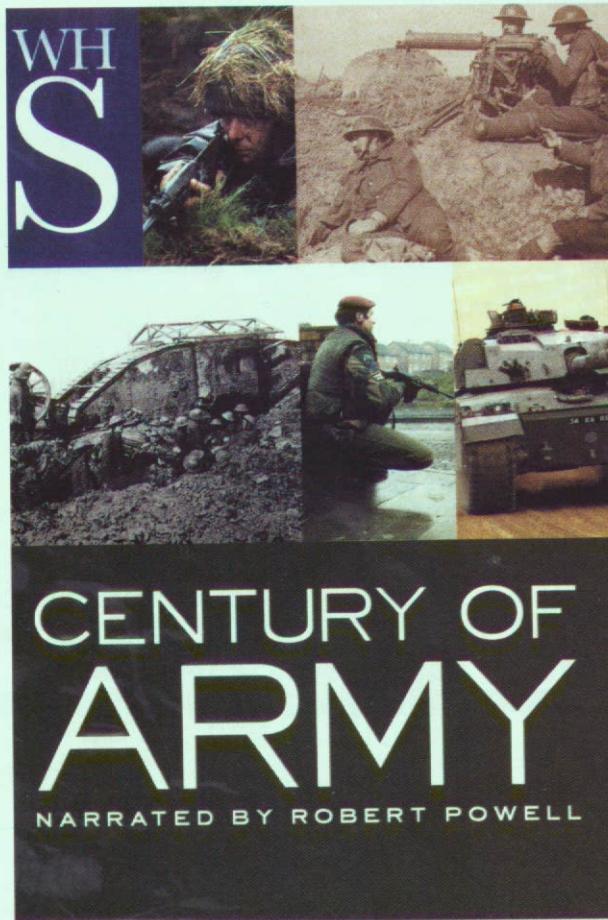
The broader view: New flat monitors enable viewing through a much greater angle than conventional lap-top screens

READER OFFER

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

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

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



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

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From Westminster to Wapping

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

Doomsday warning on medical services

IN a doom-laden and hard-hitting report, the all-party Defence Committee warns that the Government's determination to achieve its vision for Armed Forces medical care "will certainly not be realised for some years", if at all.

The report says Defence Medical Services (DMS) are currently "very overstretched both in terms of operational deployments and in secondary care" and stressed the urgent need to solve the problems of recruitment and, particularly, retention.

At one point the MPs comment: "Thankfully UK forces did not have to undertake a ground invasion of Kosovo earlier this year – but should they have had to do so it is not clear to us that they would have had adequate UK medical support."

The report, published at the end of October, says the Government's goal of highly-effective DMS had been "unachievable for a decade".

Under the Strategic Defence Review a genuine effort had been made to match medical capability to operational requirements, but for any situation beyond a medium-scale military effort "the DMS relies on reservists that simply do not exist. It is scandalous that such a situation should have been allowed to come to pass".

The MPs warn: "The crucial question is whether or not the DMS can survive for long enough for new measures designed to improve it to take effect. Despite the Government's efforts, it may be that changes planned are little more effective in the long-term than bailing out a leaky boat."

The report strongly recommends that the National Health Service and the DMS, now effectively its junior partner, should work actively together to ensure that "potential collapse does not become a reality".

Higher commitment: Announcing an increase



in the minimum initial commitment of new recruits from three years to four, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said this would make a significant contribution to the Army's ability to fulfil its manning obligations and liabilities. "It will also allow more time for the individual to benefit from the excellent training and development opportunities in the Army, including the acquisition of new skills and recognised civilian and professional qualifications," he said.

Red faces: The MoD has apologised to the Russian Embassy and the Russian Ministry of Defence following an exercise in which the "enemy" force may have been perceived as "Russian".

Baroness Symons said that troops playing the "enemy" in exercises are not supposed to be modelled on the forces of any specific country. However, in the recent incident, a fighting vehicle had been painted with a red star and the commander of the "enemy" forces wore a peaked cap of Russian origin.

TA concerns: The Defence Secretary said current Territorial Army strength was about 45,000 and undertook to look into concerns raised about resources, commitment and redundancies among ancillary staff.

Opposition spokesman Robert Key called on him to accept the Defence Select Committee's recommendation to suspend

further TA cuts and reconsider its post-SDR establishment size.

The committee report, among other things, acknowledged the success of the new Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre (RTMC) at Chilwell, Notts, praised its staff of 78, commanded by Lt Col Andy Mason, and recommended that its capacity be increased.

However, it expressed concern that the rate at which Territorials and other reservists were volunteering for full-time service "appears to have drastically fallen".

Under-18s: Asked in a written question to review the policy of allowing under-18s to serve in war zones, in peacekeeping or other combat roles, Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said that, in line with international standards no one was deployed until they were well into their 17th year and only after thorough training. On September 1, 1999, he added, 26 under-18s were serving in Northern Ireland and 49 in Kosovo.

Army strength: Latest figures, at September 1, showed Army trained strength to be 96,381 against a requirement of 102,389, a shortfall of just over 6,000. In 1998-99 the Army recruited 610 officers and 15,609 soldiers, achieving 98 per cent of its target. The Government is committed to achieving full manning by 2005, but recognises that improved recruiting and retention are essential.

Mines destroyed: All Britain's remaining operational anti-personnel mines have now been destroyed, with a minimum permitted number retained for anti-mine training. The British and Argentine governments are committed to co-operate on mine clearance in the Falklands, where about 14,000 were laid by the Argentines in 1982.

● A former military barracks at Oakington, north-west of Cambridge, is to become a privately-run internment camp for asylum seekers. – *Guardian*

● Britain has offered money and equipment to help Egypt to clear 18 million Second World War mines in the Western Desert. Twenty people have been maimed or killed by mines this year. – *The Times*

● The UN Security Council voted to send a 6,000-strong peacekeeping force to help maintain the fragile peace settlement in Sierra Leone. British logistic troops are expected to be part of it. – *The Times*

● Only the Royal Marines were exempted from a European court ruling that opened the

but ruled that exclusion decisions in all other regiments will come under scrutiny of the European Union and each will have to be fully justified. – *Express*

● Soldiers serving with the international protection force in East Timor were taking their rifles to the beach along with their swimming trunks after two swimmers had a narrow escape from a crocodile. – *Independent*

● Military doctors say snoring can be so loud that soldiers engaged on surveillance work risk giving away their position to the enemy. One source said: "Snoring is a particular problem for Special Forces like the SAS who may be working behind enemy lines." – *Independent*



floodgates for thousands of women barred from military jobs on the grounds of "combat effectiveness". Several infantry and airborne divisions seem certain to be affected. The European Court of Justice agreed with the MoD that the Marines were a "front-line force"

Dress rehearsal for modern warfare

If the British Army had not fought the Boers it would have been ill-prepared to fight the Germans in 1914

MEET Pte Samuel Jones of The Middlesex Regiment. That's him on the right. Although he has been serving across the British Empire's far-flung outposts for 17 years and is a seasoned veteran, nothing in his military experience has prepared him for what lies ahead in South Africa.

The 38-year-old private has misgivings about the prospect of fighting white soldiers but is quietly confident that the war will be over quickly. He believes a brigade of infantry should be sufficient to establish British authority.

Words: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Steve Dock

DURING December 1899, three major reverses in quick succession for the British Army in South Africa became known as Black Week. The effect at home was dramatic. People realised the war was not going to be easy and this point was pressed home by the mounting casualty figures.

British forces lost 21,000 dead: more than 14,000 perished from disease and 7,000 from enemy action, the sort of casualty figures that would have been expected only from a pre-industrial age war.

With advances in science, today's soldier is more likely to be killed by enemy action than disease. But 100 years ago health standards were very different. Soldiers' hygiene was generally not good and camps were poorly laid out. Men drank from rivers and water-holes and not surprisingly contracted diseases such as cholera, typhus and enteric fever resulting in dysentery – the age-old killers still rife in today's refugee camps.

It was not just the men who suffered. A crippling combination of the hot climate and poor water supply devastated the horse population. More than 135,000 British mounts died because they were not tough enough, unlike their Australian cousins.

In the early days, the fighting was similar to that employed at the beginning of the First World War, characterised by short rushes in the open with high volumes of fire from concealed positions. In some respects it anticipated aspects of Gallipoli and the Western Front.

The Boers used machine-guns and

German-manufactured artillery. In addition the Boers had two dozen Pom-Pom guns, made by Vickers, which could fire a 1lb shell more than 2,000 yards.

The idea that the Boers were simple farmers who, when asked to fight, picked up a rifle and eight days' food and jumped on a horse, was nonsense. Boers were better marksmen than the British and adept at concealment. Even when the British used balloons for surveillance they could rarely spot them.

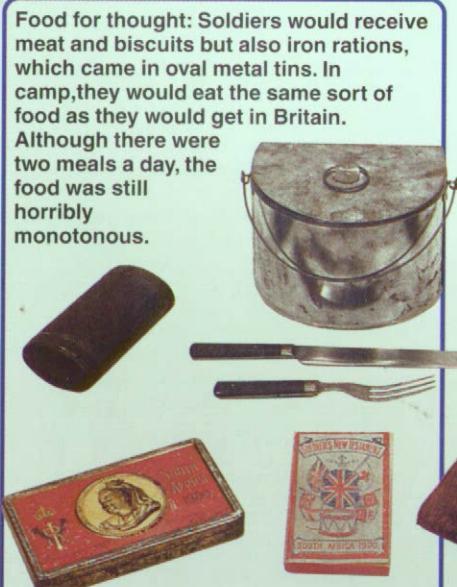
What started as a small-scale local difficulty that could have been over by Christmas eventually sucked in almost 500,000 British Empire soldiers. The latter stages of the conflict evolved into a classic guerrilla campaign with many similarities to Vietnam more than half a century later.

The Boer War had dramatic consequences for the British Army, resulting in a raft of changes. New uniforms were issued in 1902, followed five years later by cutting-edge equipment such as cotton webbing and the Short Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) rifle.

Permanent brigades were established, along with divisions and corps staff. These elements made up the British Expeditionary Force, available for any foreign operation.

On the nursing side the Royal Army Medical Corps was established in 1898, bringing together casualty evacuation and treatment in one body. Mobile field ambulances were in place eight years later.

There were many hard lessons to learn, but the legacy of the Boer War in military terms came 12 years later, in an Army that was the best trained of any ever sent overseas, and ready to fight the Germans at Mons.



Chocolate was sent as a Christmas present to the troops by Queen Victoria in 1900. The soldiers believed the presents were too valuable to eat, so sent them back to England, seriously clogging up the postal system. That is why there are so many boxes of the original chocolates still around.

● The only thing this helmet could stop was the sun. It was made of cork and was very light.

● Polished buttons made wonderful targets.

● Many of the surviving helmets in museums have bullet-holes through the flashes. For the sharp-shooting Boers the flashes must have been very helpful; for the British it was a bit like walking around with targets on their heads. The decision was taken early on to remove the flashes. By 1900 British officers' swords had also disappeared in an attempt to make their uniforms as much like the other ranks' as possible.

● Soldiers did not carry identity tags, so if they were killed documents such as paybooks found in pockets provided the only clues.

● White leather equipment was wonderfully conspicuous out on the veld. Soldiers soon learned to stain it with dust.

● These straps and belts were designed to transfer weight evenly over the soldier's chest and waist. They supported an ammo pouch, which could accommodate 100 rounds, and a water bottle. Rations were placed in the haversack.

● By the middle of the war soldiers had adopted the American Civil War practice of marching with blanket-rolls on their backs. They also carried firewood. The veld could be very cold at night and if soldiers wanted a brew they would have to make a fire.

● Puttees, derived from an Indian word meaning bandages, were strips of material which covered the gaps between boots and trousers and kept the lower leg warm and dry. They were also useful in preventing snake-bites.

Soldier thanks the National Army Museum for the loan of the uniform and equipment and for its assistance with this feature. The British Army in South Africa exhibition at the NAM runs until February 25, 2001.



Shepherds put on the war paint

David Shepherd, probably Britain's most popular painter, has fond memories of his days as a military artist. Now he concentrates on wildlife, but daughter Mandy is taking up the Army challenge

Interview: Graham Bound

Main picture: Steve Dock

"I GET terribly excited about anything big," says David Shepherd. Coming from the man who put bull elephants on a hundred thousand suburban sitting room walls (yes, he painted *that* picture) this comes as no surprise.

African and Asian animals are, however, not the only big things on his mind. He is almost as enthusiastic about man-made Leviathans: steam locomotives and the machines of war; ships, aircraft and tanks.

Until wildlife, its depiction on canvas and its conservation, became an all-consuming passion, these great machines frequently inspired him to rush for his paint brush and pallet. Sometimes he was so thrilled by his subjects that he took them home to play with.

You can do that when you are one of Britain's best-selling artists. Consider, for example, the Shepherd train set. No Hornby 00 gauge, this: rather a 100-ton steam loco and carriages, running profitably on their own track in east Somerset.

DOUBLE-DECKER

Then there is the beautifully-restored Routemaster London double-decker which trundles around the country promoting David's African wildlife conservation foundation.

Sitting in his big (of course) Elizabethan farmhouse near Godalming in Surrey, the artist reflects, with occasional boyish giggles, on how his talent and his ability to strike up profitable relationships with influential people have enabled him to indulge in his passion for "big things".

"I'm not in the least bit technical," he explains almost apologetically. "It's just the emotional side of me. I love the excitement of seeing what makes a thing work, and playing with it."

It was this love of big bits of kit that made his early military commissions such fun. "You see, if you've got to paint a tank or a Lancaster bomber, then you have to drive it or fly in it. Actually that's a lot of



Burning oils: The Parachute Regiment commissioned David Shepherd to paint Arnhem

nonsense, but you can convince people you need to." He smiles at the simplicity of his invariably successful little trick.

It is a little surprising to learn that David rather cunningly avoided the chance to wear a uniform when National Service came along in the mid 50s. But he explains it with no qualms of conscience. "I had just started my art career, and I wasn't going to spend three years painting the coal white."

He feigned mildly bad health by inhaling deeply of a pollen-filled garden and stuffed some grass up his nose for good measure. Throughout his subsequent medical examination, his puffy eyes and nose streamed with hay fever. "They took one look at me and said, 'If Britain is on its knees in a third world war, we might give you a uniform and put you in the Naafi'."

Returning gratefully to painting his current fascination, the big aircraft that were emerging from British factories at the dawn of the jet age, David's skills were soon noticed by the Royal Air Force. As they flew him around the Middle East painting their air bases his career was lit-

erally and figuratively taking off. It was an easy move to the Army. "I got into the more relaxed aviation parts, like the SAS, the Army Air Corps and the Paras," he recalls.

He was particularly interested in the airborne troops, and was delighted when they asked him to paint the regiment's 1944 battle at Arnhem. It was to be the first of about 50 big Shepherd canvases portraying the Army in the Second World War, and his first chance to put into practice his scheme for getting to grips with the Army's "big things".

FROM THE AIR

If he was to paint Arnhem, he argued, he needed to see it from the air. The Army Air Corps dutifully produced a Beaver aircraft and pilot and they set off across the Channel.

But the aircraft broke down when it landed in Germany and David called in a big gun, as he would do often in the future. Gen Sir John Hackett, who was then commanding British troops in Germany, had told the artist to call him if he



Burning bright: While David now focuses on wildlife, daughter Mandy keeps the Shepherd name shining in the world of military artists

needed any help. "I called Shan Hackett and said, 'I want a new bloody Beaver because this one has packed up'. An hour later it arrived. The colonel who was with me said, 'I'm in the bloody Army and even I can't do that'."

There were other fondly recalled occasions when he had big military machines at his beck and call. He drove tanks in Germany and particularly enjoyed the Army Air Corps helicopters landing in his garden with photos of scenes he was working on. "Lynxes," he says, "are very handy for sweeping up the leaves."

Northern Ireland could be grim for artists as well as soldiers. David recalls working there for the Green Howards.

"They wanted me to portray the utter boredom and misery of these poor sods who had to walk into Crossmaglen and get spat at." He did the job, and got spat at himself.

The older Shepherd reflects rather sadly that he does not now have the time to paint soldiers. "I miss them, but I'm totally committed to wildlife. However there are lots of young artists coming up

who are, quite rightly, filling the gap." He takes pleasure from the fact that his youngest daughter, Mandy, is one of them.

Mandy, vivacious and every bit as enthusiastic about her work as her father, started her career painting wildlife and only recently moved into military subjects.

FALKLANDS

The cross-over occurred when she went to the Falklands a few years ago to paint penguins and other sea birds.

"I discovered the military there, and they discovered me," she says. "I did a few military sketches and I received a small private commission to paint a Hercules. Then, when I got back to England, someone who had heard about me came along and invited me to do a job at the Fleet Air Arm Museum."

Commissions in Bosnia followed, and she has just completed a tour of Kosovo, researching and sketching tri-Service subjects.

Neither father nor daughter ever misses a chance to express their love of wildlife,

and at times this seems to sit uncomfortably with their enthusiasm for things military. David, for example, has seen the dreadful impact of military weapons on wildlife: the heart-breaking spectacle of an elephant, still alive but with one foot blown off by a mine.

Fuming at the memory, he spits out his anger: "If the human race is bloody stupid enough to blow itself up . . ." Although unable to find suitably powerful words, his point is obvious: the least we can do is not take animals with us.

Nevertheless, he believes that good, well-trained forces are essential peace-keepers in a volatile world. And as paintings record war as a lesson, military artists can also help to keep the peace in a small way. "The only way we can stop fighting each other is to look back and say, God, we're stupid."

The significance of the smile David Shepherd directs at his daughter is obvious. It is good to know that the name and style he passed on to her will grace paintings of a younger generation of soldiers, sailors and airmen.



Just dropping in: Paratroopers descend over Salisbury Plain, left, as part of Gryphon's Eye

Zeroing in: A soldier from 16 Air Assault Brigade, below, has the "enemy" in his rifle sights



Pictures: Chris Fletcher (Gryphon's Eye); Roger Lortie/Sgt Brian Gamble (Ulan Eagle)

Preparing for action

A photographic look at major exercises on Salisbury Plain and Drawsko-Pomorskie in Poland

THE Army's new groundbreaking force, 16 Air Assault Brigade, has successfully completed its first exercise on Salisbury Plain.

Two thousand troops from the Colchester-based unit took part in Exercise Gryphon's Eye, a nine-day test designed to bring them up to instant deployment readiness.

Soldiers from brigade units, including the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucester, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, took part in the exercise that included airborne and air assault operations involving a drop by 600 parachutists from eight RAF C-130 Hercules transport aircraft.

The 8,000 soldiers of 16 Air Assault Brigade combine the expertise of the former 5 Airborne and 24 Airmobile Brigades.

Meanwhile, sub-zero temperatures

added an extra dimension to the training in Poland carried out during the annual Ulan Eagle exercise.

The 1,500 strong Germany-based 7th Armoured Brigade has been practising high-intensity fighting by day and by night in the Drawsko-Pomorskie training area in the north-west of the country.

Challenger 2 tanks and Warrior infantry fighting vehicles joined Scimitar and Sabre reconnaissance vehicles in the wintry conditions, with The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers taking on the "enemy", provided by The Queen's Royal Lancers and The Queen's Royal Hussars from Sennelager.

Amphibious engineers from Hameln, the only Territorial Army unit based in Germany, operated their M3 rigs to float Challengers and other armoured vehicles across the region's many rivers and lakes.

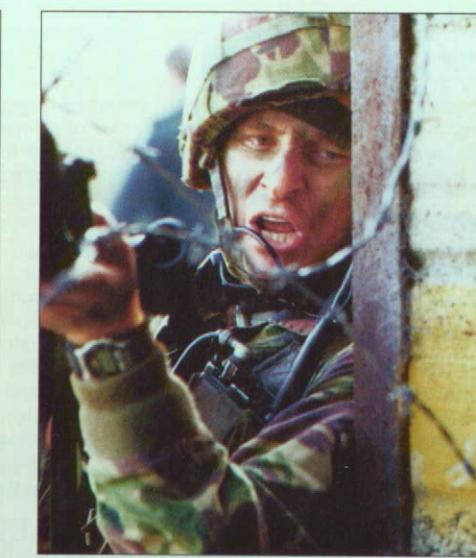
The exercise, considered to be highly successful, involved almost 2,700 personnel.



Water jump: A Scimitar reconnaissance vehicle, above, taking part in Exercise Ulan Eagle '99 in Poland, clears a water obstacle

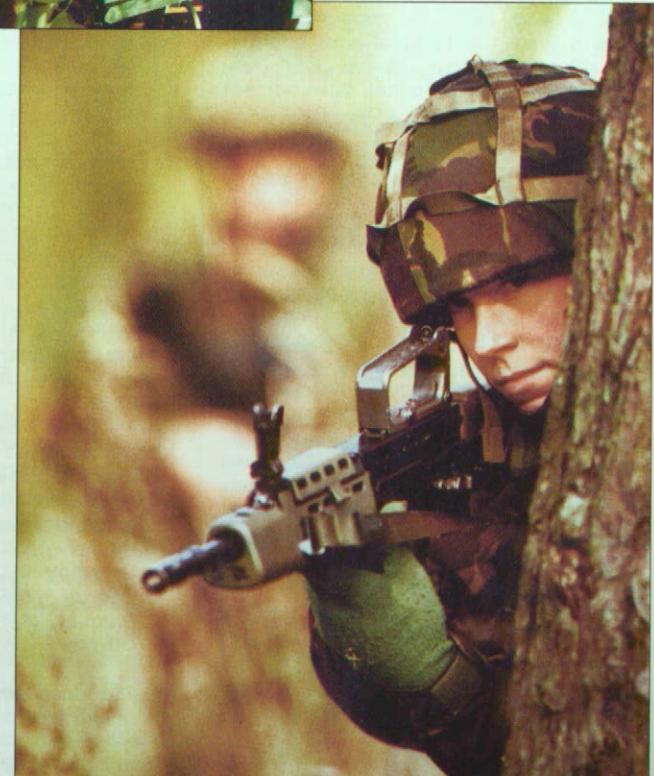
Eyes front: LBdr Tom Cobley, left, stays vigilant during Ulan Eagle in Poland

Battle lines: Sig Sarah Davies on the front line, below, during Exercise Ulan Eagle



Bouquet of barbed wire: Another obstacle, above, to be tackled on Salisbury Plain

Urban warfare: An attack gets under way, left, during Exercise Gryphon's Eye



The horse-carer



In good hands: Gnr James Attrill from The King's Troop, pictured above with the appreciative Errol, shows off the NVQ Level 2 certificate in horse care that he and 23 colleagues have been awarded. It is the first stage of a modern apprenticeship programme that will take the horse gunners on to NVQ Level 3. As part of the project the soldiers also have the opportunity to improve their communications, information technology and numerical skills, benefiting their own personal development and the Royal Artillery.

Picture: Mike Weston

'Disregard' figures disputed by RBL

A ministerial statement that a full disregard of War Disablement and War Widows Pension in the assessment of benefits would cost the taxpayer approximately £160 million a year has been challenged by the Royal British Legion.

The Legion claims that the additional cost to the Government would be about £4 million.

Legion general secretary Ian Townsend said: "Ninety per cent of all local authorities already disregard war pensions by 100 per cent when calculating other income-related benefits."

The current system leaves disregard decisions to the discretion of local authorities which, according to the RBL, can mean that pensioners with similar financial needs and living in neighbouring areas can have a difference in income of up to £170 a week. The Legion is campaigning for local government discretion to be replaced by central government responsibility for disregard costs.

Loaded policy

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

Dear Cari I recently separated from my wife and moved into camp. I informed my car insurance company of the change of address and they promptly sent me a bill with an explanation that there would be an increase in the premium as "all Army camps accrue a ten per cent increase". Do we get an increase in our salaries for this inconvenience? – WO1 in the UK.

Cari replies: Try as I might, I can't find any other insurance company which charges an extra premium for vehicles parked on camp. Advice agencies I checked with had not come across this ruling before. If it's happened to anyone else reading this, please let me know. And I suggest the WO1 considers changing his insurance company.

Dear Cari I am at breaking point. I'm fit, work hard and don't drink or smoke, and yet I see people who



Cari Roberts

aren't fit and don't work hard being promoted ahead of me. I want to advance but can't see it happening. I don't want to leave the Army as I love the life. – Young, single soldier overseas.

Cari replies: You've taken the first step by facing up to what is troubling you. It may be unfair that seemingly unsuitable people get promoted ahead of you – but let me tell you, it doesn't just happen in the Army. I think you ought to assess your strengths and build on them. You enjoy the Army and it is an environment which you can turn to your advantage. Rather than concentrating on being promoted as a sole aim, you might consider using your time to develop your skills and qualifications.

There are many ways in which you could study, including correspondence courses, and your Education Centre will be able to give you some options. Why not study for something useful – such as a management course – or something you really enjoy? Then, when you do make the move into civvy street, you will be taking recognised qualifications with you. You might even find that taking your mind off being promoted leads to it happening.

Wider horizons will beat the blues

THE young soldier who wrote to me about his depression at being passed over for promotion is feeling let down. He says officers he has dealt with have been sympathetic and tried to help, but he thinks they are wasting their time. Being away from home and working under pressure, he has been dwelling on his feelings, which have become intense. Hopefully, someone in

Cari comments

his unit will have noticed. He might, however, consider helping himself by developing an interest other than work. My guess is that he is a shy and quiet person, and study might provide him with a source of satisfaction. For others it might be sport or music or writing... or any number of things. It is easy for me to say, but if you are fed up with your lot, I would suggest expanding your world.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 591 2000

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722

436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

British Limbless Ex-Service

Men's Association 0181 590 1124

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

(Combat Stress) 0181 543 6333

Family Escort Service UK 0171 463 9249;

Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272

Gulf Families Association 0121 711 3028

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

Joint Service Housing Advice

Office 01722 436575

National Gulf Veterans and

Families Association 01482 833812

RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725

Samaritans 0345 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980

618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783

SSAFA Forces Help housing

advisory service 01722 436400

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858

WRVS 01235 442954

● To include a number, contact the Editor.



It's ours: Pte Jason and Mrs Shelley Mummary, with baby Grace, receive the keys to their new quarter in Salamanca Park, Aldershot, from Defence Housing Executive chief executive John Wilson. Jason, serving with 27 Regiment RLC, and Shelley were among the first to move into 14 new family quarters to be built on the revamped estate. New houses, including a bungalow adapted for use by a family with physical disabilities, and each with its own garage, will replace Salamanca's 413 homes and

flats put up in the 1960s. Many of the flats had been plagued by damp and mould.

A DHE spokesman expressed gratitude for the co-operation of residents during the demolish and rebuild programme, which has caused huge disruption to families living in Salamanca Park. The project should be completed by December 2001.

To retain the Peninsular War theme of the estate, its roads are named after Wellington's commanders, including Lowe, Anson, Fermor, Wheatley, Hope and Leith.

IN BRIEF

Commission that never forgets

AN infestation of lawn-damaging cockchafer in northern Europe, overactive field voles in Germany and grass root-eating mole crickets in Greece were just some of the problems that last year confronted the gardeners who care for the graves of our soldiers all over the world.

The annual report of the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** highlights how its staff cope with severe winters, droughts, floods – even a plague of soil-eating worms at Salerno in Italy – to maintain the immaculate cemeteries so familiar throughout Europe and other parts of the world.

Despite the huge numbers of young men and women commemorated by the Commission, the importance of individual identity is never lost. The report highlights the fact that the CWGC re-engraves more than 7,000 headstones a year in France and plans to replace 14,000 in the next five years.

In Ireland, the names on 3,000 headstones were re-engraved and a start has been made on 3,700 pedestal markers on the Gallipoli peninsula over the next six years.

The CWGC's Debt of Honour Register can be found at web site www.cwgc.org

Brompton Barracks centre

A Personal Development Centre has been set up by Mid-Kent College at the **Construction Engineer School** in Chatham's Brompton Barracks. Staffed by two tutor co-ordinators and kitted out with state-of-the-art IT equipment, the centre is available during the week to anyone employed at the barracks and to families of locally-based MoD personnel. The initiative was at the invitation of HQ Royal School of Military Engineering.

Join The List

The List, launched in 1997 to help all ranks in their search for a second career, is published three times a year and in CD-ROM on a regular basis. It is free and offers individuals a chance to network. More information from *The List*, PO Box 156, Dunsfold, Godalming, Surrey GU8 4YH (tel 0181 781 3711).

On yer Pacific Coast bike...

Children's charity Peper Harow Foundation is looking for likely lads and lasses to take part in its 520-mile LA-to-San Francisco bike-ride from June 5-16 next year. Riders have to raise a minimum £2,000 in sponsorship for charity. Ring 0171 928 7388 or e-mail j.dickinson@peperharow.org.uk for more details.

Hearing aids

North and West Wales War Pensions Committee is cautioning war pensioners against buying costly private hearing aids which are often no better than those supplied by the NHS. It advises that the NHS has a duty to provide a clinically suitable hearing aid and recommends that if a particular model is unsuitable the patient should ask for further consultation.

Safer sun for the kids

Children at Episkopi, Cyprus, can play safely out of doors on the hottest days, thanks to LCpl Steve Cooper and Sig Scott Duffie from **259 Signal Squadron**. The two soldiers gave up their spare time to construct a large £1,200 awning for the garrison playgroup.



Leader: Capt Karl Harris

THE Army's Aldershot-base Ethnic Minorities Recruiting Team (EMRT) is keen to be used by units and is also looking for support in the form of volunteers able to take on attachments with the team for periods of three to six months.

Very much in the public eye since it was formed following the equal opportunities launch in October 1997, the EMRT has attended more than 700 events and had access to three-quarters of a million people. Although its activities cover the whole of the United Kingdom it works predominantly in London, the Midlands and the North West.

Events range from junior team mem-

bers working alongside middle managers on outreach schemes for 14- to 16-year-olds, to talking to Sikhs about Army careers and briefing senior officers, messes or courses. Team members are always willing to support units involved in recruiting in ethnic areas.

Based at Clayton Barracks and led by Capt Karl Harris RA (Aldershot Mil 2965), the 14-man team includes 11 other ranks from a variety of cap-badges. Second-in-command is WO Ali Chauhan RA (ext 2966) and the admin sergeant is Sgt Leslie Lewis, Para (3511). The team can be reached at Block H, Clayton Barracks, Thornhill Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BG.

Win £100 in our blockbuster quiz

Millennium military moments



HERE'S your chance to welcome in the new Millennium with a £100 pick-me-up. Have a go at *Soldier's* exclusive military-themed general knowledge quiz.

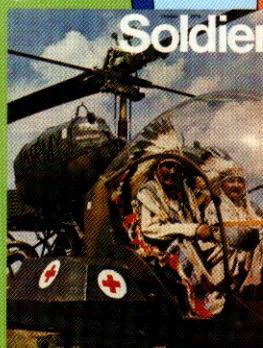
It's mostly for fun BUT look carefully at questions 4, 20, 30, 33, 54, 67 and 74. Take the first letter of the answers to those questions and arrange them to spell out the most important ingredient in today's hi-tech professional British Army. Then dream up in no more than ten words a suitable slogan for the British Army of the new Millennium.

Write your answer and slogan on a postcard or sealed envelope marked Millennium Quiz and send it to reach us by January 10. The winning entry, selected by the Editor, will win £100. One entry per person only and remember to include your name and address.

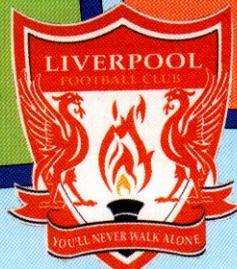
The questions range from easy, through tricky to downright awkward, but you should be able to find the answers in a good reference book or on the Internet. The winner's name and slogan and the answers will appear in the February issue. Good luck.



- What is the name of the Gurkhas' knife?
- In Which We Serve* was a patriotic film about war at sea. Which actor both wrote it and starred in it?
- What was the standard rifle issued to British troops during the Second World War?
- Who was the Desert Fox? His surname, please.
- After which North American Indian tribe is the latest attack helicopter named?
- Which part of the UK was invaded and occupied by German forces during the Second World War?
- The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards had a number one hit with which piece of music?
- Where in Europe is German Gen Klaus Reinhardt currently leading British soldiers?
- In which war was the Charge of the Light Brigade?
- Which of Shakespeare's plays has been filmed twice and covers events leading up to the Battle of Agincourt?
- The service rifle before the SA80 was the SLR. What do the initials SLR stand for?
- What did the men of B Company, 8th East Surrey Regiment chase towards their goal as they went "over the top" on the first day of the great Somme offensive of July 1, 1916?
- By which means of transport did Steve McQueen (playing the character Hills) try to reach the Swiss border in *The Great Escape*?
- Which regiment is associated with Vikings, Poachers and Pompadours?
- Which medal is the American equivalent of the Victoria Cross?
- Who commanded the Eighth Army at El Alamein?
- Who was the British Governor of the Falklands when the islands were invaded by Argentina?
- The average age of American soldiers serving in Vietnam was what, according to a 1980s record by Paul Hardcastle?
- Name the only fixed-wing aircraft currently in Army service.
- What is the symbol of The Cheshire Regiment?
- What is the nickname of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team?
- What was the name of Andy McNab's best-selling Gulf War story shown on BBC TV this year and starring Sean Bean?
- Name the two soldiers who won Britain's most recent Victoria Crosses.
- In which film about the Second World War in the Pacific did Deborah Kerr famously frolic in the surf with Burt Lancaster?



- Gorden Kaye played which French Resistance member in the series *'Allo 'Allo*?
- Which rank is the Royal Air Force equivalent of a British Army colonel?
- Whose horse traditionally climbs the steps at RMA Sandhurst's Old College?
- Name the film which starred Tom Cruise and Demi Moore as lawyers defending two US Marines accused of killing a fellow Serviceman.
- Which battle is honoured by Liverpool Football Club's Kop end?
- It's a long way to where, according to musical British Tommies in the First World War?
- What is the symbol of The Staffordshire Regiment?
- At which battle did British and Egyptian forces under Kitchener defeat the Sudanese army in 1898?
- How did Lord Kitchener die?
- Which significant event took place on August 2, 1990?
- EOKA carried out a series of bombings in 1955 resulting in Britain proclaiming a state of emergency – where?
- Name two of the European nations that remained neutral in the Second World War.
- Which two words appear under the Lancers' famous Death's Head symbol?
- Which American general was commander-in-chief of Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf War?
- Capt Robert Falcon Scott was not the only heroic captain on his doomed expedition to the South Pole. Name the other.
- What was the name of the terrorist organisation in Kenya in the early 1950s?
- Name the Army officer who was the leading character in Evelyn Waugh's *Sword of Honour* trilogy.
- By which name did Orde Wingate's unconventional soldiers in Burma during the Second World War become known?
- Australian Maj Gen Peter Cosgrove commands British soldiers where?
- After the Second World War, Nazi leaders were put on trial. Where?
- Which actor played the mad colonel in *Apocalypse Now*?
- In the same film, which actor played the Army officer who said: "I love the smell of napalm in the morning"?
- What was the name of the French Resistance movement during the Second World War?
- In which film did Elvis Presley star as a soldier with the US Army in Germany?
- To an American soldier, what is an M21?



51. The Battle of the River Plate resulted in the scuttling of the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee*. Which three British and Commonwealth cruisers were responsible for this victory?

52. Which weapon was used for the first time by Britain at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette in 1916?

53. Which famous anti-war book, later a film, was written by Erich Maria Remarque?

54. William Joyce broadcast for the Germans and was later executed for treachery. By what name was he more commonly known?

55. Which international operation began on January 19, 1991?

56. The Paras tabbed across the Falklands in 1982. What did the Royal Marines do?

57. The plot of Orson Welles's film *The Third Man* revolved around the immediate post-war black market trade in a valuable commodity. What was it?

58. Below and above which city was the Orson Welles film set?

59. Who directed the film *Full Metal Jacket*?

60. Where was a bridge too far for the 1st Airborne Division?

61. What is the capital city of Bosnia-Hercegovina?

62. Which letters and numbers make up the world's most widely-used assault rifle?

63. Who commanded the UK contingent in the Gulf War?

64. What was the nickname of the victor of Waterloo?

65. What was the name of the 1962 film account of the landings in Normandy in June 1944?

66. In which year was the VC first awarded?

67. Which country was invaded by Britain and France in November 1956?

68. Which 1957 Oscar-winning film starred Alec Guinness as a Japanese PoW?

69. Which American actor led the platoon in *Saving Private Ryan*?

70. Who was the leader of the Israeli General Staff during the Six-Day War?

71. In which year was the Six-Day War?

72. In which Vietnamese village did US troops massacre 200 civilians in 1968?

73. Which 1970 film starred Clint Eastwood as the leader of an army gang robbing a bank behind enemy lines?

74. The British Army uses a vehicle with the acronym DROPS, but what do those letters stand for?

75. The film *Lawrence of Arabia* starred which actor in the title role?



Stanley Kubrick's
**FULL
METAL
JACKET**



76. What do the initials SFOR stand for?

77. Who is the current Chief of the General Staff?

78. What is the British Army equivalent of the Royal Navy rank of commander?

79. Who was assassinated in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, the incident which provoked the First World War?

80. Which Argentinian cruiser was sunk by a British submarine during the Falklands War?

81. In which country is Gallipoli?

82. Which two members of the present Royal Family have seen active operational service?

83. A North Vietnamese leader had a wartime "trail" named after him. Who was he?

84. Maurice Micklewhite is the real name of which actor who starred in the film *Zulu*?

85. Which American Second World War general said he would return to the Philippines?

86. To someone in the Army, what is a "crab"?

87. Sword and Juno were two of the D-Day landing beaches. Name the other three.

88. Who wrote the Sharpe novels?

89. Over which river was *A Bridge Too Far*?

90. Name the film starring Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood in which a general is rescued from a Bavarian castle in the Second World War.

91. In which country is Blenheim, location of the Duke of Marlborough's victory in 1704?

92. Who is "The Forces Sweetheart"?

93. In which year did the United States enter the Second World War?

94. Which boy scout led the British forces during the Siege of Mafeking in the Boer War?

95. Which company manufactures the Challenger 2 main battle tank?

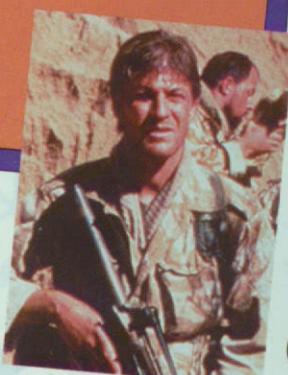
96. To a soldier in the Falklands, what is a bimble box?

97. What happened on September 3, 1939?

98. Who played the part of Greek resistance fighter Andrea Stavros in the film *The Guns of Navarone*?

99. Which major offensive was launched by the Viet Cong on January 31, 1968?

100. And finally, and lest we forget, what is the literal translation of the word Cenotaph?

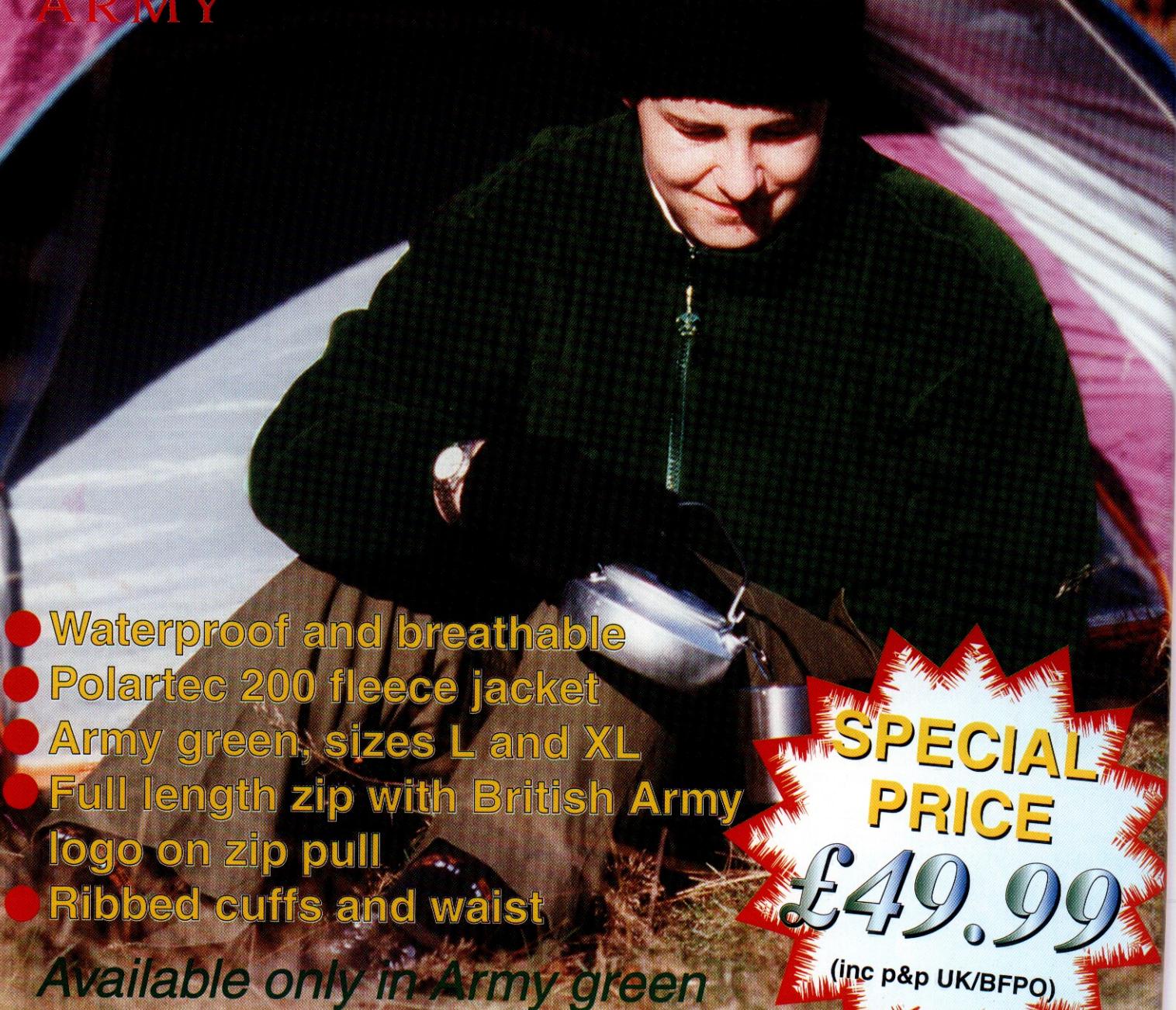




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<http://www.army.mod.uk/army/life/magazine/subs/index.htm>



Focus on history



Time to recover: It is September 1914 and soldiers convalesce on Hastings beach, Sussex, above, from wounds received, probably at Mons (picture submitted by Stu Morrison)

Snapshot of the century

Report: Ray Routledge

MILITARY pictures feature, not surprisingly, in a fascinating photographic record of the 20th century drawn from ordinary members of the public.

Photos for the Future is an archive of personal images reflecting life over the past 100 years. Compiled by the History Channel and published by Sutton, its material was submitted by ordinary people, rather than photographic libraries.

The History Channel asked its viewers to send photographs that captured moments from the century. It also asked

schools to become involved. Among the military pictures which came in was one of a machine-gun emplacement on the Northwest Frontier in 1916. Others included shots of PoWs in Poland in 1940, military reunions, Churchill visiting the Desert Rats in North Africa, and personal family portraits of loved ones who went to war and never came back.

More than 6,000 entries were received, of which 500 have been published. *Photos for the Future* is published by Sutton at £9.99. Information about an exhibition of the photographs can be found on the History Channel website on: www.thehistorychannel.co.uk



PoWs: British prisoners captured at Dunkirk pause for the camera in Poland (J L Wallis)

Videos

Win a glimpse of the 1900s' greatest events

ALL of us will remember the funeral of the Princess of Wales and the crisis in Kosovo. Most will recall the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Falklands War and the SAS storming of the Iranian Embassy in London.

Longer memories are required for Beatlemania, Martin Luther King's civil rights marches, the Cuban missile crisis and Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon.

Carlton Video has produced a special double-video release which draws together all these seminal events of the past hundred years, and adds to them others now only on the very fringe of living memory: Queen Victoria's funeral, the Wright Brothers' first flight, and the abdication of Edward VIII. We have two copies of the *Great Events of the 20th Century* to give away. To have a chance of winning, answer the following question:

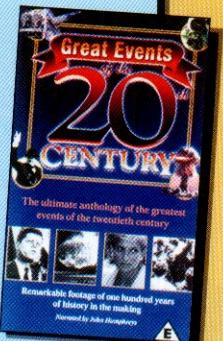
In what year was the funeral of Queen Victoria? Was it: a) 1900, b) 1901 or c) 1902?

Answers on a postcard, with your name and address, to *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, to arrive no later than December 24. First two correct answers win the video sets. Usual competition rules apply and the Editor's decision is final.

A chance to watch the 20th century unfold in just three hours is provided by Telstar Video using material from British Pathé and the BBC. *100 Years To Remember* (£14.99) divides its armchair view of the century into 13 categories of historical footage.

The major events which shaped and influenced millions of lives are covered in sections on royalty, conflict, behaviour, disasters, icons, transport, politics, health, sport, law-breakers, entertainment, achievement and the weather.

The BBC's *Warriors* (£14.99), a gritty story of soldiers in Bosnia, was released on video last month to coincide with its first appearance on UK television. Also released on video was *All The King's Men* (£14.99) from the BBC. First broadcast on Remembrance Sunday, it tells the story of the Sandringham Company which disappeared in action at Gallipoli in August 1915.



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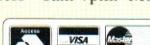
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Full Marx for Russia's retro battle bike

It looks like refugee from the siege of Stalingrad, but it would make a heck of a stocking-filler

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Steve Dock

WHAT do you buy the biker who has everything? Harley-Davidson pyjama cases were last year's Christmas must-have, so how about a big, butch Russian military bike and sidecar outfit... with (and he'll like this) a nifty mounting for a machine-gun or rocket-launcher?

It's guaranteed not to be broken before lunch on Christmas Day - although a few other things might be.

Lest we attract the attention of warring Hell's Angels, it must be stressed that guns and bazookas are not part of the package, no matter how much you ply the British distributors with cash. But apart from that, the Uralmoto IMZ-8.103 Gear-Up offers all the fun of fantasy world domination.

Thanks to re-financing with Western cash, Siberian manufacturers Uralmoto have been able to tart up this communist-era road warrior and improve its reliability enough to give it appeal in the West. And not just among civilians, either. The company is energetically marketing it to armies, including UN peacekeeping forces.

The story of the Ural (as it was called until 1998) goes back to the early Thirties when the Germans were hog-tied by post-First World War restrictions on military manufacturing. Hitler hatched a cunning fascist-communist plan to equip his army with bikes. He licensed the Russians to manufacture the BMW R12 twin 650cc on the understanding that it would be exported back to Germany.

This deal ended in tears when the two sides went to war. The communists kept the design and Russians have been pro-

At home off-road: With two wheeled traction, this is a go-anywhere outfit

THE Uralmoto IMZ-8.103 Gear-Up is available from FSU connections Ltd of Sunbury-on-Thames, in a variety of camouflage finishes, for £4,695. Contact them on telephone 01932 786257. Website: www.rusmilitary.com

engine. A fuel can and spade (helpful when *blitzkrieging* across Europe) are bolted to the sidecar.

Tucked away are the bike's secret weapons: a lever for engaging reverse and a drive-shaft giving optional power to both rear wheels.

Is there a trade-off? Yes, but it is not that serious. While the sidecar is comfortable and roomy, the bike is a little less so. Suspension is soft enough, but girders

and drive-shaft make finding the right-side footrest a little difficult. On the other side, the rocker-style gearshift can be awkward.

The 650cc engine gives about 65mph flat out, and don't hold your breath while it gets there. Lack of speed is probably due to the low gearing rather than shortage of power.

NOSTALGIC EXCITEMENT

It is undoubtedly an eccentric vehicle, but find a pal to stick in the side car, give the starting lever a kick (surprisingly easy, this) and any minor design or performance quirks are quickly forgotten in a rush of nostalgic excitement.

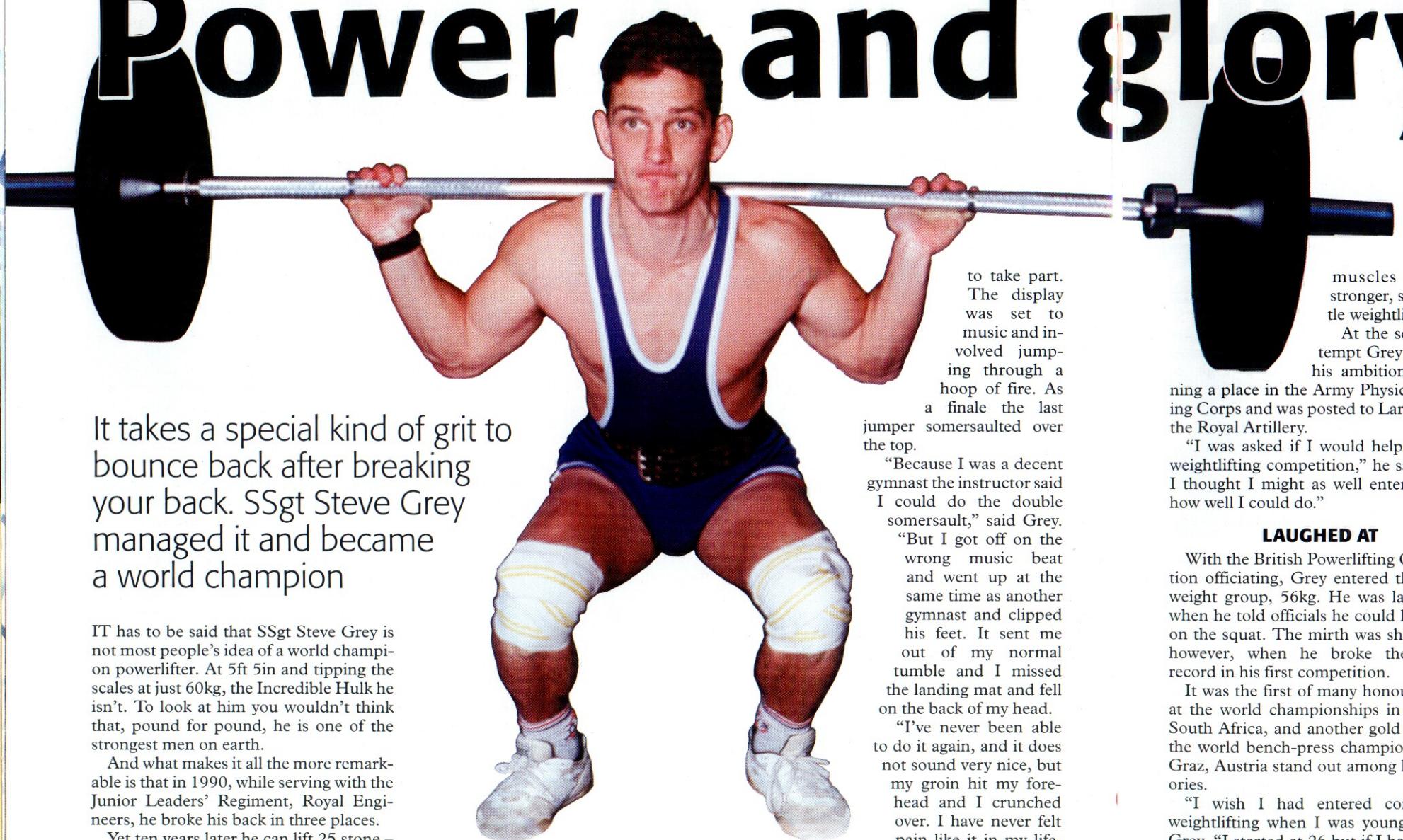
Head off-road for maximum fun. The machine doesn't feel heavy, turns well (remember to lean away from the turn rather than into it), and with both back wheels locked, the Uralmoto will take on almost anything in its path. It worked for Stalin and it will work for you.





PROFILE: SSgt Steve Grey, powerlifter

Power and glory



It takes a special kind of grit to bounce back after breaking your back. SSgt Steve Grey managed it and became a world champion

IT has to be said that SSgt Steve Grey is not most people's idea of a world champion powerlifter. At 5ft 5in and tipping the scales at just 60kg, the Incredible Hulk he isn't. To look at him you wouldn't think that, pound for pound, he is one of the strongest men on earth.

And what makes it all the more remarkable is that in 1990, while serving with the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Engineers, he broke his back in three places.

Yet ten years later he can lift 25 stone – that's nearly three times his own body weight – across his shoulders. He holds British, European and World titles as well as, naturally, the Combined Services records for doing the most press-ups in one hour and for tricep dips. Together with SSgt Andy Halliday he managed 2,028 in an hour.

Every young recruit knows the experience of joining the Army will change him, physically and mentally. In Grey's case, the difference is easy to see.

"When I joined I weighed 7st 3lb," he recalls. "In the Royal Engineers we did a lot of bridge-building that required strength and although I have always been very small I was quite good at lifting heavy objects. It used to shock people that I could lift bridge panels my own size."

Interview: Anthony Stone Picture: Mike Weston

Grey was posted to Osnabrück and discovered he was a rather useful boxer. He became the regimental bantamweight champion, moved up to featherweight and was asked to join the Army boxing squad by the then coach, WO2 Mick Gannon. But Grey wanted to concentrate on his chosen career of becoming a PT instructor.

GYMNAStic DISPLAY

In 1990, Grey, by then a lance corporal, returned to the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Engineers as a PT instructor. One day the display team put on a show in front of 6,000 people and, because they were short of a gymnast, Grey was asked

to take part. The display was set to music and involved jumping through a hoop of fire. As a finale the last jumper somersaulted over the top.

"Because I was a decent gymnast the instructor said I could do the double somersault," said Grey.

"But I got off on the wrong music beat and went up at the same time as another gymnast and clipped his feet. It sent me out of my normal tumble and I missed the landing mat and fell on the back of my head.

"I've never been able to do it again, and it does not sound very nice, but my groin hit my forehead and I crunched over. I have never felt pain like it in my life. As I breathed my rib cage was opening and

closing the cracks in my spine. I managed to stand up but I could not put my heels down because of the pressure on my spine."

An X-ray revealed the damage between the shoulder blades – two hairline fractures and a cracked and chipped bit of bone. Doctor told him that over time it would cause him to stoop.

Amazingly, when medics studied the X-rays they discovered Grey had broken his back on a previous occasion.

"I had no recollection, but it is easy to do. They said I could have done it as a child falling off a bike."

Medical advice was to start building muscle by swimming, and once his back

muscles became stronger, some gentle weightlifting.

At the second attempt Grey achieved his ambition of winning a place in the Army Physical Training Corps and was posted to Larkhill with the Royal Artillery.

"I was asked if I would help set up a weightlifting competition," he said, "and I thought I might as well enter and see how well I could do."

LAUGHED AT

With the British Powerlifting Organisation officiating, Grey entered the lowest weight group, 56kg. He was laughed at when he told officials he could lift 100kg on the squat. The mirth was short-lived, however, when he broke the British record in his first competition.

It was the first of many honours. Gold at the world championships in Durban, South Africa, and another gold medal at the world bench-press championships at Graz, Austria stand out among his memories.

"I wish I had entered competitive weightlifting when I was younger," said Grey. "I started at 26 but if I had started at 18 I might have had a chance of going to the Olympics."

TENDON STRENGTH

So what is it that makes this little man so powerful? "I believe it is my tendon strength, not the size of the muscle. If I go into my local gym at home I see guys with arms the size of my legs, but I can lift the same as them. They are doing exercises to make the body look good while I am doing exercises to make the body strong."

SSgt Grey is the driving force behind getting powerlifting accepted as a military sport and recognised by the Army Sport Control Board. The discipline could not have a better ambassador to lift its profile. Few would bet against him getting this challenge off the ground.

RUGBY

Mercurial Fijians work their magic

AN Army A XV welcomed the Fiji Development XV under the lights at Aldershot and were beaten by 27 points to 42, writes Roger Thompson.

The Fijians, a mixture of old warriors and rising stars, were touring the USA and Europe to support their premier national squad during the Rugby World Cup. Irrespective of the quality of their rugby, the quantity – sheer beef on the bone – was another dimension altogether. They were massive.

Starting impressively, the Army made much good ground on the back of a number of quickly-taken penalties. Despite such setbacks the tourists were unable to change their habits and were rocked back for a full 20 minutes, the Army scoring one good try by Lt Tim Osman (RA) and a penalty through Capt Howard Graham (AGC).

The Fijians responded in short bursts until an outrageous dummy deep in the Fijian defence opened up the Army defence and the white shirts poured through across the field in counter-attack with a characteristic symphony of deft ball movement.

As the Fijians touched down a touchline sage remarked that it would impossible to coach such handling skills, even if he were prepared to take such risks.



Off with you: An Army player is bundled into touch by a Fijian under the lights at Aldershot

During the second half the Fijians delighted the crowd of more than 1,000 with glimpses of their expansive game and received generous applause at every turn. On a rock provided by the more experienced players, the younger element showed commendable tenacity in the tackle, unlimited energy backing up the ball-carrier and powerful acceleration onto the pass, which frequently severed the Army's defence.

Nevertheless, the Army XV, with many youngsters increasingly prominent, remained focused in defence, where Lt Finlay Bibby (DWR) and SSgt Peter Curtis (R Signals) were outstanding in the pack.

Behind the scrum Graham was as steady as ever and it was encouraging to see Tim Osman getting back to form.

He is an abrasive centre who stands up in the tackle – a major feat against the Fijians – and makes the ball available.

Another whose name caught the eye was LCpl Glen Kyle (R Irish), diminutive but a complete footballer who moves very quickly and tackles for every pound of his weight.

During the match the Army fielded three Fijians, who, together with others, will no doubt make their presence felt in a red shirt during the coming season.

Picture: Steve Dock

SHORTS

Millennium moments

WELSH soldiers helped to ensure the success of the spectacular opening ceremony of the Rugby World Cup at Cardiff's new Millennium Stadium. Capt Rob Dickinson, adjutant 1 RWR, which has its HQ in Cardiff, helped coordinate Army support on the big day.

About 150 personnel from the Army, Royal Navy, and Royal Air Force helped build and dismantle the stage. Sixty Welsh soldiers involved came from The Royal Welsh Regiment, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 22nd Regiment RA (the Welsh Gunners) and 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

Juniors lead the way

ARMY Foundation College athletes put in winning performances at the Stokesley duathlon, taking the first four junior places. Murray Vass came first in the juniors and 30th overall after completing a 10km run, 48km cycle and 5km run. Stephen Henderson was the second junior (51st overall), Dean Mitchell third (55th) and Andy Jones fourth (80th).

Ski instructors needed

THREE ski instructors are needed to help out with an adventurous training project, Exercise Alpine Finn, in Wettach, Bavaria from January 15-29. Contact CSgt Pat Swift on (09491) 47518.

Runners in good SHAPE

FOUR members of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium took part in the Manchester marathon, which incorporated the Army championships, and won the minor unit competition. The team was Cpl Paul Nesbit, WO1 (SSM) Mark Elliott, SSgt Stu Taylor and a Royal Navy runner.

Gearing up for season

LCPL Mike Fletcher (1 RSME) won the last two rounds to wrap up the sport category of the Army cross-country mountain bike series. Cpl Martin Smith (ATR Bassingbourn) also won both rounds to take the masters' title. Meanwhile, 2nd Lt Fiona Scotter (1 RSME) won round five in the women's race, but Capt Liz Stileman (Army Sch of Catering) took the last round and the overall series win with it. Maj Kenny Brown (BDMT) made it a clean sweep among the veterans. The Army Cycling Union is hoping for even more competitors and asks anyone interested to contact Capt Ian Comerford on (094291) 5449.

TRANSGLOBE

Birthplace of storms



Transglobe, the Services' world-girdling yacht race, is almost over. The three boats are expected to race across the Solent finishing line, completing the final trans-Atlantic leg, in early December.

At the end of the penultimate leg, Army sailors were in over-all joint first place with the RAF (subject to a protest appeal), having won the Rio de Janeiro to the Caribbean leg. Here, Maj John Broadley, first mate on the voyage, tells of storms, calms, and suspected divine intervention.

WE HAD sailed from the South to the North Atlantic, through the calms of the doldrums, straight into the birthplace of tropical storm Jose.

The race organisers had, very wisely, shortened the course, advising us to make all speed to the nearest shelter, so our destination was no longer St Martin, just 70 miles away. We were disappointed, but not much. We had, after all, won the race and had no desire to hang around as the storm whipped up.

Things had not always gone our way. After enjoying a 180-mile lead up the Brazilian coast, we suddenly reached the calm of the doldrums. As we wallowed, *Adventure*, the Navy boat commanded by a man of the cloth, reclaimed all but four miles of our lead. As a result, some of our crew began to consider seriously the possibility of divine intervention.

But three weeks after leaving Rio we joined *Adventure*'s crew to celebrate our safe arrival in Antigua. While the RAF crew of *Racer* raced on for the shelter of St Lucia, we battened down the yachts and moored them securely among the mangroves before retreating to a hotel on shore.

Winds reaching 105mph reduced the area to a mini-war zone. *Broadsword*, the Army yacht, was driven into the swamp and had to be recovered with the aid of a tug. Later, in Nelson's Dockyard, she looked a little sorry for herself: muddy, scraped, and a little bent here and there, but still a proud winner.

My log reveals the strains, frustrations and joys of a long ocean race.

October 2: I was helming in near perfect conditions, when, just to port, a whale broke the surface and gently kept pace with us for a few minutes. We eyed each other, he clearly wondering what we were about, me in awe of the fact that he had allowed me into his back



High seas, high jinks: *Broadsword*'s crew observe bizarre crossing-the-line rituals as they surround first mate John Broadley at the helm and skipper Henry Bradshaw in tie and hat

garden. I'm sure I saw him winking at me.

October 9 (crossing the equator): A shaded spot on board has a crew member enjoying its coolness. The water-maker has packed up and now, in this stifling heat, our water is rationed. We watch as the opposition catches us up, and we hope they will have our light winds as soon as possible.

SHORTS

Swinging success

A TA medic who had never before entered a golf competition cleaned up the trophies in the RAMC north-west area championships. Cpl Garry Marshall, right, attached to 103 Regt RA, carried away the two top cups and two prizes in the team event.



Anyone for tennis?

ARMY tennis is looking for new talent. The contacts are: for men, Maj Sam Erskine-Tulloch, AFPA(WD), Bray House, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG, telephone: (094271) 2932; for women, Capt Alastair Mills, Havana Officers' Mess, Station Road, Bordon, Hants GU35 0NA, telephone (094291) 5549.

London Marathon

MENCAP needs soldiers to join their "Dennis the Menace" charity team in the 2000 Flora London Marathon on April 16. As the official charity, Mencap can offer runners guaranteed places. Ring 0645 777 779 for details.

Whizz-Kidz, the other official marathon charity, is also looking for runners to help disabled children. Contact Xanne Carey on 0171 233 9696.

The Royal British Legion has places for runners who can raise a minimum of £1,000. Contact Clare Lennon on 0207 973 7309.

Arresting performance

THE Army went down 3-1 to the Metropolitan Police at Imber Court in the annual battle for the Grenadier Guards Challenge Cup. The Army lost 2-0 to the Amateur Football Alliance at Aldershot and Surrey beat the Combined Services women's team 3-0, also at Aldershot.

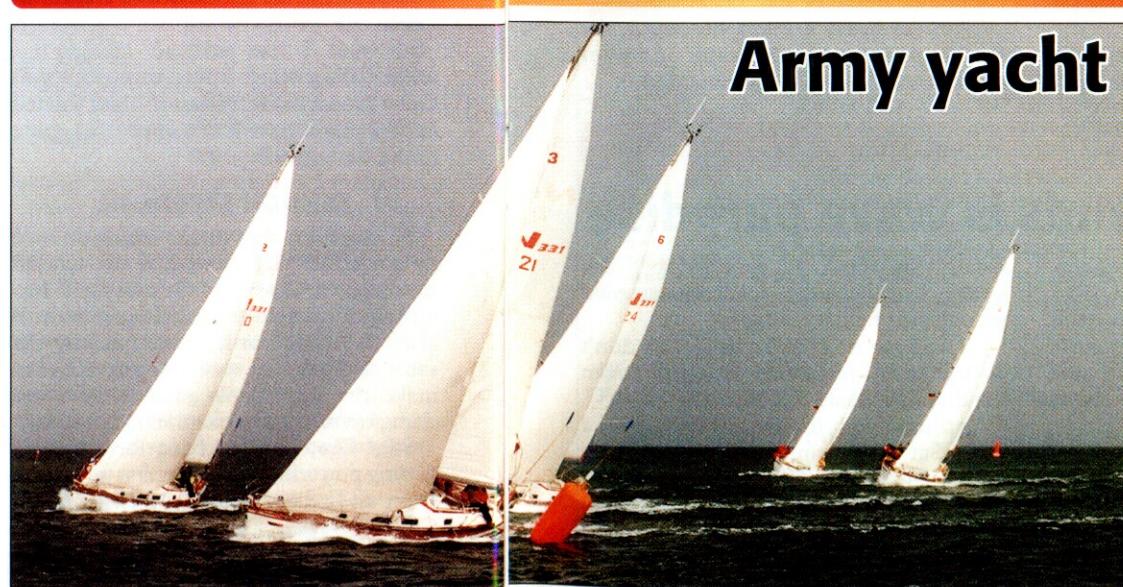
Winning return

THE 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales made a winning return to boxing when they took on 7 Transport Regiment RLC at Paderborn, Germany and beat them 5 bouts to 2.

In the light-welterweight competition, Pte Erdly Davies (RRW), right, sent Dvr Mark Murphy to the canvas. Murphy went on to win the bout.



REGATTA



Westward-ho! Fierce competition at Kiel, Germany, during the Inter-Service regatta, which was won by the Army

Army yacht breezes in

ARMY sailors beat the Royal Navy in the British Kiel Yacht Club tri-Service regatta in Germany. The event started badly with the RAF team pulling out the day before and the Royal Navy reduced to two boats due to Service commitments.

To even things up, the Army, led by Maj Mark Johnson-Ferguson (28 Engr Regt), also reduced its team to two boats, then raced superbly and went on to take the Hogg Robinson/Holsten Inter-Service (Kiel) Trophy.

Sport

RUNNING

Ten-mile stars burn brightly in Washington

FIVE of the Army's brightest stars competed in the Washington ten-mile race, one of the world's biggest events over the distance. Combined Services cross-country star SSgt Kenny Butler (RLC) finished 40th in 53min 29sec, followed eight seconds later by Pte Phil Hinch (RAMC). Close behind was Pte Tom Grady, formerly 1 PWRR now R Sigs. Grady was magnificent in his first ten-miler and only the first 30 finishers ran quicker than his final four miles of 21min 11sec. At just 19 he was crowned world military junior ten-mile champion. In 96th place, LCpl Mark Greenwood (RE) put in a solid performance, while Sgt Jason Bradley (Int Corps), who was eighth in this year's Army cross-country finals, ran strongly to finish 106th.

The British team finished third behind the United States, who boasted two Olympians. Team manager Capt Steve Lonn (RLC), frustrated by his inability to run due to an injury sustained days before the race, intends to enter a team in the millennium race and advises runners to get their bids in early.

Cross-country results

A STRONG field produced some excellent running at the Army cross-country relay championships at Tweseldown.

In a good turnout, 43 major units, 15 minor units, 17 senior women's units, three junior women's teams and four junior men's teams competed for prizes.

That was quite a turnaround because, with ten days to go before the event, only 11 teams had made themselves available.

"The standard was excellent," said Maj (Retd) Peter Lyons, secretary of the Army Athletic Association. "If things continue in this form we should have no difficulty winning the Inter-Services. That's our goal."

Seniors: 1, Sgt Andy Arrand (Trg Regt and Depot RLC); 2, CSgt Craig McBurney (RMAS Sandhurst Per); 3, LBdr Jo Foreshew (7 Para RHA). **Veterans:** 1, Capt Steve Lonn (Trg Regt and Depot RLC); 2, WO2 John Best (ITC Catterick); 3, WO1 Neil Hart (HQ 4 Div). **Senior women:** 1, LCpl Sophie Morris (11 Sig Regt); 2, LCpl Nikki Dean (HQ 4 Div); 3, LCpl Alison O'Connor (7 Para RHA). **Veteran women:** 1, Lynn Higgs (HQ 4 Div); 2, Capt Karen Czernik (Arborfield Garrison); 3, SSgt C Farley (4 GS Regt). **Major units:** 1, 7 Para RHA; 2, RMAS Sandhurst; 3, 3 (UK) Sig Regt. **Minor units:** 1, Trg Regt and Depot RLC; 2, HQ 4 Div; 3, SHAPE.

HOCKEY



Defensive position: Lt Richard Forsyth reacts quickly to close down the RAF number four

Army crowned indoor champs

ARMY hockey players triumphed in the Inter-Services indoor championships at Larkhill, beating the RAF 10-3 and Royal Navy 9-4 to take the trophy.

The Army women's team also put in a winning performance, trouncing the RAF 5-1 and the Royal Navy 4-1.

But the under-23s went down 5-9 to the RAF and drew 6-6 against the Royal Navy to finish third.

Fierce competition also marked the Combined Services Inter-Corps and

Command championships. REME started well and sailed through to a semi-final place against RAF Strike Command, only to lose.

Conversely, the RA started poorly until the arrival of Lt Col Mark Banham (7 Para RHA) and former international Maj Peter Boxell, both regular Army and Combined Services players in their day.

With the heavy artillery on board, the RA breezed through the semis and went on to beat RAF Strike Command 4-0.

SURFING

Freezing Falklands is wave paradise

NEXT time you get a posting to the Falklands don't forget your surf-board. The water temperature might freeze the chocolate bits off a penguin, but the surfing is outstanding. So good in fact that it prompted one soldier to think about starting an Army surfing club.

"Believe me, the waves down there combined with the nearly constant offshore winds, make for the best surf that I have ever been in," said Sgt Jase Fern (14 Sig Regt, LAD REME), who has returned from a four-month tour.

The water temperature in the South

Atlantic is about 5C and to keep the surfers from freezing, specially-designed wetsuits are held by units.

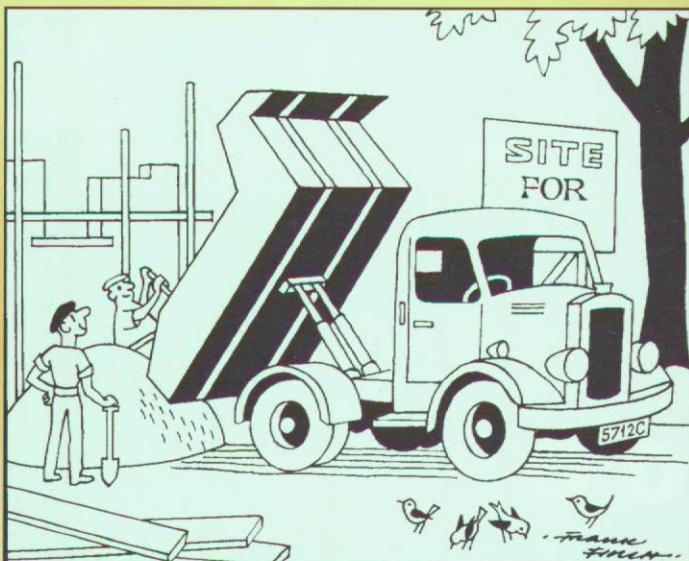
"There are no crowds, the locals don't do it and the only hassle you get is from the dolphins," said Sgt Fern.

Enthused with the idea of setting up a club, Sgt Fern wants to find an officer willing to take on the role of club president and anyone who would like to help with logistics or simply give the sport a try.

Contact him on telephone (9)4359 5607 or fax (9)4359 5774.

How observant are you?

WIN £100!



Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 697, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by December 24.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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

The names of the winner and runners-up will be announced in the February 2000 issue.

Name: (Give initials and rank or title)

Address:

October competition (No 695): First correct entry drawn was from Nigel L Rylatt, of Huddersfield, who wins £100. Runners-up Fus D Turner, of Wallsend, and Pte B W E Rawstrone, of Preston, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: window frame; hatband; gunman's shirt and heel; smoke; card face-down on right; centre gambler's trouser-seat; right-hand gambler's sock; hair; knot in floorboard.

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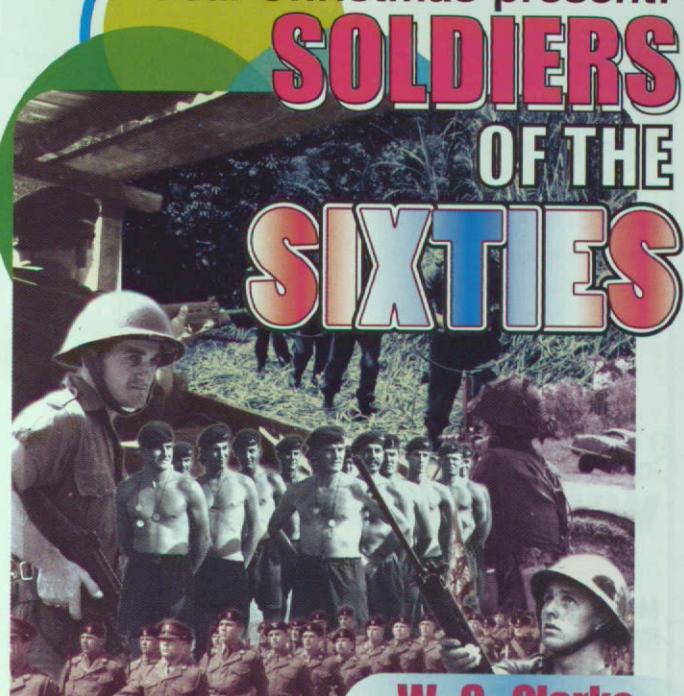
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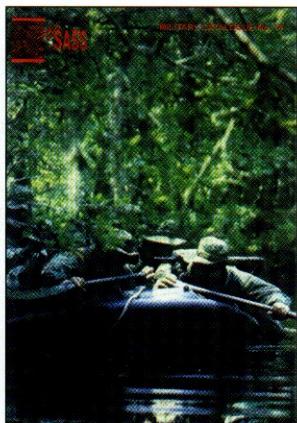
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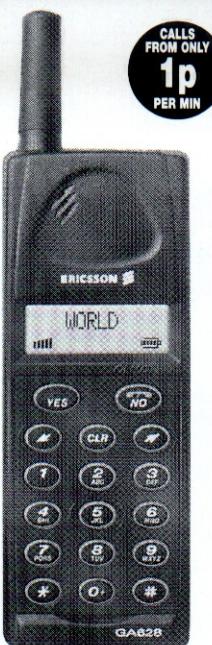
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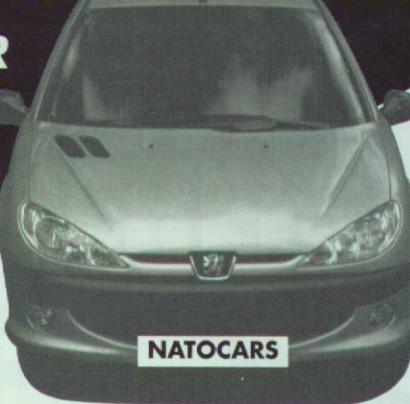
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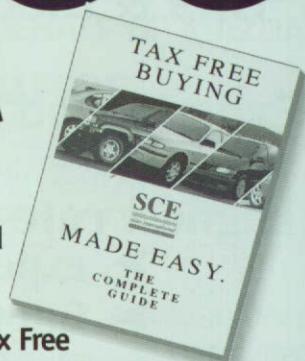
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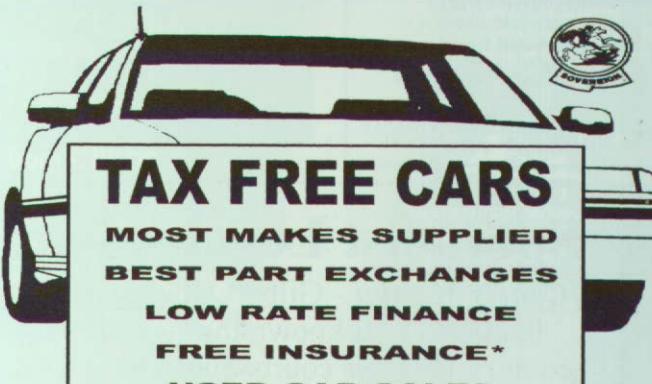
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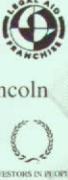
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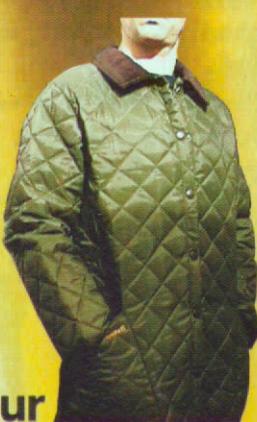
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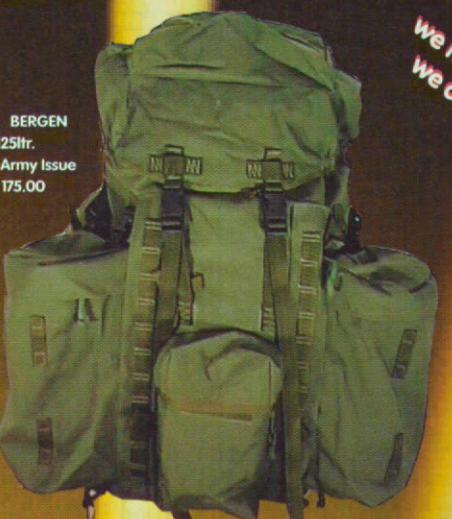
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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

OCTOBER 16, 1999

First prize (24 goals, £4,000): LCpl AJ Bowden, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen.

Two-way tie for second prize (23 goals, £1,700 each): Maj V Bennett, HQ RLC TA, Grantham; Cpl W Bragger, RAC Centre, Bovington.

10-way tie for fourth prize (22 goals, £310 each): Capt JS Campbell, RMA Sandhurst; WO2 CR Elton, RSA, Larkhill; Sgt SY Geeson, HQ Lisburn; LCpl AR Hodgson, 14 Sup Regt RLC, Dülmen; Cpl GD Kelman, 1 Coldm Gds, Windsor; Maj RC Lawrence, 16 Armd Fd Amb, Preston; Capt SN Pettinata, KRH, Münster; Sgt SJ Rhodes, 29 Regt RLC, South Cerney; LCpl SJ Wallace, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island.

OCTOBER 23, 1999

First prize (21 goals £2,466.67 each): Capt AM Churchill, Royal Sch of Signals, Blandford; LCpl NE Lyons, 1 RHA, Tidworth; LCpl N MacGillivray, 1 Hldrs, Catterick.

11-way tie for fourth prize (20 goals, £281.82 each): WO2 AP Bambridge, 1 RS, Colchester; Sgt IC Brown, 5 Regt RA, Catterick; SS LM Camley, ITC Catterick; Sgt RJ Clash, ASPT, Aldershot; Cpl PJ Harley, 3 Para, Dover; Sgt CR Judge, DHFS, Shrewsbury; WO2 CJ Matten, RMP Trg Centre, Chichester; SSgt ND Rigby, 22 Fd

Hosp, Aldershot; Sgt JL Sutcliffe, 821 EOD Sqn RLC, Didcot; Sgt B Wilson, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; Sgt C Woods, 1 QLR.

OCTOBER 30, 1999

First prize (23 goals, £4,000): Maj DV Watson, HQ BF, Falkland Islands.

Four-way tie for second prize (22 goals, £1,250 each): Sgt CM Cheeseman, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford; SSgt K Gourlay, 6 Flt AAC (V), Shrewsbury; Cpl CL Harrop, 1 LI, Edinburgh; SSgt CD Lloyd, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford.

12-way tie for sixth prize (21 goals, £125 each): LCpl GJD Bright, 16 Regt RLC, Bicester; Brig TMG Brown, HQ RLC Trg Gp, Deepcut; Sgt AMJ Bustin, 150 Pro Coy RMP, Bramcote; Sgt IT Flaherty, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; Cpl JE Franklin, 7 Tpt Regt RLC, Bielefeld; WO2 MJ Greenwood, HQ TSU (G), Sennelager; Sgt R Herbert, Gibraltar Regt; Pte KJ Lornie, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gütersloh; Cpl LF Milward, 101 Pro Coy RMP, Rheindahlen; WO2 MA Owen, 1 RGJ; LCpl CL Ritson, PCD RLC, Mill Hill.

NOVEMBER 6, 1999

Four-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £2,100 each): Cpl AM Evans, APC, Glasgow; CSgt DL Freeman, ACIO Cardiff; Maj DL Rees, JHSU UKMF (L), RAF Odi-

ham; Lbdr PG Whatton, 3 RHA, Hohne.

19-way tie for fifth prize (18 goals, £110.53 each): LSgt A Ashworth, 1 Gren Gds, Pirbright; SSgt PN Baxter, 2 RGJ, Paderborn; Pte ME Brothwell, 16 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Fallingsbostel; WO2 SH Burley, FSST (G), Herford; SSgt MR Champion, 1 R Irish, Catterick; WO2 GS Doran, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon; WO2 WJ Duggan, 1 IG, Münster; Sgt JP Griffiths, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh; Maj R Haldenby, JSCSC, Bracknell; Capt S Hill, 1 RRW, Paderborn; SSgt JTS Kilsby, 16 Signal Regt, Rheindahlen; WO2 (name withheld) 8 Flt AAC, Hereford; Capt D Nicholl, Fl Engr Unit, Falkland Islands; Cpl A Nicol, 2 RGR, Brunei; Cpl JPF Oliver, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; Sgt J Tebbutt, 6 Bn REME, Tidworth; SSgt LB Williamson, 2 Trg Regt AAC, Middle Wallop; WO1 J Wilson, HQ (W) Bde, Brecon; Cpl PAM Young, 24 Armd Fd Amb, Catterick.

Owing to the non-participation of Premiership on November 13, the following second and third division teams replaced Premiership teams on the lines shown:

35 Barnet	36 Brentford
5 Brighton	9 Cardiff
10 Carlisle	11 Cheltenham
12 Chester	16 Darlington

17 Exeter
19 Hull
21 Mansfield
26 Plymouth
29 Shrewsbury
30 Southend

18 Hartlepool
20 Leyton O
25 P'borough
27 Rochdale
33 Torquay
32 Swansea

NOVEMBER 13, 1999

Two-way tie for first prize (23 goals, £3,000 each): Sgt PT Bunker, Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray; LCpl NL Davidson, ITC Catterick.

20-way tie for third prize (22 goals, £225 each): Maj D Baggaley, JSMT (I), Anglesey; LCpl V Bowes, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Sgt AJ Burnett, QRH, Sennelager; Cpl AL Cashmore, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham; Cpl J. Cook, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham; Cpl LK Ellis, 5 Regt AAC Wksp, Aldergrove; LCpl P Hamblin, BVO, Ashchurch; WO1 AJ Handyside, 101 Pro Coy RMP, Rheindahlen; WO2 MW Hay, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh; Tpr DJ Herbert, 2 RTR, Fallingsbostel; LCpl GD Hicks, 1 GH, Osnabrück; Sig MD Hill, 2 Signal Regt, York; SSgt KJ Hindley, 12 Mech Bde CSS Bn, Aldershot; Pte SCH Hodgson, 2 LI, Bulford; WO1 RG McDowell, HQ 43 (WX) Bde, Exeter; Capt JS Robson, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; Maj AM Roxburgh, QDG, Gütersloh; Sgt JA Sullivan, 11 Signal Regt, Blandford; Gnr JG Weir, 8 R Irish.

NOTICES

Royal Warwickshire Charitable Welfare Funds

The welfare funds exist to relieve hardship or distress in cases which cannot be met from public funds amongst ex-members of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment or the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers and their dependants in financial need. Applicants should contact SSAFA or HQ RRF, St John's House, Warwick CV34 4NF.

REUNIONS

Chepstow 50A/50B groups' 50th anniversary, September 2000 reunion. Contact Alan Barlow 01652 652499, George Horton, 01205 460427, or BOBA secretary, 01606 833617.

12/99

NOTICE TO READERS

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Diary



Ken races the wind for St Dunstan's

Speedster: Blind solo driver Ken Moss, right, with personal coach Tony Pond, former British world championship rally driver, at Boscombe Down. You can win Ken's MG sports car, which he donated to raise much-needed cash for St Dunstan's

Farewell to Norman

WO1 (RSM) Norman Walker, formerly of the Royal Tank Regiment, retires this month after 37 years' distinguished service. He is reckoned to be the longest-serving warrant officer in the Army.

Norman, left, spent his last day on duty at the Defence Services Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court,

where staff arranged a ride for him in a Sabre armoured recce vehicle, watched by his wife, Cilla, and Brig

Robin Garnett, Commander DSMRC, and

presented him with a

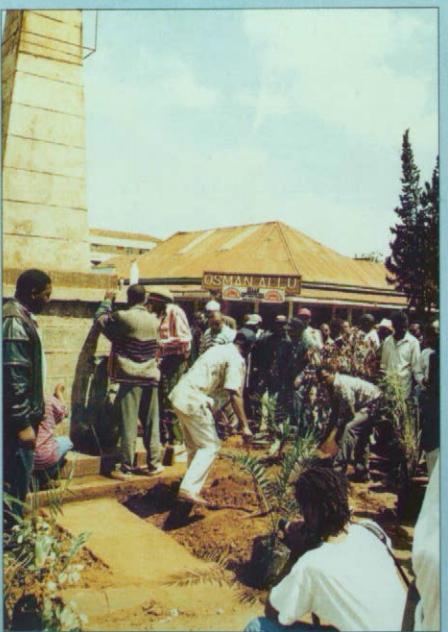
scale model of a Challenger main battle tank.

Norman is joining the Post Office.



Sappers hit the road

Watch out for a sapper pounding past you in the run-up to the millennium. Twelve Royal Engineers will set out on December 10 on a non-stop 2,500-mile relay marathon around the four corners of Great Britain. Their awe-inspiring effort will take in Cape Wrath, John o'Groats, Land's End and Dover before ending up back at their starting point at the Millennium Dome, hopefully by midnight on December 31. The Army Benevolent Fund and Children's Promise charities are set to benefit from the sappers' Challenge 2000. If you want to help raise sponsorship, contact Maj Paul Pendlebury, 101 Engr Regt (EOD)(V), on 0181 6985573.



DATES

JULY

10-15: Royal Military Tattoo 2000, Horse Guards Parade, in aid of principal Service charities.

SEPTEMBER

5-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show.

● To include public events, contact the Editor.

In concert at Kneller

In tune: Musn Mark Buckley helps to launch the British Army's Youth in Concert millennium initiative with schoolgirl musician Mary Hardwick outside the Royal Military School of Music. Mary is a member of the Wootton Upper School Band from Wootton, Beds, which performed with the Minden Band of the Queen's Division at Kneller Hall.

Under the project, the Army will invite the best of the nation's young musicians to play alongside professional military musicians. The Youth in Concert programme will take the form of a series of events around the UK as part of the national band concert festival.

Army directors of music will help to judge the youth bands and offer the winners a chance to take part in workshops and regional concerts with the Army.

The project will culminate in a gala concert in the Royal Festival Hall on September 24 next year.



Picture: Mike Weston

Kevin joins the club

WO2 Kevin Sealey, Para, has joined an exclusive club as he comes to the end of a two-year exchange with 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He is the first foreign senior NCO to be elected to the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, which recognises outstanding leaders within the NCO corps.

Audie Murphy, who later became a Hollywood film star, was America's most decorated soldier of the Second World War. The club which bears his name demands high standards, with candidates having to complete a rigorous four-phase examination.

Mark's job is on the line

RLC railwayman Pte Mark Playforth, pictured in the cab of a Cromwell locomotive, has kept the shop open in the UK for 79 Railway Squadron RLC throughout 1999 while his unit was in the Balkans. Unable to deploy to Kosovo, he stood in as chief clerk at Marchwood and manned Ludgershall rail depot, driving and shunting trains for exercising units. His efforts allowed his colleagues to run a 75km main line on Op Agricola, knowing their day job on Salisbury Plain was in safe hands.



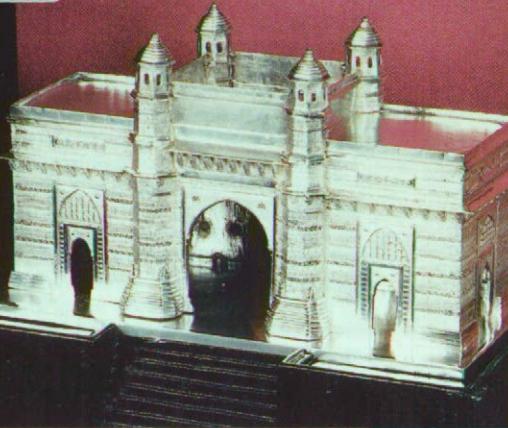
Plaque mark for Kenya

Reader George Snell, who was stationed in Kenya during the Mau Mau emergency, sent us his photograph (left) taken as members of the Kikuyu tribe at Nyeri, 90 miles north of Nairobi, removed a plaque from a memorial dedicated to British soldiers killed during the troubles.

George, who lives in Orrell Park, Liverpool, was particularly saddened by the incident because he was based at Nyeri and had taken his wife to the town to show her the area in which he served. The British plaque was replaced by one dedicated to the Mau Mau.

Legends of the regiments and corps

6 Somerset Military Museum, The Castle, Taunton



Silver replica: The Gateway of India

Out of India

THE last British unit to leave India after independence in 1947 was the 1st Battalion, The Somerset Light Infantry.

At its final parade, for which hundreds of people turned out to bid farewell to the British soldiers, the Indian Army presented the battalion with a magnificent silver replica of the impressive Gateway of India, which overlooks Bombay harbour.

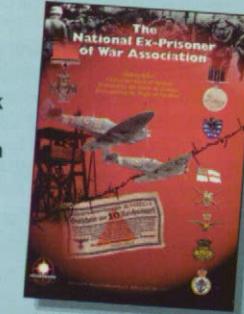
The gift, received by Lt Col J R I Platt, commanding officer of the battalion, is now in the regimental museum in Taunton. He in turn presented the Indian Army with a Union Flag to mark the many years that British troops had been stationed on the sub-continent.

COLOURS FLYING

After an impressive parade, the Colours of 1 SLI were marched through the Gateway and down the steps to the strains of *Auld Lang Syne*. Embarked on a launch, they flew proudly as the craft made its way across the harbour to the troopship *Empress of Australia*, a few hundred yards offshore.

To a rousing farewell the battalion embarked on the troopship and set sail for Liverpool after a tour of duty in India lasting 18 years. Sgt Cotton was selected to be in the Colour Party because he had been with the battalion for its full tour.

● The museum is open at The Castle, Taunton, from April to Oct, Tues-Sat (1000 to 1700); Nov to March, Tues-Sat (1000 to 1500), and most bank holiday Mondays. Tel: 01823 320201; web page: www.somerset.gov.uk/museums



Intrepidus by name ...

Soldier readers may obtain a free copy of the latest National Ex-Prisoner of War Association journal, *Intrepidus*, by writing to Horizon Publications Ltd, Horizon House, 4 Ravenswood Avenue, Rock Ferry, Wirral CH42 4NX. The annual 80-page fundraising publication contains a preface by the Queen Mother and forewords by Gen Sir Rupert Smith and Dame Vera Lynn. Our story on the Brunswick Club, which began life in a PoW camp, is reprinted. Look out also for cartoonist Chip's slant on life in captivity. The aim of the association is to relieve poverty and sickness among former PoWs.

Bulletin board

Highlanders honour Gordons' VC

CPL Clark Ferguson lays a wreath on behalf of The Highlanders at the grave of Pte Edward Lawson VC, of The Gordon Highlanders. The Highlanders, who have the Gordons as one of their antecedent regiments, provided a guard of honour and Pipes and Drums for the rededication of the headstone on Pte Lawson's grave in Byker Heaton Cemetery, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The ceremony took place on the 102nd anniversary of the battle of Dargai Heights in India, at which Lawson, himself wounded, won his VC for rescuing a wounded officer and another injured soldier.

Also at the graveside were four generations of the Lawson family and members of the Gordon Highlanders Association and the local ex-Services community.



Game on for AWA

IF YOU feel the occasional urge to turn your dining room table into a battlefield, this might be an opportune moment to contact the Army Wargamers' Association (AWA). Wargaming covers a range of activity (including the planning of real wars!) and puts players under pressure to come up with solutions to actual combat situations.

At a professional level, thousands of soldiers became familiar with the wargames run until recently by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency at Fort Halstead, Kent, while officers with staff training have had their skills tested by wargames at the Staff College.

Members of the AWA range from major general to private soldier, and include Regulars, reserves, TA and civilians employed by the Army. There are probably wargamers in every base keen to meet other players.

The AWA, founded to put like-minded enthusiasts in touch, maintains a contact list and has negotiated discount deals with companies which supply military books and wargaming items. For more details contact membership secretary Sgt Tim Lewcock, Opt Pl, GS Coy, 1 Bn REME, BFPO 36.

Germany is well served by active clubs, which are the mainstay of the long-established British Forces Wargames Association (Germany). Chairman of the Germany body is SSgt Pete Garnham, 3 Bn REME, BFPO 22.

APPOINTMENTS

Senior appointments: Lt Gen M A Wilcockson to be UK Mil Rep to HQ Nato, July; Brig M L Wildman to be DG Whole Fleet Management in rank of major general, Oct 99; Brig D S Jolliffe to be DG Army Medical Services in rank of major general, Feb.

Brigadiers: N R Parker to be Dep Commandant JSCSC, Oct 25; A R E De Stewart to be ACOS J3 PJHQ, Nov 8.

Colonels: J R Cook to be Bde Comd, 20 Armd Bde, Oct 4; M S J Filler to be Comdt AGC Trg Gp and Comdt Winchester Gar, Oct 4;

SEARCHLINE

Army wife completing BA (Hons) degree in early childhood studies and researching the advantages and disadvantages of growing up in the military system seeks people involved with previous studies relating to separation, education, moving, losing friends and so on. Write to Mrs J E McLeod, 17 St Catherine's Close, Colchester, Essex CO2 9PP or e-mail McLeodPJ@aol.com

The Commando Gunner Association, evolved from the Commando Gunner Club, is updating its database. Membership is open to any commando-trained individual who served on the posted strength of 29 or 95 Cdo Regt RA (including 95 Fwd Obs Unit) and 289 Cdo Bty (V), including individuals from any branch of the Army or Royal Navy. Ex-members who wish to re-join or act as regional or overseas representatives, should contact Tom Brown, PRI Shop, 29 Cdo Regt RA, The Royal Citadel; Plymouth, Devon PL1 2PD (tel 01752 236143), e-mail 29cdora@globalnet.co.uk

Ex-Pte George Gibson, RAOC, seeks anyone who recalls a vehicle accident on the road to **Back Barracks, Münster**, West Germany in May 1956 in which he and others were injured. He also wishes to contact the driver, **Pte Phillips**, and OC, **Lt Briggs, REME**. Replies to 18 Lydyett Lane, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4JP (tel 01606 871926).

Military historian seeks British veterans who took part in the **Battle of El Alamein**, particularly soldiers of 44 and 50 AD, and 50 Middle East Commando who landed on the

B G Mobley to be Col SCOC, Oct 4; M Nugent to be Provost Marshal (A) and Inspector of Mil Establishments, HQ PM Army, Oct 11; S J S Cameron to be Col Trg/Chief Aircraft Engr HQ DEME(A), Oct 18; R J Little to be Defence Adviser, Kuala Lumpur, Oct 18; P D Verge to be Comdt Sch of Logistics, Oct 18; D J Kerr to be Col Defence Sch of Transport, Oct 18; M H Auchinleck to be Chief J3 Ops HQ SFOR, Nov 12; P Chaganis to be Dir DTMA, Nov 8; J W M Ellery to be COS HQ London Dist, Nov 8.

Lieutenant Colonels: T P Clarke, RA – to DMCS, Apr 10; R L F Dickinson, RE – to

island of **Castelrosso** (Op Abstention, Feb 25-27, 1941). Contact Guido Ronconi, Balanstr 63, 5 OG, D-81541 München, Germany (tel 0049/89/49 91 87 53).

K R Arnold, ex-2 Gren Gds (1967-70) wishes to hear from anyone who started training at **Pirbright Camp** on June 9, 1967 under drill instructor Sgt Brown. Write to 24B Chessel Ave, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH5 1LH.

BBC seeks veterans to share experience of killing. Contact Suzanne on 0171 288 8419.

Volunteers for BBC TV series **Confidence Lab**, which will tackle inhibitions, lack of motivation, confidence and self-esteem, should call 0171 580 8686 or e-mail confidencelab@aol.com

PRIZE-WINNERS

Station X video and book sets (Sept issue): Cpl Robertson, Saxon Det RLC, BFPO 806; Gordon Crandles, Edinburgh; S R H Cocking, Farnborough, Hants. Answer: Alan Turing.

Three Passages (Oct): W02 S Everett, Accrington; MJ Byrne, Glasgow; M White, Gloucestershire. Answer: Norway.

Three Royal Tournament videos (Oct): R Cheeseman, Rochester; D Henchey, London; B A B Barton, Colchester. Answer: Queen Victoria.

Flagship Portsmouth (Oct): A Witt, Yate, Bristol; M Newport, Oxford; H V Greenwood, Groby, Leics; F Fleming, Trowbridge, Wilts; Mrs W T Gordon, RAO, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31. Answer: October 21.

RMAS, Jan 10; W S G Doughty, LG – to JDCC, Sept 1; D H Egan, REME – to Kuwait Project Office, Jan 15; P Firth, RLC – to DST, Sept 1; P A Kellett, LI – to RMCS, Nov 29; J P Morrison, Int Corps – to UNOMIG, Oct 21; D J Norton, RLC – to HQ 4 Div, Jan 17; R C B Nutting, LD – to ATE Devon, Nov 5; J B Parish, AAC – to JHQ Southwest, Sept 1; R N B Quicke, LD – to BDS(W), Feb 11; M S Russell, Int Corps – to Balkans Directorate, Jan 10; A J N Simkins, AAC – to BLO (USA), Dec 6.

J A Athill, RGJ – to DOMA, Nov 1; C N Black, WG – to CGS, Aug 31; A T Boyd, RLC – to HQ Land, Jan 4; R T Carman, RLC – to

So it's Sleigh Ride time again!



FEW military bands or record companies attempt to break into the Christmas market with recordings of seasonal music, but for those seeking festive entertainment there are some available.

Christmas on the Bandstand (Bandleader BNA 5150), featuring the Band of the Royal Logistic Corps, is a mixture of traditional carols and more modern tunes. For good measure there are also a few band numbers such as *Sleigh Ride*, *March of the Toys*, *Troika* and a *Yuletide Fanfare*.

Still available in many shops (though in short supply) is **Christmas with the Royal Marines** (Bandleader BNA 5101). This is a mixture of the old, the new and band numbers, and includes *Parade of the Tin Soldiers*, *March of the Little Lead Soldiers* and *A Christmas Suite*.

The Royal Artillery decided to exploit its magnificent orchestra when it went into the studio to record **A Christmas Festival** (Music Masters), which includes *Sleigh Ride*, *A Shepherd's Hymn*, *Dance of the Snowmen* and *Pie Jesu*. The limitations of the Yuletide repertoire mean that there is some overlap between

these releases, and all three include *A Christmas Festival* and *Sleigh Ride*.

For something totally different, Bandleader has released **A Wurlitzer Christmas Celebration** (CD OS 210 and cassette OS 6210) featuring Nigel Ogden at the theatre organ in Free Trade Hall, Manchester. It includes mainly the more modern pop tunes (plus the ubiquitous *Sleigh Ride*), and if you like theatre organs, I would recommend it, even if only for the selection of tunes from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* – so many outstanding songs in one show.

MAIL ORDER

If you have trouble finding any of these CDs, Bandleader recordings are available from Discurio, 9 Gillingham Street, London SW1V 1HN, and Music Masters releases from Midland CD, 201 Calowbrook Lane, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9TG. These two are, in fact, the largest mail order companies dealing almost exclusively with military band recordings.

If you have any queries about military music or problems obtaining CDs mentioned here, do drop me a line c/o Soldier.

'Sur l'objectif' for a bit of Anglo-French understanding

HEAVEN forbid that the need should ever arise for you to yell (in the circumstances you would be yelling): "J'ai un incendie à bord". But if it does, the **Joint Military French-English/American Thematic Dictionary** is just the reference book you need to avoid misunderstanding.

Your French colleagues would soon realise you (all right then, your ship) had a major fire problem and you were telling them to keep clear. (To be strictly accurate, you would be informing them electronically, as this is recognised maritime international code.)

You, as a soldier, are more likely to be discussing "la conduite de tir" (fire control), "l'artillerie légère" (light artillery) or, perhaps, "la vitesse initiale" (muzzle velocity), unless, of course, your "objectif" (target) is "hors de portée, d'atteinte" (out of range), thus avoiding all sorts of potentially awkward misinterpretations.

The military dictionary contains 25,000 words, synonyms and expressions and is "enriched" by an index of acronyms. It covers air, sea and land forces, their operations, engineering, intelligence, logistics, navigation, electronics, imagery, telecommunications, electronic warfare and much else.

The military dictionary is available in A5 format at FF250 (£25) from Philippe Le Lay, 461 Avenue de la Victoire, 83000 Toulon, France or e-mail Le-Lay@hotmail.com

REUNIONS

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

Royal Artillery Association, Exeter Branch: Annual dinner-dance at St Luke's College, Heavitree Road, Exeter, Dec 17. Contact John Seatheron, 8 Seabrook Avenue, Countess Wear, Exeter EX2 7DW (tel 01392 874072).

17 Port and Maritime Regt: Annual reunion for 17 Port/20 Maritime on Feb 26 at Marchwood Military Port. Write to Sgt Doof Tucker, Port and Maritime Wing, School of Logistics, Marchwood, Southampton SO40 4ZG.

HQ UKSC(G), Nov 25; R S T L Laden, RLC – to HQ DRLC, Nov 8; N G W Lang, RA – to DCEE, Nov 1; S G Lincoln, Int Corps – to DASD, Nov 29; M F Medcalf, RLC – to HQ Land, Oct 4; N G T Polley, KRH – to ACDS(OR) Land, Sept 27; I A Vere Nicoll, RA – to HQ ITG, Mar 13.

Retirements

Colonels: G J Mann, late R Signals, Oct 10; G J Yeoman, late RCT, Oct 8; N A Sutherland, late RE, Oct 16; C J Walters, late R Signals, Oct 13; J S K Swanston, late RAMC (not RADC as previously reported), Aug 27; B J Dickson, later RAOC, Oct 26.

Queen's Regiment: Annual reunion on Mar 4 at Victory Services Club, London. Contact the Secretary, RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury CT1 1JY (tel 01227 818054/56).

6 Squad, Junior Marines: Home Club, Portsmouth, May 6. Ring Geof Haywood on 01202 888194.

50th Missile Club RA: Millennium reunion at the Lawn, Lincoln, May 13. For reunion and membership details, ring A J Todd on 01387 262378, write to him at 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries, Scotland DG1 1TN or e-mail him at TODD.A.J@ic24.net

Band of The Parachute Regiment: With a reunion planned in June, former members of the 1, 2 and 3 Para battalion bands, the Falklands and Pegasus Bands and the Para Band should contact Sgt Andy Ellis, Para Band, New Normandy Barracks, Aldershot, or e-mail reunion@paraband.freeserve.co.uk. See also www.paraband.freeserve.co.uk

St George's School, Hong Kong: Next reunion for ex-pupils and staff will take place at Falcon Hotel, Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon on Aug 18-20.

Veterans' tribute to Rommel

IN a symbolic strengthening of their now long-standing reconciliation, Western Desert veterans from Britain, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India and Italy joined the last international meeting of the German Afrika Korps at Rommel Barracks, Dornstadt near Ulm in Germany.

Three sergeants from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, laid a wreath at the grave of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, where a solemn tribute was delivered in English and German by serving German tank officer Col Carsten Jacobson.

The British party included Earl Kitchener of Khartoum and Maj (Retd) Sam Bradshaw. An invitation to attend the Tobruk Sunday 60th anniversary reunion in Brisbane, Queensland, in April 2001 was issued by Bill Cousins, of 20 Valerie Street, Clontarf, Queensland 4019, Australia.

Arborfield Army Apprentices Intakes 50A and 50B: Reunion planned for Oct. Contact Clem Clements on 01604 712128.

Red Devils: Reunion 2000 to be held at Airfield Camp, Netheravon, on Nov 25 for former team members and people associated with the team. Details on 01980 678211 or write to Red Devils Reunion, Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Wilts SP4 9SF.

6 (B) Trg Regt, R Signals (1950): Ex-Boys are asked to contact Tony Hall (tel 01202 770261), Mike Teague (01670 366637) or Ray Toyne (01904 765137) regarding a reunion.

Christmas ban was enforced by soldiers

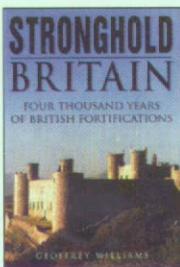
IN 1645, when Christmas was banned by the Puritans, patrolling soldiers sniffed-out the illegal



baking of mince pies. A century ago, despite the shadow cast by the serious reverses of "Black Week" in the second Boer War, Queen Victoria, the inspiration for many enduring Yuletide traditions, gave a tea party at Windsor for families of soldiers serving in South Africa. These two contrasting cameos are among those selected by Maria Hubert for **The Great British Christmas** (Sutton, £9.99), a literary compilation ranging over the past 2,000 years.

Forts, bunkers and pillboxes

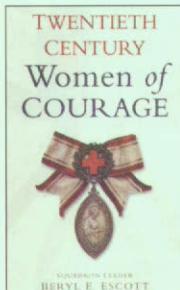
FOUR thousand years of history told through fortifications, from ancient hill defences, through medieval castles to more modern constructions such as Martello Towers, pillboxes and nuclear bunkers, is contained in the beautifully illustrated and well researched



Stronghold Britain by Geoffrey Williams (Sutton, £25). Packed with details of 95 sites, yet easy to read, the pages burst with maps, photographs and information about everything from building details in general to the history of individual locations. One for town and countryside walkers as well as historians.

Women who made the final sacrifice

OF 500 Special Operations Executive agents sent to France in the 1940s to aid the Resistance, 50 were women. Three



won the George Cross, two posthumously. Sqn Ldr Beryl E Escott tells their heroic stories and hundreds of others in **Twentieth Century Women of Courage** (Sutton, £19.99), the first single volume to include details of so many females from

Great Britain, the USA and the Commonwealth honoured for their bravery. Other chapter headings include Military Medal winners, Service women in general, Service nurses, and civilian organisations. An appendix lists names.

Bosnia 1995: the real story

By Paul Beaver, spokesman for *Jane's Defence* and chairman of the Independent Defence Media Association, London

REVIEWERS can often be boringly nitpicky about a publication on a subject in which they have a close personal interest but with Tim Ripley's new book on the Bosnia crisis in 1995, little criticism is necessary.

It reads well, covers the ground, unlike some distinguished and recently published autobiographies by famous politicians, and tells the real story.

Tim pulls no punches and reveals new truths about "the appalling Western political and military jigsaw that was Bosnia" in the mid-1990s. The words are those of Nik Gowing, who covered the war for Channel 4 News and who wrote the foreword.

For those of us who lived the Bosnian civil war vicariously, in a TV studio or actually on the streets of Sarajevo, the detail is exact. The truth behind the efforts to extract the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers in Gorazde or the problems faced by 19 Regiment, Royal Artillery on Mount Igman are there in staggering precision.

Also set out are the facts about 24 Airmobile Brigade's deployment delays and the run-up to the American attempts to bomb the Serbs "back to the Drina", all provided by the men on the spot.

Ripley has gone to considerable lengths to interview the players: he has no place for the



Gunners of 19 Regiment RA open fire from Mount Igman on the first day of Operation Deliberate Force

Picture: Land Command

Operation Deliberate Force: The UN and Nato Campaign in Bosnia 1995 by Tim Ripley. Published by the Centre for International Defence and Security Studies (CIDSS), Lancaster University, paperback, £14.99.

second-hand story bought in a bar for a few beers.

That's why there is so much good commentary from high-powered interviewees such as former Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, former Defence Secretary Michael Portillo, and Fd Marshals Inge and Vincent. The broad brush which they bring to bear is enhanced by those at the sharp end of Bosnia like Gen Sir Rupert Smith and Lt Col Jonathan Riley.

For anyone about to go on a Bosnia tour with SFOR, the sections on the Croat and Bosnian offensives must be essential reading. So, too, must the background to the

Win the book

WE HAVE three copies of Tim Ripley's *Operation Deliberate Force* to give away as prizes in a competition. Answer the following question:

Who was the first British overall commander of UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

Send your answers on a postcard, giving your own name and address, to *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, to arrive no later than December 24, 1999. First three correct entries drawn after the competition will win a copy of the book. Usual competition rules apply.

warring faction forces, how they have changed and who supplied them. The covert US military actions in support of the Bosnian-Muslim forces are recounted in greater detail than ever before.

Backing the text are good-quality pictures, many taken by the author, maps of the key actions, and detailed appendices and indices. Indeed, if there is a criticism, it is that the book is too full of information.

Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free professional military booksearch. Allow 28 days. Postal address: Helion & Com-

pany, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, UK (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315). E-mail address: books@helion.co.uk Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>



Kingdom keeper: The distinctive baton, designed by the Prince Regent in the 19th century, is topped with a golden St George killing his dragon and has the Field Marshal's name inscribed on its base

FEW creative works deserve to be described as "totally absorbing" or "visually stunning" but *Keepers of the Kingdom: The Ancient Offices of Britain*, from which this intriguing illustration is taken, is both.

Theme of this coffee-table book *par excellence* is the depiction of more than 100 ancient (and a few modern) titles of authority with an explanation and history of the role and a photograph of the appropriate incumbent, suitably attired, at some time in the past four or five years.

Gloriously photographed by Julian Calder and Mark Cator are, for examples, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Adjutant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the Major General Commanding Household Division, the Queen's Swan Marker, the Gentleman

One you will want to keep

Usher of the Black Rod, the Governor of the Royal Hospital, a Woodman of the Ancient Forest of Arden, and the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union (one of the few not wearing a uniform or carrying a symbol of office).

The writer-broadcaster and documentary-maker Alastair Bruce - himself rejoices in the title Fitzalan Pursuivant of Arms Extraordinary to the College of Arms.

Our selected illustration,

designed to depict the exercise of a historic office rather than modern-day reality, shows Field Marshal Lord Bramall "directing troops in the field" - in this case an officer and soldiers of The Royal Green Jackets.

The book is published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. Even if you cannot afford £25 to buy a copy, beg or borrow one. Do not steal it - you may find yourself at the mercy or under the jurisdiction of one of the Keepers of the Kingdom. - CH

How Caterham helped Terry Waite

TERRY Waite tells in a new book that his time at the Guards Depot, Caterham, helped him survive nearly five years of solitary confinement in Beirut almost 40 years later.

"During the first weeks of captivity when I still had my own clothes, I folded my trousers at night and placed them under my mattress on the floor," he writes.

"I asked my captors for shoe polish. They thought I was mad but I know, thanks to Caterham, that it was essential to keep my self-respect."

When he was finally released he was taken

to Syrian Intelligence Headquarters. 'What would you like?' inquired an official. 'A haircut?' I replied.'

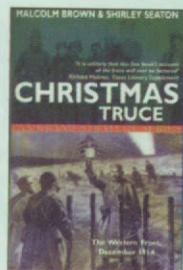
Other big names such as David Stirling and John Kenneally VC also figure, but this entertaining and moving 300-page paperback consists mainly of the recollections of unsung squaddies.

Guards charities will profit from sales of the book, which is available at £9 plus £4.50 p&p from John Tilbury (tel 01737 552822), Geoff Hare (01883 342433) or Ron Melvin (01883 723586).

What upsets us about medals - more book reviews on next page

For some, war was a game of two halves

IN PEACE, football divides; in war, it unites. As in the Boer War and on the Western Front, soccer featured in a break in the Biafran war in 1969 during a visit by Pelé's team, Santos. Front-line troops from both sides went off to watch the match, while those on duty listened to it on the radio. And most would agree with Malcolm Brown and Shirley Seaton in the re-published *Christmas Truce* (Pan paperback, £7.99), that December 25, 1914 produced "perhaps the best and most heartening Christmas story of modern times".



Crisp analysis of a crucial month

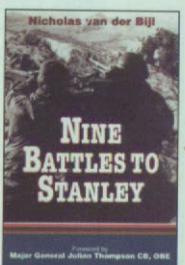
STUDENTS of the Second World War will relish a fresh, crisp analysis of a crucial phase of the conflict by former Sandhurst historian H P Wilmott. *June 1944* (Grub Street, paperback, £7.99) concentrates on the fronts in France, Italy, Eastern Europe and the Pacific during those 30 eventful days, which, he argues, catapulted the United States to the superpower status it has built on and guarded jealously ever since. The clear, direct text is illustrated with photographs, maps and orders of battle.



Falklands battle expertly recounted

NICHOLAS van der Bijl was well placed to produce a detailed account of the land battles of the Falklands in 1982 and has taken the opportunity well with his thoroughly researched and no-holds-barred analysis,

Nine Battles to Stanley (Leo Cooper, £19.95). Maj Gen Julian Thompson RM, who commanded 3rd Commando Brigade in the conflict, tells us in his foreword that the author (though aided by a talented team) was the sole Intelligence Corps representative on his staff. After 17 years, the almost minute-by-minute narrative will still fascinate veterans and historians alike.



D-Day for Hertfordshire Yeomanry

Storming ashore: Sexton self-propelled 25-pdrs of A Troop, 341 Field Battery land and deploy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. This water-colour is one of a number painted by Joan Wanklyn especially for *The Hertfordshire Yeomanry Regiments, Royal Artillery – Part 1: The Field Regiments 1920-1946* by Lt Col J D Sainsbury. The lavishly-illustrated glossy A4 paperback is published by the Hertfordshire Yeomanry and Artillery Historical Trust and available at £22.50 inclusive from Hart Books, 2 New Place, Welwyn, AL6 9QA.



What upsets us about medals

ANSWERING more than 1,000 letters in three years about medals on behalf of the Royal British Legion has confirmed Lt Col (Retd) Ashley Tinson's long-held view that there is a tremendous ignorance on this topic among the public.

"Also, it is an illogical subject much influenced by subjective emotions, ignorance and lack of imagination, often by those in high places," he writes.

'Medals Will Be Worn' by Lt Col (Retd) Ashley Tinson (Token Publishing, 1 Orchard House, Duchy Road, Heathpark, Honiton, Devon EX14 8YD, £19.95 plus £1.50 p&p).

The archives of this magazine support his view that "those who are denied a medal, and those who feel that one should be created to meet their particular circumstances, are often incensed by lack of response".

He cites three main areas of

dissatisfaction for which he has great sympathy. "One relates to National Service; one concerns the lack of a medal for those in the Canal Zone in Egypt before we pulled out; the last refers to the rules for foreign awards. This last is particularly pertinent as more people are employed in other European countries and our Armed Forces act alongside other Nato and United Nations forces."

Most of this information-

packed book deals with the history and current regulations concerning the British system of wearing orders, decorations and medals and the author points out anomalies and deficiencies in the published instructions.

Lt Col Tinson makes ten recommendations on the issuing and wearing of medals, only one of which (for the Canal Zone) would incur a cost. Those with influence are urged to take note. – CH

IN BRIEF

An Unorthodox Soldier by Lt Col Tim Spicer. Autobiography of the former commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, whose capture at gunpoint in Papua New Guinea while leading his secretive military company was splashed across the world's front pages. The waves whipped up by Sandline International's part in supplying weapons to Sierra Leone's government-in-exile reached the heart of British politics and became known as the "Arms for Africa" affair. (Mainstream Publishing, hardback, £15.99.)

Military Mavericks by David Rooney. The story of 12 "Extraordinary Men of Battle", among them Alexander the Great, Shaka Zulu, Stonewall Jackson, Garibaldi, Lawrence of Arabia, Heinz Guderian, Vinegar Joe Stilwell, George S Patton, Orde Wingate and Otto Skorzeny. (Cassell Military, hardback, £19.99.)

Small Arms by D F Allsop and M A Toomey. Application, design and methods of operation of small arms from Brassey's New Battlefield Weapons Systems and Technology Series "Into the 21st Century". (Brassey's, £35.)

A Cameron Never Can Yield by Gregor Macdonald. Account of a Cameron Highlander's escape from Germany to Gibraltar, published by the Regimental Association and available in softback from Regimental Museum Shop, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, Cameron Barracks, Inverness IV2 3XD, £9 incl p&p.

Britain Under Fire by Charles Whiting. Britain's city populations found themselves in the front line from 1940 to 1945 as the Nazis attempted to bomb the country into submission. This book contains first-hand accounts and a wealth of illustrations. (Pen & Sword Books, softback, £12.95.)

Discovering British Regimental Traditions by Ian F W Beckett. Mass of detailed information charting the history of the British Army through its regimental traditions. Why does the Royal Artillery carry no Colours? Why do the Devon and Dorsets celebrate Sarah Sands Day? You'll find the answers here. (Shire Publications, softback, £7.99.)

The Hazy Red Hell compiled by Tom Donovan. Fifty gripping personal accounts of combat experiences on the Western Front during the First World War. (Spellmount, hardback, £19.95.)

In Obedience to Instructions by Margaret Pawley. Story of the women of the FANY – First Aid Nursing Yeomanry – who served under cover with the SOE in the Mediterranean during the Second World War. (Pen & Sword, hardback, £19.95.)

Marching to the Drums edited by Ian Knight. The sub-title, "Eyewitness accounts of war from the Kabul massacre to the siege of Mafikeng", says it all. (Greenhill Books, hardback, £17.99.)

Road to Berlin by George Forty. Pictorial record of the Allied drive out of Normandy from June 1944 to May 1945 with text by prolific writer on tanks and armour. (Casell Military, hardback, £25.)

Great Battles of the Great War, with text by Michael Stedman and photographs by Ed Skelding. Companion volume to the major ITV series. (Pen & Sword, hardback, £16.95.)

Reissued are **Poets of the Great War** by Tonie and Valmai Holt (Pen & Sword Books, softback, £12.95) and **A Crown of Life: The World of John McCrae** by Dianne Graves (Spellmount, hardback, £19.95.)

This moving experience doesn't work for singles

I AM writing to you reference your prize letter (Moving appeal by SSgt Heather McNair of 30 Signal Regiment, Oct). I am due a posting to Germany on January 4 and, like thousands of other single soldiers, I have my own furniture.

I read the reply you gave to SSgt McNair and contacted my pay office immediately to confirm that I could hire a self-drive vehicle. I was told this was for the United Kingdom only.

The information you printed is incorrect. Of course, many single soldiers all over the world have read it and are now bombarding their pay offices with queries, only to be told: "Tough luck, you have to pay for your own removals."

I have eight years' service and cannot believe the way that single soldiers are treated. I am not asking for disturbance allowance, although it would be nice (to cover the cost of hiring a van). The disturbance allowance married soldiers receive is a ridiculous amount: the higher rate is more than £1,000. And before married



soldiers start writing in to say they need the full amount, I know they don't as I have also been married and moved quarters.

Again, the married personnel make a profit from a posting and we singles have to pay out of our own pockets. We are nearly in the year 2000 and it is about time the Army treated single soldiers like adults, not children. — **Cpl Steph Pender, HQ DAAvn, Middle Wallop, Hampshire.**

● Soldier has received the following official response to Cpl Pender's letter:

The current regulations on both of these issues are complicated and, in the first instance, advice should be sought from Unit Administrative Offices before committing individual resources. In the order that they are raised, the issues are:

Self-Help Scheme — This is currently available to single soldiers within the United Kingdom only. They may hire a van to move their effects and claim expenses for the move at public expense in line with their rank-based entitlement. The amount that may be claimed is currently £23.39 per cubic metre. A number of soldiers may utilise the transport and claim collective rates accordingly.

Unaccompanied Baggage (UB) — Single soldiers' entitlements vary, depending on whether they are home-owners (that is, pay a mortgage on the property they own) or householders (pay rent), or live in publicly-funded

accommodation. The UB allowance varies, for example, a staff sergeant or sergeant is allowed 3.6 cubic metres of weight and a private 2.85 cubic metres or 512kg.

Disturbance Allowance (DA) — Contrary to what is implied, single soldiers are entitled to disturbance allowance if they meet the following criteria: they have completed more than three years' full paid service; they are Marital Status (MARISTAT) 3, 4 or 5 and move from non-publicly-funded accommodation or their own property.

These criteria are not exhaustive and there can be entitlement in certain other circumstances so it is always worth checking with regimental admin staff.

Soldier has been told that the Directorate of Personal Services (Army) is well aware of discrepancies between the allowances available for single soldiers within the UK and overseas and these issues, and their funding, is being assessed. — **Editor**

Unconvinced by tax argument

I AM writing with regard to the article "You're better off paying tax on ops" (Nov). What was the result of the feasibility study into non-payment of income tax by UK Service personnel during operational deployments? DPS(A) did not seem to answer that in full.

The British soldier only receives better pay during non-deployed periods (which are becoming few and far between) in comparison with US soldiers. The British soldier has better pay prospects over his

22 years' service, but when US Service personnel can serve until the age of 55, that argument is cancelled out.

Many Service personnel already complete tax returns because they have to let their homes in the UK. Non-payment of taxes on operations continues to sound attractive. All the article does is to show why the Army is encountering retention and recruitment problems. I've done six tours in nine years and count myself lucky. — **Sgt Iain Herron, SHAPE**

PS...

Swearing: four...

CRITICS of the swearing by instructors in the BBC's *Soldiers To Be* series ignore the end result produced by Army Training Regiment NCOs, namely soldiers who become part of the most professional army in the world. I, like other NCOs who wouldn't touch their job with a barge pole, am on their side. If I am unlucky enough to be sent to war I hope it is alongside NCOs from the ATRs. — **Cpl J Dowle, RAMC, 3 (UK) Div HQ and Signal Regt, Bulford.**

... letters ...

I CAN'T agree with criticisms made in *Soldier* (Oct) of the "gutter language" used in the *Soldiers To Be* series. The majority of Army recruits come from working class backgrounds where this sort of language is well understood. But if a TV documentary were made of training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst one would not expect the use of vulgar language in the presence of well-educated young men and women aspiring to become officers. — **WO2 Steve Brown, E Yorks.**

... in support ...

WHY can't women be shouted and sworn at like men for messing up on drill or having dirty lockers on inspections? Being put under pressure aids teamwork. I don't think many people were put off by the programme. — **Spr R D Shovlar, MGBD, Bosnia.**

... of instructors

IN my view the programme *Soldiers To Be* was not an aid to recruitment; it was a fly-on-the-wall documentary and therefore should be seen as entertainment for the TV-viewing public. If Mr Wareing (Oct) — and J R Bowen, J R Lee and Jack Foster — think female recruits don't use the same language as males then they must think all girls are "made from sugar and spice and all things nice". They aren't. — **Jon Moore, 38 Engr Regt, Op Agricola.**

Naval eventers

YOUR report (Sport, Nov) on the international equestrian event at Sandhurst stated that a member of the Royal Navy was included in our team for the first time since the event was introduced in 1976. This is not the case. The initial event was at the RAVC Training Centre (now the Defence Animal Centre), Melton Mowbray, where I was equitation officer of the Army School of Equitation. At that time we were required to include at least one representative from each of the three Services.

I see from the programme which I still have that the team which won comprised Lt Cdr Goodwin RN, Capt M Wallace RA, SCM C Varley LG and Fit Lt J Hamer RAF. — **Maj (Retd) R A Hill, Melton Mowbray, Leics.**

How about free calls for those serving in the Falkland Islands? More of your letters in Pages 76 and 77

In 535 days, I've spent 75 with family

WO2 J P Bright was disgusted by Capt Timer's comments "belittling the TA" (Aug), or so he says in the November issue. Perhaps he should have reflected more before jumping in at the deep end and aggravating many a Regular soldier here in Bosnia.

He mentions leave dates allocated to Regular soldiers. Unfortunately, individual listings, such as seven days at Easter, five bank holidays, Christmas and so-called long weekends all come out of the six-week entitlement – not in addition to it.

The 14 days for adventurous training are an entitlement which not every soldier gets, for one reason or another. It's the same for sports afternoons. The last one I had was on a Sunday – one of my 26 weekends off!

Over the past 535 days, 150 have been spent on leave, 12 of which were R and R and five on adventurous training. The remaining 380 have been spent on operations, exercises or training for both. I'm currently on Op Palatine and I've seen my loved ones for a total of 75 days (less travelling) and haven't had a holiday in three years.

WO2 Bright would be better spending his time promoting both the TA and Regular soldier. – Sgt Wood, KRH, LAD REME, HCR Battle-group, Op Palatine.

No shortage of magazines

MY newsagent says he cannot supply me with *Soldier* due to the war in Kosovo, which I find hard to understand, having bought the magazine since 1958 and through all the wars since.

I would be most grateful if you would let me know the answer and when I can expect to be able to purchase *Soldier* again. – Roy Oldfield, Spalding, Lincs.

• You have been misinformed, Mr Oldfield. Crises such as Kosovo do not affect the availability of *Soldier*. If anything, interest in the magazine rises during periods of increased operational activity, so we make sure enough are printed to satisfy demand.

Last month our print run was increased to 82,000 copies and although most of these go to the Army worldwide, there are more than enough available for civilian purchasers such as yourself. There is no reason why your newsagent should have difficulty obtaining copies from a wholesaler.

If you or any other reader still has difficulty getting hold of the magazine, please telephone us on 01252 347353 (or, if you are serving, Ald Mil 2353). – Editor

How about free calls from the Falklands?

THE Secretary of State for Defence recently announced an increase in the free phone time allotted to Service personnel on operational tours. When a soldier is posted to the Falkland Islands the reason for posting is stated as operational, even though no entitlement to free phone time exists.

As with most deployments, we rely on phonecards (Cable and Wireless have a monopoly on the islands) and to call the UK is extremely costly, which can be particularly hard on junior NCOs. We realise the cost of satellite communications may be expensive. However, with two Tristars a week at most carrying mail, contact with home can be sporadic.

It must be stressed that we are not detracting from the excellent job our forces are doing in other theatres of operations. However, we are 8,000 miles away from home and cannot return to the UK for R and R. Occasionally a Tristar may be days late.

The newspapers we receive are out of date and, unlike most other theatres, we do not have the luxury of CSE shows or multi-channel satellite TV (although we would like to thank BFBS for its sterling work in producing local TV and radio channels). It appears to those of us serving in this "backwater tour" that an out-

of-the-headlines-out-of-mind policy is in place. Surely this is not an impression the Government would wish to foster among any group of its Armed Forces, let alone one on an operational tour.

Prize letter

In seems an unfair extra burden on personnel on the furthest-flung tour, with all the attendant problems of communications, to suffer the high cost of telephone calls when those in other operational areas are being subsidised by the Government we all serve. Please find out the official reason for this, and if there are any plans to change things in the near future. – SSgt Loftus, Sgt Gayler, Cpl Arnold, Optronics Section, AC Support Flight, Falkland Islands.

• It is not what you will want to hear, but Soldier has learned that provision of publicly-funded telephone time for Service personnel on eligible operations is governed by Treasury guidelines aimed at those who are on **expeditionary operations**. Service in the Falklands does not meet the guidelines for the provision of that allowance. We have been told that Servicemen and women in the Falklands have not been forgotten and that the Local Overseas Allowance (LOA) they receive includes an element for telephone calls in a place which, in most other ways, is cheaper to live in than the UK. – Editor

Paras' red beret means nothing without wings

MAY I agree and disagree with Spr Hart (Nov) As an ex-Para, 1950s vintage, I agree with him that the red beret seems to be too freely dispensed. However, it was ever thus. Any troops attached to the Parachute Brigade wore the red beret.

I would point out that the red beret has significance only to ex-Paras like me as it is the way we show the public who we are when on parade.

I would also point out that the red beret is not subject to completion of P Company. New recruits are allowed to wear it half-way through their training.

P Company is the prelude to obtaining the coveted wings and while all Paras are rightly proud to wear the red beret, only when it is worn with the wings is it meaningful.

I would be very self-conscious about wearing the red beret without having

passed P Company. I was a penguin until I passed. I wonder if any non-winged red beret wearers have any thoughts about having to wear them without wings. – A F Ridgewell (ex-No 1 Guards Ind Para Coy, Parachute Regt), Bath.

Suez paves way

THE current plethora of medals being doled out for service in the Balkan States could be attributable to the Suez Emergency Medal campaign. Although we still have not got that elusive gong, it appears that the vetting authorities have been so softened up by our sustained questions and arguments they now readily accede to any commander's request for operational acknowledgement. Our efforts have not been in vain. – Suezvet (name and address supplied).

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, Officer and sergeant Dec 1949 of the WRAC in the long-awaited new bottle-green No 1 Dress, walking-out version. Both services will wear rayon stockings in "nocturn". The peaked cap is not exclusive to officers. Models are Junior-Commander Pamela Partridge (as senior commander with braided cap) and Sergeant Alexis Wright.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, Among the first Dec 1974 rescuers to fly into the devastated country of Honduras following Hurricane Fifi were Belize-based soldiers of C Coy, 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry. Supported by Royal Engineers, Army Air Corps and Royal Army Medical Corps personnel, they were airlifted by the RAF into San Pedro Sula.

PS . . .

Wrong Dragoons

YOUR report on the Prince of Wales's visit to Kosovo (Oct) said he visited the Royal Dragoon Guards. I am serving with 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, whose battle-group is based around Podujevo. The Prince met members of our regiment in Kosovo, not the RDG. Apart from that slip-up, *Soldier* is always a good read and allows us, who are sometimes tunneled into what our own regiments are doing, to see what is happening around the world. – Cpl S R Cunningham, A Sqn, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Kosovo.

• *Apologies to the QDG.* – *Editor.*

English in Scotland

YOU state (Oct) that 1 LI is the first English regiment to guard Edinburgh Castle. Not so, 1 Cheshire furnished the Edinburgh Castle guard for three months in the spring of 1999, following a two-year tour of public duties in London. – J P S Donnelly, 2iC, 1 Cheshire.

• As the article made clear, other English regiments, including The Parachute Regiment, have guarded the castle for short periods. What is unique about the Light Infantry in Edinburgh is that it is the first resident tour by an English regiment tasked with guarding the castle. – *Editor*

French PAYD is just the ticket

I NOTE from the November issue that Pay-As-You-Dine (PAYD) continues to be an issue.

I was attached to the French Army in 1970 and remember well their very successful system for PAYD. At the end of each month you paraded at the pay office to be issued with a book of meal tickets for the following month, for which your pay account was debited automatically.

Each book comprised a separate ticket for breakfast, lunch and dinner for each day. At each meal, even if in another unit, you handed over the relevant ticket for the meal. If you did not wish to attend a meal you went to the pay office the day before to have the relevant ticket cancelled. This prevented anyone having all their breakfast tickets cancelled at the beginning of the month.

At the end of the month, when you

paraded for the following month's tickets, you handed in your previous book and your pay account was credited with any cancelled tickets remaining. No credit was given for uncancelled tickets.

Although such a ticket system appears cumbersome in today's electronic age, it cannot be beyond the wit of man to introduce a magnetic card reader system to replace the booklets of tickets.

Finally, because all transactions are conducted through the soldier's pay account and all credits for meals not taken must be validated at the pay office the previous day, there is little or no danger of even the most hardened drinker being able to convert his/her meal tickets into alcohol. – Maj (Retd) P J Myatt, Regimental Administrative Officer, Training Regiment and Depot RLC, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey.

Mail us!

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Pegasus was in use

LT Gen Sir Mike Jackson is quoted (Sept) as saying: "The [Pegasus] badge had been worn by members of the 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions in the Second World War, but the convention fell into disuse after 1945." I and other members of my association remember, and have photos to prove it, wearing the badge in 1946 and through to 1967. – S McCarthy (Chichester Branch, Para Regt Assoc), Chichester.

Budgie brigade

THANK you for an excellent article (Oct) covering the insignia to be worn by 16 Air Assault Brigade, especially the DZ flashes. Surely it cannot have been necessary to dump the Pegasus with its half-century of British airborne history for a device which looks like the blazer-badge worn by a problem secondary school undergoing a makeover. I am informed that soldiers have christened it "The Budgie". – John Gaylor, Bromley, Kent.

Homosexual ruling

SOLDIERS will never accept homosexual activity within their barrack blocks and commanders, who mostly live out in married quarters, must keep an eye on this. The new ruling on homosexuals could provoke soldiers into taking the law into their own hands. This would not be good for morale and may even put off potential recruits from joining the forces. – Maj (Retd) R S Goodwin, Chester.

Vox Pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Do you agree with compulsory drug testing?

Compulsory drug testing has been with us for five years (see Pages 4-5) and tens of thousands of soldiers have had to go through the process. As a CDT team set up shop at RAF Brize Norton for another unannounced sampling session, we asked ten waiting soldiers what they thought of the process.

Gnr James Lawrence, RA

It can be a bit annoying when it's sprung on you while you are waiting to get on a flight, like today. The worst part is trying to go to the toilet when you have just been. And it's a bit intimidating to have someone standing there with a cup waiting for you. I'm sitting here drinking half a litre of water every half hour, hoping I can produce something for them.



Sgt Howard Robinson, REME



I've been CDT'd myself and I think it's a very good idea. If anything it should be spread more widely through the Armed Forces. People know where they stand and if they do wrong they know they are going to get caught.

Pte James Avent, RLC

I have nothing to worry about so it doesn't bother me. I think they do it well. I've gone through CDT four or five times and it is a bit of a pain, but it is needed to weed out the people who shouldn't be in the Army.



COMING SOON

Our man dared to go freefalling with the Red Devils, an experience he describes as "sensory overload". He reckons it was out of this world



Cpl John Bell, RLC

It's a good idea. I've been tested quite a few times. It's a bit of a hassle waiting in camp all day long for a test, but otherwise it's fine. It stops people taking drugs and gets the idiots out of the Army.



Cpl Alan Wansboro, AGC

We are all subject to this and I don't think it infringes our rights. It is very time consuming, though, and we are all penned into one area. But, at the end of the day, it is for a good reason. I think they should also subject civilians who work with the Army to CDT.



Cpl Steve Martin, REME

It's a good thing, but I know of people, who are now out of the Army who had taken drugs but were not picked up by CDT. They obviously don't test 100 per cent of the samples they take. If they are going to do it, they should do it right.



Capt Ellie Williams, RAMC

I consider it to be a good thing. Those who have nothing to hide shouldn't be worried about it. Obviously I want to work with

people who are safe, particularly as I'm a pharmacist. You could consider it intrusive, but that's the price you pay for ensuring a safe environment.

Cpl Dezy Walker, RLC

It's good. The last thing you want to be doing is staggering on with someone who's stoned out of his head. But I don't agree with assuming someone is instantly guilty if he refuses to take the test, because obviously you are under pressure and it's not the nicest thing to do.

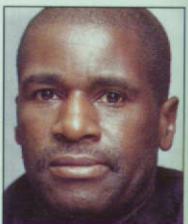


Sgt Sharon Molyneux, AGC

It's quite straightforward and it is a disincentive to take drugs. Most people know that it takes quite a while for drugs to get through the system, so it is really not worth the risk. I haven't come across many people who have done drugs, but it definitely deterred the people I know who did.

Sgt George Henry, R Signals

I haven't come across drugs at all in the Army but I would imagine it could be a problem. My unit was tested three times in 12 months and it is a bit inconvenient. It can take all day and sometimes they run out of time, so not everyone gets done. I feel they might be missing a few people.



Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Mike Weston



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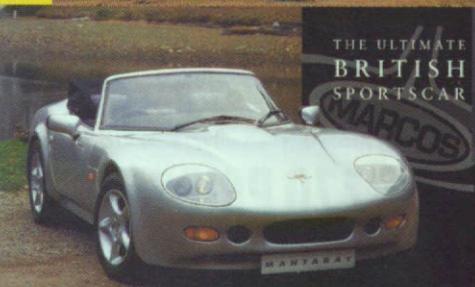
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