

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

Papal guard

Army leads security in Banja Luka

Black day at Al Majarr al Kabir



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Cover picture

Hldr Jamie Slaven of 5 Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, The Highlanders on a security patrol near the hospital in Banja Luka, Bosnia. His patrol formed part of the major security operation put in place for the visit of Pope John Paul II to the town to hold an open-air mass (story and more pictures in Pages 22-23).

Picture: Steve Dock



"Sir, they're trying it on again... this time it's someone decked up as the Pope!" – See Pages 22-23

Bisley report

Gurkha wins Queen's Medal after finishing three times as runner-up. Report and pictures in Page 15



In this issue

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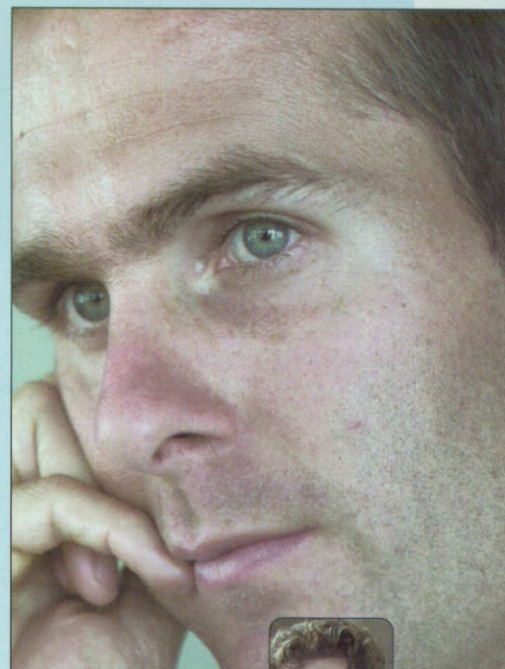
The world's best batsman has a message for British troops in Iraq: "... keep going for it and hopefully you'll be home soon."

"Our soldiers are a lot more important than my cricket team."

Michael Vaughan, captain of England's one-day international team and a prolific opening batsman in the Test side, joins other sporting champions to give his support to our soldiers serving abroad.

Gary Lineker, Rodney Marsh, Sir Henry Cooper and Ricky "Hitman" Hatton are some of the others who told us how much they admire what the Army is doing.

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Sapper who turned artist – Page 39

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Apache in Formula One pit lane

World of motor racing shows Army aviators how to slash refuelling and rearming times

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Steve Dock

APACHE can be back in the air over the battlefield in half the time, thanks to Formula One.

Army aviators have taken a leaf out of F1's book on how to fill a fuel tank in the least possible time. The techniques have been extended to rearming the Army Air Corps' most potent weapon, cutting from 40 to 20 minutes the time it takes to get the aircraft back in action.

The unusual partnership was revealed at a media event at Silverstone as the Formula One circus gathered on the Northamptonshire circuit for the 2003 British Grand Prix.

For the past ten months the corps has been involved in an unprecedented joint initiative with the F1 community to improve the operational efficiency of the British Army's new fleet of WAH-64 Apache helicopters.

With fast turn-round times critical for the attack aircraft, allowing it to spend as long as possible over the battlefield, Brig Richard Folkes, Director Army Aviation, decided to investigate if the lightning-fast techniques used in F1 pitstops to refuel Michael Schumacher and company could be applied to Apache.

Consultant engineer Nick Wirth called on the School of Army Aviation at Middle Wallop in Hampshire to watch ground crews in action, and Army personnel visited F1 events to observe pitstop procedures during races. The result was a series of relatively minor changes which, when put together, slashed by half the time it took to refuel and rearm an Apache.

F1 technicians also provided the Army's aviators with valuable insights into state-of-the-art lightweight safety clothing, such as flash hoods, gloves, suits and face masks – all of great interest to Apache ground crews.

With the help of F1's experts, whose attention to detail can shave race-winning split-seconds off the length of a pitstop, AAC ground crews devised a series of new routines based on:

- Detailed preparation and layout of

equipment, similar to that used by F1 pit crews;

- Bonding leads being connected to refuelling hoses before the aircraft arrives;

- Improved communications, achieved by adapting pit-crew hand signals to supplement radio comms (so in the event of radio failure they can still "talk");

- Changes to sequences of refuelling and rearming.

The first unit to train on Apache at Middle Wallop will be 656 Squadron. It is due to start next month.

"When we started rearming and refuelling Apache it was taking us about 40 minutes," said Brig Folkes. "Our field tempo was slowing down as a result, so we put a lot of effort into seeing how quickly we could conduct the process and what procedures were required to speed things up."

"With F1 having a very similar operation, I thought there must be some relevance in the techniques and science behind what pit crews do, which we might apply to Apache."

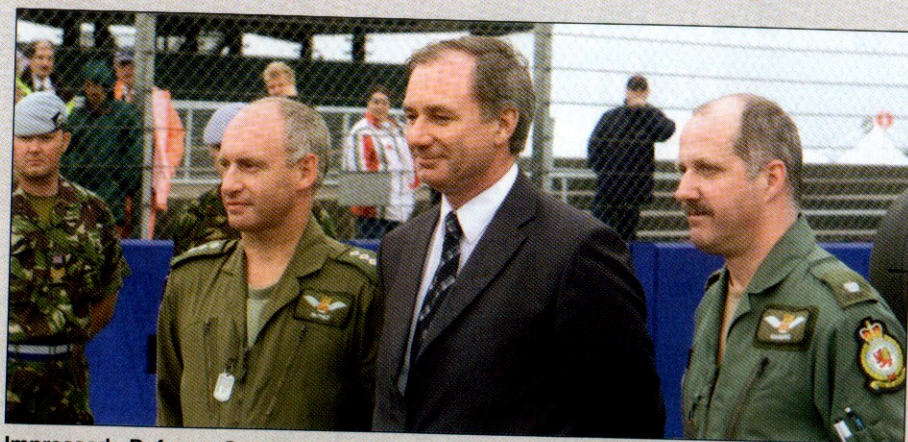
"The result of this is, along with other work we have been doing, we have now managed to cut the time it takes to rearm and refuel Apache. The best we have ever done it is around 18 minutes, but the normal time is around about 20 minutes."

"We have to do it at night in black-out conditions and many F1 procedures help with that. Little tidbits save half-a-minute



Potent forces: Apache meets the Jaguar Cosworth racing car during a facility at Silverstone to acknowledge Formula One's role in speeding up the aircraft's refuelling and rearming turn-round time

here and there and mount up. The upshot is that our relationship with F1 has been very successful and helped us to reduce the time it takes to prepare Apache."



Impressed: Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon watches the media facility at Silverstone, flanked by Apache weapons operator Capt Bill McPhee, left, and pilot Maj Mick Manning

'It's evolution gone mad'

NICK Wirth, a consultant engineer with the FIA, the governing body of international motor sport, praised the professionalism of the Army Air Corps soldiers he worked with.

"They were fantastic and made me very welcome. The guys I worked with were so professional," he said.

Nick, who had his own team in F1 during the mid-90s and was chief designer for Benetton, now Renault, from 1997 to 1999 said: "Because of the



Winning formula: Nick Wirth

battlefield nature of F1, and the fact that changing tyres and refuelling is such a key factor in winning a race, the sport has been like evolution gone mad. We have managed to evolve, over a short period of years, methods to communicate and procedures to save those all-important seconds.

"Although the procedures the Army had come up with themselves were excellent, it seemed obvious to me that, having lived in the world of F1,

there were a number of tiny changes that could be implemented.

"Essentially the idea is exactly the same. You have groups of people who need to get a series of operations done, with as few people as possible, in the shortest time possible."

"The great danger is that one of those procedures may not be finished when everything else is finished. In F1 if that happens then someone could be embarrassed and have a wheel pop off, but if something goes wrong like that with Apache then the results are a lot more serious. In F1, we have learned to put people in positions where it is very difficult to make mistakes."



The Army's Basic Skills Support Programme

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and calculating the
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HR/ADMIN & FINANCE
SPECIALIST
FURTHER EDUCATION

Numbers Selected. The number
• Any increases or decrease
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• The number of p

Dear Sarah,

Coming home
by the station close
Had a great
many new locals
and I'm looking
Anni and Sam
Please co

Praise for Telic forces in first report

THE performance of the 46,000 UK Servicemen and women who fought in Iraq is praised in the first MoD report on military operations.

The study, *Operations in Iraq: First Reflections*, states that the operation as a whole was an "overwhelming success". It also reveals a number of inadequacies, particularly regarding supplies and equip-

ment. Defence Secretary, Geoff Hoon said: "This initial report provides an authoritative account of the campaign and the contribution which has been made by the UK's armed forces.

"It also reflects on the early conclusions which we can draw from the combat operations and their implications for future defence policy. Within the MoD, a thor-

ough examination is under way into all elements of operations in Iraq. Detailed analysis will take some months to complete. The reflections in this report are therefore inevitably broad and of a provisional nature. We hope to publish a full report before the end of the year." Go to www.mod.uk/publications/iraq_lessons/index.html for a copy of the report.

Fresh troops in Basra hot seat

TROOPS and units of 19 Mechanized Brigade settled quickly to the frantic pace of operations in Basra province after taking over from 7 Armoured Brigade in Iraq.

"The reception we received from local people was very friendly; most were relieved to see new troops arrive to continue the Army's commitment," said 19 Bde spokesman Maj Ian Poole.

Capt Mark Moutarde, adjutant of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment said: "We met hundreds of local people on our first few days on patrol and only a couple were at all hostile."

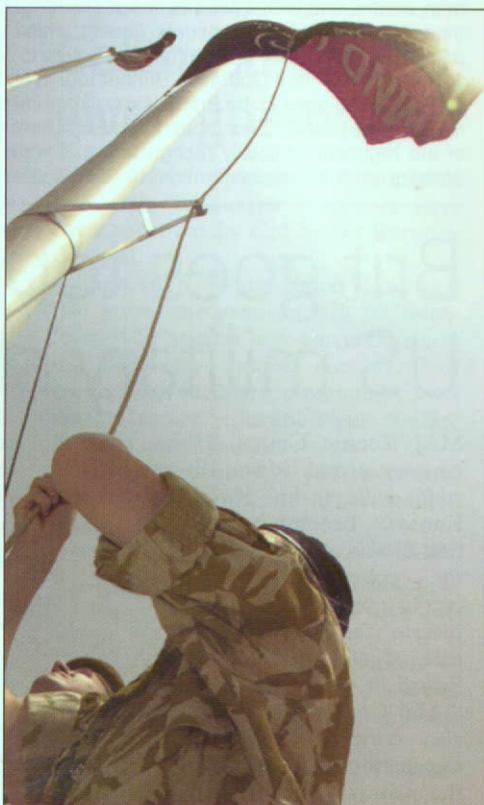
The brigade's priority is to provide a security framework and to help with reconstruction and humanitarian tasks when possible. But security and stabilisation will remain the Army's core business.

"The situation in Basra remains broadly stable, but it's fair to say certain elements are seeking to take advantage of this period of transition," said Maj Poole. "Force protection measures are constantly under review, with soldiers routinely patrolling in body armour."

Stamping out lawlessness is high on 19 Brigade's agenda and soldiers enjoyed successes in their first weeks in southern Iraq.

Acting on a tip-off, 40th Regiment RA gunners arrested three men suspected of dealing in drugs, found forged equipment and cannabis resin, and seized 33 million dinar and US\$11,000 in a raid in Khor Az Zubayr.

● Maj Gen Peter Wall handed over command to Maj Gen Graham Lamb last month as 3 (UK) Division relieved 1 (UK) Division as the British force headquarters in Iraq. Gen Lamb's 3 Div forms the HQ of the new Multi-National Division (South-East) with UK, Italian, Norwegian, Danish, Dutch, Czech and New Zealand troops under command.



All change: The flag of the new Multi-National Division (SE) is raised at the Basra HQ.

The suspects were handed to Iraqi police.

A search operation by 1 QLR centred on the Old Basra market area turned up 35 grenades, 30 home-made explosive devices, five machine-guns, several bayonets and a bag of stolen and illegal drugs.

In a separate operation, soldiers from 1 Kings arrested 46 suspects and seized arms in the north-west of Basra. The early-morning swoop uncovered 28 AK-47 rifles, 66 magazines, four sniper rifles, medium and heavy machine-guns, three rocket-propelled grenade launchers with eight warheads, pistols and ammunition.

● Op Telic stories – Pages 17-19

New royal colonel for regiments

THE Queen has appointed new royal colonels to 11 regiments and military units, some of which had the late Queen Mother and Princess Margaret as their Colonels-in-Chief. They are:

Prince of Wales – 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards; The King's Regiment; The Black Watch.

Duke of York – The Royal Highland Fusiliers; 9th/12th Royal Lancers; Small Arms School Corps.

Earl of Wessex – The Royal Wessex Yeomanry.

Countess of Wessex: Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

Princess Royal – The Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

Duke of Gloucester – The Royal Army Medical Corps.

King Abdullah of Jordan: The Light Dragoons.

Senior appointments: Maj Gen F R Viggers, Deputy Commanding General, Joint Task Force 7 and Senior British Representative in Iraq; Maj Gen P T C Pearson, Commander British Forces Cyprus, from September; Maj Gen R A D Applegate, Capability Manager (Manoeuvre), from September; Maj Gen T Cross, GOC Theatre Troops, from January 2004.

● Other appointments – Page 63

Gulf personnel to have medical audit

ALL personnel who deployed on Op Telic are to be subjected to a medical audit to check issues such as immunisation and when and where it was received; exposure to hazards; and the transfer of temporary medical records.

Most will be notified through their chain of command that they will be required to attend their medical centre for an interview to complete the audit form. Anyone who has not been processed by the end of August should see their medical officer.

Apache at war



Capt David Wilkins, above, of the Army Air Corps, became the first member of the British forces to fly the Apache helicopter in combat.

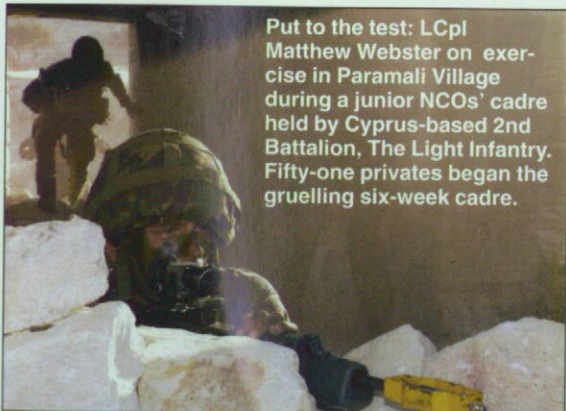
As an Apache Longbow platoon leader with the US Army's 101 Airborne Division (Air Assault), the exchange officer led the first night mission from 101's huge forward operating base in the desert west of An Najaf, attacking the Iraqi Medina Division south of Karbala. He subsequently flew in the battle for An Najaf and conducted close-combat attacks for infantry for two days.

"Apaches were a crucial component in the battle for An Najaf," he said. "They provided close support for the infantry, but also a reach, speed and flexibility far beyond that of any other ground system. We conducted attacks from different directions into the city, which meant the enemy could not mass any forces or coordinate any effective attacks while we were in the air."

In all subsequent missions, he said, resistance had melted away as soon as Apache arrived on the scene. Its impact had been profound.

Currently serving south of Mosul in northern Iraq near the Syrian border, Capt Wilkins had been flying Apache for nine months before his first experience of combat.

Cyprus challenge



Put to the test: LCpl Matthew Webster on exercise in Paramali Village during a junior NCOs' cadre held by Cyprus-based 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry. Fifty-one privates began the gruelling six-week cadre.



Special award: Commanding officer Lt Col Tim Allen, left, SSgt Brian Bellman, centre, and WO2 Glenn Evans of The King's Royal Hussars, show off their unique regimental medals (inset), which they received during a parade at Tidworth for the regiment's soldiers to be awarded General Service Medals for their Operation Banner tour in Northern Ireland. The KRH is the only regiment in the British Army to commission and present its own medal for outstanding contributions to the military efficiency or good name of the regiment. Officially recognised, it is worn on the right of Service dress or other military uniform on which medals are worn. Picture: Steve Dock



Brit goes top of class at US military staff college

MAJ Ronnie Coutts, Hldrs, did his country proud during his year at US staff college in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, becoming the first British officer to win the college's annual tactics competition and receive the prestigious title of Master of the Sword.

Maj Coutts, who was also crowned the top international officer on the course, put the British Army back on the awards board after a gap of almost 40 years.

The staff college is attended by 1,200 US students from all three Services and 89 international students from 70 countries. Britain

sends two military personnel every year.

"It's always nice to beat our allies at their own game," said Maj Coutts. "I was presented with a cavalry sabre at the graduation and crowned Master of the Sword – all quite amusing and not very British, well certainly not the title. I also managed to scoop the award for international officer and won a pistol, of all things."

"I can safely say I have become well acquainted with the Home Office and Customs and Excise after trying to import my prizes back to the UK. The sabre has arrived but I'm still waiting for the pistol. It was non-firing so I might just see it again."



Top tactician: Maj Ronnie Coutts at Fort Leavenworth

IN BRIEF

● The Operation London Soldier open days due to have taken place on Horse Guards Parade on September 26-28 have been switched to Chelsea Barracks on Chelsea Bridge Road. The nearest tube station is Sloane Square.

● The Armed Forces have signed a new

three-year partnership agreement with the Commission for Racial Equality. Meanwhile, the Army has been named as the top public sector employer in the Race for Opportunities awards for the third consecutive year. It came fifth overall.

● Op Telic families from 219 (South

'Cameron' asks MoD to settle

Special Forces confidentiality contract upheld

AN out-of-court settlement in favour of the MoD has upheld the UK Special Forces confidentiality contract.

The Department confirmed last month that legal proceedings against "Nick Cameron" – a pseudonym used by a former sergeant with 22 Regiment, Special Air Service – had been settled out of court following an approach from Mr Cameron's legal team.

In particular, said the MoD, Mr Cameron had agreed to abide by all the terms of the contract and not to publish any further information about his service with the Special Forces without further authority from the Ministry. As part of the settlement, he had also agreed to pay 70 per cent (about £75,000) of the MoD's legal costs.

All profits made by Mr Cameron from his unauthorised disclosure will be passed to the MoD, which has stated that it will look to donate the money to charity.

The Department had been pursuing legal proceedings against the former SAS soldier, who had signed the confidentiality contract, for the unauthorised publication of a series of articles in the *Sunday Times* under the title "The Rape of Srebrenica", relating to the massacre in the Balkans in July 1995.

As a contract signer, Mr Cameron could publish the articles only after receiving authority in writing from the MoD. Permission was not granted and legal action was taken against him for breach of contract and breach of confidence.

Mr Cameron's lawyers approached the Treasury Solicitor's Department a few days before the trial was due to have begun on July 7 to discuss an out-of-court settlement.

Colchester plans given green light

AMBITIOUS plans to completely redevelop Colchester Garrison have been approved by Colchester Borough Council.

Expected to be completed in the next five years, the garrison will be transformed by several new barracks, training facilities, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, a regional courts martial centre, education and welfare facilities and a church.

Sale of surplus land will allow substantial redevelopment of brownfield land around Abbey Field.

Young soldiers buck suicide stats

BETWEEN 1992 and 2001, the male Regular Armed Forces experienced a statistically significant lower rate of suicide and open verdict deaths than the national population, adjusted for age.

A Defence Analytical Services Agency report on trends in suicide and open verdict deaths in the Regular forces says the lower rate was apparent within each of the three Services.

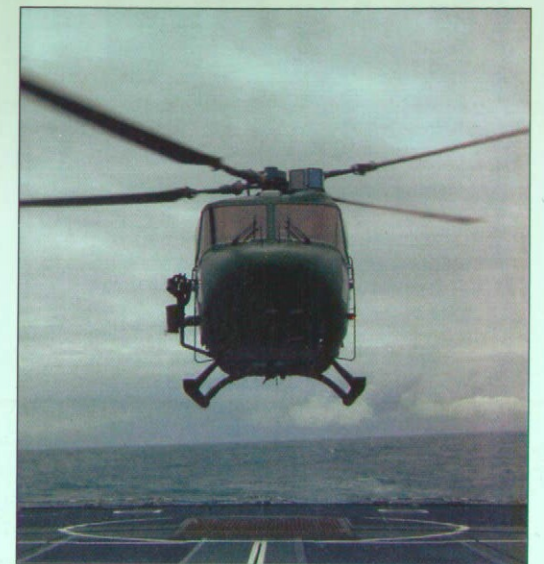
Between 1984 and 2002 a total of 79 such deaths were recorded in the Royal Navy, 327 in the Army and 102 in the

Royal Air Force. All combinations of age group and Service showed a lower rate than the national population, with one exception.

That appeared among 16-to-19-year-old men in the Army, who had a higher rate. Although this, says the DASA, was based on "a relatively small number of deaths" – 27 over the ten-year period – it merited further investigation.

The report said the Regular forces had a lower rate of suicide and open verdict death than the US Armed Forces.

Deck days for 659



Capt Becky Frater AAC, of 659 Squadron, touches down on HMS *St Albans* for her first deck landing under instruction from SSgt Rob Jackson. The squadron, part of 4 Regiment AAC from Watisham Airfield in Suffolk, was taking part in a Royal Navy-led joint maritime course based on Skye and the Outer Hebrides.

Forty surface ships and 100 aircraft, ranging from fast jet bombers and air defence fighters to helicopters, took part. During the exercise, 659 Sqn's four Lynx and two Gazelle helicopters had a rare opportunity to operate with a marine task group, sometimes out to the limit of their fuel endurance.

The squadron, under OC Maj Neil Sexton, is preparing to deploy to Basra in Iraq in November.

Fusiliers' tribute



For Dad: David Snow, whose father, Maj Jeremy Snow, was the first member of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers to be killed in Northern Ireland, stands beside an ash tree planted in his memory in the Ulster Ash Grove of the National Arboretum. The regiment dedicated 26 trees to its members who had fallen to terrorist action.

Maj Snow was the officer commanding C Company, 2 RRF on December 8, 1971 at the time of his death. He died from the wounds he sustained during an attack by a terrorist gunman in Belfast.



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Corny but nice: A walker taking part in the sixth Pathfinder March in Cambridgeshire waves to the camera from a field on the 46-mile course. The event, which starts at RAF Wyton and links the four original Pathfinder Force airfields, raised more than £14,000 for charity. Although the event is officially billed as a long-distance walk, WO Martin Kirchel and Cpl Adam Barr from 16 Signal Regiment in Germany sprinted across the line in just 11hr 17 min.

Robert's long haul to health

A DAREDEVIL soldier who almost died in a charity abseiling accident is climbing a series of mountains in Bolivia, Central America.

Sgt Robert Stevenson, a recruiter at the Armed Forces Careers Office in Birmingham, was so badly injured when he fell 75ft from the top of the post office in the city's Victoria Square in 1997 that he spent the next three years battling back to fitness.

As this issue went to press, he and four fellow British Army soldiers were on a month-long expedition to climb a series of peaks starting at Estancia Choco Khota.



Sgt Stevenson

Sponsored by the Army Mountaineering Association, their highest target was the 5,748m Cerro Gigante Grande.

The other members of the team were Capt Cath Stephens of 280 (UK) Signal Squadron; Capt John Howell-Walmsley, 39 Signal Regiment (V); Sgt Andy Cunningham, R Signals (V), based in Wiltshire; and LCpl Dave McArthur, 231 Signal Squadron, based in Germany.

Sgt Stevenson, an experienced climber, said: "An investigation found the accident was a total freak, just one of those things. It hasn't put me off climbing at all."

Echoes of Imber

IMBER village on Salisbury Plain, used for military training for the past 60 years, will be animated by sound and light over the August bank holiday (21st-23rd) for the performance of a new work by composer Giya Kancheli, whose score was inspired by a visit to the "ghost" village two years ago.

In 1943, the 160 inhabitants were evacuated, never to return.

Tickets (£15): www.artangel.org.uk or tel 01722 320333

ABF a racing certainty

BRIGHTON Racecourse is hosting the Army Benevolent Fund's charity race day on August 27. The card includes Brighton's most prestigious race of the year, the £33,000 Listed Virginia Rated Stakes. Last year's event raised £7,000 for the military charity.

Gates open at noon and the first of seven races starts at 1420. A special advance Premier Enclosure badge costing £10 is on offer, of which £5 will go to the ABF. It gives access to the Premier Enclosure (usually £15), bar, balcony and restaurant, and free parking. Ring Judy or Sarah on 01273 603 580, quoting "Army Benevolent Fund". The offer is not available on the day.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● Despite months of denials by Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, senior Army officers have finally admitted that British troops were forced to take part in combat operations in Iraq without the correct weapons, body armour and clothing.

... They have been forced into making a public response after a non-commissioned officer wrote to the Army's in-house magazine, *Soldier*, to highlight the failings of the military planners. — *Sunday Telegraph*

● Britain's Challenger 2 tanks were "perilously close" to not being ready in time for the war in Iraq. They were being fitted with special oil filters and sand skirts and being painted in desert camouflage up to the last moment, Lt Gen John Reith told MPs. — *Times*

● Defence chiefs have joined the attack on the BBC over its reporting of the war in Iraq, accusing it of presenting a distorted picture of the British campaign. Senior officers are particularly annoyed about a series called *Fighting the War* which they say should be renamed *Losing the War* because it picks on the least glorious aspects of the conflict. — *Sunday Times*

● US Army wives at Fort Stewart, Georgia, home of the 3rd Infantry Division, which has been in the Gulf since September and suffered 36 deaths, are planning a protest march near the base and a mass letter-writing campaign to Capitol Hill after a promised withdrawal from Iraq was postponed for a third time. — *Times*

● RAF Lyneham, which served as the UK military's hub for transporting heavy equipment to the Gulf by air during the Iraq war, will be closed in an effort by the MoD to cut costs and streamline the RAF's airlift operations. — *Financial Times*

● Allied forces will have to stay in Iraq for more than two years — and possibly far longer — according to coalition and Whitehall officials who have reassessed the reconstruction effort taking place in the country. — *Financial Times*

● Hit by falling revenue, the Royal British Legion is looking for 30,000 new volunteer collectors for its annual Poppy Appeal. Numbers have declined by up to 15,000 because existing volunteers are ageing and having to give up. — *Times*



Under Big Ben

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

Iraq campaign medal given royal approval

A SPECIFIC campaign medal to mark the war in Iraq has been approved by the Queen.

Defence Minister Ivor Caplin told the House in a written statement that the medal would be issued to Service personnel and entitled civilians engaged on operations in Iraq and supporting areas, collectively known as Operation Telic.

Detailed eligibility criteria are being determined and will be published in due course.

Suez Canal Zone clasp: It is estimated that it will take up to two years to distribute the majority of Canal Zone clasps once the criteria have been approved and the medal minted.

Iraqi missiles: Current assessments are that 20 ballistic missiles were launched by Iraqi forces during the recent conflict.

And I quote . . .

‘I am sure the whole House will join me in paying tribute to the outstanding contribution that the Territorial Army made to Operation Telic – a contribution that can only be enhanced by the arrival of my hon and gallant Friend the Member for New Forest, West (Mr Swayne).’
— James Gray, MP for North Wiltshire

Terriers: A total of 4,592 Territorial Army personnel deployed on Op Telic, both in the UK and in the Gulf.

FV 430s: Some 1,400 FV430 vehicles are in service with Army units. The oldest entered service on May 1, 1965, the youngest on February 1, 1975.

R Anglians: There are no plans to reinstate the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. A White Paper in the autumn will explain plans for the delivery of enhanced defence capability.

Gulf fund: By June 30, the United Kingdom Forces Gulf Fund stood at about £290,000.

Transporter: The vehicle transporting Scimitars on the M1 on June 11 involved in a fatal accident was not a tank transporter. It was a commercially-operated tractor and flat-bed trailer combination, contracted for the move from Marchwood to Catterick by the MoD.

Apple pie: The source of fresh produce supplied to the forces varies according to growing seasons. Currently apples are sourced from the UK, the USA and Chile.

Written exchange: Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to reduce the number of infantry regiments. Adam Ingram: There are no plans to reduce the number of infantry regiments.

Death grant levels to be same for single and married soldiers

A UNIFORM subscription and grant level is to be introduced for all members of the Army Dependents' Trust.

From January, all members, both married and single, will pay an annual subscription of £5, with discretionary grants of up to £10,000. Retired officers and those employed under the RO scheme before April 1, 2003 will continue to pay £10 a year.

Ninety-five per cent of the Army are members and the trustees hope to increase this to 100 per cent.

Trust secretary Maj (Retd) Tony Betaney said: ‘We would like to make grants to the dependants of all who die, for whatever reason, while serving. A

few pounds a year, paid from the member's salary, can make all the difference to dependants going through a most traumatic time.

‘The object is to provide immediate help. Longer-term support is available from regimental charities and the Army Benevolent Fund.’

Of the 105 officers and soldiers who died last year, 98 were members of the trust. Their dependants received grants, usually within two working days of the death. All those who died on operations in Iraq were members.

The trust is collocated with the Casualty and Compassionate Cell at Upavon (tel 01980 615734 or mil 94344 5734).

Troops shaken by bus bomb

R Anglians first on scene as Kabul blast tears through Isaf soldiers returning home

A LARGE explosion shook the buildings just after breakfast in Camp Souter, Kabul, on June 7. Twelve hours later, as the light faded, men and women of the International Security and Assistance Force (Isaf) knew that terrorism in Afghanistan had taken a sinister turn.

A car carrying a 100-to-200kg bomb had driven alongside an Isaf bus taking German troops to the airport for their journey home. It exploded, killing four soldiers and injuring 29. A 17-year-old Afghan boy also died.

Camp Souter, the British base, is not far from the Jalalabad road, where the attack took place. It is used by hundreds of Isaf troops every day and is in the area of responsibility of the patrol company provided by the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (The Poachers).

The infantry immediately deployed to the scene, where medics helped the multi-national emergency crews while troops cordoned off the area. The attack happened in Police District 9, an area

patrolled by A Company, 2 R Anglian. OC Maj Simon Etherington said: ‘The sight of mangled bodies shocked us. My initial thoughts were ‘have we failed in our duty?’ You can take all precautions possible but there is, ultimately, a feeling of powerlessness to prevent suicide bombings.’

The attack came at the end of A Coy's three-month tour in Police Districts 8 and 9 and the end of a year-and-a-half of overseas and operational work. The suicide bomb was a distressing and traumatic experience for all involved.

Two British ambulances deployed, with Cpls Tina Dodd and Stu Masters as the medics and drivers Ptes Paul Instone and Pete Whittingham.

‘The seriously injured were already being treated,’ said Cpl Masters. We took one head injury patient to the German hospital and were tasked by a Dutch doctor to take walking wounded to the British camp.’ The initial help involved more than three hours of non-stop work for the small team. They con-



Principality role: The Prince of Wales inspects soldiers of The Royal Welsh Regiment after presenting new Colours to the Territorial Army regiment outside Cardiff Castle



Wrecked by a bomb: The Isaf bus on the side of the Jalalabad road, a few hundred yards from the British headquarters at Camp Souter in Kabul, Afghanistan. The explosion left five dead and many injured

tinued until early the following morning when the survivors were flown home. In the absence of the doctor on compassionate leave, RAF aero-med nurse Sqn Ldr Helen Stewart was in charge as the medical centre was tasked to look after five injured German soldiers.

A German signaller working in the ops room and a British officer and corporal who spoke German interpreted and the medical centre's Afghan interpreter, Hamidullah Malin, a student doctor in Kabul, was pressed into service. The multi-national medical effort

was key to saving lives and the British played a small but significant part.

About 300 British troops are in Kabul, patrolling the streets, training the Afghan National Army and providing staff officers in the HQs. There are also members of the UK National Support Element, mainly from 4 GS Regiment RLC at Abingdon.

Most of the troops are Regular soldiers and those in the patrol company come from 2 R Anglian, supported by about 40 TA soldiers, currently mostly supplied by 3 PWRR.

Small screen stars



Lights, camera, action: Cyprus-based soldiers took part in the making of a recruiting video aimed at potential officers. The production crew of seven from PCI Live and Maj Robert Ross from HQ Recruiting Group worked with units including 22 Air Defence Regiment, 1 KORBR, 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE and 417 Maritime Troop.

‘The Officer Video’ will be released in October.

Fusilier found dead in barracks

FOLLOWING the death of Fus Robert Jones, 19, of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers in Mons Barracks in Aldershot, last month, his company commander, Maj Nick Lock, said: ‘Fus Jones was a bright and popular member of B Company. He had served in the battalion for two years and all of this time was spent in B Company.’

‘During this time he had served in Northern Ireland and travelled to Kenya on exercise. The members of the battalion are deeply shocked by his death and our thoughts are very much with his family.’

IN BRIEF

● A fund of up £2 million is to be set up for **veterans' projects** over the next three years. Ivor Caplin, the new minister for veterans, said the Challenge Fund would be used with partners in the ex-Service organisations, non-governmental organisations and public sector to explore new projects or research.

● A specialist Territorial Army unit has been thanked by the commander of the US 3rd Air Force for its ‘unprecedented support’ of US forces stationed in the UK during the war in Iraq. The **496 Logistics Liaison Unit RLC (V)** is based at Grantham.

● SSAFA-Forces Help has re-released

its **Stepping Stone Homes** video, which provides information on support housing facilities during a marriage breakdown or separation. It is available from HIVEs, unit welfare officers, SSAFA workers, and the Army Welfare Service.

● The awards ceremony for the 2002 Army

Photographic Competition, postponed from January because of developments in Iraq, is to take place at Horse Guards in London on September 26.

● The UK has withdrawn from the **Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle** programme, a collaborative project with Germany and the

Netherlands. UK company Alvis Vickers has been chosen to build the **Future Command and Liaison Vehicle (FCLV)**, an air-portable armoured scouting vehicle which will play a key role in support of the Future Rapid Effect System. The contract for nearly 500 vehicles is worth more than £200 million. It will be assembled at Telford in the Midlands.



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CPL SMITH	08	30 JUL 03	
GROSS TAXABLE PAY (TO DATE)	£6367.79	TAX PAID TO DATE	£1259.40
TAX	£110.32	AMOUNT ON WHICH TAX ASSESSED (40-10%)	£6257.47
NET PAY	£6257.47	USP BALANCE OUTSTANDING	
DEDUCTIONS		PERIOD	RATE
PAY		01 JUL 31 JUL	104 39
LOA		01 JUL 31 JUL	16 31
ACCN CH (S)		01 JUL 31 JUL	7 20
FOOD CH (S)		01 JUL 31 JUL	3
CH OCT S		01 JUL 31 JUL	
PERSONAL ACCIDENT		01 JUL 31 JUL	
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BANK PAYMENT		01 JUL 31 JUL	
TOTALS			

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Roll out the Baral

Competition for the Queen's Medal as tough as ever but Gurkha triumphs

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

A THREE-times runner-up in the Army's most prestigious skill-at-arms shooting competition has finally won the coveted Queen's Medal at Bisley.

Victory gives Cpl Prembahadur Baral, of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, the right to wear the medal on his uniform in perpetuity.

Competition was stiff, with 226 marksmen qualifying at divisional and district skill-at-arms meetings.

"The Queen's Medal is the pinnacle of competition shooting in the Services," said Army Rifle Association secretary Lt Col Richard Hoole, R Signals. "Each of the three Services and the Territorial Army run their own meeting at Bisley to determine who is the champion shot of each."

They were joined in an international class by teams from the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces and the Australian Army. The Falkland Islands Defence Force and US National Guard shot alongside the TA. For the first time the Irish Permanent Defence Force, which has taken part in pistol events in the past, entered a rifle team.

For the first time since 1993 all three regular Services came together on one

day to run their final competition to determine the order of merit.

"Conditions are designed to be challenging in what is the premier individual combat shooting competition in the world. Most involve sprinting into different positions to engage targets in fleeting exposures, including moving targets."

This year's Army competition was over seven individual matches, varying from short-range engagements to replicate fighting in built-up areas, from 100 to 25 metres, to moving target practices at 100m.

"Competitors have to wear webbing to hold ammunition and magazines, a water bottle and a respirator case," said Lt Col Hoole. "And they have to wear helmets."

The best win the chance of international competition. "We send British Army combat shooting teams abroad twice a year. In even years we go to Canada and the USA, and in odd years to South Africa and Australia."

The ARA comes under the command of the Director of Infantry.

● Chief Tech John Pricor, of RAF Cottesmore, has given the MoD a problem. He has won the RAF Queen's Medal 11 times and the ten bars mean his ribbon is unusually long.

A special gold medal, engraved with the figure ten, may be struck for him.



Winner at last: Cpl Prembahadur Baral

Bisley results (Army)

Individuals

Queen's Medal – 1, Cpl Prembahadur Baral (2 RGR); 2, Cpl William Smyth (2 R Irish); 3, LCpl Ian Gault (4 R Irish).

Manchester Regiment Cup and ARA Spoon – Rfn Naresh Gurung (2 RGR).

Henry Whitehead Young Officer's Cup and ARA Spoon – Lt Oliver Hartley (1 R Anglian).

Rifle Brigade Cup and ARA Spoon – Rfn Kashal Limbu (2 RGR).

6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles Trophy and ARA Spoon – Rfn Kashal Limbu (2 RGR).

Teams

Unit – 1, 2 RGR A; 2, 2 RGR B; 3, 4 R Irish.

Rifle aggregate – 1, 2 RGR A; 2, GDC RMAS; 3, 4 R Irish.

Snap match – 1, Sp Bn HQ ARRC; 2, 2 RGR B; 3, GDC RMAS.

Fire match – 1, 2 RGR B; 2, GDC RMAS; 3, 4 R Irish.

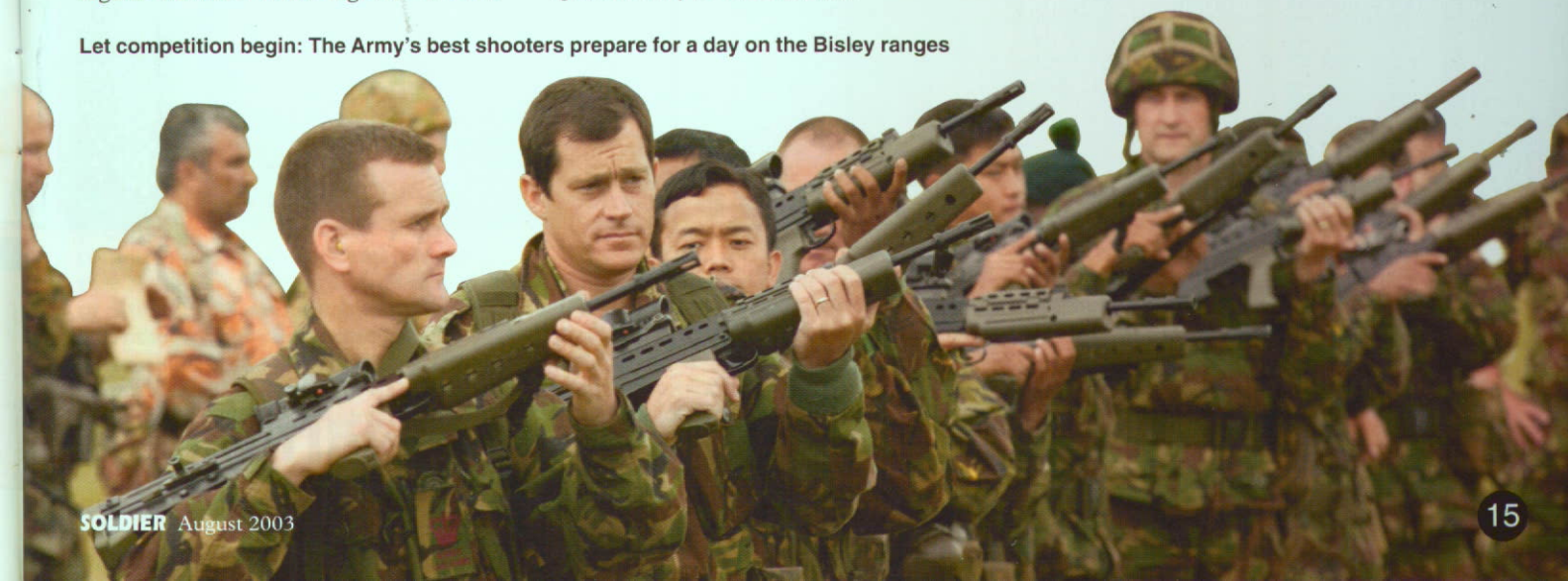
Parachute Regiment Cup – 1, 4 R Irish; 2, 30 Sig Regt; 3, 3 R Irish.

LMG aggregate – 1, 2 RGR A; 2, 4 R Irish; 3, 2 RGR B.



The coveted Queen's Medal

Let competition begin: The Army's best shooters prepare for a day on the Bisley ranges



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Waterborne patrol: the Basra River Service, recruited and trained by British forces, deters smuggling and riverside theft under Operation Turtle

Copper squad

Ex-Iraqi Navy patrols aim to reduce theft of power cable that is crippling the country

Report: Andrea Frazer
Pictures: Capt Angus Beaton
and Ministry of Defence

THE launch of the Basra River Service is another step on the journey towards the coalition's aim of creating an Iraq for the Iraqis.

The concept, codenamed Operation Turtle, involved the registration, payment and subsequent re-employment and training of the professional element of the Iraqi Navy and elements of the local Iraqi Army Corps.

The newly-formed security service's primary role is to provide enhanced protection to key installations and infrastructure along Basra's Shatt al Arab river and to deter the theft and smuggling of copper and other sought-after commodities.

A sensible solution to a growing security problem, the operation was planned and implemented by 7 Armoured Brigade personnel.

"Ex-forces have an established rank

structure, are easier to train and are not as tied to the tribal system as civilian security guards. We now have a very identifiable organisation which can help prevent theft," said Maj Duncan McSporran, OC Zulu Coy, 1 RRF.

"We processed more than 9,000 people in the space of just four days and were regularly faced with crowds of up to 6,000," he said. "At the start it was complete mayhem. With the sheer scale of people it could have got nasty very quickly."

"People don't do queueing in Iraq," said Lt Chris Rees-Gay of 12 Pn, Z Coy. "It's very much a case of survival of the fittest, those who fight the hardest get the lion's share, so we put good old British Army mine tape to the test, established order and got the job done."

Copper smuggling is a serious problem in Iraq and is detrimental to the British



Security operation: Soldiers from 1 RRF processed more than 9,000 people in just four days, turning "mayhem" into order

mission and the country's long-term development.

Electrical distribution wire, stripped from stolen power cables, is smelted down, transformed into copper ingots and smuggled out of the country.

Where the theft of power cable has interrupted electricity supplies, the country has simply ground to a halt.

"This was a cutting-edge concept," said Maj McSporran. "I don't think the guys will understand the importance of their work until later on when they look back and see how things have developed and what has been achieved."

Black day at Al Majarr al Kabir

Army counts the cost as six are killed and eight wounded in southern Iraq town

JUST as British forces in southern Iraq appeared to be adjusting to their post-conflict peacekeeping role the British Army suffered its heaviest loss of life in a single incident since the start of the war, writes **Andrea Frazer**.

Six Royal Military Police soldiers were killed and eight other military personnel wounded on June 24 in separate incidents in the town of Al Majarr al Kabir, 100 miles north of Basra.

An investigation into the circumstances has been launched and the MoD has pledged to do all it can to establish the facts and hold to account those responsible. But it admits that the process could be slow and that it may never know with certainty precisely what happened that day.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon outlined the MoD understanding of events in a statement in the House of Commons: "The RMP were engaged in assisting with the regeneration of the local Iraqi police service by ensuring they had proper train-

Job was to restore justice

THE six RMPs who died at Al Majarr al Kabir were involved in the critical work of regenerating the Iraqi judicial system.

This involved re-establishing law and order through the enforcement of the Iraqi criminal code, the reintroduction of the civil police, the reopening of the court system and the refurbishment of Iraqi prisons across both Basra and Maysan provinces.

At the time 156 Provost Company, which was part of 1st Regiment RMP and responsible for Maysan province,

was engaged in refurbishing 19 police headquarters and stations, with plans also to develop a prison in Al Amarah.

Extensive retraining of the local police had also been undertaken by the soldiers of 156 Coy.

The company has been relieved by elements of 150 Provost Company, 3rd Regiment RMP from Catterick and is now back at its base in Colchester. Further support has been provided to the logistic brigades by 5 and 4 Regiments RMP since the beginning of Operation Telic.

ing, equipment and infrastructure to operate as professionally as possible.

"The task included routine visits to police stations in the area. The police station in Al Majarr al Kabir is one of a number the RMP planned to visit that day.

"The main focus of military operations in the weeks before the incident had been the implementation of a weapons amnesty and subsequently the recovery of illegal weapons.

"These weapons searches were unpopular with local people, although none had been conducted in the town itself. Local

religious leaders had called for further searches to be resisted, and on June 22, a 1 Para patrol in the town was faced with a hostile crowd of some 500 people. The soldiers fired baton rounds in order for them to be able to withdraw from the area.

"At a meeting the next day, officers from 1 Para agreed with the town council that weapons searches would be suspended and that the council would themselves take responsibility for recovering heavy weapons, although routine patrolling would continue by coalition forces.

"With this agreement in place, the following day [June 24] the RMP section booked out at around 0910, planning to visit three towns in the area – Al Majarr al Kabir being the first.

"We judge that they would have reached the town at around 0940-0955, shortly before a 1 Para patrol also entered the town. We cannot yet be certain, but it may be that the attack on the Para patrol took place before the attack on the RMP.

"The attack on 1 Para commenced at 1030, when the patrol was stoned by a large crowd. The patrol took one casualty and two vehicles were destroyed. In responding to the incident, an RAF Chinook helicopter carrying a quick reaction force came under fire as it landed. Seven personnel aboard the helicopter were wounded, some of them seriously.

"At some point a crowd also appears to have massed outside the police station.



Sad return: The coffins of all six RMPs were carried on to an RAF aircraft at Basra, inset, and met at RAF Brize Norton, main picture, by a reception group including family and friends, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Mike Jackson and the Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the AGC. Music was provided by the Band of the Coldstream Guards.

Pictures: Chris Fletcher (Basra) and Cpl Paul Jarvis (Brize Norton)



While attempting to move their vehicles inside the police compound,

the RMP came under fire.

"The crowd then evidently stormed the police station. British forces were informed a short while later by local Iraqis that all six of the RMP personnel had been killed.

"We understand that attempts were made to contact the RMP section as events unfolded. This is one of the details we will be trying to establish as part of the investigation."

Lt Col Eddie Forster-Knight, who commanded the soldiers in Iraq, said: "We will mourn their passing. They were our friends, our comrades and, most importantly, part of our family – a family that has suffered a traumatic loss, but one that will remember their heroic deeds and the great credit they have bestowed on us all."

The bodies of the six RMP soldiers have been returned to the UK for burial with military honours, with the final funeral, of Sgt Hamilton-Jewell, taking place at Aldershot on July 21.

Roll of honour

THOSE who died at Al Majarr al Kabir were Sgt Simon Alexander Hamilton-Jewell (41), Cpl Russell Aston (30), Cpl Paul Graham Long (24), Cpl Simon Miller (21), LCpl Benjamin John McGowan



Cpl Long

Cpl Aston

Hyde (23) and LCpl Thomas Richard Keys (20) from 156 Provost Company.

Maj Bryn Parry-Jones, OC 156 Pro Coy, said: "The loss of six soldiers from such a small, tight-knit unit clearly comes as a dreadful shock to us all. All these men were highly professional soldiers and policemen. Their deaths in action underlines the challenging and difficult operations that the RMP are asked to



Cpl Miller

LCpl Hyde

undertake both in peace and times of conflict.

"We ask our men and women to risk the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country and it is a sad truth that sometimes that sacrifice comes to pass."



LCpl Keys

Sgt Hamilton-Jewell

Quick reactions saved others

By Capt Dennis Abbott, 19 Mech Bde Media Ops

THE death toll at Al Majarr al Kabir could have been higher but for the prompt actions and professionalism of the tri-Service accident and emergency team at 1 Close Support Medical Regiment dressing station in Al Amarah, which first received the casualties following the tragic events of June 24.

Another six soldiers and a medic on board a Chinook carrying the quick reaction force were wounded – two of them very seriously – when their helicopter came under a hail of fire as it attempted to land in the town. The pilot flew to 1 Para battle-

group headquarters, 15 minutes to the north at Al Amarah, landing beside the 1 CS Med Regt dressing station.

The 35-strong A&E team split into groups so that all the injured could receive treatment simultaneously. The situation demanded instant decisions. The whole process, from arrival at the dressing station to take-off for 202 Field Hospital at Shaibah, was complete in less than 40 minutes, a critical period which almost certainly made the difference between life and death for the most badly injured.

All the casualties have since been flown back to the UK and, in the words of Maj Alun Thomas, the officer commanding, are doing "remarkably well".

British officer wounded in sniper attack

A young officer from the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment came under fire while on a routine patrol in Basra. The second lieutenant was shot in the thigh and treated in a British Army field hospital. It was the first

time that British troops had been targeted by snipers since the end of the war.

A follow-up operation seized five AK-47s but was unable to make an arrest due to lack of evidence.

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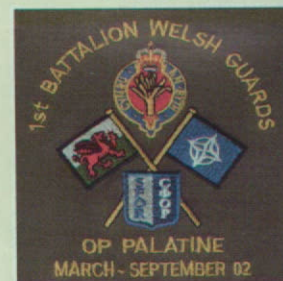
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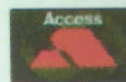
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It's business as usual for British arms monitors

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

THE tank in the hangar may have looked rusty, but it was still lethal. Its armour was dilapidated, but the carefully maintained machinery inside the hatch told another story.

The Soviet-era vehicle was one of a row in a hangar at Manjaca, home of 116 Mechanized Brigade of the Republika Srpska Army (VRS).

Although an era of greater cooperation between Sfor and the VRS has dawned in Bosnia, there is no let-up on weapons inspections under the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Lt Tom Hawkins, 1 Hldrs, the Joint Military Affairs officer for the UK battle-group, said: "I keep a hand on the VRS by reviewing their barracks, either routinely or using snap inspections. There are 36 sites in our area of operations and Manjaca is one of the biggest." Every time the VRS move weapons or equipment they have to apply for permission, with precise details of movements. Everything is



Weapons check: Lt Tom Hawkins, Liaison Officer for 1st Bn The Highlanders, carries out a weapons inspection with Capt Dragan Kremenovic (left) of the VRS, with the assistance of an interpreter employed to work with the unit

Inset: Col Dragisa Valin, right, Commander of 116 Mechanized Brigade, VRS



600. Some vehicles were in a shocking state, with flat tyres and corroded metal and many of the ageing Soviet tanks lined up in a hangar were missing armour which had been replaced with concrete.

But their dilapidated external appearance was deceptive because inspections had revealed that internally they were maintained to a high standard.

Officers were friendly and commander Col Dragisa Valin welcomed the inspection team. "We are in a position to complete the military part of the Dayton agreement and that was achieved a long time ago," he told *Soldier*.

Thanks to a deal with the local military, Sfor troops train on the base's extensive ranges. "Now we have joint activities and we play sports together. The British play good football but we are better at basketball. We meet every week either here or at Sfor. I must say we are happier with the cooperation with the British elements of Sfor. If there are problems we normally resolve them amicably and our relationships are good."

Col Valin said the weapons at Manjaca were inherited from the old Yugoslav Army and he is looking to the future.

"We have soldiers who have attended international programmes. I went to one in Germany and one of my officers is attached to security forces in Nato.

"For now I am happy for you to see the weapons we have here and I look forward to the future when we could be part of the Partnership for Peace."

Weapons graveyard



Axeman: Cpl Dylan Lewis destroys a weapon

WHAT happens to illegal weapons found in Bosnia?

Osnabrück-based WO1 ASM Andy Gigg, of 1 Battalion REME and currently in charge of the Light Aid Detachment attached to 1 Hldrs in Mrkonjic Grad, knows the answer.

"All the weapons gathered on Op Harvest are eventually brought here after they have been made safe by the Royal Engineers."

When *Soldier* visited, Cpl Dylan Lewis was busy with his gas axe, chopping up the deadly harvest.

"Weapons for the chop today include RPG 7 and

M79 grenade launchers, shotguns, Kalashnikovs and a variety of pistols – some of which are home-made – magazines and bayonets," he said.

Cpl Lewis and the armourer break the weapons down before they are cut up. The scrap metal is melted down at a local foundry.

Ammunition is destroyed by the Royal Engineers.

Cpl Lewis has been a busy man recently. The Highlanders have been finding on average five metric tonnes of weapons and ammunition each month.

Peace be with you

Highlanders lead security effort for Pope's visit

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock and Milon Rudulovic

POPE John Paul II, the most travelled pontiff in history, has made his 101st overseas visit. It wasn't to a supportive Catholic state, but to Banja Luka in Bosnia and into an environment that could have proved hostile.

But plans for his safety and of thousands of worshippers from Croatia arriving in the Republika Srpska capital were successful.

And that was due in no small part to soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Highlanders centred on Mrkonjic Grad, and a multi-national force supporting them.

The 83-year-old Pope was determined to visit the Orthodox dominated city to beatify Ivan Merz, born in Banja Luka in 1896. The visit meant tight security and a great deal of planning.

For the weekend of the Pope's visit the Highlanders' normal area of operations, which equates to the Republika Srpska boundaries, had been split, with the battle-group ceding responsibility for the southern part to the Dutch.

At the Banja Luka Metal Factory a company of Portuguese soldiers and three companies of Italian Carabinieri as well as a contingent of Polish troops supplemented the British soldiers.

Although Banja Luka itself was the responsibility of the local police, the city was surrounded by an outer ring of Highlanders and an inner circle of Portuguese and Polish troops.

"Sfor's task in this operation was to support the local police," said Highlanders operations officer, Capt Barry McMaster.

But with thousands of Catholic worshippers expected to move into the city from Croatia in the north, the potential for trouble was very real. Keeping the traffic moving and drawing up contingency plans in the event of a road accident or a major incident became everyone's focus.

The Pope himself was to fly into Banja Luka airport, a few miles to the north, which meant the main road to the important border crossing at Gradiska would



Take that: Highlander Rosco Ross accompanied by an interpreter, above, hands out information to motorists before the Pope's visit to Banja Luka



Greetings: Pope John Paul II waves to the crowds on his way to Petricevac Monastery in Banja Luka, left

Watchful: 2nd Lt Ray Dalzell, commander of 16 Platoon, and Highlander Navuda Tuloco on duty at Novi Grad border crossing point, right, between Bosnia and Croatia

be closed for the duration of his visit. Other roads would remain open and soldiers from D Coy had to ensure freedom of movement along some major routes in the area from the border crossing at Kostajnica, Kozarska Dubica and Novi Grad, several of which converged in the choke point of Prijedor, to the north-west of Banja Luka.

It would require soldiers on the streets since many of the 4,500-strong local police force had been called into the centre of Banja Luka.

In Novi Grad the day before the visit 2nd Lt Ray Dalzell, 16 Platoon, reported the border crossing was quiet. His sol-

diers were supporting the remaining local police and the State Border Service and handing out leaflets encouraging people to come together peacefully and to be aware of possible traffic delays.

"The border and state police seem happy to see us and they are keen to promote us working with them," he said.

"Novi Grad is a peaceful town and working on the border crossing isn't something we normally do. But if there are problems, both the local police and we are there to help the population."

A few miles away Lt Philip Morgan and his soldiers were undertaking a routine road checkpoint to inform the population



about the Pope's visit. They were working with local police and American Military Police who had arrived from Tuzla in support of the weekend's operations.

"The local police are on-side and we have worked well with them since we arrived in theatre," he explained.

While there were smiles and handshakes from the locals, everyone was aware that in strong Serb towns like Prijedor and more especially Banja Luka, the potential for friction was very real.

Sunday dawned and the Pope arrived as planned with Canadian Gryphon and American Apache helicopters patrolling the skies during the visit.

More than 500 journalists, many from overseas, joined the thousands of Croats turning out in the Serb city. Everyone held their breath. Would there be trouble?

A crowd estimated to be up to 60,000 strong gathered for the open-air service in front of the Petricevac Monastery, but protests were few.

During the service, Highlanders from B Coy gathered in the grounds of the hospital overlooking the city.

Supporting them was a Canadian surveillance team and their Coyote armoured vehicle.

They had cameras mounted on the

The TA came too

TERRITORIAL and reserve soldiers played a key role in the security build-up to the papal visit.

Capt John Kendall, 2i/c of the Balkans Signal Sqn, said the unit was a bit of an experiment.

"The British element are all TA or reserve soldiers and officers," he said.

"It is a pan-Balkan multi-national unit including 85 UK soldiers, 11 Dutch regulars, eight Canadians, (seven reservists), and five New Zealanders.

"Twenty-six of our number are in Kosovo, three in Corsham and the rest in Banja Luka working directly in support of the multi-national brigade and the UK battle-group.

"The TA element was brought together last year. We mobilised together and all but one came here. He went to Op Telic."

For the Pope's visit the unit set up a joint control centre with the Republika Srpska authorities providing the infrastructure and a communications support team.

"Not only were we providing IT, radio and satellite telephone support, we also installed a downlink giving the commander a full view of what was happening on a large screen in Joint HQ.

"It was a real challenge and very worthwhile. It has been one of the highlights of the tour.

"All the soldiers bring something different to the mix – different equipment, different ways of working – and the challenge is getting the best bits from each country while being sensitive to each other's cultures.

"Working multi-national has been great. I have absolute faith in my Dutch, Canadian and New Zealand colleagues."

roof monitoring the worship site 1,465 metres away. "The view we have is provided by electric optics, which consists of a laser rangefinder, a day camera, and thermal imaging," said Master Cpl Geoff Daley, Royal Canadian Army.

Loudspeakers relayed the Mass, which could be heard clearly at the hospital. As the sun beat mercilessly down, the Highlanders carried out foot patrols in the area. Everything was quiet.

And so the day drew to a close. The Pope attended a reception before returning to the Vatican. The worshippers went home and the soldiers stood down.

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Crime-busters

Forces take fresh stance as they fight corruption

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

BRITISH soldiers in Bosnia have a new focus, according to Lt Col Tim Lai, CO of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders.

It involves a fundamental change in their relationship with the Republika Srpska Army (VRS) and a crackdown against organised crime.

In May, a commission on military reforms in Bosnia was established and could result in the merging of the region's two rival armies, the Federation Army (VF) and the VRS.

"The Sfor stance has shifted," said Lt Col Lai. "From being 'big brother is watching you', we are now seeking to prepare them for Partners for Peace and are becoming involved in their professional development. We also make sure their accounting procedures for arms and equipment are compliant."

The change in stance was recent so the relationship was still evolving, he said.

"Like those before us we are mandated to maintaining and extending the safe and secure environment."

After the region had torn itself to pieces in civil war, peacekeeping forces went through a phase of rebuilding so the country could function again. "Now we are looking at other fundamental issues that need to be put right if Bosnia is going to be able to look after itself."

With much of the industrial infrastructure wrecked and little investment, lack of jobs is a potential spark for civil unrest.

Helping Bosnians to help themselves, and taking on organised crime and corruption, has become a new focus for Sfor, and one given momentum by Lord Ashdown, the High Representative and European Union Special Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Without a working judiciary, an effective prosecution service, an administration that functions properly and a police force that does its job, you are not going to get investment from abroad to create the jobs that will result in long-term stability," said Lt Col Lai. "Which is why the British Army is helping to fight crime and corruption."

"The idea that the place is run by mafia is not fanciful. It manifests itself in human



Ups and downs: Highlander William Sinclair heads a security patrol under the command of LCpl Finn Beary, around the area of the hospital at Banja Luka

Taking out local mafia

HIGHLANDERS and a company of Gurkhas met crime head-on in Operation Bagration.

Well-armed mafia were running a protection racket. For local tradesmen and shopkeepers it was a question of pay up or be put out of business.

Police were ineffective or implicated so a covert team kept watch for more than two months on suspected criminals.

As reported in the July issue (Update, Page 11), nearly 300 soldiers from different nationalities, including American and German forensic experts, IT specialists, doc-

ument and dog search teams were manoeuvred into position.

The operation unearthed nearly 15,000 rounds of ammunition, 30 guns, grenades and explosives and an anti-aircraft missile system. It was more than enough to implicate the crime ring.

"We've proved to the local community that where corruption rears its head, we will not let it stand," said Lt Col Lai. "These weapons finds, with a quantity of incriminating documents, will take these guys into court and out of business for a long time."

trafficking, prostitution, smuggling, weapons dealing and tax evasion, all typical organised crime activities."

Those who benefit most are often in positions of influence and power which they use to avoid being marginalised and having their influence eroded.

"At the low level this could be the traf-

fic policeman who stops guys and takes a backhand rather than issuing a ticket.

"That is affecting progress. And that takes us away from conventional military tasks in an interesting and different way. Much of what we do could be considered constabulary in nature."

● See Mail, Page 75



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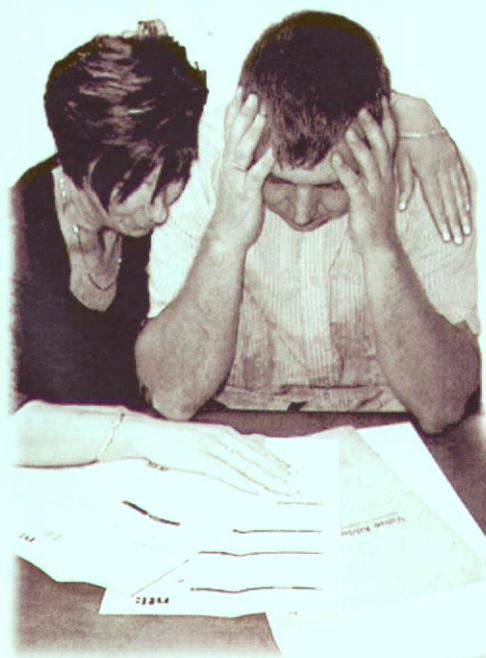
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Magic of Merlin

Quiet and comfortable new aircraft makes its debut in Balkan skies

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

HELICOPTER engines throbbed as the aircraft made its way a few hundred feet above the hills of central Bosnia.

Inside, the faces of soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders and the attached 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, were obscured by cam cream.

Alongside them a sister helicopter occasionally bobbed into view, as did the two American Apaches riding shotgun.

When the aircraft touched down the soldiers doubled down the rear ramp and took up defensive positions.

This time an attack would not come.



Merlin fans: From left, Sqn Leader Paul Kendall and Lt Duncan MacKinnon



Main picture: A Merlin over Bosnia

based at Banja Luka. "We are doing a lot of transport and passenger runs working with the Army

in the normal support helicopter role." While the Bosnia tour is the first operational one for the RAF Merlins, the Highlanders are no strangers to the aircraft, having trained on it for six months at Otterburn before their tour began.

Lt Duncan MacKinnon, B Coy, 1 Hldrs, said their work had been enhanced because of the large training estates at Manjaca.

"The Merlins are the perfect bit of kit to get us into somewhere quickly should we be needed," he said. "They have already been used operationally when our Sipovo-based reserve platoon was flown into a situation at short notice to secure an area. The Merlin proved ideal for that."

From the passenger's perspective, the most noticeable thing is how quiet it is compared with other military helicopters – ear defenders do not have to be worn. It also provides a smooth ride, with its active anti-vibration system ironing out most of the bumps.

"People think that is a comfort thing but it has a good military application," said Sqn Ldr Kendall. "If you take troops two hours across a battlefield at low level, you don't want them feeling sick but fit to fight at the end of it."

The first batch of Merlins was for the Royal Navy and the RAF is taking deliv-



Tech spec

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Role: Replacing the Wessex, it fills a gap between the Chinook and Puma.

Payload: 4,000kg plus

The Merlin is capable of air-to-air refuelling.



Smooth ride: The "comfortable" Merlin is quieter than other military helicopters

The landings at the Manjaca training ranges south-west of Banja Luka were part of an exercise so troops could to hone their skills in the latest helicopter in theatre, the Merlin HC Mk 3.

When not on tour with the Highlanders in Bosnia, the helicopters, from 28 Squadron RAF, are based at Benson in Oxfordshire.

The soldiers agreed that the new aircraft made a comfortable change from Chinook, Sea King and Pumas.

"The Merlin isn't replacing an aircraft in service but is being brought in to meet a need for more helicopter lift," said Sqn Ldr Paul Kendall, detachment commander for Merlins



Fit to fight: Above and below, battle ready Highlanders making a quick exit from Merlin

ery of 22. "The big difference between ours and the Navy variant is that we have a ramp at the back and a reinforced floor which will take a Land Rover or similar small vehicle" he said.

"Our sensor suite and defensive aids are very advanced, and we have provision for fitting two general-purpose machine-guns."

"The Merlin is fantastic, it is cutting-edge technology. It is quiet, smooth and goes a long way and that is really what you need from a battlefield helicopter."



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"Slow down, guys . . . you'll knacker yourselves!"

A different kind of hope

Emmaus UK is looking for SNCOs to run its self-help communities

Report: Nigel Kendall
Pictures: Steve Dock

FORMER soldier John reckons he would be dead if he hadn't found Emmaus, a charity which offers support and hope to down-and-outs.

Sadly, ex-soldiers make up a significant proportion of the UK's homeless population. For many, the transition from the structured life of the Forces to civvy street can involve difficult and traumatic adjustments. And many homeless ex-Servicemen and women have other issues to deal with, such as combat stress, backgrounds in local authority care, and marital, drug and alcohol problems.

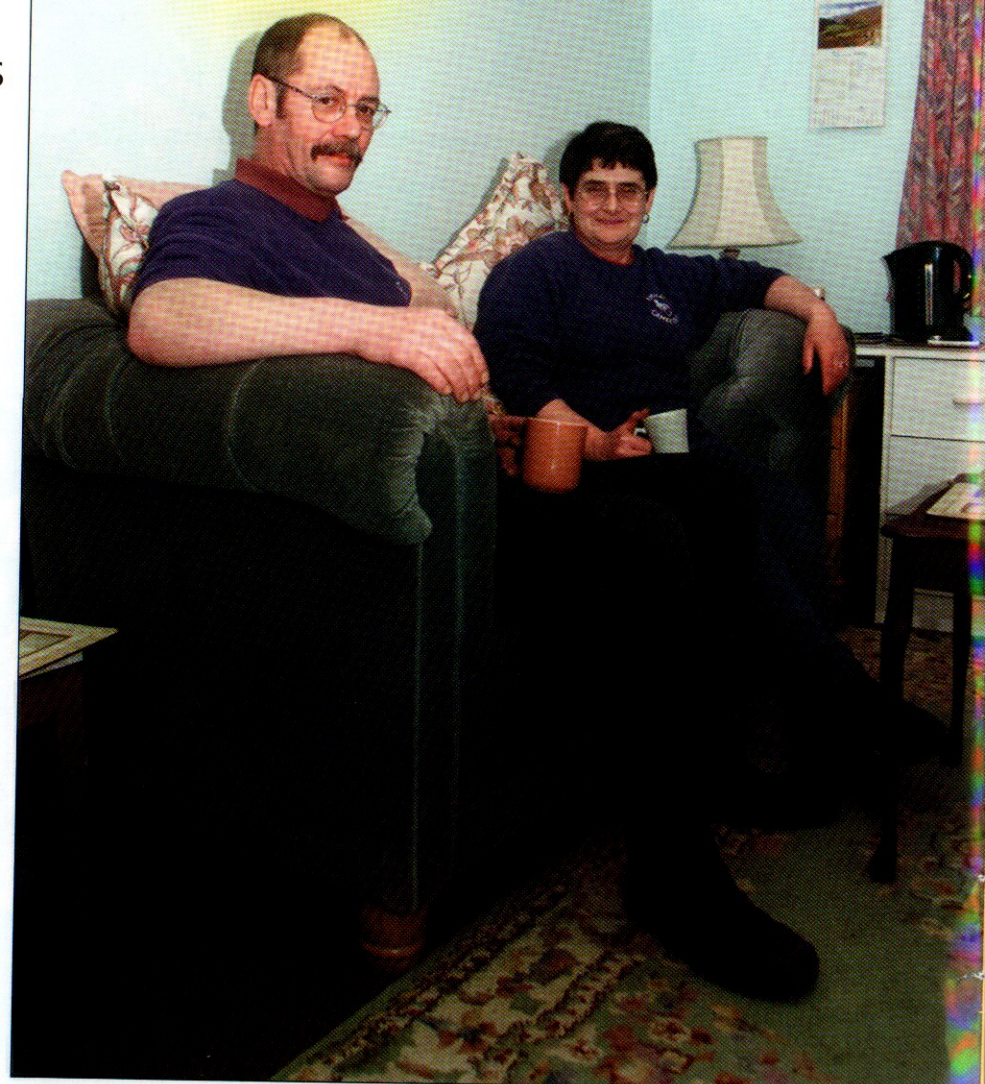
Where do they turn? One avenue offering a different kind of solution is Emmaus UK, where those desperate to turn their lives around can find "a radical self-help alternative to conventional services for homeless people".

As John Gall, once a soldier in the REME, put it: "If it wasn't for this place, mate, I'd be dead." John met his wife, Joan, through the community.

When *Soldier* visited the Emmaus community near Cambridge, it was made clear that the organisation is not in the business of benevolent hand-outs or providing shelter for the homeless.

Its aim is to make its "companions" feel safe and secure in an environment in which they can work, have their own space, enjoy companionship and seek support when and if required.

People who live in one of the nine Emmaus communities around the UK must sign-off primary benefits and work full-time within the community. Each has its own money-making business, enabling it to rely entirely on its own income. Prof-



Saved: John, an ex-REME soldier, and wife Joan, whom he met at the Emmaus community

its are donated to those in greater need or to help set up other communities. Last year the Cambridge community gave more than £50,000 to local charities. Emmaus has plans to set up another three communities during 2003.

Director Tim Page, a former colonel whose last appointment was head of marketing in the Directorate of Corporate Communication (Army), has a wealth of experience. As commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment in



Craftsmanship: Adrian Shaw, left, applies a finishing touch to new bed which will go in a companion's room

Safety first: "YE" Joseph Bories carries out safety checks on a home video cassette recorder, right

Home front: The entrance to the Emmaus community accommodation, below



Bosnia, he dealt with many traumatised soldiers. Later, as Chief of Operations on the Balkan staff, he was responsible for rehousing refugees.

Tim's triple challenge is to help the organisation to grow more dynamically, to publicise what the communities do, and to address the enormous need which exists in providing suitable facilities and opportunities to people who are homeless and who wish to pull themselves up.

"The communities are established to provide the circumstances which enable individuals to help themselves," said Tim.

"In that way, we differ quite considerably from other organisations which have a far more charitable approach, in the classical meaning of the word, where people have things done for them. We're not like them."

Do companions have to work a rigid 40-hour week? "No, it's extremely flexible," said ex-RAF policeman Jeff Walsh, manager of the Emmaus Coventry community. "All we ask is that companions work to the best of their ability. If that is just making a few sandwiches because of their age or infirmity, then that's the best they can do."

"If the best of their ability is to volunteer for everything from dawn to sunset, well that's fine, too. We're not looking for

experts. If we wanted experts, we would be employing them.

"We work with what we've got, not for it. That's the difference."

Some describe Emmaus communities as communes. "This tends to have quasi-religious overtones," said Tim. "We're not. We are a secular organisation, but we find that by providing a supportive frame-

Our companions relish the opportunity to contribute, but don't have to worry about the electricity bill or going back onto the streets



Growth: Tim Page

work – provided not only by the structure of the staff, but by the peers themselves – this produces an environment that suits a lot of very damaged people, some more damaged than others, off the streets or referred by other agencies.

"Our companions relish the opportunity to contribute, but don't have to worry about the electricity bill or going back onto the streets."

Emmaus communities have a drug- and drink-free environment, and the encouragement of people who have themselves spent years on the streets, dependent on drugs and alcohol. They are people deter-

mined to break out of it, precisely the spirit which makes Emmaus work.

Tim said: "We don't employ counselors, per se. Very few of our staff have a social services or professional welfare background, but they apply common sense, organisational and management skills which makes the thing work."

If Emmaus feels there is a need for specific expertise, in dependency problems for example, then the community leaders have links with the appropriate agencies. Rather than apply through a GP, they simply pick up the phone and deal directly with a professional.

"With the background and make-up of Emmaus companions, they want things to happen instantly," said Jeff. "And they understandably don't want to wait weeks to see someone."

Tim Page is keen to encourage ex-Servicemen and women to consider working for Emmaus and running a community.

"I would like to attract warrant officers and NCOs at the end of their 18 or 22 years' service," he said. "With their children grown up, they might be looking for a second career."

Emmaus is an international charity working in 44 countries. For more information, call head office on 01223 576103, or e-mail contact@emmaus.org.uk

August 2003 **SOLDIER**

Out of the nightmare

Army charity helps to give stroke victim Alexander Andrew his independence

Report: Andrea Frazer
Pictures: Steve Dock

IMAGINE suffering a stroke at the age of 48, losing the ability to walk, the use of an arm and your independence.

This nightmare became a reality for Alexander Andrew, a former soldier of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers.

In 1999, a severe stroke left him without the use of his legs and his left arm, ended his fun-loving lifestyle and forced him to quit his jobs as a driver and security guard.

Four years on and the 52-year-old has made an amazing recovery, helped by the specialist care he received at the Chaseley Home in Eastbourne and grants from the Army Benevolent Fund.

Alexander is walking unaided and keen to getting his life back on track at his bungalow in his home town of Brighton.

He said: "When I arrived at Chaseley I couldn't do anything for myself and needed constant assistance. After two years of steady rehabilitation, I'm now able to do nearly everything without help. I can get up when I want and make a cup of tea without having to rely on others."

Chaseley Home is a care home for the severely disabled that gives priority to ex-Servicemen and women and their dependants. Chief executive Sue Wyatt said: "Over the years we have received more than £500,000 in grants from the Army Benevolent Fund.

"This money has made a huge difference to many people's lives. Not only does it help to upgrade the facilities and nursing equipment that we are able to offer, but it also makes a significant contribution to the high costs involved in training our staff.

"Alexander is just one of the residents to have benefited from our outstanding nursing care and physiotherapy treatments as well as the use of our rehabilitation suite built with the help of ABF funding.

"He is moving 25 miles away to live independently again and we are so proud



Success story: Specialist care at Eastbourne's Chaseley Home, supported by the ABF, has turned Alexander's life around

of him. He will manage very well without us now and although we will miss him, we call that success."

Alexander added: "I've made some great friends at Chaseley and I'm so grateful to all the staff for their encouragement and for helping me regain my independence. I wouldn't have achieved it without them.

"I'm now looking forward to getting back to my old ways, having some fun and getting a part-time job. Maybe I'll even get back behind the wheel again one day."

Manage your money



Credit Action Director Keith Tondeur, will be pleased to answer, in confidence, specific questions addressed to the Editor.

Family's bad habits rubbed off on son

CORPORAL G came from a family who did not have a clue about handling money and unfortunately their bad habits seemed to have rubbed off on their son.

As soon as he had turned 18 Corporal G had been sucked into the credit trap. Over a period of a few months he bought himself a car, music system, computer and satellite TV. Then his girlfriend got pregnant and they decided to rent a flat together. This caused additional expense as did the baby when she arrived.

It soon became clear to Corporal G that he was struggling to make ends meet and it wasn't long before he was getting up to his credit limits. A couple of his card companies increased his borrowing limit and he also took out an additional loan to help meet his payments.

WORSE SITUATION

At first this seemed to work well but all too soon the money he had borrowed had been used up in paying the interest of his original debts and now he was in a worse situation than ever.

Corporal G knew this couldn't continue as it was causing a lot of tension at home and in any event the credit companies seemed reluctant to increase his credit still further. He decided to seek help and with some trepidation went to his RAO.

This was an exceptionally good move. The RAO sat down with him and went through the budget form that was found in the Credit Action debt booklet that is available free to all Army personnel and their families.

It soon became obvious to them that Corporal G was spending over £200 a month purely on interest payments. This was clearly not sustainable.

IN CONTROL

Corporal G was persuaded to ring the Credit Action/CCCS freephone helpline and after completing an in-depth phone interview he was put on a Debt Management Plan. This in effect meant that Corporal G made just one affordable payment to CCCS each month and they distributed this among his various creditors.

Already the debts he has are reducing. Corporal G still doesn't sleep well at nights. But it is no longer the worry of the debts that are keeping him awake. His daughter is teething!

If you have any form of debt or money problems please contact the Credit Action-CCCS helpline below for free confidential advice.

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He's no outlaw

A look at the charity work of TA soldier Robin Hood

HE may have a name synonymous with robbing from the rich to give to the poor, but one Territorial Army officer gives away something precious... his time, writes Ray Routledge.

Capt Robin Hood joined the TA in 1986 in Rugby and serves with the Royal Logistic Corps.

For the past nine years he has been a director of DEBRA Scotland, a cause to which he has dedicated his life. His 14-year-old daughter Alex is a victim of dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa, and the research association charity, DEBRA, raises money to find a cure. Robin's daughter is one of 5,000 UK sufferers who endure severe pain as a result of the condition.

It is a genetic disorder that makes skin, throat and internal linings fragile, causing them to blister at the slightest touch. Many victims do not survive into adulthood.

£8 MILLION NEEDED

Scientists at Dundee University investigating gene therapy strategies are seeking a cure and reckon they need another £8 million to achieve a breakthrough. Robin has already raised many thousands of pounds towards their efforts.

"We really need people to take this children's cause to their hearts," he said. "Every morning my daughter wakes up in agony from 30 or 40 blisters that have formed overnight. She cannot get dressed or washed without her skin peeling off and it can take eight hours a day just to deal with her bandages."

Robin, who lives by the shores of Loch Ken near Castle Douglas, knows it is a race against time for a cure to be found for his daughter.

If you would like to help or make a donation see the DEBRA website at www.debra.org.uk/index.htm or ring 01344 771961.

● If you are in the TA and have an interesting or unusual day job, drop us a line or send an e-mail to routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Charity: Capt Robin Hood has raised thousands of pounds for medical research

My Army JIMMY PERRY

Now meet the REAL Private Pike

The creator of *Dad's Army* and *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* actually served in the Home Guard and with a concert party in Burma and India

Interview: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

IF you thought some of the situations in TV's *Dad's Army* and *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* were far-fetched, think again. They actually happened.

And the same can be said for *Hi-De-Hi*, the sitcom set in a holiday camp.

That's according to Jimmy Perry, who along with David Croft created what are widely regarded as some of British television's finest comedy.

"I am often asked what was the difference between the real Home Guard and *Dad's Army*," he said from his office in Covent Garden. "Not a lot actually. *Dad's Army* was rooted firmly on fact. The character of Private Pike was based on me, with my mother continually fussing. She didn't make me a scarf, though. And my father often called me a 'stupid boy', synonymous with Pike."

Other characters were based on real people, too, with embellishments. "Take Cpl Jones," said Jimmy. "In real life he wasn't a butcher but a French polisher for a firm called Goddards in Watford High Street. Like the television Cpl Jones, he told us endlessly about his war-fighting exploits."

"He had been in the Rifle Brigade at the Battle of Omdurman in 1898. Just think, I have spoken first-hand to someone who had been in a battle fought 105 years ago - he bored the arse off us all."

Too young to join the Army at the outbreak of war, Jimmy met his "Cpl Jones" when he enlisted in the Home Guard in Watford.

"I joined to fight the Germans. People today just don't understand, they don't realise how desperate it was."

"I loved the Home Guard but was desperate to join the Army. I think I just could not wait to get killed. I drove my mother mad."

"When I was called up in 1944, I did my basic training at Colchester. It was

easy because I had already been drilling for several years."

He joined the Royal Artillery and became a radar operator, training with a mixed heavy ack-ack regiment.

"I don't think the women of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), have ever been given the full credit they deserve," said Jimmy. "During the war, 56,000 ATS women served in the Royal Artillery Anti-Aircraft Command and some were killed and others wounded. They deserve our respect and thanks."

In civilian life, Jimmy had already taken his first steps into the world of comic entertainment. He put his talents to good use in the Army, joining or organising shows wherever he went.

A posting to Burma and a promotion to bombardier was followed by a move to Deolali in India and involvement in the Royal Artillery Concert Party. *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* was based on their adventures.

While making the hit show nearly 30 years later Jimmy worked with actor Michael Bates, whom he held in high regard. "Michael was born in India and spoke perfect Urdu. He had been a Gurkha officer during the war and served with the Chindits behind Japanese lines in Burma."

"He was very brave and continued working on the show as Rangji Ram, the bearer, even though he had terminal cancer and was in great pain."

The show had a number of ex-Servicemen in the cast, including John Clegg, a former second lieutenant who played "La di da" Gunner Graham, Windsor Davis, who had been a sergeant, Donald Hewlett, who played the colonel in the show but who had been a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and Michael Knowles, a former RAF corporal.

With the breaking up of the concert party and the end of hostilities, Jimmy joined the newly formed Combined Services Entertainment (CSE) and toured all over India before a return to England and



Jimmy Perry: Characters in the *Dad's Army* series were based on people he had known

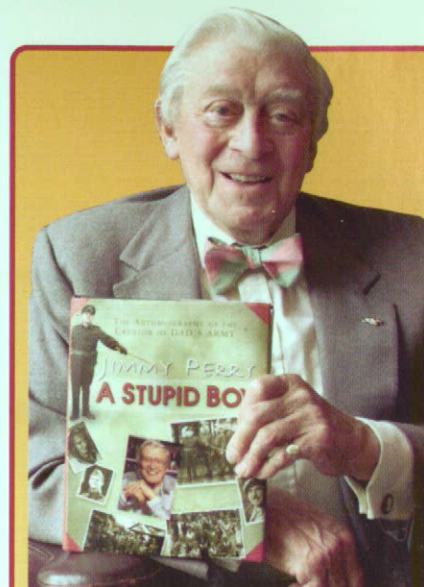
demob in Aldershot. He auditioned in front of Flora Robson and was accepted by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (Rada), where he counted Warren Mitchell, Lionel Jeffries, Dorothy Tutin and Robert Shaw among his classmates.

During the Rada holidays Jimmy had to find work and so became a Butlin's red-coat at Pwllheli. The idea for *Hi-De-Hi*, again based on his experiences, was born.

The scams depicted on TV so well by Paul Shane as Ted Bovis actually happened.

"Many of the money-making tricks that appeared in *Hi-De-Hi* were based on true incidents," Jimmy recalled, laughing. "There was a bingo scam run by one well-known comedian. I never found out what it was, but he made a lot of money."

"All those characters really existed. The entertainments manager, played by



Win a book signed by the author

FOR a chance to win a signed copy of Jimmy Perry's autobiography, *A Stupid Boy*, answer the following question: What was the profession of Cpl Jones in *Dad's Army*?

a) Butcher, b) Undertaker, c) Bank manager

Send your answers on a postcard to: Jimmy Perry competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU. The winner will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by August 31. Usual rules apply.

Simon Cadell, was an archaeology professor, although in real life he was an alcoholic and had been chucked out of university." While Jimmy never did become the film star or comedian he had hoped, he and David Croft left a legacy of TV comedy without peer.

Working with some of the great comic actors of the 1960s and 1970s was made easier, he said, because of their own military training. "*Dad's Army* had lots of ex-Servicemen, including Geoffrey Lumsden, who played Capt Square but who had in fact been a major, and Clive Dunn, who spent four years as a prisoner-of-war in Germany."

"Arthur Lowe, John le Mesurier, and John Laurie had all been in the Forces, so the drill wasn't a problem. When I said 'fall in' during rehearsals, they did so. It was instinctive."

"I owe a lot to my time in the Service. My four years in the Army has carried me right through life and I am grateful."

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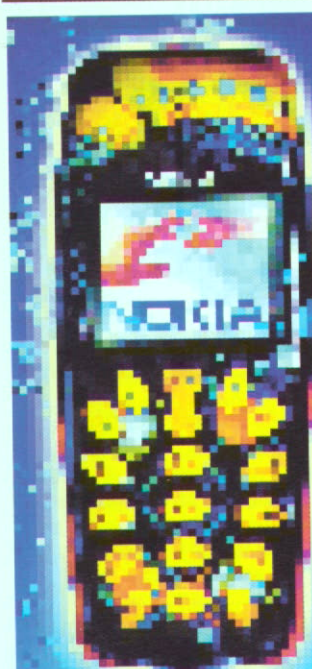
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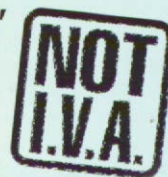
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Bosses turn to Sandhurst 'brand'

A private company combines the best in military leadership skills with high-grade civilian management

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

SANDHURST's reputation for leadership training gained over more than two-and-half centuries is being put to good use by senior managers in the private sector keen to hone their own skills.

Directors and managers from companies around the country are queuing up to attend the courses, designed by Inspirational Development Consulting (IDC), at the Royal Military Academy.

They come in groups of anything from ten to 70 to soak up the unique culture of the Sandhurst experience while developing their management and teamworking skills.

Richard Waite, who was a major in The Light Infantry, acts as a liaison between IDC and the college. "Our priority is to put the military, and particularly the RMAS, at the forefront of blue-chip business thinking so they recognise the leadership skills Sandhurst training can offer," he said.

Although the students move in and use facilities at the college, there is limited Army involvement. "If we are going to use the assault course then we include the PTIs, who keep an eye on health and

safety as a priority," said Richard. "The obstacles are fairly simple ones and each individual is assessed as to whether we think they can do it or not. They certainly would not do the whole assault course."

"One should not underestimate the selling power of the brand name of Sandhurst. It is recognised as an élite, professional academy for leadership and team-building. After all, officer cadets spend a year doing just that."

It is a point not lost on Craig Preston, a former major with The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and now project manager with IDC. "We work in partnership with the Academy to provide teamwork and leadership training to business," he said.

"It is very much hands-on, learning by doing, although there is a certain amount of scene-setting in the classroom."

The courses have attracted top people from organisations including the Royal Bank of Scotland and Marks and Spencer. Trainees range from junior managers to directors.

They are given command tasks and

learn tried-and-tested leadership principles through a variety of exercises. Each course is tailor-made for the client and usually lasts two or three days. The students use classrooms, equipment and facilities in the college which would otherwise be idle.

But how do complex strategy and practical tasks help in the commercial work?

"The tasks increase their awareness of the power of collaboration," said Craig. "If they unify, they all win. It will improve their knowledge of where they fit in the wider business, to know their strengths and development areas."

"Many of the tasks are designed to improve communication, emphasising that it should be clear and in all directions. Then there is planning – seeking input from everyone. They learn the tasks we set can be completed only by teamwork, not by individuals."

"If something goes wrong, they have to learn to tackle the problem together rather than apportion blame. The tasks have a solution-based approach."

"A good military commander always seeks input from the team, especially when things go wrong. He may not have the technical knowledge for a particular problem, so relies heavily on the expertise of others. But the commander has the ultimate responsibility for the decision and it is the same in business."



Challenge: Martin Thomas, left, leads his team during a Sandhurst initiative test

Customer's view:

Martin Thomas, managing director of Camberley-based Andreas Stihl Ltd, a successful power tool company in the hobby and professional markets, took his management team to Sandhurst.

"We are an evolving team and felt the facilities and structure of military thinking as applied to the business world could benefit us," he said. "Planning, contingency planning, crisis management and getting to know each other away from the business environment should create bond between individuals."

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Stand at easel

Portrait of a sapper turned artist

Report: Andrea Frazer
Picture: Graeme Main

EX-SAPPER Richard Moore has every right to feel content. At the age of 35 he has managed to find what many can only dream of: the perfect job. By combining a lifelong interest in the military with natural talent, he has created a full-time business working as a freelance artist.

Richard relocated from Yorkshire to Inverness with his family three years ago and, despite the fact that he doesn't formally advertise, business is booming. Commissions are coming in thick and fast, galleries are exhibiting his paintings and a growing number of military and civilian clients are seeking his services.

"I like to think that the quality of my work speaks for itself," he said. "When people ask for a commission, they get a piece of art that is absolutely spot on."

"A word-of-mouth recommendation from a satisfied customer is definitely the best form of publicity in my opinion."

His tools of the trade – paint, brush and easel – are a far cry from his days as a sapper.

"I joined up as a boy soldier, spent five years with the Royal Engineers in Ger-

many and just under a year in Northern Ireland.

"I did a lot of painting when I was in the Army. My work proved popular and as a result I did quite a few portraits and caricatures for leaving presents."

Richard's decision to leave the forces at the age of 22 led to a speedy entry into the art world. "I literally left my base in Northern Ireland one day and enrolled on the National Diploma of Art and Design at Blackpool College the next," he said.



"As a military artist portraying battle scenes you really have to know your subject, even down to tiny details like which way the wind was blowing during that particular part of the battle."

Richard Moore, left, and examples of his artwork, above and below

With hundreds of commissions under his belt, Richard's subjects vary significantly in theme.

"I'll paint anything from landscapes to wildlife, but my favourite subject is definitely the military."

Richard's artwork has portrayed military events and personnel throughout the centuries, from the Battle of Culloden in 1746 up to present-day conflicts and peace-keeping missions.

"I suppose some people would call me a bit obsessive when it comes to the military, but you have to be if you strive for perfection. I know my subject well and am constantly building up my knowledge and understanding. Attention to detail is the key to successful artwork."

From his studio perched in the highlands of Scotland, Richard's time as a soldier is never far from his mind. "I am constantly drawing upon my experiences in the Army when I paint. I have a good idea of what was going on in these men's minds."

"I try to treat my subjects with the respect they deserve, to recreate the emotions that would have been in the soldiers' faces. It's not just the uniform. I attempt to portray the person inside as well."

Hunt for Z-7763

Soldiers find remains of missing Second World War bomber on Mount Kenya

Report: Yoyo Volak

BRITISH soldiers have helped to solve the mystery of a Royal Air Force bomber which went missing in Kenya during the Second World War.

The Blenheim, call-sign Z-7763, and its young South African crew disappeared on July 23, 1942 during a training flight. The wreckage was never found and the names of the four airmen on board were added to the 3,000 British and Commonwealth airmen listed as missing in action on the war memorial at El Alamein.

Last year a logger came across what looked like the remains of an aircraft deep in bamboo forest on the southern slopes of Mount Kenya. His report to the Kenya Wildlife Service warden responsible for the area was passed to the British Army Training Liaison Staff in Kenya (BATLSK).

A group of British soldiers, guided by the logger, climbed the mountain to carry out their own recce of the crash site. They sent photographs of wreckage and rubbings of serial numbers visible on parts of the aircraft to the RAF's Personal Management Agency in the UK.

It was thought to be a British Blenheim bomber, so John Romain, managing director of the Aircraft Restoration Company in Duxford, and a world authority on old aircraft, was sought for his expert opinion.

He confirmed that not only were the remains that of a Blenheim, but by cross-referencing serial numbers with data from war records, he traced the actual aircraft back to 1941 and the Rootes car factory in Birmingham where it was built.

Z-7763 had been sent to Kenya to join the operational training unit for Commonwealth pilots based in Nanyuki. More research by John Romain, this time in the Public Record Office in London, revealed more of Z-7763's secrets.

Four airmen, he discovered, had been

reported missing in action on the night of July 23, 1942. On the same day, bomber Z-7763, flying out of Nanyuki, had gone missing on a navigational exercise with a young South African crew on board.

The wreckage had never been found and the names of the crew had been added to the El Alamein memorial. The file was closed and that appeared to be the end of the story.

So much for dusty archives. Attention turned back to the actual pieces of metal high up on Mount Kenya. Formal identification was necessary so John Romain flew to Kenya to join a party of British soldiers led by WO2 Bobby Gillespie, 2 Royal Irish, on the mountain.

The others in the group included WO2 Graham Elstob, late RE, WO1 (Conductor) Rex Smith RLC, Sgt Brian Elliston RLC, LCpl Simon Carter RAMC and LSgt Adrian Doyle WG.

What they found revealed why Z-7763's fate remained a mystery for more than half a century. What is left of it lies at 10,000ft, deep in virgin forest and shrouded in cloud.

The climb to the site was gruelling. It took nine hours to cut a narrow track through 4.7km of dense bamboo forest. Even with the help of GPS and grid references it was one of the most difficult navigational exercises WO2 Gillespie had ever attempted. Landmarks disappeared in seconds in swirls of cloud.

A combination of altitude and its location astride the equator produces forms of vegetation unique to the East African mountains. Lobelias grow to 10ft and giant groundsel reaches 19ft, but it was mostly through dense bamboo that the climbers had to make their way.

Thin air and intermittent freezing rain added to their problems.

The group finally reached the crash site an hour before darkness, just enough time to find a patch of level ground in between the elephant tracks and trees to pitch



Found: WO1 (Conductor) Rex Smith pictured with wreckage

Proof positive: Serial numbers



Evidence: Wreckage in the undergrowth

tents, build a fire and cook up rations. The soldiers took turns throughout the night to stag on and guard against elephants.

At daybreak the team excavated the wreck. It was undramatic, even unremarkable, but no one forgot that it was the grave of four airmen virtually forgotten for more than 60 years.

Their resting place is sad and desolate. The soldiers dug and pulled at the wreckage, trying to find unequivocal proof that they had found Z-7763.

There was plenty of it – and evidence

that the aircraft had flown into the mountainside, its pilot misjudging the altitude in the darkness and cloud, the same conditions that now confronted the climbers.

Much of the wreckage was too rusted or damaged to be immediately recognisable to anyone other than John, but the party was able to salvage a pair of Browning machine-guns, rounds of ammunition in belts, parachute clasps and the flare gun still in its holster – evidence pointing to the fact that the crew had had no time to save themselves.



Search party: Standing are, from left, WO2 Bobby Gillespie, a civilian with the team, Sgt Brian Elliston, LCpl Simon Carter, Yoyo Volak, LSgt Adrian Doyle and WO2 Graeme Elstob. Sitting are WO1 (Conductor) Rex Smith, left, and John Romain, a world authority on old aircraft

The impact of the crash was enormous. The searchers found a rudder pedal moulded to the shape of the pilot's foot and the starboard engine was buried in vegetation 30m from the main bulk of the wreckage.

They also found shoes, buttons, parachute silk and some bones, which they bagged up for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It will be the job of the RAF's Personal Management Agency to trace any next-of-kin.

John reckoned the position of the bones

indicated they were most likely the remains of one or both of the rear gunners. DNA testing may confirm this, but at least the fate of Bomber Z-7763 had finally been resolved.

The names of 2nd Lt C.H Allen, 2nd Lt H J P Lemmer, Sgt S Eliastram and Sgt Lloyd Murray can now be removed from the El Alamein War Memorial for airmen listed as missing in action.

After a punishing three days on the mountain the team returned to their base, the Blenheim mystery solved.

War that never ended

Fifty years ago the communists were held in Korea as the world teetered on the brink of another catastrophic conflict

Report: Ray Routledge

PANMUNJOM means little or nothing to a modern generation, but 50 years ago it was the centre of world attention.

Straddling the border between North and South Korea, it was there that a ceasefire was signed on July 27 1953 to end a war which in three years of bloody hostilities had cost the lives of 1,109 British Servicemen and wounded 2,674 others.

The seeds of the conflict lay in Cold War posturing between the Soviet Union and the USA and post-Second World War settlements which had divided the Korean peninsula along the 38th parallel.

Separate governments were established in 1948, the Republic of Korea (ROK) led by Syngman Rhee in the south and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) under Kim Il Sung in the north.

Two years later, on June 25, 1950, the north invaded the south, with seven assault infantry divisions and a tank brigade sweeping across the 38th parallel.

The fledgling United Nations appealed to the world for support for South Korea and by July 5 American ground troops were fighting North Koreans north of Osan. The US Army retreated with heavy casualties and was also forced to withdraw near the Kum River, at Taejon and Naktong.

Meanwhile the Allies set up a perimeter around Pusan in the south-east and on August 29 UN reinforcements, including



Helping out: A patrol from the Middlesex Regt forward observation section move to support the American 2nd Division's withdrawal from Kunu-Ri

two British battalions from Hong Kong – the Middlesex and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders – and an Australian battalion from Japan arrived on the scene.

The following month US forces counter-attacked near Yongsan, driving the invaders back, and US, British, Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and Netherlands troops took part in the Inchon landings a few miles from Seoul.

At the same time, UN forces broke out of Pusan, forcing the North Koreans to retreat over the 38th parallel as far as the Chinese border. China promptly entered the war, sending troops into Korea.

In Britain a brigade was mobilised and reservists recalled. The 29th Brigade sailed in October 1950, landing in Korea a month later.

At the end of October, UN forces and Chinese soldiers clashed for the first time, the communists mounting massive

attacks, resulting in the defeat by the end of November of the US 2nd and 25th Divisions along the Chongchon River.

In April the following year the Chinese began their spring offensive but were held then pushed north before digging in along the 38th parallel. Truce talks began in Kaesong in July and were to last two years during which vicious, often hand-to-hand fighting continued.

In late summer, UN forces launched attacks to consolidate their lines while peace talks moved to Panmunjom. For the next 18 months there was stalemate on both battlefield and negotiating table.

In March 1953 agreement was reached on a PoW swap proposed by Gen Mark Clark, the Far Eastern commander. With fighting still going on along the front the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners, known as Little Switch, took place at Panmunjom at the end of April.

In late June the Chinese launched mas-

sive attacks against South Korean divisions even as they returned to the negotiation table and agreed a ceasefire.

It was signed by Lt Gen Nam Il and Lt Gen William K Harrison at 1000 at Panmunjom. Twelve hours later the fighting stopped.

Combat units from 16 countries and medical units from five others supported South Korea. The DPRK was reinforced by the Chinese Army, the Soviet Air Force, and Eastern European medical forces.

More than half a million casualties were sustained by the South Koreans and UN, and up to two million by the communists.

Bizarrely, the Korean War has never formally ended and remains, after 50 years, in a state of armistice. In theory it could start again at any time.

Imjin battle put the Glorious into Glosters

THE single most famous action fought by British soldiers during the Korean War was the Battle of Imjin River at Solma-Ri from April 22 to 25 1951.

Three divisions of the 63rd Chinese Army, numbering about 27,000 soldiers, mounted an attack on Seoul and found 29 Brigade in their way.

Among the units opposing them were the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment and C Troop, 170th Independent Mortar Battery RA (now called the Imjin Battery). Also heavily involved were the Northumberland Fusiliers, the Royal Ulster Rifles, the Belgian Capital Battalion and the 8th King's Royal Hussars with their Centurion tanks. The 45th Field Regiment RA, equipped with 25-pounder guns, and 55 Squadron RE provided close support.

Outnumbered ten-to-one, the Glosters held their position on the first night but were forced to withdraw over the next two days.

Surrounded on a hilltop and running out of ammunition, they attempted to break out. Fifty-nine Glosters were killed and 526 captured, 180 of them wounded. Thirty-four more were to die in captivity. Only 67 officers and men escaped the battlefield.



What next? The Glosters having captured one hill await orders for their next attack

As a result of the 1st Battalion's heroism, the regiment won two Victoria Crosses and became known as the Glorious Glosters.

Crucially, the brigade delayed the Chinese advance on Seoul long enough for UN troops to regroup and repel the invaders.

Young officer found himself in battle weeks after passing out

ONE of the 67 Glosters who came through the battle was a young second lieutenant named David Holdsworth.

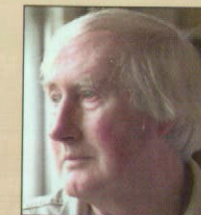
"I was a Regular soldier, passing out from Sandhurst in 1950," he recalled at his home in Surrey.

"I was sent to Korea as part of 29 Brigade and arrived at the battalion just five weeks before the battle took place. The only officers I knew were the people in my company.

"My platoon, 12 Platoon, were mostly reservists aged 25 to 36 and many had fought in the Second World War. Here was I, totally new, who knew nothing about fighting yet had to command them.

"When the attack came they pushed us off our positions and in the end the remnants of the battalion went to the top of what is now Gloster Hill.

"As night approached Chinese activity increased and we tried to scrape some sort of defensive positions with mess tins and knives. We settled down for the night but were woken by our own machine-guns blasting off below.



David Holdsworth

"In the early hours of the morning, the Chinese attacked up the main ridge. It was repulsed, but after daybreak they came again.

"I saw a group of Chinese carrying mortars and machine-guns to the ridge we had vacated the night before and I remember thinking that our number was up and there was a good chance I would be killed.

"We were cut off and surrounded by hordes of Chinese soldiers; there wasn't much chance at all.

"The order came to move out and we trooped down the hill and into a little valley with a stream. I cannot remember when the first bursts of machine-gun fire hit us.

We dived into the river and eventually escaped when a line of American tanks appeared and formed a shield to protect us from the Chinese gunfire."

David Holdsworth served until 1967 when he left the Army with the rank of major. His daughter Karen continues the family links with the British Army. A former *Soldier* writer, she is currently the senior information officer for HQ 43 (Wessex) Brigade at Bulford.

The **SOLDIER** MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

Schools Feature

A regular item for service families seeking school placement for their children or advice on residential education.



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Champions' champions

Sporting greats, past and present, pay tribute to Great Britain's real heroes



GARY LINEKER

SECOND only to Sir Bobby Charlton as England's all-time top goal scorer with 48 goals in 80 appearances, the predatory striker began his playing career with Leicester City before making a £1.1 million move to Everton.

A three-year stint at the Nou Camp followed, where his goals helped fire Barcelona to the league championship, the Spanish Cup and European Cup Winners Cup. Now the face of BBC Sport, Gary, left, signed for Tottenham Hotspur in 1989 and collected an FA Cup winner's medal in 1991.

"I often think that we have a tendency to take the Army for granted. We know it's there, we think we know what it does and we just accept that it will get out there and do it. It's all rather vague and probably a bit at arm's length. Most of us probably don't give it much more thought.

"Then something happens, somewhere in the world. Our 'boys' are sent to sort it out, or perhaps straighten out a mess left behind by others, and we realise just what a difficult, dangerous and truly outstanding job they do.

"Recent events have made me realise that not only do I have the utmost admiration for the Army, but I find I am also terrifically proud of the Service and every member of its personnel."

BOBBY GEORGE

ONE of darts' most colourful and charismatic players, Bobby, right, made his 15th Embassy World Championships appearance last year.

"Although I've never been a soldier I have always had fairly close ties with the British Army. I used to do a lot of promotional work for Naafi and, over the space of 18 years, I regularly visited British camps in Germany, went to the Falkland Islands and even flew out to Kuwait to entertain the troops during the first Gulf War.

"I truly admire our boys and girls in the Services. Most people never think of them until our country has to put its hands up and be counted, but without them we would be in real trouble. They are the backbone of our country and I have always had a lot of respect for them. They've got real bottle.

"Having worked alongside the Army and living close to Colchester this is obviously a very worrying time and my message to all those still out there is be lucky, be good, be kind and be careful. May the darts be with you."

RICKY HATTON

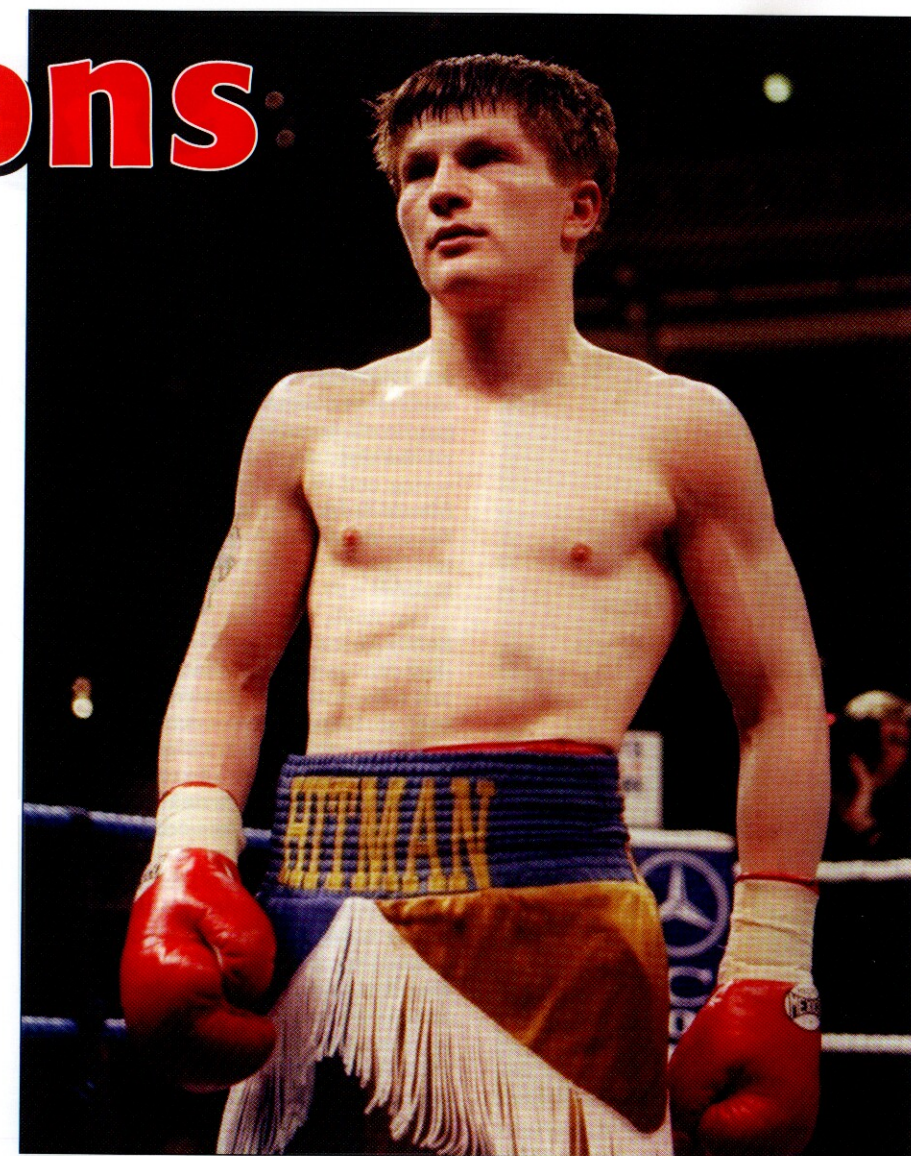
KNOWN as the "Hitman" for a ruthless attacking style that centres on lethal body punches, the undefeated WBU light-welterweight champion of the world, right, has been described by his promoter, Frank Warren, as "the most talented fighter to emerge out of Great Britain since Naseem Hamed".

"Our soldiers are all doing a fantastic job in the Gulf. Boxing is probably one of the hardest games in the world, but those guys have shown the same courage it takes to be a success in the ring... if not more. I take my hat off to each and every one of them - they have done this country proud."

SIR HENRY COOPER

A THREE-times Lonsdale belt winner, 'Enry ruled the domestic heavyweight division for more than a decade and famously floored a brash 21-year-old named Cassius Clay at Wembley Stadium in 1963.

"It fills me with great pride when I hear of the ways our Servicemen have represented our country both during and after the Gulf War. Each and every one of them is a credit to us all and I thank them and wish all who remain in the Gulf a swift and safe return to their families."



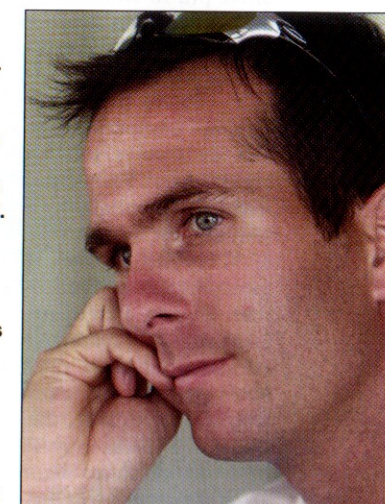
MICHAEL VAUGHAN

OFFICIALLY ranked as the number one batsman in the world, Yorkshire's opener was appointed as England's one day international captain earlier this year and has since lead the team to Series victories over Pakistan and South Africa.

"I have got a lot of admiration for the Army, they do a fantastic job. To have to go away and not know when they are going to come back, or even if they are going to come home, must be so hard.

"It is difficult to know exactly what to say to our soldiers, but my message to those out in the Gulf is keep fighting, keep going for it and hopefully you'll be home soon.

"Our soldiers are a lot more important than my cricket team."



RODNEY MARSH

ONE of Sky Sports' Soccer Saturday pundits, Rodney, left, scored the winning goal for Queen's Park Rangers in the 1967 League Cup final against West Bromwich Albion, was capped nine times for England and won four championships with the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

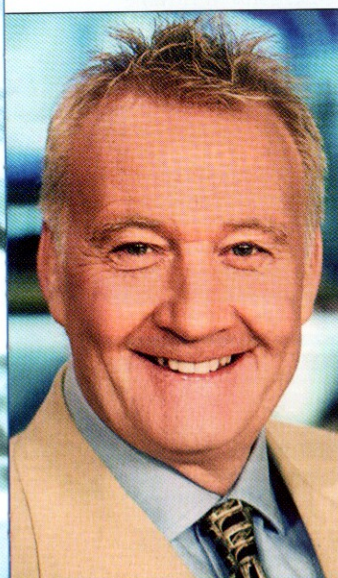
"I think you guys do a great job. I admire anyone who puts themselves in danger to protect others. I always closely follow the events in the news about Iraq while in the USA or UK and have nothing but absolute respect for our Armed Forces."

CLIFF JONES

CAPPED 59 times for Wales and, at his peak, regarded as the best left-winger in the world, Cliff spent ten years at White Hart Lane and was a key member of Spurs' 1960-1961 double-winning side.

"With the situation in the Gulf becoming more difficult and dangerous as time goes on, our thoughts and best wishes go out to our Servicemen and women who are dealing with it.

"They do so in a very dedicated and professional manner, which the country respects and is proud of. We wish them in due course a safe return to their families and loved ones."



England's great escape

Rugby's giant-killers prove tough test for national Sevens side in the Cayman Islands

JOE Lydon's England Sevens side came within seconds of becoming the Army's latest big-name scalp at the Cayman Islands International challenge tournament, writes Roger Thompson.

Having topped their preliminary league and coasted to a 36-0 victory over British invitation-side the Marauders, the Army booked themselves a showdown with the England squad, masquerading as team "Samurai", in the competition's final.

In a match that would have graced any Sevens tournament, the Army found themselves leading by two tries with no time left on the official clock.

However, much to the annoyance and loud whistles of a pro-Army crowd, the match referee found an additional four minutes of extra time to play.

Hanging on to the lead against a fully professional outfit in the middle of their international season was never going to be easy for the Army and England scored two late tries to bring them within one point of Lt Col Andy Hickling's men.

Simon Amor, the England captain and architect of the national team's wins over New Zealand and Fiji at Twickenham, then delivered the hammer blow, kicking a conversion that gave his side a slender 36-35 victory.

Round one, just, to England, but the Army have a chance to avenge the result when the two teams clash again at the Henley International Sevens tournament later this month.

Reflecting on England's great escape, Army coach Hickling said: "It was a particularly bitter pill to swallow, but in the longer term it proved the quality of the Army team and increased our desire to remain competitive at the very highest level."

Prior to their visit to the Cayman Islands the Army took part in the Zambian Sevens. Played in Lusaka and featuring African national sides and provincial teams from South Africa, the tournament was played in front of more than 10,000 spectators.

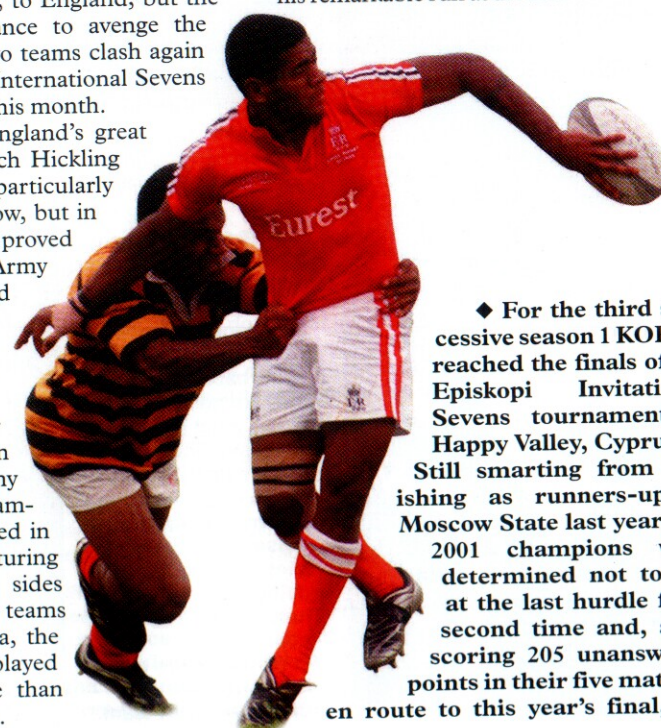
Considering this was the Army's first real challenge of the Sevens season, the team moved remarkably quickly into top gear in the steamy heat to win their pool on the first day. Among those on the wrong end of an Army beating were old friends from Kenya, who had recently beaten France in Argentina and reached the quarter-finals of the Hong Kong Sevens.

On finals day the Army faced two South African teams, the Blue Bulls who they convincingly beat in the semi-finals, and fellow finalists Western Province.

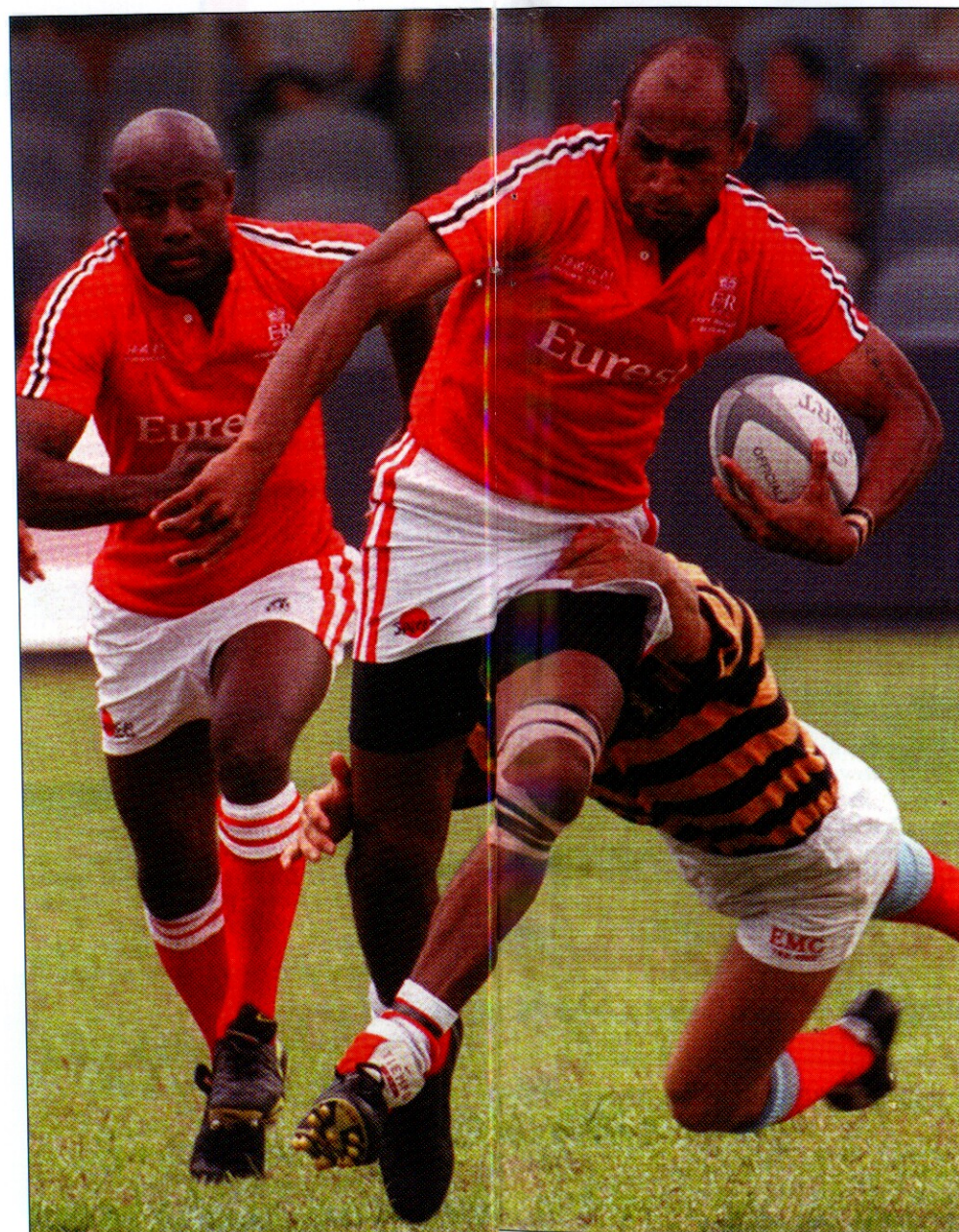
In an enthralling encounter, the Reds needed to find overdrive quickly, but it was only after a bit of wheel spinning against a typically bruising Springbok team that the Army accelerated away to win 41-21.

In both tournaments Pte Emosi Naisaramaki (1 RS) strutted his stuff fluently on the hard grounds and, along with Pte Damu Damu (Hldrs), who proved that he is a player with immense talent, deserves to be performing on the international stage.

Newcomer Pte Eric Butadroka (1 PWRR) performed with such flair and speed that he should feature strongly in coming competitions and old warhorse, Capt Howard Graham (AGC), continued his remarkable run at the heart of the team.



◆ For the third successive season 1 KORBR reached the finals of the Episkopi Invitational Sevens tournament at Happy Valley, Cyprus. Still smarting from finishing as runners-up to Moscow State last year, the 2001 champions were determined not to fall at the last hurdle for a second time and, after scoring 205 unanswered points in their five matches en route to this year's final, the



International promise: Pte Emosi Naisaramaki (1 RS), left, flips the ball out of the tackle and, above, LCpl Bul Bulumakau (1 RS), supported by Gdsm Alfred Vakacokavanua, splits the Kenyan defence at the Zambian International Sevens tournament in Lusaka

Pictures: Roger Thompson

infantrymen regained their crown by beating 22 Regt RA 31-5.

Despite losing key player Pte Zak Banicau to injury during their semi-final encounter with the Akrotiri Flamingos, 1 KORBR took an early lead against the gunners with tries from Pte Joe Nainima and Pte Tag Tagicakivanua.

Gnr Chris Boughton did manage to hit back for 22 Regt in the second half with a well-worked try, but conceding

for the first time in the tournament only served to aggravate the eventual champions, who replied with a further three tries from team captain Pte Roco Rogoruwai (2) and LCpl Gilly Gilmour. A hat-trick of conversions from the boot of LCpl Meli Tuisavuna sealed the victory.

◆ 2 LI beat 1 KORBR Border Lions 31-0 to win the plate competition and CPJU were crowned women's champions after beating Episkopi Falcons 12-5.

Belles of the ball

Army complete men and women's double at Inter-Services

EMULATING the success of their male counterparts, the Army women's rugby team brushed aside the challenge of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force to win the inaugural Inter-Services championships.

Captained by Maj Liz McKinney-Bennett (AGC), the Army's bid to lift the silverware got off to a flying start with a 32-10 victory over the RAF at Aldershot.

Capt Emma Bowes-Crick (16 Med Sqn) and LCpl Jess Limbert (R Signals) each crossed the line within the opening minutes of the match before England hooker Capt Ann O'Flynn (RAVC) flexed her international muscle and ran home a hat-trick of tries to kill the contest.

A converted try from Cpl Wanda Barkess (ATR Pirbright) late in the second half completed the scoring.

It took the Army squad a little longer to find their stride against the Navy at Portsmouth, with an O'Flynn try the only score of a closely-contested first half. However, strong words from coach Sgt Gareth Ivory (6 RMP) during the break sparked the eventual champions into action and prompted a deluge of tries.

Pte Susie Jackson (QARANC), Bowes-Crick, LCpl Joy Brown (RLC), Pte Sarah Wilkinson (QARANC) and O'Flynn all found a way through the Navy's defence



Determined display: Capt Andrea Mills (AGC) battles to keep possession during the Army's Inter-Services title decider against rivals the Royal Navy at Portsmouth

before the final whistle closed the scoring at 35-5.

IN OFF THE POST ...

Soldier guilty of foul play

I FELT compelled to write after spotting a glaring error in your normally excellent coverage of Army rugby in July's edition of *Soldier*.

The photograph of the Army Sevens competition featured not 2 PWRR versus the Royal Scots, but the 1 PWRR team.

As a regiment we now field two of the strongest Sevens sides in the Army, but the 2nd Battalion were soundly beaten by us in the final of the 5 Division competition and declined to participate in the Army championships.

For the record, the 1st Battalion team

has lost only once this season (to the Royal Scots) and actually defeated the two Army finalists in our group games. Subsequently we went on to win the Charity Sevens at Chiswick Rugby Club, defeating strong civilian teams on the way to the trophy.

In addition, we have supplied six players to the Infantry squad during the season, two of whom will tour with them in South Africa this summer, and Pte Eric Butadroka has been selected for the full Army Sevens team. — Maj S Thomsett, Chairman 1 PWRR rugby.

SHORTS

Players wanted...

TRIALS for the Army development football squad (U21s) will be held at Denison Barracks, Hermitage on September 1-5.

The five-day camp will include fixtures against Gala Wilton and Nationwide Division three side Torquay United. Interested players should contact Maj Neil Marks on mil 94222 3842 for more details.

♦ **The Army Officers' Football Club**, better known as the **Army Crusaders**, is looking for players from all cap badges for the forthcoming season. For more details contact Maj Niall Stoke on mil 94331 3212.

♦ The REME Stallions ice hockey team are planning to hold a training camp at Guildford ice rink this September to select players for the side's tour of Canada at the end of the year.

Kit is available and players of all standards are welcome to attend. Anyone interested should contact Maj Ben Durand on mil 94291 5483 or Capt Tim Gillies on mil 94342 2837.

Second bite of the apple

HAVING raised more than £2,400 for Children with Leukaemia by running the Flora London Marathon wearing full uniform, boots and carrying a 45lb bergen in 4hrs 13min, LSgt Paul Fitzpatrick (IG) is now preparing to repeat his gruelling feat in the Big Apple.

Fitzpatrick, a physical training instructor at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick, has entered the New York Marathon on November 2 and this time plans to complete the 26-miles in under four hours.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Fitzpatrick should send a cheque, made payable to Children with Leukaemia, to: LSgt Paul Fitzpatrick, Physical Training Department, Infantry Training Centre, Vimy Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3PS.

Courting Canada

THANKS to a string of quality performances and an eventual seventh place finish at the British Masters in Exeter, the Army veterans basketball team has been invited to take part in the World Masters Tournament in Edmonton, Canada in 2005.

Anyone who has played for the Army or their corps and is aged over 40, should contact Sandy Frew on mil 94422 3322.

Victory in the valleys

COLERNE-based runner Sig Haggai Chepkuony (R Signals) was first across the finish line at this year's Rhondda Valley fun-run. The Kenyan-born athlete completed the 5.6-mile course in a time of 28min 1sec.

Palmers flying high

Army fly-fishing team among sport's elite

WHEN CSgt Alan Ward (1 R Anglian) stands down as the captain of the Army's fly-fishing team next month he will do so content in the knowledge that his successor will be inheriting a winning squad.

During his three-year tenure as boss of the Masterline-sponsored Soldier Palmers, appropriately named after a breed of fly, the team have gone from strength to strength, bringing an end to the Royal Air Force's reign of dominance in the Inter-Services championships and winning promotion to the top flight of the national league system.

Ward, who will hand over the reins to current vice-captain WO2 John Hardy (3 Para) after next month's Inter-Services championships at Rutland Water, told *Soldier*: "In the Soldier Palmers the Army really does have a team it can be proud of."

"Historically the RAF have been the big fish at the Inter-Services, but we have now won the title twice in succession and are in good shape to be crowned champions again this year," he said. "Fly-fishing may not be as

popular as sports like rugby and football, but that should not detract from the fact that members of the Army Angling Federation (AAF) are competing at the highest possible level.

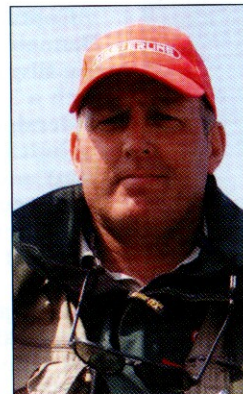
"We are one of the top ten clubs in England and throughout the season the team compete in national competitions up and down the country. At the moment we have also got several anglers knocking on the door of the England and Scotland squads."

One Palmer already competing on the international stage is SSgt Rick Prichard (QDG), who recently represented Wales at the World Fly-fishing Championships in Spain.

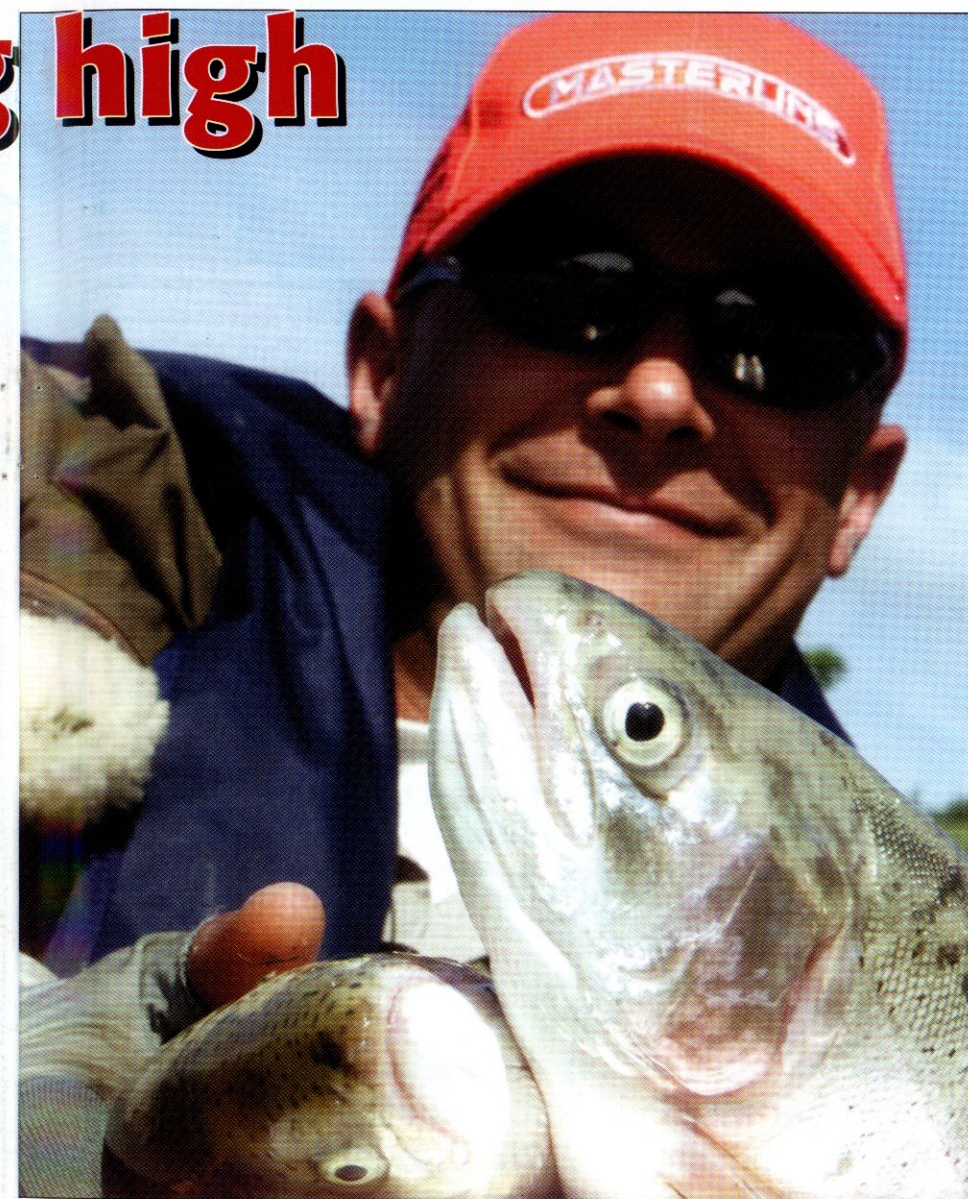
Although Wales only finished in 18th from a field of 20, Prichard, who works as an Army Careers Advisor at AFCO Wrexham, was the star man of the Welsh squad, landing five of their 12 fish.

"It was a great honour to represent my country at the highest level of my sport," explained Prichard. "At times I had to pinch myself to make sure that I was not dreaming it all, especially when I beat both the World and European individual champions on the lake session."

♦ Anyone interested in joining the AAF should contact Capt David Morris on mil 94775 5152.



Skipper: CSgt Alan Ward



Catch of the day: Soldier Palmer SSgt Dick Turpin (23 Pioneer Regt, RLC) Picture: Graeme Main

SHORTS

Calling all high-flyers...

IN a bid to get kitesurfing off the ground within the Army, Cpl Gel Frayn (RE) is compiling a database of those interested in the extreme sport with a view to running competitions, trips abroad and training camps.

To register your details ring mil 94231 4270 or e-mail gelster66@hotmail.com

European qualification

HAVING won bronze in the 560kg category at the English National Championships in Manchester for the second successive year, the Army women's tug of war team has qualified for the European Championships in Assen, Holland.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to August...

ANGLING: 23 - Game fishing: Army v BBFFC (Bewl); 31 - Coarse fishing Masters Cup (Aldershot).

ATHLETICS: 2 - National club triathlon relay championships (Nottingham); 31 - World duathlon championships (Switzerland); Inter-Services Half Ironman championships (Sherborne).

CANOEING: 8-22 - International marathon championships (Asturias, Spain).

CRICKET: 4-8 - Inter-Services festival (Aldershot); 11 - MCC v CS (Scarborough).

CYCLING: 2-3 - NPC road race event (Northumberland); 9-10 - NPC road race event (North Wales); 14-20 - National track championships (Manchester); 23-25 - NPC road race event (Cumbria); 30 - Army 10m TT championships (Longmoor); 30/31 - NPS mountain bike downhill event (Nottingham).

EQUESTRIAN: 9 - Horse trials (RA Pony Club, Larkhill); 13 - One day event (Melton Mowbray); 17 - Horse trials (Warminster Saddle Club); 21 - Dressage competition, preliminary round (Warminster Saddle Club).

GOLF: 4 - Army v Police GS (Little Aston GC); AGA Committee v Whittington Heath GC (Whittington Heath); 4-6 - AGA strokeplay tournament (Little Ashton and Whittington Heath); 7 - AGA Committee v Little Aston GC (Little Aston); 18 - Army women v Army GC women (Tidworth GC); 19 - Army women v Lloyds TSB (Army GC, Aldershot); 27 - Combined Services GA v R&A (St Andrews Old Course).

PARACHUTING: 15-22 - Armed Forces Championships (Netheravon).

POLO: 2-3 - Captain and Subalterns Trophy (Tidworth).

ROWING: 16 - Oxford City Regatta (Oxford).

RUGBY UNION: 2 - Welsh Sevens (Cwmataw); 10 - Henley Sevens (Henley); 16 - Middlesex Sevens (Twickenham).

SKIING: 2-3 - Nordic training (Anglesey).

TUG OF WAR: 2 - The Princess Royal Inter-Services championships (Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire); 23 - GENSB tournament (Germany).

RESULTS SERVICE... RESULTS SERVICE... RESULTS SERVICE... RESULTS SERVICE... RESULTS SERVICE...

ANGLING: Inter-corps coarse championships - 1, RLC 19pts (WO1 Pete Forman, WO1 Ian Tyrrell, SSgt Dave Hunter, SSgt Boris Kilner, Sgt Steve Witherick, Cpl Titch Richardson, Cpl Gaz Butler); 2, R Signals 21pts; 3, REME 23pts; 4, RE 28pts; 5, RA 28pts; 6, Infantry 35pts; 7, AAC 36pts; 8, AGC 37pts.

CRICKET: Wiltshire (162-7) beat Army U25 (104 all out) by 58 runs; Army U25 (213 all out) beat RMAS (209-7) by four runs; Army U25 (173-7) beat Isle of Wight CC (172 all out) by three wickets; Kent (154-2) beat Army (150 all out) by eight wickets; Middlesex 2nd XI (323-5) beat Army (223-4) by 100 runs; Hampshire 2nd XI (364-4) beat Army (129 all out) by 235 runs; Army (246-9 dec) beat Free Foresters (176 all out) by 70 runs; Army (207-9) beat Stock Exchange (204-9) by one wicket.

U25 Inter-Services festival - Army (174-

6) beat RAF (173-9) by four wickets; RN (129-7) beat RAF (128) by three wickets; Army (207) beat RN (87) by 120 runs. **Overall winners** - Army.

FOOTBALL: Pricewaterhouse Cooper League - Int Corps 0 R Signals 10; REME 0 RLC 18; R Signals 7 RLC 4; RA 0* AGC 3; RA 0* RLC 3. * match conceded.

Massey Trophy - AGC 9 AMS 3; Int Corps 2 AAC 2; AGC 0 R Signals 5; AGC 6 Int Corps 4; RA 3 REME 3; R Signals 4 RE 0; R Signals 7 RA 0; REME 6 RE 1; R Signals 3 REME 0; RA 0 RE 3.

Territorial Army 2002/2003 Challenge Cup final - B Coy The Rangers 2 Liverpool UOTC 1.

Territorial Army tour of British Army (Germany) - Guttersloh area 0 TA 3 (TA scorers: Rgr Steve Annett (2) and OCdt Paul Gordon); Rhinedahlen Garrison 1 TA 3 (TA scorers: Rgr Annett (2) and Rgr David Tennant).

SHOOTING: Army Service pistol championships, individual competition (Pistol XXX Cup) - 1, Pte Carson (4 R Irish) 533pts; 2, WO2 Nigel Hodgson (QLR) 529pts; 3, LCpl Willy Kennedy (3 R Irish) 523pts.

Team event (Southern Command Cup) - 1, 4 R Irish; 2, LCV permanent staff; 3, 3 R Irish.

SWIMMING: 4/5 Div championships. **Major units** - 1, RMAS 80pts; 2, 11 Sig Regt 79pts; 3, SEAE 67pts; 4, 21 Sig Regt 56pts; 5, 3 RSME 41pts; 6, 1 R Anglian 34pts; 7, ATR Pirbright 25pts.

Minor units - 1, 10 Sig Regt 28pts; 2, ATR Lichfield 27pts; 3, 4 GS Med Regt 9pts.

Women's - 1, RMAS 57pts; 2, 21 Sig Regt 33pts; 3, 11 Sig Regt 24pts; 4, 70 AC Wksp 23pts; 5, SEAE 23pts; 6, 4 GS Med Regt 21pts.

WATER POLO: Southern area champi-

onships, 4 Div - 1, SEAE; 2, 3 RSME; 3, 1 R Anglian.

5 Div - 1, 11 Sig Regt; 2, 21 Sig Regt; 3, 30 Sig Regt.

Final - SEAE beat 11 Sig Regt.

WINDSURFING: Inter-Services competition, course racing - 1, Sgt Doc White (Army); 2, CPO Johnny Walker (Royal Navy); 3, Flt Lt Simon Kent (Royal Air Force); 4, Capt Allan Cross (Army).

Master blaster - 1, Capt Cross; 2, Flt Lt Kent; 3, Sgt White; 4, CPO Walker.

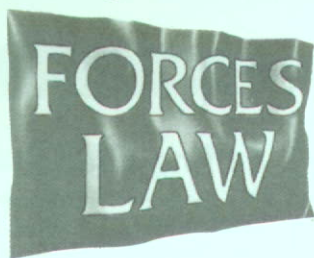
Slalom - 1, Flt Lt Kent; 2, Capt Cross; 3, CCWEA Dave Strudwick (Royal Navy); 4, Maj Gareth Baker (Army).

Long distance - 1, CPO Walker; 2, Sgt White; 3, Flt Lt Kent; 4, Maj Dave Hinsley (Army).

Overall winner - Flt Lt Kent.

Inter-corps championships - 1, RE; 2, AAC; 3, RLC; 4, REME.

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No 741

How observant are you?

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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the right-hand image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 741, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by September 1.

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 October issue.

June competition (No 739): First correct entry drawn at random was from Mrs Ann Jack WRVS, Services Welfare Officer, of Reading, who wins £100. Runners-up Mr P J Day, IT Dept, Hazebruck Barracks, Arborfield and Mrs L S Evers, Wksp RE ME, 1 GS Regt RLC, BFPO 47 each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: end of crossbar and foot of upright; pole-vaulter's hair, hand, left leg and ankle; flagpole; marquee window and corner; line under tree.



Freeze frame

"Who's the sucker, them or me?"

Write a caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in October 1950. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply, entries to reach us by September 1.



OUR prize for the June competition, left, goes to Mr Arthur Charlton, of Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear, for his suggested caption: "The naval entry in the Joint Services swimming competition was merely a figurehead".

On a similar theme were "The sergeant major had finally found a model for the garrison church's new gargoyles" from Cpl John Martin, 1 R Anglian, Pirbright and "That's amazing, how does he hold that position?" from Julie Harrison, Catterick.



We also liked "Neanderthal man returns to the water" from Cpl Baker, RIB LAD, REME, Cyprus and "I'm telling you the fish was this big" from Cpl Sweetman, 4 Sqn, JSSU, Cyprus.

There was a different take on it from Sgt Howlett, RLC, who offered: "Darwin was distraught when the missing link escaped from his clutches and jumped to freedom".

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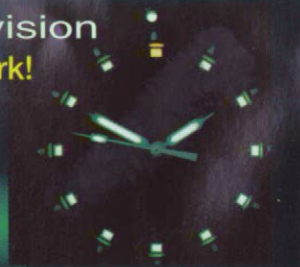
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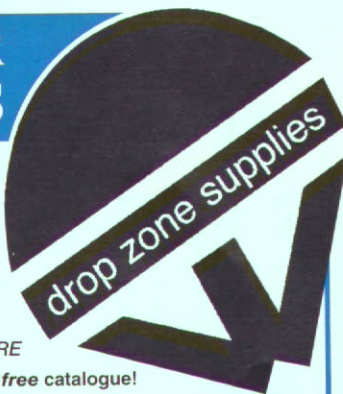
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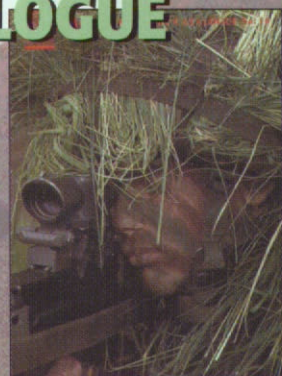
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PEN PALS

Sheree, (36), 5'4", slim build, Yorkshire born and bred. Enjoys the countryside, holidays, wining and dining, writing and travelling. Seeking single lonely soldiers wishing for a pen friend, P388

Amanda, (34), 5'9", blonde, sounds good on paper, no Pamela Anderson but a wicked sense of humour. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P389

Aaron, (37), 5'4", blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys swimming, pubs, films and sport. Manager in a betting shop with GSOH. Single mum seeking pen pals, 30-45, will answer any replies. P390

Betty Boo lookalike, (34), 5'4", short brown hair with big blue eyes. Enjoys travel, eating out, good white wine, Guinness, football (yes I do understand the offside rule), most music, favourites include Queen, Phil Collins and the Beautiful South. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P391

Denise, (39), 5'6", fair hair and blue eyes. Enjoys reading, pubs, dining, cinema and tenpin bowling. Single mum, Case Manager for Gateshead Youth Offending Team. Seeking pen pals, 40-45. P392

Christina, (23), 4'8", blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys sports and travelling. Seeking pen pals, 23-35. P393

Yvonne, (32), 5'2", brown hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys music, films, reading, a bit of a daredevil so anything exciting and to have a good laugh. Seeking pen pals with GSOH and the same sort of personality, 32-42. P394

Julie, (40), blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys cinema, socialising, travelling and living life to the full. Seeking caring, down-to-earth and honest pen pals, 35+. P395

(J) Bunny, 5', blonde, slim and fit. Interests include the Parachute Regiment, tabbing, parachuting, anything insane and airborne. Mad, own house/car, like your best blokey mate but Kylie shaped. Seeking airborne mates to train/be hooligan with, 25-45. P397

Christine, 5'5", medium build with dark hair and green eyes. Keep fit instructor, divorced with two children. Works hard and plays hard, enjoys life but also sensitive. Seeking pen pals, 35-45. P398

Karen, (31), 5'4", blonde, attractive with blue eyes. Enjoys travelling, socialising, keeping fit and driving. GSOH and young looking. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P399

To advertise for a Pen Pal

Please send for details enclosing a stamped, SAE to:

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Or visit **Soldier Magazine** online at:

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* The box number must be clearly written in the top left corner of all your replies.

* Replies should consist only of letter and photograph if requested.

* Replies received more than three months after the cover date, large, heavy or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

Nicola, (22), 5'2", medium build, blonde hair and green eyes. Enjoys reading, swimming and socialising. Seeking pen pals, 19-25. P400

Rebecca, (35), brunette. Enjoys cooking, walking, cycling and listening to live bands. Single mum of one child, a nurse and lives in the South of England. Seeking pen pals, 30-42. P401

Liz, (45), 5'1", dark brown shoulder length hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys gardening, DIY and fashion but not OTT. Divorced with three children in their 20s. Seeking pen pals, 45 ish. P402

Lil, (45), 5'1", medium build with short hair. Enjoys holidays, eating out, pubs and watching football. Seeking pen pals, no time-wasters, to be good friends and have a laugh in life, 35-45. P403

Karen, (40), 5'6", with short red hair. Enjoys writing, going out and shopping. Mature student midwife, separated mother of three lively children. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P404

Jo, (28), 5'5", blonde with green eyes. Enjoys horseriding, all sport including football and horseracing. Need to be reassured there are good soldiers out there. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P405

Joanne, (27), 5'6", dark brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys sport especially cricket and rugby, travelling, pubs and restaurants. A quiet person and has a lovely personality. Seeking pen pals, 28-35. P406

Jo, (34), 5'6", strawberry blonde with blue eyes and single. Enjoys swimming, walking, the gym, going out with friends and listening to music. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P409

Christine, (45), 5'6", dark hair and green eyes. Enjoys walking, reading crimes novels, animals and children. Divorced and owns her home. Seeking pen pals, 40-50. P410

Angela, (36), 5', blonde with brown eyes. Enjoys music, socialising, cinema, keep fit, travel, nights out, karaoke and driving. Seeking pen pals with GSOH, non-smoker preferred 30+. P411

Vicky, (30), 5'3", medium build, brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys swimming, music, holidays and socialising. Divorced single mum. Seeking pen pals, 30-40. P412

Carol, (32), 5'5", dark hair and big dark eyes. Enjoys TV, reading, internet, family life, work and writing. Sensitive, kind, warm-hearted, single with a GSOH. Seeking pen pals, 34+. P413

Pauline, (45), 4'11", light brown hair and dark eyes. Enjoys music, dancing, shows, cinema, reading, dogs, walking and cycling. Lives in Scotland (for six months). Seeking pen pals, any age group. P414

Alison, (37), single who needs some letterbox action. Not into pubs, clubs or crowds. Enjoys days out in the country, nights in front of TV, dislikes kids but goes all gooey over fluffy animals. If you are a long way from home and need insane ramblings from Planet Dullsville, I'm your girl. P415

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2nd (358 runs, £2,675): Sgt ADW Sumner, RMAS, Sandhurst

4th (351 runs, £1,525): Maj RJ Parkinson, RHQ AFNORTH, AFCENT

4th (351 runs, £1,525): Cpl CS Rathie, 7 Signal Regt, Krefeld

6th (344 runs, £1,025): Sgt CP Carter, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln

7th (340 runs, £725): Cpl DR Trussler, 35 Engr Regt, Paderborn

8th (335 runs, £425): SSgt S Barrass, 21 Signal Regt (AS), Chippenham

8th (335 runs, £425): WO2 IM Nelson, 24 Regt RLC, Bielefeld

Only 9 Prizes this week rule 9 applies. Please note that matches played in the Twenty/20 competition will be included in this week draw.

21 June 2003

1st (358 runs, £6,400): Sgt LS Daggostar, 47 AD Sqn RLC

2nd (357 runs, £3,200): Sgt W Paterson, AGC Depot, Worthy Down

3rd (348 runs, £2,100): LCpl S Jacques, 13 Air Asslt Sp Regt, Colchester

4th (341 runs, £1,700): Sgt D Lister, 2 PWRR, BFPO 812

5th (331 runs, £1,300): LCpl CA Edwards, 3 RSME, Minley

6th (327 runs, £1,000): SSgt GJ Marshall, 1 Regt AAC, Gutersloh

7th (322 runs, £700): Maj SK Jordan, DCDS (EC) NBC, London 1

8th (318 runs, £500): Cpl PA Compton, ATR Pirbright

9th (317 runs, £300): Sgt DW Evans, 40 (U) Sig Regt (V), Belfast

10th (315 runs, £200): Capt S McCarthy, ATE Wales, Brecon

28 June 2003

1st (738 runs, £6,400): Capt MHC Kieboom, 1 CS Med Regt, Munster

2nd (705 runs, £3,200): Sgt AJ Johnson, HQ STC QM, Sennelager

3rd (699 runs, £2,100): LCpl PD Barlow, LD, Swanton Morley

4th (665 runs, £1,700): Sgt SR Sherrett, APDO NI, Lisburn

5th (661 runs, £1,150): LCpl MA Cameron, 39 Engr Regt, Cambridge

5th (661 runs, £1,150): Lt RG Williams, RMAS, Sandhurst

7th (660 runs, £700): Sgt DA Brown, 35 Engr Regt, Paderborn

8th (657 runs, £500): Sgt DJ Paz, JSSU (AN), Ayios Nikolaos

9th (654 runs, £300): LCpl MGW Riley, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gutersloh

10th (651 runs, £100): Capt RM Hope-Hawkins, KRH

10th (651 runs, £100): Cpl PJ Smith, The Armour Centre, Bovington

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REUNIONS

Past and present **King's School CCF, Chester**: Reunion dinner to be held at the school on Aug 30. Ladies welcome. Details from 2nd Lt Diane Joseph on 01244 689508 or diane.joseph@chester.ac.uk

600 Signal Tp, past and present, Corsham: Tenth annual reunion and barbecue to be held Aug 30. Details from Mary Scott on 01225 814327 or 600signaltroupe@iclwebkit.co.uk

Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades' Association: 79th annual reunion, Sept 6-7, Hightown Barracks, Wrexham. Call 01978 316189.

The Queen's Own Buffs, Royal Kent Regiment: Annual Service of Remembrance and reunion, Sept 14, in Maidstone. Details from Bryan L Bartlett, 185 Park Crescent, Erith, Kent DA8 3EB; 01322 346053.

5 Armd Fd Amb, Oxford Bks, Munster, and 5 Fd Amb: Reunion at the Post House Hotel, Chester on Oct 4. Details from Axel Foley on 07801443799 or muppet787@hotmail.com or Deeks Blackburn on mil 94229 5379 or 07813 250330.

Regimental Duties and Military Training Instructors Association: Annual reunion on Nov 29-30. Details from Ray Lee on 07990 982013 or rayl@postmaster.co.uk

RHA Association: 83rd reunion dinner, AGM

and annual church service for past and present members of any RHA unit at the Victory Services Club and St Johns Wood, Oct 4-5. If you have not received details by Sept, contact Maj (Retd) Whiteway, HQ Dulmen Station, BFPO 44; Mike Carter on 01225 708223; or e-mail dinnersec@rhaasn.fsnet.co.uk

RMP Cyprus veterans: Reunion on Oct 18. Call Tony Bowdler on 01905 775174 or Brian Lovett on 01142 392984 if you are interested.

662 Squadron AAC: 60th anniversary, Oct 11, Wattisham Airfield. Ex-members, families welcome. Details: Anniversary Secretary, 662 Sqn AAC, Wattisham Airfield, Ipswich, IP7 7RA or e-mail anniversary662@yahoo.co.uk

8 Regt RCT/RLC: Reunion at JJB Stadium, Wigan on Oct 25. More information from J Aspinall on jimmyasp@hotmail.com.

68 Sqn RCT: Reunion on Oct 18 at Blackpool. E-mail 68sqnrct@groups.msn.com

Suez Canal Zoners 1948-56, RN, RM, Army, RAF, and Merchant Navy: Annual reunion weekend in Blackpool, Sep 26-28. Details from Bernis Corrie on 01483 575081 or jcorrie@compuserve.com

4th (1/4th and 2/4th) and 4/5th (TA) Battalions, The Royal Hampshire Regiment: 57th annual reunion, to be held at Newburgh House (pre- and post-war HQ of 4

Bn), Winchester, Sept 27. Enquiries and tickets from Maj (Retd) Ian Taylor, 4 Cedar Wood Close, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 7LN; 0238 0694771.

SNCO recovery mechanics: Reunion dinner in WO's and Sgts' Mess, SEME Bordon, Nov 1. Ring WO1 (ASM) Mackay on 01420 485526.

Association of Ammunition Technicians: Reunion to be held on Oct 4. Contact Bob Graham, Army School of Ammunition, Marlborough Barracks, Temple Herdewyke, Warwickshire CV47 2UL; 01869 257571 or e-mail rm.graham@btinternet.com

Parachute Regiment WO's & Sgts' (past and present) dinner club: 45th annual dinner on 18 Oct in Colchester. Details from WO2 Nobby Clarke, c/o RHQ 38 Sig Regt (V), Manor Top TAC, Hurlfield Road, Sheffield S12 2AN or paradinnerclub@aol.com

63 Squadron RLC: Centenary parade, open day, Sept 20, Roman Barracks, Colchester. Ring Capt Derek Hendry on 01206 783575 for details.

Attention **ex-59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE**: Reunion to be held **July 23-25, 2004**, at Chivenor. To help update the data base please send contact details to Capt L M Wilson, AO, 59 Indep CDO, RMB, Chivenor, Barnstaple, N Devon EX31 4AZ; tel 01271 857603 or fax 857610. www.59cdo.btcopnnect.com

after Monte Cassino. Hailed from Witton Gilbert, Co Durham. Great-nephew Richard would welcome recollections, information and any photographs. Contact rbramfitt29@yahoo.com

Paul Ward would like to hear from anyone who served with **ex-65C A Coy, AAC Chesham** and **84 Survey Squadron, Singapore 1970-71**. E-mail paulward397@aol.com

Eirwen Ousey (nee Jones) seeks **24174718 Ex-LCpl T Jones**, from **Cefn Mawr**, last known military address with the **Scots DG, Imphal Barracks in Osnabruck** (mid 1970s). Write to 43a Colwyn Crescent, Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, LL28 4RH.

News sought of **Richard D (Dick) Keck, 1st Gurkha Rifles, North West Frontier 1947/8** friend and correspondent of **Dan James (ex-2nd East Surreys)**. Both men were pre-war colleagues at the **Board of Trade**. Please write to D James, The Orchard, 8 Old Barn Close, Cheam Village, Sutton, Surrey SM2 7BH or telephone 020 8642 2331.

Information on the origins of **134 Regiment RE (TA) and 313 Squadron RE (TA)** which was active in Chelmsford, Bedford, Southend and Cambridge circa 1960 is sought by John Thirkettle. E-mail jaykettle@ntlworld.com

Ex-3 Bn The Queen's Regiment, Ballykinler, NI 1969-71 personnel, especially Hugh (Bernie) Bresland, sought by family of David Charles Jenner for possible reunion. Contact his sister-in-law Pauline McKenna at plnmckenn@aol.com

Does anyone know the **title of a book**, detailing the exploits of a veterinary surgeon who served in **Burma** during the Second World War and **performed an appendectomy on himself** with "two bent spoons" or similar crude instruments? Contact Tyrone Trimmings at ttrimmings@hotmail.com

Information concerning life and service of **LCpl Aharon Segal ex-PAL 40, 462 Gen Transport Coy, RASC**, killed May 1, 1943 and commemorated at Brookwood Cemetery, is sought by his nephew, David Segal, 57 Kimberley Street, East Killara, NSW 2071, Australia. E-mail davseg@bigpond.com

Australian chaplain, **Father Karl Hartley**, sought by Hugh O'Pray who was married by Father Hartley in Duisburg in March 1970. Write with any information to 65 Aberdore Road, Farringdon, Sunderland SR3 3EG.

SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

Devastation (June) winners: R Haggerty RA, BFPO 16; Sgt N Bergmann RLC, BFPO 6; C McDowall, Teignmouth, Devon. Answer: 32 levels.

Frontline Commando (June) winners: R J Gilbert, Welwyn Garden City; S Widdowfield, Bury St Edmunds; Mr Wadsworth, Newark, Notts; G W Seatter, Harrow, Middx; W Barbe, Milton Keynes; S Gordon, Aldershot; A/Tpr Ellison AAC, Op Telic; LCpl S Lyons RRF, Op Telic; A Finnigan, Barnet, Herts; Sgt B D Botwright, Colerne, Wilts. Answer: 25 single-player missions.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier: S Caraffi to be Comd 49 (Eastern) Bde, June 2; S P Cowlam to be ACOS Logs Land, June 23; C G S Hughes to be Comd 12 Mech Bde, May 7; C M Sexton to be Comd Recruiting Gp, June 26; C M Steirn to be Chief Executive DTMA, May 9; A P Walker to be Dir Office of Standards and Casework (Army); J D Wootton to be Comdt RSME and Comd Chatham Garrison, June 17; S D Young to be Dep Comd SFOR, June 2.

Colonel: WA Bailey to be ACOS HQ ARRC, May 5; P S Bennett to be Asst Dir Ops 4 HQ DLO, May 7; C G Le Brun to be DA Kingston, June 16; D C Eccles to be COS ATRA, June 16; C G Hillyer to be Col PCS Ops BFPO Agency, June 16; P D Jones to be Chief UK Liaison Officer 18 (US) Corps, June 11; R L Jones to be DDEC ISTAR (Theatre Surveillance), June 23; J G Lorimer to be COS/Senior British Adviser HQ US CENTCOM, June 4; P J Oldfield to be Asst Dir Africa Directorate of Overseas Military Activity, June 2; R A Sharp to be student at the National Defence University (USA) International Fellows Programme, June 14; P F Stamps to be Chief Logs Branch EUMS, June 10; M N S Urquhart to be Dep Comd HQ 3 Inf Bde, June 16; R N Wardle to be student US Army War College, June 13.

Triumph oomph

IN 1958 the Army entered a team of three works-prepared Triumph TR3As in the Liege-Rome-Liege Rally. One of the vehicles, VVC 288, driven by Lt-Col "Bing" Crosby and Maj Holmes, finished 22nd overall and won the 2-litre class helping Triumph to the team prize. This car has just been rediscovered after spending the past 27 years stored in a barn.

Of the other two cars, which were believed to have been based in Bordon, VVC 290 is known to be running while nothing is known of VVC 289.

Readers with information concerning any of the Triumphs and their drivers are asked to contact Mike Ellis, Honorary Registrar of the TR Register, Daintree, Fullers Road, Holt Pound, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4LB; telephone 01252 794823.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000; www.armybenfund.org
Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569
Army Welfare Service 01722 433456
Army Families Federation 01980 615525; www.aff.org.uk
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 020 8590 1124; www.blesma.org.uk
Confidential support lines:
UK 0800 731 4880
Germany 0800 1827 395
Cyprus 080 91065
Bosnia 0800 731 4880
Others UK 1980 630854
Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink Access Number *2999 at the PINprompt
Ex-Service Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 01372 841600; www.combatstress.com
Consumer Credit Counselling Service Free

Remembered online

THE British War Memorial Project has been set up to create an online photo-archive of the UK mainland war graves of British Servicemen and women from the First World War to the present.

More than 350,000 personnel are commemorated on community war memorials and headstones within the bounds of the project, from the north of Scotland to the south coast of England, and thanks to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and sister projects in Canada, New Zealand and Australia, the British effort has got off to a flying start.



Visitors can access the archive at www.britishwargraves.org.uk and search by name or military unit.

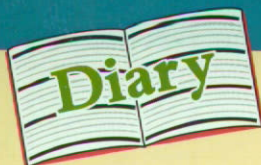
Run on an entirely voluntary basis, the project is always looking for new recruits from across the UK to take photographs of headstones in their local area. If you could help, or to send details about someone you know who has died in the service of this country, e-mail

richard@britishwargraves.org.uk or telephone 07867 803942. Alternatively, write to Richard Howman, Project Director, British War Memorial Project, Longlands, Milton-on-Stour, Dorset SP8 5PX.



Hitting the high notes: The bands of The Army Air Corps (pictured above), The Dragoon Guards and The 51st Highland Brigade will be joining more than 1,000 performers at the National Indoor Arena on November 29-30 for the Birmingham Tattoo, which this year will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. To reserve tickets contact the box office on 0870 9094144 or book online at www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk

St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen and women 020 7723 5021; www.st-dunstons.org.uk
SAMA 82 (South Atlantic Medal Association) for Falklands conflict veterans 01495 227577 e-mail: densama@aol.com
Samaritans 08457 90 90 90
Service Children's Education 01980 618244
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358
SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783; www.ssafo.org.uk
SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory Service 01722 436400
Veterans' Agency (includes War Pensions Agency) 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas); www.veteransagency.mod.uk
Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272; from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272
WRVS General enquiries 02920 739906; www.wrvs.org.uk



DATES

AUGUST

1-23: Edinburgh Tattoo (tattoo office 0130 225 4783).

SEPTEMBER

6-7: Demonstrations and re-enactments of cavalry swordsmanship from the Napoleonic, Zulu, Boer and First World Wars at Horse in War exhibition, Burton Court, London.
7: Winchester & District Militaria Society annual exhibition, fair, Winchester Guildhall, 1000.

26-2: Military kit displays, Horse Guards, 1000-1700.

28: Aldershot Militaria Society and Military History Society annual exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey.

OCTOBER

4-5: Lectures on British soldiers in the Crimea, National Army Museum (tel 020 7730 0717).

12: Victorian Military Fair, National Army Museum.

14: Queen opens "Women in War exhibition, Imperial War Museum.

* **AFTER** enjoying a champagne breakfast at the Royal Military Police Museum to mark his retirement as the RMP's regimental secretary, Lt Col Maurice Squier was waved off in style by friends and colleagues in the museum's 1974 Royal Review Land Rover.

* **DESMOND** Swayne, the Conservative MP for New Forest West and a major in the Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry Squadron, Royal Mercian Light Yeomanry, was called up for active service in Iraq. Maj Swayne, 46, has been a Territorial Army officer since 1987 and will serve as a watchkeeper alongside infantry units in southern Iraq.

* **A MIDSUMMER** night musical extravaganza organised by SSAFA Northwood and held at RAFA Bentley boosted the association's funds by £800.

Music for the open-air event was provided by the RAF Central Band, the volunteer Northwood Band and the band of The Parachute Regiment.

* **LCPL** Paul Walker, 15, of Yorkshire South and West ACF was named a Young First Aider of the Year at an award ceremony at London Zoo last month. He was cited for his actions when his five-year-old sister was engulfed in flames from spilled nail varnish which caught fire.

Paul wrapped her in a wet towel to extinguish the flames, placed her in a bath, then covered the burns with clingfilm. His sister, who has had skin grafts, was well enough to be at the ceremony.

Tanks for a great day out

SOLDIERS from The Royal Dragoon Guards helped to put a smile back on the face of five-year-old leukaemia sufferer Alexander Baum.

Alexander, who was diagnosed with Burkett's Lymphoma last year, but has since gone into remission, has always wanted to take a ride in a tank and, after being contacted by his mother, SSgt Rob Evans and Sgt Steve Kelly offered to turn his dream into a reality.

As well as arranging for Alexander to visit the Army Exhibition for Schools (AES) at Catterick and take a spin in one of the regiment's Challenger 2s, the cavalrymen presented the young recruit with a customised uniform.

"When Caroline Baum contacted us and told us about Alexander we were only too happy to help," explained SSgt Rob Evans, pictured right with Alexander. "Our regiment was exhibiting at AES and we knew that it would be the perfect location for Alexander to get a taste of the Army."

"We collected him and his family and spent the day showing him tanks, helicopters, motorbikes and chatting to soldiers."

Caroline said: "Alexander loves his uniform and we all had a fabulous day out at the exhibition. We would like to thank Steve and Rob for such a fun and enjoyable day."



School's out for sergeant major

AFTER 50 years in the uniform of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, Sgt Maj Roger Watson, left, has taken his last parade.

Just a few weeks before retiring from the post of Kimbolton School Staff Instructor, he was ceremoniously driven off his last annual review parade on a 105mm light gun.

Earlier, the Regimental Colonel of the Royal Artillery, Col Martin Cooper, had presented Roger with a commendation from Gen Sir Michael Jackson, then C-in-C Land.

"Roger's outstanding quality has been his ability to motivate and encourage the cadets," said Maj David Harris, the school's CCF commander. "His commitment to the cadets has been 150 per cent."

Wanted: Movers and shakers

THE Movement Control Association (MCA) has been formed to promote the efficiency, interests and camaraderie of serving and retired members of all three Services and civilians with a movements background.

It is anxious to increase its membership from within the Movement Control field of the RLC.

The MCA incorporates the Movement Control Officers' Club (MCOC) and the Movement Control Historical Society (MCHS), with the Movement Control Warrant Officers' Dinner Club (MCWODC) being an affiliated member.

To find out more write to Maj (Retd) Ray Taylor, The Conifers, 2 Plumpton Close, Chippenham, Wilts SN14 0YS or e-mail ray@conifers.freemove.co.uk Alternatively visit www.movcon.org.uk



Family affair: Maidenhead Army cadet Simon Tudor was in good company when he was awarded the rank of cadet sergeant major. Watching the ceremony was his uncle, CSM Adrian Bigwood, left, and cousin Cdt Chantell Bigwood, right.

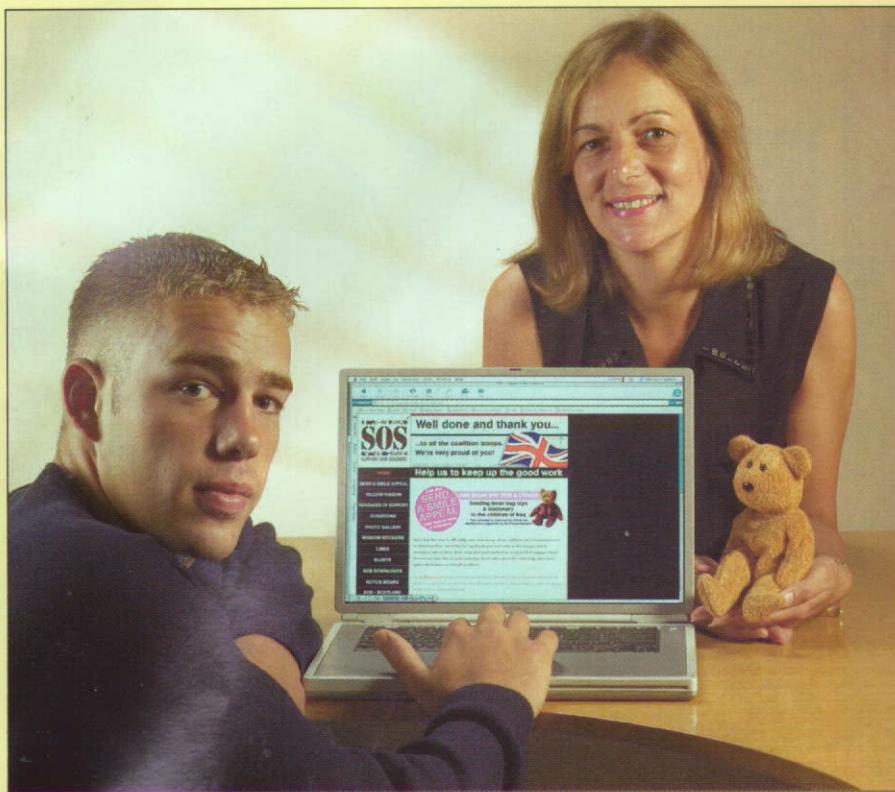
DLT does the honours as Garrison Radio goes on air at Upavon

DJ Dave Lee Travis launched the new Garrison Radio station at HQ Adjutant General at Upavon with the help of Lt Gen Sir Alastair Irwin, the AG.

Garrison Radio installed the full broadcast studio for the Army School of Training Support.

BBC World Service has also used the studio on Salisbury Plain.

While in the area, DLT called on nearby 1 Staffords to play with some radio kit. The battalion signals platoon will be the first armoured infantry signals platoon to receive Bowman.



Web support: Determined to back her son, Gnr Nick Coward (12 Regt RA), left, while he was in the Gulf, Karen Webster launched www.supportoursoldiers.co.uk, a website for Forces' families and friends. Since going live the site has gone from strength to strength, drumming up support for the troops and, more recently, collecting beanie toys and stationery for the children of Iraq.

Gurkhas leave their mark

SOLDIERS from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles constructed a white horse on the North Downs above the Channel Tunnel site at Folkestone before quitting their Kent base to begin a tour of duty in Brunei.

The project took a week and used up 750 paving stones to fill out the horse, the work of artist Charles Newington.

REally beautiful wedding



Second time lucky: Here's a happy exception to our policy of never using wedding photos in the magazine. **LCpl Martin Lewin** of 32 HQ Sqn, 38 Engr Regt and **Spr Katherine Manser** of 221 Fd Sqn, 101 Engr Regt (EOD) (V), finally tied the knot at St Barbara's Garrison Church, the corps church in Brompton, Chatham. When Martin's unit was deployed to Iraq he and Katherine had to plan their big day all over again.



Incredible bulk: Meet Telic, a 3ft-long uromastyx lizard which popped out of a crate of ammunition returned from the Gulf to DM Longtown. The hand belongs to Terry Bowes, curator at South Lakes Wild Animal Park at Dalton-in-Furness, where Telic will be making her new home.

Storekeepers unloading the ammo thought the sandy-coloured reptile was a rag... until it moved. Although trapped in the container for three weeks, the lizard was in good condition.

Legends of the regiments and corps

49

King's Own Royal Regiment Museum



Poignant: Curator Peter Donnelly with the message bottle Picture: Darren Andrews

Battalion's final word

ONE of the most emotive objects in the King's Own Museum in Lancaster is the bottle and message thrown overboard into the English Channel as men of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment sailed from Dover to France in August 1914 on ss *Saturnia*.

The shell-encrusted bottle was picked up by the Grimsby trawler *Egret* in 1922, by which time the writer of the message, and many of his chums, had been dead for nearly eight years.

'FIGHT LIKE BRITONS'

The hand-written message, which was addressed to the Editor of the *Daily Mirror*, survives to this day. It reads: "Well on the way to the front line. Just seen the last of England. Mean to fight like Britons. Hope to see Leicester Square again shortly. From the boys of the King's Own (RLR) 22nd Aug 1914".

Four days later the battalion sustained considerable casualties in their first encounter with the Germans at Haucourt near Le Cateau. On the morning of August 26, 1914, the battalion was caught in the open on a forward slope, with arms piled, by artillery and heavy machine-gun fire. It suffered more than 400 casualties.

KORR Museum (City Museum, Market Square, Lancaster LA1 1HT) open Mon-Fri, 1000-1700, entry free. Tel 01524 64637; e-mail kingsownmuseum@iname.com

www.armymuseums.org.uk

Curators: If you want your museum to appear in this column, please contact the Editor as soon as possible

Retail reconnaissance

Switched on . . .

COMBAT CARRY CASE

USED in Iraq by news teams from the BBC, ITN and Reuters, the Katz Guardian bergen can be converted into an emergency field stretcher in seconds and used to carry casualties to safety.

Made from denier cordura, the same material as the current Army-issue bergen, and weighing only 2.25kg, the versatile rucksack unfolds to reveal a stretcher with integrated straps and carrying handles.

Optional extras include a liner for quick removal of pack contents, a unique rehydration system with pump action, and a medical pouch that attaches to the front of the main pack and can be worn around the waist once the stretcher is opened.

Side pouches with Nato compatible zips that detach from the main pack and carry 80 per cent of its load can also be added to the unique system.

① £249.99, from www.leisurekit.com (for multi purchases contact Brian Hollands at the KPR Corporation on 01303 271001 or at brhollands@aol.com).



Game on . . .

COLIN MCRÆ 3, PC

AT long last the most realistic rally driving game ever, *Colin McRae Rally 3*, has been released for the PC.

Slipping into the driving gloves of the man himself, players are put behind the wheel of McRae's internationally renowned Ford Focus PS WRC alongside co-driver Nicky Grist in this first-rate simulator.

The aim of the game, which accurately captures every drop of sweat, the split-second decision-making and the teamwork that goes into being a success on the track, is to become the planet's greatest rally driver. No mean feat when the difference between first and last place is measured in seconds, not minutes.

To become number one, players will have to test the limits of both their driving ability and their car as they hurtle through treacherous terrain and dangerous weather conditions in a bid to shave those all-important milliseconds off the clock.

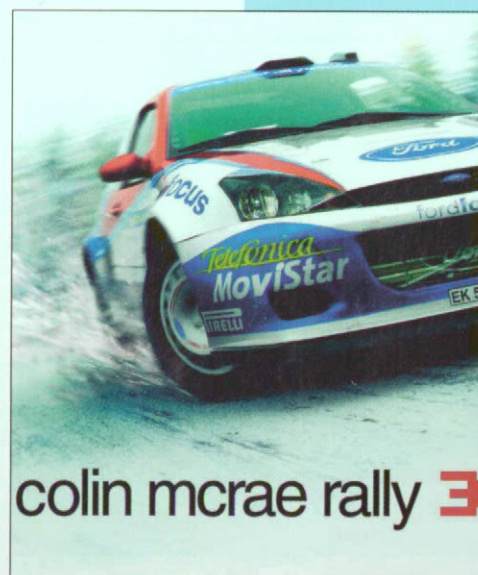
Compared with its predecessors, the latest in Codemasters' McRae franchise makes a massive leap in terms of playability, motor sport detail and rich visuals.

Authentic high-performance cars such as McRae's Focus, the Mitsubishi Evo 7 and Subaru Impreza 44S, have been recreated under licence and feature fully operable, and destructible, component parts.

VERDICT: Just champion.

10/10

OUT NOW



colin mcrae rally 3

Win... Win... Win...

COURTESY of Codemasters, *Soldier* has five copies of *Colin McRae 3* for the PC up for grabs.

For your chance to win, simply tell us the name of Colin McRae's in-game co-driver.

Winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by September 1. Usual rules apply.

BYTE-SIZE NEWS

A COURT in Hamburg has ruled that EA's *FIFA World Cup 2002* title must be removed from sale in Germany because it features the name and likeness of national goalkeeper Oliver Khan without his permission.

CODEMASTERS has revealed that *Operation Flashpoint 2*, the sequel to the internationally acclaimed military action simulator, will feature three different theatres of combat set in environments across South East Asia, Central Europe and Africa.

The game's mission-based campaigns will take gamers through fictional conflicts based upon authentic events during the years around 1970.

Operation Flashpoint 2 is now in design and development at Bohemia Interactive Studio, the Prague-based creators of the original, and will be published by Codemasters late in 2004 for PC.

SONY'S PlayStation 2 hardware is to be integrated into a new home media device codenamed PSX.

The system will feature a TV tuner, hard-disk drive and a DVD recorder alongside the games console.

COLD ZERO - THE LAST STAND, PC

OUT NOW

DRAGO Entertainment's 3D action-adventure *Cold Zero - The Last Stand* immerses gamers into a world of violence and criminal activity where grisly death and sadistic thugs lurk around every corner.

Assuming the role of John McAffrey, a former LAPD officer who is being blackmailed by the Italian Mafia, players are forced to complete and survive 16 terrifying missions set within the criminal underworld.

Designed to give the player complete control of their own destiny, the game's missions and puzzles, which are set in diverse locations from across the globe, do not have any one pre-determined solution.

In most cases there are at least three completely different ways to accomplish each task - one for more technically specialised characters, another for players who like to solve problems using stealth and, of course, a way to address situations in an up-close-and-personal manner using brute force.

Mission objectives are varied and include freeing hostages, assassinating Mafia personnel,



recovering data from secure locations and sabotaging drug deals.

As the game progresses McAffrey is granted access to more than 100 different weapons and can also use a number of outfit changes to help him accomplish each goal.

VERDICT: High-octane action.

8/10

Win... Win... Win

SOLDIER has teamed up with Koch Media to offer you the opportunity to bring down the Italian Mafia.

For your chance to win one of ten copies of *Cold Zero - The Last Stand* for the PC, simply answer the following question:

How many missions are featured in *Cold Zero - The Last Stand*?



Send your answers on a postcard to *Cold Zero* competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

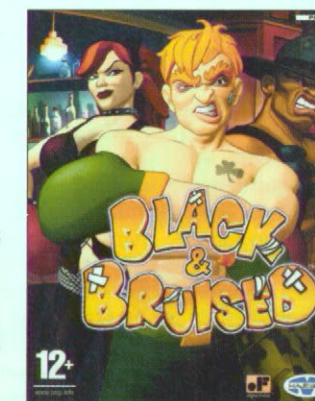
The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by September 1. Usual rules apply.

BLACK & BRUISED, PS2

OUT NOW

ENTER the world of 18 colourful individuals who have been forced into the sport of boxing to support their families and themselves in this over-the-top arcade style boxing game.

Sporting a cartoon look, *Black & Bruised* takes advantage of the PlayStation's analogue controllers to give gamers a puppeteer-like sense of control over their boxer. For example, when pushing the punch button, the pressure, speed and depth of the press is translated into the punch's speed, power and precision.

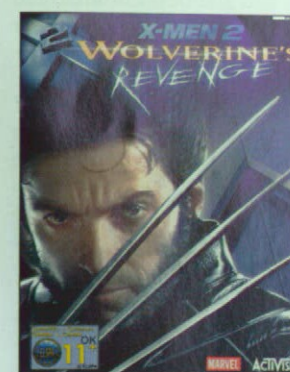


VERDICT: A little lightweight.

6/10

X-MEN 2, ALL

OUT NOW



VERDICT: Hardly cutting-edge.

7/10

RELEASED simultaneously with the *X-Men 2* feature film, this spin-off action-adventure title allows gamers to assume the role of Wolverine.

After discovering that a deadly virus has been activated within Wolverine's body, players have 48 hours to acquire the antidote from the evil organisation that gave them the disease and their mutation.

As well as boasting an original storyline developed by comics legend Larry Hamma, the game also features the voices of Mark Hamill and Patrick Stewart.

AQUANOX 2: REVELATION, PC

OUT NOW

SET in the year 2666, deep within the turbulent seas of the futuristic underwater world of Aqua, *Aquanox 2: Revelation* follows the story of a young freighter pilot called William Drake, who sets out to search for the heritage of a mythical ancestor.

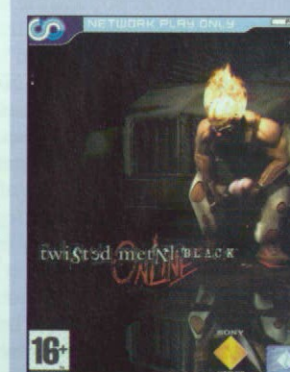
As Drake, players become a member of a group of eight mercenaries crossing the oceans and are chased through high-energy and sinister underwater cities in this fast-paced 3D shoot-'em-up, which boasts more than 100 challenging missions.



VERDICT: Well worth splashing out some cash on.

8/10

TWISTED METAL: BLACK ONLINE, PS2 OUT NOW



VERDICT: Multi-player magic.

8/10

BASED on the successful *Twisted Metal* racing franchise and spearheading the PS2 online revolution, *Twisted Metal: Black Online* allows gamers to play against up to eight people anywhere in the world.

Taking charge of jacked-up vehicles equipped with insane sets of rigged-up weapons, the aim of the game remains unchanged, destroy and dominate, however, this sequel does boast a number of technological improvements.

New features include enhanced player environments with changing weather conditions and interactive objects.

How plot has changed for the Royal Signals

TWO factors have radically changed the plot for the Royal Corps of Signals in recent years, says Maj Gen I O J Sprackling, Master of Signals. First is the post-Cold War demand for agile expeditionary forces with effective command and control; second the technological revolution that has raised the importance of "information" to a level rivaling that of firepower. His words come in a foreword to **The Royal Corps of Signals: Unit Histories of the Corps (1920-2001) and its Antecedents**, a 1,000-copy limited edition by Cliff Lord and Graham Watson (Helion & Company, £29.95).

Bizarre story of the Hash House Harriers

HOMER Simpson's advice, "Son, when you're participating in sports events, it's not whether you win or lose... it's how drunk you get", quoted inside the front cover, is a clue to what to expect from Stu Lloyd's **Hare of the Dog** (Barking Mad Press, £9). It tells, amusingly and sometimes profanely, the bizarre story of the Hash House Harriers (motto, "The drinking club with a running problem"), formed in Malaya in 1938, brought to the UK by the British Army 30 years later and now boasting 200,000 members worldwide.

And this, James, is your exploding bicycle pump

JAMES Bond would have revelled in **SOE: The Scientific Secrets** by Fredric Boyce and Douglas Everett (Sutton, £19.99). Glance through the list of devices dreamt up by the Special Operations Executive and you will find a sleeve gun, a pocket smoke generator, a collapsible ski-sledge for dropping by parachute, an ampoule of liquid to put searching dogs off the scent, a silent prison bar cutter, an underwater glider, a wireless set camouflaged as a vacuum cleaner, exploding bicycle pumps and Japanese sauce tins, and copies of oriental carvings cast in solid high explosive.

Don't get emotional

Cold-blooded analysis seeks to overturn a few popular 'misconceptions' about the Great War

Mud, Blood and Poppycock by Gordon Corrigan (Cassell, £18.99).

Review: Brian Jewell

ATTRIBUTED by the late Alan Clark to German general Carl Hoffman, the aphorism "lions led by donkeys" reflects the long-held opinion of many Great War historians.

In this book, Gordon Corrigan sets out to correct the popular image of the generals as at best incompetent and at worst recklessly unconcerned about the lives of the Tommies.

Not only does he challenge the basis of such widely-held suspicions of the leadership, but he seeks also to put the record straight with regard to other "misconceptions" that have arisen over the last 85 years.

In each chapter of this book, Corrigan sets up, proceeds to examine and then systematically breaks down an accepted idea which has come to be regarded as historical fact.

It is hard to quarrel with arguments so clearly and rationally presented, arguments well sustained by detailed evidence from official records and the analysis of facts and figures relating, for example, to casualties.

A just war? Most certainly, affirms the author, quoting George V's answer to the US ambassador's question as to why Britain entered the war: "What else could we do?"

Casualties? Undoubtedly heavy, admits Corrigan, but proportionately far fewer than those sustained by the French and the Germans. He points out that the percentage of deaths of the total population of these islands was low - 1.53 per cent, hardly amounting to the so-called "lost generation".

Because of the way the New Army was recruited, numbers of deaths appeared to be much higher in some areas than others. Groups of men enlisted together (the Pals battalions are an example of this), stayed together and often perished together, whereas some parts of the country escaped almost entirely, unlike the situation in France, where every tiny village has its war memorial. In France, conscription from the outset of the war meant soldiers were drawn evenly from the whole population.

Again and again, the author produces evi-

dence to counter the popular image of the Great War. Inadequate weaponry? By no means: some of it was still in use in 1960. Too many horses? While there was little scope to use cavalry, the horse was essential to military operations in 1914. Only gradually were tanks and mechanized transport introduced as technological advances occurred.

The trenches? Not the water-up-to-the-waist nightmare of popular imagination. Men were not permanently vermin-ridden and incapacitated by trench foot - hot baths and a change of clothes awaited them behind the lines and thanks to efficient staff organization, they hardly ever remained entrenched for longer than four consecutive days. Besides, a good diet, nourishing and plentiful if monotonous, ensured that many men had never fed so well in their lives.

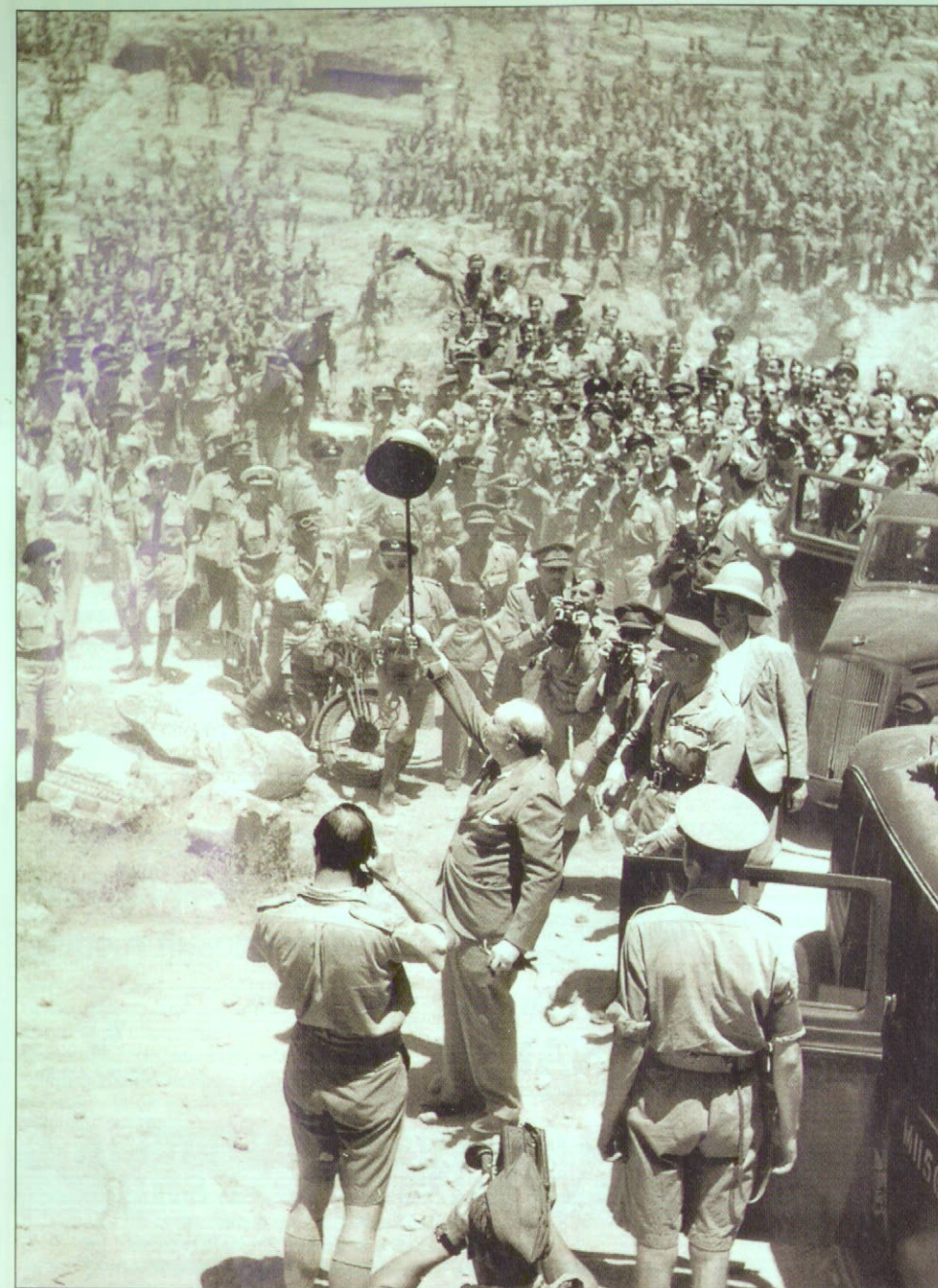
The effects of gas and the barbarity of the Germans, claims the author, were exaggerated and it has not been widely recognized that the morale of the British Army never wavered, unlike that of the French forces which, because of their inconsiderate treatment at the hands of an uncaring leadership (too little leave, dreadful food, etc.), were in 1917 on the verge of open revolt.

At the heart of *Mud, Blood and Poppycock* is a reappraisal of the qualities of British leadership. Of the generals, Haig has been the most vilified but we read that he was by no means the callous individual of popular legend.

The author argues well to exonerate him from many serious charges and concludes: "On balance, Haig was the best commander that the British Army could produce at the time... Historical opinion is shifting in favour of Haig. Public opinion has yet to follow but much of the received wisdom about him is founded on tainted evidence or on no evidence at all. This author can only

Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 4075). E-mail: books@helion.co.uk Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>



Hats off to Winston: Churchill, headgear held aloft in a gesture of triumph, is greeted by thousands of victorious British troops in north Africa on June 1, 1943. The picture is one of 200 appearing in the Imperial War Museum's *Churchill at War: His Finest Hours in Photographs* with authoritative text by the wartime leader's biographer, Sir Martin Gilbert (Carlton Books, £16.99)

conclude that Haig has been grievously wronged."

Corrigan's coolly detached and unemotional approach to his subject ("The Great War is an episode in our history, not an emotional experience") sometimes results in a threat to cherished illusions. He claims, for instance, that the Germans were perfectly correct in executing Nurse Edith Cavell, who helped Allied prisoners to escape and was the adored heroine of the post-war generation.

On the painful subject of young men executed for desertion, the author states baldly that these men deserved their fate. Perhaps, but such clever-eyed subjectivity is hard to swallow and many believe that war is an emo-

tional experience. The seriousness of the author's theme is, however, pleasantly lightened by shafts of humour and the inclusion of amusing asides, for instance Queen Mary's advice to her ladies-in-waiting not to be left alone in the same room with the amorous Prime Minister Lloyd George. Readers are particularly recommended to find the poem on Page 87 attributed to A P Herbert.

Corrigan makes a plausible case for a less dismal view of the Great War and reminds us that the men who took part in it believed they were fighting for a great and worthy cause.

This readable yet scholarly book will provoke discussion but may have come too late to change received opinion of the Great War.

With the Gurkhas in the Falklands War

IT may be the third book about the Gurkhas to have graced these pages in as many months, but the latest detailed and well written volume deals specifically with the events of 21 years ago, and from a personal angle. Mike Seear, author of **With the Gurkhas in the Falklands: A War Journal** (Sutton, £19.95) served with the RCT and The Light Infantry before being seconded to the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles as their operations and training officer for a two-year period which included the war of 1982.

American's view of the Ypres battlefields

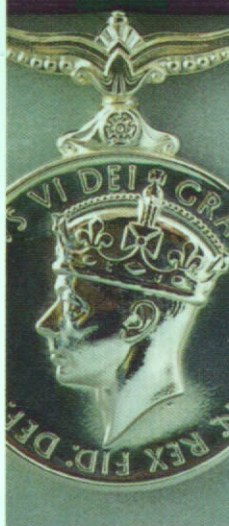
WINSTON Groom served in Vietnam and his book about that war, *Conversations with the Enemy*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Among his ten other books are the bestselling novels *Forrest Gump* and *The Crimson Tide*. His historical work **A Storm in Flanders: Triumph and Tragedy on the Western Front** (Cassell, £20) is an evocative description of the battles around the town of Ypres. For those who wonder why an American should have written about a distant war fought by other nations, he tells us his interest was kindled by his grandfather's 1920 guidebook to the battlefields.

Parrots, monkeys and a boy soldier in India

CLEVER book titles often excite curiosity. **Pick Up Your Parrots and Monkeys and Fall in Facing the Boat** - the traditional last order to British soldiers heading home from India - does not disappoint. Capt J W Pennington was 77 when he started writing this compelling memoir of his days as a 15-year-old soldier on active service with the horse artillery in the Raj of the 1930s. In the Second World War he served in Europe, returned to India and fought throughout the Burma campaign as a forward observation officer in the jungle, winning the MC. (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.99.)

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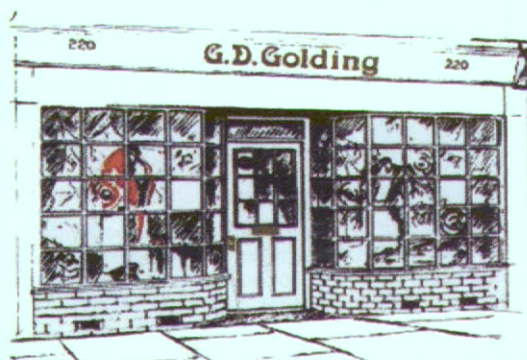


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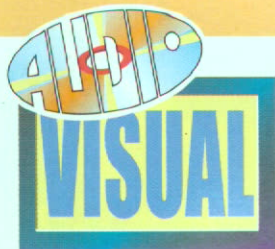
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MUSIC

Gordon Turner

Paras' tribute to big Ron



Those Magnificent Men (BNA 5178)

RON Goodwin, one of Britain's most prolific composers of light music and film scores passed away recently. The **Band of The Parachute Regiment** has recorded a programme of his music, including *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*, *633 Squadron*, *Battle of Britain March*; some lesser known works such as *Tall Ships*, *The White Rabbit*, *City of Lincoln March*, a suite (dedicated to H G Wells), *Time Traveller*, plus several others.

Those Magnificent Men is available from Bandleader Ltd, 46 High Street, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1LD, price £13 incl p&p.

Best Foot Forward (BNA 5179)

IT is several years since a band from the **Military School of Music**, Kneller Hall has made a recording, but at last this has been rectified with a programme performed by the foundation course. These are the musicians who have recently joined the Corps of Army Music and are waiting to be posted to bands in the corps. Conducted by Capt Barry Wassell they offer a typical bandstand programme which includes *Fanfare and Soliloquy*, *A Disney Festival*, the theme from *Band of Brothers*, *Can't take my eyes off you*, *Hymn to the Fallen*, *Time Remembered*, *Minuet* and *Farandole* from *L'Arlesienne* and Malcolm Arnold's *Little Suite*. There are several marches: *Kneller Hall* (Harold Walters), *Best Foot Forward*, *Corps of Army Music*, *Blow Away the Morning Dew* and a brand new march, *The Swift*.

Best Foot Forward is available from Bandleader Ltd, 46 High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1LD price £13 incl p&p.

Beating Retreat 2003 (TRCD 232)

ONE of the most popular military ceremonies is the annual Beating Retreat performed by the musicians of the Household Division. A studio recording of this year's music was made in advance and is now available. The Household Cavalry are featured in two new works by Major David Cresswell, *Scorpion* and *Charles II*; the Pipes & Drums play an attractive medley and the Massed Bands and Corps of Drums play *The King's Guard*, *Wellington*, *Arnhem*, *World in Union*, *Birdcage Walk* and *Hora Staccato*. The finale is the ever-popular *1812 Overture*.

Beating Retreat 2003 is available from Droit Music Ltd, PO Box 2638, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN20 7HJ, price £13 incl p&p.

VIDEO/DVD

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With websites, replica dolls and rumours of Hollywood stars lining up to play him, it comes as no surprise that al-Sahaf, better known as **Comical Ali**, is also the subject of his own feature presentation.

Released by the Baghdad Broadcasting Corporation on DVD and VHS last month, **Comical Ali** documents al-Sahaf's addresses to western journalists during the conflict in Iraq.

Priced at £9.99, with ten per cent of all profits going to the Red Cross for Third World aid, it features news reports and lots of big explosions alongside now legendary



quotes such as: "They (coalition forces) are nowhere near the airport, they are lost in the desert... they cannot read a compass... they are retarded."

● Rare film treasures from the Imperial War Museum have been released on video and DVD in **The True Glory Collector's Edition** (both £19.99) from DD Video (020 8863 0463).

Regarded as one of the greatest war documentaries ever made, the feature-length film was produced by the Allied military during 1944 and

1945 as a record of the campaign in Europe.

More re-released classics, this time on DVD from 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment, are three double-packs: **The Desert Fox: The Story of Rommel**, starring James Mason, and **The Desert Rats**; submarine warfare drama **The Enemy Below**, with Robert Mitchum, and **Sink the Bismarck!**, starring Kenneth More; and **The Young Lions** (Marlon Brando) and **D-Day the Sixth of June** (Robert Taylor). You will find them for sale, price £14.99 a set.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

David Rattray's Guidebook to the Anglo-Zulu War Battlefields edited by Dr Adrian Greaves. Informative, colourful and highly commended tour companion drawing on Rattray's encyclopedic knowledge. (Pen & Sword, paperback, £14.95.)

The Boer War by Denis Judd and Keith Surridge. Readable history, now in paperback (John Murray, £9.99.)

Terrorism: Inside a World Phenomenon by Barry Davies. Well researched history, with resumé of incidents between September 1970 and October 2002 and a list of 55 groups. (Virgin, £18.99.)

Images of the First World War: A Photographic Anthology. Curiously absorbing paperback containing 294 mono illustrations, many of which will be new to readers, taken from contemporary newspapers across Europe. (Balaguier Publications, Pinner, Middx, £10 inc postage.)

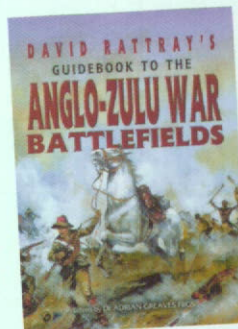
The Hertfordshire Yeomanry Regiments, Royal Artillery by Col J D Sainsbury. The fourth and final volume of this comprehen-

sively detailed illustrated history covers the Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment 1938-45, the Searchlight Battery 1937-45 and the Post-War Units 1947-2002. Obtainable direct from Hart Books (Welwyn), 2 New Place, Welwyn, AL6 9QA at £25 inc postage. Earlier volumes also available.

Men at Arnhem by Geoffrey Powell. This edition of the classic first-hand account includes a new introduction in which the author identifies and pays tribute to those who fought with him. (Pen & Sword, paperback, £12.95.)

Deception in War by Jon Latimer. As the publishers say, this is a book packed with lies - trickery deployed to fool the enemy, from the Trojan Horse to the 1991 Gulf War. (John Murray, paperback, £8.99.)

The Commandos at Dieppe: Rehearsal for D-Day by Will Fowler. The raid on the German-held port is seen as a disaster, but there were positive aspects. (Collins, paperback, £7.99.)



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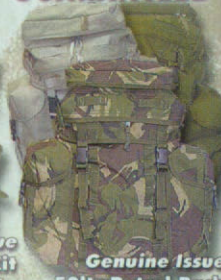
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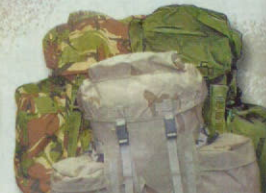
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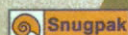


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SOLDIER to soldier

Flexibility is the key

WE would all like to be able to see into the future – think how rich we could all become, for a start.

But a recent speech by Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon to the Royal United Services Institute took some of the guesswork out of forecasting the future shape of the British Army.

And the key word is flexibility.

Mr Hoon pointed to a greater emphasis on “effects-based operations”. In other words, as in Iraq, using the latest technology to undermine an opponent’s ability to exercise effective command and control of his forces, rather than simply relying on battlefield attrition.



In changing to meet trends in expeditionary warfare, he suggested that the Army would need to switch to a more graduated and balanced structure of light, medium and heavy forces. But he stressed there was no question of giving up the tank or losing the ability to field significant heavy forces if needed.

The key to making all this happen is the sort of high quality people we have now – but Mr Hoon said manning and skills requirements would have to change.



“It also means our Service men and women will expect routinely to spend significant periods of time away from home on operations,” he said.

“That said, I am well aware that the periods of separation experienced by some specialisations are already excessive.

“We will need to re-balance our force structures to ensure the burden generated by the expected future operational tempo does not fall on certain individuals disproportionately as it does now.”

A Defence White Paper planned for the autumn is expected to set out in more detail the vision for the future.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Debate ignores our lads in Iraq

Row over WMD detracts from troops who are doing an amazing job in harsh climate

I CAN'T imagine how our soldiers in Iraq are coping with that heat.

I can't even cope with the heat as it has been here lately, at a piddling 30C. I am, I suspect, one of Terry Pratchett's trolls, who get cleverer the colder they get.

Stick 'em in a fridge, and they are suddenly geniuses. That's me. The moment the temperature gets above 24C, my brain starts to seize up and all I can think about is finding somewhere cool and shady to collapse, clutching a long, cold drink.

So I have no idea how Service personnel can keep functioning in the kind of temperatures they are experiencing in Iraq, never mind continuing to do such a good job.

I wonder how they view the goings-on back here? I hold out no hope that the WMD debate is going to go away, especially in the light of recent tragic events.

But whenever I hear, watch or read yet another news item on who said what to whom, I think of two groups of people: the families of the Service personnel who have died or been injured in Iraq; and the Service personnel currently out there, sweltering in the appalling heat and trying to do their job.

It helps neither group for everyone here to indulge in the luxury of arguing whether it was right or wrong to go into Iraq. The point is, surely, that we did, and that we are still there, and are likely to be so for the foreseeable future.

The people who have to deal with the hard reality of that are, as usual, Servicemen and their families. And that reality may include more deaths and injuries.

Instead of the BBC and the Government throwing insults and snarling at each other, trying to make or break each other's reputations, I would rather the



Sue Bonney is
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal

Government spent its time concentrating on how our presence in Iraq is to be managed and afforded (what price the Ministry of Defence budget now, folks?), and the BBC took a long, hard look at its news reporting.

I feel like banging their heads together, or putting the main protagonists in a ring and leaving them to slug it out while the rest of us get back to the real world.

I wonder how many politicians or journalists spared a thought for the families whose soldiers recently left for Iraq for six months (or the Congo, or Bosnia, or Kosovo, or – where was it next?).

The thing is, we know that whatever the conditions or the political hoo-ha, British soldiers will just go on doing their job, and their families will go on supporting them.

Which makes me very proud of them.

And bloody angry on their behalf, when their hard work and sacrifice is eclipsed by our public broadcaster and political leaders indulging in yabboo sessions.

They can, and no doubt will, debate all they like about truth, honesty, right and wrong. None of that will change the job facing Service personnel in Iraq or the stark fact that it is

likely to remain a job on the list for some time to come.

We will be expected to do our best. Not to ask questions, or wonder if it's worth it, but to do it.

And much of the good achieved will go unreported, not being dramatic or sensational enough.

We've started, so we'll finish. Is it too much to expect the same professionalism from others?

As you can probably tell, the hot weather is doing nothing at all for my temper.

‘It helps neither group for everyone here to indulge in the luxury of arguing whether it was right or wrong to go into Iraq. The point is, surely, that we did, and that we are still there for the foreseeable future’



WRITE TO: SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU
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Sailors get help to buy homes years before us

I AM a 27-year-old sergeant wishing to buy a house while still relatively young. I want to do this to avoid the pressure of a mortgage as I reach my twilight years and secondly as an investment for when I leave the Forces.

I spoke to my garrison admin office,

only to be informed I would not be eligible for help from the Army until I am at least 35.

Prize letter

When I mentioned this to a colleague in the Royal Marines I was told those in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force could receive help to buy a house as young as 23. The Army claims

to be an investor in people and yet when individuals wish to help themselves, the backing they receive is pitiful.

Is anything in progress to redress the situation and when is it likely to be implemented? Is there anything individuals can do to increase the speed of implementation? – **Sgt I Lynch, SEAE, Arborfield.**



Reply from PS4(A): We welcome the chance to reply to such a well-written letter and hope that our response may clarify the reason for the difference.

Sgt Lynch is quite right to want to look to the future by making a sound investment. He should be aware, however, that entering the property market as the market nears its peak could mean that his house might fall in value before subsequently rising.

Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) is an interest-free loan specifically for the purpose of assisting house purchase. This loan, the maximum amount being £8,500, is repayable over ten years with any outstanding amount (from those who leave before the ten years are up) being paid from terminal benefits.

Naval Service personnel may claim LSAP from the age of 23, while for the Army and the RAF the earliest they will be eligible is at the age of 35. This difference is under constant review – by all the Services – and most frequently (but not exclusively) from an affordability point of view.

The Army has recently reviewed its accompanied service policy within the context of changes in society, the Defence Housing Review and retention-positive strategies.

The Accompanied Service Review was completed in December 2002 and its findings were endorsed by APRC. The review concluded that accompanied service continues to play a vital role in the Army's delivery of operational effectiveness and is the preferred

choice of the vast majority of Army families (70 per cent).

The Army, therefore, remains committed to the promotion and support of accompanied service, through supporting policies, provisions and allowances.

LSAP is one of the principal allowances, the uptake of which, in turn, plays an important role in judging the MoD's housing strategy; thus a change in one area cannot be taken in isolation because of the knock-on effect that it might have in other areas. Well-written letters such as Sgt Lynch's demand a reply and will carry some weight in future reviews of these policy matters; however, it would be wrong to promise that the current provision will change in the near future.

My pooch posting problem

I HAVE a problem which may affect others with pets. I'm posted to Germany shortly and have received a letter instructing me to make other arrangements for my dog.

I discovered that the Station Staff Office (SSO) in my new location expected me to kennel my dog in the UK or leave it with family until I got authorisation to have it in my quarter.

Unfortunately I do not have anyone who can change their lives to accommodate my pet. The only way I could get around the situation is to try to change my

posting to an area that will accept my dog.

When retention is considered a priority, I wonder if it is time to get out while I can still stand the Army's archaic ways in regard to soldiers' welfare. How stupid to think I could carry on with a relatively normal life while serving as a soldier. – **Name and address supplied.**



Station Staff Officer, Osnabrück Garrison, replies: Each garrison in Germany has its own rules and regulations on ownership and registration of pets, depending on individual circumstances.

More than half the Service Families Accommodation (SFA) blocks in Osnabrück Station are flats leased from local landlords. Each owner has the right to impose restrictions on the number and type of pets allowed in each estate or block of flats, and we are bound by these restrictions.

The SSO is responsible for monitoring the numbers of pets in the station SFA and maintaining waiting lists where necessary. He is also responsible for their registration and the issue of German licence discs.

In general, SFA is allocated on rank and size of family (although there are often exceptions based on a family's personal circumstances). Houses do not have the same



"Stop belly-aching... you could still be with the Sandhurst Beagles."

restrictions as flats, primarily because they have self-contained gardens more suited to the keeping of pets and are, in the main, Federal quarters under the direct control of the SSO. However, occupants of houses are still required to maintain sensible levels of pet ownership.

You have most probably been allocated a flat; hence the reason a pet restriction has been imposed.

In all circumstances the SSO will strive to accommodate both families and their pets. However, it is incumbent upon any SSO to house families as a first priority.

YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda... but please keep them as short as possible.

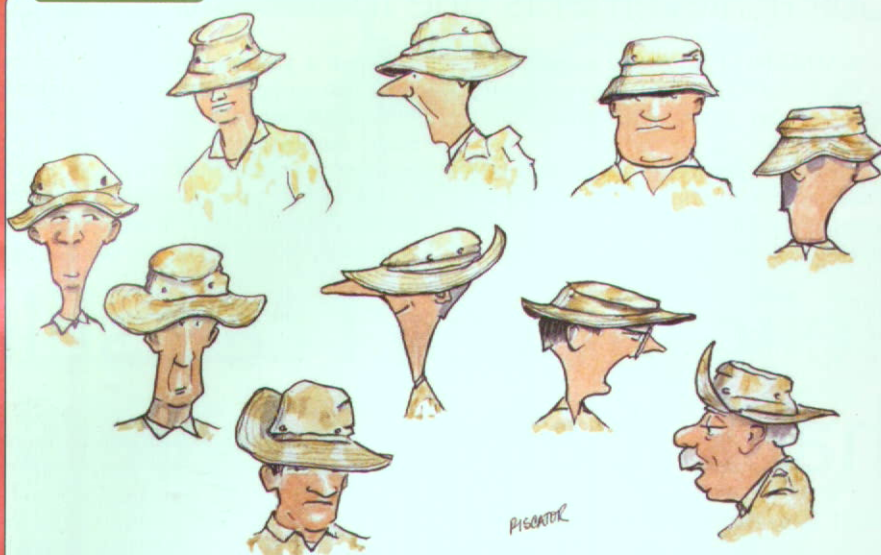
Please be brief

The more space you take up to get your point across, the less room there is for other letters, and we are anxious to use as many as we can. E-mails should include your

name and location at the bottom (not necessarily for publication).

Anonymous contributions will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to amend for length, clarity or style.

PISCATOR



The British Army floppy hat, 2003 (based on pictures published in *Soldier*)

The ABF launches its new and improved gift catalogue *ABF Despatches* this month. It features some great new products, available for the first time, as well as some old favourites, including Christmas cards. For your free copy, please call 01608 647 451 or e-mail abfe@btconnect.com



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Bosnia troops deserve their share of limelight

WITH attention focused on Iraq, the outstanding success of British forces in Banja Luka ("Troops find weapons cache", July) deserves special praise.

In a highly professional operation widely reported in the region, British soldiers uncovered one of the biggest hauls of illegal weapons seized in recent years, sending a clear message to those intent upon organised crime or preserving bigoted ideas of ethnic homogeneity.

It was an achievement in organisation and military competence. The article did not mention that these operations are not without a large element of risk to those involved, not only from poorly-stored explosives but from ex-paramilitary gangs determined to prevent their seizure.

As these weapons are removed from circulation so an environment is being created that allows for tolerance between communities and the return of refugees, and brings nearer the day when Britain's Sfor soldiers can return safely home. On

behalf of the families who wait for that day, a big thank-you. – **Daniel Kington, Secretary, The Croatian Forces International Volunteers Association.**

Your 'hong' was bit undercooked

HERE at the Royal Returned Services Association Club at Paraparaumu, in New Zealand, former British Servicemen keen to keep up with news from home read *Soldier*. We noted a spelling mistake on Page 21 of the December 2002 issue, where you show SSgt W Smith greeting Sgt S Burke with the "hangi". Alas, the word should have been "hong".

A hangi or haangi is used to cook a communal meal in an underground earth oven, over heated stones, in the traditional Maori way. – **Charles A Tribe, ex-RM, Paraparaumu, New Zealand.**

PS . . .

Suez gratitude

PLEASE accept my heartfelt gratitude for *Soldier's* unstinting support, over many years, for our hard-fought campaign against the Government's refusal to acknowledge our active service in the Suez Canal Zone of Egypt in the 1950s.

Thanks to the many articles and letters you published in your excellent magazine, the momentum of the campaign was kept on course. On behalf of myself, and all the other members of The Suez Veterans Association, I thank you. – Ivor Usher, ex-corporal, RMP, Fayid, 1953-1955.

AS a Suez veteran I would like to associate myself with the many thanks associated with the award of the clasp "Canal Zone" to the GSM 1918-62. May I express my gratitude to *Soldier* for backing the cause for so long and may I also mention the support the campaign received from MPs, in particular Annette Brooke and Paul Burstow. – John Currier, Shrewsbury.

Whingeing Terriers

I WAS so incensed by some of the letters in the July edition that I had to write.

According to their website, the Territorial Army plays "a vital dual role of reinforcing the Regular Army and serving local communities in times of need".

Why, when they are called upon to do their duty, do we get so much whingeing. Missing their families, losing money . . . it makes me wonder why they joined. Oh yes, I know why, the extra money, nice cosy attachments abroad (known as two-week camps), easy-to-get medals and a cool story to tell down the pub. I bet the two TA RMP girls going to the USA for two weeks on an exchange (*Soldier*, July) won't be writing letters of complaint. – Alexandra S Pullan, Pontefract.

Jumping the gun

I WRITE with reference to Maj (Retd) Thompson's letter (May) regarding the picture from 40 Regiment RA. Having just left 40 Regiment I got hold of the March issue and was surprised to read in the article that it was the first time the regiment had used the light gun in ceremonial duties in York.

Surprised, because I actually commanded the first ceremonial firing of the light gun in York for the Minute Gun at last year's Remembrance Parade. Sorry, Ma'am. – M R Stansfield WO1 (Master Gunner), Larkhill.

You are not alone

WHY do gays in our Armed Forces feel the need to make a big issue about it? After hiding it for years I decided to tell my close friends some time ago and have received nothing but support since. I would say to anyone who thinks they are alone, they are not. – Sgt Westley Morris, Germany.



WRITE TO: SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU
● E-mail: mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

New way to recover over-issues in pipeline

I RESPOND to SSgt Proctor's letter ("So, why was Sgt Wesson docked £2,075?", July). Currently the processes to recover over-issues from soldiers and officers operate differently.

Historically officers were responsible for managing their own pay and were able to contact their regimental pay office directly and pay correspondence was conducted on a personal basis. Now the majority of officers go via their unit RAO.

Conversely soldiers were not able to contact their regimental paymaster, but had to go through the unit pay office, which was responsible for administering their pay. This still applies.

However it has been planned for some time to have a single process which treats officers and soldiers the same in terms of how recoveries of over-issues are undertaken. This system will be able to produce a list of all new debtors after each monthly pay run. Units will be given this list and the RAO staff will inform the individual. Individuals will have 21 days to raise an objection before recovery begins.

The following basic principles will be applied:

- If the debt is less than one day's pay, recovery will be made in full the following month. No prior notification of this action will be given.

- If the debt is greater than one day but equal to or less than four days' pay, notification will be given and recovery will be made as a single payment the following month.

- If the debt is greater than four days' pay, the recovery will be made in instalments at the standard monthly recovery rate, taking into account the requirement for minimum rates of pay to be maintained.

- If a soldier or officer raises an objection, recovery is suspended, pending an outcome.

DSPS(A) and AFPAA are working hard to get this change put in place, although plans have been delayed due to the diversion of resources to support recent operations and the second phase of mobilisation to support Op Telic. At present we are unable to give a precise date for this change going live. – **Maj E A James Park, SO2 Reg Pay DSPS(A).**

Gulf achievements due to skill and courage

I COMMEND CSjt Baillie and all those on Op Telic for their first-class soldiering. As a recruiter I am often asked about front-line shortages.

Telic was the pointy end... it was war. If soldiers were missing vital equipment something must have gone wrong. We spend millions on exercises which are

declared a success, but clearly critical front-line support is not fully functioning.

What has been achieved in the Gulf has been accomplished through skill and courage, despite limited resources. I wish a safe return to all soldiers who were deployed on operations in Iraq. – **CSgt G Wenham, ACIO Scarborough.**

Telic proved I can still hack it after 22 years

WHILE on Op Telic I saw the effects of overstretch due to the Army's many deployments around the globe.

If Regular soldiers were released from posts such as recruiters or permanent staff instructors in Territorial Army units they could be used to bolster Regular units alongside TA enhancements.

There must be meaningful positions in which people such as me – able, fit and willing to continue past the 22-year point – could be placed. I am aware of Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS) but am unwilling to take a gamble on a position which may be available for only two years.

DM(A) responds: For the past two-and-a-half years, the Army has been engaged in the Non-Commissioned Engagement and Career Structures (NECS) Study with the aim of recommending a flexible and efficient career structure for soldiers that will meet the operational and administrative needs of the Army and the individual in the 21st century in a sustainable and cost-effective manner.

The Army recognised it was losing valuable experience at the 22-year point and wanted to examine options for retaining selected individuals. The study has recommended that the current 22-year Open Engagement be replaced by the Versatile Engagement (VEng).

This is designed to support a flexible, integrated career structure that allows for soldiers to serve beyond 22 years where appropriate, with maximum scope for transfer in early- to mid-career. It also proposes measures to improve the retention of soldiers beyond four years of service.

The main features of the VEng are: The structure should give all soldiers the potential to complete a career to the full pension point

I have served 22 years and joined the TA after a year in civilian street. My mobilisation (three years on from "Services no longer required" by the Army), gave me a welcome opportunity to focus again on what I feel I do best, be a soldier.

It re-affirmed what I knew: that I had more to offer the Regular Army and that I could perform as well as a full-time Regular. With Op Telic 3 looming, I don't want to be used "as and when" – I would welcome full-time employment. I have at least ten more years of soldiering in me and would welcome the chance to prove it. – **H A Brooks, 216 Sqn RLC (V).**

at 35 years or to age 60 (whichever is earliest), based upon quality and employability. Terms of service should offer all soldiers an initial engagement of nine years. Service is then automatically extended to 12 years on promotion to lance corporal, 15 years on promotion to corporal and to the Immediate Pension Point (IPP) on promotion to sergeant.

On selection, service may be extended to 27 and/or 35 years on transfer to a CEG that is structured for 35 years or to serve in what is currently the LSL.

Continuance could be granted to any of the engagements. In other words, a private soldier could be extended beyond the nine-year point, a lance corporal beyond the 12-year point and so on.

Because of the introduction of JPA, the VEng will not come into effect until January 2008.

A supplementary piece of work is currently investigating the options for managing the current NRPS and LSL jobs as one coherent structure, giving individuals limited opportunity for promotion and to specialise in particular career fields. This work will report in the autumn.

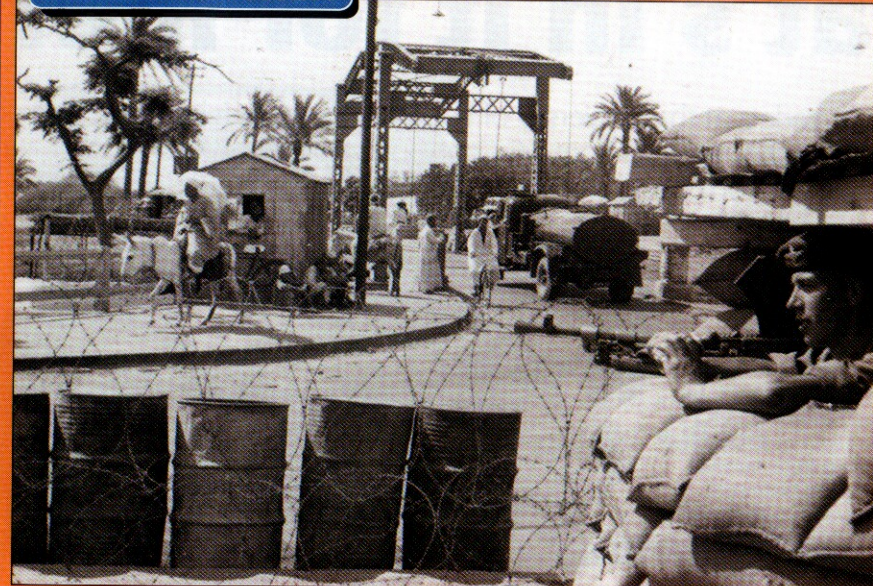
Will my docs record anthrax jab I had in Gulf?

CONCERNING anthrax vaccinations given to all troops on Op Telic, as one of the first personnel from 7 Armoured Brigade to deploy, I ran out of time to receive my third vaccination before deployment.

I had to wait several weeks until the

remainder of my unit arrived and received the vaccine then. With the rapid deployment and personnel treated in differing locations, will documents be accurate and up-to-date and normal medical records show exactly what was administered? – **Name and address supplied.**

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1978: The Army Wilkinson Sword of Peace has been awarded to 321 Explosive Disposal Unit for its work in Northern Ireland in protecting the civilian community. It is the first time the award has gone to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

● The new Infantry Demonstration Battalion, announced in February, is in being.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1953: In the sand-bagged post, above, Pte B C Laffar, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, keeps an eye on traffic along "Sten Gun Alley", a spot only too well known to thousands of British Servicemen on the Suez Bridge spanning the Sweet Water Canal near Ismailia. Troops are stationed over 100 miles from Port Said to Suez.

Here's why Efi staff had desert kit... we'd been there before

CSJT Baillie ("What happened to essential Telic kit we were promised?" July) referred to Efi personnel wearing kit that front-line troops had been promised.

I would like to point out that many Efi personnel, having been on previous Middle East tours – Saif Sareea and Ali Al Salem airbase, for example – already had the kit. Some had not and also experienced, in varying degrees, a similar shortage of kit supply in-theatre, relying on the generosity of host units to make up items until their own arrived.

Too often Efi personnel bear the brunt of complaints, yet we live out of our bergans for our whole careers, our social lives and relationships can be affected by our deployments but no thanks do we

receive. There's no Asda or Tesco on tour, so please show a bit of respect for those who work hard to ensure your life is a little more comfortable. – **LCpl S Rowley, 148 Sqn Efi/RLC, Op Telic.**

USA honours British fallen

AS president of the British Officers' Club of New England, I was invited by my local US Marine Corps Veterans' Group in Lawrence, Massachusetts to take part in their memorial weekend service of remembrance on May 25.

I was asked to read the names of the 31 British Servicemen who had lost their lives in Iraq. Their names were honoured and remembered with gratitude. Following this, *The Last Post* was sounded and the British National Anthem sung.

It may be of some small comfort to the next-of-kin of those brave and gallant men to know that their sacrifice was remembered and generously honoured many miles from their homes. – **Geoffrey Hall, USA.**

TALKBACK

PS...

To crown it all...

SSGT R Marsh (May) believes his cap badge is unique for sporting two crowns, although strictly speaking the uppermost is a ducal coronet.

The AGC cap badge has three crowns and the late John Gaylor, author of *Military Badge Collecting*, stated that the Queen's Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry, during the Second World War, wore a collar badge as a cap badge in the field service cap incorporated four. I expect some other "badge nut" will come up with more. – **E Osborne, Surbiton, Surrey.**

THE cap badge of the Royal Green Jackets also contains two crowns. One of them is the Naval Crown, the only one in the British Army, and worn to commemorate the battle honour won by members of the 95th who were involved with Nelson at the Battle of Copenhagen. – **Keith Stevens, (Ex-RGJ) HQ Northern Ireland.**

THE Parachute Regiment cap badge sports two crowns, one atop the chute and one atop the lion. – **R Tremayne, East Anglian PRA.**

D-Day Dodgers

THE Italian Invasion began on September 3, 1943, not September 9 ("D-Day Dodgers", July). I landed with the 53 LAA Regt RA at 0430 hours on September 3, having embarked at Messina the previous evening, and remained in Italy until October 1946. – **George W Douthwaite, Gateshead.**

I was one of the so-called Dodgers and can well remember the resentment felt at the time. Thank you for printing a report of the bloody fighting we suffered and helping to give us some recognition. – **J R Bowen, ex-Sgt RA (Field), Stevenage.**

Last man in

YOUR article "Remember the call-up?" (April) says that Lt R Vaughan was the last man to complete National Service. I was also in the last call-up on September 17, 1960 and did the extra six months, totalling two-and-a-half years.

Surely the distinction of being last man to complete National Service should go to 23819209 Pte Woods AAC. The Army always works in alphabetical order and Woods comes after Vaughan. – **23817812 N Pickles, ex-Kings and Lancashire (PWV), Ecclestone, Lancs.**

In cause of peace

AS a descendant of veterans of the British Army, I was aggrieved to read of British soldiers lost in the conflict in Iraq.

It is my prayer that their families and friends may find comfort in knowing that their soldiers died defending life and liberty. – **Arthur Clements, San Diego, California, USA.**

Vox pop

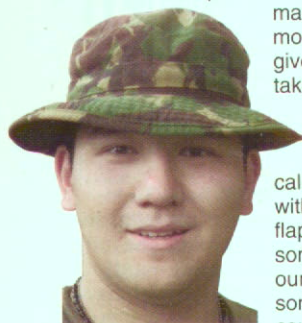
The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

What's in it for me?

We asked officer cadets at the University of London Officer Training Corps – the largest in the UK, with members from 16 Commonwealth countries – why they joined, what they got from it and what they hoped to do in the future

OCdt Damien Finigan, history student

It's a hobby that pays for itself, it offers travel, adventurous pursuits, it develops you, and makes you a stronger, more rounded person. It gives you the ability to take control of a situation, analyse the problem and resolve it quickly, calmly and sensibly without panicking and flapping. We're doing something proactive with our spare time, putting something back into the community and having a great social life as well. I'm proud to be a small part of the British Army and may consider joining up after my masters.



OCdt Alakh Saini, aerospace engineering student

The organisation appealed to me because it's very demanding and there are many elements to it. I've learned a lot about British Army culture, survival skills and teamwork. Everyone could benefit from OTC training.



WOCdt Kate Ryan, German student

I am considering the Army as a career so I joined the OTC to get an idea of what to expect. The hardest part is going on stag when you are tired, hungry and wet, and cleaning rifles on a Sunday afternoon when you just want to go home. The best bit is sitting in the pub at the end of an exercise knowing that you've done something you thought you weren't going to be able to.



WOCdt Sahira Mahmud, biomedical sciences student

I would like to join the medical corps and thought this would be good preparation. I've learned to work as part of a team, it's given me a lot of confidence in myself and encouraged me to push my limits.



WOCdt Zoe Greenhalf, footwear design student

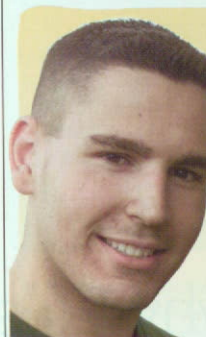
I wanted to do something completely different. It's been a challenge, a great way to make friends and develop teamwork and leadership skills. I come home bruised, battered and dirty



from OTC weekends. My housemates think I'm crazy but it's an achievement and I love the physical challenge. I am hoping to work in fashion when I leave uni but I'd like to join the TA as well.

OCdt Jim Morris, law and politics

It was the only organisation at uni which offered to pay me for joining. The experience has matured me and given me lots of responsibility. I'm currently choosing between the legal profession and the Army as a career.



OCdt James Richards, chemistry student

The OTC was advertised as the "drinking club with a gun problem". I wanted to do something in my spare time that wasn't completely sports-related so I joined and it's quality. I hope to join the Regular Army after completing my degree, something I wasn't intending to do before I came to university.



WOCdt Laura Pollitt, war studies student

I joined the OTC because it related to my degree and provided the chance to do a lot of adventurous training, carry on travelling and have a lot of fun while at university. I love the atmosphere, the chance to meet great people, the teamwork and the opportunity to do unusual things and learn new skills. I plan to be a war crimes lawyer when I leave uni but would also like to join the TA.

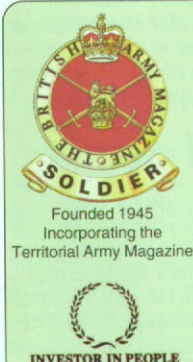


Andrew Rosindell, Conservative MP for Romford, Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme

It is easy for MPs to sit in Westminster and not really understand what happens in the armed forces. It's important for us to see what goes on. This is an enormously impressive organisation. It's wonderful to see young people training together, showing leadership skills, ingenuity and commitment. Whatever it costs to run an OTC is money well spent and clearly a good investment.



Interviews: Andrea Frazer Pictures: Steve Dock



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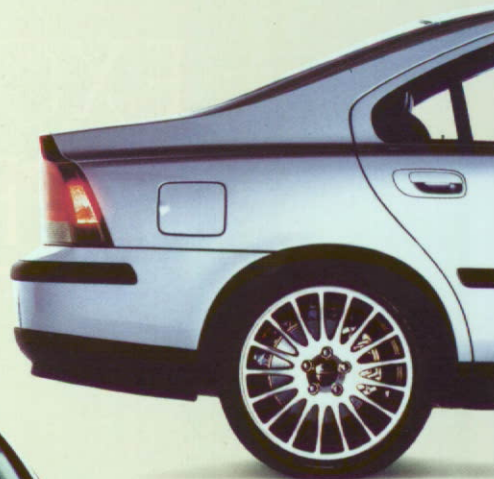
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