

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

April 2002 £2

SOLDIER

MONITORING THE MENACE

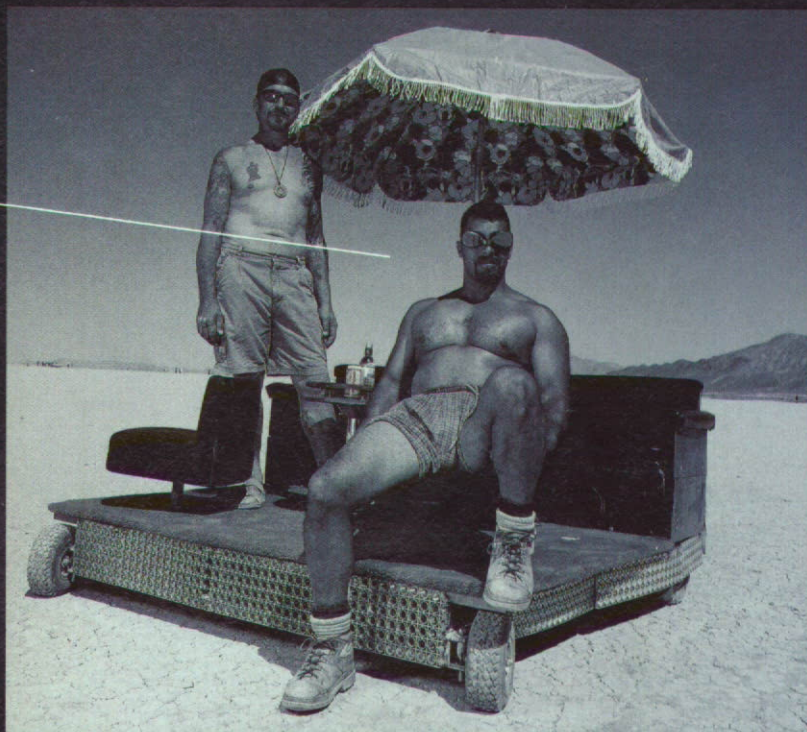
NBC Regiment
in Afghanistan



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"Last weekend it was a bunch from Bernie's Lap-top Emporium"

● Single soldiers' love-nests – Page 9

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... of your award-winning magazine

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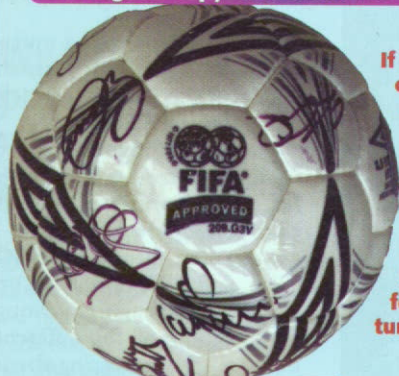
Cpl Shaun Griffin, an airman serving with the Joint NBC Regiment in Afghanistan, uses his CAM detector to check a shell case at Kabul airport. The regiment is part of the International Stabilisation Force (ISAF) on Operation Fingal.

Picture: Mike Weston



Tottenham Hotspur legend Gary Mabbutt, above, talks about his experiences with the ISAF football team in Afghanistan – Pages 46-47

Win signed copy of *H Jones VC* – Pages 68-69



If you want a chance to win a football signed by Sven Goran Eriksson's England squad, plus a copy of *Championship Manager Quiz* for PlayStation, turn to Page 47

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What sort of job has the British Army done in Kosovo?

Monitoring the NBC menace

British soldiers have the task of protecting peacekeepers and civilians from nuclear, biological and chemical hazards in Afghanistan

Pictures: Joint NBC Regiment and Mike Weston

IT was exactly the type of task the Specialist Monitoring Team (SMT) from the Joint NBC Regiment was deployed for. Capt James Cameron led his men into the house in the Kabul suburbs where Osama

Bin Laden and a Pakistani nuclear scientist had discussed plans to make a "dirty nuclear bomb".

The team checked the rooms for anthrax and radiological hazards. The house was clean, but the intelligence recovered left no doubt as to Al-Qaida's intentions.

This is the first time a specialist monitoring team from the Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Regiment has been deployed operationally in this manner. Troops are using highly sophisticated systems that can detect 129,000 chemical compounds from air, soil or liquid samples. Devices around Kabul collect samples every six hours.

"As many diseases are endemic to Afghanistan, we are not looking to see if a threat is present, but are monitoring the threat," said Capt Cameron. "This is a truly expeditionary capability, where soldiers are able to conduct scientific analysis in the field."

The eight-man team are experts in detecting NBC, radiological, toxic and industrial threats to military and civilians.

"This is the first operational deployment of the specialist monitoring team and Afghanistan has proved to be everything we expected it to be," said Capt Cameron.

"Most people are ignorant of the dangers of NBC warfare and I see it as one of my jobs to lessen that ignorance."

With the British element in the lead role, the NBC team has been working with an Italian NBC platoon and a German military biochemist.

The team has been intensely busy with tasks ranging from checking antiquated x-ray machines in Kabul hospitals to inves-

tigating reports of unsecured veterinary anthrax. Causing particular concern to Capt Cameron on the day *Soldier* spoke to him in Kabul was what he was going to do about his latest discovery. Cobalt 60, a highly radioactive isotope that emits high energy gamma radiation, had been found in a disused hospital by the monitoring team. The Cobalt was intended for the treatment of cancer, but it now posed a serious hazard to the local population.

The monitors travelled out with a £2.5 million analysis laboratory, a facility which enables them to collect samples and report the results immediately, rather than having to send them back to Porton Down in the UK.

The local Afghan population has a relaxed attitude to potential hazards. Capt Cameron said: "I saw an Afghan sucking up anthrax through a straw to



Gently does it: SSgt Pete Brookes, right, and an officer from 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) inspect canisters suspected of being Soviet-era chemical weapons. A member of the mujahedin kept a chemical shell on the mantelpiece above his fireplace



What have we here? SSgt Pete Brookes, JNBC Regt, checks a sample in the biological analysis laboratory

provide a sample and a mujahedin who kept a Russian chemical shell on his mantelpiece above the fireplace."

One of the main tasks the group has been involved with has been spreading knowledge about potential threats.

SSgt Pete Brookes, JNBC Regt, said: "We have been on Radio Afghanistan educating people about all the different dangers – from messing about with old shells that the Russians left, to children playing in ponds polluted with agricultural fertiliser."

The sight of troops dressed in head-to-toe protective kit has raised a few turbans on the streets of Kabul.

'We have been on Radio Afghanistan educating people about all the dangers – from messing about with old shells that the Russians left, to children playing in ponds polluted with agricultural fertiliser'

"One of the best things has been seeing the reaction of the locals," said SSgt Brookes. "They look very nervous when we turn up in full protection kit with respirators, but they are very relieved when we give them the all-clear."

"It makes the Afghans feel that the International Security Assistance Force is trying to make a real difference and gives the lads a sense of pride in what they are doing."

Working in full NBC kit is difficult at the best of times. With the Afghan climate quickly changing to warmer tempera-

tures, the team faces an arduous mission.

"They place themselves very much in the line of fire," said Capt Cameron.

"The threat to the team is not simply from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards, but also from unexploded ordnance and very dangerous operating conditions. Obviously, it takes a special kind of soldier to operate under the physical and mental strain that the guys go through and I'm proud to say that they are coping brilliantly."

● More from Afghanistan – Pages 17-19

Battle-group deploys to take fight to Al-Qaida

A COMMANDO battle-group has been deployed to work with US, Canadian and other Coalition forces in operations against remaining pockets of Al-Qaida and Taliban resistance in Afghanistan. Its command structure is completely separate from Isaf.

British Forces previously committed to Operation Veritas have included Royal Navy S & T Class submarines, RAF support aircraft, and a naval task group with Commando forces embarked.

A Royal Navy task group has been in the area since September 2001, supported by a large Royal Fleet Auxiliary presence. The helicopter carrier HMS *Ocean* recently relieved the aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious* and the assault ship HMS *Fearless*, which formed the core of the original task group.

Ocean has Royal Marines from 45 Commando embarked, taking over from 40 Commando the task of providing an in-theatre contingency reserve force, and they will form the core of the battlegroup which will now be deployed on a war-fighting task in Afghanistan.

The battle-group includes a wide range of elements drawn from all three Services to produce a fully self-contained force. It includes:

- 45 Commando Royal Marines (aboard HMS *Ocean* and from Arbroath near Dundee)
 - 7 (Sphinx) Commando Battery of 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery – armed with 105mm Light Guns (based in Arbroath)
 - 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers (based in Chivenor, North Devon)
 - A detachment from Commando Logistics Regiment – Royal Marine, Royal Navy and Army personnel (based in Chivenor)
 - RAF Chinook helicopters from 27 Squadron (from RAF Odiham).
- Much of the battle-group's equipment is already embarked on board HMS *Ocean* and the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, and the balance will be flown or shipped out. The RAF's new C-17 heavy airlifter is able to fly Chinook helicopters direct to Afghanistan. The battle-group and its supporting elements total some 1,700 personnel, the biggest war-fighting deployment since the Gulf war.

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9.7% APR	£5,000	Monthly	107.22	81.25	129.44	104.58	186.09	159.77	478.32	438.19
		Total	9,006.40	6,825.09	7,766.23	6,274.24	6,698.89	5,751.70	5,739.78	5,258.21
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Hot work for Gurkhas as Bosnia forces are given baptism of fire

SOLDIERS from B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, left and below, carry out crowd and riot control training for the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) soldiers at Banja Luka in Bosnia. Canadian and Dutch troops from the Multi-National Division (South) provided the rioters as units, including an MND(N) rapid reaction force of US soldiers, experienced some very realistic mayhem.

More than 250 Molotov cocktails, 12,000 wooden blocks and an endless supply of potatoes and lemons rained down on the peacekeeping troops. Some of the training was orchestrated by Maj Paul Pitchfork, OC B Coy, 2 RGR, whose Gurkhas demonstrated how to extract individuals from a riot.



Pictures: Cpl Brad Chappell, RAF

Rugby tackle hero shot by armed thug

Cup final supporters' trip ends with motorway service station robbery

AN NCO from the Welsh Gunners was shot in the back and injured while trying to foil an armed robbery at a motorway service station last month.

He was one of a party of officers and NCOs from 22 Air Defence Regiment RA who ended up missing the finals of the all-artillery Army rugby final when they tried to foil an armed robbery.

The Welsh Gunners were *en route* from their home base at Kirton in Lindsey in Lincolnshire to the rugby match at Larkhill, where their team was battling with 7 Parachute Regiment RHA on March 7. As the last of four coaches of regimental supporters pulled into the motorway service area at Tamworth on the M42 in mid-morning its occupants saw an armed robbery in progress.

When one of the raiders threatened a female security guard as the gang attacked

a Securicor vehicle, the men from Rapier Barracks intervened.

One of eight soldiers involved in the attempt to stop the robbery, WO2 Stephen Lavis, said he saw a female security guard lying on her face with an armed man standing above her yelling abuse at her. At that point the gunners decided to tackle the gunman and succeeded in bringing him down with a rugby tackle. As the soldiers grappled with the man on the ground a second gunman who was already in a Range Rover returned and fired a shotgun at the soldiers.

A 34-year-old senior NCO received shotgun pellet wounds from the blast. The soldiers were forced to release the armed man to care for their injured colleague. He was taken to the George Eliot Hospital at Nuneaton. Fortunately, his injuries were not life-threatening and he was discharged four days later.

The gang escaped in the Range Rover, which was later found abandoned on the hard shoulder of the motorway at Coleshill. A second getaway vehicle, a

Saab, was found burned-out. Warwickshire Police said the gang, of up to four men, were all wearing body armour, which indicated that they were ready to tackle armed police. The raid coincided with three cash machines being serviced at the Granada service area.

Some of the 22 Regiment supporters missed the match to help with enquiries.

A press conference was arranged at 30 Signal Regiment's nearby Bramcote base, where Maj Kevin Radwell, 22 Regiment's unit press officer and one of those involved in the incident, with colleagues WO2 Lavis, Sgt Matt Welch and Lt Mark Elliott, gave first-hand accounts.

Police, who are treating the shooting as attempted murder, have offered a reward of £10,000 for information leading to the arrest of the gang.

Members of the regiment returned to the service area to film a reconstruction for the BBC *Crimewatch* programme.

● The Army Cup final was won by 7 Para RHA by 42 points to eight. A report will appear in the May edition.

Homeward bound



Off to the valleys: **Gdsm Chris Harman**, above, turned out in full ceremonial uniform for a media briefing on the day it was announced the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards would be posted to Wales for the first time. The battalion, currently stationed at Bruneval Barracks, Montgomery Lines in Aldershot, is due to move to surplus accommodation in West Camp at RAF St Athan, near Barry, in May next year.

The move was made possible by the decision to withdraw an infantry battalion from Northern Ireland. Commanded by Lt Col Robert Talbot-Rice, 1 WG had been due to deploy to Londonderry. Ebrington Barracks, where they would have been based, is to be shut at the end of next year as part of the "normalisation" process in Northern Ireland.

Picture: Sgt Brian Gamble

Faslane fitness camp hits spot

THIRTY soldiers from units across 8th Infantry Brigade who had lost high levels of fitness due to injury or lifestyle heaped praise on an innovative health-and-fitness camp held at Faslane on the Clyde.

The week-long pilot course, aimed at addressing high levels of downgraded and non-deployable personnel within its units, is likely to become a permanent feature of the brigade's training programme.

Within a framework aimed at enjoyment, the camp set out to raise students' motivation for physical training and a healthy lifestyle; teach them how to live and train effectively; and show them how to improve fitness and avoid and manage injury.



Picture: Cpl Mark Ballantyne

Don't look down: **OCdt Kate James**, above, from Southampton University Officers' Training Corps takes the high road from one Copehill Down building to another during the first inter-UOTC infantry competition. Exercise Graduate Warrior, staged in gale-force winds and hailstorms on Salisbury Plain, attracted

16 teams from all over the United Kingdom. The competition tested the teams across a wide range of infantry skills, including an urban assault course, which accounts for Kate's lofty performance. Exeter UOTC came out on top against universities from as far afield as Wales, Edinburgh, Durham, Oxford and Bristol.

Courts martial suspended following European ruling

ARMY courts martial, which were suspended following a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), are to be resumed early this month.

While the European judgement does not fundamentally affect the system, the implications of concerns expressed in it about aspects of the process have been assessed. Ex-Tpr Dean Morris, who served in the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, complained to the ECHR about structural defects in the court-martial system as amended by the 1996 Armed Forces Act.

These complaints, had they been upheld, would have significantly undermined the disciplinary system. The latest judgement is seen as a vindication of the changes introduced in 1997.

The ECHR noted that a military court can constitute an independent and impartial tribunal but found that there had been a violation of Article 6 – the right to a fair hearing – of the European Convention on Human Rights regarding some aspects of Tpr Morris's trial by court martial in 1997.

The European Court was concerned about the potential for undue external influence over certain members of the court-martial panel, and about procedures for involving non-judicial authorities in reviews of court-martial findings and sentences.

Additional safeguards will now be introduced to ensure there can be no possibility of undue influence on the members of the court.

IN BRIEF

● Kent-based **BFBS Shorncliffe**, which broadcasts around the clock in Nepali and English, is being relayed to Gurkhas serving in Bosnia, Sierra Leone and Kosovo. With a studio in the Sir John Moore Barracks, it has a staff of seven and can be heard on 1278Khz.



Picture: Sgt Paul Brownbridge

Army committed to less intrusion in soldiers' lives

... but stories of love-nests for squaddies promise more than they can deliver

A SHOCK of national newspaper headlines ranging from "Army to give squaddies love-nests" to "Squaddies told they can bonk in the barracks" appear to promise more than the MoD is currently prepared to deliver.

Following an interview with the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Michael Walker, every national newspaper reported that the Army was about to become more accommodating in respect of the love lives of soldiers living in barracks.

Well, up to a point, says the MoD. While a range of issues connected with discipline and the way Service lives are lived is under review, some of the reporting of CGS's remarks was "exaggerated and wide of the mark", a spokesman told *Soldier*.

But he did confirm that the underlying message is substantially accurate: the Army Board is committed to a policy of allowing soldiers to live their lives in the non-operational environment in a more flexible and less intrusive way.

The Norfolk-based Light Dragoons, stationed at Robertson Barracks in Swanton Morley, were held up as an enlightened example of the policy.

The regiment, which is based well outside its traditional recruiting area in the North-East of England, has a welfare house used by families visiting from the north; as a base for her parents when, for example, a soldier's wife goes into a local hospital; and, in a few instances sanctioned by the commanding officer, when soldiers in long-term relationships wish to give their girl-

friends a flavour of what it is like to live in a military community.

Welfare houses have long been a feature of garrison facilities.

A policy for communal life in barracks is expected to be ready for consideration by the Army Board before the summer. Until then, the message to commanding officers is to "maintain a pragmatic approach". Major new initiatives touching on communal life in bar-



What the newspapers said: A montage of headlines

racks will have to await the outcome of the policy work.

In his interview, Gen Walker said it was right for the Service to reflect changes in society and that it was important to get away from the idea that single soldiers living in garrisons had to be locked up at night with lights out at 2200 hours, as if in some sort of Victorian regime.

The Army has already adopted as standard what is known as Type Z accommodation – one-man bedrooms with *en suite* shower and toilet, grouped around communal areas. All new-build barracks under construction include Type Z quarters for single soldiers.

● World disabled water ski champion **Janet Gray**, left, is put through her paces on a treadmill in Thiepval Barracks in Northern Ireland by **WO2 Carol Matten**. She was being prepared for a month-long ski school in Tampa, Florida.

● Maj Gen Marc Jacqmin, Belgian

Deputy Commander of the Eurocorps, has relieved German Maj Gen **Peter von Geyso** as commander of the Rheindahlen-based Multi-National Division (Central).

● A Sandes Centre, where students can relax and talk over problems, has opened at the **Army Foundation College**, Harrogate.

A little appetizer



My, what big teeth you've got: Two-year-old **Victoria Moody** offers a carrot to **Zest**, the mount of **LCoH Craig Weston** of the Household Cavalry, during a recruiting ride through York. Soldiers flooded the North of England to encourage men and women to join the Army. Picture: Chris Barker

Pangbourne stone cairn will honour Falklands fallen

TRUSTEES of the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust have launched a "Stone from Home" appeal to build a cairn in memory of those who lost their lives 20 years ago in the South Atlantic.

Anyone can take a stone to the chapel at Pangbourne College in Berkshire, where students will construct a rough cairn at the end of the year. Among the stones will be one sent from the Falklands and a number contributed by widows and children of those who fell. The first was due to be received at Pangbourne College at 11am on April 2 – the 20th anniversary of the Argentine invasion – by Falklands commander Admiral Sir Sandy Woodward.

Stones, which should be no larger than 5in by 5in, may be left at the chapel at any time or sent to Pangbourne College, Bere Court Road, Pangbourne, Berks RG8 8LA.

● Falklands War anniversary – Pages 39-43



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Senior RC chaplain loses cancer fight

MGR Keith Vasey, left, the Army's Principal Roman Catholic chaplain, died last month after a long battle with cancer. He had held his appointment since 1996.

Widely known for his kindness, wisdom and hospitality, he thought nothing of waiting up into the small hours to welcome back a chaplain returning from operations.

Mass changes on way for South's major garrisons

- Focus on living and working accommodation
- Ready from mid-2005
- To cost £700 million
- Surplus land to be sold
- Contract to extend over 25 to 35 years

MOMENTUM is gathering behind a massive building and redevelopment programme which will have enormous impact on soldiers and civilians across Salisbury Plain and Aldershot.

Project Allenby/Connaught will provide modern and efficient living and working accommodation for some 18,000 military and civilian personnel.

In particular it provides the opportunity to address one of the Army's most pressing areas of weakness, the poor condition of single-living accommodation.

The project will provide 10,700 bed-spaces and seeks to upgrade single-living accommodation to the latest standards, with single rooms and *en suite* facilities. It is planned to provide the new accommodation from mid-2005 onwards.

Sites affected are: Aldershot, Bulford, Durrington (Defence Estates South West Business Unit only), Larkhill, Tidworth, Ludgershall (excluding the Medical Supplies Agency and Base Vehicle Depot activ-

ities), Netheravon, Perham Down and Warminster.

Following consultation with the trade unions, approval has been given for Allenby/Connaught to proceed with its assessment phase, including the launch of a Private Finance Initiative competition.

Main activity of the assessment phase will be to run a competitive procurement process. The term of the contract is likely to be between 25 and 35 years, with an estimated contract value, based on a 30-year duration, in excess of £700 million capital expenditure and £100 million a year operating expenditure. The results of the competition will be known next year.

It is not only the Army's accommodation that is under scrutiny. Messing, technical and office accommodation, and surplus areas of the Army Estate are also under examination.

It is too early to say how the project will affect individuals if a Public Private Partnership/PFI solution is found to offer the best value for money. It could result in civilian posts transferring to the private sector. The final impact will not be known until proposals are received from prospective bidders.

Belinda Vern, publicity officer for the project, said: "This is an important step for the project as it allows us to continue to explore the potential for a PFI through a competitive procurement process. However there is still a long way to go before a final decision is made on whether or not to involve the private sector."

Get fell in for telly brigade

A TV production company is looking for a couple of 'orrible corporals, a platoon sergeant and other NCOs to put the fear of God into a platoon's-worth of "National Service" volunteers.

ITV has commissioned Twenty Television to make a ten-part series in which 30 civilians will undergo the rigours of 1950s National Service. "Lads' Army" will follow their progress over four weeks of 0630 wake-up calls, cold showers, assault courses, drill, weapon-handling and church parades.

The producers, who want recently retired Servicemen willing to step back in time, are also looking for a PTI, an officer, an RSM, a medical officer, a padre and a CO to run the training. They want "believable and appealing characters" with the relevant experience.

So get fell in and ring 020 7284 2020 (weekdays 0930 to 1300 only). Leave your name and number and quote "Lads' Army casting". Someone will return your call within 14 days.

Commonwealth appeal

TWENTY-five veterans from all over the world joined the Duke of Edinburgh at the Imperial War Museum last month to launch the Jubilee Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans. The appeal, one of six charities benefiting from the Queen's Golden Jubilee year, hopes to raise £5 million for veterans suffering hardship.

For more details, or to contact the appeal, ring 020 8392 6752 or log on to www.commonwealthveterans.org.uk

Southern challenge

TEAMS of four – male, female or mixed – are wanted for the 100km **Trailwalker** endurance event across the South Downs on July 6 and 7 in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Trust and Oxfam. Teams must register by May 31. Call 0870 010 1045 or log on to www.oxfam.org.uk/trailwalker

QARANC's centenary

A CENTURY of British Army nursing was marked with the launch at the Museum of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps in Keogh Barracks near Aldershot of a year of celebration. Colonel Commandant Col Iona Leith-McGregor and Director of Nursing and Matron-in-Chief (Army) Bridget McEvilly were present.



TA targets enthusiasm

THE image, left, is from the Territorial Army's first national TV advertising campaign for two years. The £1.5-million "You need the TA" series is aimed at 16 to 30-year-olds. The footballer in the picture is more enthusiastic than his fellow players, and in the next sequence is seen relishing the challenge of leading TA soldiers on a military exercise.



Under Big Ben

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

National memorial for post-war dead

SERVICE personnel killed since the end of the Second World War are to be commemorated in the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, who confirmed the site in a written answer on March 20, said there was "general support" for the decision among Service and ex-Service organisations who had been consulted since it was acknowledged that those who have given their lives in the service of their country deserved greater recognition.

In addition, a memorial plaque will be placed in the Cloisters of Westminster Abbey and rolls of honour for the Royal Navy and Army will be kept in London churches. They will be similar to those already existing for the RAF in the Church of St Clement Danes.

(FEPOW memorial – see "Patricia's pilgrimage", Page 68; "Alrewas memorial" letter, Page 75.)

Tour intervals: Average interval between six-month unaccompanied tours in the Army is 24 months, according to latest figures, calculated for the year up to December 31, 2001.

However the interval for the infantry as a whole is as low as 18 months, six months below the MoD target, while the Royal Artillery figure is 49 months.

DU research: Further research is to be carried out by the MoD into issues concerning the use of depleted uranium munitions and possible links with ill health.

Terrorism: An extra £55m allocated by the Treasury to the campaign against international terrorism will pay for urgent operational requirements including additional secure communications equipment, intelligence capabilities and "a range of small but significant enhancements to our forces".

Apache: The Army has accepted 14 WAH-64 Apache Longbow helicopters into service, and a further three are engaged in trials. The balance of 50 aircraft have yet to be delivered. Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram said: "We expect a maximum of 58 to be in use at any one time: 48 will be allocated to operational squadrons and ten to the School of Army Aviation."

High Court ruling opens door to old injury claims

A LANDMARK High Court decision has ruled that the principle of Crown immunity – which until 1987 prevented members of the Armed Forces from pursuing personal injury claims against the MoD – was incompatible with human rights legislation.

Solicitors believe the ruling will open the way to an influx of claims from Service personnel, including former Porton Down "guinea pigs" and victims of the Christmas Island experiments.

Although Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 (the section that granted Crown immunity) was abolished by an Act of Parliament in 1987, it was not retrospective and allowed claims based only on acts or omissions which occurred after 1987.

In the recent case of a former Royal Navy electrical engineer who contracted an asbestos-related illness while serving from 1955 to 1968, the High Court judges ruled that Section 10 was incompatible with his rights under Article 6(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights – the right to a fair hearing.

It is thought that many personnel do not make a claim for injury because they believe they are not allowed to until they leave the Service, or that the Crown has immunity. The asbestos case showed that both these assumptions are untrue.

To sue for personal injury, the law limits the individual's time to three years from the "date of knowledge" –

effectively the date you can answer three questions:

- Is the injury significant enough to make a claim?
- Is the injury attributable to the actions of someone or an organisation?
- Do you know the name of that person or organisation?

The three-year limit may be extended by the court at its discretion, opening the way for Service personnel, whether still in uniform or not, who have suffered an injury during their service (or as a result of their service) to make a claim.

These could include injuries sustained during military training and sport. People suffering from illnesses related to the Gulf War already fall within the post-1987 legislation.

The widow of an ex-Serviceman whose original court action failed because of Section 10 and who subsequently died from his injuries, has been advised by personal injury claim specialists that she may now bring a claim on behalf of his estate.

The MoD has indicated that it will appeal against the ruling.

● Hundreds of war veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders have begun a High Court action against the MoD. In a case expected to last several months, the court is being asked to award damages to 260 former military personnel.

● Garrison Radio has a new website at www.garrisonradio.com

Murder charge soldier cleared after 17 years

FORMER soldier Richard Simmons, who spent eight years in a German prison for the rape and murder of a schoolgirl, has been cleared by a judge in Münster. His 17-year battle for justice ended when the judge ruled that Mr Simmons could not have committed the crime in 1985 because DNA samples submitted at his retrial showed another man's semen on the body of the victim.

IN BRIEF

● One hundred Colchester-based soldiers of The Parachute Regiment deployed to the Falkland Islands last month for a four-month tour as part of the islands' reinforcement company. Based in Stanley, they will be in the Falklands for all the major anniversaries marking the 20th anniversary of the war to liberate the islands.

● Personnel of 280 (UK) Signal Squadron said farewell to their long-time home at St Tönis by holding a freedom parade through the centre of Tönisvorst in Germany. The unit is moving to the former RAF Brüggen, now known as Javelin Barracks, in Niederkrüchten-Elmpt. A reception in the rathaus followed the parade.



Going up: Lt Darren Graves, LCpl John Watson and LCpl Ray Park of the Cyprus-based 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment pause during a mountaineering expedition in the Scottish Highlands.

The project was the first in a series of trips designed to prepare the battalion climbing team for a Himalayan expedition

at the end of the year. Before moving to Inverness, 11 climbers of all ranks spent 14 days completing rock-climbing qualifications in North Wales.

The 1 KORBR team was accommodated at Cameron Barracks in Inverness during three weeks of snow and ice work in the Cairngorms. Their goal in Nepal's Himal Ganesh is the 19,450ft Paldor peak.

Seven hurt as Puma makes forced landing

SEVERAL passengers were injured when a Royal Air Force helicopter based at RAF Aldergrove in Northern Ireland made a forced landing in South Armagh.

The Puma came down in open country to the east of Slieve Gullion mountain on the morning of March 16. On board were three crewmembers and six passengers.

Seven were taken to hospital with injuries sustained in the incident, of which three were discharged soon

afterwards. As this edition was being prepared for press, two of those still in hospital were being described as "seriously ill" and the other two as "stable".

The helicopter was on a routine flight between security bases in South Armagh. The cause of the accident is unknown, although terrorist involvement was discounted by an Army spokesman. An RAF board of inquiry arrived on the same day to begin an investigation.

Trooper electrocuted in freak railway accident

A FIJIAN soldier serving with The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in Fallingbommel died after being electrocuted at a railway goods station near Hannover. Tpr Simon Bukaroro Batiuluna, one of four South Sea Islanders in the regiment, was on a train returning the Scots DG's vehicles to barracks after an exercise when he was electrocuted by overhead power cables. Royal Military Police are investigating the tragedy.

● Paratroopers from the UK and USA competed in a march-and-shoot event in Kent as part of Exercise Winged Star. Two teams of 12 were drawn from Dover-based 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg in America.

● Coordinator Joanne Woods points the

way for LCpl Louise Morgan, right, at the opening of the Hive in Pirbright's community centre. It was relocated from a nearby quarter. Mrs Woods said the Hive offered soldiers an internet terminal and access to information. London clubs and how to get to them are said to be high on the agenda among young soldiers. Picture: Graeme Main.

Firemen on march for young Chandler

FORMER Para Leon Back, now a member of the London Fire Brigade, has talked fellow watch members into doing a gruelling sponsored walk in the Brecon Beacons.

The project, planned for May, will benefit the Meningitis Trust as a tribute to the son of a friend of Leon's serving in the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

Chandler, pictured right, the son of Dover-based Cpl Paul Biddis, contracted meningitis and septicaemia at birth and has cerebral palsy, epilepsy and blindness. He is also unable to speak.

Cpl Biddis is preparing the team for their march over the Black Mountains and the Army is helping with accommodation. Fire-fighter Back can be contacted at 0207 587 4121 or leon.back@london-fire.gov.uk



Work in place to reduce friendly fire incidents

PROJECTS in train to enhance the MoD's combat identification capability – the means of improving combat effectiveness and of minimising friendly fire incidents – include the £396 million Successor Identification Friend or Foe (SIFF) initiative.

But, says a National Audit Office report on the subject, SIFF will operate predominantly in the air environment. It notes that some gaps in capability remain, notably in the land environment, and that the MoD has commissioned further research into the detail of these gaps.

American research has shown that fratricide – the accidental destruction of friendly forces – accounts for between ten and 15 per cent of casualties during operations.

Analysis of recent exercises by the British Army suggests some 12 per cent of all ground engagements could involve fratricide, says the NAO report.





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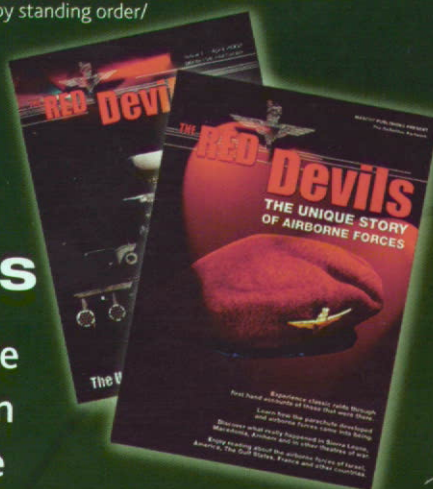
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Shamrock patrol in Canterbury

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, are inspected by Maj Gen Philip Trousdell, left, Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, at their Canterbury barracks during the annual St Patrick's Day Parade. Currently providing the Army's Spearhead Battalion, the 1 R Irish soldiers began the day with a serving of "Gunfire" – a brew of whiskey and tea – and were later presented with sprigs of shamrock.

Army beacons will mark jubilee from Kosovo to Alberta

DOZENS of military units stationed around the world are getting ready for the big summer party on June 3 to mark the Queen's 50 years on the throne.

Following a *Soldier* story about the event, the organisers received 41 responses from headquarters, regiments, corps and sub-units based in the UK, Germany, Kosovo, Norway, Brunei, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Nepal, the Falklands and the Caribbean.

Many have signed up to join the chain of bonfires and beacons set to blaze across Britain and other countries where British Service personnel are based.

For example, there will be beacons and street parties in Pristina (courtesy of 23 Brigade Support Squadron RLC), Hohne (32 Engineer Regiment) and Alberta (BATUS). The Army's training and liaison team in Kenya (BATLSK) will be lighting a beacon on Mount Kenya, while

Gurkhas in Nepal will do the same on a hilltop site at Pokhara.

In all, more than 750 beacons will blaze across the world after the Queen lights the first in London on June 3.

Exotic locations for jubilee celebrations include Half Moon Bay beach in Antigua (British Military Advisory and Training Team, East Caribbean) and Mare Harbour, East Falkland (BFFI).

Other units, such as 20 Logistic Support Squadron RLC in London, 22 Field Hospital in Aldershot, HQ Upavon Garrison, and 7 Air Assault Battalion REME at Watisham Airfield, Ipswich, are planning to hold garden parties.

If your unit wants to join in or obtain more details, contact the Golden Jubilee Summer Party, PO Box 4320, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8YF, tel 01725 516456, fax 01725 516268 or by e-mail to info@goldenjubileesummerparty.co.uk

Mum knows best: Maj Bill Riley, of Catterick-based 3 Close Support Medical Regiment, right, was brought up on his mother's stories of growing up in Lancashire in the austere 1930s. So he turned the tales into a book and raised £1,650 for the Special Care Baby Unit at Warrington Hospital, which he has supported for many years.

Banner Office Supplies donated the paper for the book, which was produced by the Garrison Reprographic Centre. A run of 600 quickly sold out. Also in the picture are Bill's mum, Joan, and Staff Nurse Louise Ball holding new-born baby Sam. As a tribute to the life of his mother, who died soon after the picture was taken, Bill is producing a revised edition including many more of her stories.

Picture: Warrington Guardian



SOLDIER April 2002

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● Teams of former Special Forces commandos are hunting burglars and yobs on tough housing estates. They make hide-outs out of nothing and film suspects using tiny cameras hidden in old drinks cans and hedges. The team has cut crime on estates in London and the South East and two burglars were caged in Birmingham after a £10,000 undercover operation. – Sun

● British troops serving in Kabul took part in a service to rededicate the cemetery where 158 comrades who died during the two 19th-century Afghan Wars are buried. – Times

● Soldiers will be allowed to join trade unions for the first time after MoD lawyers warned it would be illegal to continue to prevent them from doing so under European human rights law. A spokesman said: "We have to accept that soldiers are free to join whatever union they wish... although how closely that would resemble a traditional trade union is open to question." – Sunday Telegraph

● Military field hospitals may be set up in NHS car parks to cut operation waiting lists. – Express

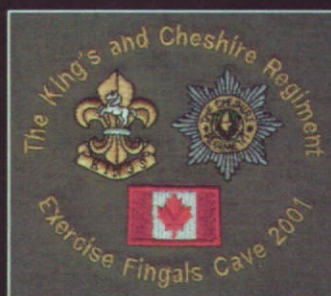
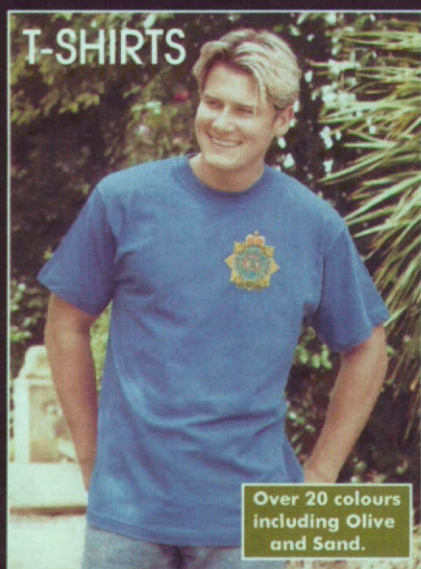
● The MoD is working with the makers of *Footballers' Wives*, the "sex-and-studs" TV drama, on a series it hopes will boost recruitment for the Armed Forces. *Bombshell* will be a racy spin on life in uniform. – Times

● MoD officials have warned commanders that money is not available for scheduled manoeuvres in Canada this summer. – Sunday Telegraph

● Defence chiefs want to an extra £1 billion a year to buy key equipment for expeditionary warfare and to cope with the demands posed by the September 11 terrorist attacks. – Times

● The September 11 attacks have not led to the backlash of bigotry in US classrooms that had been feared, but the national trauma has left at least one mark in the playgrounds of America by reshaping teenage slang. The putdown of choice these days is "That's so September 10", used on anyone obsessed with petty issues or behind the times. Detention and other disciplinary measures are described as "total jihad". – Guardian

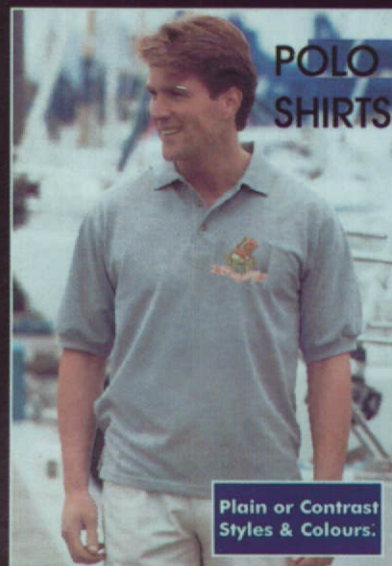
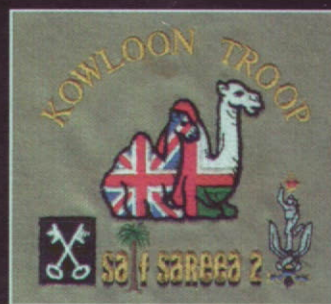
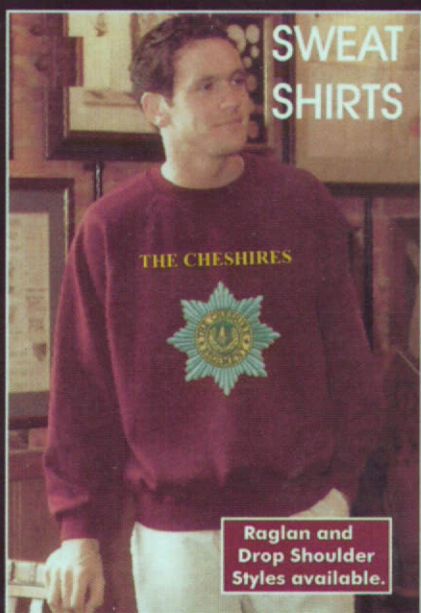
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Cosying up to Kabul

Conditions are austere in the Afghan capital, but British troops are settling in to make the best of a challenging situation

**Report: Capt Guy Gatenby
and Jonathan Turner
Pictures: Mike Weston**

IT'S an old Army adage that any fool can be uncomfortable. So the priority for the wise troops of the 2,000-strong British contingent in the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) has been to make themselves as cosy as possible.

Easier said than done. Decades of warfare have left the Afghan capital with very little in the way of infrastructure. Power for Kabul is provided by an ancient hydro-electric plant which has suffered as much from the drought as the rest of the city. There is electricity for perhaps five hours in every 36.

The water supply is contaminated with heavy minerals, pesticides and industrial waste. So everything British troops need to survive has had to be flown in with them.

Headquarters for Isaf is the former Afghan officers' club, built during the Russian occupation. It might sound glamorous, but it is not. Used more recently by the Taliban as an interrogation centre, the building had to be swept of unexploded ordnance and mines before troops could move in.

"Initially the Royal Engineers had to clear the area of mines," said LCpl Rob

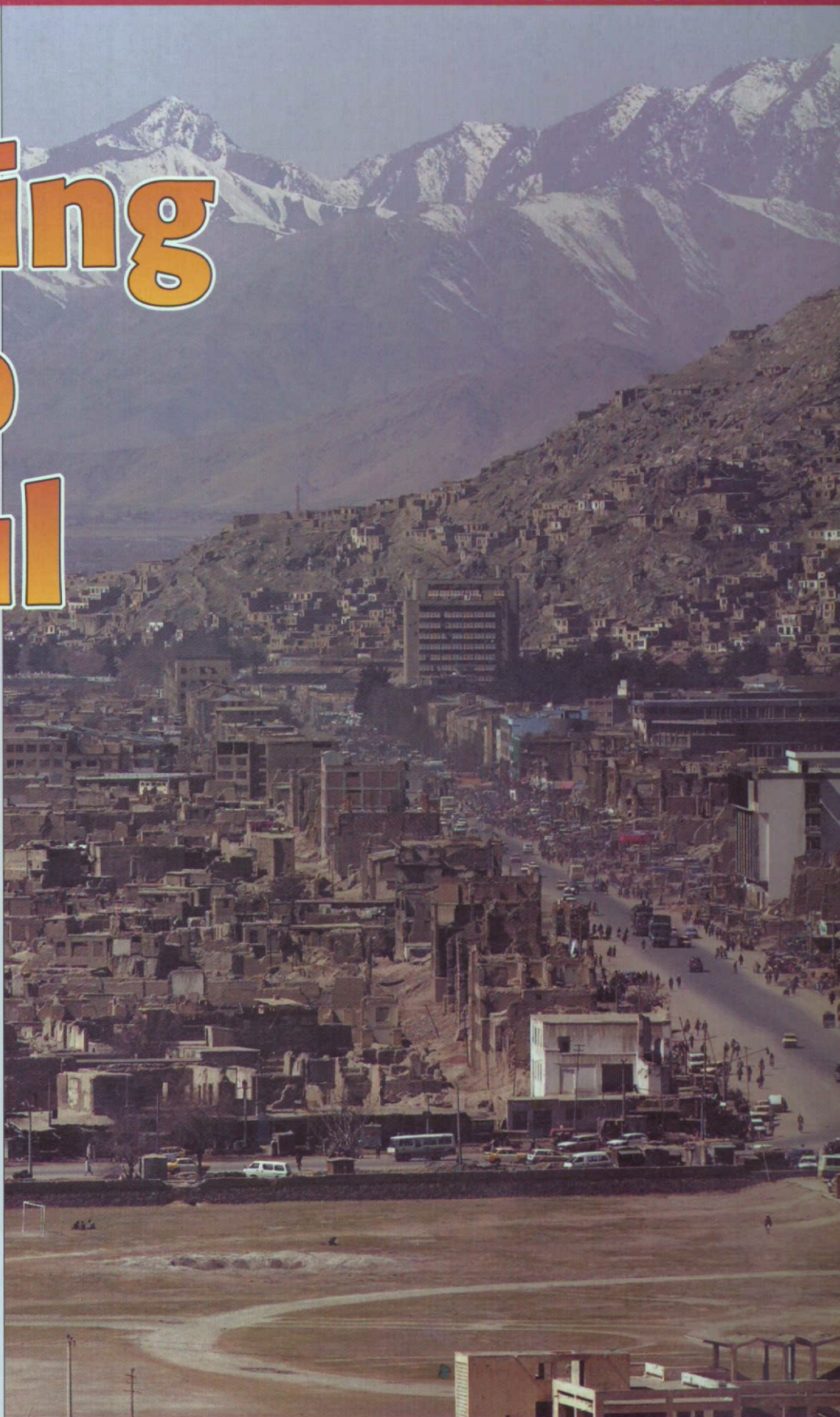
Anderson of 3 (UK) Division Signal Regiment. "The buildings were full of UXOs and on our site we had to move armoured personnel carriers and even a T-54 tank before we could start putting up the tents."

For the lucky ones, there are spartan rooms in the former club itself, but most people are living in the tented village

which has sprung up outside. Engineers are continually working to improve conditions, wiring the area with power and lighting, and constructing washing and toilet facilities.

Elsewhere, Headquarters 16 Air Assault Brigade has moved into a former winery, while the British logistics cell has

● **Turn to next page**



Devastated beauty: Mountainous Kabul has been laid waste by decades of war, its infrastructure shot to pieces, and yet it is still home to 1.5 million remarkably resilient people



Another day begins: British tented accommodation at the headquarters of the International Security Force at Kabul. Warmer spring weather brings a new set of challenges

Cosying up

● From Page 17

set up shop in another industrial complex with the German battle-group. Troops from the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment were using former schools as patrol bases, winterising them with the intention of giving them back to the community when they leave.

"Sarajevo in 1995 was harder," said Cpl Rob Harvey, of 3 (UK) DSR. "I thought we had forgotten how to rough it... but we haven't."

Four-man tents equipped with heaters and thermal linings keep out the Kabul cold. There is some accommodation inside the buildings, especially for soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment who live in their fortified patrol bases. Showering for most consists of portable shower-bags in purpose-made tents.

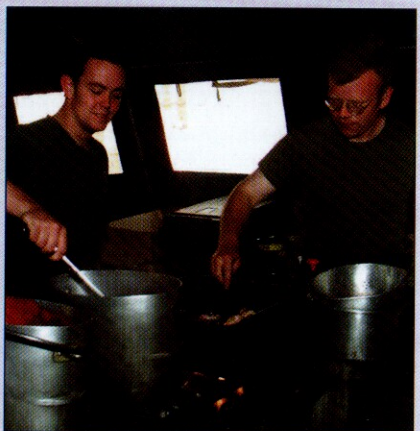
After weeks of boil-in-the-bag or ten-man ration packs, cooks from 3 (UK) DSR have been providing three hot meals a day and have even experimented with the local cuisine.

Cpl Stuart Brierley said: "Afghans who help in the kitchen have been dropping hints about how to prepare curries. We trialled the famous local dish called *mantoo* the other night and that seemed to go down well."

In such challenging surroundings, welfare is a priority. The Paradigm communication system used in Oman has been tweaked and reintroduced, so that most soldiers have access to the internet and hand-held satellite phones to call home. Troops are allocated 20 minutes of calls each week.

Re-supplying Isaf has to be done mainly by air at night, and the bitter winter has meant some delays as snow and ice closed the runways. Mail from home normally takes between five days to a fortnight, but troops can usually get their hands on a newspaper which is only a few days old.

As the weather improves and temperatures start to climb, there will be new problems for Isaf – especially on the environmental health front. While the extreme cold was a challenge, it helped keep many of Afghanistan's endemic diseases in check. The months ahead will bring a fresh set of challenges for whichever nation takes the lead from Britain at the end of April. It may be breathtakingly beautiful, but Afghanistan will never be an easy place to live.



What's cooking: LCpl Rob Anderson and Cpl Stu Brierley of 3 (UK) DSR prepare breakfast for the troops at headquarters

Dodging disease and that Kabul cough

Mines and renegade Taliban elements still pose a threat. But the biggest single danger to British troops is that posed by local conditions

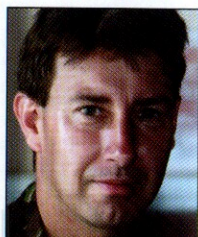
Report: Capt Gareth Moore, RAMC
Pictures: Mike Weston

DECADES of war and deprivation have left Afghanistan without basic facilities such as adequate sanitation or suitable drinking water. Every year diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery ravage the country due to this lack of the most basic necessities.

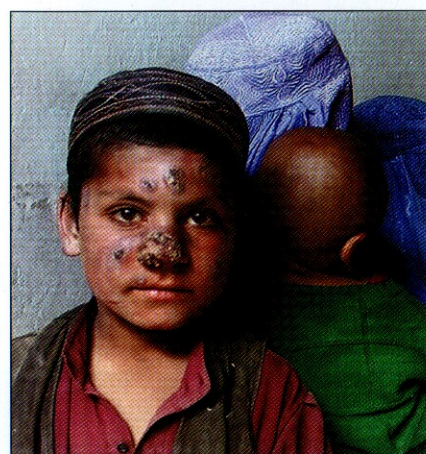
Insect-borne diseases such as malaria and leishmaniasis (a disfiguring skin disease) abound. Simply walk down any street in Kabul and the scarred faces of children are evidence of the presence of this sandfly-spread disease. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates there are 20,000 cases of leishmaniasis in Kabul alone.

The job of advising British troops on the prevention of these diseases, along with food and water quality, cold and heat injuries, venomous creatures (there are ten species of poisonous snake) and environmental protection falls to the Environmental Health Team (EHT) of Bulford-based HQ 3 (UK) Division. The team has been in Afghanistan as part of Medical Branch, HQ Isaf since December but its toughest task, as temperatures rise, is about to begin.

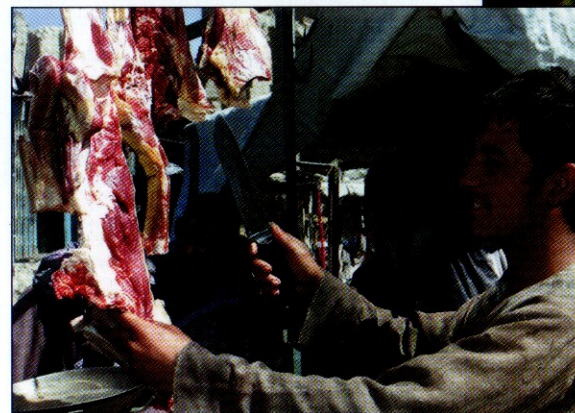
The medics are responsible for the health not only of UK troops but also of those from the 17 nations who make up Isaf. Attempting to get a coherent policy which is specific enough to be effective,



Capt Gareth Moore



Scar issue: A young boy from the village of Gulbaz, treated for the disease leishmaniasis by 19 Air Assault Medical Squadron



Pass the soap: LCpl Kath Berrow and Cpl John Owens, above, of 156 Provost Coy RMP clean up before tucking in at the National Support Element HQ

Now wash your hands: A meat trader on Kabul's streets tempts customers

that has been placed on maintaining high standards of personal hygiene – not just by the EHT but by all units in theatre.

Hand-wash facilities are provided next to all latrines and kitchens, and soldiers

are encouraged to shower as often as possible. However, hand-washing was difficult to encourage in the extreme cold weather as the jerry-cans of water had a tendency to freeze. Respiratory irritation from dust – the Kabul cough – and cold-induced dry skin provided medical centres with the bulk of their work.

The transition from sub-zero night time temperatures to warmer days has also been a challenge. Many personnel have only cold weather gear as no one thought they would be in Afghanistan for the summer. It will be mosquito season soon and appropriate uniforms and nets will be required. Troops began taking anti-malarial tablets at the end of March.

It is not only Isaf troops who are benefiting from the knowledge of the environmental health experts. They have been



asked to produce health articles for the local population on topics such as prevention of dysentery and malaria.

Attention is also being paid to the mental health of troops. Capt Ben Campton, the community psychiatric nurse in theatre, has been using a questionnaire for soldiers at the start and end of tour to make a comparative study. He has also been busy offering advice and support to anyone who needs it and was on standby after a particularly tragic accident involving the EOD team.

Disease and non-battle injury rates are surprisingly low (1.1 per cent of the force per day) and as a measure of success is testament to the preparation of the force and the high standards imposed in austere conditions.

The time of year the force deployed has kept infection rates low as many diseases are not prevalent until the warmer weather, but either way the environmental health team will be busy attempting to prevent the occurrence of infectious disease and heat injury, or if the worst happens, investigating the cause of outbreaks of infectious diseases or heat injuries.

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Trying times

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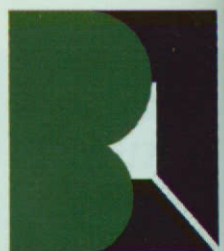
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Cavalry Czech out at Gate Three

Queen's Royal Hussars left their tanks behind when they deployed to Podujevo to police an awkward section of the border

**Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston**

SOLDIERS from The Queen's Royal Hussars battle-group based at Waterloo Lines in Podujevo, Kosovo, have taken part in a low-key but significant event.

At a ceremony at Gate Three on the boundary with Serbia, the QRH handed over responsibility for much of the border they have patrolled for the past six months to a newly-arrived Czech battle-group.

It will be an interesting time for the East Europeans as their force comprises Czech and Slovak soldiers, the first time they have served together since the break-up of their former country.

The Czechs are due to take over the northern sector of the British zone later this month, so becoming responsible for the entire 88km of the boundary currently policed by British troops.

QRH soldiers, who left their Challenger 2 tanks behind at Sennelager in Germany, had an eventful tour in Kosovo.

"It was decided the threat had lessened sufficiently here and that there was no need for our tanks, so we came in a dismounted role," explained commanding officer Lt Col David Swann. One of his group's main roles was to watch Route Snake, the main supply line from Pristina to Gate Three, a major crossing-point for Serb convoys and used by up to 500 vehicles a week. That duty has now passed to the Czechs.

Soldiers at Gate Three do all the security, such as search-and-identity checks on anyone entering Kosovo, and support the customs post on the Kosovo side.

Can the Czechs expect problems on the section they have inherited? "There have been problems," explained WO2 David Garrigan. "The Yugoslav Army (VJ) map-reading is not good. More importantly, their boundary is on the reverse slope so, because they want to get to the high

Hand-over: Tpr Ryan Gerry folds the Union Flag, right, at Gate Three while Pipe Major Graeme Massie and Cpl Gregorovic Rostislav complete the ceremony

Comrades: Tpr Kevin Savage, below right, shows a point of interest to Chief WO Tomas Motalek from the Czech battle-group



ground, they try it on. Whenever there has been a problem they have moved straight back, but we have needed to be robust."

Skirmishes happen from time to time. After one incident the VJ accused local Albanians of firing 70 rounds at them.

"One problems we have on the boundary is illegal logging, which is a lucrative business," said WO2 Garrigan. "The Albanians are happy to cross the boundary to get the best wood . . . and they are armed. But their moves can be misconstrued as extremist activity."

Although they have the power to detain those breaking the agreement, the QRH soldiers call on the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and local police (KPS) when arrests are necessary.

With the handover of a large part of their

sector, including the border area, the QRH and their successors (The Queen's Royal Lancers are due to take over) will have a much smaller district to patrol.

The Czechs are already familiar to the QRH battle-group. The Hussars, reinforced by a company from the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, 159 Battery RA (complete with three AS90s) and soldiers from 29 Armoured Engineer Regiment, have been working closely with a Czech reconnaissance troop.

"We have got on well with the Czechs," said Lt Col Swann. "We've had a company of theirs within our battle-group and they know the area. They use Land Rovers, tracked APCs, and Czech jeep-equivalents. They have secure radios and their uniform and webbing is smart. Their personal weapons are Kalashnikovs."

"They are new members of Nato and many still have old Warsaw Pact doctrine as their understanding. It will take some years for them to move around to the Western orbit completely, but they are very strong, able and robust soldiers and are a real asset. It has been a privilege to have them under command."

Unearthing a hidden agenda

Missions to gather weapons and ammunition in Kosovo continue. We watched QRH troops on a dawn raid codenamed Operation Mongoose

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

A CONVOY of Land Rovers and tracked vehicles containing 50 soldiers from The Queen's Royal Hussars emerged from the misty dawn into a still slumbering village 15km north-east of Podujevo.

They were acting on intelligence that illegally-held guns and ammunition had been squirrelled away by local inhabitants.

Loud thumps on their front doors startled the occupants of the first of three houses to be targeted ... and alerted villagers to the fact that something was afoot.

"Open in the name of KFOR," was the order issued by the soldiers, many of them trained in "rummage" techniques and carrying sophisticated search equipment, including fibre-optic cables to see into nooks, crannies and crevices.

Villagers planning to do as Czech soldiers surrounded the small settlement.

The first occupant explained through an interpreter that he didn't want to let the troops in, but he relented when shown a search warrant.

Having denied everything, he suddenly recalled that there were some rounds in an outhouse. The Serbs had left it, he said.

The Hussars didn't touch the ammo, which was in a plastic bag hidden under the rafters. They called in the EOD team: the stuff in the plastic bag could have been in a dangerous condition or even booby-trapped.

"It could also provide forensic evidence and we go to great pains not to contaminate such evidence," explained RSM John Nutt.

QRH soldiers have unearthed many guns and plenty of ammo during their tour. Hiding places have included babies' nappies and cribs and weapons have been concealed under the clothes of children.

Back in the village, three houses and



I hear you knocking but you can't come in: Cpl Sean Penfold, thumps the door while Cpl Simon Fisher holds the clipboard

'Open in the name of KFOR' was the order issued by the soldiers'

outbuildings were searched during the first hour, with British and Czech-trained sniffer dogs doing their stuff. A short-barrelled weapon was turned up, but the owner had a permit for it as well as an out-of-date certificate for another weapon. He was given the chance to renew it.

RSM Nutt explained: "The man who had the ammunition stuffed away in his barn changed his story and said he was not sure if Serbs had taken the weapon away."

"We have found a lot of hunting rifles in previous searches, but the Kosovans come from a hunting culture. Weapons such as AK47s are altogether different and are often hidden outside the home, in hedges for example. We find grenades from time to time and recently came across a box of them under a bush."

"Weapons are kept for fingerprints, forensics and any ballistic signature that could be linked to previous incidents."

Haystacks are a popular hiding place for weapons – as they would find out later



Forensic evidence: RSM John Nutt



Success at last: Tpr John Farley and the bag of ammunition he found hidden under tiles in an outbuilding

– so the soldiers were careful to prod those close to the village.

Search leader Maj Simon Redman, of C Squadron, said a suspected mortar fuse had been found in a crevice in an orchard wall. His men cordoned off the site and waited for EOD. Elsewhere, two old American uniforms were found.

"On the strength of what we've had so far, we will target three more houses," he added.

Tpr John Farley soon turned up more



ammunition in an outbuilding. "I was curious about the building and walked into the corner where there was a little gap under some tiles," he explained. "I lifted the tiles up and found a bag of ammunition. Four months on tour and this was my very first find."

A sniffer dog showed interest, suggesting there might be more to Tpr Farley's find than met the eye, but that would have to wait for the EOD team.

All of the Hussars' three target locations had produced ammunition or weapons, but a real bonus was still to come. In a nearby field a plastic bag stuffed into a haystack at ground level revealed a hand grenade. When the EOD experts investigated further they found two grenades in the bag.

"Today was a great success," said Lt Col David Swann, CO QRH. "We had a distinct piece of intelligence that the village would be worth a visit and it paid off. It is rewarding for the boys when they

On the road: The Queen's Royal Hussars' convoy, above, heads for Gornje Labovac

Pin in a haystack: Lt Peter Beaumont 58 Fd Sqn EOD, 33 Engr Regt, left, shows a fuse to Tpr Matthew Tonks, who was in the team that found the grenades, and Maj Simon Redman, right, the squadron leader

unearth something and I know his find made Tpr Farley's day.

"The EOD people will handle the ammunition themselves and a search team will come back later. We have found the bullets, now we'd like to find the gun."

There were smiles all round and one officer summed it up for them all: "This is bloody satisfying."

● The mortar fuse turned out to be an air-burst type. With no explosive attached it was harmless. The grenades were of the high-explosive fragmentation variety and in poor condition. They were made safe by EOD experts.



Double bangers: The two grenades and their fuses which were found under a haystack



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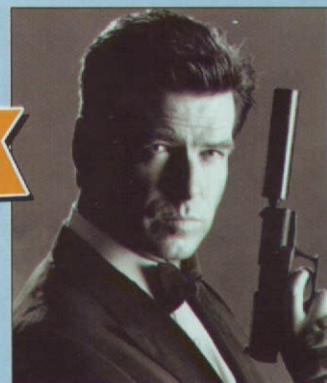
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Welcome back Mr Tali-Bond



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Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

THICK, grey smoke rolled over the Bailey bridge that separated North and South Korea as James Bond took one last look at the country which had held him captive for years. Bearded, bloodied and bedraggled, 007 looked like he'd spent his incarceration picking up fashion tips from the Taliban.

The scene from the new James Bond film *Die Another Day*, to be released towards the end of the year, was shot on Ministry of Defence land near Hawley.

The film production crew transformed the location into a sinister border crossing, complete with barbed wire, watch towers and signs warning of minefields. Other locations around Aldershot were used to film action sequences, including a dramatic hovercraft chase.

The centrepiece of the prisoner exchange took place on a Bailey bridge built

Bearded 007 walks to freedom over Bailey bridge built by sappers

by sappers under the command of WO2 (QMSI) Steve Hurt from the Training Wing at 3 Royal School of Military Engineering, Gibraltar Barracks, Minley.

Soldiers got to rub shoulders with Pierce Brosnan, looking like Bond fans have never seen him before – imagine Worzel Gummidge gone to seed. Three hours of make-up each morning transformed him into Tali-Bond.

The Army has been proactive in marketing itself to film-makers. Last year Steven Spielberg shot sequences for his Second World War drama *Band of Brothers* on MoD land.

Lt Col Nigel Forrestal, RE, the commander of the Army Training Estate

Home Counties, said: "One of the jobs I have to do is to make use of the spare capacity on the estates. We are on the look out for any entrepreneurial activity that we can make money from, but primacy of course goes to Army training.

"The land we have got here is so good because with a little bit of altering we can make it look like a lot of different things."

The sappers became involved with the bridge-building exercise through a neat dovetailing of needs – sappers need to be able to build Bailey bridges as part of their training; the film crew needed a bridge for the set.

"Everyone has won on this one. It has worked out particularly well," said Lt Col Forrestal.

Once the filming is finished, the locations, which are on Sites of Special Scientific Interest, will be returned to their original states, with money from the film company ploughed back into the estate.

Bridge builders: Some of the 21 sappers from 3 RMSE involved with the Bailey construction. From the left, WO2 (QMSI) Steve Hurt, Cpl Kim Slaughter, Spr Kev Powell, Cpl Rob Burch, and Cpl Eddy Stead



Now, here's the plan . . .

Ever wondered how a military adventurous training expedition comes about? We meet the people who make it happen

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

PLANNING a daredevil adventurous training expedition for your unit? Well, if you didn't know already, a military team is ready to give you help and advice. And anyway, your project won't get off the ground without its approval.

The Army Expedition Advisory Cell (AEAC) at Warminster – soon to move to Wilton to form the new HQ Adventurous Training Group – was set up last year.

Maj Wayne Morgan APTC, the man in charge, has a say in all expeditions involved in high-risk and remote level three (outside the UK) trips.

"We run all adventurous training blistered on to military exercises and look after the Brac adventurous training centre in Croatia," explained Maj Morgan, who is also responsible for more exotic and far-flung expeditions. "This is the hub of all adventure training, apart from level four, which is for instructor training."

If the management of expeditions by the cell may seem like an extra layer of bureaucracy, it is very necessary for the smooth running of adventurous training.

While you are dreaming of Indiana Jones-type scenarios, the cell has to consider more prosaic angles, such as diplomatic clearance and health-and-safety issues. Expedition leaders have to ensure team members have the right visas and vaccinations, while the AEAC ensures that all the bases are covered.

"We work closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which obtains clearance through British military representatives in whichever country the expedition is going to," said Maj Morgan.

Long before it gets that far, the AEAC scrutinises the plan (it also expects an end-of-exercise report to ensure the aims have been met and the money well spent).

Anyone can come up with an idea for an expedition, but things have to be approached in the right way, and the AEAC procedures can ensure a smooth

transition from aspiration to reality.

So, how do you convert your brilliant idea for an expedition into the real thing?

First, you have to complete and submit a Joint Services Adventurous Training Form Alpha (JSATFA) to your divisional adventurous training officer, laying out the idea. You can start to recruit people at this point.

JSATFA details the plan, aims and risk factors governed by terrain, remoteness and weather; it also lists elements such as transport requirements, accommodation, equipment and extraction.

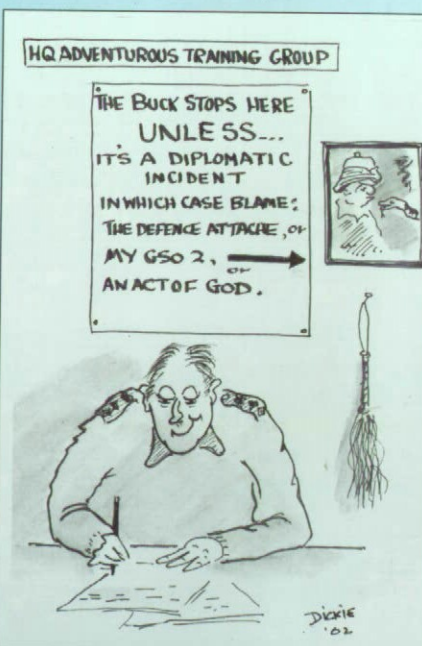
The form has to be signed off by your commanding officer as well as your divisional adventurous training desk officer.

Maj Morgan's cell examines the plan to ensure it is legitimate, obtains necessary political clearance, checks the qualifications and ratio of instructors to participants, and decides whether it is "high-risk" or "remote".

If it is either you will have to make a presentation to a panel which will include an expert in that particular environment. The panel has to be satisfied that appro-



Expedition expediter:
Maj Wayne Morgan



priate safety procedures, communications and so on are in place.

"You must have the right qualifications and the right instructor-to-student ratio, a maximum of one-to-six for trekking, for example," explained Maj Morgan.

Your next challenge is finance. Money comes from various sources, and for level three training a third of the cost has to be met by the individuals going on the expedition. Unit and sponsorship contributions make up most of the rest.

Some money comes from public funds, to a maximum of £100 for accommodation and £50 for technical areas such as the hire of guides. When an expedition to the Himalayas can cost more than £60,000, fund-raising becomes as big a challenge as the expedition itself.

Maj Morgan sees a plus side to that. "It teaches the organiser good administrative and management skills," he said.

Equipment isn't a big problem because much of it can be drawn from stores at Bicester.

Expeditions often have to be planned a year or more in advance depending on complexity and the country to be visited.

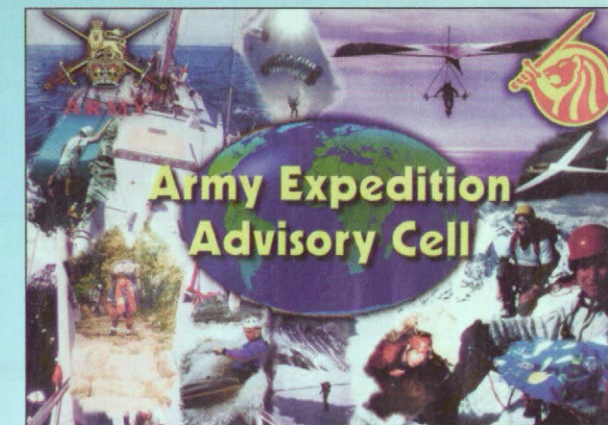
Countries are categorised into three groups. The first, which includes North Korea, Algeria and Angola, is strictly off-limits. Those in table two are sensitive but possible (Albania and Argentina are among their number) while countries in the third group are considered friendly.

Strangely, while some potentially awkward places (such as Antigua) can be set up in weeks, visits to friendly destinations (Ascension Island, for example) can take more than a year to arrange.

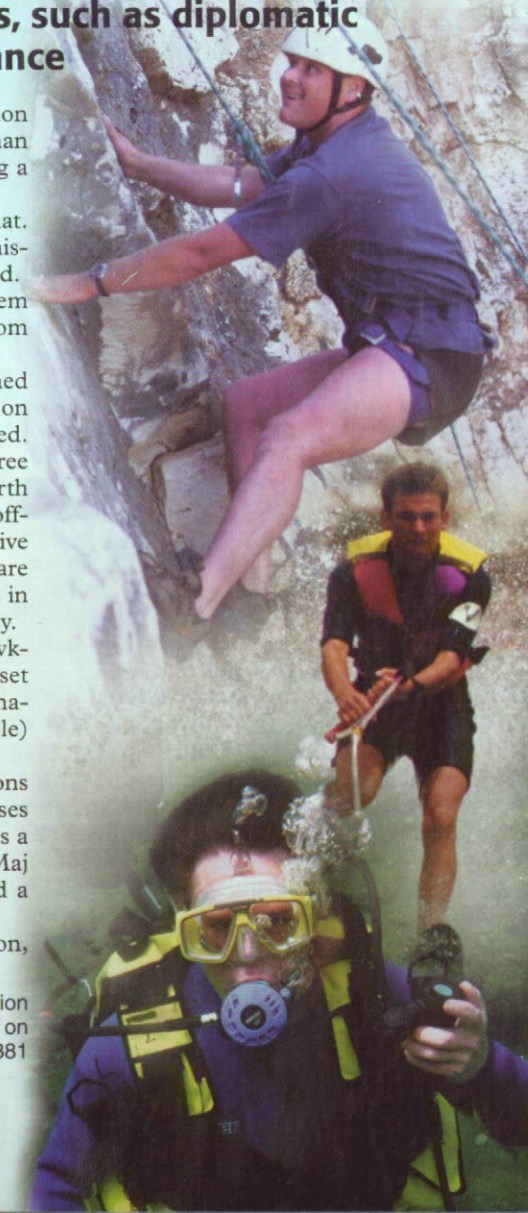
Despite several hundred expeditions and adventurous training exercises taking place every year, the AEAC has a staff of just five. In addition to Maj Morgan, there are three civilians and a retired lieutenant colonel.

So, if you want to plan an expedition, you know where to start.

● For advice from the Army Expedition Advisory Cell, contact Chloe Alexander on 94381 2922 or Melinda Walters on 94381 2768.



While you are dreaming of Indiana Jones-type scenarios, the cell has to consider more prosaic angles, such as diplomatic clearance



backchat

IF you have an amusing or bizarre story touching on Army life, please share it with us. As long as it's not too scurrilous, we'll consider it for inclusion in this occasional column

Vinnie's war story

BUT for a twist of fate, soccer and Hollywood hard man Vinnie Jones's life might have taken a very different turn. When the Falklands war broke out in 1982 he and his best mate decided to do their bit for Queen and Country and made a bee-line for Watford's Recruiting Office.

Jones recounts in his autobiography, *Vinnie*, (Headline paperback, £6.99) that the pair made a pact on the way that if either was rejected, the other would remain a civvy, too.

As it happened, Vinnie's pal was obliged to declare on the recruitment form that he had once made a court appearance for a breach of the peace, so abruptly ending two promising military careers before the first shot was fired.

Army football was thus deprived of the tough midfielder, who went on to star for Wimbledon and Wales.

A GLASGOW bus driver walked into the Armed Forces Career Office in Queen's Street following the September 11 atrocities to offer his help in the war on terror. The patriot, who heard the Army might be a bit stretched on the logistics front, suggested he drive his bus to Kabul, ferrying men and kit. The offer was declined with thanks. Soldiers probably wouldn't have noticed much difference to their travel arrangements. They've had plenty of practice waiting ages for RAF Hercules to appear... and then three come along at once.

GUNNER Spike Milligan came under shell and machine-gun fire in Italy during the Second World War, as he told us in a long, friendly and highly personal interview

published in this magazine in January 1991. He felt much of his humour was informed by Army life. "After all, the British Army is part Goon Show, isn't it?" he said.



But his mercurial, tormented nature was more to the fore when we bumped into him at the Imperial War Museum not long afterwards.

"Hello, Spike," we said. "P... off," he said, and walked on. Rest in peace, old friend.

PS. Why have our boys in Kabul been nicknamed "Flintstones" by their American counterparts? Backchat thinks we should be told.

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Kitbits

Ground-based air defence

A programme to develop the UK's ground-based air defence capability has been launched by the MoD. An off-the-shelf command and control system is to be bought to enhance the existing Rapier Field Standard C and High Velocity Missile (HVM).

Performance updates of both systems are being considered to meet emerging threats following the Strategic Defence Review, which showed the operational context in which ground-based air defence will be used is changing.

The emphasis will be on high-tempo, more complex operations.

More potent Warrior

A more powerful weapon system fitted into a new two-person turret for the Warrior infantry fighting vehicle has been fired for the first time in France. Part of the Warrior fleet is likely to be given an enhanced weapon system during mid-life upgrades. The gun tested at Bourges was a CTA40mm Case Telescoped Weapon System.

The Army's Warriors are fitted with a 30mm Rarden cannon and a 7.62mm chain gun.

Fancy a drive?

MORE than 100 military vehicles are expected on the starting grid at Aldershot for a "drive day" aimed at Service personnel and MoD civilians involved in commissioning, developing and operating vehicles.

The event, at the Long Valley training area on May 28, has grown out of last year's inaugural User Driver Day at Chertsey.

Defence Vehicle Dynamics is being organised by the Defence Procurement Agency's Combat Support Vehicles Light Integrated Project Team. More than 50 exhibitors are expected to take part, demonstrating everything from motor cycles to tank transporters.

If you want more details about this rare opportunity, contact the Combat Support Vehicles Light IPT Helpline on 0117 9134422 or (mil) 9345 34422).

Just trucks ...

LEYLAND, Foden and DAF are joining forces to compete for a multi-billion-pound contract to provide the MoD with 10,000 new trucks over a ten years, it involves designing, making and delivering 6-, 9- and 15-tonne trucks and recovery vehicles.



Northern flight: Apache helicopters, above, at RAF Leuchars after a major RAF night exercise in Scotland; and, left, soldiers of B Company, 1 R Irish, who took part in an attack on a "terrorist" training camp.

Main picture: Mark Owens

Here come the Apache rangers

THREE of the Army Air Corps' new AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopters featured in a major night-flying and command exercise in Scotland and the north of England. It was the first time the Army's newest and most potent weapon had flown north of the border.

With the Apaches softening up the enemy base and providing "top cover", soldiers from Canterbury-based B Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment were flown in by Chinook and Puma to attack a "terrorist" training camp (manned by very cold but determined Gurkhas) at Garelochhead, north of Faslane.

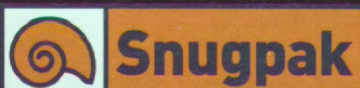
The lightly-armed rangers of B Coy spent 25 minutes on the ground completing their mission before being lifted out. The battalion returned from Northern Ireland in December and reverted to its role in support of 16 Air Assault Brigade.

The Nitex was the Royal Air Force's premier exercise of the year, involving air missions in close conjunction with a variety of air and ground assets.

Apache is replacing the Lynx as the Army's airborne anti-tank weapon. It can carry to the battlefield 16 Hellfire missiles, 76 rockets, a 30mm cannon and four air-to-air missiles.

Pattern Room moves to new home

MORE than 30 heavily-armed convoys were involved in moving the historic Pattern Room collection from Nottingham to the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds. Part of it has been transferred to the museum, and the rest into storage until a purpose-built facility at Leeds has been completed. The unique collection, established in 1850, includes 13,500 British and foreign-made weapons. The move is expected to be finalised by 2005.



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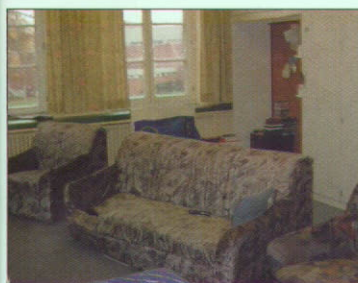
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Main picture: Graeme Main

That's better: Clerk of works SSgt Richard Little, main picture, tests the taps in A Block, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot. Inset from top are a refurbished living area at Gutersloh, new washrooms in Connaught Barracks, Dover, and a sign of the times at Azimghur Barracks, Colerne

We've been Reader-ed

SAPPERS returning from Kosovo to Campbell Barracks, Hohn, were delighted to discover that their rooms had been given the Reader treatment while they were in the Balkans, **writes John Elliott.**

The 32 Engineer Regiment soldiers got back to find their 1930s-era barracks had been given a make-over. There were new beds and mattresses, better built-in furniture, more power sockets and more phone points.

With 32 "packages" at 26 locations, the £17-million Project Reader "quick-fix" programme is delivering what it promised – rapid solutions to pressing problems. But there is such a huge backlog that Reader will address only a small proportion of the barracks in need of urgent attention. It is regarded very much as a "band aid on a gaping wound".

Large-scale projects such as SLAM (Single-Living Accommodation Modernisation), Puma and Challenger will not deliver major change until the year after next. Originally planned over four years, Reader has been condensed into half that time in an effort to improve rapidly the poorest quarters, with the emphasis firmly on junior ranks' blocks. Some, but by no means all,

"basket-case" barracks in the UK and Germany are being blitzed by builders. Grubby ablution areas have been gutted, draughty windows replaced, leaky roofs patched up and heating and fire security systems beefed up.

In Dover's Connaught Barracks, home of 1 Para, £340,000 was spent on sorting out the "wet" areas – showers, basins and toilets – and new carpets. About £900,000 has been ploughed into Gutersloh's Mansergh Barracks and Princess Royal Barracks, which date from the Second World War.

Project's quick-fix measures only touch surface of a huge backlog

Under the first phase of Reader, single-soldier blocks have been refurbished at Invicta Park in Maidstone; Claro Barracks, Ripon; Azimghur Barracks, Colerne; Combermere Barracks, Windsor; in the combined mess at Hullavington; and in parts of Bruneval and Arnhem Blocks in Montgomery Lines, Aldershot. Sixteen more packages are due to be finished within the next few weeks. In the second phase of Reader, due to begin this month, a further 14 "first-aid" packages are planned, ten of them in

the UK. Work is also planned on three more sites in Germany and at BATUS in Canada.

Crucially for those living in them, barracks scheduled for demolition in the not too distant future, such as Montgomery Lines, have not been excluded from Project Reader money.

Although nothing like the Type Z quarters accepted as the Army standard, two blocks in Bruneval Barracks, home for the moment of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, and two in nearby Arnhem Barracks – home to 228 Signal Squadron – now boast new windows and carpets, fresh paint, upgraded heating and hot-water appliances, fire and smoke detection systems and vastly improved toilet and washrooms.

There is still much to do before single-living accommodation is brought up to scratch. The scale of the problem can be gauged by a remark to the signallers, who were told their next home – containerised quarters at Slim Lines in Kosovo – "will be a thousand times better" than the accommodation they are leaving.

Military chiefs acknowledge that, although the programme has begun, delivery across the Army will take years.

Easing the pain and strain

Changes to training should reduce the number of injuries sustained by recruits

Report: Ray Routledge
Picture: Steve Dock

IMPROVEMENTS to physical training methods for recruits have reduced the number of new soldiers being discharged as a result of injuries caused by over-use.

Injuries including stress fractures to the foot, tibia, femur and pubis, as well as back pain and Achilles tendonitis, were more prevalent among female recruits than males, according to a recent report.

Commissioned by the Army Training and Recruiting Agency (ATRA), the report by Lt Col Ian Gemmell was first published last year. Its re-appearance in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* in January creating a degree of controversy in the national press.

Lt Col Gemmell investigated the effects of gender-free physical training introduced in April 1998. Until then female recruits trained to a lower physical standard.

His report concluded that the proportion of female recruits discharged because of over-use injury rose, while male discharges remained constant. Lt Col Gemmell wrote: "This study confirms the excess risk for women when they undertake the same arduous training as male recruits."

Maj Jonathan Craig, PWRR, from the Infantry Training Group (ITG) at Upavon, acknowledged the validity of the study but said advances in training methods introduced last year would see a reduction in injuries.

Capt Dougie Peters, APTC, also with ITG, said recruits who had low fitness levels on joining were more likely to suffer injury during training. Female recruits generally were less fit than men on joining up and so were more susceptible to injury, an area not considered by the Gemmell report.

Measures have been taken to reduce the chance of injury to all recruits, regardless of sex.

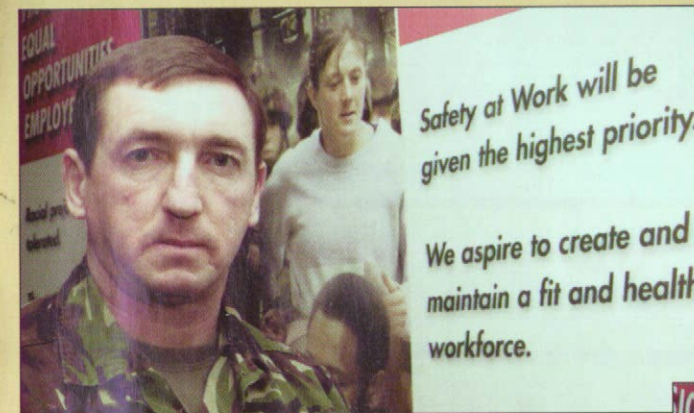
"The first two weeks are crucial for the recruit," said Maj Craig. "For most it is a complete change, mentally and physically. We put them into ability groups based

on the 1½-mile run when they first come in."

The physical standard each recruit has to reach after 12 weeks (the output standard) depends on their Career Employment Group (CEG), which is based on the recruit's preference on enlisting. By the end of phase one training an infantry

recruit must achieve, among other tests, 1½ miles in 10min 30sec, gunners and tankies have to finish in 11min and loggies have 11min 45 sec.

Times reflect levels of fitness needed for different jobs in different elements of the



"Low levels of fitness more likely to lead to injury": Capt Dougie Peters, left

"Advances in training methods will improve the situation": Maj Jonathan Craig, below

Drill instructors now place the shortest individuals at the front of the squad, so minimising potential overstride problems and reducing overstretch injuries

Army. "The aim is to train people to the minimum required operational standards," said Capt Peters.

A revised recruit training programme based on a graduated PT plan was introduced in October last year and already a reduction in the numbers leaving through injury has been noticed. A full study into the significance of the changes is to be undertaken this year.

"The leading element of the new programme is physical development and physical training," said Capt Peters. "Everything else is built around it to try to give the recruit sufficient time to develop. For some, even the common military fitness syllabus is difficult, especially for those who have not been physically active before they came into the Army."

"Youngsters do not take part in as much physical exercise as they did ten or 15 years ago. Yet they are the very people we are recruiting. There is no choice, and we have to design the programme to cater for them."

To meet this change in lifestyle, a risk-reduction measure was introduced at recruit selection centres (RSC), deferring potential recruits who need to raise their fitness levels. Candidates have to complete a 2.4km run and times are based on their chosen CEG and whether, after 12 weeks' training, they can have at least a 90 per cent chance of success. The unsuccessful ones are told how to

improve their fitness before attempting selection again.

The result is an improvement in numbers of recruits completing phase one training and a reduction in injuries.

Drill instructors now place the shortest individuals at the front of the squad, so minimising potential overstride problems and reducing overstretch injuries.

If a recruit should pick up an injury, every ATR now has its own rehabilitation department – complete with physiotherapists and remedial instructor – which will devise an individual training programme based on the recruits' injury and training attained.

Nutrition is closely examined. A recent study concluded that recruits not only require about 4,000 calories a day from a balanced diet but they need enough time to eat and to digest their meals.

"To get people fit you have to apply some physical stress, which is how the body adapts itself," said Capt Peters. "But rest and recovery are equally important."

Health and safety takes precedence over everything, including equal opportunities. While the Gemmell report hit the headlines, it was just one of a number commissioned to find ways to improve the training, health and safety, and retention of recruits.

"At the end of the day the recruit is our lifeblood," said Maj Craig. "These people come first."



Dodge's long road to riches

Business tycoon owes it all to skills he learned in the Army

LIFE has been good to Roger Tattershaw. It's been 35 years since the man known as "Dodge" left the Army with only ten bob (50p) to his name.

In the decades since, the international impresario has built up a multi-million-pound entertainment empire with offices in London, Naples, Chicago, Las Vegas and Miami.

"I was a private when I went into the Army, and a private when I came out," he told *Soldier* modestly. "I owe it all to the Army. It made me what I am today."

Speaking from his private beach in Bermuda, Dodge fondly recalled his time with the Royal Military Police. He saw plenty of action, but was reluctant to elaborate on places and dates. "Even after all these years, some of the memories are still painful," he said.

Soldier has traced Dodge's career from official records, news cuttings and court reports. He spent five years in the Army, including four in Colchester on special duties. Skills he acquired there proved invaluable in his first civvy job – as a bouncer at a Wigan nightclub.

It was while working the door in the 70s that he met the pneumatic Page 3 girl, Charly Bristol. Her ambition was to be a pop star and when Dodge started handling her, things really took off. Her greatest hits included a topless version of Elvis's *A Fool Such As I* and the innuendo-laden *First Date*, which was number one in April, 1972.

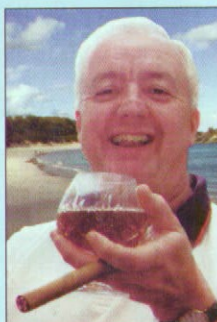
Charly and Dodge were seldom off the front pages (there was room for little else). But the biggest sensation came in 1974 when Dodge masterminded Charly's progress to the final of the Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow. His brainwave was to get her to sing every other word in a different language. It was a brave, some would say foolhardy, attempt to garner votes, but few of the bemused viewers that night will have forgotten the giggles in the audience, followed by the gasp when her bra-strap broke.

"Yeah, they were wild and happy times," Dodge said. "Just a shame the judges awarded her nul points. Haven't spoken since." Undaunted, Dodge branched into other areas of entertainment, mostly those aimed at adults. One thing led to another.

Dodge has always had an unnerving ability to be at the right place at the right time. "What's more, I usually had my camera with me," he said. His negative collection alone is thought to be worth millions.

"I suppose I have been fortunate," he conceded. "I'm hoping to round things off with a knighthood. I'm sure my friends could pull a few strings. They know who they are."

Send your post-Army career story to rroutledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk



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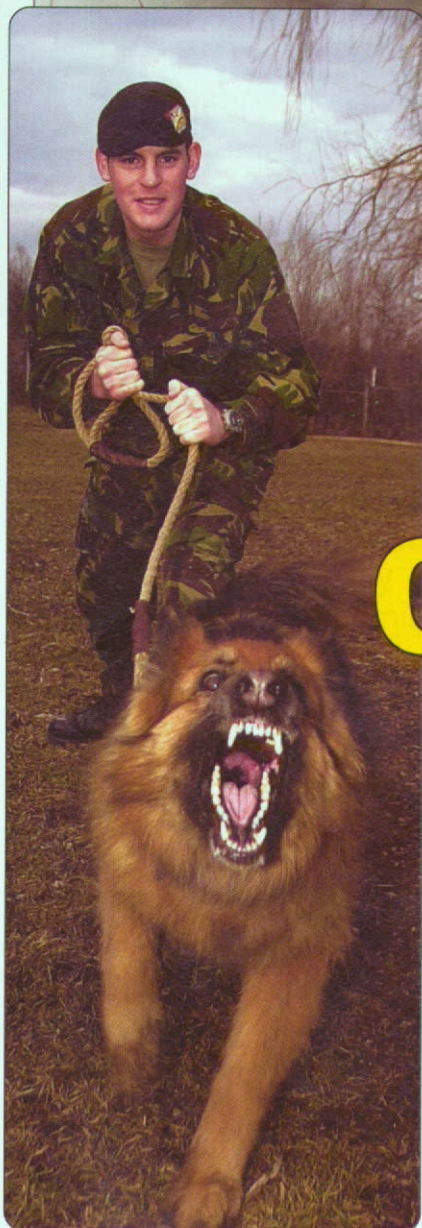
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Pictures: Cpl Brad Chappell (RAF)



On the leash

In control: Cpl Mandy Swanwick, RAVC, pictured (top and right) with Lige during an Operation Harvest search for weapons and ammunition in a house near Banja Luka, is the adviser to Bosnia-based units of the Multi-National Division (South West) on military working dogs. Stationed at the Banja Luka Metal Factory, she is also a qualified handler of arms and explosive search dogs. Explosive detection dogs – known as EDDs – are relatively new to the theatre but have quickly established themselves in the hunt for mines.

Pte Rob Bell, left, of 1 RGBW, is pictured on a camp security patrol with his German shepherd, Ruby.

Manage your money



David Mapes is Assistant Director of Credit Action and will be pleased to answer specific questions addressed to the Editor. These will be treated in confidence.

Here's another sauce of credit

FOLLOWING recent columns on using loans, overdraft and credit (or store) cards to borrow money, let's look at HP (hire purchase, not the sauce).

HP is a particular type of loan, often used for buying a car or "white" goods (such as washing machines and fridges).

When we buy on HP we (the consumer) hire the goods for an agreed period. At the end of that period, we have the option to buy the goods (normally for a nominal amount). The creditor (the hirer) owns the goods and buys them from the supplier, who makes the introduction between us (the consumer) and the hirer. This is normally done through the hire-purchase agreement. We may never meet the hirer.

Sounds a bit complicated, but it means that we don't own the goods until we make the last payment. This means that we can't legally sell the goods without permission from the hirer or until we own them.

The differences

Read the agreement before you sign it. Work out the cost and think about the differences between HP and a credit sale agreement. If you think you've made a mistake, you can return (surrender) the goods to the hirer during the agreement period, but you will have to pay something. This depends on the amount already paid.

If you've paid less than half the total purchase price, you owe the difference between the payments made and half the price plus any other payments due at the surrender date (in the case of a car this may depend on the amount the car is sold for – and they're usually sold at auction). If you've paid more than half, you will owe only the arrears on payments due.

Hirers can seek repossession if the consumer defaults on payments. A court order is required unless the consumer gives permission or the consumer has paid less than one third of the total purchase price and the goods are on public ground.

I know it sounds complicated, but many people are not aware of the implications of buying on HP. And if you're in debt, or struggling with money, it's easier to get into arrears and lose the goods.

Is it the best (and cheapest) way to get what you want? Think about APR and the risk if you go into arrears. If you're in trouble, make sure you keep up-to-date with payments and negotiate with the creditor for you to sell the goods or them to take them back. Remember, it's illegal to sell something that is not yours.

If you want to talk

If you want someone independent to talk to, call the HelpLine. A counsellor will spend time with you and talk through your decisions or worries.

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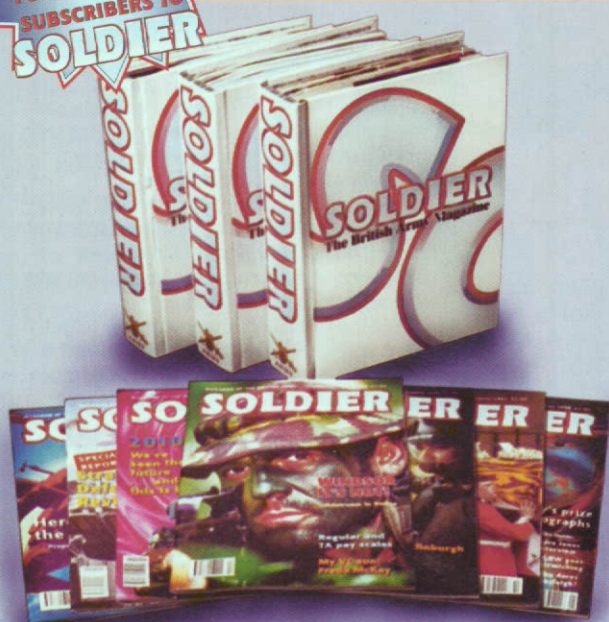
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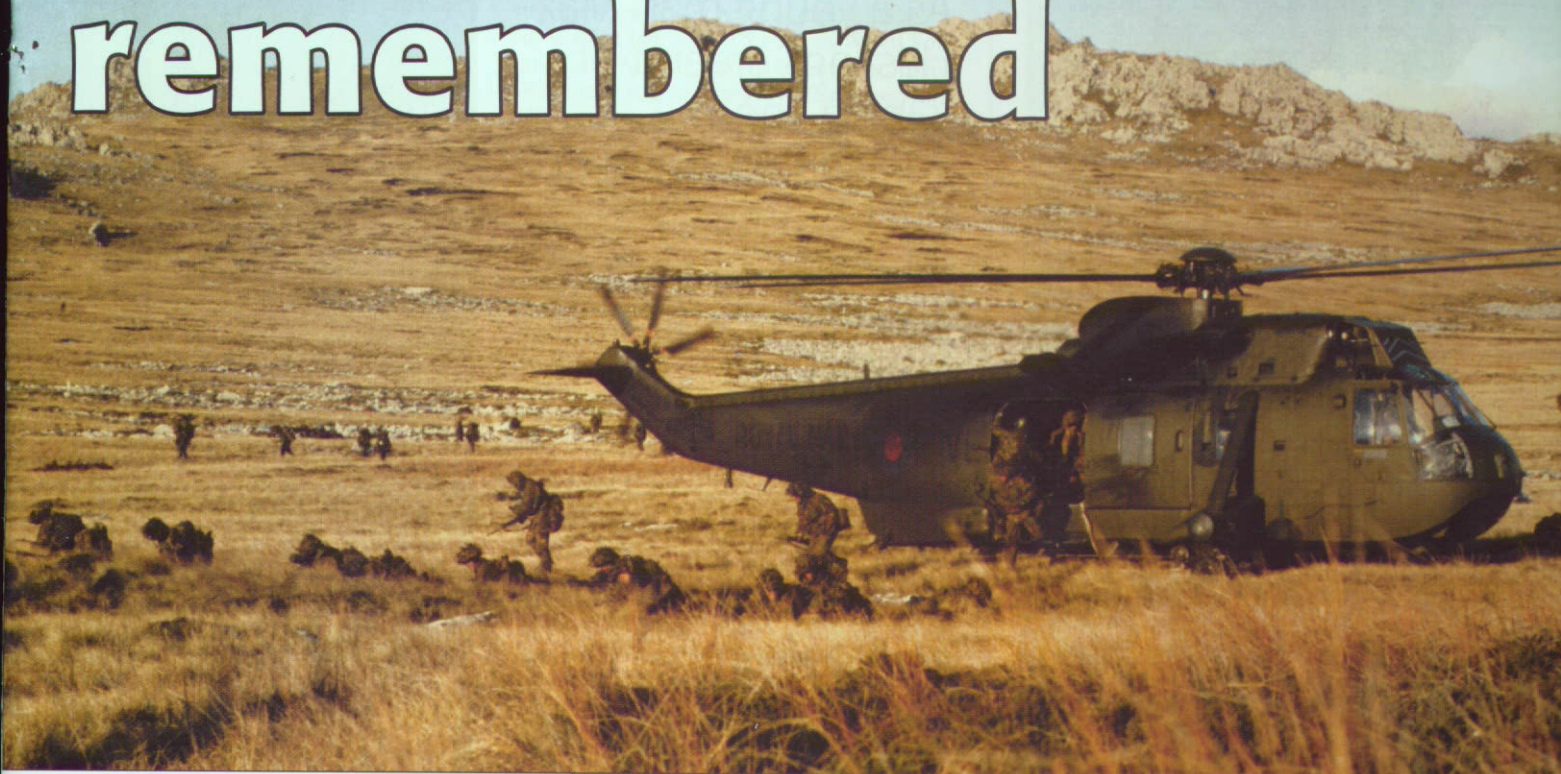


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CONFLICT

remembered



Twenty years ago, 28,000 British Servicemen sailed 8,000 miles to wrest a group of islands from the grip of an Argentine occupying force.

Against the odds, they prevailed, raising the Union Flag over the Falkland Islands just three weeks after landing at San Carlos.

In the face of incessant attacks by a highly professional air force equipped with deadly Exocet missiles, the Task Force accomplished a mission many observers believed to be impossible.

In this and subsequent issues, we look back at the war in the South Atlantic.

Scots Guards are flown to Goat Ridge on the day before the battle for Tumbledown

Picture: Paul Haley

Chronology of the war

April 2: Argentine forces land near Port Stanley and overwhelm Royal Marines defenders. A foreign flag flies over British territory.

April 3: The United Nations demands an immediate Argentine withdrawal, but the Argentines refuse. British Government makes clear its intention to re-take the islands by force if necessary.

April 5: Several British warships, the vanguard of a powerful task force that would range from aircraft carriers to British Rail ferries, sail for the South Atlantic.

April 9: Canberra leaves UK with the Paras and the Marines.

May 1: Enemy engaged. An RAF Vulcan bomber attacks Stanley Airport, and the Royal Navy follows with



All ship-shape: Members of 3 Para board *Canberra*

raids on Stanley and Goose Green.

May 2: Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano* torpedoed and sunk.

May 4: HMS *Sheffield* sunk by an Exocet missile.

May 12: *QE2* leaves

Southampton with 5 Infantry Brigade on board.

May 14: SAS destroys Argentine air base on Pebble Island.

May 21: San Carlos landings.

May 25: HMS *Coventry* and *Atlantic Conveyor* sunk.

May 29: 2 Para take Darwin and Goose Green.

June 8: 51 soldiers, mostly Welsh Guards, die when their landing ships are bombed at Fitzroy.

June 11-13: The Battle for Port Stanley. Guards, Marines, Paras and Gurkhas go into action on the mountain-tops.

June 14: Stanley falls and the Union Flag once again flies over the Falkland Islands.

Men of valour

Two posthumous VCs were won in the Falklands, one by Sgt Ian McKay, the other by Lt Col H Jones (see Books, Pages 68-69)

DURING the night of June 11-12, 3 Para mounted a night attack on an enemy battalion position on Mount Longdon, an important objective in the battle for Stanley. Sgt Ian McKay was



Detail from a painting of Sgt Ian McKay commissioned by Rotherham Council

platoon sergeant of 4 Platoon, B Company.

After the initial objective had been cleared, his men were ordered to clear the northern side of the long east-west ridge feature. It was held in depth, with strong supporting positions.

By now fully alert, the enemy resisted fiercely and 4 Platoon came under heavy fire from well-sited enemy machine-gun positions on the ridge.

The Paras, who were sustaining casualties, were

ordered to seek shelter among the rocks of the ridge itself, where they met up with 5 Platoon. But enemy fire was still heavy and accurate and the position of both platoons became increasingly hazardous.

Accompanied by Sgt McKay, a corporal and a few others, and covered by supporting machine-guns, the platoon commander moved forward to reconnoitre the enemy positions but was hit in the leg. Command passed to Sgt McKay.

Recognising the need for instant action, Sgt McKay changed his recon mission into all-out attack. He and three men broke cover and charged. They were met by a hail of fire: one man was killed and two wounded but Sgt McKay charged the enemy position alone and overcame it with grenades, relieving the beleaguered 4 and 5 Platoons, which were able to redeploy in relative safety.

Sgt Ian McKay, who was killed in his moment of victory, is buried in Aldershot Military Cemetery.

Looking for trouble

As a young man Max Hastings dreamt of joining The Parachute Regiment, but became a journalist and war correspondent instead. His finest hour was covering the Falklands conflict

Interview: Anthony Stone
Picture: Mike Weston



Out of harm's way: Max Hastings at the *Evening Standard* before stepping down as Editor

MAY 31, 1982, Mount Kent, East Falkland. Surrounded by SAS and 42 Commando, Max Hastings tries to get some sleep as the bitter, biting cold eats into his soul, and he waits for dawn to break.

"God, if I can get off this damnable mountain, let me never come back," he writes in his autobiographical *Going to the Wars*. "God, teach me to stop myself doing things that I am not capable of. Make me learn that I am not as these men around me are, and let me stay at home in my warm house instead of clinging absurdly to the coat tails of heroes."

Max Hastings made his name putting himself in harm's way. His greatest scoop, and the story with which he will be forever linked, is the Falklands conflict of 1982.

Every step of the way Hastings was with the troops as they pushed onto Stanley. When The Parachute Regiment halted on the outskirts of the capital pending negotiations, Hastings walked through the Argentine lines. The *Evening Standard's* front-page banner headline on June 15, 1982 was THE FIRST MAN INTO STANLEY next to a photograph of a mud-splattered, bedraggled correspondent. It was, he says, the happiest moment of his career.

The Falklands conflict is studied today not just by military students but by anyone who wants to better understand the complex relationships between the media, government and censorship.

"I'm probably alone in supporting the view that any government which is fighting a war is entitled to impose censorship about military secrets," he told *Soldier*, shortly before stepping down as editor of

'I'm probably alone in supporting the view that any government which is fighting a war is entitled to impose censorship about military secrets'

the *Evening Standard*. "I don't believe that you can reasonably leave journalists to decide what is, and is not, safe to publish.

"Most journalists today believe that it is inherently wrong ever to accept restrictions from governments or from military authorities on what you do. But the Falklands situation was unique because the Royal Navy had control of all our communications, so we physically could not send anything that had not been cleared.

"I doubt if that situation would ever occur again, because in the age of mobile and satellite communications it is physically impossible to stop journalists from sending anything."

How times have changed. In the Falklands there were fewer than 20 print jour-

nals. Today, in a Balkan war zone, it is not uncommon to have up to 2,000 media clambering around.

It seems unthinkable now, but in 1982 journalists were given unfettered access to the leading players in return for behaving responsibly.

"I doubt if there will ever be a situation again where the CO of the SAS would take a journalist on an operation, as Michael Rose took me in the Falklands. We were uniquely lucky, and as a journalist I knew at the time that one was having a unique opportunity.

"That it was a throwback, it was exactly like going up the Nile with Kitchener. It was an absolutely marvellous, old-fashioned colonial war. One of the worst

things about most wars one gets involved in is what happens to civilians. When you are in the Middle East or in Africa or in the Balkans, you're always seeing terrible things being done to civilians. In the Falklands there were not many civilians; over-all it was professionals."

If things had turned out differently Max might have joined the Army rather than written about it. His father, MacDonald Hastings, was a renowned war correspondent for *Picture Post* during the Second World War and Max grew up with an admiration for soldiers.

But he fluffed an attempt to join the Paras – "I'm so ridiculously tall and I've always been terribly badly co-ordinated" – and slipped into war reporting almost by default.

Cutting his teeth on race riots in the United States in 1968, Hastings was sent to Northern Ireland the following year. Things snowballed from there and his career took him to Biafra, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Middle East, Cyprus, Rhodesia and India.

Over the years he has found himself in some pretty tight corners, the kind of places a sane man would be mad to go. Is he brave or bonkers?

"When I was about 15 I read Lord Moran's book *The Anatomy of Courage*, in which he argues that courage is capital not income, a quality of which different men have different amounts, but in all cases it's finite and expendable.

"I have always thought that's true. Almost everybody reaches a point at which he's used up his store of courage, whether temporarily or permanently, and I can certainly remember a good few occasions in which one has screwed oneself up to do things for a period of days or weeks, and then suddenly you've thought one has had enough."

For five years Max Hastings edited the newspaper which published his greatest scoop, the *Evening Standard*, before recently stepping down. From the editorial offices in Kensington, he controlled correspondents and photographers as they gathered news from the world's trouble spots and reported on British Army deployments. Surely, he must miss the adrenaline rush of the battlefield?

"No, I'm much too old," he said. "I'm 55 and there's nothing more pathetic than men who are much too old going on trying to do things they are too old for. I was 36 at the time of the Falklands, and at that age I could just about hack it. But nobody but a fool hangs around war zones when they are over 50."

Memories

War is best trainer

SOON after I arrived from recruit training in Hong Kong my battalion, 1/7 GR, sailed to the Falklands. As a young, inexperienced 18-year-old (and the youngest member of the battalion) I had no option but to learn quickly from the experienced soldiers around me. I remember when I was cold, wet and exhausted and I wanted to blame someone. My father and grandfather and instructors had spoken of their battles and taught me the Gurkha ethos, but none had told me of the realities.



The Falklands taught me what had not been, and indeed could not be, taught by an instructor. It was my true and best trainer. The experience and lessons learnt during the war cannot be replicated in training. This experience was the foundation of my soldiering career. – Lt (QGO) Krishna Rai, 2 RGR.

Goose Green

4 Platoon, B Coy, 2 Para

OF the many, my most vivid recollection as a private soldier during the Falkland's War has to be during the battle for Goose Green. Having pushed the enemy back towards the settlement, B Coy, 2 Para advanced towards the settlement from the west, heading south.

On the outskirts of Goose Green the company went firm after coming under fire from the gorse bushes which concealed sniper positions. As the day wore on, the enemy launched a Pucara attack with napalm. As the aircraft flew over, the sky lit up with streams of 1-in-1 tracer as the whole battalion opened up, hitting one of the aircraft that had dropped its load.



The pilot bailed out and, as if in a cartoon sequence, the aircraft came closer and closer until my section 2ic dived over me. At this point I put my head in my hands and prayed. I looked up to see it hit the ground 15 ft in front of me, showering us with aviation fuel.

After a brief lull the company came under heavy artillery fire as we tried to dig in with whatever we could. The company mortar fire controller (MFC) had made his way to my position and, just as I was eating some biscuits and paste, an enemy round hit the ground about 10ft away. I looked at the MFC, he looked at me and broke into fits of laughter at my face, but we knew how close we had come.

As the light faded – and with it the accuracy of the enemy guns – we withdrew to the high ground for the night. – CSgt Leslie M Lewis.

Lifting the taboo of combat stress

Ex-gunner officer's PTSD admission 'a brave public service'

By Gen Sir David Ramsbotham

TWENTIETH anniversaries are appropriate times for conducting critical reappraisals of traumatic events.

That is not to suggest that the passage of time can eliminate traumas from the minds of those who participated in them, but, at that distance, the privilege of hindsight and the advantage of subsequent discovery make it possible to arrive at a more balanced analysis of contemporary remembrance.

The Falklands campaign was traumatic in a number of ways other than its impact on those who fought in it. At the time I was the Army's Director of Public Relations, engaged in an extraordinary "tension" with civil servants who thought it appropriate to follow the conventional procedures of issuing agreed "lines to take" and falling back on prepared "question-and-answer" briefs when dealing with journalists trying to describe a war.

Of course it did not work, because journalists, quite rightly, wanted to talk to people in uniform who could answer military questions, if they could not actually be in theatre questioning those taking part. One of the lessons that I learned was that it is much better to tell things as they are, including the reasons why some details must remain secret, rather than fall back on the infuriating "no comment".

One of the reasons why I encouraged the publication of the first edition of *Falklands Commando* was that Hugh McManners was prepared to tell things as they were, rather than hide behind bland innuendo.

Fewer and fewer people now have experience, let alone understanding, of war, and yet it remains a subject of endless fascination. I call as my witness the continued popularity of films, TV programmes, books and comic strips. But all too much of these is the stuff of fancy, and, being far removed from reality, distorts the understanding of what it is really like to be in action, when one's life, and lives of one's comrades-in-arms, is at risk.

Anyone reading *Falklands Commando*

War that left scars

AS a Royal Artillery officer, Hugh McManners (pictured) was Mentioned in Despatches for his service in the Falklands. In 1983, six years before leaving the Army, he wrote *Falklands Commando*.

A paperback edition published this month by HarperCollins at £7.99 includes an epilogue, written on Christmas Day 2001, reflecting on the psychological effects of war suffered by himself, his colleagues and friends, one of whom took his own life in 1991.

Here, a former Adjutant General discusses *Falklands Commando* in the context of the wider issues of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

● We have three copies of the book to be won. Simply tell us on a postcard marked "Commando" in which year McManners left the Army. The first three correct entries chosen at random after April 30 win a copy. Usual rules apply.



will be exposing themselves to the real thing, not dramatised, but honestly described. The experience will therefore be helpful in balancing the diet of sensation and unreality with which they are otherwise bombarded, and may have



'Unless you have experienced it for yourself, you cannot imagine the mental pressures that fighting in the conditions of modern warfare entails'

Gen Sir David Ramsbotham

been over the past 20 years.

But that honesty also extends to a formerly taboo, but thankfully increasingly transparent, reality, namely the subject of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

PTSD is something that happens to the bravest of the brave as well as those whose well of courage is less deep. It does not only affect those who have been involved in combat. I have seen its effects on sol-

diers who have been disabled in road accidents, finding that society neither understands nor supports those who so suddenly lose their chosen career and find themselves confined to wheelchairs, unable to find employment. I have seen it in those who had to guard the bodies of the victims of the Lockerbie air disaster until an on-site inquest could be conducted.

The "old" Army fought its wars very differently. Instead of small groups exploiting long-range and very powerful weaponry, large groups had to rely on short-range weaponry whose lethality was dreadful but limited. Because they lived and fought together they shared the experiences with each other every day. What they did not realise was that they were, in effect, counselling each other, helping each other to come to terms with shared experiences by talking them out.

What was more, however, was that

when they went home to the communities in which they lived they found members of their families who had been through the same sort of experiences, and so, by understanding, could continue the counselling service.

One of the less well understood reasons for the establishment of British Legion clubs around the country was that they provided places where men could go and discuss experiences that they could not share with those who had not seen them first hand.

The same applies today, because those of us who were not there cannot share what it must have been like to be in the Falklands, any more than we can share what it is like to see some of the sights of modern peacekeeping operations, in which man's inhumanity to man knows no bounds.

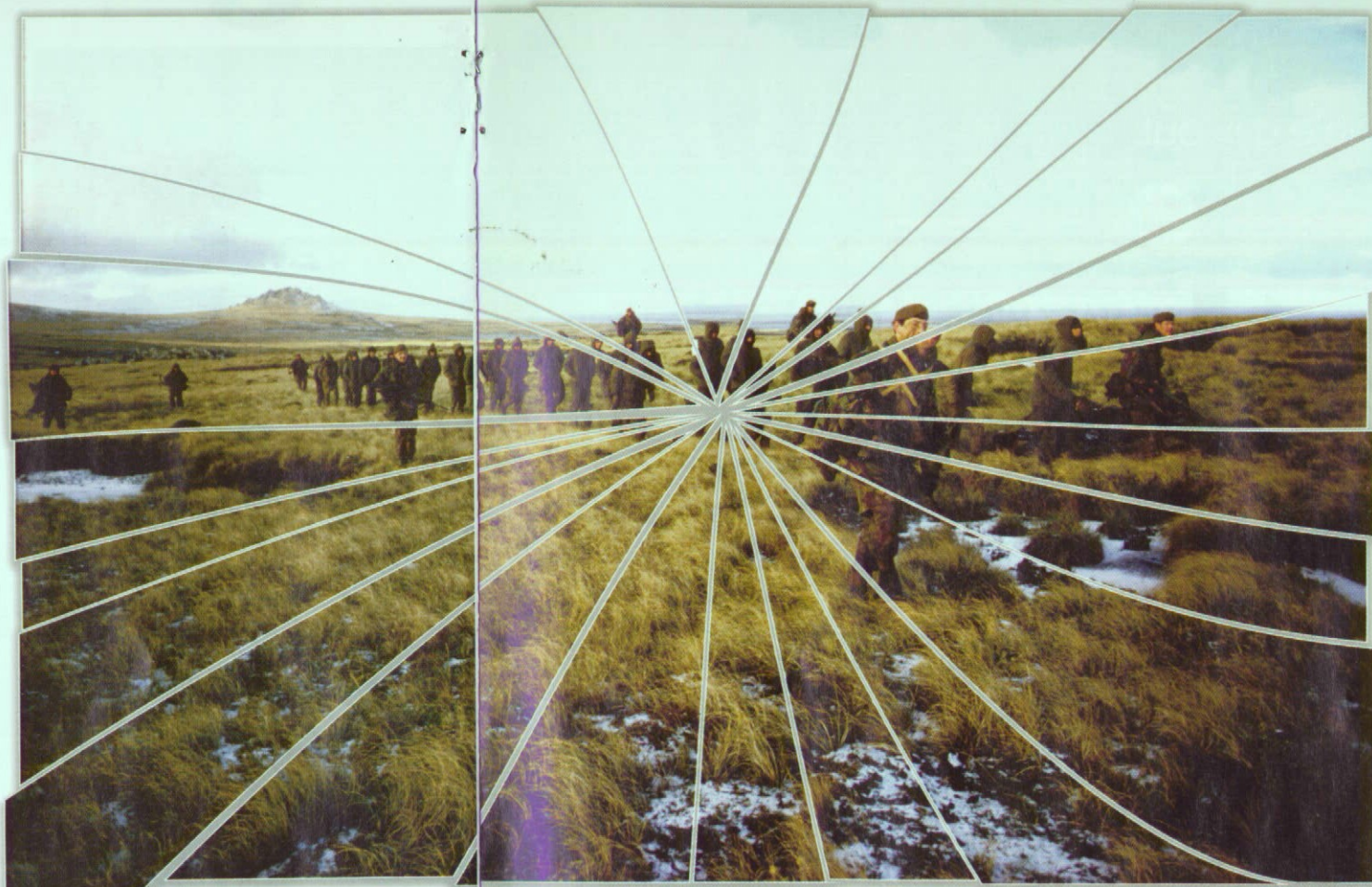
By admitting he was a sufferer from PTSD, Hugh McManners performed a notable and brave public service. Those who read this book will realise that he is not one to duck either responsibilities or realities, and, by being so frank and open, I believe that he is bound to help others

realise that no stigma can be attached to a medical condition arising from a trauma for which one simply cannot be prepared.

The trauma caused by Argentina's sudden decision to invade the Falkland Islands lives on, not least in the minds of those who were most affected – the islanders themselves and those who went to recover them. Unless you have seen them for yourself, you cannot imagine the physical pressures that living and fighting in such inhospitable geography entails. Unless you have experienced it for yourself, you cannot imagine the mental pressures that fighting in modern warfare entails.

Hugh McManners has helped us to do both, and I hope that his book will be widely read, particularly by those who have to understand what those known to them have been through. That will help the understanding of stress, a subject that must engage all those who are interested in their fellow men and women and their well-being in today's world.

● Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, a former Adjutant General, recently retired as HM Inspector of Prisons.



Picture: Paul Haley

Memories

HQ Company 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards

HEADQUARTERS Coy, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards was billeted in the Port Stanley gym and cinema. A mobile bakery was set up at the rear, sending wafts of freshly-baked bread into every room.

One night as we were settling down to watch a film, a certain Sgt P arrived. Smelling the bread, he abruptly left. In his absence the CO, adjutant and RSM arrived. They chatted for several minutes with members of the company. Sgt P returned carrying five steaming loaves of bread, fresh from the bakery ovens. "Ah, Sgt P," said the CO, "I see you have got the five loaves. Have you got the two fishes? Ha ha." Sgt P thought for a moment and said: "I haven't any fish, Sir, but I have got crabs."

When the Argies surrendered we were moved, along with the Scots Guards B Echelon, to Port Stanley, where I set up a tailor's shop.

We were the only regiment to take a sewing machine to war. — Ex-WO2 GJ Parry, WG.



Regimental Aid Post 16 Fd Amb, 1/7 GR

AFTER completing basic training I joined 16 Field Ambulance and went straight to Sennybridge as part of a 5 Brigade exercise. As soon as it was over I was selected to deploy with 1/7 Gurkha Rifles as a medic.

I have many memories, among them my sleeping bag zip breaking, nearly falling out of a Chinook and nearly falling into San Carlos Bay ... all in one day! As a 19-year-old, the operation was an experience from start to finish. In going from basic training to "hands-on", I grew up very fast.

The loyalty shown by the locals in Goose Green was outstanding and we built up an amazing friendship, especially with a couple named Fran and Dave, who catered for us.

We came across a shed full of Buckingham green paint and white gloss. I am an ex-painter, so with colleagues from the regimental aid post decided to paint the Eating House, which was also the medical centre. I painted a sign to commemorate our efforts, which was duly positioned in a prominent place. In 1997 I revisited Goose Green and was heartened to find our original sign still on the wall. — WO1 Jeff McGowan, DMSTC, Keogh, Barracks, Aldershot.



Regimental museum guide 2001

This summer let *Soldier* take you on a guided tour of the wealth of military history preserved by the regiments and corps of the British Army. Have an unforgettable day out.



THE FRIENDS OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT & QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Invite

you to attend our Museum from 1st May - 4th June 2002

The museum is in the Inner Keep at Dover Castle. The theme this year is

"MILITARY MUSIC AND DRUMMERS THROUGH THE AGES"

At 1300^{hrs} on the 25th May the 3rd BN PWRR KOHIMA BAND AND DRUMS will play on the Dover Castle Palace Green. MUSIC WORKSHOP for Grade 5 music students. Between 1400^{hrs} - 1600^{hrs} on the 25th - 26th May.



If you are interested in playing with the Band why not book your place by ringing Colin Witten on:

01227 817964 or 01227 817948

COME AND TALK TO THE MILITARY MUSICIANS WHO WILL BE AT THE MUSEUM MUSIC STAND OR JUST COME AND EXPERIENCE 430 YEARS OF HISTORY



REME MUSEUM of TECHNOLOGY

Isaac Newton Road Arborfield Berkshire RG2 9NJ

The museum illustrates the history of the Corps of REME in peace and war. The main museum displays the development of REME trades and training since 1942. The new exhibition hall displays 20 specialist vehicles.

Open
Mon - Thu 9 to 4.30, Fri 9 to 4, Sun 11 - 4
Admission
Adults £3, Children £2, OAP & Concessions £2.50, Family £8
School workshops in KS2 History and Design & Technology available.
Tel & Fax 0118 976 3375
E-mail: reme-museum@gtnet.gov.uk
Web Site: www.rememuseum.org.uk



Museum of the Royal Guernsey Militia

Castle Cornet, St Peter Port, Guernsey

With its origins in the 13th Century, the Guernsey Militia was possibly the oldest military unit in the service of the British crown.

The museum includes uniform, weapons and equipment of the Militia, the Militia Artillery and the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry from the 18th Century until disbandment in 1940.



MILITARY MUSEUM at The Keep, Bodmin

The history of a famous County Regiment, The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

Fascinating displays of uniforms, weapons, medals and much more.

Open during normal business hours and on Sundays during July and August 10am - 5pm or by appointment at other times.

Tel: 01208 72810
Adults: £2 Children: 50p

See our regular feature - Page 65



THE MILITARY MUSEUM OF DEVON & DORSET Come with us on a world tour...

A modern military museum which uses touch screen computers and creative displays to tell the stories of courage, humour, tradition and sacrifice of those who served in the regiments of Devon and Dorset for over 300 years. The uniforms, weapons and medals all bear silent witness to those of a bygone age and of more recent conflicts. The diversity of articles on display allows the imagination to recreate the world of these soldiers and their families from 1685 to the present day. An added bonus is the spectacular view from the battlements of Dorchester and surrounding countryside brought to life in the novels of Thomas Hardy.

Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.00
(April - September)
Tue - Sat 9.30 - 5.00
(October - March)
Sundays (July - August) 10.00 - 4.00
last admission 1 hour before closing



Bridport Road, Dorchester, at 'Top o' The Town'
Tel: 01305 264066 Fax: 01305 250373



The Essex Regiment Museum



Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford.

Tel: (01245) 615100

Email: pompadour@chelmsfordbc.gov.uk
Open: Monday-Saturday
10am - 5pm & Sundays 2 - 5pm
Admission & parking free



THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES MUSEUM

The museum tells the story of military medicine, nursing, dentistry and veterinary science from 1660 until the present. It includes military ambulances, an Ambulance Train Ward Coach, a First World War Horse Drawn Ambulance and an ornate carriage used by Florence Nightingale in the Crimea.

There is a well-stocked museum shop and facilities for the disabled

LOCATION: Keogh Barracks, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett,
Follow tourist signs for AMS Museum

OPEN: Monday to Friday 10am - 3.30pm
TEL: 01252 868612



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... Ideal for National Curriculum Key Stage 2

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Closed Christmas week
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Admission: £4.80 adult
£3.20 child
£13.00 family
£3.80 seniors and students
Group concessions
On the A343 between Andover and Salisbury

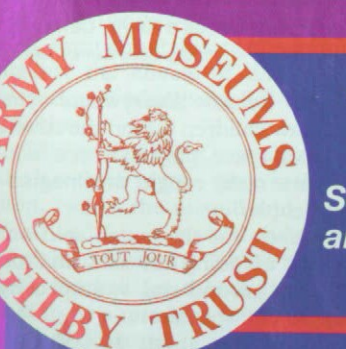


THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT AND QUEEN'S MUSEUM

AT DOVER CASTLE
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Over four centuries of living history, over 200,000 visitors last year. Exhibition includes: WW1 trench experience; interactive videos of WW1; medal display and the story of the Victoria Cross (56 awarded); one of the largest portable drum displays in the Army for hire; the story of the 12 forebear regiments of the PWRR. Entrance fee as per Dover Castle. Entrance to museum free.

Join our Friends - contact Mrs C. Coleman on 01227 808156



www.armymuseums.org.uk



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Senior Regiment of the Reserve Army
Monmouth's Early Defences
Medieval Herb Garden
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at Monmouth Castle
Free entry 01600 772175

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ME4 4UG Tel: 01634 406397

Open all year Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm, Sat, Sun & Bank Holiday Mondays 11.30am-5pm

Friday by appointment only
Disabled access throughout. Shop, refreshments & ample secure parking.
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THE QUEEN'S ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS MUSEUM

Sussex Combined Services Museum, The Redoubt
Fortress, Royal Parade, Eastbourne BN22 7AQ
Tel: 01323 410300

Open April - November, 0930 - 1730

Admission: Adults £2.00, Family ticket (2+2) £6.00, Under 16/over 60s £2.00

For further information phone:
Major P J Timmons 020 7414 8782
Website: www.eastbournemuseums.co.uk



SOUTH WALES BORDERERS MUSEUM

The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EB
Telephone: 01874 613310
Website: www.rw.org.uk
E-mail: swb@rw.org.uk

300 years of history.
Zulu wars. Large medal collection and armoury.

Open: Apr to Sept 0900 - 1700 (every day)



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Lord Leyscester, Hospital, High Street, Warwick CV34 4BH
Tel: 01926 492035
Open: Summer 1000-1700 & Winter 1000-1600

Closed Mondays and Christmas Day
Admission to the museum is free

For further information phone:
Major P J Timmons 020 7414 8782
www.qohmuseum@netscapeonline.co.uk



GREEN HOWARDS MUSEUM

Trinity Church Square, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4QN
Tel: 01748 822133

This famous North Yorkshire regiment was founded in 1688 and its campaigns from 1690 onwards are illustrated with original uniforms, gallantry awards, medals, regimental silver and many other relics, including interactive video of both WWI and WWII and CD ROM. Also some of Richmond's historic plate.

1 FEB - 31 MAR: Mon-Fri 10.00 - 4.30pm (Sat & Sun closed)
1 APR - Mid MAY: Mon-Sat 9.30 - 4.30pm & Easter Day 2pm - 4.30pm (Sun closed)
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1 OCT - 31 OCT: Mon-Sat 9.30 - 4.30pm (Sun closed)
1 NOV - 30 NOV Mon-Fri: 10am-4.30pm (Sat & Sun closed).
Open at other times by appointment.
Closed 1 DEC - 31 JAN

Berkshire:
REME Museum of Technology

Channel Islands:
Museum of the Royal Guernsey Militia

Cornwall:
Military Museum, at The Keep, Bodmin

Dorset:
The Military Museum of Devon & Dorset

Essex:
The Essex Regiment Museum

Hampshire:
The Army Medical Services Museum
The Museum of Army Flying

Kent:
Royal Engineers Museum
The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment & Queen's Museum
Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia)

Sussex:
The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars Museum

Wales:
South Wales Borderers Museum

Warwickshire:
The Queen's Own Hussars Museum

Yorkshire:
Green Howards Museum

Kicking off in Kabul

Spurs legend helps football to find its feet in Afghanistan

HAVING worn Tottenham Hotspur's number six shirt for 16 years, Gary Mabbutt is accustomed to the cheers and jeers that reverberate around the stands of Premiership football grounds, writes Andy Simms.

He has lifted the FA Cup at Wembley in front of thousands of jubilant Spurs fans and all too frequently been the target of abuse for mobs of baying Arsenal supporters at Highbury, but nothing could prepare the former England international for the unique atmosphere of Kabul's Olympic Stadium.

"I had a wonderful playing career and was lucky enough to be captain of Tottenham for 11 years," explained Mabbutt, who signed for Spurs from Bristol City for £105,000 in August 1982. "As the skipper of a team, every game you play in you are the first out of the tunnel and consequently the first to be hit by the initial reaction from the crowd. "And whether you are

walking out at White Hart Lane, Anfield, Old Trafford or Wembley, that explosion of noise

is always a big adrenalin rush," he said. "But standing in Kabul's Olympic Stadium listening to Afghanistan's national anthem, and looking up and seeing snipers lining the roof also gave me one hell of a rush."

Now an ambassador for the Football Association's international development programme, Mabbutt found himself in the decrepit arena, used as a Taliban execution site until last year, after accepting an extraordinary coaching assignment from the FA's executive director, David Davies.

"I have worked with the FA for four or five years now and have been on several development assignments to countries such as Russia and South Africa," he said. "When David rang me and said that the next job was going to be in Afghanistan I was slightly taken aback but said yes straight away.

"I was asked to help coach the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)



Captain marvel: Gary Mabbutt, left, shrugs off a challenge from Arsenal's Kevin Campbell during the FA Charity Shield match at Wembley Stadium in 1991 Picture: David Cannon/Allsport

football team and a Kabul United side for an exhibition match at the Olympic Stadium. The significance of a game in the war-ravaged country was not wasted on me and it was something that I wanted to be part of."

It was a sentiment shared by former Southampton boss Lawrie McMenemy, who also agreed to visit Afghanistan.

"As soon as we arrived in Afghanistan it was clear that the locals had a real passion for football," said Mabbutt, who alongside Richard Gough formed one of the best central defensive partnerships ever seen at

White Hart Lane. "Everywhere you looked you saw children out on the street, or on any open space, playing with a football. The game really caught the imagination of the people."

Indeed, tickets for the match sold out within hours of going on sale and on match-day the ground was swamped by more than 30,000 spectators.

"There were also about 10,000 fans outside the ground and there were a few problems before kick-off with people trying every means possible to get into the stadium and be part of the occasion," he

said. "It was nothing more than over-exuberance really and fortunately no one got hurt. The Forces did an excellent job of keeping the ticketless fans at bay."

Making his managerial debut, Mabbutt took charge of the multi-national ISAF dressing-room on the day of the game, while McMenemy, whose distinguished managerial career included spells in charge of Sunderland, Northern Ireland and three years as Graham Taylor's England assistant, bossed the Kabul side.

"The Forces players were physically bigger and fitter than the Kabul side and played a very British style of football, whereas the Afghans adopted a more European style of play, relying heavily on their skill.

"Lawrie and I had discussed the game before kick-off and we both agreed that the Forces' fitness would prove the difference." But even the rookie boss had to

6 The Forces players were bigger and fitter, and played a very British style of football 9

applaud when his side conceded a first-half goal. "When Kabul opened the scoring with a spectacular scissor-kick the whole stadium just erupted – it was a magnificent sight," he said. "Under Taliban restrictions supporters weren't allowed to cheer a goal and so they went absolutely crazy. Their reaction will stick in my mind forever."

As predicted, the ISAF team, captained by Capt Jonny Crook (HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade), did strike back and ran out eventual 3-1 winners.

However, despite his unblemished record in the dug-out, Mabbutt, who battled throughout his own playing career against the effects of diabetes, has no intention of taking on a full-time coaching position.

"I have had eight managerial offers in the last three years – three in the first division, two in the second and three in the third and I have turned them all down," explained Mabbutt. "I have been involved with football for a long time and know that to be a manager you have to be married to the game.

"I've got a three-year-old daughter and while football is very important to me there are more important things in life."



Hang time: Sgt Daz Bryce (REME) prepares to abseil from the roof of the Millennium Stadium

Rope-y entrance

IN full view of 73,000 spectators and an estimated global television audience of 275 million, ten soldiers drawn from the REME and AAC abseiled from the closed roof of Cardiff's Millennium Stadium at the Worthington Cup Final.

The soldiers' 130ft plummet was part of the opening ceremony that preceded Blackburn Rovers' 2-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur.

Halfway through the descent each

abseiler unfurled flags of the two opposing teams.

Organised by Sgt Daz Bryce (REME), the stunt netted £1,200 in donations towards Exercise Helping Hand, a project which will see 30 mechanics and technicians give their expert support to the Zambian Wildlife Authority and the David Shepherd Foundation. A further £1,000 was raised for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

WIN... WIN... WIN... WIN... WIN... WIN...

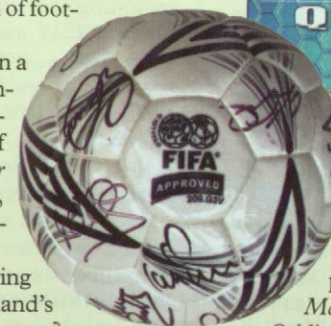
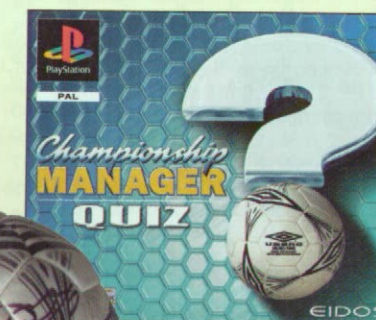
SOLDIER has teamed up with Eidos Interactive to offer readers the chance to put your footballing knowledge to the test.

Championship Manager Quiz (PC and PSX) is an excellent one- or two-player quick-fire trivia game that will challenge even the most dedicated of football followers.

For your chance to win a football signed by Sven-Goran Eriksson's England squad and a copy of Championship Manager Quiz for the PlayStation, simply answer the following question:

Which of the following teams is NOT in England's 2002 World Cup finals group?

- a) Sweden
- b) Argentina
- c) Italy
- d) Nigeria



Nine runners-up will each receive a copy of the game.

Send your answers on a postcard to Championship Manager Quiz competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by May 1. Usual rules apply.

SHORTS

Loggies pull their weight

EIGHT soldiers from 25 Trg Sp Regt RLC pulled their way to victory in the Army women's indoor tug-of-war championships at Aldershot. The Deepcut-based team, who are coached by WO1 Mark Griffiths, did not lose a single end during the competition.

Scrum on down

THE Army Rugby League are running courses for wannabe referees and coaches this month.

The match officials' course, which is open to all military personnel, will be held at Brompton Barracks, Chatham on April 22-23 and costs £25. The coaching course, which will be held at the same venue on April 24-26, costs £75.

For more information contact SSgt Steve Postlethwaite on mil 94711 4414.

Shuttle-runners

LOGGIES interested in competing in the REME badminton championships at Larkhill on May 9-10 should contact Cpl Danny Mills on mil 9491 46265.

Bonus numbers

THE weekly prize money in the Army Sports Lottery has been increased to £15,500 with a new top prize of £5,500.

FOOTBALL TABLES

MASSEY TROPHY

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
RLC	10	7	2	1	17	23
Infantry	10	5	2	3	2	17
REME	8	4	2	2	18	14
RE	5	4	1	0	13	13
APTC	8	4	1	3	-1	13
Int Corps	7	4	0	3	4	12
AGC	7	3	1	3	-4	10
RA	4	3	0	1	11	9
R Signals	5	2	1	2	3	7
AAC	7	2	1	4	-1	7
RAC	9	1	0	8	-32	3
AMS	9	0	0	9	-30	0

* Results up to and including March 18

NETBALL TABLES

ENGLISH COUNTIES - SOUTH EAST

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Jersey	7	6	0	1	135	31
Oxfordshire	6	6	0	0	144	30
Camb'shire	6	4	0	2	162	24
Norfolk	7	3	0	4	23	19
Army	6	3	0	3	-68	16
East Dorset	6	2	0	4	-56	13
North Bucks	6	1	0	5	-153	7
Isle of Wight	6	0	0	6	-187	2

Royal Navy on red alert

Army prepare to blast away their Twickenham blues

Preview: Roger Thompson

STILL smarting from last year's shock 31-20 defeat, the Army will have just one thing on their mind when they take to the hallowed turf of Twickenham for their Willis Trophy showdown with the Royal Navy on May 4 - revenge.

When the bombardment begins at 3pm, military clichés, watered down with over-usage, will revert to their proper meanings. No quarter given - or expected, no holds barred, no surrender. Heads will be held high in defeat, higher still in victory.

Both teams are strictly Corinthian and, unlike the warm welcomes offered by Oxford and Cambridge, Southern Hemisphere stars cannot be imported each season to boost the rugby and Varsity match revenue.

Each Services player, coach and sponge man is a trained soldier or sailor whose first duty, if maul turns to ruck, is to deploy on operations anywhere in the world.

Indeed, Royal Marines rugby players have already featured prominently in the Afghanistan line-up and three Army caps are currently warming up for the game in the leafy suburbs of Kabul.

For 2002 the Navy are expected to be without the services of Bristol Shoguns and England star Mne Buster Brown (RM), who thrilled the Twickenham crowds throughout the 1990s.

But returning to action will be the mainstays of a formidable dark blue pack, including the lock pairing of Mne Dale Cross (RM) and Mne Frazer Pearson (RM), who together with seasoned props PO(R) Nick Bartlett (HMS Excellent) and AEM Dan Parkes (HMS Heron) will test the Army at close range.

In the back row veteran SSgt Bob Armstrong (RM) at number six and Cpl Andy Perry (RM) at number eight will spearhead the trademark charges into the Army defences.

The Army will be desperate to reverse last year's defeat, a match which they



Picture: Graeme Main

insist they gave away. Up front the pack will be strengthened by the return of current Scottish tight head prop Cpl Mattie Stewart (PWRR) and his Northampton Saints partner Cpl Chris Budgen (RWF).

At lock Gnr Lee Soper (7 Para RHA) is paired with Cpl Andy Smith (RLC), who is again fired up after a spell in rugby-free Kosovo. The back row will comprise of recent England Sevens cap Gnr Andy Dawling (7 Para RHA) and almost any two Fijians permed from ten.

Pte Apolesi Satala (1 RS), a Fiji cap at number eight, is likely to be paired with Gdsm Alfred Vakackavanua (1 SG) another Fiji Sevens cap and Hong Kong Sevens medal winner.



Capped: Gnr Andy Dawling

Flashback: Capt Howard Graham (AGC) wades through a sea of blue at Twickenham in 2001

In the backs, the Middlesex Sevens' player of the tournament, Capt Howard Graham (AGC), will lead with Twickenham experience on both his left and right.

Pte Kite Bavadra (1 RS) is built in the Jonah Lomu mould while Cpl Frankie Green (RE) is looking to renew his battle with naval surgeon James Phillips.

Maybe the most exciting newcomer to the Twickenham experience will be Pte Emosi Naisaramaki (1 RS), who was capped by Fiji at the Durban Sevens last December.

Under coach Maj Andy Hickling (R Signals), Emosi is starting to do for the Army what Jason Robinson does for England - and that's more than a little bit exciting.

There are no favourites for this game.

Engaging the enemy at close quarters is the red meat of probably the most exhilarating match of the year at Twickenham. Fitness, courage, team work and point

blank dedication to victory are the hallmarks of both teams, who will attack and counter attack to the final whistle.

To put it another way: try telling either pack when they are 15 points down with five minutes to go that they are not in a winning situation.

● Don't miss out on the action. Tickets are priced at £15 (adults) and £7 (children) and can be ordered by calling the ticket hotline on 01252 334415.

Discounts for families and schools are available.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to April...

ANGLING: 19-20 - Inter-group shore challenge match (Dover).

ATHLETICS: 10 - Army duathlon championships (TBC); 13 - Bruggen ten-mile road race (Javelin Barracks); 14 - London Marathon: Inter-Services championships (London); 24 - 5 Div/AGC/Army novice triathlon championships (Bovington); 28 - National duathlon championships (Swindon).

BASKETBALL: 12 - Caister tournament (Yarmouth); 20 - Army v Camberley (Aldershot).

BOXING: 5 - ABA (England) senior finals (London); 9-11 - Army individual novice championships (Aldershot).

EQUITATION: 3 - Tri-service one-day event (Milton Mowbray).

FOOTBALL: 1 - Liverpool Academy v Army development (TBC); 1-2 - TA tour of British Army (Germany); 5 - R Signals v AMS (Blandford); Int Corps v AGC (Chick-sands); APTC v RA (Hermitage); 6 - Army Crusaders FC v Corinthian Casuals (Aldershot); 10 - Women's six-a-side competition (Aldershot); REME Junior Craftsman's Cup final (Arborfield); RA Cup semi-finals (Woolwich); 12 - RA Cup final (Woolwich); 14 - RLC v RLC TA (Deepcut); 15 - Navy v Army development (TBC); 17 - Minor Units Challenge Cup final (Aldershot); Combined Services v Netherlands Armed Forces (RAF Uxbridge); 18 - Army women v Navy women (Aldershot); 19 - REME v AAC (Arborfield); 20 - Army Crusaders FC v Intelligence Corps; 21 - Army youth v Army U21s (TBC); 24 - Army Challenge Cup final (Aldershot); 25 - RAF women v Army women (Away); 27 - Army v Jersey (Aldershot), Army development v Army Senior/Youth; 29 - Army v Guernsey (Aldershot).

HOCKEY: 16-17 - Army inter-unit cup semi-finals/final (Aldershot); 24-26 - Inter-corps championships (Aldershot).

LAWN TENNIS: 6 - Army women v Bourne Club (Aldershot); Men's veterans v 45 Club (Aldershot); 27 - Inter-corps indoor championships (Aldershot).

NETBALL: 20-21 - Inter-counties tournament (Middlesbrough).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 29 - Army v Civil Service (TBC).

RUGBY UNION: 3 - Pontypool v Army (Away); 10 - Army v RAF (TBC); 17 - Welsh Districts v Army (Away); 19 - 4 Div inter-unit Sevens competition (Aldershot); 24 - Army v Henley (Aldershot).

SHINTY: 6 - The Highlanders v Glasgow Mid Argyll (Home); 13 - The Highlanders v Ballachulish (Home); 20 - The Highlanders v St Andrews University (Home); 27 - The Highlanders v Edinburgh University (Home).

SHOOTING: 15 - Army championships (Bisley); 30 - Inter-Services short range championships (TBC).

SURFING: 14-21 - Beginners' course (RAF St Mawgan).

SQUASH: 12 - Major and minor unit finals (Aldershot).

TENNIS: 7 - Army v Hatfield (Pangbourne). TUG OF WAR: 28 - Jack Smith memorial competition (TBC).

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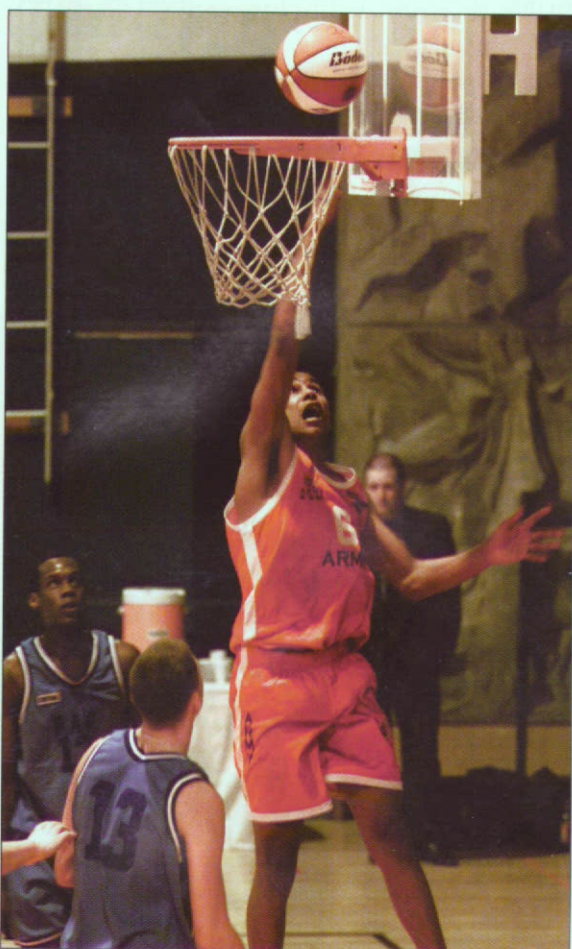
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Triple jumpers



Picture: Andy Cargill

Three wins on the bounce for Army's best

ANY concerns that head coach WO2 Nick Johnson (APTC) had over the readiness of his squad for the Naafi-sponsored Inter-Services basketball championships at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham proved to be greatly misplaced.

For the first time in five years the Army made a clean sweep of the trophies on offer, winning the men's, women's and under-23 competitions, despite having their preparations for the annual tournament hampered by a string of injuries.

There were certainly no signs of stiff limbs during the Army's opening round of games against the Royal Navy. All three of Johnson's teams eased to victory and in doing so set up a hat-trick of title deciders against the Royal Air Force.

The Army under-23 side then laid the foundations for the treble with a comfortable 77-50 victory over their RAF counterparts. Team captain Tpr Tom Parker (KRH), in outstanding form, was instrumental in clawing back an

early 19-14 points deficit, while Pte Clayton Milner (RLC) and Cfn Ben Wathey (REME) controlled proceedings throughout from point guard.

The women's route to the silverware was not quite as easy. Indeed, trailing by five points with just 50 seconds left on the clock, and with the influential Cpl Bev Bates (AGC) fouled out, hopes of a second Army trophy had all but evaporated.

However, a three-point shot from Cpl Vikki Wales (RLC), followed by a match-saving basket from LCpl Gina Bailey (RAVC) in the dying seconds, tied the scores and sent the fixture into overtime.

SSgt Sue Blake (APTC) then added to the RAF's disappointment by scoring two breakaway baskets during the opening minute of the extra period. Visibly deflated, the RAF never recovered and the match finished 43-38 in the Army's favour.

With the double completed, focus then turned to the men's final and the Army, captained by WO2 Neil Tolson (REME), did not disappoint. Spurred on by the scoring exploits of Thames Valley Tigers star Sgt Carl Black (AGC), the Warriors never looked like surrendering an early lead and pulled away to an impressive 89-75 victory.

Star man: Pte Clayton Milner (RLC) in action against the RAF

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

ATHLETICS: Army cross country finals, Minor-Unit championships – 1, Cdo Log A (395pts); 2, HQ 4 Div & ASPT (443pts); 3, 9 Para (687pts); 4, 24 Regt RLC (738pts); 5, 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (922pts); 6, BFPO Mill Hill (1,235pts); 7, F Coy Sg (1,236pts).

Major-Unit championships – 1, 3 (CS) Regt RLC (172pts); 2, 3 (UK) ADSR (378pts); 3, 3 R Irish (417pts); 4, 11 Sig Regt (558pts); 5, SEME (585pts); 6, 1 R Anglian (620pts); 7, 21 Sig Regt (865pts); 8, 39 Regt RA (926pts); 9, 14 Regt RA (1,175pts); 10, ARRC (1,218pts); 11, 4 R Irish (1,251pts).

Individual championship winners, junior men's – JS Matthew Nichol (AFC Harrogate). **Senior men's** – LCpl Philip Hinch (3 (CS) Regt RLC). **Veteran men's** – SSgt Dave Wright (3 (UK) ADSR). **Junior women's** – Pte Lisa Marie Richardson (29 Regt RLC). **Senior women's** – 2nd Lt Joanna Kelsey (3 (CS) Regt RLC). **Veteran women's** – Capt Melanie Bailey (33 Fd Hosp).

CLIMBING: Army bouldering championships, men's – 1, Capt Graham Carter (ITC Catterick); 2, Lt Mark Stevenson (SEME); 3, 2nd Lt Neil Clements (21 Sig Regt). **Women's** – 1, 2nd Lt Katie Birmingham (14 Sig Regt); 2, Lt Carolynne Young (19 Regt RA). **Under-21 men's** – 1, Sig Robin Hill (19 MBSS); 2, Cfn Shane Rogers (8 Tpt Regt RLC); 3, Cfn Niall Sullivan (SEME). **Veteran men's** – 1, Capt Kev Edwards (APTC).

FOOTBALL: Army 1 Fire Service 2; Civil Service 0 Army 0; Army 3 Cornwall 1; Army 1 Gloucester 1.

Massey Trophy – Infantry 5 AAC 3; RAC 0 Int Corps 3; REME 0 RLC 1; RA 2 RLC 3; AMS 1 APTC 2; AGC 1 Infantry 4; AMS 0 REME 6.

JUDO: Army team championships – 1, 1 RGBW; 2, 2 PWRR; 3, Para band and R Irish.

Individual men's winners, under-60kg –

OCdt Douglas Bewley (Welbeck College). **Under-66kg** – LCpl Roger Woods (3 RSME). **Under-73kg** – Sig Anthony Moore (11 Sig Regt). **Under-81kg** – Cpl Mark Joynes (7 Air Asslt Bn). **Under-90kg** – Lt Simon Childs (1 RGBW). **Under-100kg** – Cpl Andrew Limbrick (7 Para RHA). **Over-100kg** – Pte Iphraim Fisher (1 RGBW). **Open** – Lt Childs. **Veteran's** – Cpl Pete Conroy (Royal Gibraltar Regiment).

Individual women's winners, under-70kg – LCpl Cat Richards (174 RMP). **Under-78kg** – OCdt Lauren Slater (Welbeck College). **Over-78kg** – Pte Stephanie Hart (8 Inf Bde). **Open** – Pte Hart.

NETBALL: Army 48 Isle of Wight 34; Army 26 Norfolk 60; Army 30 Jersey 51.

TENNIS: Army indoor championships, men's final – Maj Nigel Watts (AAC) beat Cpl Jamie Friend (RLC) 6-1, 6-2. **Women's final** – Lt Nell Mead (RAMC) beat Maj Zoe Chadderton (RLC) 6-2, 6-1.

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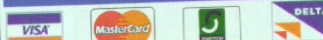
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Salt Lake seven



TEAM GB returned home from Salt Lake City last month with Britain's best Winter Olympic medal haul for 66 years, a gold and two bronze.

Among the jubilant team, which has since been rocked by the news that slalom skier Alain Baxter may be stripped of his bronze medal after failing a drugs test, were seven Army athletes. *Soldier* takes a look at how the Army's Salt Lake seven fared...



Olympians: Cpl Jason Sklenar, left, and Sgt Mike Dixon (both 35 Engineer Regiment)

BIATHLON: Sgt Mike Dixon (35 Engr Regt), Cpl Jason Sklenar (35 Engr Regt), Cpl Mark Gee (2 RTR), LCpl Hugh Pritchard (HAC)

THE all-Army team failed to record the top-of-the-field finish they had hoped for in an event dominated by Norway's Ole Einar Bjoerndalen. While the Norwegian celebrated a clean-sweep of four gold medals, Britain, who finished last in the team relay, recorded their best result in the men's 20km sprint – Cpl Jason Sklenar justifying his late inclusion in the squad with a 48th-place finish.

Britain's poor showing will have come as a bitter disappointment to Olympic veteran Sgt Mike Dixon, who announced his retirement from biathlon before the Games and had hoped to bow out of the sport with a medal.

Dixon's best result in Salt Lake City, 74th, came in the 10km sprint – a far cry from his Olympic best, a 12th-place finish at Albertville in 1992.

However, the 39-year-old Scot's sixth consecutive Olympics was not without its highlights. Simon Clegg, Chef de Mission for Team GB, explained: "Mike became the first British

athlete in the history of the modern Olympic Games to carry the flag at three opening ceremonies, summer or winter.

"This honour matches his unique achievement of becoming the first British Winter Olympian to compete in six Games."

◆ **Results summary, Men's 4x7.5km relay:** Gold – Norway (Hanevold, Andersen, Gjelland, Bjoerndalen). Silver – Germany (Gross, Sendel, Fischer, Luck). Bronze – France (Marguet, Defrasne, Robert, Poiree). 19 – Great Britain (Sklenar, Gee, Dixon, Pritchard).

Men's 10km sprint: Gold – Norway (Ole Einar Bjoerndalen). Silver – Germany (Sven Fischer). Bronze – Austria (Wolfgang Perner). 71 – Great Britain (Cpl Jason Sklenar). 72 – Great Britain (Cpl Mark Gee). 74 – Great Britain (Sgt Mike Dixon). 86 – Chile (Carlos Varas).

Men's 20km sprint: Gold – Norway (Einar Bjoerndalen). Silver – Germany (Frank Luck). Bronze – Russia (Victor Maigourov). 48 – Great Britain (Sklenar). 79 – Great Britain (Dixon). 81 – Great Britain (Gee). 86 – Chile (Carlos Varas).

MEN'S BOBSLEIGH: LCpl Neil Scarisbrick (1 RTR), Cpl Dean Ward (2 Para)

OLYMPIC debutante LCpl Neil Scarisbrick proved his international pedigree by steering the GB 1 four-man bobsled into 11th position, and the GB 2 two-man sled into the top 25 at the Utah Olympic Park.

The team that pushed Scarisbrick to within 1.63sec of a medal in the four-man event included Cpl Dean Ward.

Now retired from the international circuit, Ward was part of the crew that pushed Sgt Sean Olsson (1 Para) to bronze at Nagano four years ago – Britain's only medal in the 1998 Games.

◆ **Results summary, four-man final:** Gold – Ger-

many (Lange, Kuehn, Kuske, Embache). Silver – United States 1 (Hays, Jones, Schuffenhauer, Hines). Bronze – United States 2 (Shimer, Kohn, Sharp, Steele). 11 – Great Britain 1 (Scarisbrick, Rider, Goodluck, Ward). 14 – Great Britain 2 (Johnston, Harries, McCalla, Attwood). 29 – Taiwan (Chin-San Chen, Chien-Li Chen, Lin, Chien-Sheng Chen).

Two-man final: Gold – Germany 1 (Langen, Zimmermann). Silver – Switzerland 1 (Reich, Anderhub). Bronze – Switzerland 2 (Annen, Hefti). 10 – Great Britain 1 (Johnston, Adam). 22 – Great Britain 2 (Scarisbrick, Bryce). 37 – Trinidad and Tobago (Sun, Aguilar).

WOMEN'S BOBSLEIGH: Pte Jackie Davies (3(UK) Div Sig Regt)

ARMY track athlete Pte Jackie Davies, left, gave the British selectors something to think about during the close season by powering Cpl Michelle Coy (RAF) in the GB 2 sled into 11th place in the inaugural women's Olympic bobsleigh event, one place ahead of GB 1 team-mates Cheryl Done and Nicola Gautier.

"It is fantastic to be able to say that I have

competed in the Olympics," she said. "We're pleased that we beat GB 1, although we don't want to gloat too much."

◆ **Results summary, two-woman final:** Gold – United States 2 (Bakken, Vonetta). Silver – Germany 1 (Prokoff, Holzner). Bronze – Germany 2 (Erdmann, Herschmann). 11 – Great Britain 2 (Coy, Davies). 12 – Great Britain 1 (Done, Gautier). 15 – Romania (Kovacs, Spiesescu).

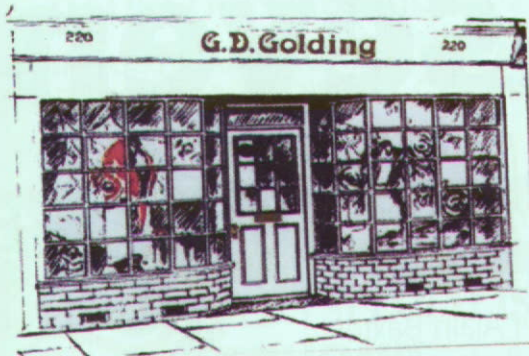




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February issue (No 723): First correct entry drawn was from Mr I A Donald, of Halstead, Essex, who wins £100. Runners-up Mr E Hamm, of Wokingham, Berks, and Mr D Ward, of Penarth, S Glamorgan, each win a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: cloud; troopship's mast; right-hand derrick; port below bridge; cable at bow; lorry sidelight; first soldier's hackle; second soldier's rucksack; sergeant's stripes; right-hand soldier's pouch.



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OUR prize for the February competition, left, goes to Norman Fisher from DLO Andover for "Now I've got the lawn mower off the truck, how do I turn it upside down to cut the grass?"


We also liked "In view of current financial limitations, the AAC was pleased to report that the latest amphibious ops exercise on board HMS Flatbed Truck had been a complete success" from the team at Lynx IPT, RNAS Yeovilton (who should know); "After

losing the shell of his helicopter in a freak gust, the pilot's only excuse was to blame the cookhouse curry from the night before" from Sgt M Parmenter RADC, Dental Centre, Osnabrück; "Despite rigorous trials, the Hellfire missile backblast effect on the Apache airframe was still worrying test pilots" from Capt O'Rourke, 721 Sqn, 11 EOD Regt;



"To avoid friendly fire, the recce aircraft was taking no chances with vehicle recognition" from Lt Jones, 22 Engr Regt; and, on a historical tack, "Gawd Almighty, here comes bloody Bleriot" from Ron Ashbridge of Richmond, Yorks.

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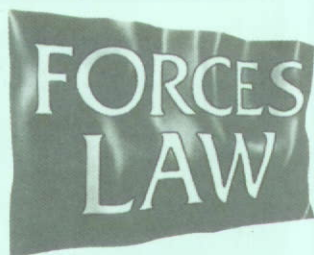


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Carrie, (35), 5'6" brunette with blue eyes. Enjoys music, cinema, bowling, socialising, ice hockey and travelling. Seeking tall, honest and genuine pen pals, 33-38, photo appreciated. P055

Belinda, (21), 5'4", slim blonde with blue/green eyes. Enjoys writing letters, swimming, walking, cinema, music, pubs, eating out, driving and meeting new people. No time wasters please, photo preferred. P056

Janet, (43), divorced, no children. Very GSOH (some say wicked), medium build, short hair, caring and sincere. Works in finance, totally faithful, dependent and worth coming home for. Enjoys most sports and cosy nights in around the fire and frosty mornings out. Seeking pen pals with similar interests, 40-45. P057

Amy, (16), 5'7", slim blonde. Enjoys music, dancing, writing poetry and surfing the net. Loves writing and exchanging ideas and will reply to all letters. Seeking pen pals, 16-20. P058

Tara, (27), 5ft, brown/red hair and blue eyes. Enjoys music, cinema, walking and having a good time. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P059

Mandy, (41), 5'2", curvy blonde with blue eyes. Extrovert with GSOH. Enjoys 80s music, TV soaps, ten-pin bowling, eating out and the occasional drink. Enjoyable job as a night administrator in busy transport office, which limits social life. Seeking pen pals, 35-50. P060

Kimberley, (31), 5'11", long dark hair with blue/grey eyes. Enjoys books, films, wildlife, walking, fishing, family and home-making. Seeking honest and well-mannered pen pals, 30-40. P061

Karen, (32), 5ft, short dark brown hair with brown eyes. Enjoys PC, Playstation, cycling, crosswords, Man United, writing letters, cinema and ten-pin bowling. Seeking pen pals, 28+. P062

English Rose, (31), brunette, slim, single mum. Legal secretary in City US law firm, seeks kind, broad-minded pen pal with GSOH. P063

Samantha, (23), 5'6" with blonde hair. Enjoys watching videos, eating out and having loads of fun. Seeking single male soldier pen pal and will reply to all letters, 20-30. P064

Jane, (37), young attractive strawberry blonde with blue eyes. Single parent, working and enjoys pubs, eating out, music and holidays. Outgoing personality, GSOH, honest and caring. Seeking pen pals, 28+. P065

Clare, (32), 5'6", blonde with green eyes. Enjoys keeping fit, cinema and dining out. Seeking pen pals, 27-35. P066

Single mum (36), one child, looking for genuine male pen friends. Her passion is motor sports. Seeking pen pal of any age group. P067

Rachel, (28), 5'4" single mum with blonde hair. Enjoys clubs and pubs. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P068

Lyndsey, (25), 5'1", dark hair and blue eyes. Enjoys pubs and clubs. Single mum seeking pen pals of any age group. P069

Nina, (16), 5'6", slim, dark blonde hair with green eyes. Caring with GSOH. Enjoys music, keeping fit, cinema, socialising, reading and the Army - hoping to join in the future. Seeking pen pals with GSOH and will respond to all letters, 16-20. P070

Jill, (31), brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys walking, driving, cinema, watching TV, going out with friends, writing letters, meeting new and different people. Would like to receive letters from soldiers with very interesting lives, 25-35. P071

Susan, (47), 5'3", slim, brown hair and big blue eyes. Enjoys art, music, guitar, pubs and films. Fun loving and GSOH. Seeking pen pals who are sincere, genuine male soldiers, 35-65. P072

Christine, (37), 5'5", slim with brown hair and brown eyes. Divorced with two children aged 10 and 19. Enjoys clubs, pubs, horse riding, feng shui, cinema, walking, freedom and travelling abroad with friends, shopping and parties. Seeking pen pal of any age. All replies will be answered. P072

Stephen, (25), 5'3", black hair and brown eyes. Enjoys music, military history, science fiction, pubs, clubs and the cinema. Seeking pen pals with GSOH, 18-30. P074

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Gulf coast Florida (Bradenton Sarasolooa) condo for rent, sleeps four. Pool, tennis court and golf, two min. from mall. £175 per week. Tel. 01292-265005 04/02

NORWAY: forty miles north of Kristiansand, Ex gunner has log cabins for hire in the beautiful Setesdal valley. Own rowboat next to lake. Fishing-rafting-climbing-canoeing. From £6.50 per person per night. Tel: 0047 379 31132, email: briandes@frisurf.no Web: www.destination.setesdalnett.com 05/02

FLORIDA, Kissimmee, Orlando, three-bedroom, two bathroom, villa with own private heated pool. Sleeps up to eight, 15 mins Disney. From £325 per week. Call 01440-707176. Email: ladypea200@aol.com Web: www.floridavilla.com 05/03

CYPRUS: Limassol Bungalow - Larnaca Flat. Sleeps four, near beach/town, from £125.00 per week. Tel: 020 8505 6855 e-mail: dmc28peel@tiscali.co.uk 07/02

To advertise in Soldier's Web Watch:
advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk or
telephone 01252 347352

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

02 February 2002

1st Place (23 Goals, £5300.00): Capt N Owsnett, QRL, Osnabruck
3-way tie for 2nd Place (22 Goals, £2033.33 each): WO1 RW Fyfe, 1 IG, Munster; Cpl PR Hutchinson, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gutersloh; Lt Z Sly, 32 Regt RA, Larkhill
17-way tie for 5th prize (21 Goals, £217.65 each): WO1 PD Blinkhorn, 7 MI Coy, Rheindahlen; Capt GPJ Blunden, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabruck; Sgt S Brittain, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; LCpl K Clark, LD, Swanton Morley; LCpl AJ Field, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; Maj R Hopton, 1 RGR, Brunel; Sgt AR Horsfall, 5 Regt AAC, Aldergrove; Bdr BJ Howarth, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; Capt C Hunt, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich; LCpl A Mackay, RMAS, Sandhurst; Cpl JA McCormick, 55 Trg Sqn RE, Minley; Sgt J McLean, 35 Engr Regt, Paderborn; WO2 A Murray, SEME, Bordon; Gdsm JB Rutt, 1 Gren Gds, Windsor; Cpl R Slater, 2 Regt RMP, Lisburn; CSgt RA Steele, RMAS, Sandhurst; Sgt EK Watson, 14 Signal Regt (EV), Brawdy;

09 February 2002
1st Place (26 Goals, £5300.00): Sgt I Mitchell, 25 Engr Regt, Antrim
4-way tie for 2nd Place (25 Goals, £1800.00 each): LCpl LA Harris, 1 Staffords, Tidworth; WO2 KD Lowe, HQ Dhekelia Garrison; Sgt CB Munro, 1 Staffords, Tidworth; LCpl SD Pemberton, HQ Dulmen Stn
9-way tie for 6th prize (24 Goals, £288.89 each): Maj DAJ Allen, Scots DG, Fallingbostal; Sgt T Boyle, 1 QLR, Catterick; Cpl SJ Emm, 3 RSME Regt, Minley; Sgt SR Ireland, 16 Signal Regt, Rheindahlen; Sgt YL

Jones, Royal Sch of Signals, Blandford; SSgt W Pomfret, UKSU Heidelberg; Cpl GR Taylor, 93 Pet Sqn RLC, West Moors; Sgt JR Treverrow, Kings Troop RHA, NW8 6PT; Pte AJ Wilce, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate

16 February 2002

2-way Tie for 1st Place (23 Goals, £3950.00): Cpl JA Laker, 7 Para RHA, Aldershot; Sgt P Thompson, SEME, Bordon
11-way tie for 3rd Place (22 Goals, £654.55 each): Lt Col GTE Banner, MOD DIGI TILS; Sgt IS Bewick, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; Maj SJ Cartwright, 1 RHF, Fort George; Cpl GA Cummings, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn; WO2 MR Dale, 11 Signal Regt, Blandford; SSgt G Drew, 39 Engr Regt, Cambridge; Cpl ST Evans, 8 Tpt Regt RLC, Catterick; Cpl PW Harden, 1 CS Med Regt, Munster; Capt JJS Lane, RDG, Munster; Bdr AJ Sharples, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Cpl GD Zelnis, HQ UKSC (G), Rheindahlen

23 February 2002

5-way Tie for 1st Place (19 Goals, £2500.00): Cpl MJ Cooper, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Brig GR Coward, MOD CDS; WO2 MR Flather, 16 Signal Regt Rheindahlen; Maj M Palmer, HQ NI, Lisburn; Maj LFM Swinyard-Bain, 34 AEC, Rheindahlen
26-way tie for 6th Place (18 Goals, £100.00 each): Sgt DF Adams, JSSU (A), Ayios Nikolaos; LBdr C Addington, Kings Tp RHA; Capt MJ Annis, ATR Bassingbourn; Cpl JV Bartlett, SEAE, Arborfield; Cpl G Boyle, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; Cpl C Byrne, RDG, Munster; LCpl A

Christie, 1 Hldrs, Edinburgh; SSgt AR Clark, HQ CLU, RAF Akrotiri; SSgt MJ Coughlan, 2 Bn REME, Fallingbostal; Cpl AL Davies, QRL, Osnabruck; Sgt CH Ducker, Warminster Sp Unit; Sgt JAG Finn, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; Sgt D Fisher, 17 Cdt Trg Team, Worthy Down; WO2 SN Howe, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Maj G Howells, RWR, CF14 3YE; LCpl GF Morini, 651 (AHF) Sqn AAC, Middle Wallop; Cpl MS Murray, 7 Air Asslt Bn REME, Wattisham; Capt DM Oak, HQ 42 (NW) Bde, Preston; Sgt RD Parry, HQ 4 Armd Bde, Osnabruck; Capt GWH Patterson, 24 CTT, Edinburgh; Maj JD Reilly, Army Dog Unit NI, Ballykelly; Cfn D Rose, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; WO2 M Ross, 1 RWR, Paderborn; WO2 DT Stafford, 2 RRF, LE15 8RL; Spr LP Thomson, 3 RSME Regt, Minley; Cpl WPM Wright, ATR Pirbright

02 March 2002

1st Place (25 Goals, £5300.00): Cpl B Mills, 22 Engr Regt, Andover
3-way tie for 2nd Place (24 Goals, £2033.33 each): Gnr C Lambert, 19 Regt RA, Colchester; Cpl Lloyd, 25 Engr Regt, Antrim; SSgt JM Speed, SEAE, Arborfield
8-way tie for 5th Place (23 Goals, £462.50 each): Sgt B Appleton, RAC Centre Regt, Bovington; Cpl M Carter, 7 Air Asslt Bn REME, Wattisham; WO1 AD Downes, DLO Andover, ICSS IPT, Andover; Lt Col CJ Finch, DPA, Abbey Wood; SSgt JA Pollitt, 36 Signal Regt; Capt PD Rennie, 1 BW, Fallingbostal; Gdsm G Stafford-Tolley, 1 Gren Gds, Windsor; SSgt AJ Williams, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham.

SERVICES

Post Box Pals pen pal service. For more information send a SAE to Post Box Pals, PO Box 8469, Birmingham B33 9BW UK. 09/02

PEN PALS

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DETAILS: SAE, LINKLINE(S), BOX 7358, LONDON N1-5QF

SPORTS

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TEL: (561) 388 0550 - FAX: (561) 581 4468
Email: skydiveMik@aol.com www.fadventures.com

NOTICES

Charity Commission CHY-1161C Reference: 161553/AFC

The Royal Green Jackets Newdegate Charity/Officers Fund/Consolidated Charitable Fund

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of these charities. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at: Regimental Headquarter, The Royal Green Jackets, Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants SO23 8TS.

or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from 1st April 2002.

Charity Commission CHY-1161D Reference: SJH/26221/AFC

The 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas (The Simoor Rifles) Regimental Trust.

The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at: The Gurkha Museum, Winchester.

or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>

Charity Commission CHY-1161D Reference: SM/195194

The Army Medical Services Central Fund

The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Headquarters Royal Army Medical Corps, Headquarters Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Headquarters Royal Army Dental Corps and Headquarters Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps

or can be obtained by sending a stamped envelope to Armed Forces Charities, The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference or by visiting our website at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>

PRIZE MONEY NOW
£15,500 per week
The prize money in the Army Sports Lottery has now gone up to £15,500 per week with a top prize of £5,500. Tickets cost 75p each per week which will be deducted monthly from your pay.

DYFED ARMY CADET FORCE MURRAY ST LLANELLI SA15 1BQ

A vacancy for a Cadet Quartermaster will become available in May 2002. A full job description will be sent upon application to:

The Office Manager, RFCA for Wales, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF14 3YE
Tel: 029 20 220251 Ext.21 or 27 Fax: 029 20 224828
Email: info@rfca-wales.org.uk

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REUNIONS

Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry: Old comrades invited to attend annual reunion, April 6 at the TA Centre, Wigan. Ring 01942 248882 for details.

League of Friends, Royal Welch Fusiliers: 33rd annual reunion dinner for Sgts' Mess past, present and attached, April 13, Metropole, Llandridnod Wells. Details from secretary Bob Bacon on 01704 894926.

Lancashire Fusiliers/RRF Gallipoli: Parade and reunion ball, Castle Armoury, Bury and Bury Town Hall, April 27-28. Tickets from Lt Col E Davidson on 0161 705 1577.

Huntley's Platoon, Kent ACF: Reunion May 3 at 1700 at The Kelsey Arms, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells. Tel 01892 543150 (Tue eve) or trainingteam@kacf.fsnet.co.uk

Black Watch Association (Midlands Branch): Annual dinner dance on May 11 at the Highland Suite, Trenham Gardens. Further details by telephoning F Bailey 01782 280912.

Combined Cavalry Old Comrades: 78th annual parade and service on May 12 at Hyde Park, London (assemble 1030). Ring 0207 414 5233 for details.

201 RCZ Workshop (V) 31, Joint Mess: Reunion on May 17-18 in Coventry area for former officers, SNCOs and families. Details from R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP or tel 0151 9284493.

Glosters, R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW: Regimental association reunion, May 18-19, at Devizes. Details on 01722 414536.

Glosters, R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW: Reunion to be held on July 13-14 at Salisbury. Ring 01722 414536 for details.

RGBW/Glosters: Reunion of WO's and Sgts' Mess (past and present) July 20 at The Moat House Hotel, Gloucester. Call Tim Godden on 01453 835019 or tim_godden@lineone.net

3 Para Bn Gp (Op Corporate): Reunion to be held on May 24 at Colchester. Details from OC HQ Coy, 3 Para, Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, CO2 7TB (tel 01206 783366).

Queen's Royal Regiment and associated regiments: Reunion dinner June 1, Farnham Drill Hall, Surrey. Contact Stuart Browning, 8 Littleford Lane, Shamley Green, Guildford GU5 0RH or tel 01483 892474.

30 Signal Regiment 1982: Reunion on June 15 at Blandford Camp for anyone who served with unit at any time during 1982. Call 01258 482202/485651 or e-mail IA5@dei.mod.uk

Amphibious Bombardment Association: Reunion and open day, June 15 (starts 1000). Bar and curry lunch. ABA members and ex-NGS wishing to attend should contact CRS Jepson on 01202 20 2276.

R Anglian (Beds and Herts Regt Association): Reunion, dinner and dance for all former members, June 22 at Castle Hall, Hertford. Ring John Baggaridge on 01234 294853.

Royal Engineers Rifle Association: 1st Past and Present Dinner, Methuen Day, June 26.

For all ranks who have represented the corps at shooting or gained a place in the Army 100. Wives, partners welcome. Bring your shooting photos for inclusion in corps gallery. Details from Capt M C Camp on 01252 863370.

Final Junior Leaders RAC, Bovington, July 1992-93: Reunion at Beeches Family Club, Bulford July 13 for all JLS, staff and families. Adam Dymocks, 30 Hampshire Close, Bulford SP4 9HL, tel 01980 553259 or e-mail dymocks@ntlworld.com

Bailleul WO's and Sgts' Mess REME Diamond Jubilee: Summer function July 5 is part of weekend activities. For details and returns contact WO2 (CSM) Wright 01189 763650.

Infantry Boys/Junior Leaders' Battalion, 1950s-70s: Eighth annual reunion on Oct 12, Royal Rifle Vols Trg Centre, Milton Keynes for all who served at Tuxford, Harrogate, Plymouth, Oswestry or Shorncliffe. SAE for details to H Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pen-tyrch, Cardiff CF15 9QQ or 02920 891274.

56 Signal Squadron (V), Eastbourne: Freedom of Eastbourne parade, reunion dinner, July 13. Details: PSAO, 56 Sqn Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne BN22 0TQ.

SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

Operation Flashpoint Gold Edition (Jan) Winners: J Cole, London; Cpl Straker, BFPO 15; S Day, BFPO 40; S Keats, BFPO 22; K Renicor, Harrogate (Answer: Red Hammer).

Sealskinz Long Light Socks (January) Winners: T Bright, Bristol; Cpl A Smith, South Cerney; 227 Pte D Mason, Waterlooville; M Marriott, Winchester; MTune, Hull; 527 LCpl Gibbons, BFPO 559 (Answer: Leopard Seal).

Firesteel (Feb) Winners: OCdt T H Houghton Oxford; Suzanne Eaton, Croydon; L Graves, Carlisle; Sgt I McKnight, York; WO1 N Trigg BFPO 559; Cpl C Pilling, Catterick; LCpl L G Davies, Didcot; Z Sloan, Newtownards; R Windle, Hull; J Mumford, Balloch (Answer: magnesium).

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers: M Huntley to be Dir Support Ops (LAND), Jan 28; T G Inshaw to be Comd/Chief Comms 1(UK) Sig Bde HQ ARRC, Jan 31; D R F F Innes to be Engr-in-Chief, Feb 9; A R Gregory to be Comd RA 1 (UK) Div, Feb 11; A J Faith to be Dep Mil Sec APC, Feb 18; M S Vine to be Dep Comd London Area, Feb 18.

Colonels: R Watt to be Project Dir PJHQ (UK), Jan 28; P R Sharland to be DA Kathmandu, Jan 29; I M McCord to be Asst Dir Requirements and Plans HQ AFPA, Feb 4; J F Rouse to be Comd ES 1 (UK) Div, Feb 4; I J Bayless to be Comd AD HQ Land, Feb 4; C H D Darell to be Col AFV Trg HQ Dir RAC, Feb 4; M C Wardley to be Nato Def College Rome, Feb 15; M P Dodson to be Col MS(A), Feb 12; N C D Lithgow to be COS UNMO Sierra Leone, Feb 18; P J King to be COS MND(SW), Feb 20; D J R Martin to be Dep Comd BRITFOR Kosovo, Feb 21; R J Stovell to be Fin Cont HQ ARRC, Feb 21.

Lieutenant Colonels: S I Andrews, R Signals, to D Pol Plans, Jan 14; B J Bathurst WG

SEARCHLINE

1 Green Howards: Nick "Big Nose" Kendall is keen to hear from old mates. Replies to him at nickck1@hotmail.com

9/12th L, B Sqn and MT 1980-87, Kevin "Flo" Lawrence seeks old contacts. E-mail him at kevin_lawrenceuk@yahoo.co.uk

Former mates of ex-LCpl John Houghton, ACC 1970-92, invited to celebrate his 50th birthday. Please contact John's son Peter at pj@houghtonp.freemove.co.uk.

The military history of Alfred Ellingham, ex-63 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, 1942-46, is being researched by his grandson. Any information to mark@calaz.fsnet.co.uk

Dave Pollock, ex-2 RMP Berlin 1987-90, last heard of in NY State, sought by Tony Payne, ex-2 RMP, tony-di@eelsie.freemove.co.uk

George (Scotty) Allan, ex-Junior Leaders Regiment RA and 16 ADR RA, Soest 1970s, is seeking anyone from either unit. Contact george.keeper@virgin.net

Bereaved daughter seeks information on the late **Anthony David Armitage, York and Lancs 1949-50,** believed to have later transferred to **Paras.** Bryony Pester, c/o 62 Westcott Road, Wokingham RG40 2ES.

Escapees from German prison camp **No 78 Fonte d'Amore, Sulmona, Sept 1943,** who received aid from **Michele Del Greco,** who was later executed. Contact Raffaella Del Greco, via Roberto Alessandri 24, 00151 Rome, Italy, (tel 0039 06 58200058).

Ex-159 Colenso Battery: To appear on contacts data base send your details to Sgt Dave Sumner, 159 Colenso Bty, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113 or davine949@hotmail.com

Sgt Frank Chambers, ex-1 RRF would like to hear from **Fus W (Nutt) Almond** and **Fus Harry Sharp,** whom he served with pre-Second World War. Contact C Crane, Chief Clerk, RHQ, RRF, HM Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB or 0207 488 5609.

to NEPG, Jan 21; T J Blad RE to DGD&D, Apr 26; R V J Brannigan, R Signals, to RSS, Sep 14; C W Brawn RA to RSU, Mar 18; J J Brown RLC to HQ Land, Apr 15; M W Burdick RA to T&E Ranges, Jun 10; P R Burns AGC (SSP) to JHQ North, Mar 4; H N S Colborn, R Signals, to HQ SOINC(A), May 7; D J Collins RLC to BLO (USA), Mar 22; J Dryburgh, R Signals, to RSS, Apr 22; C J Finch, Para, to MNCS, Jan 28; I G Harrison RA to JSCSC, Jan 7; R N Hine RTR to BILDT Mission, Feb 6.

G F Hislop, R Irish, to BMM SANG, Apr 1; J C S Kilmister RTR to FYROM MoD, Jan 21; A J Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Hldrs, to MONUC, Apr 16; R D Meinertzhagen, R Signals, to RMCS, Feb 11; A M Mills RE to HQ SFOR, Mar 5; P J Grogan, R Signals, to DCSA, Apr 10; R Peacock RLC to DEC (CSS), Jun 12; G Pugh RA to HQ KFOR, Mar 18; J P Storr, Kings, to DGD&D, Apr 22; S F M Telfer RS to MBMM SANG, Aug 26; D M Tobey RGJ to HQ Inf, Jul 15; D P Turner AAC to DLD, May 20; G M Vesey-Holt RTR to DSTL, Mar 18; D I Whimpenny, R Signals, to DI(SI), Jan 21.



Uncle Les cooked Monty's goose

This splendid image shows the late Sgt Les Moore, right, ACC (8th Army), receiving a goose from Gen Montgomery. It was sent to us by his nephew, John Moore, who would like to hear from anyone who recalls the occasion or knew his Cardiff-born uncle. Write to John at 83 Suffolk Avenue, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 2TJ or phone 01202 496934.

Are you a **Cormorant Club** member but not receiving club mail? If so contact Club Secretary at dbest@jscsc.org or 01793 788110.

John Whitworth, currently R Signals, sought by old friend at jjacksonangelic2@aol.com

Surviving **Alam Halfa** warriors from **D Coy, 1 King's Royal Rifle Corps,** particularly **Alexander Moseley** or **Alexander Goschen,** asked to contact Philip Guyot de Caila at philip.gdc@wanadoo.fr or write to him at Comblette, 71600 Paray le Monial, France.

617 Sqn and 7 Transport Regiment (Bielefeld) members who wish to attend a reunion should contact Darren O'Connor and Glenn Johnson at darrenoconnor@btinternet.com

Information please on **ex-Middlesex Regiment RSM, Cecil Arthur O'Keefe,** killed in Malaya mid-1950s. Write to his son Denis O'Keefe, 39 Palermo Court, Merriwa 6030 Western Australia or denis@q-net.net.au

Mine Protected Land Rovers: Use and construction being researched by Eddie Johnson, information and photos to 21 Lansdowne Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 3PG, 0208 464 8965 or eddie-g.johnson@virgin.net

Paul Wakeman RLC, Tidworth, Falkland Islands then Cyprus, is asked to contact R Thomas at info@thebear.freewire.co.uk

Dog Tags **24298744 Corcoran A Pos R G C E**

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000
Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569
Army Welfare Service 01722 436565
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 020 8590 1124
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@thePINprompt
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 01372 841617
Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575
National Gulf Veterans and Families Association Office (0900-1700) 01482 808730; 24-hour helpline on 01482 833812
Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011
RBL's Legionline 0845 7725 725
RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre 01622 717202/718484

St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen and women 020 7723 5021
Samaritans 08457 90 90 90
Service Children's Education 01980 618244
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358
SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783
SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory Service 01722 436400
Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302
Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272; from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272
War Pensions Agency 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)
WRVS 01235 442940



DATES

APRIL

22: Queen's Birthday gun salutes. Hyde Park, noon; Tower of London, 1300.

MAY

18: Massed bands, Firepower Museum, Woolwich, 1800.
24-26: Putting on the Blitz, Firepower Museum, Woolwich.

JUNE

1: Trooping the Colour, Major General's Review, Horse Guards (no more tickets available).
4: Queen's Golden Jubilee military tattoo at Stowe School, Buckinghamshire. Organised by ABF and SSAFA-Forces Help.
8: Trooping the Colour, Colonel's Review. Tickets: 020 7414 2479.
15: Queen's Birthday Parade.
23: Colchester Garrison Country Day (information on 01206 782020 or (mil) 94651 2020).

AUGUST

2-24: Edinburgh Military Tattoo, www.edintattoo.co.uk

◆ Edinburgh's famous military tattoo (see Diary above) has linked up with another illustrious product of Scotland. Dewar's has launched a reciprocal deal which means every ticket sold for the tattoo will include in the price a pass to its World of Whisky at Aberfeldy, Perthshire (usual price £3.95 for adults).

◆ The 2002 State Street Caledonian Challenge, Scotland's largest outdoors fundraising event, is looking for soldiers to help it raise £1 million for the Scottish Community Foundation. From June 22-23 teams of four will trek non-stop for 54 miles along the West Highland Way. Fastest Service team last year was 52 (Lowland) Brigade, which did it in a shade under 16 hours.

Call on 0131 225 9810 or go to www.caledonianchallenge.com

◆ The Royal Artillery's Firepower Museum at Woolwich has been chosen as one of London's String of Pearls festival venues – the Thames is the "thread" that binds them – to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Events (see diary above) range from a free concert by massed bands at the Royal Arsenal on May 18 (1800) to royal salutes in throughout June.

Look out in particular for a display by 14 Battery, 16 Regiment on May 18 recreating the Royal Regiment's history from 1942 to the present day. It will include a "battle" on Artillery Square, followed by a concert of massed bands.

The weekend of May 24 to 26 will be given over to "Putting on the Blitz", a theatrical recreation of entertainment during the war years.



This is London calling...

A RADIO frequency card, right, in BFBS stalwart Alan Grace's scrapbook recalls the hidden battle for hearts-and-minds that went on during the Falklands War. While he and his colleagues were broadcasting to the British Task Force from offices in Dean Stanley Street, London, 25 years ago, two floors below them the slightly mysterious staff of Radio Atlantico Del Sur were beaming their own take on events to Argentine troops on the island.

"They all had TA experience and were drawn from radio stations around the country. They used our studios and record library, but I've no idea what they were broadcasting. I seem to remember that

Sapper legacy in Caribbean

WE don't usually indulge our photographers by publishing their holiday snaps, but we thought we'd share this one with you. Taken by Graeme Main, it shows Fort King George in Tobago, the construction of which was started by British sappers in 1777.

It was occupied by the French four years later and extended, before being partly destroyed by a hurricane in 1847.

The influence of the Royal Engineers stretches across the world, not least to this beautiful (and tranquil) spot above Scarborough, Tobago's capital.

RADIO ATLANTICO DEL SUR

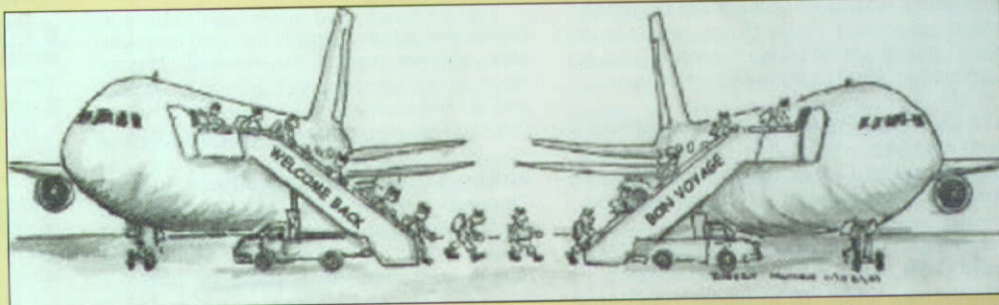
BRINGING TRUTH TO THE FRONT

SCHEDULE

AM 9700 KHz 0830 – 0930 GMT
PM 9710 KHz 2300 – 0200 GMT

they were keen on the latest chart music and football stories."

The graphic appears to confirm that Radio Atlantico's Dean Stanley Street output was given a further boost southwards from a re-broadcasting station sited on Ascension Island.



"Somehow I remember staying home for a bit longer between tours."

SOLDIERS, above, file off a trooping flight bearing the banner "Welcome back", straight onto an adjacent aircraft wishing passengers "Bon voyage".

This cartoon, which will strike a chord with British sufferers from short tour-interval syndrome, was among a selection sent to us by Master Cpl Robert Mullan, a Canadian Forces communications technician based in Ottawa.

A long-time fan of *Soldier* contributor Chip, Robert contacted us in the hope that the former Royal Engineers officer might be able to pass on a

Two nations linked by a common humour

few tips on pursuing a second career in cartooning. We have gladly put the two in touch.

Robert said: "After 28 years of service to the Canadian military I am retiring this summer. For the past six years in my spare time I have been contributing cartoons to military magazines and newspapers across Canada."

He also has two exhibits in a permanent art collection in the Canadian War Museum. Meanwhile examples of his work can be viewed at www.rcaca.org/Mullan-Humour.htm

Kabul ball rolls into Richmond

A FOOTBALL signed by players who took part in the historic match in Kabul's notorious Olympic Stadium (it was a place of execution under the Taliban) between ISAF peacekeepers and a local team is to go on display in the Regimental Museum of the Green Howards at Richmond. It was won in a raffle at a Variety Club of Great Britain dinner by Fd Marshal Lord Inge of Richmond, right, who is pictured handing it over to Lt Col Neil McIntosh, the curator of the museum.



Many thanks from America

MILITARY policeman SSgt Mark Poole, serving with the Cyprus Joint Police Unit at Dhekelia, received ambassadorial thanks for raising £1,335 for the New York Disaster Appeal. Mark persuaded 17 fellow policemen to subject themselves to a range of indignities in exchange for cash. He was thanked by Ambassador Donald Bendler at a reception in the US Embassy in Nicosia. Also thanked was Garrison Sergeant Major Joe Fairbairn, who collected £200 for the September 11 appeal when he was dined into the Sergeants' Mess.



A NOTICE that a King's African Rifles' centenary service was to be held in the Royal Memorial Chapel at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on April 17 prompted Frank Finch, our venerable "How Observant Are You?" (see Page 55) cartoonist, to open his sketchbook. He found what he was looking for... his fine drawing of a KAR soldier, above, which first appeared in *Jambo*, the East Africa Command magazine, in 1944. Frank, our longest-serving contributor, joined *Soldier* in 1945. He retired as art editor in 1976, but is still working on the HOAY feature he started in 1956. Now 86 and living near Aldershot, Frank worked as a commercial artist in the 1930s before spending five years with the RAMC in East Africa.

Che mural raised a few eyebrows, but our NCO artist was not a rebel

MORE about Millbank's mystery murals. Following stories about the paintings in recent issues of *Soldier*, Mick Carr e-mailed to say he was there in 1972 and worked near Sgt Tony Bogulak's dispensary.

Mick tells us that as secretary-treasurer of the London Army Medical Services Rugby Club he persuaded the unit to allow him to turn an empty barrack-room into a bar and disco. "Tony was very artistic and offered to decorate the walls. He drew the outlines for others, under his guidance, to fill in.

"I recall roars of protest from some quarters when Che Guevara appeared, but he was an icon of the times to Tony, who was not politically-minded at all, let alone a communist. Dismay at a revolutionary adorning a military establishment was overruled by a very good CO, whose name I do not recall."

Lord Guthrie takes over



NEW President of the Army Benevolent Fund is former Chief of the Defence Staff **General Lord Guthrie**, left, who has succeeded **Fd Marshal Lord Inge**.

Lord Guthrie said: "The ABF's role is as important today as it has ever been, so I'm immensely proud to accept the presidency of the fund."

Mick says the club was a great success and was packed out once a fortnight, usually staying open until the last customer passed out. "I used to buy booze from the sergeants' mess and, after protests from the Naafi about breaking their monopoly, a little from them, too."

After running a popular long-range bingo game (for which virtually everyone in the unit bought a ticket), Mick got a gaming licence so the lads could sell the equivalent of today's scratch-cards in local pubs.

"We made more than enough for that year's tour of Germany... and for the next year, too."

Chelsea College of Art and Design, which will soon make its new home in the Millbank buildings, would still like to hear from Tony Bogulak, so if anyone is in contact with him, please ask him to ring, write to or e-mail the Editor at jelliott@soldiermagazine.co.uk

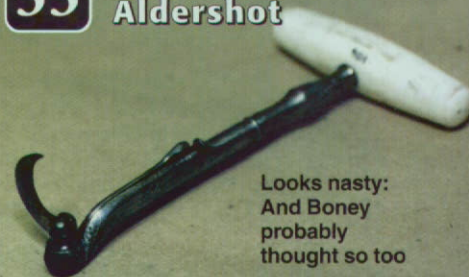
Commonwealth appeal

A £5 million appeal to help Commonwealth veterans suffering hardship has been launched by the Duke of Edinburgh. His Jubilee Appeal is being run by the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League founded in 1921 by Earl Haig and Gen Smuts.

Last year the charity helped 28,000 veterans. Contact the league on 020 7973 7263 or via www.commonwealthveterans.org.uk

Legends of the regiments and corps

33 RADC Museum, Aldershot



Looks nasty:
And Boney
probably
thought so too

This'll hurt you more than me...

NO, it's not an instrument of torture from the personal collection of the Marquis de Sade. The gizmo pictured above, if you hadn't already guessed, is a turret head key, tooth extraction for the use of.

It can be seen in the Royal Army Dental Corps Museum in Aldershot and its claim to fame is that it was used to remove two teeth from the mouth of one Napoleon Bonaparte.

The ex-emperor was by then exiled to St Helena, where Dr Barry O'Meara operated on him between November 1817 and January 1818.

Once the property of Boney himself, the turret head key was in a case of instruments taken by him into exile. After his death, it was returned to England by Dr O'Meara.

CARTRIDGE BITERS

A flintlock rifle on display in the museum reminds visitors that regimental surgeons were required to preserve soldiers' teeth so that they could bite through the paper cartridge when loading.

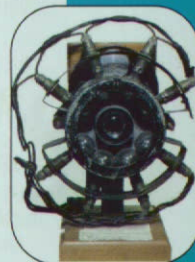
Instruments to scale the teeth were issued for this purpose in the time of Charles II.

The strange contraption pictured on the right is a ring light developed to solve the problem of intra-oral photography. A forerunner of the Dyce Deep-Focus Camera it was based on a Leica and used eight motor-car headlamps.

Instructions for using it were simple: point camera into mouth; point source of light into mouth; see and focus on target inside mouth.

The museum is sited within the Headquarters and Central Group RADC, Evelyn Woods Road, Aldershot, next door to the Aldershot Military Museum. Open weekdays 1000 to 1200 and 1400 to 1600, there is free access and parking. Telephone 01252 24431ext 2782.

www.armymuseums.org.uk



Retail reconnaissance

Switched on . . .

MICROSOFT'S X-APPEAL

ONE year after first appearing in *Soldier*, the Xbox has finally arrived in the shops. *Wish List* takes a closer look at the X-appeal that Microsoft are hoping will blow away their console rivals . . .

Media communications processor – Using the latest HyperTransport technology, this acts as the hub of the Xbox's broadband networking functions and boasts one of the most powerful audio processors ever.

Main processor – Capable of processing more than one trillion operations per second, the Xbox's "heart" is driven by 80 gigaflops of computing power – the equivalent brawn you would find in a Cray supercomputer (used by the US Strategic Air Command to control their missiles).

Graphics processing unit – Three-times more powerful than any of the other consoles on the market, the Xbox's graphics unit is capable of displaying an unprecedented 125 million polygons onto your television screen.

Hard drive – A whopping eight gigabytes of memory space for storage of game information – a first in the console gaming industry.

① £299. Games range in price from £35 to £55.



BRIGHT IDEA

DESPITE weighing less than a £1 coin and measuring just under an inch in length, the Photon microlight can project a beam that can be seen from up to one mile away.

Powered by a lithium battery that will support 12-14 hours of continuous use, the tiny torch is made from almost-unbreakable polyurethane and has been extensively trialled by military experts. Bulbs available in red, blue and white.

① £12.99, from www.tiggypig.com (01603 890359).

TOUCHING MUSIC

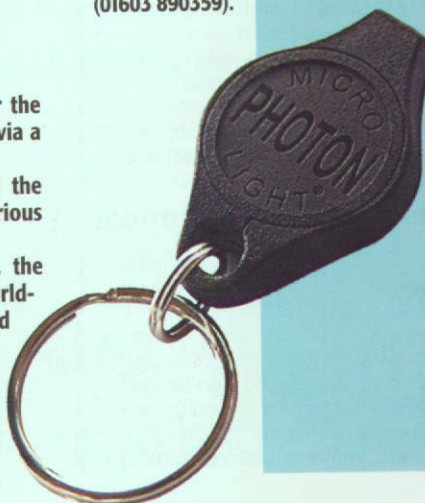
INSTEAD of having buttons located all over the unit, this ergonomic FM radio is controlled via a touch screen.

Using the stylus provided, users access the functions of the radio by pressing the various icons displayed on the screen.

As well as tuning and volume options, the radio also features a calculator, timer, world-time alarm-clock, currency converter, and calendar.

Perfect for those on the move, the radio is powered by two AAA batteries.

① £20, from www.gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).



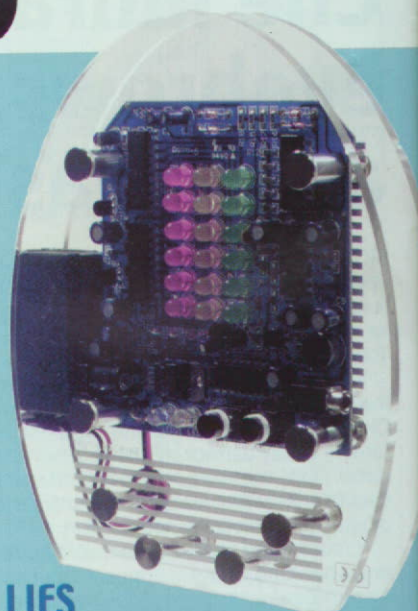
TRUE LIES

THIS lie detector measures micro-tremors in the voice and displays its results via three columns of LED lights, which range from green (low tension) to red (high tension). Although not infallible, a red light indicates that your subject is not being entirely honest with you.

① £29.99, from www.tiggypig.com (01603 890359).

Tiggy Pig are offering *Soldier* readers the chance to put their friends on trial. To win your own Truth Machine simply visit their website and tell us the full name of their rapping hamster. Send your answers via e-mail to asimms@soldiermagazine.co.uk

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by May 1. Usual rules apply.



Game on . . .

COSSACKS: THE ART OF WAR, PC

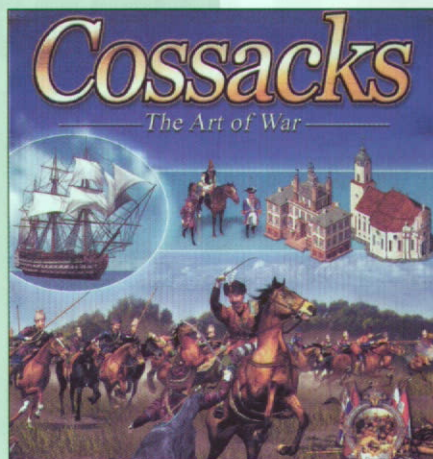
OUT NOW

COSSACKS, the massively successful real-time strategy game based on the conflicts of Europe in the 16th-18th century, has returned to PC screens with add-on *The Art of War*.

Featuring more than 35 enhancements to the original, the expansion pack has been designed to add a new lease of life to the critically acclaimed game, which went straight to number one when it was released in March 2001.

Among the new features are an easy-to-use map editor, two new nations and five new campaigns.

VERDICT: *Cossacks* remains one of the best, and most lavish, strategic combat games on the market, and *The Art of War* looks certain to extend its rule of dominance. **8/10**

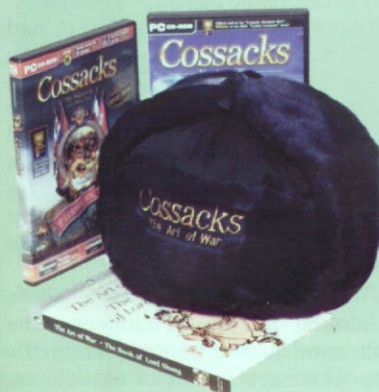


WIN . . . WIN . . . WIN . . .

SOLDIER has joined forces with CDV to offer you the opportunity to take charge of huge armies and re-enact some of history's most famous battles.

For your chance to win one of five prize bundles, which contain a copy of the original *Cossacks* game; a copy of *The Art of War*, a *Cossacks* Russian hat; and the book *The Art of War*, simply tell us when the first *Cossacks* title was released.

Send your answers on a postcard to *Cossacks* competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by May 1. Usual rules apply.

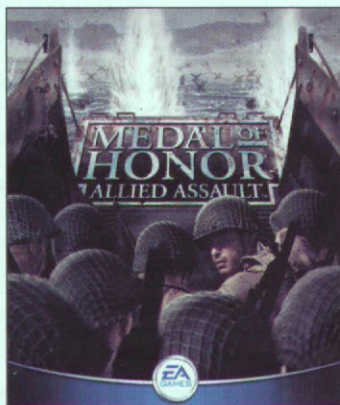


MEDAL OF HONOUR, PC

OUT NOW

IN *Medal of Honour Allied Assault* players assume the role of Lt Mike Powell (US Army) as he battles through more than 20 levels based on historical military campaigns of the Second World War.

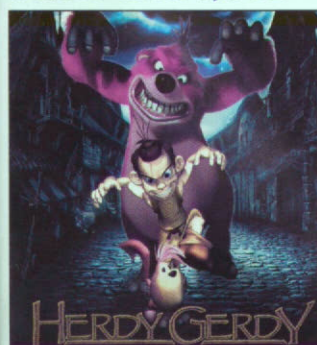
Set during the years 1942-1945 this first-person adventure gives players a sense of the courage it took to survive the Normandy landings, the assault at Arzew, and the push through the heavily-defended border of Germany to take the bridge at Remagen.



VERDICT: Thrilling, tense, terrific. **9/10**

HERDY GERDY, PS2

OUT NOW



VERDICT: A novel game that is let down by its lengthy loading time. **7/10**

THE most original title to appear on the PS2 to date, *Herdy Gerdy* immerses players into a magical land with a volatile eco-system.

Assuming the role of the game's hero, Gerdy, players must learn how to successfully manage all of the island's inhabitants in order to win a herding tournament.

You will soon discover that certain species on the island live in ignorant bliss while others have far more brutal agendas. Getting them to co-habit is a mammoth and often amusing task.

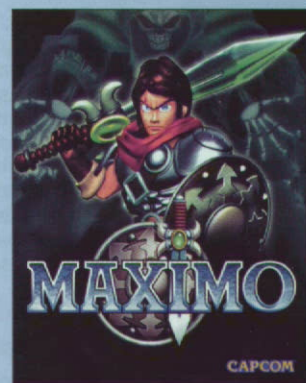
MAXIMO, PS2

OUT NOW

MAXIMO is a 3D platform game that is thematically inspired by Capcom's much-loved *Ghosts'n'Goblins* and *Ghouls'n'Ghosts* arcade machines.

Controlling the title character, players explore a lush 3D world as they attempt to prevent an evil knight from wreaking havoc on a once beautiful kingdom.

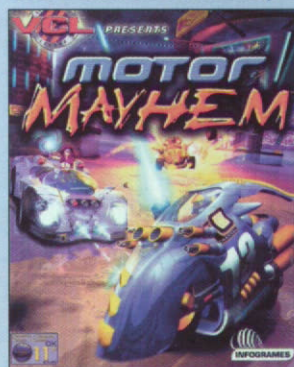
Armed with a sword, armour and whatever else they find along the way, gamers explore a series of themed locations within which they battle a number of unearthly creatures, avoid perilous obstacles and traverse deadly landscapes.



VERDICT: At last the PS2 has a hero of Mario-esque stature. **8/10**

MOTOR MAYHEM, PS2

OUT NOW



VERDICT: Seen it all before. **6/10**

ADD an arsenal of gratuitous weaponry to the gameplay of PlayStation classic *Destruction Derby* and you get Infogrames' *Motor Mayhem*.

This multi-player destroy-or-be destroyed game features gladiatorial combat in the name of the Vehicle Combat League. Gamers get to pilot futuristic cars and bikes as they battle to the bitter end in a range of detailed arenas.

Although graphically stunning, there is little here to keep you coming back for more.

Why Saddam held back his biological weapons

SINCE Robert Harris and Jeremy Paxman wrote **A Higher Form of Killing** in 1982 their subject, chemical and biological weaponry (CBW), has assumed what they call "a horrible importance" again. Modern technology means that such weapons are now available to Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, North Korea and, seemingly, any nutcase with an envelope, a few anthrax spores, and a grudge. The authors argue in an updated edition (Arrow paperback, £8.99) that Saddam Hussein shrank from using his vast CBW stocks against Coalition forces in 1991 only because he feared nuclear retaliation. Chilling.

Desert storming in the roaring Forties

IF the title **Special Forces in the Desert War 1940-1943** (Public Record Office, £19.99) is not enough to whet the appetite, readers with a healthy interest in all things (once) forbidden will positively lick their lips on reaching the title page of an official account for the War Cabinet of the Long Range Desert Group's activities. There, faithfully reproduced, is the command: "To be kept under lock and key". Happily it has now been liberated and much of the fascination is in sifting through the official, deadpan prose to reveal the sheer drama of the events.

Patricia's pilgrimage will aid charity, too

GEORGE Cox, a former Far East prisoner-of-war, died in 1968 aged just 53 before fulfilling his wish to return to Singapore and Thailand to pay homage to the fallen. His daughter, Patricia Bienkowski, went instead. Her moving account, **In My Father's Footsteps**, is available from Woodfield Publishing, Babsham Lane, Bognor Regis PO21 5EL (01243 821234) at £9.95 plus £1 UK p&p. Half-Patricia's profits will go towards a memorial, containing all PoWs' names, to be built at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. Woodfield will also make a contribution if you quote "CPOW" when ordering.

A defining moment on Darwin Ridge

H Jones VC: The life and death of an unusual hero by John Wilsey (Hutchinson, £18.99). Net proceeds to go to Army Benevolent Fund and VC and GC Association.

Interview: John Elliott

JUST suppose, for a moment, what might have become of the Falklands campaign if 2 Para had been held up on Darwin Ridge and prevented from capturing Goose Green.

Argentina's Exocet missiles had already inflicted grievous harm on the Royal Navy, sent shock waves through the British public and shaken the Government's confidence. The consequences of a reverse in the first land battle of the war are unthinkable.

A new biography of Lt Col H Jones VC, written by his regimental contemporary and close friend Gen Sir John Wilsey, pulls no punches in evaluating H's heroic, one-man charge up Darwin Ridge.

"Undeniably, A Company of 2 Para had got bogged down. The forward company on the other flank [B Coy] was also held up. As dawn broke the situation was dire," he told *Soldier*. "H Jones went forward to exert his influence and his leadership upon A Coy, which I believe was absolutely right for a commander in those circumstances.

"Although it is true that his charge was not witnessed by many people, a dramatic consequence was that the Argentine position was taken by 2 Para. Was it H Jones who caused A Coy to go forward or was it a coincidence? I don't believe it was a coincidence. I believe his leadership and his action had a tremendous effect at that point.

"The fact that an officer, a British Army officer no less, was prepared to lay down his life for the Falklands in the first land battle of the campaign gave the British forces a moral ascendancy as well as lifting the spirits of the people back home, including the Prime Minister and her war cabinet.

"It had a tactical effect locally, it had a strategic effect in the theatre of operations and it had an uplifting effect as far as Britain was concerned.

"Had we lost that first battle it would have had a devastating effect locally on the Falklands. Politically, if there had been a reverse which led to the withdrawal of our forces, I think Margaret Thatcher would have resigned. The Conservative Government

would have fallen and the United Nations would have gone in and divided up the Falklands. It would now be under a mandate."

Defeat at that point "would have had an absolutely catastrophic effect," he believes.

An officer involved in the campaign had told Gen Wilsey that if the Paras had failed to take Goose Green, another battalion could have recovered the situation. "And maybe it could have, but in morale terms it would have been devastating. Remember, five ships had gone down by that time. So, five ships lost and the first land battle lost... it would have been very hard to continue the campaign," is the author's analysis.

Gen Wilsey reveals that even before Goose Green, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, the Joint Commander, was contemplating the possibility of having to pull out the task force. Gen Sir John Stanier, then C-in-C UKLF, recalled an atmosphere of "very considerable stress" in Admiral Fieldhouse's underground bunker at Northwood.

Gen Stanier, writes the author, "formed a firm impression that the Joint Commander could not sustain any further loss of ships... and that unless something on land were to happen very quickly he would be forced to contemplate lifting 3 Commando Brigade off the beaches."

But this is not a book about recrimination or politics, rather it is the very well told tale of a remarkable man. Gen Wilsey, whose own distinguished military career ended in 1996 when he retired as C-in-C Land Command,



Hot off the presses: Gen Sir John Wilsey with his new book on Lt Col H Jones VC Picture: Graeme Main

first met H when both were 20-year-old subalterns in The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. They became close friends and godfathers to one another's sons. What began as a pen picture of H Jones for the author's son, James, turned into a carefully researched biography of an extraordinary character.

The picture he paints is of a sensitive, intelligent officer, albeit one who was never backward in arguing his corner. His millionaire father's first wife (not H's mother) was one of Sigmund Freud's lovers.

A catalyst for the book – Sir John's first – was to exorcise the deep hurt caused by a 1996 Channel

4 *Secret History* programme, which disparaged H's VC. "The denigration was that he shouldn't have had a VC," said Gen Wilsey. "It wasn't that he didn't act with conspicuous bravery, it was held that his performance might not have been VC-worthy."

This is a view entirely at odds with the version of events that Sir John's research supports. He recalled his own reaction to the manner of his friend's death: "No one who knew him well was surprised by his action. He had almost prepared his life for that moment. When it came he would not be found wanting."

And he wasn't.

Signed editions: *Soldier* has three copies of *H Jones VC*, each signed by the author. To have a chance of winning one, tell us on a postcard marked "VC Competition" what "H" stands for. First three correct entries, to reach us by April 30, will win. Usual competition rules apply.

IN BRIEF

The Imperial War Museum Book of Modern Warfare – British and Commonwealth Forces at War 1945-2000. Maj Gen Julian Thompson RM, who edits this book, is also one of its contributing experts, writing about the 1982 campaign, in which he commanded 3 Commando Brigade. (Sidgwick & Jackson, £30.)

British Gallantry Medals 1855-2000 and British Campaign Medals 1914-2000. By Peter Duckers, curator of the Shropshire Regimental Museum. Slim (64 and 40 pages) but significant, with many illustrations in colour. (Shire, £5.99 and £4.50.)

A Tiger and a Fusilier: Leicester's VC Heroes by Derek Seaton. Inspiring illustrated story of two former workhouse boys, Pte William Bucking-

ham and Capt Robert Gee, who won VCs in the First World War. Net proceeds will go to the charitable funds of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment and the Royal Fusiliers. Available at £7.99 plus £1.70 p&p from D Seaton, 78 Spinney Drive, Kirby Grange, Botcheston, Leics LE9 9FG.

British and Commonwealth Armies 1939-43 by Mark Bevis. First in a paperback series (this one has 88 pages) listing the tables of equipment of all Second World War armies, down to section level where possible. Notes for wargamers. (Helion & Co, £16.95.)

The Gateshead Gurkhas by Harry Moses. History of the Durham Light Infantry's 9th Battalion from 1859 to its dissolution in 1967. (County Durham Books, £12.95.)

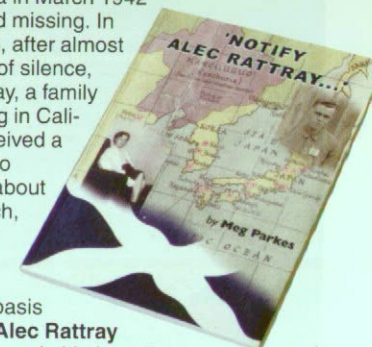
British and American Artillery of World War Two by Ian V Hogg. Illustrated encyclopedia by an acknowledged authority. Companion to the author's *German Artillery of World War Two*. (Greenhill, £22.50.)

Dad's Army: The Home Guard 1940-1944 by David Carroll. Objective account. (Sutton, paperback, £10.99.)

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>

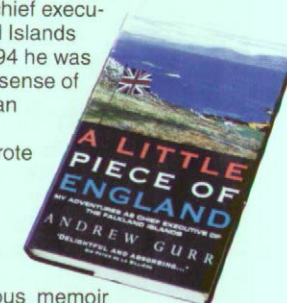
Coded radio message ended the heartbreak

CAPT Atholl Duncan, a cipher officer with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was captured by the Japanese in Java in March 1942 and posted missing. In early 1944, after almost two years of silence, Alec Rattray, a family friend living in California, received a coded radio message about Atholl which, with other surviving material forms the basis of **'Notify Alec Rattray...'** This remarkable book by Atholl's daughter, Meg Parkes, is available at £11.50 from Kranji Publications, 34 Queens Road, Hoylake, CH47 2AJ (www.kranji.co.uk). A £1.50 discount is offered to those with FEPOW relatives.



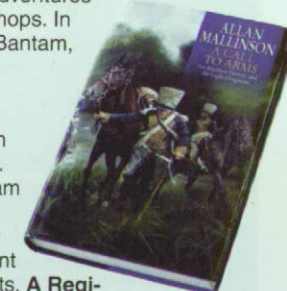
Hilarious portrait of the Falklands

BILL Bryson, eat your heart out. When Andrew Gurr, a training and enterprise council boss, applied for a five-year spell as chief executive of the Falkland Islands Government in 1994 he was told a "developed sense of humour would be an asset". It certainly helped when he wrote **A Little Piece of England** (John Blake, £16.99). This affectionate, entertaining and occasionally hilarious memoir of his "adventures" in an unusual role includes stories about royalty, politicians and the military. There is also a memorable and compassionate chapter on the war.



Matthew Hervey is back at the double

FOR the growing battalions of Matthew Hervey fans, the wait is over – the fourth instalment of his popular Napoleonic-era adventures has hit the bookshops. In **A Call to Arms** (Bantam, £16.99) our Light Dragoons hero tackles Burmese rebels massing on the Indian frontier. Meanwhile, Bantam have brought out in paperback the previous instalment of Hervey's exploits, **A Regimental Affair**, at £6.99. Readers of *Soldier* will need no reminding that the author, Brig Allan Mallinson, former CO of the 13/18th Hussars, is currently Britain's Defence and Military Attaché in Rome.



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Soldier Price: £204.90 inc. P&P

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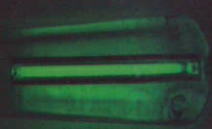
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SOLDIER to soldier

Dirty secrets

IT is difficult to imagine any serious operation undertaken by the Joint NBC Regiment not being dramatic, but the unit's current involvement in Afghanistan is the stuff of nightmares.

A monitoring team from the regiment has checked out a house in a Kabul suburb in which Osama Bin Laden discussed plans for a "dirty" nuclear bomb.

Elsewhere in the city, an NBC officer discovered in a disused hospital traces of Cobalt 60, a highly radioactive isotope. Intended for the treatment of cancer, it now poses a major hazard to the health of local people.

As we report on Pages 4-5, Afghans appear to be ignorant of the dangers of anthrax and chemical weapons (one man kept toxic drums on the mantel above his fireplace).

◆ ◆ ◆

The sight of British soldiers in full NBC protective suits has made a lasting impression on Kabulites . . . and drawn their attention to the hidden horrors of some of the detritus of war which surrounds them.

Not all that long ago in the days of the Cold War, NBC training was widely regarded as an uncomfortable irrelevance. Exercises carried out in the full rig were something to be dreaded (or avoided if possible). How times have changed.

◆ ◆ ◆

The diligence with which units applied themselves to NBC counter-measures before the Gulf War was a timely reminder that the world was neither safe nor predictable. In Kabul there is evidence that the situation is, if anything, now more dangerous. Well-funded terrorist organisations, backed by the resources of a rogue state, truly can plot devastating attacks on the parts of the world they choose to oppose.

A room in a Kabul suburb says just about all that needs to be said on the justification for the current escalation of the war against terrorism.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Hard-to-meet expectations

I HAVE just finished editing *Families' Concerns*, the Army Families Federation's summary of issues and concerns raised by families over the past 18 months. It is the third or fourth edition I have edited in the last five years and there's not much change in the issues – housing standards, spouse employment, children's education.

But there are issues which indicate changes in both Army families and the expectations they have of life, which they expect the Army to fulfil. The problem is, some of those expectations are not matched by reality, or the ability of the Army or MoD to change things.

Many Army families, like their civilian counterparts, no longer fit into a traditional mould. Soldiers may be divorced and remarried, have stepchildren, or be separated from their own children, or be single parents, or be one half of a non-married couple, with or without children.

With the exception of the serving single parent, none of these permutations fits easily into the current system of allowances, making it difficult for the Army to meet expectations. For example, divorced or separated soldier parents overseas are not entitled to School Children's Visit flights, and partners are not entitled to housing or allowances.

For the first time, the issue of partners and their entitlements has appeared in *Families' Concerns* and it is undoubtedly the view of many families in the Army, and of society in general, that partners should be recognised. But, in reality, there are limitations on the Army's ability to recognise partners' rights, especially in the area of housing, where the number of quarters in some areas is already short.

Other modern expectations do not fit easily with current systems. Despite most civilian families housing their older children well into their twenties, Army families with 18+ children, contrary to their expectations, find that the entitlement of those children to accommodation and flights home is limited. Most Army spouses want to work, and expect to be able to find employment and childcare



Sue Bonney is
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal

wherever they go. But spouse employment overseas raises a number of issues in *Families' Concerns*, such as childcare, terms and conditions of employment, National Insurance contributions, and pensions.

The Army's ability to address these issues is constrained by international agreements and spouses' residency status. Yet, given the realities of society today, expectations in this area can only increase.

It's not just expectations from inside the Army. Social trends can impose demands impossible to fulfil, especially for an organisation with a unique and specific role such as the Army. Take the recent publicity about female soldiers sustaining injuries during training based on equal treatment, and the ruling by the European Court of Human Rights on the validity of courts martial.

Barmy, you may think – but the reality is that the MoD and the Army have to deal with the implications of both – at considerable expense. Which leaves even less money available for meeting the aspirations of soldiers and their families.

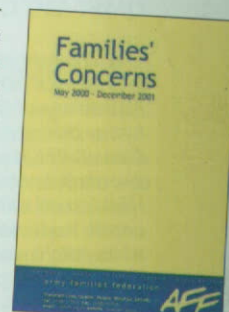
Given the realities, I wonder just how far our expectations can be met. The

Army clearly recognises the importance of families' and single soldiers' concerns and the need to address modern expectations.

How could it expect to recruit and retain from today's society if it didn't?

We know there is a determination to change what can be changed – a lot of hard-working people go through the details to see what can be done within the limitations of policy, rules and funding. But given those limitations and the outside pressures, not to mention the lack of available money, we may have to recognise that some miracles are currently beyond reach.

Families' Concerns: May 2000-December 2001 is available from AFF Central Office on 01980 6615525





Keep it brief...

YOU are the reason these pages have gone from strength to strength as a gauge of what soldiers think about real issues. You can help us make them even better by keeping your letters brief and to the point. That way, we'll get more of them in.

If you are sending by e-mail, please include your name and location on 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.

Vested interest

WHEN I reached Page 13 of the February issue I was incensed by the picture of Cpl Tosh McIntosh of the TA (Getting FitTA) wearing an APTC vest. I am sure, like me, there will be hundreds of ex and serving APTC instructors seething at it.

It took me 4½ years of hard graft and study to become a member of the APTC, so for a part-timer who has done the basic six-week course to have the audacity to wear this élite corps vest makes my blood boil. It was an honour for me to earn and wear it and I am proud and protective of this fact.

Surely the Territorial Army understands uniform dress code. Tosh, the lowest rank in the APTC is sergeant. If you passed the assistant instructors' course you are entitled to wear the crossed swords – minus the crown – and you are classed as an assistant PT instructor.

What you have done equates to a soldier completing a tandem parachute jump and wearing the Para

wings. – **Mick Gannon BEM, ex-QMSI APTC.**

▲ The Army School of Physical Training tells us Mick (whose name many will recognise as one of the Army's most successful former boxing coaches) is correct. Tosh, a Class 3 PTI, is entitled to wear the crossed swords but not the crown. We were told that PTIs issued with APTC vests should either unpick the threads of the crown or sew a white patch over it to avoid being incorrectly dressed. Tosh, meanwhile, has held his hand up. – **Editor**



Not entitled: Cpl Tosh

Try communicating

THESE pages routinely include comment by readers concerning the state of personnel administration in the Army and its effects on individuals. While not wishing to make excuses I feel it is appropriate to offer some explanation.

In recent years regimental administration offices have had to cope with three major changes – the Independent Review of Allowances in 1997 (which required RAOs and their staffs to learn a new set of regulations with little formal training); the migration of pay accounts from an antiquated to a modern software system (RAOs were praised by the chain of command for their efforts to overcome problems not of their making); and the advent of Pay 2000 in April 2001.

In addition there have been constant

alterations to allowances. Soon we will have electronic pay statements which will help RAOs to pre-empt some of these problems but I believe a little communication between the customer and us, the administrators, can go a long way towards resolving a difficulty before it becomes a problem. – **Capt P Corker, AGC (SPS), RAO 3 (UK) Div HQ and SR.**

▲ We would endorse Capt Corker's remarks about communicating your personnel administration problems to RAOs (which is the proper way to use the chain of command). Unfortunately, long experience of investigating the circumstances behind many of the letters that appear on these pages suggests that all too often this magazine is the last refuge of a frustrated individual. His RAO can't – or won't – help (or provide a proper explanation), so the writer turns to us in desperation. – **Editor**

Quarters sizes rankle for our larger families

I AGREE with WO2 (AQMS) Jones's comments ("My partner and I have a strong case for quarter", Jan) and believe a directive that discriminates against him and others like him should be reviewed before we lose first-class soldiers because of bureaucracy. Civil law states that his partner is already his common-law wife.

I'd like to hear from other ranks discriminated against during the allocation of quarters. I believe that despite the number of children living with parents, or visiting from school, you are not entitled to a larger quarter unless you or your spouse is a warrant officer. I have over the

past year witnessed a number of large families (three or more children) being squeezed into three-bedroom houses.

I have also seen couples with no kids being allocated the same type of dwelling.

Wake up Defence Housing Executive! A married WO does not warrant a bigger house than a married NCO or private with the same number or more children.

Please don't throw rank, discipline and all the other arguments into the pot – we already live in the same MQ area but are discriminated by rank from the size of our houses. I eagerly await any response from DHE. – **Sgt J McDavis AGC (RMP).**

▲ R Mansell, Director Finance and Corporate Services, DHE, responds:

Sgt McDavis proposed that houses should be allocated by family size rather than by rank. We already do this for most other ranks, but not for officers, and in some circumstances not for warrant officers. WO1s are entitled to a Type C three-bedroom property but, unlike the ranks below them, they may apply, irrespective of family size, for a Type D four-bedroom property where available.

I assume this is what happened in the case to which Sgt McDavis referred. More generally, families with more than three children regardless of rank are allocated a Type D property, whereas those with three children over 11 years of age may apply for a Type D where available.

Rules on entitlement are decided by the Services, not the DHE. I gather the reason for taking account of rank in housing allocation is to encourage effort and reward promotion. With rank comes increased responsibility and

authority and a higher salary. Lifestyle is important to many and it is not unnatural that individuals should look for tangible betterment of their domestic situation.

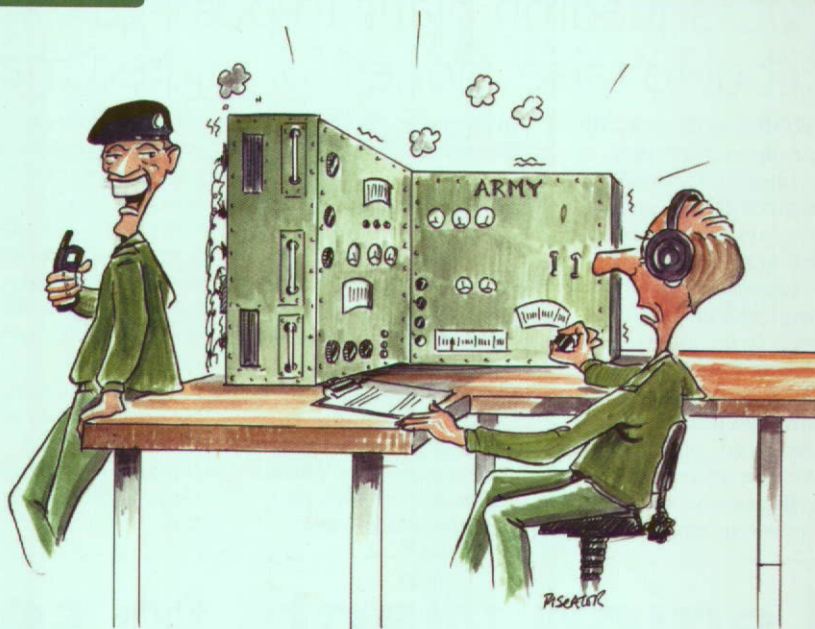
In civilian life this often finds physical manifestation in the location, nature, style and quality of people's housing. It doesn't seem unreasonable for the Services to do the same.

On the question of entitlement by marriage rather than partnerships, again it is not for DHE to decide policy. All three Services are involved in work to examine the extent to which unmarried partners should receive benefits similar to those for married couples. The work is to compile factual and authoritative information, as evidence at present is largely anecdotal and not entirely clear.

This should provide a better understanding of the issue, on which society at large, and members of the Armed Forces and their families, tend to have strong views.

Any change in policy would obviously have to be carefully considered.

PISCATOR



"Want the mobile again, mate?"

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Herford quality-of-life committee works well

It's no 'drip session'... but it does the job

I AM writing in response to the letter regarding drip sessions (Feb). I chair our Soldiers' Welfare Committee, which was formed to improve the quality of life for soldiers in Herford.

It is attended by experts who can answer questions, on a monthly basis, from squadron representatives who canvass the troops and bring any queries to the meeting.

These range from accommodation issues to suggestions on entertainment and messing.

Representatives from the Quartermaster's Department (to address accommodation issues), Naafi/Junior Ranks' Club, unit welfare officer, regimental catering WO, WRVS, the padre and a Hive representative attend each meeting, as do two

representatives from each squadron. Although the representatives know it is not a forum to name and shame, much constructive comment comes out, which allows the experts to comment and improve where necessary.

It also is a two-way forum, which allows the experts to get across problems they anticipate (this is not a substitute for the occasional one-way conversation in my office!).

The forum has bonded the soldier community here in Herford and led to them putting in the hours and improving their areas through self-help projects.

A "drip session" is not how we would describe it... but this committee certainly works. – WO1 (RSM) T Smith, 1 (UK) ADSR, BFPO 15.

PS...

Suez medal news

JUST a mention at this critical time to give hope to all of our comrades waiting in the wings: there have been some very significant moves in our campaign over the past few months. I refer to the Early Day Motion tabled by Annette Brooke MP on October 24, the BBC TV programme on November 8 and the adjournment debate in the House on January 16. At this moment the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Richard Wilson, is reviewing our case at the request of the Prime Minister.

We are thinking of petitioning the Queen to seek her intervention to solve this long-running campaign of ours. – L Oliver, Colchester.

I liked Bruneval...

I AM serving in Kabul and, having just read the latest *Soldier*, I see my old home in Bruneval Barracks in Aldershot is being whinged about again. We all know that Bruneval Barracks is not A1 accommodation, but it's better than nothing. It was good enough for The Parachute Regiment for nearly 30 years. I quite liked the place and would happily move back to Aldershot rather than my company's planned move into temporary accommodation for four years or so once we return to home soil. I don't agree with single rooms, as in my opinion they break down the camaraderie within the platoon. – Cpl Payne, 2 Para, Op Fingal.

Happily unmarried

I am writing in reply to "Unwed parents' commitment is 'far greater than marriage'" (Jan). My partner and I are both serving soldiers and have been together for more than five years. Having seen many friends marry sooner rather than later, then last no more than a year together in some cases, we thought it sensible not to rush into marriage.

We have a seven-month-old child and consider ourselves a strong family unit, although we have received nothing but doors slamming in our faces by the Army in attempting to be so. Our commitment to each other is proved in the life we provide for our son, a loving, stable home.

Being married will not necessarily make his life any better. I would like to wish LCpl Adams and LCpl Lewis the very best in their fight against the MoD's antiquated rules. – Cpl, Wilts (name and address supplied).

Cross of Valour

YOUR report "League open to gallant members" (Update Extra, March) contains an error and I fear it emanates from the league itself as a similar mistake was included in *Medal News*. The Australian Cross of Valour – their equivalent of the George Cross, as is the award of the same name in Canada – appeared in the list. – Lt Col (Retd) A R Tinson, Fleet.



Do our Late Entry officers get a raw deal on pensions?

THE reply to the question about LE (Late Entry) officers' pensions (Feed-back, Feb) was disappointing. The LE has no rights on commissioning to a guaranteed career until 55 and, indeed, has to have his or her commission converted twice to achieve this.

I am due to leave having completed my Short Service Commission with reckonable service now of less than 22 years even though I could have had more than 24 years' reckonable service had I remained a warrant officer. I leave as a captain, though LE pay equates to that of a major, with a captain's pension.

Picture this: I join at 18 with a soldier who is 21. Our careers mirror each other's and we are both commissioned after 19 years. We both leave after completing our six-year commission. I receive a pension calculated on 22 years' service while my counterpart receives a pension calculated on 25 years' service – a substantial increase. I would have to wait 12 years for my pension to be increased whereas my counterpart waits nine.

The LE pension scheme is not fair and should be looked at independently from the regular officers' scheme. – **Capt J G Evans, Preston.**

▲ PS10(A) responds:

Pensions are provided under the terms of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) dependent on whether the individual is an officer or other rank (OR). When an OR takes up an LE commission he transfers from OR terms of service (with pension reckonable service from age 18) to those of an officer (with pension reckonable service from age 21) subject to completing the minimum commission service. In accepting an LE commission he accepts the AFPS terms for officers.

LE officers ask what happens to those years of service that cannot be counted in their officers' pension? The answer is that they do not have any scope to claim the added benefits to their state pension for these years because the benefits they have accrued under the AFPS meet what is called the Reference Test Scheme (RFS).

This test requires that private pension schemes, such as the AFPS, pay benefits that are at least as good as the criteria laid out in the RFS for areas such as level of terminal benefits and widows benefits. As the AFPS meets all of the criteria there is no deficiency to be made up – the individual has already achieved the maximum allowed within stipulated Treasury criteria.

On a final note, while Capt Evans believes that LE officers should have their pensions looked at separately, we would point out that all officers commissioned before the age of 21 and all other ranks who join the Army before the age of 18 are similarly affected.

EOD squadron plans to push gun from Kabul to raise money for injured man

I WORK with an EOD squadron currently serving in Afghanistan. We provide the safest recovery and destruction of all ordnance.

Ammunitions here ranging from small arms to guided missiles and countless mines have been removed and destroyed, preventing horrific injuries to civilians who might otherwise have stum-

bled across them. Recently a bomb disposal operator was severely injured during a clearance task and our squadron has decided to raise funds to donate to his family.

To do this, we intend to push an artillery piece the whole way back to England.

We are also looking to companies to donate items for an auction, for which our guys

have already chipped in attractive items such as Camelback drinking systems.

We have also started a system of fines to raise money. We would be grateful for any help we can get. I can be contacted at mik2204@lycos.co.uk or by post. – 24903879 Sgt Byrne, 49 EOD Squadron, 36 Engineer Group, Op Fingal, BFPO 758.

Legion wants to see former 22-year men get a jubilee medal

I AM responding to the letter published in the March 2002 issue regarding the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

Brig Cottam points out that it is a commemorative medal . . . not a long-service or operational medal. And that is the catalyst for my letter.

Although criteria for the issue and award of medals lies with the MoD and formal approval with the Queen, the Royal British Legion is aware of strong feelings of discontent among the ex-Service community, which feels let down by the decision not to include it.

The Legion's view on the criteria for the award of the Golden Jubilee Medal is that a unique opportunity should not be missed. Given the bad feeling evident throughout the Services over the distribution of the Silver Jubilee Medal, our organisation believes that, in tandem with the MoD scheme for the award of the new medal, all former Service personnel who



completed a minimum of 22 years' service during the reign of the Queen should receive the medal.

We believe this to be fair and just and also a means of ensuring the most equitable distribution, thereby avoiding another debacle over the entitlement.

If this scheme were to be authorised, the RBL would be prepared to field all necessary costs involved in administering it, on repayment from qualified recipients. There would be a small administration charge.

This would be donated to the Poppy Appeal, which benefits those who require benevolent help from the ex-Service community.

Finally, we have a Minister for Veterans' Affairs. I wonder if he was privy to the discussions on the Golden Jubilee Medal? – **Maj (Retd) T C House, Head of Pensions, Royal British Legion, Pall Mall, London.**

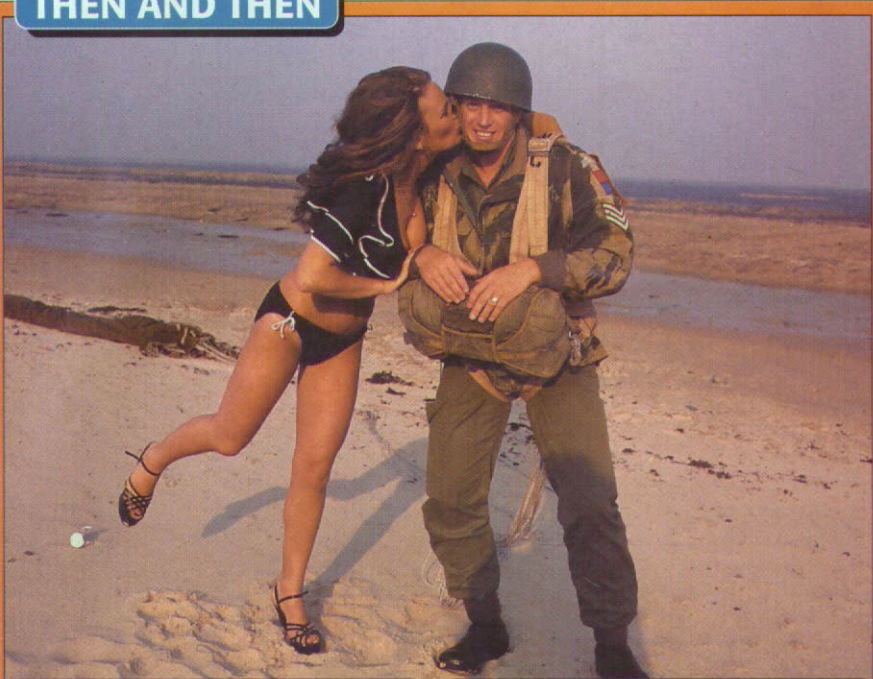
Don't let whingeing overshadow event

IN 18 years of service, I have never heard or read so much whingeing from soldiers of all ranks as there has been over qualifications for the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. If you don't meet them, you don't get it.

Don't let the whining overshadow the occasion; remember why you joined the Armed Forces and get on with it. – **Sgt S A Hendrick RMP, Northern Ireland.**

▲ We reckon you've covered most angles on this heated debate over the past six months, so unless someone has something new to say on the subject of the Golden Jubilee Medal, we'll give it a break. Rest assured that your views have been noted at the highest level. – **Editor**

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1977: Cindy Bristow, pictured above, bids her own fond farewell to the Parachute Artillery with a peck on the cheek of Sgt Terry Gee, whose unit, 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, has been brought down to earth to become simply 7 Field Regiment, RHA. Its men will lose the red beret but wear the light blue Pegasus.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1952: Rest on your arms – reversed. “Her Majesty was much pleased with the bearing and appearance of her troops.” Queen Elizabeth sent that message on the day after the funeral of King George VI. On such a solemn occasion as the death of a Sovereign, the British Army is content to do its duty without expectation of praise.

This gathering recognises importance of WO1 rank and *Soldier's* not bad either . . .

I HAVE been privileged to be in the gang of four Warrant Officers Class 1 mentioned by WO1 (Conductor) Mike Hobbins (“My Army”, March).

Soldiering is the business that I joined to do, and to be selected as the senior soldier in the Royal Artillery was a huge honour.

Working alongside a selection of other key WO1s in the Army, I have been involved with discussions on a number of key issues and sense that there is a sea change in the way we now make decisions that affect our soldiers.

The senior Army WO1s – headed by the Academy Sergeant Major – meet on a biannual basis to discuss issues and concerns raised throughout the Service and, at times set by the Chief of the General Staff and the Adjutant General themselves.

These issues may include dress, operations, pay and accommodation, to name but a few. The bottom line is that all

points discussed are minuted and dispatched to the Chief of the General Staff and the Adjutant General and are used as a working document to assist in decisions. This is fantastic news and at last recognises the importance of the WO rank and in particular the senior Army WO1s.

So, when your corps sergeant major comes visiting, have a good chat with him (or her) because they now have the means of linking directly to the powerhouse of the Army. They also still quite like the idea of having a beer with you and telling you how great you are.

The other point I would like to make is that *Soldier* has been instrumental in making my life a lot easier during periods when I have been trying to keep up with changing Army policy and current issues. It is quite clearly the best source document and *aide memoire* for anyone wishing to keep up-to-date on all matters soldiering. – WO1 (Royal Artillery Sergeant Major) C Broadfoot, London.

Wife angered by timing of retention bonus for military pilots

I AM absolutely amazed that the Armed Forces’ pay increases this year include a £50,000 retention bonus for qualified military flyers.

Pilots already get a huge bonus in daily flying pay and now they are being given this bonus as an incentive to stay in the Army for a further five years. Please could someone explain why they need this incentive in addition to their bonus?

Commercial airlines are currently laying off huge numbers of qualified pilots with years of experience due to the slump in the airline industry post-September 11. I can’t imagine that anyone with half a brain cell would want to lose their very nice pay packet to join an ever-growing dole queue of out-of-work pilots.

Some would say I am spitting sour grapes because my husband hasn’t got a pilot’s licence courtesy of the Army, but I would have thought that this money would have been well spent improving accommodation, facilities and amenities for both single and married personnel across the board.

As an incentive, I think £50,000 in addition to the extra daily rate is a slap in the face to everyone waiting in downgraded accommodation and the Service personnel living on income support because the Army won’t pay them enough in the first place.

I know the decision on salary increases was made some time ago, but it could have been amended before the announcement made last month taking all the above into consideration. – Claire Segrave, c/o HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen.

Alrewas memorial

CALLING all National Servicemen. We will be cutting the first sod at the National Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield in Staffordshire, in June.

A time capsule and a memorial dedicated to all National Servicemen who served their country at a time of need will be placed on the site at a later date.

All this is being made possible by the efforts of the Birmingham Branch of the National Service Veterans’ Association. – Gerald Rose, REME veteran, Sutton Coldfield.

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Why RGBW was not on Gorazde CD

I UNDERSTAND you have received calls from members of The Royal Gloucester, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment about the CD *Gorazde: The Peacekeepers' Tale* (Update Extra, Dec) voicing concerns that their contribution to peacekeeping in Gorazde is not reflected in the amount of air time allocated to them – or in publicity material.

I want to explain my reasons for focusing editorially on the first and last six-month deployments in Gorazde, rather than the winter six-month period when the RGBW endured sub-zero conditions and a challenging tour.

The CD is dedicated to those who died keeping the peace in Gorazde. Six men gave their lives and they are mentioned by name. Four came from 1 RGBW: Pte Ben Hinton, Pte Phillip Armstrong, Pte Martin Dowdell and Pte Christopher Turner. The accidents in which they died are detailed in the CD.

However, the CD is an oral history, not a regimental record. It seeks to demonstrate tactical peacekeeping, the danger of deployment, the establishment of observation posts, the robust tone of the British peacekeepers and the stabilisation of a volatile situation. All of this was achieved by The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, which left the enclave in September 1994.

STATE OF COLLAPSE

Winter brought a cessation-of-hostilities agreement brokered by former US President Jimmy Carter, and fighting resumed when the snow melted. Spring 1995 was a turning point in the Bosnian war and the UN mission from May to mid-August was in a state of collapse. Its affect on Gorazde's peacekeepers – then the Royal Welch Fusiliers – was significant.

The enclave was attacked. Some soldiers were held hostage, others fought to save the enclave. More than 100 were trapped in the town, which was taking up to 400 shells a day.

I focused on significant elements during the 18 months and to demonstrate the vulnerability of all British peacekeepers in the UN-declared safe area. All the regiments who served there were isolated, surrounded by Serb forces, with no viable logistical re-supply or exit route.

Despite such exposure, the British soldiers in Gorazde did, for the most part, dominate at local level and won respect from the two warring sides. The detail of that achievement is what I have sought to record. I hope this answers the concerns raised. – **Gillian Sandford, London.**

More people are staying in Army longer than ever

IT was good to see WO2 Bath's stirring defence of our recruiting efforts ("Retention is the Army's problem, not recruiting", Jan). There is no doubt that much has been achieved against a difficult backdrop.

But we need to do better to increase numbers coming into trained strength, and further initiatives are in hand, such as increasing the number of Junior Entry places each year and combining Infantry Phase 1 and 2 courses to reduce wastage.

But the reason I write is because WO2 Bath, and many others, seem to think we have a retention crisis in the Army. The facts are very different. We have the best retention for many years – if you take out the distorted situation during Options for Change in the early 90s, we have the best retention for over a decade.

This has been achieved at a time of exceptionally heavy commitments, as a result of major improvements to conditions of service over the past few years.

Examples include the introduction and

uplift of LSSA (Longer Separated Service Allowance); post-op tour leave; dealing with abatement of LOA (Local Overseas Allowance); introduction of regimental career management officers and others.

We are also listening to what is being said: a new Continuous Attitude Survey is being undertaken, CGS's Briefing Team is touring units and the award-winning *Soldier* is helping to keep everyone informed. So the two-way communication is improving.

Having said all of that, we are not complacent. The battle for retention goes on without let-up and there is more that can be done. For example, those thinking about leaving are encouraged to consider changing jobs by transferring to one of the other 146 trades.

In some parts of the Army the retention record is not as good as it could be but the overall picture is one of success, with more people staying for longer than ever before. – **Brig A S Craig, Director of Manning (Army).**

Simple message is don't do drugs

H D Flaxman ("CDT 'too draconian'", Feb) says compulsory drug-testing has failed because soldiers are still being caught, but it's ridiculous to believe testing could eradicate all drug abuse in the Army.

CDT set out to deter, contain and discharge where necessary, which is a realistic objective. As for suggesting that soldiers providing a positive sample should be given the choice to stay or go – what would be the point of CDT?

I don't want to serve alongside a habitual or recreational drug abuser who says he won't do it again.

It might be argued that alcohol can have a negative effect on a person's ability to carry out his or her duties, and I would agree. However, someone suffering from a night on the tiles is easier to spot than a drug abuser.

If you want to be a professional soldier in a professional army, don't do it. – **WO1 (RSM) L Phillips, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.**

I AM not suggesting that we get soft on drug users, but I am not sure zero tolerance is the way forward in helping an individual be a useful part of society. – **Maj G N Heal, Gwent.**

How *Soldier* does the rounds in Edmonton

I WONDER if ex-WO2 A W Bond, RM ("Angry Marines", Dec) is the same "AW" Bond I served with in X Troop, 40 Commando in 1952-54 in Ismailia, Egypt? I would be obliged if you could forward a letter to him from me.

I enjoy *Soldier* very much and pass it on

to the senior NCOs' mess here in Edmonton, where guys from Lord Strathcona's Horse, an armoured regiment, and Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry read it. – **Mike Barton, Edmonton, Canada.**

● Mike's letter is on its way. – Editor

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Good Samaritans

Have British troops serving with KFOR done a good job for the people of Kosovo and is it time to withdraw?

Hldr Andrew Cunningham, D Coy, 1 Hldrs in Mitrovica

The Kosovans are friendlier towards us because we talk to them; other nations don't do that as well as us. We could withdraw some British troops from the Podujevo area, where it is quiet, but I don't think we should withdraw entirely.



Tpr Paul Lorimer, Command Tp, QRH in Podujevo

Scaling down British numbers in Kosovo would allow us to concentrate on other commitments, although it is too soon to pull out of Kosovo altogether. If KFOR left in the next year or so the fighting would just start up again.



Hldr Aisea Rakavono, D Coy, 1 Hldrs in Mitrovica

We should stay here as the Albanians definitely like British soldiers. We stop and talk to them and they appreciate that. If we were to reduce numbers it would cause the Albanians a lot of concern.



Tpr Andy Taylor, QRH in Podujevo

It could be a good idea if the British pulled out of KFOR and concentrated on Bosnia because there would be less tour time for us and more time with our families, but the people here would not like that because they view us as fair and just.



Cpl Dave Mackay, D Coy, 1 Hldrs in Mitrovica

I think KFOR as a whole could roll down the number of troops as there doesn't seem to be a real threat at the moment and the Kosovans know we would be back at the slightest sign of trouble. If



KFOR pulled out there would be a civil war.

LCpl James Smith, QRH in Podujevo

We provide a secure environment for others, such as UNMIK and other agencies, to work in. We do our job well and the locals here prefer the British KFOR troops. They have got to know us and we have built up a good relationship.



Pte Lorraine Meenan, AGC with QRH in Podujevo

I am biased but I think the British Army is best. As we have now handed over some of our responsibilities and ground to the Czechs, there could be a reduction in British numbers. I don't think the time is right for us to pull out of Kosovo because the locals prefer to deal with us. I think its because we are friendly and professional.



Cpl Wes Norton-Smith, Command Tp, QRH in Podujevo

I've been on joint patrols with the Czechs and the Swedes and, although they are professional, I still think the Brits are the best. There remains a definite need for us to be here. If we were to pull out now it would cause a lot of damage. But I'd like to think we can scale down, certainly in a few years.



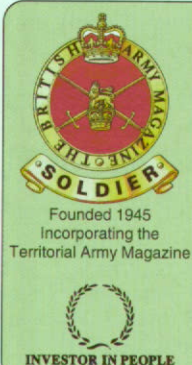
LCpl Stevie Hall, D Coy, 1 Hldrs in Mitrovica

KFOR, and especially the British, have done an extremely good job. I think the locals have a greater respect for British soldiers because they know that if



required, we mean business. The place has settled down since 1999 and we could withdraw troops, but not entirely.

Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Mike Weston



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